



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL CLIMATE & NATURE STRATEGY

SEPTEMBER 2026



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR LOU TIMLIN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION



The climate emergency is one of the most significant challenges we face, but it also presents an opportunity to shape a better future for our communities. Moving away from a way of life that depends on fossil fuels and towards healthier, more sustainable ways of living will not be easy, but it is something we can all take part in.

We are already seeing the effects of climate change in our daily lives. Rising temperatures, more intense storms and longer heatwaves are no longer distant concerns. They are happening now and affecting us all.

Here in Wokingham Borough, we are experiencing increased flooding, hotter summers and more unpredictable weather. These are having a real impact on our homes, our health and our way of life, and makes it clear that we cannot afford to wait.

Addressing this challenge will require commitment and action at every level, from national government and local councils, to businesses, community groups and residents. Working together will be essential if we are to make real and lasting progress.

We also know these impacts are not felt equally. Some of our most vulnerable residents are already facing the greatest challenges. That is why the action we take must both reduce emissions and help those who need it most.

With continued pressure from the cost of living and rising energy prices, it is more important than ever to reduce wasted energy, make greater use of renewable sources, and improve the efficiency and insulation of our homes so they are warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Done well, this can help households manage energy use more effectively while also reducing fuel poverty.

As a council, we have an important role in supporting and enabling change. Through the services we provide and the decisions we make, we can make more sustainable choices easier and more accessible, turning ambition into practical action. Our Climate Action Plan sets out how we will do this and how progress will be measured.

Alongside reducing emissions, we also need to ensure Wokingham Borough is prepared for the changes already underway. This means supporting our communities to cope with more extreme weather, ensuring homes and infrastructure are better prepared, and planning for future challenges. Nature plays a vital role in supporting this resilience. Our parks, green spaces and waterways are not only important for wildlife and biodiversity, but they are also a key part of what makes Wokingham Borough such a special place to live. They help reduce flood risk, improve air quality and store carbon, whilst access to natural environments also supports our mental and physical well-being. We are taking steps to enhance and restore these spaces in ways that support nature recovery and benefit residents.

This is about more than targets. It is about protecting our borough as we respond to the climate emergency, supporting one another and shaping a resilient, sustainable and fair future. This Climate and Nature Strategy reflects what residents have told us matters through our community vision. By everyone playing their part, no matter how big or small, we can collectively ensure that Wokingham Borough remains a great place to live, now and for generations to come.

For enquires about this strategy, please email:

climate.emergency@wokingham.gov.uk

THE CLIMATE CONTEXT: WORLDWIDE & UK

The Met Office reports that **the past ten years have been the warmest on record**. We have already passed the 1.5°C limit set in the [2015 Paris Agreement](#), and only fast and sustained emission cuts can keep us below 2°C. If temperatures rise beyond this, we face more unpredictable weather, impacting communities around the world and here in the UK.

[The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) warns that every further rise in global temperature brings stronger climate impacts.

As the planet continues to warm, we are likely to experience:

- **wetter winters**
- **hotter and drier summers**
- **more frequent extreme weather events**

