



London Doughnut Economy Coalition – Activities for 2025–26

Introduction

The London Doughnut Economy Coalition is currently developing project, research and communications activities to form a programme of action for the next 12 to 18 months.

What is LDEC?

The London Doughnut Economy Coalition is a Community Interest Company led by a growing group of Londoners. Inspired by Doughnut Economics, we have come together to communicate a better vision for London's economy, one that is inherently fair, green and also exciting!

We argue that as one of the most influential and important cities in the world, London needs to be a leader in adopting better, fairer, and regenerative approaches to its economy.

Using the ideas from Kate Raworth's book Doughnut Economics, and with support from the Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL), we have developed a City Portrait which provides the foundation for a discussion around new economic strategies for the city and its boroughs. It provides evidence to inspire changes in behaviours and the call to arms to enable local change makers to have significant positive impact on their neighbourhood, the city and the planet as a whole.

The premise of our call to action is that every person in London should be entitled to a minimum standard of living (social foundation) and that the city needs to operate within defined environmental limits (ecological ceiling).

Underperforming on social foundations risks a decline in wellbeing and threatens the social contract which makes London a great city. Overshooting our ecological ceiling means we continue to destroy the environment, creating worsening conditions for current and future generations of Londoners as well as people around the globe.

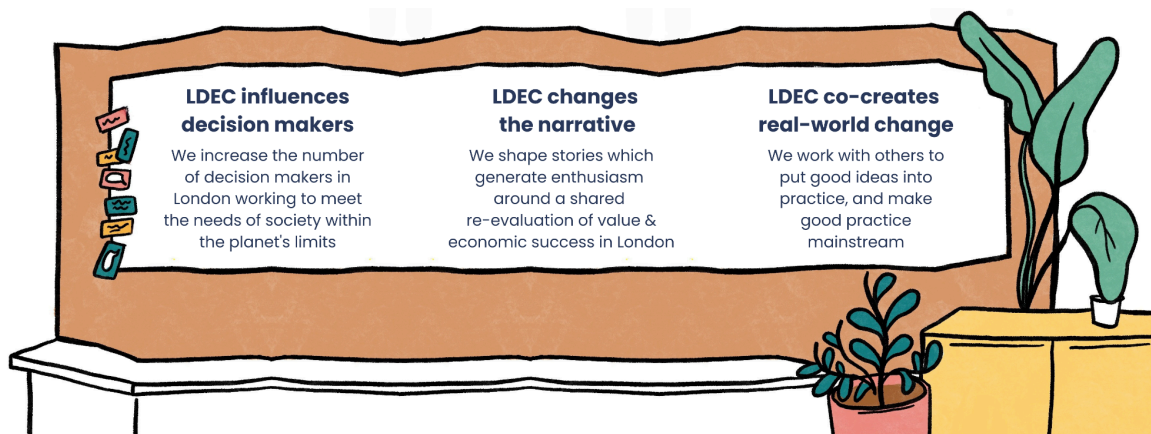
If you would like to volunteer for any of the projects and workstreams outlined below, please sign up here: <https://forms.fillout.com/t/hLBhCKUzRqus>

We are here to unlock London's potential to deliver society's needs within the planets limits



Our objective is to build and develop a sustaining network of activity and discussion which promotes a more inclusive and regenerative approach to the economy in London.

Our three-year strategy is to raise the profile of Doughnut Economics ideas, creating a sustainable platform across London, with a mix of pilot and mature projects responding to our evidence base, ultimately using this to influence city government. Our three strategic pillars are:



Our longer term aspirations over this period are to:

- Establish self sustaining networks within each of London's sub regions
- Create a platform for young Londoners to better engage with their economy, using Doughnut Economics as their compass
- City Portrait Response: Establish doughnut neighbourhoods pilots in target areas
- City Portrait Response: Develop a London Food Systems Pilot
- City Portrait Response: Develop a Doughnut response for the finance sector
- Build a world leading impact measurement framework for the London economy which is the best in the world
- Scope the potential of a centre for alternative economic practice in London

- Work with at least 6 London boroughs to develop strategies with Doughnut Economics at their heart
- Secure acknowledgement from Mayor of London within the city's next economic strategy

First 12–18 Months – Projects for London

This working document sets out the headline ideas for our projects which we believe can help London embrace new ideas and thrive. These have been developed using Edition One of our City Portrait and through engagement, principally as part of Global Donut Day 2023.

