



Twelve Demands of Local Councils From Burning Pink.

A. Low or no cost demands:

Demand 1

Divest all Council employee pension funds (In London typically around £2bn/borough) into non-fossil & non ecologically detrimental funds. The fiduciary (profits for those in the pension scheme) responsibility should not be a barrier post Borough declaration of Climate/Ecological Emergency. More detail on how Waltham Forest achieved this is [here](#). Their Pension Fund Committee made the ground-breaking decision to divest from fossil fuels for both environmental and financial reasons. Reducing investment in fossil fuels means a cleaner environment for everyone whilst protecting the pension fund against possible future underperformance of oil, gas, and coal stocks as the world moves toward a low-carbon economy.

To help achieve its divestment aims, the council appointed three new managers to oversee its global equities stock. One of these new managers was specifically tasked to identify emerging markets where investments could be made in stocks with minimal carbon footprints. The initial phase of identifying divestment opportunities in global equities took place in 2017 and 2018. Money began to transfer to new funds through 2018 and 2019..

[ASK - establish when the next Pension Fund Committee sits and demand that the process of fossil fuels divestment begins. Timetable for next meeting.](#)

Demand 2

Explore the potential to pool cross council or county energy budgets and fund renewable energy power production projects such as offsite wind & solar. Short term target: **switch to green tariffs for all electricity use across council buildings** and schools in the borough while this process takes place. Currently around 33% of UK energy is from renewable sources wind, solar, tidal. Sheffield City Council has recently committed to only buying green electricity which it says will not cost much more than its existing source and a good article is [here](#) on benefits to local authorities in switching.

However, it is important that such a shift increases the amount of renewable energy produced, for example through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). A PPA is a long-term purchasing contract with a developer which gives the developer the necessary confidence to build renewable power plants. PPA's could also be used to support the development of community-owned energy schemes. The ethical consumer report suggests Good Energy and Ecotricity as the best utility companies to switch to.

ASK - contact 'Good Energy' & 'Ecotricity' to get prices to transfer all council electricity to renewables and explore options for lower carbon gas. When the new contract comes up for renewal - (establish this from the procurement team) put forward the cost benefit case and commit to the switch. Within one month.

Demand 3

Local planning & economic policy should **prioritise circular economy developments** rather than developments that lock boroughs into long term carbon pollution eg Edmonton Incinerator rebuild vs recycling plant and 100s of new jobs. Eg Require all taxis to be EVs through licensing - London is aiming for all taxis to be zero carbon by 2033.

ASK - Work with the regeneration and economic development team to look at future business type applications and to make a commitment to support lower impact developments. Introduce zero carbon taxis by 2030 - in line with climate emergency declaration - From 2021 [York](#) will only license electric or hybrid taxis. Next licensing committee will introduce changes in requirements.

Demand 4

Ensure that **local planning policy aims to achieve carbon positive status**. Including water use, biodiversity additionally and scope for onsite use of biodigesters to recover energy from food waste. This is particularly relevant for housing development which should be going above regulations eg air source heat pumps, on site generation of power and rain water harvesting.

There is a strong precedent for local authorities taking a lead on emissions reductions in new homes. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in England requires local plans to "help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience.... and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure"

Full detail [here](#) Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), Section 182 of the Planning Act (2008), the Planning and Energy Act (2008), and section 14 of the revised NPPF (2018) all empower Local Planning Authorities to enforce policies which reduce carbon emissions from new homes.

ASK - review current housing development and demand that all should be at least Passivhaus zero carbon standard. With Passivhaus the building does the work, from super-high insulation to absolute air-tightness and harvesting the sun's energy through windows. See how [Norwich](#) and [York](#) are achieving this with council housing. Within three months.

B. Medium cost demands

Demand 5

Update/fund current Borough **Climate (& Ecological) Emergency Plan** to deliver a net zero carbon borough by 2025/30 depending on declaration.

Minimum scope should be all council and school buildings (building heat/power/water/waste), transport services, waste services, procurement & land use. The plan should include full cost of implementation, job creation opportunities and a transparent tracker for Londoners to monitor progress.