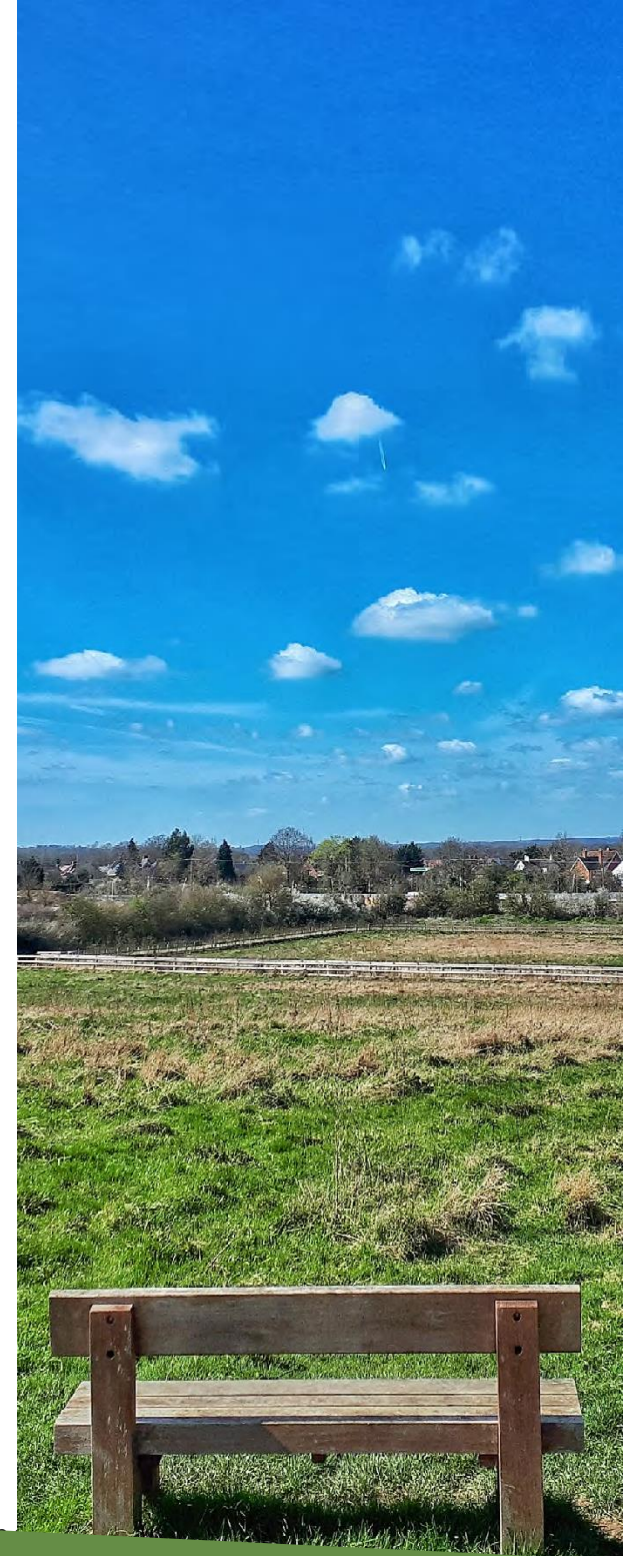
Climate change affects both natural and human systems and extreme weather events have been identified as the third highest global risk, according to the [World Economic Forum Global Risk Report \(2026\)](#). We must consider how these changes will affect the **lives, livelihoods and health of our residents, as well as local ecosystems and our borough's economy**.

Natural systems that regulate the climate, protect homes and support our food supply are already being disrupted. Across the UK, there has been a significant loss of biodiversity since 1970. The UK is now **one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world** ([State of Nature, 2023](#)) and is in the bottom 10% globally for biodiversity, with only 14% of rivers and 7% of woodlands in good ecological health.

Climate change also affects people indirectly through impacts on nature. Access to natural environments supports mental and physical wellbeing, **helping reduce anxiety, depression and cardiovascular disease**. At the same time, biodiversity loss threatens food production, due to degrading soils, declining pollinators, and more frequent droughts and floods. ([HM Gov: Global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security](#)).

Climate change is already having **direct and significant impacts on health in the UK**. [UKHSA's Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK \(2023\)](#) highlights that flooding and periods of intense heat pose major risks to mental and physical health, especially for vulnerable groups who may struggle to access essential services during severe conditions. [UKHSA's Adverse Weather and Health Plan](#) sets out national guidance on preparing for and responding to weather-related health risks across all seasons.

Even if global warming is limited, future weather patterns will still look very different from those we are used to. We need to adapt and build resilience, while continuing to cut emissions as quickly as possible. By working with nature, we can help secure a brighter, more sustainable future for our borough.



THE CLIMATE CONTEXT: WOKINGHAM BOROUGH

In July 2019, Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) unanimously declared a climate emergency and set an ambition **to do as much as possible to become a carbon neutral Borough**. Since then, the Council has been building momentum, delivering a range of environmental initiatives within the organisation and across the wider Borough.

We are committed to creating **a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Wokingham Borough**, with thriving natural spaces that everyone can enjoy. This vision underpins the [Green priority in the Council Plan \(2025–2030\)](#) and supports the council's mission, ensuring **everyone has the opportunity to thrive**, recognising that the health of people and the health of the planet are inextricably linked.

