

How to navigate the document

Best viewing experience

This document is best viewed downloaded on a laptop or desktop computer. The interactivity will not work as well on tablets, iPads and mobile phones. You will still be able to view, scroll through and use some functionality such as hyperlinks, however the main navigation buttons on the right may be less effective.

Right hand navigation

The buttons on the right hand side take you to the different sections of the document. The 6 ambition sections each have their own contents for you to jump to a particular area with ease. Simply click on the button on the right to take you back to that section's contents. All other sections do not have a contents page.

Endnotes

Example:

In Camden in 2022, there were 6,389 children or 1 in 5 (19.8%) living in poverty, up from 13.5% in 2021.¹

To go to the reference of a particular Endnote, click on the number at the end of the paragraph.

Click on the number in the Endnotes to take you back to the page which the reference number is on.

Example:

- 1 Proportion of children living in low income households (60% of median income) before and after housing costs, Local indicators of child poverty, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University for End Child Poverty (2022); Children in low income families: local area statistics, DWP (2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2022>, https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/report/Local_indicators_of_child_poverty_after_housing_costs_2021_22/23523453.

Text which is in blue and underlined is an active link. This example is a URL hyperlink which will take you to a webpage. Others may open up another document or activate an email programme.

Comparison group: throughout the report, we have referred to the 'Comparison group' for simplification. This group consists of the inner London boroughs and neighbouring boroughs to Camden: Barnet, Brent, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster, Islington, Southwark, Newham, Hackney, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, City of London, Greenwich, Haringey, and Lewisham. We also compare to the London and England averages where possible.

List of chart and images
Click on this link to bring you back to this description of the Comparison Group.

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Overviews

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individual
webpages

The 6 WMC
ambitions

Good Life Camden

Camden’s State of the Borough report is published annually. It brings together data and evidence from quantitative and qualitative sources, and includes national level statistics, regional data, and locally collected data. It provides a **shared evidence base about the outcomes experienced by people in Camden**, and is intended for organisations, residents and the council to increase the understanding of people’s wellbeing in the borough. It is aligned to the structure of the [We Make Camden](#) vision for the borough, and uses the [Good Life Camden](#) framework to identify relevant data.

A note on timings: The 2026 report is published earlier than in previous years due to the local elections in May 2026. Due to the shorter timeline for producing the report, we did not include data that was not updated since the last report at the time of drafting.


The 6 WMC ambitions

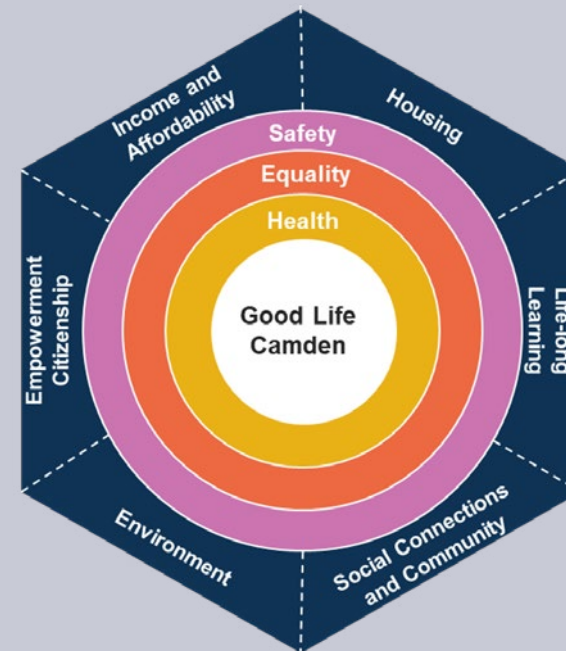
Good Life Camden

The report focuses on the outcomes that are important for living a good life in Camden, based on the co-created [Good Life Camden](#) (GLC) framework. The GLC framework was developed with residents and staff in 2022. It breaks down the concept of living a good life into nine **themes**, which people told us are most important. These are: Safety, Equality, Health, Housing, Income and Affordability, Lifelong Learning, Social Connections and Community, and Environment. The themes of Safety, Health and Housing are identified as core cross-cutting themes. The framework also spells out the **signals** that tell us if we’re making progress against the different GLC themes (e.g. for Housing, a signal is that the quality of housing is high). The signals are underpinned by **measures**, which use data from a range of sources, such as official statistics or administrative data from schools, hospitals and transport.

In pulling together the data and evidence for the report, we started from the framework and looked for quantitative data that was available, preferably comparable across place and time. Mapping to the GLC framework also showed us where we have data gaps, whether for signals and measures (e.g. people feel safe in Camden) or in the breakdowns of averages (e.g. what is the experience of specific populations, like perceptions of safety of adults with learning disabilities).

