

Climate Action Lewisham Constitution Document, September 2019

Name: Climate Action Lewisham

Rationale:

The climate crisis is accelerating at an alarming rate and currently there is a more urgent tone to international attempts to address environmental issues. Climate change, or 'global heating' is one, but the waste crisis, biodiversity loss, over-farming and marine degradation are related important issues. The key issue that links these crises is over-consumptive lifestyles in the UK and the rest of the global North, and the hegemony of a global development model of unlimited economic growth based on neoliberal consumer capitalism. Political and direct action is important, but alongside that we see a strong role for creating a new narrative in our society that allows all of us to flourish and live safely with less, and to resist the social and economic forces that would drive us to destroy our own environment and be complicit in immoral social inequity. We believe that local-level social action and campaigning is currently the most effective way to provide a human face for social change; offer a new social space and evoke a new human story.

Lewisham is the 13th most densely populated borough in London, and it expected to rise in population by 12% in the next decade. Lewisham council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019: delivering genuine effective Sustainable Development in our local context will entail struggles, sacrifices and challenges and conflicts beyond anything previously seen in our lives. It is important for civil society groups to play a role in supporting, promoting and contributing to progress towards a just and sustainable world, and it is our place, our right and our duty as relatively privileged citizens of the world.

1. Aims and Objectives:

To support and generate initiatives in Lewisham that reduce our collective Greenhouse Gas emissions and create thriving sustainable neighbourhoods in the face of ecological crisis.

Goals:

- To raise awareness among Lewisham residents about the current climate and ecological crisis
- To support and generate initiatives at the individual, community, borough and governmental level
- To support the process to make Lewisham carbon neutral by 2030, including sequestration of Green House Gases

2. Membership:

2.1. Membership of the group is open to anyone resident in the London Borough of Lewisham and surrounding areas. Membership is open to anyone regardless of ability, political orientation or religious affiliation, race or sexual orientation.

2.2 Members must be over 16 years of age.

2.3. Members must be in agreement with the aims and objectives of Climate Action Lewisham and must be interested in supporting the development of the group and participating in activities. Members are expected to be inclusive, respectful and constructive both online and in person.

2.4. We communicate with members via a mailing list, via social media channels, and via mobile phone apps, and face to face.

2.5 Membership may be terminated or suspended for a determined period if a member is seen to abrogate the culture of inclusiveness and respect that we wish to cultivate. This decision is taken by a majority of the elected committee, and an excluded member has the right to appeal during the suspension period. The elected committee has the right to terminate or reinstate membership after a suspension period of three months.

3. Meetings:

3.1 The committee will meet as required throughout the year. At all meetings, one of the three co-chairs facilitates and for that meeting their authority stands on matters of process, decision-making, and adherence to the behavior principles, detailed above (inclusive, respectful and constructive).

3.2 An Annual General Meeting will be held once a year, within 15 months of the previous AGM.

3.3 Dates of the AGM will be circulated on by email, on social media and the website, with three full weeks' notice of the date and venue.

3.4 The purpose of the AGM will be:

1. To hear the report on the activities of the group and its project groups for the preceding year
2. To elect the officers' group
3. To identify matters of importance to concentrate on and work toward in the forthcoming year
4. To hear the report on the finances of the group, prepared by the treasurer
5. To agree on any changes to the constitution, or to the modus operandi of Climate Action Lewisham.

3.5 At the AGM a quorum will be minimum of 5 people. If there is no quorum, a new AGM must be called. Each member present in a meeting shall have one vote, decided by a show of hands and motions shall be agreed by a majority of those present and eligible to vote. Eligibility to vote stands resides with individuals' pre-declaration of voting membership. If members wish to vote on core group business, they must submit their names at least three

4. Committee and officer roles:

4.1 At the Annual General Meeting the group will elect five officer roles, to be forwarded and seconded at the AGM and then becoming the official 'management committee' by a show of hands:

Co-chair 1

Co-chair 2

Co-chair 3

Treasurer

Secretary

5. Finance

5.1 CAL's financial year shall run from 1 January to 31 December. A statement of income and expenditure will be prepared at the end of each year for presentation and agreement at the AGM. Where possible, the statement and the financial records should be independently inspected by two CAL members that are not members of the Committee prior to presentation at the AGM. Following the AGM, the statement shall be published on CAL's website or wherever practical.

5.2 Any bank accounts opened for CAL shall be in the name of Climate Action Lewisham and must have three signatories, one of the Chairs, Treasurer and one other Committee Member. To avoid conflicts of interest, the signatories should not be related or in a relationship. The majority of financial transactions shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer.

5.3 Any cheque issued must be signed by the Treasurer and one other signatory. There will be a delegated responsibility to the Treasurer for debit card and online banking transactions up to £250, beyond which email authorisation from another signatory will be required.

6. Dissolution of Climate Action Lewisham.

Climate Action Lewisham may be dissolved at any time by a Special General Meeting motion at which a majority of voting members vote to dissolve the group if it is felt for any reason that it is no longer viable or appropriate. After any debts and liabilities have been settled, remaining goods and financial assets shall be donated to an organization with sympathetic aims in the local area.

Signed:

Z. Greenhill

Zaria Greenhill, co-chair 1, 13 October 2019

Clareon Gloria Ann Dunton

Ann Dunton, co-chair 2, 13/10/19.

R. Freeston

Richard Freeston, co-chair 3, 13/10/19.

B. Middleton

Ben Middleton, Treasurer, 13/10/19.

Emma Reade

Emma Reade, Secretary, 13 October 2019