

Reimagining Camden's Libraries for a Sustainable Future

Decarbonisation, Green Library Hubs, cultural and educational programmes and wider community impact

Abul Kashim





Embedding Sustainability Across Camden's Libraries.' Decarbonisation and Green Library Hubs

Under the Council's Decarbonisation Programme, major retrofit works have taken place at Swiss Cottage, Highgate and West Hampstead Libraries.

These projects were supported by over £1.8m in Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding. Works included the installation of air source heat pumps and solar PV as well as measures to improve the energy efficiency of the properties.

New energy efficient lighting has been installed at Holborn and Queen's Crescent Libraries with plans for installation to take place at Kentish Town Library shortly.

Impact

Since 2018/19, across the Council's libraries, gas consumption is down 42% and electricity consumption down 15%.



This equates to an estimated £63,590 annual savings. This represents a reduction of around 81 tonnes of CO₂e per annum.

5 Pancras Square Green Library Hub Project: Reimagining Our Libraries as Centre's of Sustainable Living

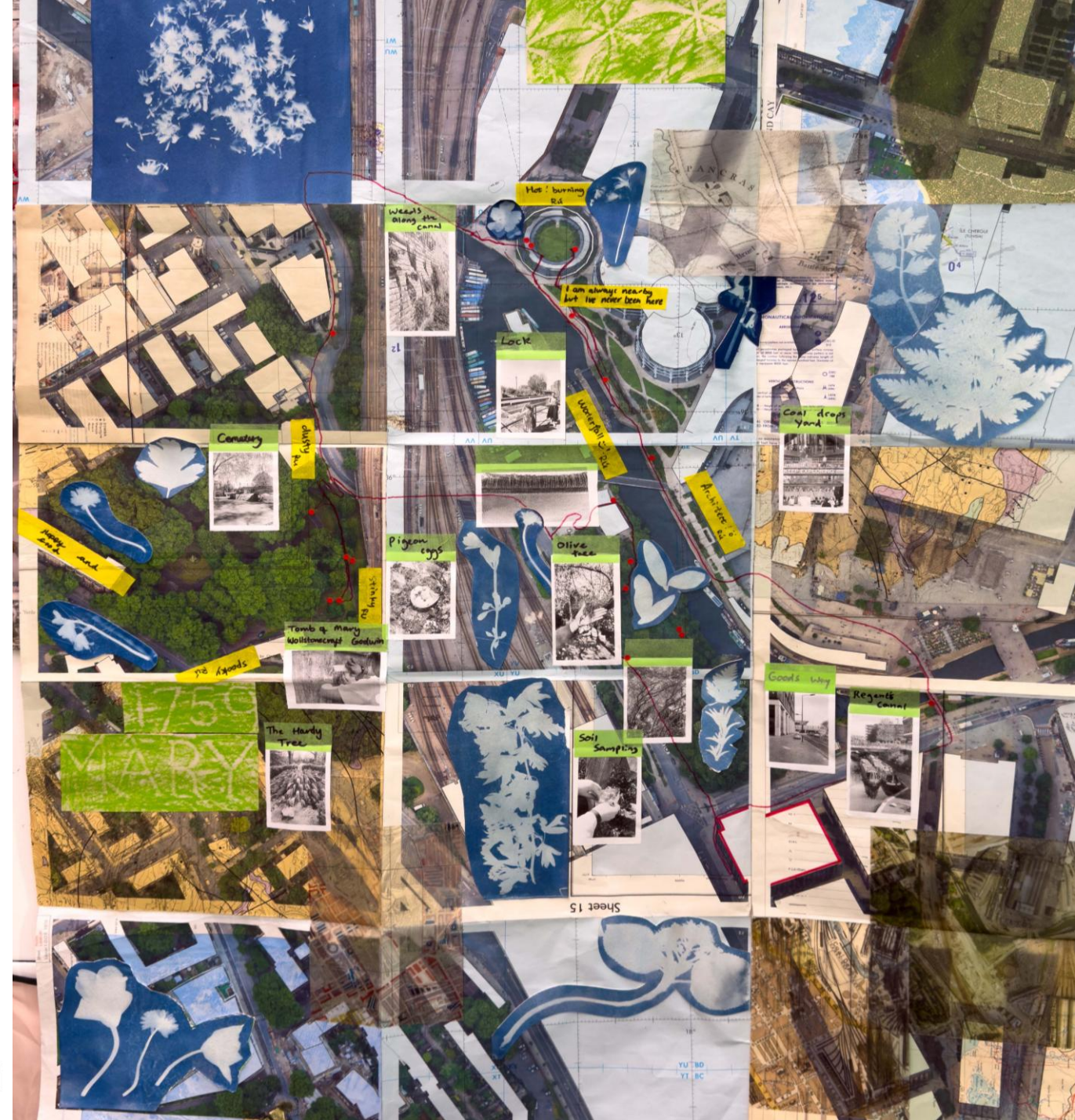
40 community-led climate action events hosted at 5 Pancras Square and across the borough since September 2025.

380 active participants engaged, learning practical low-impact skills, taking up volunteer opportunities, and leading local change.

Our programming focuses on five core themes:

Energy, Food, Nature, Travel, and Consumption & Waste.

These are designed to respond directly to Camden's most pressing vulnerabilities.



Climate Action & Community Impact

The Green Library Hub is designed around co-benefits - **actions that help the planet while helping people.**

Every event is built to deliver climate impact alongside real, everyday value: **stronger community connections, new practical skills, and savings on household bills** proving that climate action and personal wellbeing go hand in hand.

