Working Towards a Carbon Neutral Wokingham Borough

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY

SEPTEMBER 2025

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR KATRIN HARDING, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Addressing the climate emergency is one of the defining challenges — and opportunities — of our time. Moving away from a model of development based on fossil fuel use and environmental degradation towards a truly sustainable way of life demands collective action at every level of society: from international institutions and national governments to local authorities, businesses, and individuals.

Climate change is accelerating at an unprecedented rate, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, the destruction of ecosystems, and the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This is raising global and UK temperatures and making our weather more extreme and unpredictable. Here in Wokingham Borough, we are already feeling the effects — with increased flooding, longer heatwaves, and more volatile weather patterns. Doing nothing is not an option.

We are all in the same storm, but not in the same boat. The impacts of climate change fall disproportionately on those who are already vulnerable. But there is hope — and opportunity. The actions we take to address the climate emergency can also help tackle the cost of living and fuel poverty crises, supporting those who need it most.

Local authorities have a vital role to play. Through our services, we can make sustainable choices easier for residents, support national efforts, and work with local groups to drive change.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out the steps Wokingham Borough Council is taking as we work towards becoming a carbon neutral borough by 2030 and helps us track our progress.

Our dream is for a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough — a place where clean air and biodiverse green spaces enrich daily life, and where sustainable transport options such as walking, wheeling, scooting, cycling, and accessible public transport are the norm. Our homes, businesses, and public spaces will be low-carbon and energy efficient, powered by renewable energy and supported by innovative technologies that pave the way for future generations. Most importantly, Wokingham will be a fairer, more inclusive, and diverse community, where everyone plays their part in shaping a low-carbon future.

We know we cannot achieve this dream alone. Real change requires a whole-community approach — engaging residents, businesses, schools, and community organisations to take action together. By working collaboratively, we can build the momentum needed to create lasting change. Because reaching net-zero is not just about cutting emissions. It's about protecting our communities, strengthening our resilience, and securing a sustainable, thriving future — for all of us, and for the generations to come.

For enquires about this strategy, please email Wokingham Borough Council's Climate Emergency team at:

climate.emergency@wokingham.gov.uk

OUR CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In July 2019, WBC members unanimously declared a climate emergency. The declaration commits WBC to do as much as possible to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Subsequently, the council now publishes an annual CEAP progress report (available here), which establishes key priority areas, actions and reports on the status. This followed consultations with residents, businesses, local organisations, schools and other stakeholders.

Actions have been identified which follow the energy hierarchy approach, a sustainability method which has been utilised by various governments and institutions to minimise emissions. This approach aims to reduce emissions and demand first, then improve efficiency to meet remaining demand by the cleanest means possible and finally offset residual emissions as the last resort.

