

# Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)



# Climate Change and Planning

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H&F uniquely threatened by rising temperatures - large portion of the borough lies within flood risk zones at risk from rising sea levels.

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Important that new development is designed to deal with changes in the climate such as heatwaves, drought and surface water/sewer flooding, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing flood risk from the river.

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Planning policy must reflect the ambitions of the Council regarding climate change and net-zero.

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Planning has a key role in preventing and mitigating climate change through place-shaping, reducing reliance on the private car, active travel, public transport, shared mobility, and efficient and sustainable building practices.

# Policy Background

Industrial  
Strategy 2017

H&F Climate and  
Ecology Strategy

Clean Air  
Strategy

London Plan  
2021

H&F Local Plan  
2018

National  
Planning Policy  
Framework 2021

# Key Aims of the Guidance

## Implement

- Implement the Council's Vision for 2030.

## Take steps

- Take steps towards ensuring that the borough is net zero-carbon by 2030.

## Focus on

- Focus on existing stock and what residents and businesses can do to deliver carbon reductions and how we as a planning authority will help to deliver carbon reductions and adapt to climate change

## Take action

- Take action on air quality issues, and encourage sustainable travel throughout the borough

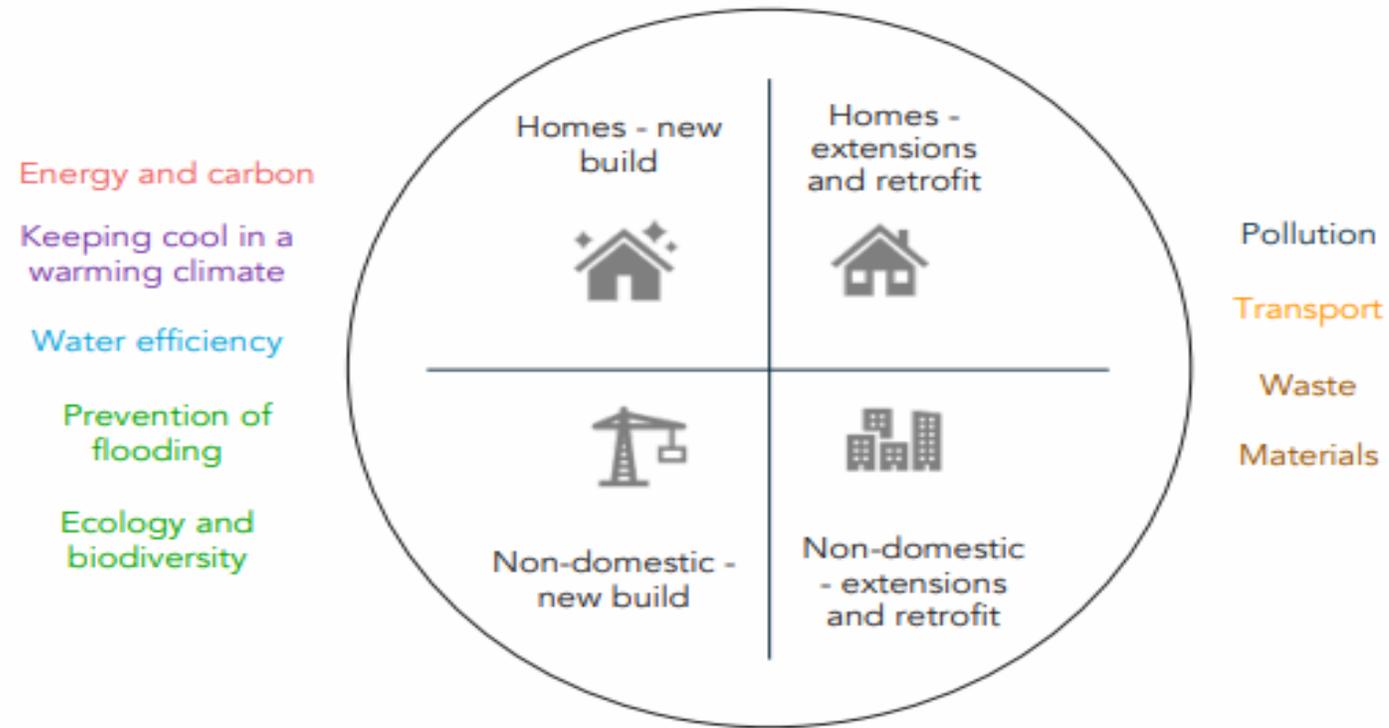
## Improve

- Improve the environmental quality of open spaces.

