

Protecting Our Local Environment

**Manifesto
2008**

Mayor Boris Johnson

Protecting and preserving open spaces

Pledge

I will protect green belt land and open space from development (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 3).

I will amend the London Plan to protect against development on gardens (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 3).

I will invest £6 million in making our open spaces safer and cleaner (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 3).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

The new London Plan, published in 2011, commits to protecting the green belt and other open spaces: 'Growth will be supported and managed across all parts of London to ensure it takes place within the current boundaries of Greater London without: a. encroaching on the Green Belt; b. having unacceptable impacts on the environment (GLA, *London Plan*, p.34 July 2011).

Promise delivered.

In 2010 the Government changed the definition of brownfield sites so that domestic gardens are not included and no local authority is obliged to build on gardens if it does not want to (DCLG, Press Release, *Clark - new powers to prevent unwanted 'garden grabbing'*, 9 June 2010).

These changes were reflected in my new 2011 London Plan, under which private residential gardens are no longer classed as previously developed land and boroughs are allowed to introduce a presumption against development on back gardens or other private residential gardens in their Local Development Frameworks (GLA, *The London Plan*, July 2011).

I have also supported domestic gardens through the Capital Growth Project. 1032 food gardens have been unveiled with a target of 2000 spaces by the end of 2012. Grants from City Hall for the gardens range from £200 to £1000 (GLA, *Mayor announces 1000 + community food gardens tended by 35,000 Londoners*, June 2011).

Promise delivered.

I have dedicated a significant amount of my time as Mayor visiting schemes to improve our open spaces. Under the Help a London Park scheme, 11 parks including Crane Valley Park in Richmond and Wandle Park in Croydon have been awarded £6 million (GLA Website, *Help a London Park*).

I am also investing £390 million in 80 outdoor spaces projects over the next two years (GLA, *Great Outdoor*).

I have been a vocal supporter of the Capital Clean-Up campaign, to make London cleaner and greener for the Olympics 2012 by co-ordinating events from litter-picks to litter enforcement and education activities across the capital. Around 1,700 volunteers took part in nearly 150 events across 22 boroughs during the summer 2011 campaign (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 September 2011).

I will invest in 10,000 street trees to improve the local neighbourhoods that need them most (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 3).

I will work with the boroughs to make London cleaner (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 3).

I will encourage every member of staff in the GLA, TfL, MPA, and LFEPA, to do one day a year volunteering for a green charity (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 3).

If trials of a new 101 non-emergency number prove successful, we will look at the options for rolling it out across the capital (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 8).

Promise delivered.

I was delighted to plant the 10,000th tree on the 14th of February 2012. 10,000 trees have been planted in areas in 29 boroughs considered to be of greatest need since 2008 (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 23 March 2011, GLA Press Release, *Boris marks delivery of his trees and parks promises by planting 10,000th street tree*, 14 February 2012).

Promise delivered.

I have worked constructively with boroughs of all political colours to make London cleaner. The 'Love Clean London' mobile phone application was launched in March 2011 to engage citizens and reduce litter and associated costs. (Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor launches assault on 'grime-crime' ahead of Olympic year*, March 2011).

I have been a vocal supporter of the Capital Clean-Up campaign, to make London cleaner and greener for the Olympics 2012 by co-ordinating events from litter-picks to litter enforcement and education activities across the capital. Around 1,700 volunteers took part in nearly 150 events across 22 boroughs during the summer 2011 campaign (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 September 2011).

In addition, the new non-emergency phone number 101 encourages reporting of fly-tipping for boroughs to take action on these reports (Direct Gov Website, *Reporting non-emergency crimes using 101*).

Promise delivered.

I have encouraged volunteering throughout my time as Mayor. I have given all Greater London Authority staff three days a year leave for volunteering activities. The 2011 annual staff survey showed that 53 per cent of GLA staff undertake volunteering activities either inside or outside work-time (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011).