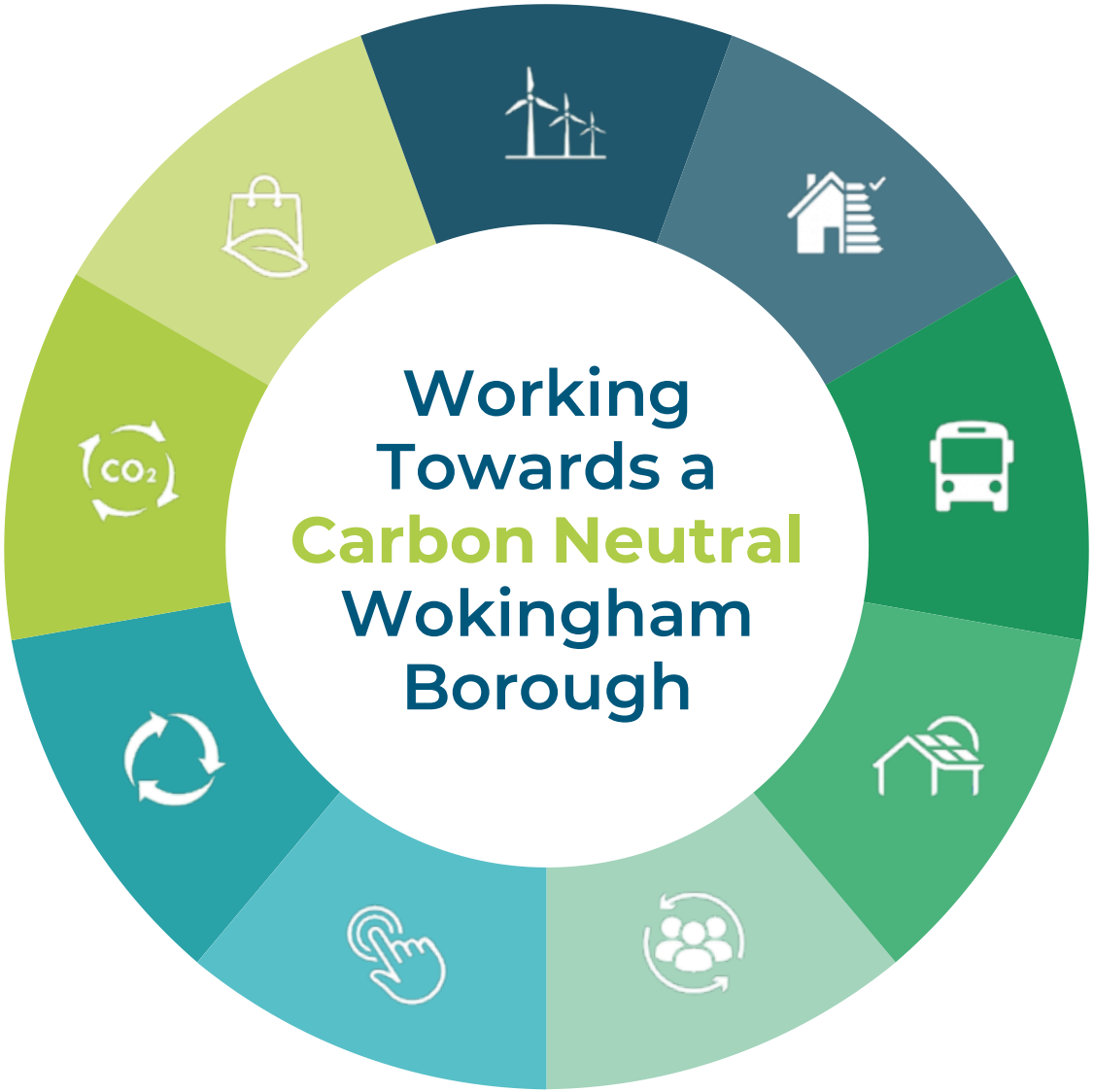
The council recognises the importance of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and so the CEAP is aligned to the SDG framework. In doing so, the council hopes to ensure that its actions contribute to global level action and lead to a socially just response.

The council is committed to building a borough where everyone can thrive, and to reducing unfair and avoidable differences that exist in people's health and wellbeing. Many of the actions identified in this strategy have the potential to improve the wellbeing of residents as well as the health of our planet. We will ensure that these benefits are equitable and can be experienced fairly by everyone in the borough.

Costs for actions are identified and refined at the idea development and scoping stage. Once actions are considered value for money for their overall benefits to residents, these are approved through the appropriate governance channels and progressed to the next project stage.

Many of the measures in the action plan deliver a range of benefits for the council and residents such as financial savings through lower operating costs from energy efficiency improvements. Other councils are reporting noticeable financial savings, such as Wiltshire council who are currently saving around £2m per year from building improvements[11].

This plan is externally and independently reviewed through Council Climate Action Scorecards and the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), an internationally accepted process. To scrutinise the plan, a Climate Emergency Overview and Scrutiny Committee is in place. This panel includes representatives from all major council parties and gives residents the opportunity to submit questions and scrutinise the climate-related work of the Council.



In a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough, our community would breathe clean air and enjoy clean and green bio-diverse spaces. People would walk, wheel, scoot or cycle, use accessible public transport and low-emission vehicles. Homes, businesses, places of work and leisure would be low-carbon and energy efficient, powered by renewables and use innovative technologies that pave the way forward for future generations. Wokingham Borough would be an inclusive and diverse community, where everyone plays their part in contributing towards a low-carbon future.

A dream for a carbon neutral Borough, developed following the "Dream session" of the 2022 Community Deliberative Process "Let's Talk Climate"

