

# Blackburn with Darwen People's Jury on the Climate Crisis Recommendations

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The question considered by the Blackburn People's Jury on the Climate Crisis was *'What do we need to do in our homes, in business and our local area to respond to the climate change crisis?'*

## Jury statement

The following statement was written by a group of jury members and then edited and discussed by the rest of the jury. **100%** of the jury members who voted on the recommendations either strongly support or support the statement:

**We are a jury that represents the diversity of Blackburn with Darwen; different ages, genders, ethnicities and backgrounds and have all worked together to agree a way forward. We are multiple backgrounds with one message.**

**From our journey we are worried and frustrated about climate change. This issue has been ignored for far too long. Time is running out.**

**We are nervous that there are those who don't see the urgency of the issue or understand, especially the government and those in power who have a duty of care.**

**We are worried about how the changes that lie ahead will be paid for and the cost to the individual especially those struggling to make ends meet and this must be considered at every stage of what we do in our response.**

**However, we are hopeful. This process has shown us that if we break the problem down into smaller parts it is solvable. The opportunities for changes are there, there are lots of things that people can do. We can all lead the change that must happen. There is much we can do as individuals but we need those in power, such as the council, to put in place everything to make it easy for us to take this action. This must be the start of a continuous conversation.**

**We must not give up, for the sake of our future generations.**

**All of us in Blackburn with Darwen are part of a chain supporting each other. All of us are an important link. To the council, councillors and other links in the chain, we say we must get the job done.**

# Top Recommendations

The recommendations are listed below in order of overall rank across all recommendations. Points have been allocated based on jury members' votes for each recommendation, which determines its **overall** rank.

	Points	Overall Rank	Rank in Theme
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION</b>	42	1st	1st
<p>1) We have learned a lot through being involved in the Climate Change People's Jury. <b>Everyone can be educated</b> through inclusive involvement about how to make Blackburn with Darwen a better place to live, work and play.</p> <p>We think messages should be developed by and shared by people of all ages starting at ward/neighbourhood level including schools, youth groups, employers, residents (individuals and groups), local charities and community organisations and local councillors. Local councillors can start the process and other individuals and organisations must support them to do this.</p> <p>Change will be encouraged through clear and transparent communication, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why the change is needed</li> <li>- What can be done</li> <li>- What the benefit will be (at individual and local level)</li> </ul> <p>Messages could be shared through the individuals and organisations mentioned above by existing and new communication routes e.g. council messages/letter, also local media, social media, local Facebook groups, pop up shops (e.g. next to Wilkos) etc. We would like to see an interactive forum to share climate friendly tips and trips.</p> <p>Here are some things we think should be included. (This list should be reviewed and added to over time.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Recycling - cost benefits plus potential savings if everyone did it properly. Targets for savings and what these savings could be spent on instead in relation to other climate change related initiatives (e.g. home improvements or active travel support)</li> <li>b) Litter and fly tipping (quantity and position of bins) (same as above in terms of potential savings)</li> <li>c) Travel habits / routines – encouraging less car use, more lift sharing, public transport use and active travel</li> <li>d) Information about food choices and food waste</li> <li>e) Flash flooding awareness</li> <li>f) Repair cafés – existing cafés and potential for the future</li> <li>g) For those that are interested there should be information about how all these and other issues are linked by climate change.</li> </ol> <p>We must think about what different things will increase awareness and motivation amongst different groups of people.</p>			

<p>OTHER</p> <p>2) We ask the oversight panel of the people’s jury to assign an <b>accountable</b> individual / organisation for each of our recommendations. From that we are asking for <b>regular reviews</b> to the members of the people’s jury (initially after 3 months, then every 6 months) to demonstrate progress, and if no progress, why.</p>	40	2nd	1st
<p>OTHER</p> <p>3) Improve <b>green spaces</b> around the borough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make it easier for people to navigate their way while walking - develop more walking maps including town centre display boards and online/printed leaflets</li> <li>- Increase the number of benches to allow resting points and enable people to be able to go further</li> <li>- Consult the community about where the 8,000 trees are planted</li> </ul> <p>Improved green spaces will directly help with climate change and will encourage people to walk more, creating new habits which could help reduce car use.</p>	37	=3rd	1st
<p>OTHER</p> <p>4) We are aware that <b>food waste</b> is a big issue. We recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More local research about the causes of food waste, not only what food waste is</li> <li>- Local research about appropriate local solutions and implementation</li> <li>- Communicate the findings to promote behaviour change</li> </ul>	37	=3rd	3rd
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>5) We want improvements to public transport to make it reliable, affordable, accessible, easier to navigate, clean, and safe. e.g.</p> <p><b>1) Availability:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Increase availability of trains and buses for more people with more stops more times and more routes.</li> <li>b) A public consultation should be carried out to establish what services people need.</li> </ol> <p><b>2) Information:</b> Providers to work together to create a user-friendly app which combines train and bus services to easily plan your journey track where your train or bus is, when they'll arrive, and how busy they are. All should have an onboard tracker to link to the app an update via app, stop / station displays and on board announcements. There should be a phone number available for people who don't have smartphones and the app should be widely advertised.</p> <p><b>3) Ticketing:</b> ‘One ticket’ available for use across all providers and services</p> <p><b>4) Incentives:</b> There should be incentives for using bus and train services like loyalty cards or cheaper monthly passes that can be used across all services and providers</p>	36	5th	1st

