SUSTAINABLE LONDON
Addressing Climate Change in the Capital

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Vision of a Sustainable London, Ken Shuttleworth, Make Architects
SUSTAINABLE LONDON

What is a sustainable city? There are vital social and economic aspects to this, but Sustainable London is about environmental sustainability. A city must not consume more energy, water, material and food and produce more waste and pollutants than the local and global environment can support. Most urgently, it must learn to live with the current and future reality of climate change.

All but a few diehard doubters now accept that climate change is an issue which we are going to have to address decisively if our lives are not going to be changed irrevocably by its effects. London, as with all cities, needs to change.

To succeed requires both a global sense of responsibility and the farsightedness of politicians, business and individuals. It requires strategy and action, knowledge and investment, infrastructure and application, ingenuity and creativity.

Everyone must contribute, from the large utility companies and developers through to homeowners and occupants.

Sustainable London shows the first steps London is taking to make the city more sustainable. It has particular emphasis on the built environment - the new and existing communities and buildings which have a major impact on what the city consumes and expels.

London needs to develop new businesses and a new pool of skills from planning and environmental design through to manufacture and installation of new materials and technologies. It also needs to draw on its strengths in engineering and the design and construction professions to ensure that environmental sustainability is not compromised by a lack of vision or poor urban design.

The schemes included in this exhibition represent only a small proportion of those which could claim the label 'sustainable.' There are many more which propose similar measures in whole or in part. London needs as many of these as possible.

We have tried to represent schemes that have pushed beyond the boundaries of standard practice and provide exemplars for other schemes. Different building sectors are represented, showing creative ideas and how developers are responding to the particular challenges of a city such as London.

Only a few have been completed, many still have to prove they can deliver the strategies proposed.