CURRENT AND FUTURE EMISSIONS

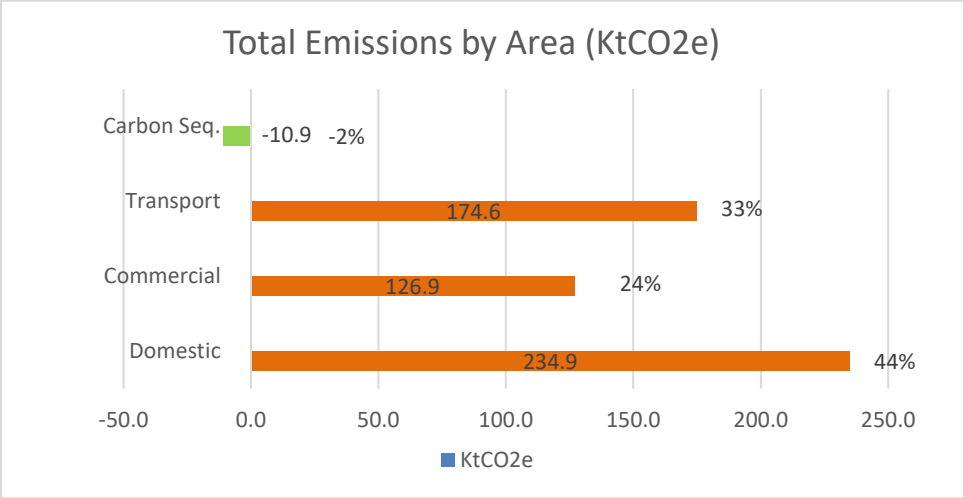


Figure 1. *Wokingham Borough's Carbon Footprint is 525 kilotons of carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO2e) This incorporates a negative figure for carbon sequestration (e. g. tree planting) and is based on government data that is reported three years in arrears (DESNZ 2022).*

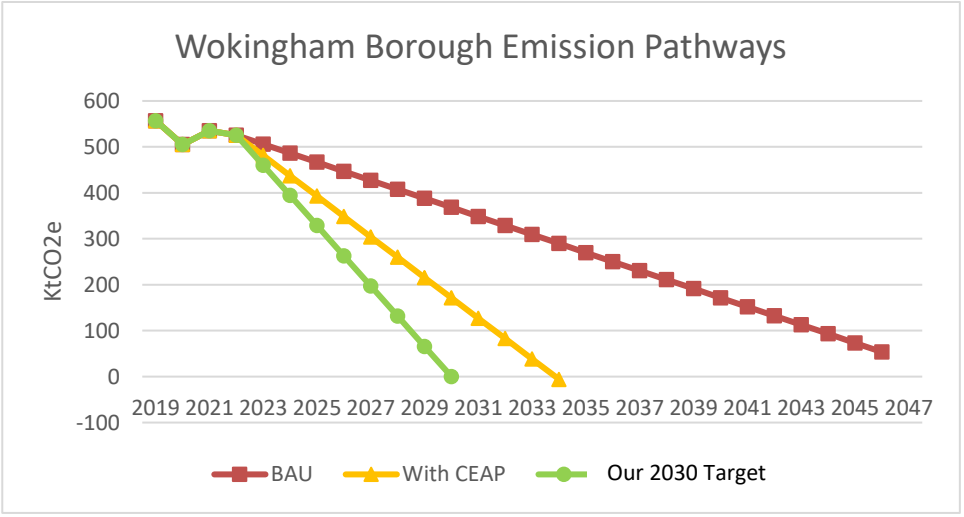


Figure 2. *Wokingham Borough Emissions Trajectories for 2030 onward ($ktCO_2e$) The 3 lines represent 3 potential scenarios for emissions based on the extent of actions taken by the council and wider borough. A 'business as usual' line showing minimal intervention, a 'with CEAP' line to show the impacts of the actions in this plan, and a '2030 Target' line to show the extent of actions needed to achieve this.*

Figure 1 | Current Emissions

This shows the breakdown of Wokingham borough's total emissions, with 25% of domestic energy usage currently powered from electricity. To achieve carbon neutrality, the climate change committee (CCC) report recommends this figure needs to increase to 60%, primarily driven by a switch from gas powered heating. A similar target is identified by CCC for commercial and industrial properties, with energy usage powered by electricity for commercial properties currently at 48% in the borough.

Approximately 72% of travel emissions come from personal petrol and diesel vehicles, meaning supporting the transition to electric vehicles is a strong priority for the council. The CCC report states adoption of electric vehicles needs to reach 75% by 2040 to meet the national 2050 net zero target.

Figure 2 | Future Emissions

Figure 2 shows Wokingham Borough's emission trajectories to 2030. Current business as usual (BAU) projections from SCATTER, follow a methodology based on government strategies and targets, and estimate a 25% fall in emissions from 2021 to 2030 based on the UK doing minimal mitigation actions.

This represents a 166.28 $ktCO_2e$ saving by 2030 from 2022, as shown as the red "BAU" line. Actions within this plan are estimated to save an additional 188 $ktCO_2e$, meaning a shortfall of 171 $ktCO_2e$ remains, as shown by the yellow "With CEAP" line. This demonstrates the importance of delivering the CEAP actions, alongside the need for wider government support, as without statutory powers and funding, the major actions required to reach the green 2030 Target line are not currently achievable.

These 3 trajectories represent respective falls of approximately 20, 40 and 60 $ktCO_2e$ per year. For information on SCATTER please refer to Appendix 2.