Throughout the report, we have highlighted the relevant Good Life Camden signals where the data is presented.

Look out for these  **throughout the report, presenting the relevant Good Life Camden signal in each section.**



Green, Clean and Sustainable

Camden should be a green, clean, vibrant, accessible and sustainable place with everyone empowered to contribute to tackling the climate emergency



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**The 6 WMC
ambitions**

Key Insights

“

Our favourite place to visit in Camden is Parliament Hill, as it is such a big and lovely park and there is so much to do. If you want to reconnect with nature, meet up with family and friends or even go to do some fitness, it's a good place to go to.

”

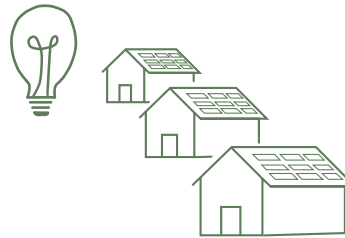
-Couple: 25, Female; 25, Male

A resident in Camden has, on average, 9.1 parks or green spaces within 1,000m of their home.



In 2023

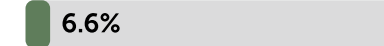
Camden produced 5,160Mwh (megawatt hours) of renewable energy from sources in the borough...



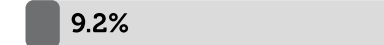
...enough to power about 1,911 homes for an entire year

Between 2018 and 2023, Air pollution-related deaths fell by 2.6%

2023



2018



In 2023/2024

On average, Camden households produced

30%
less waste
since 2010/2011

Almost 9 out of 10 trips were made using public transport, walking, or cycling



9:1

The 6 WMC ambitions

This chapter explores the importance of clean and green environments in supporting the wellbeing of local communities. It highlights how well-maintained and accessible green spaces contribute to residents' sense of safety and encourage greater use, ultimately improving quality of life.

This chapter also examines active and sustainable travel choices, such as cycling and walking, and their impact on both health and environmental outcomes. By analysing local data and feedback, the chapter provides insight into how Camden compares with other boroughs in fostering a cleaner, greener, and healthier urban environment.

“Hampstead Heath is my favourite place in Camden as it is my home, where I grew up and also a way to get away from the hustle and bustle of life”

(36, Male, Camden Mela 2025).

Camden residents continue to use a variety of sustainable and active transport options, such as cycling, walking and public transport. Road safety remains good, with accident data showing Camden is safer than both the London average and comparator boroughs for pedestrians and cyclists. Air pollution levels and related mortality have continued to decline in line with national trends, although ozone levels are rising, likely due to warmer summers linked to climate change. Household waste volumes have reduced overall, with a slight increase in recycling rates in recent years. Renewable energy generation has grown, driven almost entirely by solar photovoltaic installations. Residents consistently value Camden's green spaces, emphasising the importance of good maintenance and safety.

Good Life Camden 

Environment: People use clean modes of transport

Clean and active travel is an important factor in health and wellbeing outcomes for residents, as well as environmental outcomes like air quality. The more active and sustainable travel options are being utilised, the more we should expect to see positive impacts on other outcomes.

Some residents welcomed improvements made to Camden's streets and public realm:

“Camden Council is a supportive council and through its work via public consultations, its public realm has improved - I have seen this through the introduction of wider pavements, bigger cycle lanes and improved air quality”

(74, Male, Camden Mela 2025).

Others highlighted disruptions caused by large-scale development,

“the only downside is the HS2 developments, they have been ongoing for a long time and will finish roughly around 2030. This development has caused daily disruptions as there are roadworks, bus stops have been moved and bus routes diverted and this makes going anywhere quite difficult”

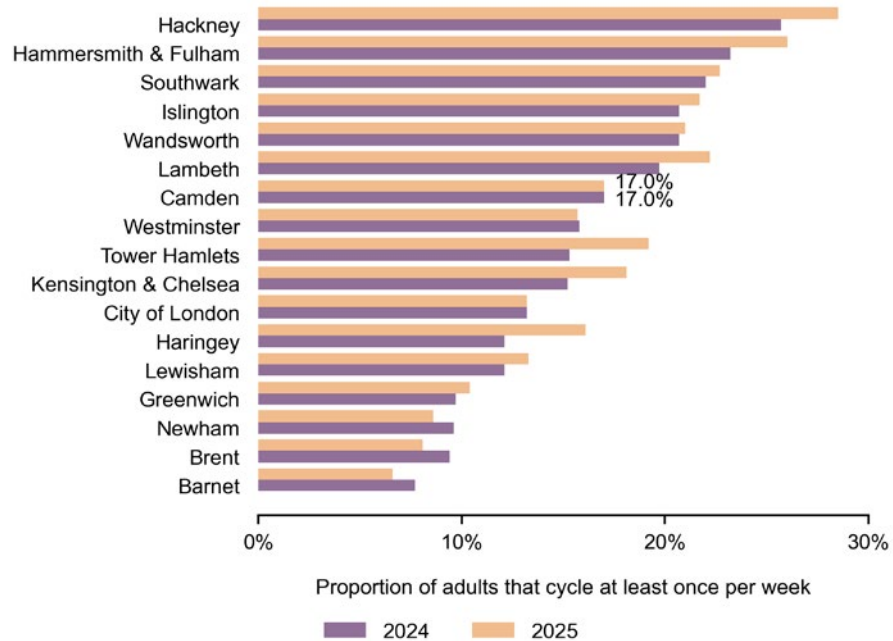
(NA, Camden Mela 2025).

