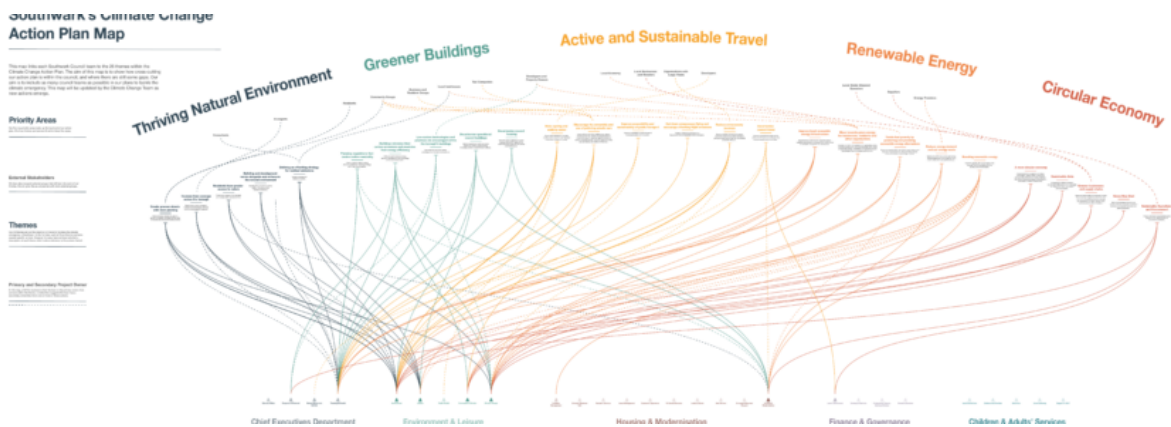


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Climate Emergency Visual Action Plan



Achieving carbon neutrality requires collective action involving businesses and residents and encouraging them to participate in

local governance processes. The most immediate challenge to enable collaboration is to effectively communicate the multiple lines of actions and operational objectives. The Visual Action Plan gives a holistic overview helping public officers to collaborate internally and externally.

Innovation Summary

Innovation Overview

Prior research had shown that 88% of carbon emissions in Southwark were caused by actors outside of the local council. Dr Salinas' research further highlighted that achieving carbon neutrality would require a Quintuple Helix of Innovation, which recognises the importance of collective action involving businesses and residents and encouraging them to participate in local governance processes. Using design-led approaches, Salinas, Alvaro Bravo Cole (Service Futures Lab, UAL) and Tom Taylor (Senior Policy Researcher, Southwark Council) worked with Southwark Council's Climate Emergency Department to develop a digital visualisation system that would afford a more holistic understanding of their Climate Emergency Strategy.

Southwark Council's Climate Emergency Department found that the tool increased awareness of their role in achieving net zero, helping them plan and prioritise actions and activities. It also improved their ability to communicate policy intent and actions with external organisations, local businesses and residents, increasing awareness of the Council's ambition to become net zero by 2030 and enabling new collaborations.

Driving awareness and improved recognition of objectives, actions and progress, the initiative offers other organisations opportunities to make their climate emergency action plans more accessible and collaborative.

UAL's Future Services Lab, in collaboration with Southwark Council, are currently exploring options to share the design system with other local authorities across the UK that aim to achieve net zero.

Innovation Description

What Makes Your Project Innovative?

Climate Emergency Action Plans are highly complex, involving multiple actors from across sectors. The most immediate challenge, to enable collaboration both inside the local government and with external organisations, is to communicate the multiple lines of actions and operational objectives. This information is held in different parts of the organisations, and in documents with diverse format and languages. The Visual Action plan provides a solution to this issue. This key innovation enables the delivery of Climate Emergency Action Plans by identifying which internal and external stakeholders are already involved, as well as those that should be, but are not.

What is the current status of your innovation?

The Southwark Climate Emergency Visual Action Plan is now used by Southwark Council's Climate Emergency department to continue with the iterative development of their action plan across the local authority. The innovation has been instrumental in identifying which of the 150 actions would be supported by UAL and has been employed to develop the brief for the UAL Climate Studio, supporting collaboration with external organisations around the development of the Sustainable Food Action Plan and leading to design-led public engagement informing local action plans. Southwark Council and Service Futures Lab will develop the Visual Action

Plan into a digital service available to any local authority. The innovation facilitates communication of complex action plans that is required as a first step to enable collaboration with multiple stakeholders, which is widely recognised as a requisite to tackle complex challenges such as achieving net zero.

Innovation Development

Collaborations & Partnerships

Public officers, policy researchers, design practitioners and design researchers collaborated to develop the innovation. Southwark Council's Tom Taylor brought his deep understanding of local authority processes

Users, Stakeholders & Beneficiaries

The plan takes a people-centre approach, making the work of local authorities more accessible. The innovation has been used by Southwark Council to update their Action Plan and to develop a KE in-curricular activity involving 30 postgraduate design researchers, 4 local organisations and 100 local residents.

Innovation Reflections

Results, Outcomes & Impacts

Southwark Council's Climate Emergency Department found the tool increased awareness of their role in achieving net zero, helping plan actions and activities. It also improved their ability to communicate policy intent and actions with external organisations, local businesses and residents, increasing awareness of the Council's ambition to become net zero by 2030 and enabling new collaborations.

Viewing the climate crisis as an opportunity to create a more just, inclusive and resilient place, the prototype that the team developed has been instrumental in identifying which of the 150 actions would be supported by UAL. It has enabled the adoption of design at a strategic level by Southwark Council, where the Climate Emergency department continue to use this innovation as part of the iterative development of their action plan. The initiative underpins the brief for UAL's Climate Studio which forges close partnerships and supports local networks across London to co-create better places.

Challenges and Failures

Climate Emergency Action Plans are highly complex, involving multiple actors from across sectors. The most immediate challenge, to enable collaboration both inside the local government and with external organisations, is to communicate the multiple lines of actions and operational objectives. This information is held in different parts of the organisations, and in documents with diverse format and languages. The Visual Action plan provides a solution to this issue. This key innovation enables the delivery of Climate Emergency Action Plans by identifying which internal and external stakeholders are already involved, as well as those that should be, but are not.

Conditions for Success

Working as a designer-in-government, Bravo Cole (UAL) joined the Climate Emergency team at Southwark Council for 3 months, reviewing and visualising all internal and external facing documents related to their strategic priorities and action plan. Together, the team coordinated and tracked 150 actions included in the Council's original strategy. They then used the online visual platform, Miro, to iteratively develop a prototype that enabled Southwark Council to monitor and communicate progress against their actions.

Replication

Following the initial innovation, Southwark Council used the visualisation tool to 1) track progress and re-assess their original Climate Emergency Action Plan, 2) produce an updated, interactive and more accessible version of their original strategy, 3) identify strategic objectives that are better addressed through collaborative Knowledge Exchange partnerships. Southwark Council and Service Futures Lab will develop the Visual Action Plan into a digital service available to any local authority.

Lessons Learned

No organisation can achieve carbon neutrality on their own. The prototype used to create Southwark's Climate Emergency Visual Action Plan informs 'positive long-term behaviours' as part of the UK's Net Zero Carbon Emission objectives by communicating complex action plans and engaging multiple stakeholders to achieve a powerful people-centre approach to the climate emergency.



United Kingdom

Year: 2022

Level of Government: Local government

Status:

- Implementation - *making the innovation happen*
- Evaluation - *understanding whether the innovative initiative has delivered what was needed*

Innovation Tags:

Design Open Government People Networks/Communities of Practice
Process Improvement/Simplification Public Policy Climate Crisis Response
Local Government Visualisation

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