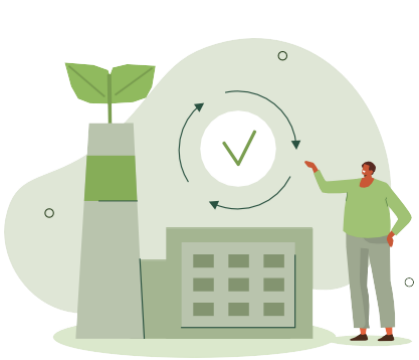
OUR 9 PRIORITY AREAS AND CARBON SAVINGS

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO_2e)
1. TRANSPORT	**54%**
1A 50% Mileage Share for ICE vehicles	
30% Mileage Share for Electric Vehicles	**73,708**
13% Mileage Share for Public Transport	**7,720**
7% Mileage Share for Active Travel	**1,242**
1B 22% Reduction in Road Freight	**19,042**
1C Local Transport Plan 4	**Included in total**
Subtotal	**101,712**

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO_2e)
2. RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION	**14%**
2 .1 Increase the generation of renewable energy through investment in solar farms to generate 49,000 MWp	**10,305**
2 .2 Support the generation of renewable energy in the Borough to generate the equivalent of approx. 1,550 kWh per household	**15,748**
Subtotal	**26,053**

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO_2e)
3. RETROFITTING DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS	**27%**
3.1 Social housing stock to be EPC C or above	**1,756**
3.2 School buildings to be EPC C or above	**311**
3.3 75% of private homes to be EPC C or above (an increase of 16,859 homes)	**49,528**
Subtotal	**51,594**

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO_2e)
4. CARBON SEQUESTRATION	**1%**
4.1 Cover 50 hectares with new trees in the form of woodlands, hedgerows and orchards	**233**
4.2 Improve carbon sequestration rates in land management decisions	**642**
4.3 Implement a climate change adaptation programme for the Council and Borough	**Neutral**
Subtotal	**875**



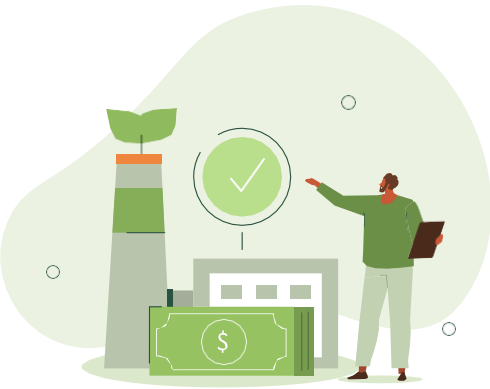
Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO2e)
5. WASTE & RECYCLING	**(Out of Scope)**
5.1 Achieve 70% recycling rate	**3,947**
5.2 Achieve 3% of waste going to landfill	**367**
Subtotal	**4,314**

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO_2e)
6. NEW DEVELOPMENT	**Neutral**
6.1 Residential and non-residential development to be designed and built to carbon neutral standards.	**Neutral**
6.2 Establish a spatial strategy and design framework which promotes active and sustainable travel, sustainable design and construction, and enables biodiversity gain.	**Neutral**
6.3 Support low carbon and renewable energy generation	**Neutral**
Subtotal	**Neutral**

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO_2e)
7. PROCUREMENT	**Neutral**
7.1 Achieve sustainable procurement practices throughout the Council as part of corporate procurement strategy.	**Neutral**
7.2 Incorporate social value within procurement processes.	**Neutral**

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO_2e)
8. ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE	**Neutral**
8.1 Raise awareness in the community about climate emergency agenda	**Neutral**
Subtotal	**Neutral**

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO_2e)
9. COUNCIL SPECIFIC ACTIONS	**4%**
9.1 Reduce council travel by 30%	**Included in travel emissions**
9.2 Council car fleet to become electric	**53**
9.3 All council buildings to be retrofitted to EPC B	**6,340**
9.3.3 Gorse Ride regeneration project	**914**
Subtotal	**7,306**



APPENDIX



APPENDIX 1. THE POLICY LANDSCAPE

WBC has established a strong track record for delivering actions to address climate change, but the Council's influence is varied and complex across the different activities that occur within their own operations and the borough.

This means partnership and collaboration – and the Council's role as an influencer and convenor – will be vital to achieving success, given that the majority of the emission cuts needed rely on individual people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions. With many of these decisions depending on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place, the below key summits and government strategies will continue to impact the outcomes of our actions.

The COP29 Summit in Nov 2024 focused on the importance of securing global climate finance, to support all countries to take on stronger climate action economy wide, and build resilience through implementable and investable national climate plans.