The 6 WMC ambitions

17% of people cycle at least once per week

The latest data (released 2025, for average of 21/22 and 22/23) shows that 17% of Camden adults cycled at least once per week. This is consistent with the previous reported period (average of 20/21 and 21/22) and ranks Camden 9th out of the 17 comparator boroughs. This is down from 7th in the previous period due to improvements made by both Tower Hamlets and Kensington and Chelsea. Camden was one of only six boroughs to remain static or show a decrease in the level of cycling between the two periods. 11 boroughs saw an increase, with the biggest coming in Haringey, Tower Hamlets and Kensington and Chelsea.

Figure 6.1: Proportion of adults that cycle once per week



Source: Healthy Streets Scorecard, Sport England, Active Lives Survey, 2024-2025

39.9% of adult residents walk at least five time a week (at least 10 minutes continuous walking)

In Camden, 39.9% of adult residents reported walking at least five time a week (walking is defined as any continuous walk of at least 10 minutes. It includes walking for leisure, for travel, rambling and, or Nordic walking, and for wheelchair use, and excludes hiking, mountain and, or hill walking, and walking around shops). This is a decrease from the previous reported period of 1.3% points, and ranks Camden 6th out of the 17 comparator boroughs, and is above the Greater London average.

Figure 6.2: Proportion of adults that walk at least 5 times a week



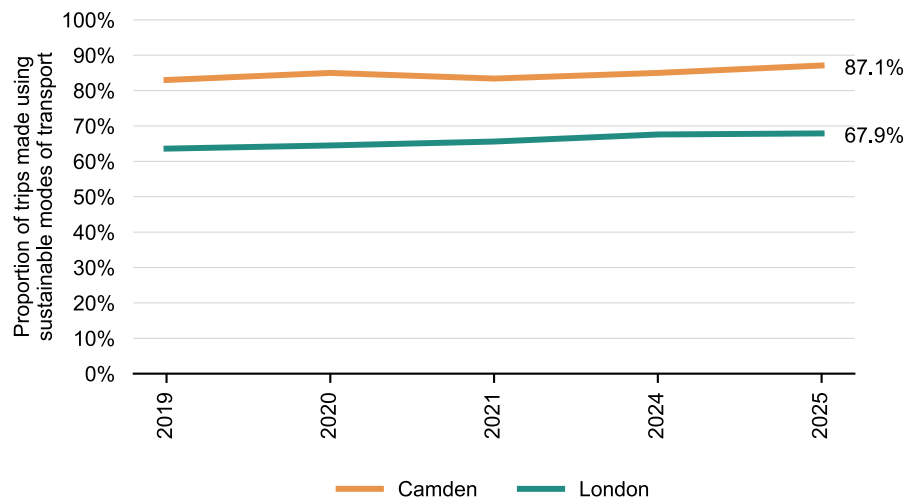
Source: Healthy Streets Scorecard, Sport England, Active Lives Survey, 2019-2025

The 6 WMC ambitions

Car ownership, usage and traffic volumes have all reduced in Camden, and 87.1% of trips were made using sustainable modes of transport

The percentage of all Camden residents’ trips undertaken by car has reduced by a further percentage point in 2024/25, to 12%¹. The number of cars owned by households in Camden has reduced by 21% in the last 7 years, from 55,102 in 2016 to 43,696 in 2023 - this reduction is double the rate observed in the borough with the second highest reduction (10% in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea).² Also, motor traffic volumes in the borough – measured across a network of “Screenline” count points – have reduced by a third in less than two decades.

Figure 6.3: Proportion of trips made using sustainable modes of transport



Source: Healthy Streets Scorecard, Sport England, Active Lives Survey, 2019-2025

In Camden, 87.1% of trips were made using sustainable modes of transport (e.g. public transport, walking or cycling). This is an increase of 2.1 percentage points on the previous period, and ranks Camden 2nd out of the comparison group, behind City of London. Camden has been consistently above the London average by at least 15 percentage points for the last 5 years. In general, Inner London boroughs do better than Outer London boroughs on this metric, due to a range of factors such as denser populations, lower car ownership and better public transport options.

