

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Saeed Atlas Msc (Energy Mgmt & Cnsv)**

Chair

London Boroughs Energy Group (LBEG)

Energy Manager, LB Harrow

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*Dear Mr Atlas,*

Thank you for your letter of 8 August on behalf of the London Boroughs Energy Group's Committee.

I would like to start by thanking you and your colleagues for all your hard work in reducing emissions in the boroughs. I know it is not an easy task to tackle the climate emergency, while battling with a legacy of austerity and weak national regulations. However, I am committed to keep on pushing this to the top of the Government's agenda as you are right that the regulations and funds currently being made available are woefully inadequate.

I have declared a climate emergency here in London and have set an ambitious target to reach zero carbon. As you will know, I have also produced one of the world's first Climate Action Plans which sets out the actions needed in London to achieve an emissions reduction pathway that is compatible with the ambition of the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature increases to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels: [www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-action-plan](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-action-plan).

I am putting this plan into action now by introducing the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in central London and through my £34 million Energy for Londoners programme, which is making London's homes and workplaces more energy efficient and supplying them with cleaner, local energy. I understand the important role London's boroughs have to play in achieving zero carbon, so I am also providing funding. So far, tens of millions of pounds of funding has been provided to boroughs across the initiatives that support my zero carbon aims; from zero carbon, air quality and energy supply to waste & circular economy and green infrastructure. My officers have also been working closely with boroughs by holding regular workshops, publishing guidance and tools and sharing best practice. They have also developed individual zero carbon pathways for each borough, which several are using to develop their own climate action plans. I believe my officers have shared this information for Harrow with you.

But, using the powers I have in London, I can achieve less than half of the emissions reductions required, and I don't have the levers to increase funding to the levels we need. National government holds the rest of these powers, and although I welcome them matching my ambition and bringing in a net zero carbon target by 2050, we urgently need the UK Government to step up their ambition and action on climate change. Specifically, we need stronger and broader legislation to improve the energy efficiency of all our buildings and accelerate the wholesale transition to low carbon heating. I will continue to call on the Government to put in place the legislation and

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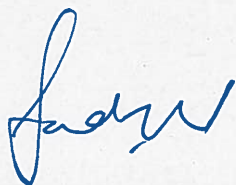
funding we need to deliver London's zero carbon future or devolve powers to me to take faster action in the capital. I would welcome the opportunity to combine our efforts to help make this case.

As well as the additional powers and funds that we need, we also need to maximise use of the tools we already have at our disposal. Carbon offset funds, for example, are an important mechanism for boroughs to address the harder to tackle carbon emissions from existing buildings. There has been significant progress with collecting offset payments, but boroughs now need to turn attention to spending them on carbon saving projects. Boroughs that require additional resourcing to spend offset funds can consider using a small proportion of these funds (a maximum of 10 per cent is recommended) to pay for staff to develop and manage projects.

Finally, my team are aligning the work they are doing to support boroughs with London Councils who are in the process of shaping the support that they can provide. I understand the challenges you are facing day-to-day in developing and implementing your climate action plans, as these are challenges we also face here at City Hall. As more boroughs declare climate emergencies, I am committed to continuing to work closely with them and you to identify where we can target our support, so it is as effective as possible.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London