The UK Climate Risk Assessment 2022 report assesses the future risks of climate change to the UK and emphasises the importance of incorporating adaptation into existing long-term plans and mitigation efforts.

The 7th Carbon Budget Summary 2025 report outlines the clear link between global warming and human emissions, along with the progress made to this point and a series of recommendations to meet the 2050 goal, including focus on energy efficiency, electric vehicles and land management.

The IPCC Synthesis Report 2023 again highlights the importance of keeping the global temperature rise to below 1.5°C before 2040, outlining the devastating impacts missing this target would have on global ecosystems, markets, and human settlements. Previous iterations of the IPCC report focused on what can be done now, to avoid this disaster, including: slashing coal usage and subsidies, removing CO2 from the atmosphere directly through carbon capture and storage, curbing demand from transport, accommodation and diets. This version expands on the above by examining and explaining the opportunities and importance of adaptation in response to the inevitable changes and climate impacts as a result of warming up to this threshold and beyond.

The Net Zero Strategy 2021 encompasses numerous strategies and carbon budgets, outlining the next steps to cut our emissions, seize green economic opportunities, and leverage further private investment into net zero by 2050. It targets doing so in a sustainable way that still supports growth by improving the effectiveness and therefore viability of low carbon options. Delivery plans and roadmaps of the specific investment under this strategy have since been released, including for carbon capture, hydrogen and heat pumps. These, alongside the carbon budget plan provide more specific detail to support authorities in planning and understanding potential funding sources.

The Environment Act 2021 defines a number of new measures to protect biodiversity and the environment more widely as part of the 25-year Environment Plan.This includes centrally prescribed lists of materials that local authorities must collect for recycling, extended producer responsibility for packaging and a deposit return scheme for drinks containers.It also includes key measures on air quality, with local authorities receiving new powers, including the ability to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and establish plans to reduce public exposure to air pollution which exceeds air quality targets.This includes the local nature recovery strategy.

The Transport Decarbonisation Strategy 2021 targets more sustainable options such as electricity and hydrogen, outlining that the future approach is about doing the same things but in a more efficient way by the target date of net zero by 2050.It prioritises moving away from transport planning based on predicting future demand to provide capacity, towards planning that sets an outcome communities want to achieve and provides the transport solutions to deliver those outcomes.

The Hydrogen Strategy 2021 examines the potential to provide energy, not just for vehicles, but as a renewable energy source. This will require a drastic change, encouraged by supporting new technology and opportunities in this sector by 2030.It also acknowledges the beneficial role hydrogen can play as a storage mechanism for excess renewable energy, helping to cover the traditional shortcomings in reliability from other renewable methods.

The Heat and Buildings Strategy 2021 sets out the actions that central government will be taking to reduce emissions from buildings in the near term (2035) and provides a long-term framework to enable industry to invest and deliver the transition to low carbon heating but focuses primarily on hydrogen. Unfortunately, there remains no statutory powers or funding for local councils as part of this.

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme 2021 currently applies only to aviation, power, and industry sectors, but is currently being explored with a view to expand this to waste sectors**.**

The EV Infrastructure Strategy 2022 outlines the governments approach towards delivering the essential infrastructure to support the EV transition, along with the anticipated barriers and engagement elements, all supported by models for understanding the anticipated demand.The aim is to remove all these perceived and real barriers by developing the supporting network and encouraging chargepoint operators to expand their provision early, in order to deliver ahead of demand and so inspire future confidence in EV adoption, towards the goal of all new vehicles sold from 2035 being zero emission.This now includes an EV Smart charging action plan.

The Department for Education's (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2022 acknowledges the vital role education plays in helping to tackle climate change and creating a better, greener world for future generations, aiming for net zero by 2050. The strategy also sets out how local authorities will need to consider environmental sustainability, carbon reduction and energy efficiency to develop solutions for projects.

The CCS (Crown Commercial Service) Carbon Reduction Policy 2022 affects local authorities across the country as this is the primary source of procurement for many.This policy sets out clear targets for reducing net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to zero by 2050.

The Procurement Act 2023 introduces a new regime that is based on value for money, competition and objective criteria in decision-making. This criteria for thorough decision making will enable sustainability considerations to be more incorporated where relevant.

The Green Finance Strategy 2023 sets out how the UK Government is working with a range of public financing bodies to commercialise and finance the green technologies needed for the transition, complementing steps taken through Powering Up Britain and the UK emissions trading scheme, to deliver cheap, clean British energy sources to heat our homes and power our industries. It includes how the UK will use our leadership and the expertise of our financial sector to accelerate the shift, alongside how nature and adaptation will play a part in delivering net zero by 2050.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 is the most recent update to this document which sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Powering up Britain 2023 paper sets out how the government will enhance our country's energy security, seize the economic opportunities of the transition, and deliver on our net zero commitments by 2050.