<p><b>HOUSING</b></p> <p>6) National government should implement a <b>minimum standard for energy efficiency and insulation</b> in all homes. This standard should be <b>enforced</b>. Our local MPs should be proactive in making this legislation and exploring the idea of green loans (with favourable or zero interest rates) / grants that work (unlike the Green Homes grant). This is essential for addressing climate change, but also, ensuring we all have a right to a warm home, particularly important to all of us now.</p>	35	6th	3rd
<p><b>HOUSING</b></p> <p>7) Some people are reluctant to make changes to their homes. People can be supported to make changes in a number of ways especially in terms of information, advice and affordability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there should be an <b>approved list of local (perhaps county-wide) renewable energy installation and maintenance professionals</b> that are trustworthy, comply with health and safety etc, with a product guarantee. This list should be held by the Council, or another organisation such as the Chamber of Commerce.</li> <li>b) more <b>impartial information</b> is needed on how to make savings on energy efficiency – stressing that this is how you can save money. Residents could showcase this to each other. <i>Reward, recognise, for a better climate / change for residents.</i></li> <li>c) extend <b>bulk-buying schemes</b>. Working with communities and neighbourhoods to firstly, gauge interest in the installing of solar panels and other renewable energy options and then based on the interest putting in place a <b>bulk-buying scheme</b>. This would enable trusted professionals to be used at the cheapest possible cost. This must be done in a way that ensures any profits are shared within the community. (e.g Solar Together working with other councils enables 35% cheaper systems).</li> </ul>	33	7th	1st
<p><b>HOUSING</b></p> <p>8) Blackburn with Darwen Council needs to challenge the national building regulations to ensure all <b>new homes</b> have solar panels and heat pumps. We need <b>net zero new homes by 2028</b> like Lancaster’s target (or earlier). The Local Plan should be changed to reflect this.</p>	32	8th	2nd
<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION</b></p> <p>9) We need to <b>give a sense of inspiration back to our community which will help encourage change and give them hope for a better future</b>. We need to share progress and a reason to be cheerful.</p> <p>This can be done through creating the Blackburn with Darwen Smile awards!</p> <p>These awards will recognise and encourage action and help spread change both short and long term. The process to develop these awards should happen at ward/neighbourhood level. Every ward should have at least one entry. A logo can be created through a competition involving local schools. The Smile Awards can offer recognition for all sorts of things, including people who act as ‘change champions’ in</p>	32	8th	2nd

their community, place of work or education etc.			
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	29	10th	2nd
<p>10) Build upon work already being done and do more to encourage people to <b>walk, wheel, and cycle</b>, safely and accessibly. e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Stop people parking on pavements, walkways and cycleways with enforceable, significant fines</li> <li>b) Make spaces more pleasant and safe to walk and cycle in (greener spaces, walk and cycle lanes separate from traffic, cleaner)</li> <li>c) Incentive to use cycle instead of car (e.g. Voucher to help purchase of a bicycle)</li> <li>d) Secure cycle parking</li> <li>e) Investigate viable options for local 'rent-a-bike' scheme</li> <li>f) Encourage eco driving to reduce pollution and make area more healthy and pleasant to walk and cycle (e.g. 20mph zones, electric vehicles etc)</li> <li>g) Keep people informed about progress</li> <li>h) Do some work to find out why any previous schemes haven't worked and establish how to address and increase take-up</li> </ul>			
<b>OTHER</b>	29	10th	4th
<p>11) Encourage people to <b>grow their own food</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Via school gardens and cooking</li> <li>b) Create more allotments from unused spaces, and support to use them for groups as well as individuals</li> <li>c) Local cook and share groups</li> </ul> <p>Take inspiration from what is already in existence here, and further afield. (This could be linked to recommendation 10 for communicating about this.)</p>			
<b>HOUSING</b>	26	12th	5th
<p>12) The council and local housing providers should be encouraged to use more <b>sustainable building practices</b> for example investigating the use of lime mortars, and an emphasis on reclaiming.</p>			
<b>HOUSING</b>	25	13th	4th
<p>13) We are worried that new homes cause emissions. There should be an <b>investigation</b> into why locally 1,000 homes are <b>vacant</b> and why the Empty Homes team doesn't have enough money to make these homes habitable.</p>			
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	21	14th	3rd
<p>14) Current dial-a-ride and similar services are too limited to offer a solution. Explore expansion of a <b>dial-a-ride service</b> to provide a cheaper, more sustainable solution to taxis and provide 'public transport' service to areas with limited bus services.</p>			

TRANSPORT	16	15th	4th
15) We want the council to do more to encourage <b>businesses</b> to set up company car sharing schemes and we want this activity to be measured and publicly reported to encourage take-up.			

## Rank Within Themes

During the voting process, jury members were asked to rank the recommendations by order of highest to lowest priority within each theme which determined the ranking within theme (third column in table above), alongside casting their votes for each recommendation. The rank within theme for each recommendation is listed below by its number in the table above (No. 1 – 15). **This ‘rank in theme’ (in the third column of the table above) is separate from the ‘overall ranking’ (in the second column of the table above).**

Recommendations - Rank within Theme Table				
<u>Rank</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Transport</u>	<u>Communications and Education</u>	<u>Others</u>
1st	No. 7	No. 5	No. 1	No. 2 & 3
2nd	No. 8	No. 10	No. 9	
3rd	No. 6	No. 14		No. 4
4th	No. 13	No. 15		No. 11
5th	No. 12			