My advisers and directors were also involved in a variety of activities during volunteering week (1–7 June 2010) and on an on-going basis (Mayor of London Press Release, *Mayor goes back to school to urge businesses to get volunteering*, 26 May 2010).

Promise delivered.

My pledge has not only met been in London, there is also now a new 101 non-emergency service available across England and Wales, providing members of the public with an easy way to report less urgent crime, such as fly tipping, and speak to local officers (Direct Gov Website, *Reporting non-emergency crimes using 101*).

Making it easier to recycle and reduce waste

Pledge

I will make recycling easier and more convenient through innovative approaches, such as paying Londoners to recycle (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 9).

I will work with the boroughs to improve recycling rates and reduce the amount of London's waste that is sent to landfill (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 9).

I will support a ban on plastic bags in London (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 9).

What has been achieved so far

Making progress.

In 2010 a trial of a scheme called Recycle Bank was launched in London. The scheme gives householders shopping vouchers or donations to charity to the value of how much they recycle (The Guardian, '*Boris Johnson acts to boost London's recycle rates*', 18 January 2010, Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 16 December 2009).

Lambeth is the first London council to trial Recycle Bank using a newly-developed model of the initiative that specifically caters for flats (Let's Recycle Website, *First London RecycleBank scheme launches in Lambeth*, 16 May 2011).

I am keen for this scheme to be rolled out across other London boroughs.

Promise delivered.

Since I became Mayor, recycling rates have increased from 25 per cent in 2007/8 to 32 per cent in 2010/11 (GLA, *Household Waste Recycling Rates*).

This improvement has been helped by initiatives such as Recycle Bank and the ramping up of Recycle for London's programme, which is now being used by most of London's boroughs to help their communications with residents and businesses.

In addition, I have set targets for waste reduction, reuse and recycling that are tougher than the EU Waste Directive targets (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 5 May 2011).

Promise delivered.

I have been a vocal supporter of a ban on plastic bags in London. I have held talks with council leaders and the London Waste and Recycling Board on the best way to reduce bag numbers, and have carefully studied the new powers used in Wales. (Daily Mail, *Boris calls for plastic bag ban across London in fight against 'poisonous' waste and litter*, 5 August 2011).

I have written to the Government asking it to consider whether it is using its powers effectively to reduce the number of single use plastic bags in circulation (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011). The capital's waste strategy sets out my support for locally-driven campaigns, like Greener Upon Thames voluntary reduction schemes, and for the national programme delivered by the Association of Convenience Stores. Options to deliver a voluntary reduction scheme tailored to London's small and independent retail environment are being investigated and I have also written to major supermarkets to encourage them to re-double their efforts (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 16 November 2011).

Making transport more sustainable

Pledge

Get London's traffic flowing better, so reducing traffic emissions (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 13).

Lobby the Government to stop the expansion of Heathrow (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 13).

Increase the number of hybrid buses when feasible (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 13).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

We have taken concrete steps to improve congestion in London. 2,000 traffic light signals have been reviewed since 2009 and a further 1,000 signals are being reviewed in 2011/12 (TfL Website, *Smoothing traffic flow*).

Changes made to over 1,000 traffic light signals in 2010 delivered a six per cent reduction in unnecessary delays at traffic signals (TfL, Press Release, *Londoners to face fewer delays at traffic signals*, July 2010).

A list of 145 signals which could be removed was also published in June 2010 and a further 26 were added to the list in November 2011.

Out of the 204 suggested removals, 22 have already been removed with removal agreed for another 15 and 80 are under discussion with boroughs. It has been agreed between TfL and the boroughs that the remaining 87 signals will be maintained (TfL Website, *Suggested signal removal list*, Feb 2012; TfL Website, *Smoothing traffic flow*).

Promise delivered.

Throughout my term as Mayor, I have argued that expanding Heathrow is not in London's best interests due to its geographic location, stating in 2011 that "noise problems and poor air quality at Heathrow have reached such levels that further increases in the number of air traffic movements there are untenable". (Public Sector Travel, *London Plan: Boris rules out Heathrow expansion*, 26 July 2011).