The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 set out a comprehensive plan for halting and then reversing centuries of decline in nature in the next 25 years. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats This includes the introduction of 'Nature Markets', which enable private investment in nature, through creating units or credits that can be bought and sold. It also covers the growing problems of waste and soil degradation, alongside adaptation and the importance of sustainable development. This now includes the nature recovery network.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education 2023 mandates that all forms of educational establishments will have a sustainability lead and climate action plan by 2025.

The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (2025) sets out a pathway to a clean power system, what government will do to support and accelerate delivery of the new infrastructure we will need, and how we will work, as government and with everyone involved, to get there.

The Fuel Poverty Update 2025 will further support fuel poor households and lower builds, towards the 2030 target of improving as many of these properties as possible to EPC C.

The Simpler Recycling Scheme 2025 will streamline and unify the recycling process to make it easier for users by minimising the number of containers to 4 at most and ensuring consistent materials are collected across all councils.

Extended Producer Responsibility 2025 will place further responsibility onto goods providers with regards to their packaging and electrical waste and ensuring it is more sustainable.

The Clean Heat Market Mechanism 2025 will require heating appliance manufacturers to meet targets for the proportion of heat pumps sold annually, providing incentives for greater competitiveness around price in this area**.**

The Deposit Return Scheme 2027 will enable financial incentives to return empty bottles at collection points, following the approach demonstrated in Europe.

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) 2030 which are set to come into place will raise the minimum energy standard requirements for properties including domestic and commercial rented, social housing and schools.

APPENDIX 2. WOKINGHAM BOROUGH CARBON FOOTPRINT DATA

Table 5: SCATTER Summary GHG inventory table of Borough Emissions

Summary Greenhouse Gas emissions by Sub Sector	Total ($KtCO_2e$)
Residential buildings	302.40
Commercial buildings & facilities	55.67
Institutional buildings & facilities	19.28
Industrial buildings & facilities	88.11
Agriculture	3.31
Fugitive emissions	23.85
On-road	426.37
Rail	13.35
Waterborne navigation	0.00
Aviation	93.21
Off-road	2.93
Solid waste disposal	4.99
Biological treatment	0.00

Summary Greenhouse Gas emissions by Sub Sector	Total ($KtCO_2e$)
Incineration and open burning	0.62
Wastewater treatment and discharge	3.06
Industrial process	44.25
Industrial product use	0.00
Livestock	9.36
Land use	-17.38
Other AFOLU	0.00
Electricity-only generation	0.00
CHP generation	0.16
Heat/cold generation	0.00
Local renewable generation	0.00
Total	**1073.55**

Table 6: DESNZ Summary GHG inventory table of Borough Emissions

Wokingham Carbon footprint	$KtCO_2e$
Industry and Commercial Electricity	61.1
Industry and Commercial Gas	28.5
Large Industrial Installations	0.04
Industrial and Commercial Other Fuels	22.6
Public Sector Total	14.7
Domestic Electricity	56.6
Domestic Gas	166.2
Domestic 'Other Fuels'	12.1
Road Transport (A roads)	67.8
Road Transport (Minor roads)	96.2
Transport Other	10.6
LULUCF Net Emissions	-10.9
Total	**525.4**

DESNZ data (table 6) and SCATTER data (table 5) are compiled using different methodologies, but again follow the standard Greenhouse Gas Protocol.The SCATTER model (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reductions) operates on 2019 data.

DESNZ data is from 2022, as these are the most recent available, with this being the data used for our comparisons as it is from a government source, more consistent and more directly applicable in terms of scopes we are able to capture.

The DESNZ data therefore shows us that the boroughs emissions are comprised of approximate emissions from: transport 33%, the industrial and commercial sector 24%, and the domestic sector 44%, with a contribution of -2% from carbon sequestration efforts.

What do the different sectors and subsectors represent within the SCATTER Inventory?

The Direct Emissions Summary and Subsector categories are aligned to the World Resource Institute's Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories ("GPC"), as accepted by CDP and the Global Covenant of Mayors.

- The DESNZ Local Emissions Summary represents Local Authority level data published annually by the Department for Energy and Net Zero.
- Stationary energy includes emissions associated with industrial buildings and facilities (e.g.gas & electricity).
- Industrial process specifically relates to emissions that arise from production of products within the following industries: Iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, Mineral products, Chemicals.These are derived from DUKES data (1 .1-1 .3 & 5 .1).
- Waterborne Navigation and Aviation relate to trips that occur within the region.The figures are derived based on national data (Civil Aviation Authority & Department for Transport) and scaled to the City of Oxford region.