## Promote

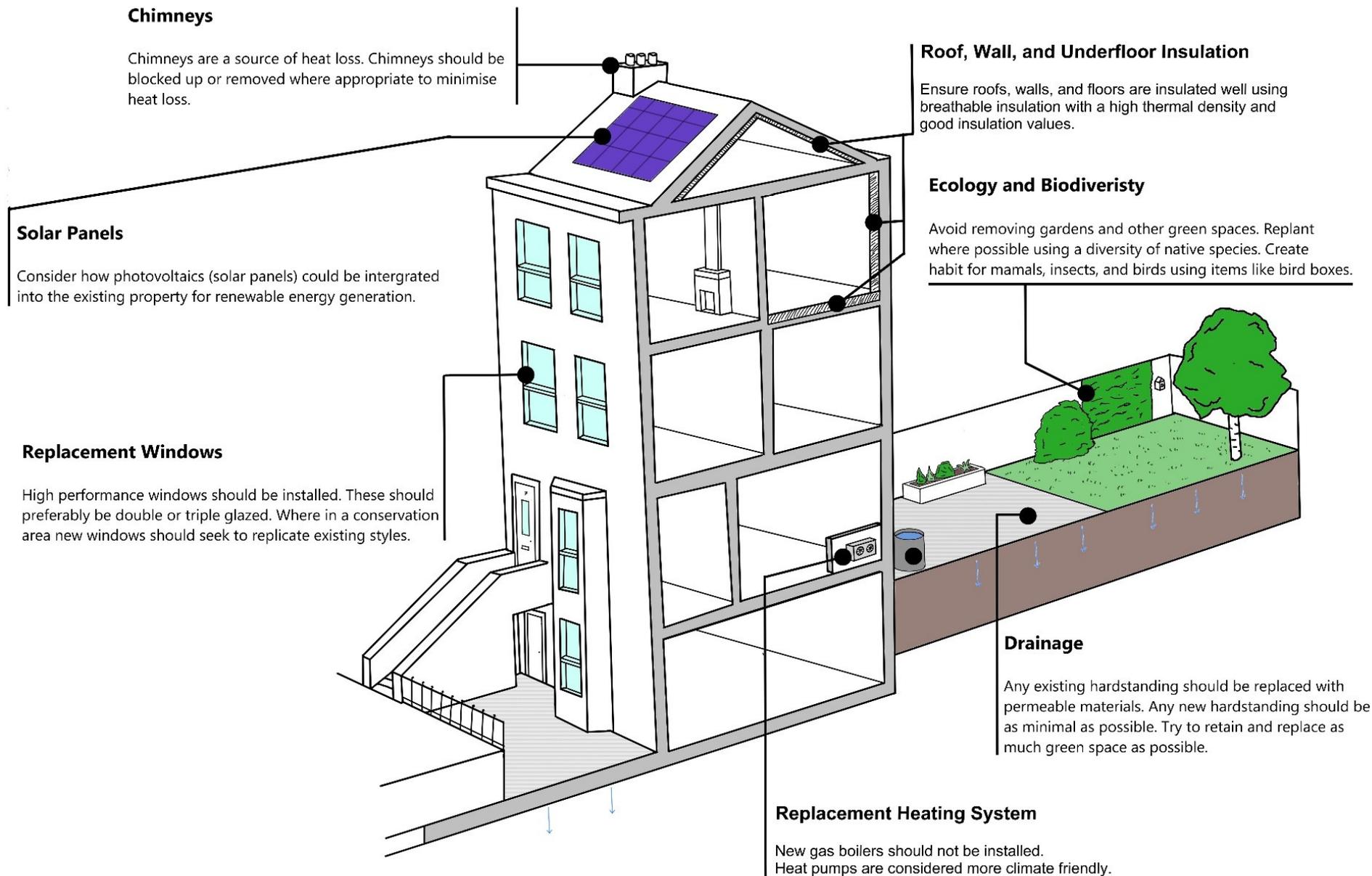
- Promote biodiversity and biodiversity net gain.

# Structure of the Guidance



*This SPD covers all development types: new-built and retrofit, homes and non-domestic buildings. A broad range of climate change and sustainability issues are addressed.*

# Interactive Summaries - Retrofit



# Interactive Summaries - New Homes

## Solar Panels

Consider how solar panels (photovoltaics and thermal) can be integrated into the development for renewable energy generation.

## Ventilation

Ensure that new homes are airtight against uncontrolled draughts yet have good controlled ventilation via windows or heat recovery ventilation.

## Sustainable water usage

Use water efficient fittings and fit heat recovery systems beneath appliances, in order to recover a percentage of the heat lost down the drain, and recover this to the hot water system.

