



GREEN LIVING IN SEBRALAND

We live in a great location, although our streets are congested and despite being close to the A40, we are lucky to have easy access to several green areas.

There is an increased awareness of the environmental impacts on the way we live and many London Councils (including Westminster City Council) have announced a climate emergency and are developing action plans to improve the environment we live in.

POLLUTION DANGER

There is also an increasing awareness of the health implications of both air and noise pollution which impacts us all, but has a particularly severe impact on vulnerable members of our community such as children, the elderly and the sick. The air we breathe, for example, is heavily polluted and affects our health whether we sit in a private car or a bus, walk or cycle around our area, as well as when we go for a stroll or a run in Hyde Park.

CHANGE IS NEEDED

Inge Lyngborg



Something has to change and we therefore thought it would be useful to have a look at what we as residents and businesses can do to protect the environment and our health. The idea is to create a green forum in our area (*#greenBAYSWATER* perhaps), where we share ideas and try ways to live in a more green way. We have also spoken to Westminster City Council who have agreed that we can be a test area for trying new green initiatives.

Our thinking is that this would be an ongoing initiative, which we build on over time. We will be publishing a feature in each issue of **SEBRA NEWS W2** to keep the momentum going. We have also been given a page on the SEBRA website to provide links and additional information as the initiative hopefully expands.



Food composting - every little helps.

Making a START

In order to make a start we thought we would create a list of improvements that we can all consider to help us live and work in a more environmentally friendly way. Some of the items on the list are relevant to all of us, some depend on what type of building you live in, and others depend on whether you have flexibility to choose your own suppliers.

As with any change, what matters is to make a start. So please just look at the list and perhaps choose one or two actions you can take now.

Although, we can affect a lot of change ourselves, there are a number of initiatives that we can only succeed in if Westminster Council is willing to support us. The good news is that the Council is committed for Westminster to be carbon neutral by 2040 and to achieve this, we need to start making real progress as soon as possible.

ENERGY SUPPLY

- Purchase energy on green tariffs
- Install green power generation at home

GREEN SHOPPING HABITS

- Choose products with a long shelf life
- Buy locally produced products/seasonal produce
- Choose to buy products with less packaging
- Use 'Click and Collect' whenever possible

GREEN SUPPLIERS

Ask workers at your property to confirm that they will act in an environmentally friendly manner (e.g avoid idling their motors, recycling where possible and disposing of their packaging in the appropriate way)

GREEN TRANSPORT

- Travel actively (walk, run or cycle...)
- Choose electric/hybrid cars and if you are buying a new car look for the least polluting vehicle
- Switch your car engine off when you are stationary
- Reduce the number of times that you fly

MAKE YOUR HOME GREENER

- Get a smart meter
- Look for an opportunity to install double glazing
- Make sure your home is fully insulated
- If you have a suitable location get a compost bin

LIVE GREENER

- Reduce your personal energy use
- Switch off your electronic devices such as computers and laptops when you aren't using them
- Take shorter showers and fewer baths
- Reduce food waste
- Repair rather than replace whenever possible
- Share items with neighbours
- Dispose of items responsibly
- Buy second-hand clothes and goods



Smart meters are a smart choice.

CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

Some of the things that we need Westminster City Council to do:

- *Implement and enforce initiatives that stop idling among the Council suppliers and contractors, among businesses such as construction companies operating within the Council and among the public.*
- *Install even more electrical charging points (and ensure that there is a common standard for the charging points).*
- *Let residents have double glazing in all properties, including buildings in conservation areas and listed buildings.*
- *Extend the food waste scheme to Bayswater - You will find links and details on the SEBRA website.*
- *Actively support South East Bayswater in becoming a Clean Air Village so our businesses can appear in the London-wide clean air business directory and benefit from the support available.*
- *Help us develop real practical examples of how different types of buildings in our area can become more environmentally friendly. What may work for a housing estate or a Mansion Block (e.g. the installation of solar panels), may not work for a flat in a Victorian Terraced property or vice-versa. We want to work with the Council on developing this view.*
- *Protect green outdoor spaces and the people using them, by formally adopting the World Health Organisation upper limits for air quality and noise or being even more ambitious.*



Electric vehicles are green and clean.



Did you know?

You can apply for an allotment to grow your own vegetables! Hop over to our page on the SEBRA website and follow the link provided.

Government initiative: THE GREEN HOMES GRANT

If you're a homeowner or residential landlord you can apply for a Green Homes Grant voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient improvements to your home.

Improvements could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces.

Green Homes Grant vouchers must be redeemed, and the works completed, by 31 March 2022.

Just follow the link on the SEBRA website.

Solar panel installation - just one example of what Government grants can be used for.

Web Links

We have covered just a few subjects and ideas on these two pages, but there is a wealth of information online. The links mentioned here, and many more can be found on the SEBRA website at:

www.sebra.org.uk/greenbayswater



WCC CLIMATE EMERGENCY WEBSITE

Why not take a look at Westminster City Council's new Climate Emergency website. You can provide them with information on what action you are taking and what action you would like them to take on climate change in areas such as business, workplaces, homes and communities, low-carbon energy, travel and transport and waste - **Link on the SEBRA website.**

