

LCAG CONFERENCE

JANUARY 2026



WELCOME BY SHERIFF BOTTOMLEY

Following a welcome by Alison Gowman, Sheriff Keith Bottomley reminded us we are facing the greatest of challenges with climate change and emphasised that extreme weather events will become more frequent and severe, will impact supply chains and that current road, rail and building infrastructure is not designed for heat and wet. The Livery is a powerful tool and strong force for change whilst the City was 1st to publish a science-based climate strategy. We should all remember that the City is one of the loudest voices in the chorus.

KATE NEALE GIVES KEY MESSAGES

The Climate Action Director explained how the CoL Corp is focused on aligning planning with the City's climate goals including targets to decarbonise the Corporation's activities and City more widely. With Square Mile temperatures expected to rise by 5°C by 2050 and 1% of emissions currently coming from residents, 64% from commercial and industrial buildings and 26% from transport there is a need to focus on commercial and industrial targets. The Transition Finance Council is building in resilience by 2040 via green infrastructure and heat networks seen as the best solution to reduce the 75% of City dependent on gas.

BARONESS BROWN URGES ACTION

The CCC's Adaptation Committee Chair shared compelling data on recent climate change impacts within UK farming, transport and mortality before revealing max temperatures, which could rise 4x as fast as average temps, may reach 45°C, extreme winters will be more frequent and sea levels could rise up to 67cm by 2050. The report "Vision for a Well Adapted UK", due May 2026, lays out what climate change adaptations the UK is considering. Baroness Brown concluded we can't wait for technological fixes but must get on making changes.

CONVENOR'S COLUMN

Alderman Alison Gowman

Many thanks for the organisers presenters and attendees at the 4th LCAG Conference. It was another outstanding success with record attendance and exceptional speakers.

One of the presenters was quite blown away with the continued discussion in the breaks which showed the relevance and importance of the topic *Are We Prepared?*

The drumbeat does not stop as we have more events coming up this year.



There is also still time to complete the first full review of our members' actions - see Page 5 for details.

NOTES FROM THE PANELS

SESSION 1: IS THE CITY PREPARED FOR FINANCIAL RISKS RESULTING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE?

David Chitty (LCAG), Sheriff Robert Hughes-Penney, Kevin Parry (Nationwide), Mark Babington (FRC)



Transparency is needed to inform decision making - investors want returns but risks are grossly underestimated. People want pensions to do 'things' as well as make money. Various interest groups are pulling in different directions - there needs to be a balance. Critical thinking, judgement and healthy scepticism are needed.

London has a good track record but shouldn't mandate 'everything' - high energy costs and high taxation dissuade green investment. Financial institutions prioritise returns and seek strong markets to grow investment. Interest and appetite for green investment are inversely proportionate.

Financial reporting should determine what information is required and important to support investment decisions. All reporting systems have flaws. Information on risks and opportunities are required and 'one size doesn't fit all'. An appetite to incorporate Climate Change into financial assessments is needed – 20 years ago, a reported 5% included it, and now it's still only 6%. Reporting should focus on business achievements, not just processes.



SESSION 2: RISKS TO LIFE

Prof Gordon Masterton (LCAG), Dr Pierre Masselot (London School of Tropical Medicine), Tim Munday (CoL Environmental Resilience Officer)

Climate change has already led to excess deaths, and this will only get worse in the future. We need to consider how we adapt to heat but still need to reduce emissions.

Tim Munday advised to keep a clean bucket and water butt at home; that basements could be the difference between life and death in future; that higher flood defences and better ways to deal with water run-off are needed; that there is a risk of North Sea tidal surge due to sea level rise and that we will need to replace the Thames Barrier by 2070; and that London is 5°C warmer than the countryside so more green and cool spaces such as 'Rain Water Gardens' are needed.

Pierre Masselot discussed the direct impact of temperature on mortality and how an increase in heatwaves will result in increased cardiovascular, respiratory, genitourinary (including kidneys) and mental health issues. The most vulnerable are the elderly, those who are pregnant and who have co-morbidities. Cold is also a killer with 9 x more cold related than heat related deaths. There is a need to focus on adaptation of the lived environment – active cooling in buildings, green and cool spaces in urban spaces - emissions from transport.

NOTES FROM THE PANELS

SESSION 3: ARE OUR BUILDINGS PREPARED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

Dr James Ritson (UBE), James Fisher (BRE),
Dr Philippa Simpson (Barbican),
John Pike (LCAG)



Philippa Simpson spoke about **'Protecting a Brutalist Icon'** and noted tension between climate adaptation and heritage conservation with key challenges including: trade-offs between visitor comfort, embodied carbon, access, efficiency and heritage. Future Barbican aims will focus on inclusive design and maintaining heritage fabric.