The national Government has now also made clear that it does not support the construction of additional runways at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted (*Hansard*, 6 April 2011).

I am however a strong supporter of greater aviation capacity for London, and have produced two detailed reports on the business case and necessity of London remaining a leading European hub (GLA Press Release, *Mayor urges Government to act on aviation*, 21 November 2011).

Promise delivered.

The hybrid bus programme will see 300 new hybrid buses introduced by 2012 (TfL, *Hybrid buses*).

Make London a genuinely cycle-friendly city by introducing a central London cycle hire scheme and increasing the number of cycle parks (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 13).

Use my influence as Chair of the MPA to ensure the police take cycle theft more seriously (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 13).

Promise delivered.

As a dedicated cyclist, I notice everyday just how genuinely cycle-friendly London now is. I am proud of the fresh thinking, innovative approach that we have taken towards cycling.

The Barclays Cycle Hire scheme was rolled out across central London in mid 2010. (The Guardian, *Cycle hire scheme launched in London*, 30 July 2010, Mayor of London, *Press Release, Mayor's flagship cycling scheme - Barclays Cycle Hire - opens for business*, 30 July 2010)

Four Cycle Superhighway routes have also been opened and four more routes will open in 2013 (TfL Website, *Cycle Superhighways*).

Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2010, over 40,000 cycle parking spaces were delivered across London (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 26 January 2011).

We are also working hard to make cycling in London safer by improving junctions on Cycle Superhighways and have recently launched a major review of other junctions (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 16 November 2011; TfL, *Press Release, TfL confirms priority junctions for cycle safety review*, 7 February 2012).

Promise delivered.

I have ensured that cycle theft is treated more seriously. The Cycle Security Plan produced by TfL, British Transport Police, City of London Police and Metropolitan Police Service was launched in July 2010 sets out what we have done, and plan to do, to prevent and deter cycle theft and criminal damage (TfL, *Cycle Security Plan*).

One of the Plan's proposed initiatives was the dedicated MPS Cycle Task Force, which was launched in July 2010. In its first year of operation alone, the Task Force made 175 arrests for crimes related to cycle theft and security marked over 12,000 bicycles. In 2010 cycle theft fell by 3 per cent (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 September 2011).

Tackling climate change

Pledge

Work to help cut London's carbon emissions by 60 per cent from their 1990 levels by 2025, including collaborating with the C40 group of cities to develop strategies to tackle climate change (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 20).

Work with the boroughs to encourage Londoners to install insulation in return for Council Tax rebates (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 20).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

We have several active projects working towards this aim:

The RE:NEW programme, which aims to reduce CO₂ emissions from existing homes. 11,000 homes have already been retrofitted, with a total of 55,000 due by end of March 2012.

The RE:FIT programme pilot, held in 42 GLA group buildings, guaranteeing energy savings worth of £1 million per year. 140 organisations have already shown interest in the model to date, with 200 buildings committed to be retrofitted, to the combined value of over £35 million.

The £3million RE:CONNECT programme has created 10 Low Carbon Zones across London, which are on track to deliver a 20.12 per cent CO₂ reduction by 2012.

The London Heat Map, an interactive tool that allows Londoners to identify opportunities for decentralised energy projects in London.

The £100 million London Green Fund to invest in low carbon waste, decentralised energy and energy efficiency (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 5 May 2011; GLA, Press Release, *New figures show green economy in London is vibrant and bucking downturn*, 26 October 2011). The Mayor's Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Team have been working with the C40 Cities to share their expertise on monitoring carbon emissions and to lower carbon emission in London (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 15 June 2011).

Promise delivered.

I have worked with London's boroughs to increase the energy efficiency of London's homes. Instead of a introducing a council tax rebate scheme, more effective initiatives have been introduced.

