

OI, SADIQ!

How are you going to make London a zero-carbon city?



THIS YEAR, WE'RE giving some of our favourite Londoners the chance to put one big question to the Mayor. **Dr Emily Grossman** is a science broadcaster, author, educator and - along with hundreds of researchers across the world - part of the group **Scientists for Extinction Rebellion (XR)**.

Emily 'Oi, Sadiq! The climate crisis is a real threat to human life. Extinction Rebellion has mounted a campaign of civil disobedience to get politicians to act. My question for you is: what are you doing? How are you making London a zero-carbon city?'

Sadiq 'For me, as a former lawyer, I look at the evidence. And it's quite clear: there's a climate emergency. So we've got a number of really bold plans to get to zero carbon. London is the only major UK city to have a zero-carbon standard for new homes. The new Ultra Low Emission Zone has already led to a reduction in emissions. In my first three years as mayor we planted 175,000 trees. We won't buy any more diesel double-decker buses, and I won't license diesel black taxis. The bad news is, even if we were

to do everything we can from City Hall, that's still less than half of the emissions we need to cut to reach zero-carbon by 2050. The rest is the responsibility of the government, so we need to embarrass them into taking bolder action.'

Emily 'What are your views on XR's protests?'

Sadiq 'Peaceful protest is an integral part of democracy, and we need to be very careful going down the road of saying it causes inconvenience. At the same time, I recognise that police officers are under-resourced, and if officers are policing protests, they're spending less time on other important policing. And actually, I don't see how it benefits those of us who care about the climate for XR protestors to stop tubes from running.'

Emily 'To clarify, the vast majority of XR members did not support that action. In fact, we want people to use public transport more! How are you encouraging that?'

'In the next mayoral election, I hope the climate is the number one issue'
Sadiq Khan

Sadiq 'If public transport is affordable, safe and accessible, more people will use it. As Mayor, I froze TfL fares, and there's also the new Hopper bus fare. We want to get more than 80 percent of Londoners walking, cycling or using public transport by 2041. It's about engaging the imagination and showing what's possible. In the next mayoral election, I'm hoping the climate is the number one issue: who can have the boldest policies? I'm up for the challenge. ■

WOR ON TH STRE

The most ridiculous things we've overheard in London this year

'A real gentleman doesn't build double-decker buses underneath his house'

'I think bad dogs on the street are a real personal weakness'

'Before we go down the a Jägerbomb'

'His physique these tiny chicken legs'

'You're ten years younger than Glastonbury'

'What nationality is the pl...'

'To be honest, to be honest, the question is...'

'Well, I do why you would spend all your time covering latex and if you own in South...'

'I'm going to change the way of this...'

Overheard so far
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