Why does the DESNZ summary differ from the SCATTER summary?

- The DESNZ summary represents CO2 only; SCATTER also includes emissions factors for other greenhouse gases such as Nitrous Oxide (N20) and Methane (CH4). These are reported as a CO2 'equivalents (e)'.The DESNZ summary does not provide scope split; SCATTER reports include scope 3 emissions (i.e.direct, indirect and other categories).
- SCATTER data includes further out of scope emissions even within scope 2, those being motorways and railways, which are not considered within the boroughs scope of influence and so are removed from DESNZ data.These in particular can have a large impact on the expected reduction under a business-as-usual scenario.
- The DESNZ summary categories are not directly consistent or mapped to the DESNZ LA fuel data which is available as a separate data set. SCATTER uses published fuel data and applies current-year emissions factors, whereas the DESNZ data calculations scale down national emissions in each transport area. Specifically with regard to road transport, DESNZ data splits total emissions across road type; SCATTER uses fuel consumption for on-road transport per Local Authority.
- Different treatment of 'rural' emissions i.e.Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) and Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry (LULUCF) categories are derived from different underlying data sets.

APPENDIX 3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which act as an urgent call for action to all countries - developed and developing – to work as a global partnership.They recognize that ending poverty and deprivation must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – at the same time as tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Wokingham Borough Council and the Sustainable Development Goals

Each goal has been assigned an SDG number.For example, Good Health and Wellbeing is SDG3 and links back to the appropriate action in the Climate Emergency Action Plan demonstrating how Wokingham Borough are supporting the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Wokingham Borough Council recognises that, as a local authority, we are in the best position to raise awareness and to influence the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1 NO POVERTY
Although Wokingham is an affluent borough, we will work hard to ensure the Climate Emergency action plan creates a sustainable, carbon neutral economy that will achieve economic justice as well as economic growth.

2 ZERO HUNGER
As a rural borough, sustainable agricultural practice is of high importance as well as promoting sustainable eating in the borough through the action plan which focuses on cutting down on meat consumption.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
We will be encouraging sustainable transport such as cycling and converting to electric vehicles through our action plan to ensure we maintain our high level of well-being across the borough

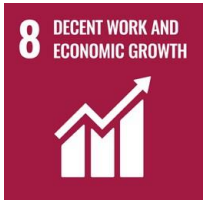
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
The youthful population are a large part of our action plan to meet our 2030 carbon neutral goal and we aim to promote sustainable lifestyles throughout our schools and ensure we hear the voices of our children.

5 GENDER EQUALITY
Actions within this plan are designed to help deliver co-benefits which support the overall SDG of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, for example through increasing the safety of active transport.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
There is a strong focus on reducing water waste in the borough which will comply with the sustainable management of water targets sat beneath this SDG.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

We are determined to roll out sustainable energy generating methods through the implementation of solar panels, particularly in our SDLs, which are both clean and affordable in the long term.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Wokingham Borough benefits from a below average unemployment rate and bringing more sustainable enterprises to the borough will only enhance our working population further.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFASTRUCTURE

A large section of our action plan is dedicated to ensuring our new developments are carbon neutral through sustainable infrastructure and that we promote sustainable leaving within these new communities.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

.The UK suffers from vast disparities in wealth, but this can also be seen on a local scale within the borough.We aim to work the Climate Emergency action plan with economic development in mind to ensure we achieve economic equality throughout the borough.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Wokingham Borough is lucky to have an existent community that is resilient, inclusive and safe.We aim to build on this and strengthen this through the action plan to promote the same characteristics for the communities created in the new developments.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The themes of this goal are woven throughout the action plan to promote and encourage a change in lifestyle of the residents in the borough starting with the council staff through the work of the Net Zero Heroes team.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

By working towards our 2030 carbon neutral borough target we have been able to put in place Officer groups and projects that reflect the targets under our action plan and enforce action to combat climate change.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Protecting bodies of water is essential as they are facilities for residents to enjoy in green space for non-polluting recreational activities

15 LIFE ON LAND

Protecting our greenspace as a rural borough is of huge significance and is reflected in the action plan, as we aim to preserve the land as a carbon sink or sustainably develop on land in a way that allows the whole borough to reap the sustainable rewards.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

As an influential institution in the borough, we take our role in combating climate change very seriously and will show our respect of our communities through public consultation and incorporating resident's ideas throughout.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Creating partnerships are an essential aspect of our action plan, especially one which is tackling such a global problem. Partnerships, especially with the businesses in the borough, will allow us to achieve more.