The rate of pedestrian serious and fatal casualties was 4.3 per 100,000 daily walking stages and 1.4 serious or fatal casualties per 100,000 daily cycling stages

In 2025, in Camden, there were 4.3 serious or fatal casualties per 100,000 daily walking stages (for example: walking from home to bus stop would be a walking stage; then boarding the bus is a new stage of different transport mode, and then walking from the bus to your destination would be a second walking stage). This ranks Camden 4th out of the comparison group and below (better than) the London average.

Some residents raised concerns about behaviour on shared roads and pavements,

“ My road is one way street, you get bikers, they’re not just young people, they are people with their children going on the pavement the wrong way up. Drivers, not just young people, older drivers don’t stop at the zebra crossing”

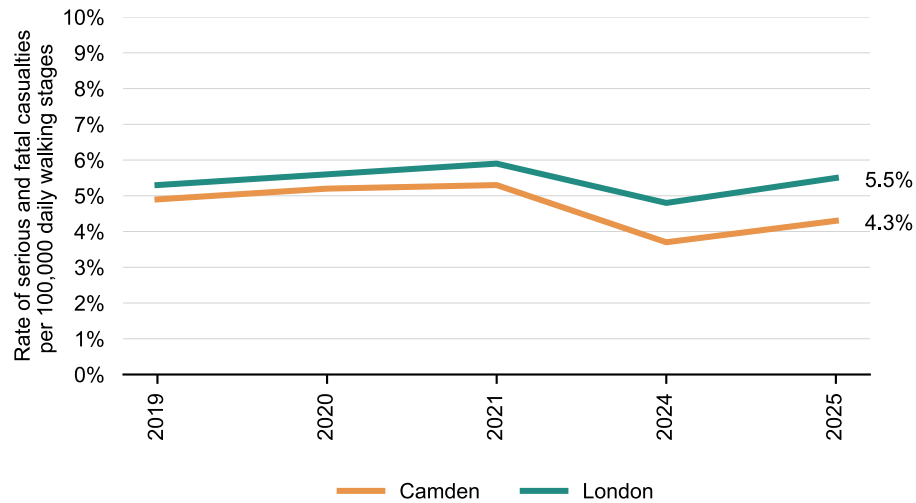
(67, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre).

In Camden, there were 1.4 serious or fatal casualties per 100,000 daily cycling stages (a cycling stage being an individual trip to a destination by bike, riding to a shop, and then riding back, would be two stages).

The 6 WMC ambitions

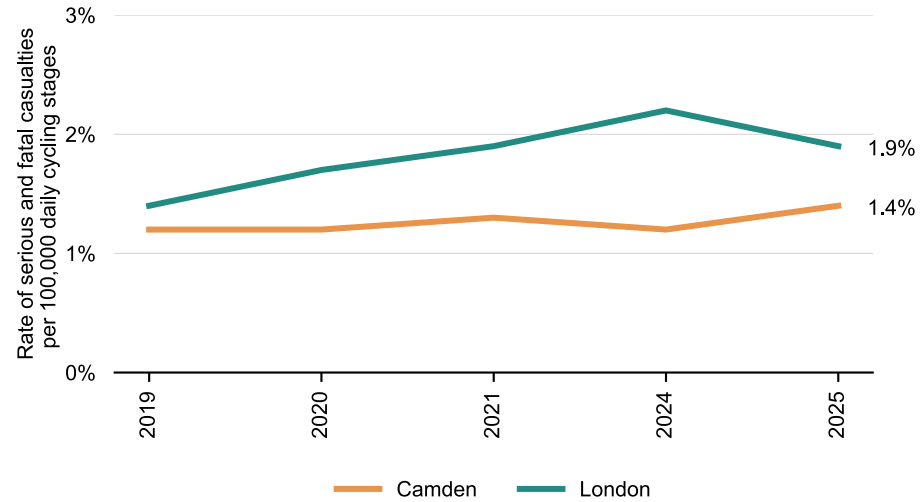
This is a slight increase of 0.2 from the previous reporting period but still ranks Camden 2nd out of the 17 comparator boroughs and below (better than) the London average.

Figure 6.4: Rate of serious and fatal casualties per 100,000 daily walking stages



Source: Healthy Streets Scorecard, Sport England, Active Lives Survey, 2019-2025

Figure 6.5: Rate of serious and fatal casualties per 100,000 daily cycling stages



Source: Healthy Streets Scorecard, Sport England, Active Lives Survey, 2019-2025

The 6 WMC ambitions

Good Life Camden ☺

Environment: Air quality improves across the whole borough

6.6% of all adult deaths were attributable to air pollution

Camden’s mortality rate due to pollution has followed a similar trajectory to comparator boroughs and the wider national trend. In 2023, data for Camden estimates 6.6% of all adult deaths were attributable to air pollution (i.e. fine particulate matter), ranking Camden 12th out of the 17 comparator boroughs. The level has decreased over the last 5 years however, down from 9.2% in 2018.

