

THAMES PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL



Port of London Authority and the Tidal Thames



The **Port of London Authority (PLA)** keeps navigational channels open along the tidal Thames, 95 miles from Teddington to the sea, provides pilot services, and regulates traffic on the River Thames. In November 2020 the PLA announced plans to more than halve its carbon emissions within five years and achieve Net Zero by 2040 or sooner. The first phase of the plan will see emissions cuts projected to exceed 60% by 2025 compared to the baseline year of 2014.

Read more: <http://www.pla.co.uk/Port-of-London-Authority-to-more-than-halve-emissions-by-2025>

The **Sustainable Innovation Fund** is a catalyst for trials of new and emerging technology that provide solutions suitable for recognised needs on the tidal Thames.

The initial call for innovation relates to establishing the port's first zero emission berth. The target date for the berth to be operational is 2025, or before, subject to availability of suitable technology and finance. <https://www.pla.co.uk/Port-of-London-Authority-launches-Sustainable-Innovation-Fund>

The **Thames Green Scheme** encourages inland vessel operators to adopt more environmentally friendly practices. Find out more <https://hubs.la/H0JRdwc0>

Cleaner Thames aims to stop the tide of rubbish in the river. 200 tonnes of material was recovered from the river in 2019, most of it single-use plastic disposable items. Research with Royal Holloway, University of London scientists shows that up to 75% of fish in the river have plastic fibres in the gut.

The **Air Quality Strategy** includes reducing the diesel and petrol emissions from PLA vessels and vehicle fleet. <https://server1.pla.co.uk/assets/airquality2020v1.pdf>

The **Environment Fund** provides grants to community groups for projects that reduce litter in the river and improve biodiversity alongside the river.
<https://www.pla.co.uk/Environment/Environment-Fund>

Watch the 2021 PLA Environment Conference <https://www.pla.co.uk/Events/PLA-Environment-Webinar-Series-2021>

Freight on the river instead of roads

The river is used to transport vast quantities of rubbish generated by Londoners. Cory Riverside Energy has four river-based transfer stations with wharf access on the Thames, at Wandsworth, Battersea, the City of London and Tower Hamlets.

Waste from households and businesses is loaded into containers at the sites and transported to Cory's energy-from-waste site at Belvedere, by its fleet of more than 50 barges towed by five tugs, using the power of the tides to reduce their engine emissions. Although the tugs are currently diesel-powered, Cory is trialling the use of HVO (biofuel from waste).

The river is the perfect way to bring extra-large construction components to building sites. Very large steel elements for the stands at Fulham Football Club's new Craven Cottage football ground were transported upriver on barges from the docks.

Tidal energy

The Thames could provide local tidal energy opportunities, though it is unlikely to be via traditional turbine technology. This is because the space available is constrained by development on the banks and commercial traffic in the river.

The PLA is seeking to encourage the use of microgeneration in ways that suits the Thames in use of existing infrastructure and meet requirements.
<https://server1.pla.co.uk/Environment/Alternative-Energy/Tidal-energy-and-its-importance>

During 2012¹ full and small-scale trials of different types of schemes will be located at a site in the river in Gallion's Reach at Thamesmead, on the south side of the river in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

PLA Environment Report published 11/05/2021

Visit link below for PLA work on cleaning up the river and cutting carbon emissions in their own and other vessels.

<https://www.pla.co.uk/Environment/Environmental-Reports-and-Strategic-Documents>

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THE THAMES PATH NATIONAL TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Natural England ■ Environment Agency ■ County Councils of Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Wiltshire ■ Borough Councils of Reading, Swindon, Windsor & Maidenhead ■ Wokingham District Council ■ West Berkshire Council ■ Transport for London ■ Corporation of London ■ City of Westminster ■ London Boroughs of Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Richmond upon Thames, Kingston, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth ■ Other organisations: National Farmers' Union; River Thames Society, The Ramblers, Sustrans, Cycling UK, Thames Estuary Partnership, London Thames Landscape Strategies, Port of London Authority, National Trail Volunteers