A key principle of suggested projects is to enable the transfer of investment to grassroots organisations. We will seek to work with local organisations, supporting activity which would otherwise not be supported, or where there is a strong link to the ideas of Doughnut Economics and this can be explored further through our focus.

These projects are, at the moment, ideas to develop. Some are nascent, some are more well developed. All will require volunteer time, expertise and passion to work.

Coalition Organisation

We will secure the services of an experienced project manager/community organiser to support the oversight of projects and delivery and organisation of the partnership and volunteers.

We also want to develop a stronger platform for advocacy, challenging systems and supporting great ideas in London. Alongside this, we want to support the creation of local and sub-regional doughnut projects across the city.

For this we will need to organise events, communicate our message and support new members and volunteers. As a new CIC we will need people to help with admin and management tasks.

Project One – Neighbourhood Doughnut Pilot

Taking inspiration from the work of [Civic Square](#) in Birmingham, the neighbourhood doughnut pilots aim to create 'a 21st century compass for ecologically safe and socially just neighbourhoods' that will be an exemplar for London.

There is a self-funded Pilot starting with Somers Town Community Association in early 2025 and work has just begun in Lambeth and Southwark with financial support from Impact on Urban Health.

We are working with different parameters to the projects that have come before us – with a less centralised core to hold the project, nimble budgets to subgrant to partner community organisations and 12-15 months to play.

We hope to pioneer a nimble approach that we can roll out across the capital and share with the rest of the DEAL community.

We are just at the start of this journey. As of January 2025 we have held two exploratory workshop with 15+ community groups based in two broad locations (Old Kent Road/Walworth and Brixton). We discussed the ingredients of the project and what shape this might take.

The Key Questions we will seek to answer in the context of London as a whole are:

- Can a London neighbourhood live within the doughnut? How is this specific to the city and why is this different?
- How do we create new systems to tackle the London wide challenges we have identified in our city portrait, particularly in relation to food and energy security?
- How do we define a social foundation for a London neighbourhood?
- How can we change systems and behaviours to enable local people to engage with ecological challenges at a local and global level?
- How can we reflect the ecological generosity of neighbouring green spaces within an inner city environment
- How can the doughnut add value to existing initiatives?
- How can this be scaled to other places in London?

Inspiration from DEAL Partners – Civic Square Neighbourhood Doughnut – [Neighbourhood Doughnut Portrait Launch | DEAL \(\[doughnuteconomics.org\]\(https://doughnuteconomics.org\)\)](#)

Project Two – The Social & Ecological High Street

How could we reimagine London's 600 High Streets to be a place of connection not consumption?

London has over 600 recognised High Streets. The GLA and its partners are currently rethinking its approach to high streets and town centres, thinking about what we value and how we can move away from a focus on consumption towards a focus on community.

The Social & Ecological High Streets group is in its infancy. We are considering a research phase and pilot which would use the principles of Doughnut Economics to rethink how we value and use our high streets. As such, it would put an emphasis on health, community connections and public services over expenditure and commercial value.

Focussing on the whole and some specific case studies, we will consider and test how spaces can be used to encourage a more circular and regenerative practices and spaces, as well as engage with the bigger conversations around consumerism and the global impact of individuals in high streets and town centres.

We seek to use London as the basis for specific tools for intervention on high streets which could be used around the world. In the course of the project we would seek to answer the following questions:

- How do we change the way we think about town centres to better reflect our current social and economic challenges?
- How do we better link health to high streets as a route toward a social foundation for communities
- How can High Streets better function as service centres (Particularly in health), delivering a universal service as part of a social foundation
- How do we reclaim high streets narrative for circular economy (Library of Things; Charity shops etc)?
- What role can nature and ecology play in creating more resilient High Streets?
- How can our approach to high streets drive different consumer habits?
- Can we influence retailers to recognise the global social and ecological impacts of their operations?
- How can high streets be better hubs for grassroots activities related to community and environment?
- How does the current economic system prevent more regenerative high st economies?