It should be noted that this measure is a statistically modelled estimate, rather than being based on real hospital data on cause of death, but it applies a consistent methodology across all areas and is therefore considered useful for comparison and long-term trends.

Residents linked air quality to ongoing construction, with one resident noting that:

“*That’s the reason why I got double glazing in my house [...]. You know you start coughing [with] all the fumes and pollution*” (67, Female, Focus group with residents who have learning difficulties).

Ozone air pollution concentrations are increasing year-on-year with seasonal spikes corresponding to more frequent summer heatwaves

Ozone air pollution in London is increasing over time, in contrast to the decline in nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air pollution concentrations.

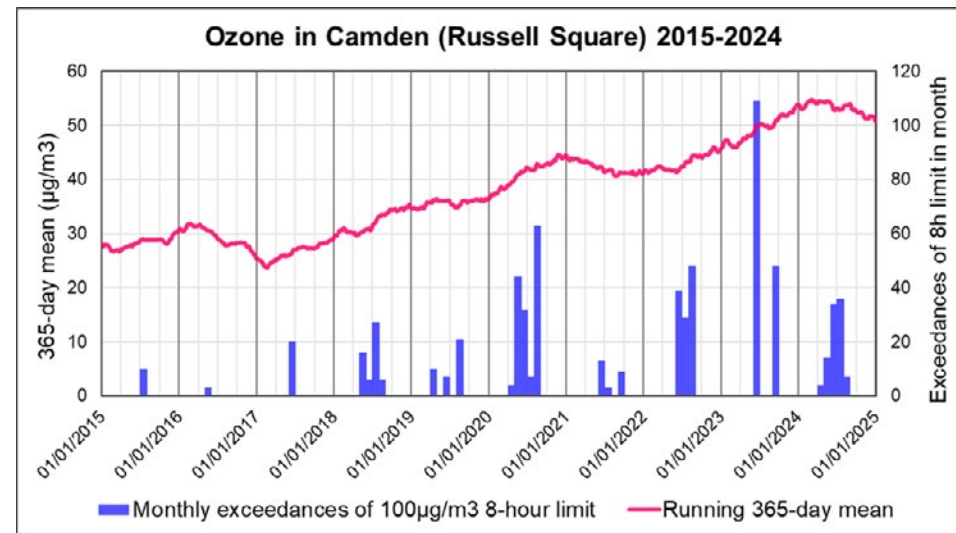
Higher in the atmosphere ozone helps to shield us from solar radiation, but at ground level it is an air pollutant and causes health damage as well as damage to plants and materials. Ozone is not emitted directly by human activities, but is produced by chemical reactions involving other gases and chemicals emitted from burning fossil fuels and from other processes.

It is important to look at both the long-term trend for ozone (measured as a rolling 365-day average concentration) and the changing frequency of short-term periods with especially high ozone concentrations (measured by the number of times per month the rolling eight-hour average ozone concentration exceeds 100µg/m³). Taken together, these metrics help to illustrate how our exposure to ozone air pollution

is changing over time whilst also understanding how our exposure to harmfully high concentrations is dominated by specific times of year, usually summer heatwaves.

The long-term increase is thought to be the result of the decline in NO₂ in London (which reacts with ozone, suppressing ozone concentrations) and also because of increasingly frequent and more extreme summer heatwaves, which provide the ideal conditions needed for the chemical reaction that forms ozone. The combination of heat and higher concentrations of air pollution exacerbate health hazards, especially for vulnerable people. Camden’s air quality and climate programmes will help to build public awareness about the actions that can be taken to reduce exposure and health risks related to ozone air pollution and heat.

Figure 6.6: Rolling 365-day average ozone concentration and count of monthly breaches of 8-hour rolling limit