## Waste

Design spaces (especially kitchen areas) to include convenient and accessible waste disposal to encourage recycling and sustainable waste practices.

Provide easy access to external waste storage that facilitates easy collection by waste services.

## Roof, wall, and underfloor Insulation

Ensure roofs walls and floors are insulated using materials with low thermal conductivity to achieve good U values.

## Biodiversity and Ecology

Create habitat using diverse native species. Ensure that rear gardens incorporate green spaces and planting avoiding large areas of hardstanding and paving.

## Drainage

Where possible, green and/or brown roofs should be installed.

All hardstanding should be of a permeable material to allow natural drainage.

## Composting

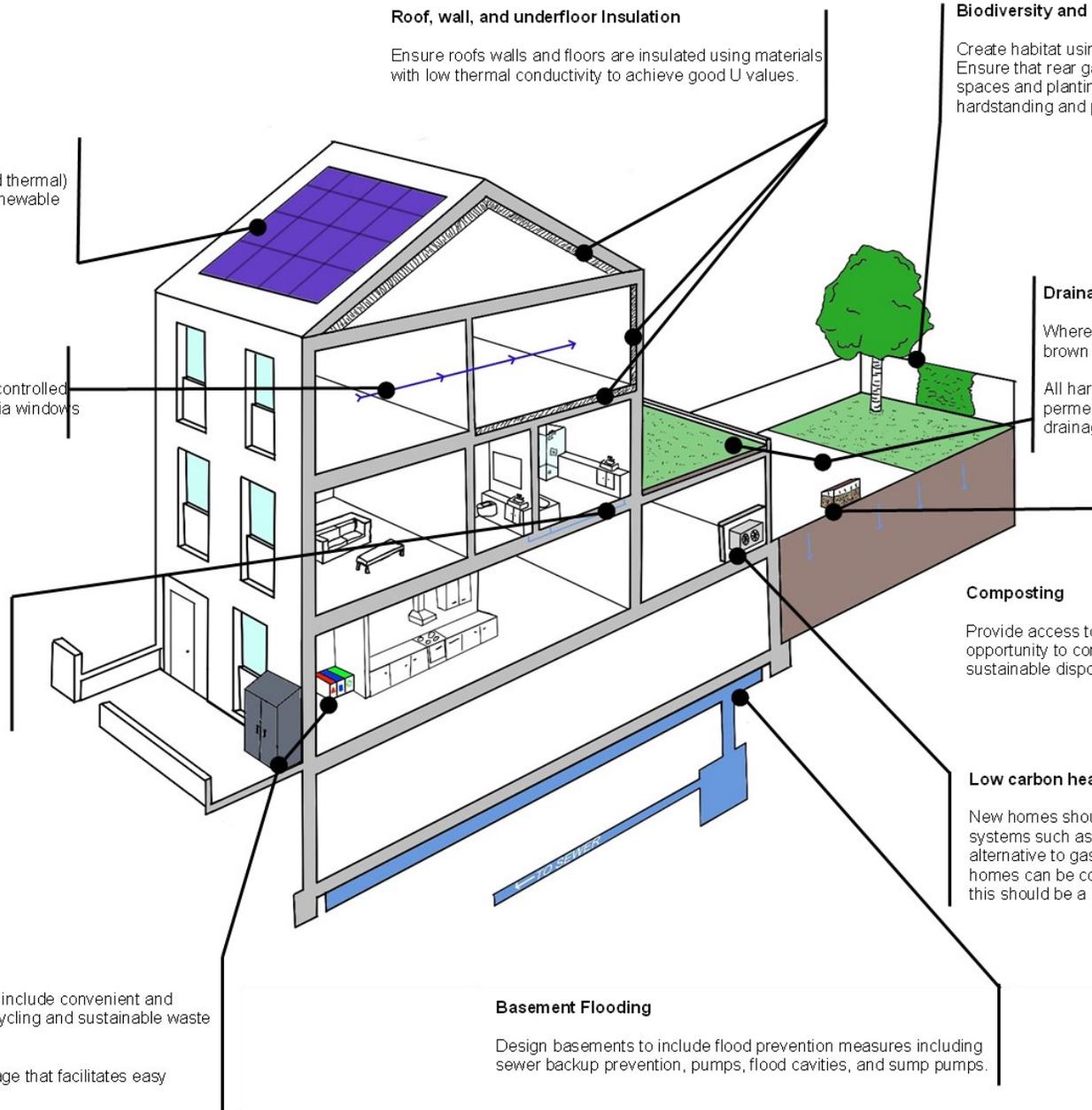
Provide access to composting to encourage the opportunity to compost waste and ensure the sustainable disposal of organic waste.