APPENDIX 4. GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Carbon Baseline	The year against which target decreases in emissions are measured.
Carbon dioxide (CO2)	Carbon dioxide is a gas in the Earth's atmosphere. It occurs naturally and is also a by-product of human activities such as burning fossil fuels.It is the principal greenhouse gas produced by human activity.
Carbon Budget	A tolerable quantity of greenhouse gas emissions that can be emitted in total over a specified time.The budget needs to be in line with what is scientifically required to keep global warming and thus climate change "tolerable ."
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e)	Six greenhouse gases are limited by the Kyoto Protocol, and each has a different global warming potential.The overall warming effect of this cocktail of gases is often expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent - the amount of carbon dioxide that would cause the same amount of warming. For consistency in this climate emergency action plan, the figures on carbon dioxide emissions have been presented in tonnes tCO_2e
Carbon footprint	The amount of carbon emitted by an individual, organisation, geographical area or during the manufacture of a product in a given period of time.

Term	Definition
Carbon offsetting	A way of compensating for emissions of carbon dioxide by participating in, or funding, efforts to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Offsetting often involves paying another party, somewhere else, to save emissions equivalent to those produced by your activity.
Carbon Sequestration	The process of storing carbon dioxide.This can happen naturally, as growing trees and plants turn carbon dioxide into biomass (wood, leaves, and so on) . It can also refer to the capture and storage of dioxide produced by industry.
Climate Change	A pattern of change affecting global or regional climate, as measured by yardsticks such as average temperature and rainfall, or an alteration in frequency of extreme weather conditions.This variation may be caused by both natural processes and human activity.Global warming is one aspect of climate change.
Climate Change Act (2008)	At the core of the Act is the 2050 target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% relative to 1990, and the system of carbon budgets that provide five-year stepping stones to the 2050 target.In 2019 this target was altered to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
Climate Emergency	A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.

Term	Definition
Climate Emergency Declaration	The recognition of the urgency of the Climate Emergency by organisations, businesses or government at any level, often resulting in setting a target date to become carbon neutral.
The Committee on Climate Change (CCC)	An independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008 whose purpose is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
Fossil fuels	Natural resources, such as coal, oil and natural gas, containing hydrocarbons.These fuels are formed in the Earth over millions of years and produce carbon dioxide when burnt.
Global warming	The steady rise in global average temperature in recent decades, which experts believe is largely caused by man-made greenhouse gas emissions. The long-term trend continues upwards, even though the warmest year on record, according to the UK's Met Office, is 1998.
Greenhouse gases (GHGs)	Natural and industrial gases that trap heat from the Earth and warm the surface.The Paris Agreement, following The Kyoto Protocol restricts emissions of six greenhouse gases: natural (carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane) and industrial (perfluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, and sulphur hexafluoride).

Term	Definition
The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	A scientific body established by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organisation.It reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical, and socio- economic work relevant to climate change, but does not carry out its own research. The IPCC was honoured with the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF)	Activities here provide a method of offsetting emissions, either by increasing the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere (i. e. by planting trees or managing forests), or by reducing emissions (i. e. by curbing deforestation and the associated burning of wood).
Mitigation	Action that will reduce man-made climate change. This includes action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or absorb greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.
Carbon Neutral	A scenario in which carbon emissions arising from human activity are minimised through improvements in efficiency and renewable energy generation methods, while any remaining carbon emissions are offset as a last resort through methods such as carbon sequestration, local to the origin of the activity, thus having a neutral impact on carbon emitted from the origin area.

Term	Definition
Paris Agreement (2015)	The Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by 21 countries agreeing to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1 .5 degrees Celsius.
Per-capita emissions	The total amount of greenhouse gas emitted by a country per unit of population.
Renewable energy	Energy created from sources that can be replenished in a short period of time.The five renewable sources used most often are: biomass (such as wood and biogas), the movement of water, geothermal, wind, and solar.
SAP Rating	Definition of "The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is the methodology used by the government to assess and compare the energy and environmental performance of dwellings.

Term	Definition
SCATTER	Standing for Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reductions, SCATTER is a local authority focussed emissions tool, built to help create low-carbon local authorities. SCATTER provides local authorities and city regions with the opportunity to standardise their greenhouse gas reporting and align to international frameworks, including the setting of targets in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	One of a series of international agreements on global environmental issues adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The UNFCCC aims to prevent "dangerous" human interference with the climate system. It entered into force on 21 March 1994 and has been ratified by 192 countries.

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