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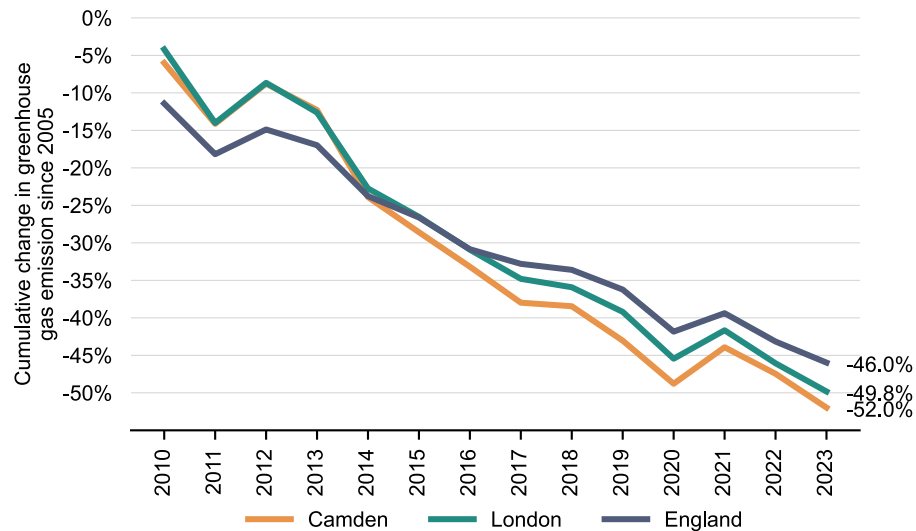
Good Life Camden 

Environment: Camden becomes net zero

There has been a continued decline in greenhouse gas emissions

Borough-wide CO₂ emissions have decreased by 52% against a 2005 baseline. Figure 6.7 illustrates the trend compared to London and England.

Figure 6.7: Cumulative change in greenhouse gas emissions since 2005



Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2010-2023

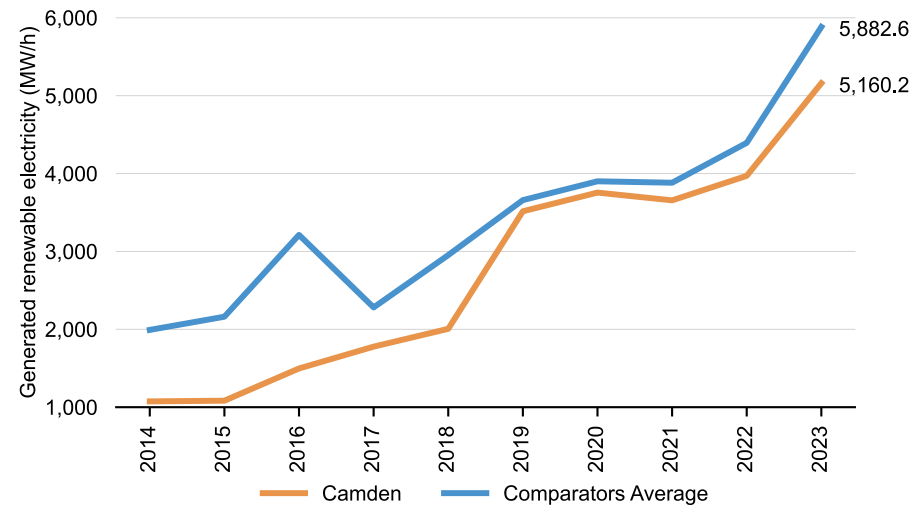
In the reporting year 2024/25, Camden Council's greenhouse gas emissions stood at 11,785 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). The Council's carbon footprint covers operational energy use from its own estate and operations, as well as some emissions from energy

used in schools, council corporate buildings, leisure centres, hostels, fleet and street lighting. Through the delivery of Council's Carbon Management Plan, the Council exceeded its target of a 40% reduction in emissions by 2020 in 2018/19 and has reduced emissions by 64.7% in 2024/25 when compared to a 2009/10 baseline.³

In 2023, Camden produced 5,160Mwh (megawatt hours) of renewable energy, up from 1,074Mwh in 2014

In 2023, Camden produced 5,160Mwh (megawatt hours) of renewable energy from renewable sources located in the borough. There has been a steady increase in energy generated from renewable sources locally over the last 10 years, up from 1,074Mwh in 2014.

Figure 6.8: Generated renewable electricity (Mw/h, average excluding Newham)



Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2014-2023

Note: Comparators average calculated without Newham values

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Renewable sources can include solar, wind, biomass and other forms of energy generation. In Camden, our renewable energy generation comes from solar photovoltaic sources.

There are huge disparities between London boroughs in terms of energy generated from renewables, reflecting the different geographical attributes of each borough. For instance, the peak capacity in 2018 for Newham, driven by sewage gas and biomass generation, was 150,694Mwh, compared to only 606Mwh in Kensington and Chelsea from solar photovoltaic.

In Figure 6.8 we see a consistent upward trend for the average of the comparison group (excluding Newham),⁴ very closely aligned to Camden’s trajectory over the last decade.

