

Croydon Climate Action



Environment Questions to Croydon MP candidates for the General Election 2024

Q1 - Will you, if elected, agree to meet with representatives from the Croydon Green Network three months after the election so that we can follow up on your party's commitments? Please could each MP candidate answer YES or NO.

YES

Please state the Conservative/Green/Labour/Liberal Democrat commitments to the following in no more than 100 words for each question.

Q2 - What are your party's commitments to developing a new Climate Plan that will meet our climate targets to cut CO₂ emissions by 2/3 by 2030 and share the costs and benefits fairly?

Green MPs would:

- Respect the planet's limits by changing how economic success is measured, including human & planetary health & progress towards a greener fairer future
- Introduce a Climate and Nature Act using the latest science to address the ecological emergency
- Increase investment into environmentally significant research by £30bn over 5y
- Minimise the climate impact of buildings, boosting jobs & skills and future-proof buildings for a climate-changed world
- Bring privatised utilities back into public hands (run for public benefit)
- Advocate for a circular economy with a right to repair & shift from ownership to usership model
- Invest in fairer, greener, cheaper, public transport

Q3 - What are your party's commitments to growing the UK's renewable energy in general and Croydon Community Energy in particular?

Green MPs would:

- Phase out fossil fuels: end oil & gas industry subsidies; cancel recently issued licences; no new licences
- Introduce a carbon tax on fossil fuels (including imports)
- Obtain 70% electricity from wind by 2030 & attain 100GW of solar by 2035 (amongst other renewables) and increase capacity to store energy
- Properly regulate biofuels to ensure genuine net carbon savings
- Invest in innovation to eliminate residual fossil fuel use

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- Remove regulatory barriers & champion the Local Electricity Bill to make it easier and cheaper for local renewable projects to become suppliers to their local communities (with a minimum threshold of community ownership)

Q4 - What are your party's commitments to fixing the UK and Croydon's heat leaking homes?

Green MPs would:

- Use Right Homes, Right Place, Right Price Charter to provide genuinely affordable homes with protected green spaces near where people live and work
- Give a Fairer, Greener Homes Guarantee
- Provide 150,000 new social homes a year (new build & refurbished)
- Strengthen Building Regulations to Passivhaus standard including renewable energy and low-carbon heating
- Ensure all social housing is a decent standard
- Invest £29bn over 5y to retrofit insulation in social housing & privately-owned homes (plus £4bn annual training for installers)
- Establish £9bn 5y programme for non-gas heating systems (e.g. heat pumps)
- Give renters the right to demand energy efficiency improvements

Q5 - What are your party's commitments to clean water - ending the sewage scandal, cleaning up Croydon's River Wandle & other local rivers and taking action to prevent local flooding?

Green MPs would:

- Take water companies back into public ownership & invest money currently extracted by shareholders into safer water for all
- Invest £12bn over 5y in water & sewage infrastructure to end river and marine pollution from sewage with effective monitoring and enforcement
- Extend scope of bans on single-use plastics in packaging and disposable products
- Set aside 30% of our land and seas by 2030 for nature to have highest priority and protection
- Restore rivers and take nature-based solutions approach to prevent flooding, including soil health monitoring programme & phase-out harmful pesticides
- Push Croydon Council to make Croydon more resilient to flooding
- Collectively this would clean up local rivers like River Wandle

Q6 - What are your party's commitments to clean air - ending the breaches in emission standards from the Viridor Beddington Energy Recovery Facility, where our waste is incinerated, and bringing down harmful levels of nitrogen dioxide and PM 2.5 pollutants in Croydon in line with World Health Organisation guidelines?

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Green MPs would:

- Introduce a Clean Air Act with higher standards & the legal right to clean air
- Invest in clean greener transport, including £2.5bn in cycleways & footpaths (etc. transport), & switch roadbuilding allocation to electrification
- Provide funding (£5bn per year by end of parliament) to phase out diesel & petrol vehicles for electric ones (with more support for HGV companies to transition & use more rail freight) & rapid roll out charging points
- Renationalise railways & increase subsidies for bus & rail travel
- No new incinerators or CHP plants
- Set, monitor & publicise waste reduction targets
- Push Croydon Council to properly implement its Air Quality Action Plan so that Croydon isn't in breach of World Health Organisation air pollution guidelines

Q7 - What are your party's commitments to protecting and enhancing biodiversity nationally and in Croydon, increasing tree cover in the 70% of Croydon neighbourhoods that have less than 10% and increasing accessible green space in Croydon West where there is poor access and only 11 square metres of green space per person?

Green MPs would:

- Legally protect the natural world with Rights of Nature Act (to work alongside Climate and Nature Act)
- Strengthen (& prevent rollback of) existing protections: Green Belt, National Landscapes, SSSIs, etc.
- Increase access to nature with Right to Roam Act
- Create a nature-friendly community farm encouraging food growing & promoting the benefits of gardening
- Create more forest schools & community orchards
- Plant approx. 30 hectares of tree canopy cover by 2030
- Invest in street-planting of native trees, create traffic-free street parks & garden streets
- Support community to designate green spaces as Assets of Community Value
- Strengthen the Countryside Code;
- Develop a soil health monitoring plan, ending the flow of pollution into our waters