I have committed £7.8 million to RE:NEW – an area-based homes energy efficiency programme which is installing free 'easy' energy efficiency and water efficiency measures such as showerheads and radiator panels in 55,000 London homes by March 2012, as well as referring homes for further insulation and heating measures. This means that every household in a RE:NEW area can receive free energy efficiency measures, no matter what type of home they live in or their income. This is particularly helpful for the nearly 60 per cent of homes in London with solid walls. (GLA, *Mayor Answers*, 14 December 2011).

I have also frozen my council tax precept for the last three years to ensure that Londoners are protected from tax rises while maintaining London's public services and investing for the future (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 15 June 2011).

I will set a positive example to the corporate sector by upgrading the energy efficiency of the GLA group buildings, and pressing the Government to meet its promises to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings in London (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 20).

I will promote the development of electricity micro-generation in London and the greater use of on-site renewable energy (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 20).

I will support the introduction of a Waste Heat Levy and the greater use of Combined Heat and Power in London to improve the efficiency of power generation (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 20).

Promise delivered.

I have set an example through the pilot of the RE:FIT programme in 42 GLA group buildings. This delivered guaranteed energy savings worth £1 million per year. An innovative commercial model to support the public sector to retrofit buildings with energy efficiency measures has also been developed and we have successfully applied for European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) funding to accelerate its rollout. (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 5 May 2011).

140 organisations have already shown interest in the model to date, with 200 buildings committed to be retrofitted, to the combined value of over £35 million (GLA, Press Release, *New figures show green economy in London is vibrant and bucking downturn*, 26 October 2011).

Promise delivered.

I have promoted this consistently.

I backed EDF Energy's bid for funding to provide a smart electricity network in London, including increased micro-generation and new renewable energy installations (Energy Efficiency News, *Micro-generation*, 24 June 2010).

The Mayor has undertaken the first ever decentralised energy master-planning exercise across London and is now supporting the commercialisation of large-scale decentralised projects which can heat and power London's existing and new buildings more carbon-efficiently (GLA, Press Release, *New figures show green economy in London is vibrant and bucking downturn*, 26 October 2011).

Promise delivered.

I have persistently supported the Waste Heat Levy, and GLA senior officers have regular meetings with officials in the Department of Energy and Climate Change about introducing one. Under the Municipal Management Waste Strategy, a carbon floor is suggested for waste to energy plants, encouraging boroughs and operators to ensure such plants are operated in CHP mode. Under the London Plan, developers are required to use CHP in new developments where appropriate. The Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Strategy also supports CHP as part of the decentralised energy programme. £3 million of European Local Energy Assistance Funding from the European Commission has been secured to support the commercialisation of large scale decentralised energy projects, including CHP projects (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011).

I will use all the powers at my disposal to push the use of renewable energy sources in London (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 20).

I will offer a Mayor's prize for new research into low carbon technology, to promote innovation (Boris Johnson, *Protecting our Local Environment*, 2008, p. 20).

Making progress.

I have already undertaken the first ever decentralised energy master-planning exercise across London and am now supporting the commercialisation of large-scale decentralised projects which can heat and power London's existing and new buildings more carbon-efficiently (GLA, Press Release, *Student inventors can help make London greener with Mayor's £20,000 Low Carbon Prize*, 26 October 2011).

I also backed EDF Energy's bid for funding to provide a smart electricity network in London, including increased micro-generation and new renewable energy installations (Energy Efficiency News, *Micro-generation*, 24 June 2010).

Promise delivered.

The Mayor's Low Carbon Prize was launched in 2011 (GLA, *Press Release*, 24 November 2011).

I announced the winner of the inaugural Mayor's Low Carbon Prize, at a ceremony at City Hall on 7 March 2012. The £20,000 award, sponsored by the Berkeley Group, was a student from Kingston University for his "green key" to supply 'new residents with an electronic key containing up to date information on local services and ideas to help them live more sustainably.' (Mayor of London, *Mayor's low carbon source-Recognising student innovation*).