Good Life Camden [↪](#)

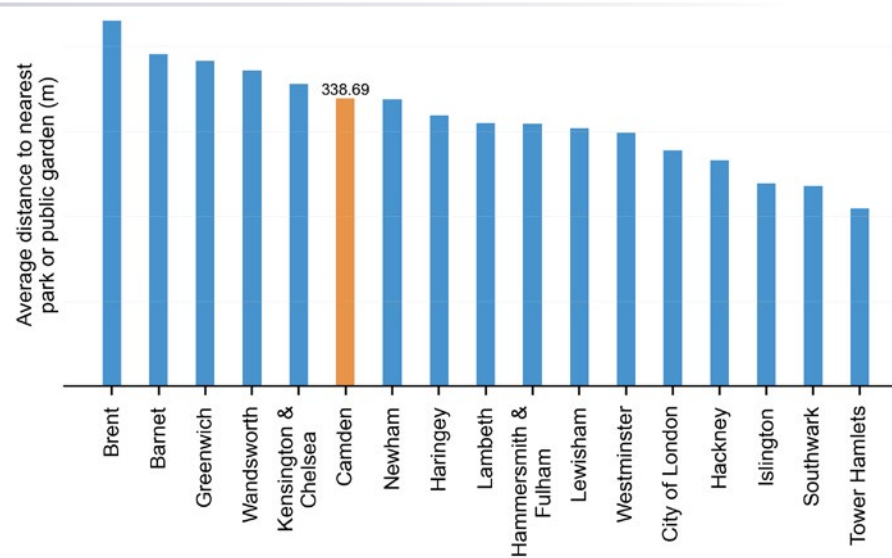
Environment: Camden’s green spaces and parks serve the needs of its diverse communities

Camden residents enjoy access to a large number of parks and green spaces, though the average distance to the nearest one is higher than most of our comparison group

A resident in Camden has, on average, 9.1 parks or green spaces within 1000m of their home. Camden ranks 5th out of its comparator boroughs on this metric. Tower Hamlets has the most parks within 1000m of residents, on average, at 12.0, and Brent the lowest, with 2.8.

However, despite the large number of parks and green spaces, comparatively, the average distance to the nearest park is 339 metres in Camden, which ranks Camden 12th out of our comparator boroughs.

Figure 6.9: Average distance to nearest park or public garden



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2020

Residents highlighted how green spaces contribute to their quality of life, but also how access, maintenance and a sense of safety shape the extent to which these spaces can be enjoyed. Many families described parks as vital places for play, socialising and community-building. As one resident put it,

“ I live in Camden NW1 and for my children it’s great as there are lots of outdoor parks and activities, so they are always making new friends and learning about their local community”
(50, Female, Camden Mela 2025).

At the same time, the ability to enjoy these spaces depends heavily on how safe and well-maintained they feel. One resident said,

“ there are many green spaces in the area which is great for kids but I am aware of crime so I tend to be cautious, otherwise I feel safe using the green spaces”
(26, Female, Regent’s Roots Festival).

The 6 WMC ambitions

Concerns about upkeep sometimes affected perceptions of safety and cleanliness as well. Residents also described barriers that limit how fully green spaces can be used, especially by families. Some pointed to gaps in programming and amenities:

““ *There are green spaces that are not used as much, there could be more activities for families during the summer. There are limited access to water jets – we only have two and most of the time they are switched off*”

(38, Female, Regent’s Roots Festival).

Others raised concerns about playground design:

““ *It would be good to have more parks in Camden. More playgrounds and toys everyone can access would be helpful. It’s either too babyish or too grown up, there is not much for the 4–10 year old range*”

(NA, Female, Regent’s Roots Festival).

Residents also described the perception that access to green spaces has been reduced with the area becoming more built up with new developments.

These views highlight that although people in Camden have high proximity to green spaces, they also value the safety, maintenance and overall welcoming feeling in those spaces.

Learning from: In Her Place - Camley Street Young Researchers Project

As part of an eight-week paid programme over Summer 2025, seven local young women and nonbinary people conducted research into their gendered experiences of Camley Street. This work was made possible through [Social Place](#), who held the community relationships and played a leading role in driving the engagement. The researchers

used walking audits, photography, mapping, filmmaking, creative writing, and zine-making to explore how the street feels and functions for gender-diverse people. Their work highlighted how “*blind spots*,” “*poor, broken, or obscured lighting*,” “*narrow pavements*,” and “*sense[s] of entrapment*” shape feelings of safety and access along the street.

The researchers noted that some sections felt “*dodgy, dirty and purposeless*,” “*eerie and sketchy*,” or like “*a place you’d only really use to practise driving*.” In contrast, small pockets of greenery or well-maintained areas elicited responses such as “*I love this view!*” and “*Could more of Camley Street feel like this?*”.

The researchers expressed concerns about inequality in the public realm, observing that “*all the nice green spaces and lighting are within private properties... the posh people get nicer things*.” They also described how signage, poor visibility, and hostile underpasses made it difficult to feel safe or welcome: “*How am I meant to cross?*”, “*The contrast between how lovely the bridge and how horrible the underpass is, is shocking!*”, and “*The fences are making me feel that I can’t be here*.” Their proposals focused on creating a safer, more inclusive, and more inviting environment, emphasising “*warm lighting*,” “*creative social seating*,” “*welcoming signage*,” and designs that enable people to feel “*enveloped in nature*” and “*like I - and the wider community - belong here*”.