## Low carbon heating systems

New homes should use low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps as an alternative to gas central heating. Where homes can be connected to heat networks this should be a priority.

## Basement Flooding

Design basements to include flood prevention measures including sewer backup prevention, pumps, flood cavities, and sump pumps.



# Guidance

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Building Form

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Site and Orientation

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Ventilation and Overheating

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Renewable energy and Low Carbon Heating

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Embodied Carbon

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Water Efficiency

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Transport and Movement

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Air Quality

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Ecology, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

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Flooding and Sustainable Drainage

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Sustainable Waste Management

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Heritage and Conservation

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# Pushing the boundaries of Policy

## What you must do – Key Principles

- Bare minimum requirements for a development to acquire the basic level of climate resilience and must be incorporated into development in order to obtain planning permission.
- Mainly intended for developers and planning decision makers.

## What you can do – Key Principles

- Examples and signposting of good practice and steps that can be taken to minimise the impact of climate change on the built and natural environment.
- Intended for residents who would like to make their properties more climate friendly, and for developers who are looking to go above and beyond the requirements of the current Local Plan.

# Checklist

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- Easy-to-digest summary of what to include in planning applications.



## Energy Efficiency

- Have you maximised opportunities for natural solar gain and natural ventilation and minimised overheating risk through passive design and attention to building location, orientation and form?
- Have you designed the fabric of the building to be ultra-low in energy demand, achieving KPIs for space heating demand (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr) and energy use intensity (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr)?
- Have you assessed ventilation provision and overheating risks and included mitigation measures?
- Have you carried out a whole building baseline assessment to inform any retrofit programmes?

## Low Carbon Heating and Renewable Energy

- Have you provided an Energy Assessment with your major planning application demonstrating how renewable energy generation will contribute to meeting the London Plan requirement to be net zero carbon?
- Have you maximised opportunities to integrate low/zero carbon renewable energy generation, such as solar PV panels and Air Source Heat Pumps?

# Public consultation feedback

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- 7 week consultation ended on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- 20 consultees responded
- 87 individual comments/representations

## **Consultees**

There was a broad range of consultees who responded to the consultation including 5 residents, Historic England, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Campaign for Rural England.

## **Positive feedback**

On the whole comments were positive and welcomed the ambition to mitigate impacts on climate change and achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. However, each representation made suggestions of how the document could go further.

## **Issues raised**

One of the main issues raised by residents is the conflict in planning in Hammersmith and Fulham which exists between conservation and climate change.

The other main issues raised were specific to topic areas for example windows, front gardens, ventilation, air quality, biodiversity etc.

# Public consultation feedback

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## Issues raised

**Windows** – the new guidelines remain very limiting for houses in conservation areas with the emphasis on preservation of character in the face of the climate crisis. The council could provide more guidance on how to select new replacement windows so that you encourage people to buy the ones with higher energy efficiency ratings.

**Ventilation** - the guidance on ventilation needs to deal with communal areas as many are boiling hot in the summer and contribute to the overheating of flats.

**Signposting good practice** – the document could do more to guide householders who are making incremental improvements and need guidance on what they should be doing first, and signpost residents to reliable sources of information.

**Biodiversity and birds** - include vital "species features" such as swift bricks, bat boxes, and hedgehog highways as an integral part of the biodiversity policy, and consider existing populations of fauna, especially those which are dependent on buildings to nest and roost.

# Public consultation feedback

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## Issues raised

**Key principles** – query about whether the LETI and the Passiv Haus targets are a guide or an obligation. Is a net zero energy balance on site compulsory, or a stretch ambition to aim for?

**Trees and hedgerows** – more emphasis on Trees and hedgerows in the SPD to help mitigate the impacts of climate change, delivering natural cooling in urban heat islands through transpiration as well as providing shelter and shade, and contributing to sustainable urban drainage systems.

**Air quality** – suggest that it is best to avoid stove burners which are a significant contributor to poor quality because of the high level of particulate pollution, even with approved fuels.

**Front gardens** - we think the document needs to be much more specific about the undesirability of all types of hard surfacing for parking, and to advocate matrix paving (plastic grids or concrete blocks) just for the parking surfaces, so that the soil surface is exposed between the gaps, plants can grow and drainage occur naturally.

# Delivery Timeline and Next Steps



Final amended draft and representations schedule with officer comments to be produced by end of July 2023.



Political Cabinet - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Cabinet - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Adoption middle of October 2023.

Q&A