James Ritson's messages from **'The Crossroads of Adaption and Mitigation'** include the UK's unique challenge of having the world's oldest housing stock. Adaptation would require 450 refurbishments per day 2026-2050 and there is a tipping point beyond which extra expenditure brings limited benefits. Maintenance has greater effect than retrofitting/replacing and we need to rethink housing 'standards'.

Speaking about **'Resilience that Pays'** **James Fisher** explained buildings should be used as long as possible and consider the full life-cycle including embodied carbon, refrigerants and the carbon impact of water. Standards should take into account how materials behave and buildings should NOT use virgin material where possible.



SESSION 4: HOW FRAGILE IS OUR FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN?

Prof Tim Lang (City University),
Lucinda Langton (M&S),
Alison Gowman (LCAG)

There is a need to rethink UK food production and storage aiming for a decentralised system.

Lucinda Langton in 'Building Resilience in M&S' Food Supply Chain' outlined M&S' 'Plan for Farming' including backing British, sustainability and regenerative farming standards and investing in people in order to expand environmental standards, improve farm outcomes and manage water risk in regions most at risk of flooding, drought and water pollution.

Professor Tim Lang's discussed the report for the National Preparedness Commission "Just in Case" [NPC-Just-in-Case-Main-Report_PDF-Download.pdf](#). He asked "What do we need in a crisis?" and "What do we need to survive?" and explained the current risks to the UK's food resilience including having only 9 retailers provide 95% of food through 131 delivery hubs; feeding people badly due to over processing; and the need to scale up localised food growing with the added benefit of social interaction.

RESOURCES & FEEDBACK

SCHOOLS AT LCAG CONFERENCE...

A key component of our Conference has become the engagement with school students who, working on these environmental issues, have a lot to teach us. Five schools attended and created displays and then attended the sessions and provided some excellent questions to the panels. Each student received a certificate of engagement with the day.



The selected schools all had City and Livery connections and this shows how members and LCAG can engage widely with the schools they support on this topic.

The schools and their supporters were: Bancroft's School (Drapers); City of London School (various Livery and City Corporation links) La Retraite RC Girls' School (Insurers); Rokeby School (Chartered Secretaries and Administrators) and Winton Primary School (Water Conservators). Arkwright Scholars (Fuellers).

DOWNLOAD THE RESOURCES...

For a copy of the conference programme, speaker bios, presentation slides or to download the full conference report see:

<https://liverycag.org.uk/lcag-conference-2026-summary/>



SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES...

A selection of photos is available for general use here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3ytpxps>

Please feel free to share your experiences using these images and tag @Livery Climate Action Group.

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LCAG ANNUAL REVIEW SURVEY

LCAG is currently writing its first annual review strategy using feedback from members. Please take the time to complete the survey which was emailed to SPOCs and Clerks - deadline 16 February 2026.

FUTURE EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE: LCAG 2026 AGM

LCAG's second AGM is planned to take place on 24 June 2026 in the City at approximately 16.00 - 19.00 following the Common Hall and Livery lunches. Location and exact details to follow.

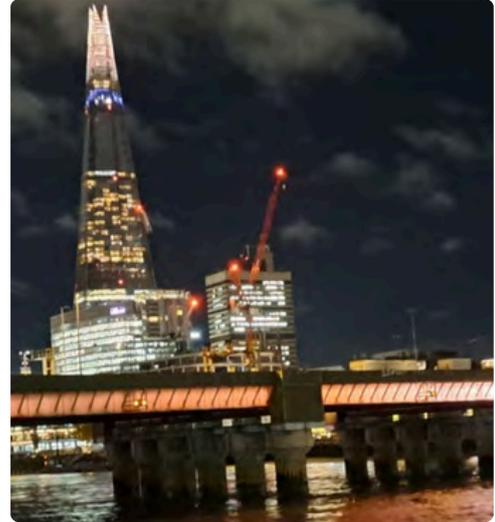


SPOC FORUM: SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC LIGHTING

Graham Smith, Perry Hazzell, Ian Hughes
12 March 2026 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm (online)

This SPOC event will be an overview by the Lightmongers Livery of the lighting industry's contribution to local, national and international sustainability and will explain how the City Corporation use lighting in the public realm.

Sign up here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/lcag/1853273>



CLIMATE INNOVATION IN THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN CONFERENCE

Dan Byam Shaw, Patrick Dumas, Aimee Cheesbrough
16 March 2026 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm (EC2Y 5AU)

City of London School of Girls and Schroders third conference will focus on entrepreneurship at different stages of the food supply chain.

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/4n27jrrb>



WATER CONSERVATORS SUSTAINABILITY CONVERSATION

Dame Polly Courtice, Peter Simpson
12 May 2026 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm (W1T 4BJ)

This conversation between the founder of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and a former Chief Executive of Anglian Water. Polly and Peter have been working in this field for over thirty years and during that time have seen the dramatic evolution of the sustainability debate in terms of politics, economics and corporate responses.

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/4uy4ztyp>