The findings from the Camley Street Young Researchers have been shared directly with the Camley Street Community Investment Programme team, including the appointed architects and landscape architects, and have informed the proposed long-term design submitted through the planning application. As the project moves forward, the research is being used to inform consideration of safety, inclusion, accessibility, lighting, greening, and wayfinding across both interim measures and future public realm proposals for Camley Street.

The 6 WMC ambitions

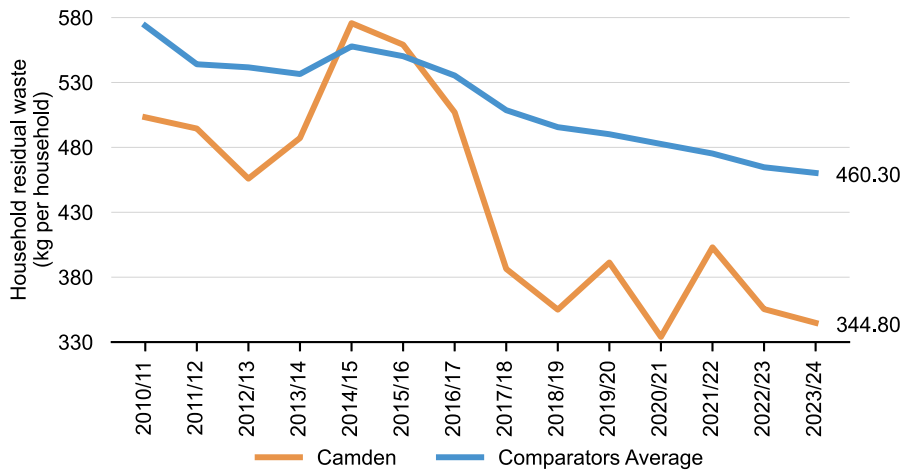
Cleanliness and waste

Camden households produced on average 344.8 kilograms of waste in 2023/24, and 29.1% was recycled

In 2023/24 Camden households produced on average 344.8 kilograms of waste, a reduction of c.150kg per household compared to 2010/11. This ranks Camden 5th out of 17 comparator boroughs, and below (i.e. better than) the average for the group.⁵

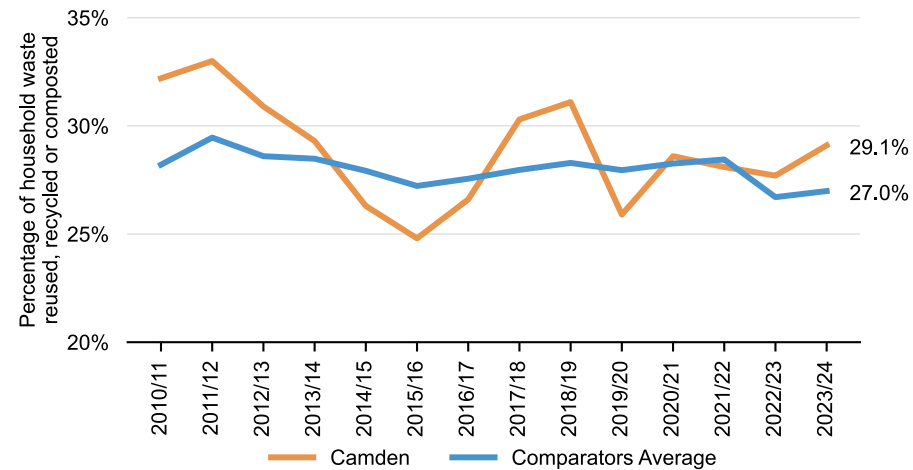
This reduction in household waste has been achieved despite an overall decrease in the percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted. In 2023/24, 29.1% of household waste was recycled in Camden, in line with the average for the comparator group, and ranking Camden 5th out of the 17 comparator boroughs. The rate of recycling was slightly higher in 2010/11 at 32.2%, but dropped as low as 24.8% in 2015/16.

Figure 6.10: Household residual waste (kg per household)



Source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2010/11–2023/24

Figure 6.11: Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted



Source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2010/11–2023/24

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Endnotes

- 1 <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/travel-in-london-reports>
- 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vehicle-licensing-statistics-data-tables>
- 3 <https://www.camden.gov.uk/carbon-reduction-programme>
- 4 Newham is significant outlier in the dataset for our comparison group due to its unique generation capacity from sewage gas and biomass. Excluding it helps us see the broader trend in the comparator group.
- 5 The average is calculated from the total amount of waste collected divided by the number of households in each borough.

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camden.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-report



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