

Green City Strategy for Southampton

- Climate Change is '*our greatest threat in thousands of years*'. '*The continuation of our civilisations and the natural world upon which we depend, is in your hands*' – David Attenborough 2018
 - We have 12 years to limit the climate change catastrophe – UN in 2018

Our vision is to create a clean, green, healthy and sustainable city and so make Southampton a better place to live in. We will act in Southampton to help reverse climate change and tackle an immediate health emergency caused by air pollution.

1. **We have a Climate Emergency and need the City to be carbon neutral by 2030, and 80% of the way to this by 2025;**
2. **We will reduce traffic pollution by at least 30% by 2025 in order to reduce emissions of nitrogen dioxide to levels of 25 µg/m³ or less as the norm. We will also reduce particulate pollution (PM 2.5) to 10 µg/m³ or less by 2025;**
3. **We envisage that no-one will need to run a car within the City because everything is easily accessible without one by walking, cycling, new clean technology or public transport. We will provide pedestrian clean air 'islands' all across the City by 2025. These will provide pleasant, safe and clean places to go for everyone in the City (including around schools and hospitals) so people can walk to for all their everyday needs and provide social community hubs;**
4. **We envisage a city that generates the energy it needs from exclusively renewable sources, much of it generated within the City itself. Renewable energy will provide 80% of Southampton's needs by 2025, including more use of geothermal energy;**
5. **By 2025 60% of buildings are to be self-sufficient in power with micro-generation and energy storage systems to provide the electricity needs of each house. This is to be complemented by large scale insulation programmes;**
6. **We will take actions that will improve the quality of life in our city. By 2025 we aim for the *Healthy Life Expectancy Indicator* to the best amongst our peers and to remove the difference cities like Southampton experience with rural areas in terms of premature *deaths attributed to air pollution*;**
7. **We will double the number of trees and hedges in the City by 2023, with an emphasis on those that eat pollution especially alongside roads as this is very effective at reducing pollution;**
8. **We will make the best use of our resources, minimise waste and ensure we reduce, repair, reuse, rethink and recycle with immediate effect;**

- 9. We will halve food waste in the City by 2022;**
- 10. We will work in partnership within and outside Southampton – share our knowledge and inspire others;**
- 11. The City Council will use services and products that support this vision. All Southampton City Council actions and decisions are to be consistent with this Charter and the Vision stated above. Priority in all procurement decisions will be given to local produce, products and services;**
- 12. We will deliver further agreed specific objectives, including but not limited to those defined in the Clean Air Manifesto for Southampton.**

We are committed to delivering on these commitments and will ensure that at least 5% of City Council spending every year is used to address the above. We will also seek additional funding from other sources and delegated powers from Government to achieve the objectives.

There will be an Action Group to chase through actions and ensure that the above targets are met or exceeded. This group will include representatives of all interested parties.

The Council will help achieve this by being ambitious, leading by example and setting challenging goals. The real cost/benefits of every decision taken will be defined in terms of health, infrastructure, air quality, environment, amenity and economy.

We face an unprecedented Climate Emergency and we need commensurate and rapid emergency action.

Written by The Green Resistance with support from:

- Southampton Extinction Rebellion
- Southampton Friends of the Earth
- Southampton Greenpeace
- Southampton Green Party
- Transition Southampton