



## 10 Minutes For The Planet

### London: A Radically Green Character©

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Words are explained alongside the text

Stressed syllables are underlined and in bold\*

Hi there and welcome back to our weekly environmental series here on EnglishWaves, Ten Minutes for the Planet. Today we conclude our theme on the greenest cities in the world by taking a look at number 5 on the list, the **dynamic** British capital London. When thinking about London, you might be more likely to picture its **congested** roads or its history as one of the earliest sites of the Industrial Revolution. Yet despite London being one of the most **important financial** centers in the world, **its eyes are set on radically** greening its **character**.

London **boasts** an **impressive collection** of green spaces, **literally** making the city one of the greenest of them all. According to the most recent **estimates** the **capital** of Britain has over 35,000 acres of open spaces and parks, **woodlands** and public gardens. This is an astonishing number as it **ultimately** means over 40% of the **territory** of the metropolis is covered by **publicly** accessible open green spaces. Compare this to Berlin's 14.4%, a city well-known by many for its **visible greenery**!

On top of the city's green **endowment**, a coordinated effort to make London one of the greenest cities in the world, started as a response to the **announcement** that the city would **host** the 2012 Olympic Games. To do this, London's mayor **committed** the city **to** reducing CO2 emissions by 60% by 2025 through **slashing** carbon **output** by reducing demand and wastage across the whole **spectrum**: individuals, **households**, **businesses** and local **governments**. The key measure was **addressing the problems** relating to **domestic** and commercial buildings, which **accounted for** a **staggering** 70% of CO2 emissions in the city. London's 7.5

**congested** (adj.) blocked with traffic

**to set one's eyes on sth.** (exp.) to have as an objective, to aim for

**to boast** (vb.) to be proud to have

**woodlands** (n.) large areas of trees

**greenery** (n.) vegetation

**endowment** (n.) natural gift

**to host** (vb.) to be the organizer of an event

**to commit to do sth.** (vb.) to decide to use resources to do sth.

**to slash** (vb.) to cut, reduce drastically

**output** (n.) production

**spectrum** (n.) range, variety of things

**household** (n.) group of people in a home

**to address a problem** (exp.) to try to solve a problem

**to account for** (vb.) to make up, to represent

**staggering** (adj.) very surprising (often of statistics)

million people were not only **urged** to turn off televisions and lights and **switch to** low energy **light bulbs**, but households were offered a significant **subsidy** to insulate their homes, which continues to account for 40% of annual carbon emissions.

Despite **targeting** reducing carbon emissions from buildings, the city has adopted a strategy **primarily** aimed at modernizing transport, in part **to better** London's air **quality**. A **drive** to replace 8,300 old diesel buses was **put in place** leading to the birth of a new low-carbon fleet for public transport. There were also 32,000 taxis **running on** diesel fuel which are **progressively** being replaced by **electric vehicles**. However, most **famously** the city has taken a Paris style *Vélib* system, **dubbed** 'Boris bikes' after the city's **eccentric** mayor, and took the concept one step further with the **construction** of cycle superhighways. Overall London has also been very **successful** in getting people out of their cars and onto public transport, with Transport for London recording a seven percent increase in **passengers** year on year. This trend **bodes well** for the city in its effort to move towards number 1 on the list.

That concludes our look at the world's Top 5 Greenest Cities. Join us again next time when we'll start a **brand new** theme. Stay tuned to Ten Minutes for the Planet on EnglishWaves.

**to urge** (vb.) to encourage strongly

**to switch to** (vb.) to change to

**light bulb** (compound n.) the glass part of a light

**subsidy** (n.) money from the government to help pay for sth.

**to target** (vb.) to aim at as an objective

**to better** (vb.) to improve

**drive** (n.) a special concerted effort

**to put in place** (exp.) to implement

**to run on** (phrasal vb.) to use, consume

**dubbed** (adj.) given the name of

**to bode well** (n.) to be a good sign

**brand new** (exp.) completely new

Note the stress in the following adverbs. Silent letters are indicated in brackets:

**radic(al)ly, lit(e)rally, ultimat(e)ly, publicly, primarily, progressively, famously**

The following 3 syllable words all have their stress on the first syllable:

**character, estimates, capital, territ(o)ry, visible, bus(i)nesses, governments, quality, vehicles, passengers**

The following 3 syllable words all have their stress on the middle syllable:

**dynamic, important, financial, impressive, collection, announcement, domestic, electric, eccentric, construction, successful,**