Inspiration from DEAL Partners – Collab Dudley Imagination Sundial – [Tools for navigating uncertainty: exploring the Imagination Sundial & how it weaves into our GUIDEng principles | by Jo Orchard-Webb | CoLab Dudley | Medium](#)

Project Three – Harnessing London’s Finance

The Challenge

The City of London is a historic financial district, home to both the Stock Exchange and Bank of England. Responsible for billions of GBP transactions daily, 2023 the UK was the 6th largest global exporter of Financial Services with assets of £9.3trn.

Those services harbour a multitude of impacts on the environment and sustainability yet there is a perception of resistance from City institutions and its real impact is not fully measured. Many across the City don't know about the existence of Doughnut Economics. This centre of financial services is surely the most influential on changing the nature of how we measure the success of our country, our people and our planet?

Whilst change is something that this centuries old institution would not warm quickly to, there are pockets of positive conversations and actions taking place. IF the City were to adopt the Doughnut then surely other major cities would follow suit? What role should LDEC play?

The project

LDEC will need to understand how the City is performing in the context of the DEAL established City plan model before we can ascertain the role we should play to affect change. Our priorities are to:

1. Map the City and its services to understand what is involved in the largest global impacts.
2. Understand what the city is already doing positively and what the gap we need to fill to accelerate movement in the right direction. This could be step change or radical change
3. Find others who are working in the same direction. We could partner or share the load
4. Build a strategy that has impact in the short, medium and long term

Project Four – Built Environment

Convening all relevant disciplines for a holistic approach

This group is just emerging.

We're looking at how we bring together the various disciplines, starting with the foundation stone of all projects – project procurement. Join us to develop this nascent group... We are keen to build links with all practitioners in the world of the built environment.

Project Five – Business

This group has grown out of Global Dounut Days 2024 and is meeting monthly this year.

Zoom link for the LDEC Business monthly calls in 2025

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82279761061?pwd=EXSTE0wMXFkn96zcJJ3fQsYVJ26FzQ.1>

Meeting ID: 822 7976 1061

Passcode: 991837

Wednesday 22nd January at 6pm

Wednesday 19th February at 6pm

Wednesday 19th March at 6pm

Wednesday 23rd April at 6pm

Wednesday 21st May at 6pm

Wednesday 18th June at 6pm

1. Piloting a new Doughnut Economics for Business tool in London

Erinch Sahan, the Business and Enterprise lead at the Doughnut Economics Action Lab, has been developing a new tool called *Place-based Doughnut Design for Business*.

It is a workshop designed to explore what Doughnut Economics means for local businesses. The tool is almost ready to be published and LDEC will run a pilot of this workshop in the new year for people who are starting – or thinking of starting – their own business in London.

2. Buy-In Bakery + Practitioners Session

The Buy-In Bakery happens on the first Thursday of every month and is run by Peter Lefort. In the last call, we were looking at using resilience and risk as a framework to introduce Doughnut Economics into organisations. The next call is on Thursday 6th February when we will be working through one or two live examples to collectively apply the ideas we discussed.

Erinch Sahan hosted the Practitioners Session on Monday 9th December. Erinch facilitates discussions for anyone who is currently a facilitator of Doughnut Design for Business workshops, or who is interested in being a facilitator. Jamie Prow shared [these thoughts](#) on his experience of running the workshops, sparked by questions that came up in the call on the 9th.

3. Two Doughnut Economics-related videos that the team are viewing

[LinkedIn](#) [DEAL Profile](#) [Instagram](#)



- a) Jennifer Wilkins gives a clear [overview](#) of social-ecological thinking, how it knits together different economic perspectives, including Doughnut Economics, and how these perspectives can leverage change towards a sustainable economy. This was part of a session at the recent 'Economy for Public Good' conference in Wellington, New Zealand, hosted by Wellbeing Economy Alliance Aotearoa NZ. (14 mins)
- b) Kate Raworth and Roman Krznaric, [filmed](#) at their kitchen table, discuss what Doughnut Economics can learn from history. The example from Edo (now Tokyo) in 18th century Japan stood out. This ancient city of over 1 million inhabitants is the first large scale example of a low waste, low carbon ecological civilization. It had more than 1,000 circular businesses, including the collection of candle wax drippings and a trade in human waste being sold as agricultural fertiliser. What London might look like, if its economy was entirely circular? (50 mins)

Project Six – Public Sector Briefings

Engaging & Supporting London Boroughs

We want to support London Boroughs to think about the implication of the doughnut to how they work.