At **>75%** of the events participants have reported feeling more **confident taking climate-friendly action.**



Social impact

“I learnt everything needed and necessary to make good of what we already have available to us – especially in the wake of poor government funding and spending plans.”





Social impact

“You're teaching the community real life skills.”



Social impact

Building confidence...

“I learnt how to upsize a skirt...and that I am able to do that!”

Social impact

Learning skills...

"I learnt lots! Basically everything about how a sewing machine works –never touched one before!"

"Thanks for organizing the sewing club at 5PS library. I have the chance to learn how to sew. Keep it going."



Social impact

Making connections...

“I will keep practising new ways to appreciate more the planet.

And of the best of it all I met some really lovely people for the first time. More please!”





Social impact

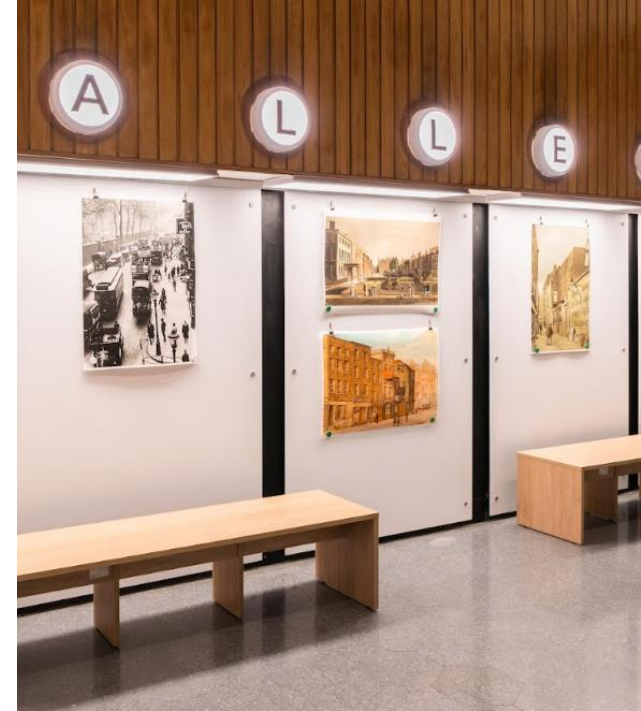
Saving money...

“I will continue to resize / upcycle old or ill-fitting clothes I don't like or don't fit me anymore! Anything to protect them from going to landfill.”



Social impact

“ I met nice people which helped me to feel less isolated”

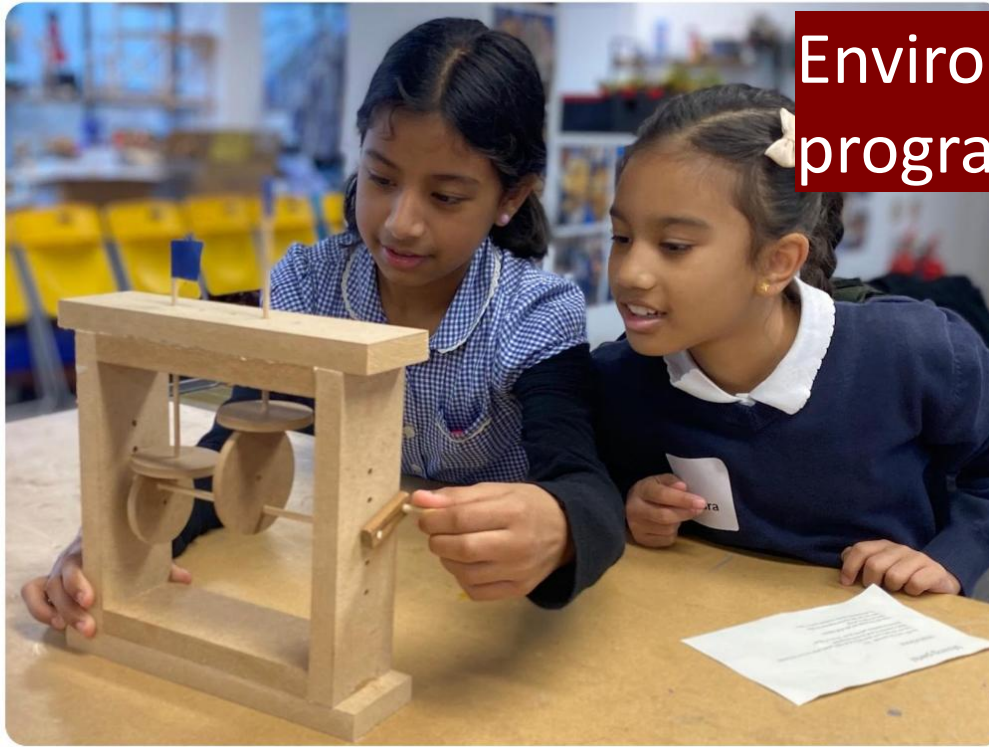


Delivering cultural ,
Environment and Educational
programmes in Camden
libraries

A photograph of the interior of the Holborn library. The space is filled with bookshelves, some of which are blue and on wheels. In the center, there is a reading area with colorful patterned armchairs and small round tables. A large mural on the back wall features portraits of various authors, including George Padmore, Emanuel Litvinoff, C.L.R. James, Mary Shelley, Rabindranath Tagore, and Goode Robeson. A staircase with a glass railing is visible on the right side. The floor is a light-colored concrete.

Holborn library

Environment and Educational programmes



Learning to make; making to learn

www.shifted.org.uk



Programme



Design & Build



Event & Production



Product Design