The full scope of the Plan should include how to improve/restore/conservate existing ecological and biodiversity of the borough. In parallel, explore investment opportunities (private/Gov borrowing) to support homeowners to retrofit / climate proof their properties. [This](#) is a good tool for London borough high level carbon/energy saving opportunities and a paper on the co-benefits of [reducing CO2](#) and free carbon management tool [HERE](#).

Align to Paris 1.5Deg C commitments for carbon budgeting using the tool developed by Manchester University [here](#). For example a district like Lewes for it to stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 2.6 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO₂ emission levels, Lewes would use this entire budget within 7 years from 2020. To stay within the recommended carbon budget Lewes will, from 2020 onwards, need to achieve average mitigation rates of CO₂ from energy of around -13.3% per year

ASK - commitment to update climate action plan, with short term baseline and targets to align with Paris 1.5DEg C commitments. Within three months.

Demand 6

Change Council fleet of vehicles to electric at the next opportunity for fleet lease contract review, most council vehicles are leased and fund the necessary charging infrastructure.

[Oxford City Council](#) is doing interesting work in this space and has outlined its blueprint for a [zero-emission zone in the city centre](#) by summer 2021 procuring a large number of electric vehicles and currently trialling an electric dust cart as well as innovative funding models around charging point infrastructure. They point out that they need to bring "carbon citizens" with them.

ASK - establish current contracts in place for fleet vehicles and look to transfer to electric the majority of vehicles. Explore trialling electric waste collection vehicles.

Demand 7

Integrate Blue/Green/Grey Urban infrastructure Projects to make space/conserves rain water (Sustainable Urban Drainage SUDS) reduce flood risk, reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air quality and the local environment with associated jobs for the local community.

Prioritise those areas in the borough most at risk from flooding and with the poorest air quality (NOx emissions) [Sheffield](#) is doing excellent work in this area with Britain's largest inner city Greenest Street - a measure to tackle flooding while.

[ASK - identify key flood risk & poor air quality locations, commit to blue green / SUDS solutions. Within three months.](#)

Demand 8

Establish a new Walking and Cycling body for the borough, to support local delivery of excellent cycling and walking infrastructure and services - consider car free days or restrict through license plate sortition

[ASK - Identify changes already carried out post COVID.](#)

Demand 9

Fund mandated weekly food waste collections for all residents of the Borough. Town halls will need to roll out food waste collections to millions more homes in England under Government plans to stop leftovers going to landfill. A [recent consultation](#) showed that if all local authorities provided food waste collections, 1.35 million tonnes more food waste would be picked up by 2029, cutting greenhouse gases from food rotting in landfill by an estimated 1.25 million tonnes a year, officials said. Project Drawdown identified food waste as one of the biggest contributors and opportunities for climate repair.

[ASK - introduce waste food collection across the borough within three months.](#)

Demand 10

Ways for Boroughs to raise money eg Workplace parking levy - Nottingham City Council has used powers to charge a levy for workplace parking, this could be extended to retail parks. The Centre for Cities together with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has identified additional ways in which local authorities can raise money [here](#).

[Local government green bonds](#) Investors can now buy bonds issued directly from the local council, called community municipal investments, via an FCA-regulated investment platform.

Political Demands

Demand 11

That the council sets up a **year long sitting, legally binding citizens' assembly to oversee the implementation of the above ten demands.**

It will be selected by sortition (by lottery) from the voting population. Fifty people will take part in the assembly. They will decide how the demands are carried out and impose deadlines on the council as it sees fit. The citizens' assembly will be set up and administered by an independent body with expertise in the creation of such a body, within three

Demand 12

The council will immediately **write an open formal letter to central government giving them three months to initiate a radical transformation of the national economy so as to achieve net zero emission within five years.**

If this demand does not receive a substantial response, then the council will communicate in the letter that it is legally and morally obligated by the British constitution to enter into rebellion against Westminster.

Only by making a commitment to rapid decarbonisation can a government claim to be fulfilling its social contract to not destroy the lives and livelihoods of its citizens.

If this contract is broken then it is the duty of the citizens to bring down the government and replace it themselves with citizens' assemblies, committed to protecting the British people from harm. This rebellion will consist of cutting off all financial and administrative links with the national administration.

A comprehensive document of the latest science and its social implications for lives and livelihoods is available.