LDEC has been approached by a number of London Borough officers asking for practical support to think about how the doughnut applies in their borough and places. We therefore propose to roll out the introduction to the doughnut workshops to start these conversations.

This group is just emerging but we have residents in four boroughs so far that want to engage with their local authorities (Sutton, Kingston, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Camden).

We plan to meet with Amsterdam before Christmas to learn from their success and challenges. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining and opening up channels of communication with your local authority.

Project Seven – Food System Exchange Demonstrator

Our City Portrait showed us one in five Londoners cannot access the healthy and affordable they need. We would therefore like to pilot a circular food project which links a farm in outer London with an inner city area neighbourhood.

The project would seek to develop sustainable/circular food production on an existing farm, adopting best practice in accordance with ReLondon's ambitions and pilot work to [reduce the environmental footprint of food production](#). This would then be twinned with an inner city area (which could be the same as the neighbourhood pilot) providing access to the food, but also a programme of engagement and innovation into food systems. This could include local growing as well as visits to the hub in outer London.

We have had initial discussions with Sitopia Farm in Greenwich about anchoring this project, potentially linking to a growing grassroots food movement in Walworth.

Inspiration from DEAL Partners –Circular food imaginaries, policies and practices in Brussels – Vrije Universiteit Brussel (vub.be) [Circular food imaginaries, policies and practices in Brussels – Vrije Universiteit Brussel \(\[vub.be\]\(http://vub.be\)\)](#)

Project Eight : Mobilising Youth Voices

Help us ensure young people's voices are heard

The London Doughnut Economy Coalition is for everyone and we want to make sure young people's voices are heard. We hope to build a coalition to ensure there are many entry points to engage, inspire and hear from young Londoners. Please get in to contact if you run or work with younger people or are keen to learn more as a young person.

Project Nine: Academics + Insight & Imagination

Calling all Academics

We are very keen to convene a group of anyone working with academic institutions in order to start working more directly with the key Universities in the capital.

Are you a researcher?

Our Insight & Imagination group brings together research from across disciplines and themes in the Doughnut space to develop insights to bring London into the Doughnut, and test them with our other projects.

We are now working on the next edition of London's City Portrait. Building upon Edition One, we will draw together new insights and research into the city as well as updating the existing Data Profile. We will use insights gathered during Global Donut Day to provide a clearer picture on the current experience of Londoners and the journey to becoming a city which operates within the Doughnut.

Extra ways to get involved

London Doughnut Community Mapping

We want to create a database of exciting and inspiring projects which already support London to live within the doughnut. Using the initial insights and projects gathered at Global Donut Day, we would seek to establish a peer-based model for mapping and celebrating grassroots projects in London.

We would look at the best tools and models to create the platform where projects can be shared and a new network can be created. A few options are to mimic the Cambridge Resilience Web [Cambridge | Resilience Web](#) and the cooperative model [Gebiedonline](#) used by the [Amsterdam Dounut Coalitie](#). REF: Community mapping work being doing by University of Cambridge and Quality of Life Foundation in Anglesey - [Public Map Platform](#) / [Public Map Platform](#). This would require some specialist support and licencing costs, as well as promotion to ensure a critical mass of sign up

Other Project Ideas

One of the most important principles of Doughnut Economics is to follow the momentum and enthusiasm. We hope that LDEC can be a platform for everyone to develop and pursue new projects in collaboration.

We can coordinate volunteers and seek to coordinate resources to deliver new research and practical projects. We can develop specific campaigns to communicate relevant messages to the city and across the world via the DEAL network.

Comms Team

We hope to raise our profile in the coming year and would appreciate any help from experts in the world of comms.

Ops Team

We are working on our structure and how we engage with the coalition and London as a whole. If you'd like to help us ensure that LDEC has a vibrant, engaged and coordinated community of volunteers please do let us know.

Convening

We are looking at our role as conveners in all industries. If you think there is a role for the Doughnut where you work or play, do get in touch.

[LinkedIn](#) [DEAL Profile](#) [Instagram](#)