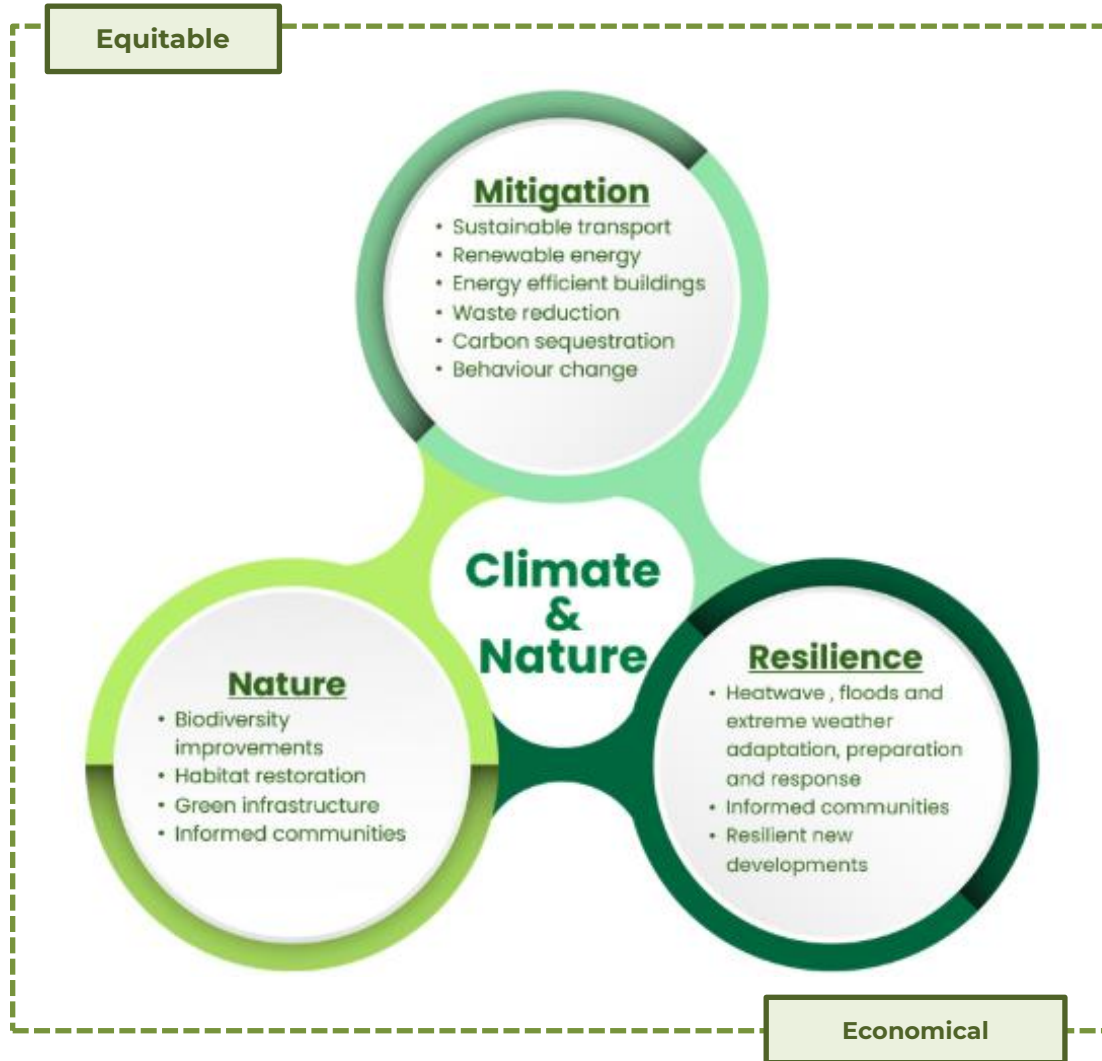
Our community shares this commitment. In the [Wokingham Communities Vision 2035](#), 'Protecting and improving our places' is identified as a core ambition, reflecting residents' and community groups' desire to see our environment safeguarded by reducing pollution and carbon emissions, adapting to climate change, and ensuring everyone has access to enjoy green spaces.

Wokingham Borough is already feeling the effects of a warming climate, mirroring the wider UK trend identified by the [Met Office](#). In 2024, **the Council declared an ecological emergency** in response to sustained national and local biodiversity decline, recognising that nature recovery is vital for climate resilience and long-term environmental sustainability. Under the [Environment Act 2021](#), all areas of England must prepare a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Adopted in 2025, the [Berkshire LNRS](#) sets priorities, maps key habitats, and identifies where habitat creation and restoration will have greatest impact.

The impacts of climate change do not fall evenly across society. Existing economic and social inequalities are often worsened, and in some cases created, by a changing climate. It is essential that we prevent the climate emergency from disproportionately affecting the health and wellbeing of any group in the Borough. This commitment aligns with our ambition to become a [Marmot Borough](#) and with the [Fair priority in the Council Plan](#). One of the eight Marmot evidence-based principles for action is to pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together.



OUR FOCUS AREAS



Mitigation, i.e., reducing emissions is essential to limit future impacts. At the same time, **Resilience** is critical to protecting people and places from the effects already being felt. Together, mitigation and resilience provide a pathway towards a Borough that is safer, more prepared, and better equipped to thrive in a changing climate.

Nature plays a central role in this transition. Healthy natural systems absorb carbon, regulate water, cool urban areas and support community wellbeing. However, biodiversity loss and ecological degradation are reducing nature's ability to provide these vital benefits. By prioritising nature, we strengthen the foundations for a more sustainable, climate resilient and healthier Borough.

Underpinning these three areas is ensuring actions **support equity** across the borough and are **economically beneficial**. Many of the carbon-reduction actions within the CEAP deliver financial benefits. From renewable energy generated income, protection from volatile fossil fuel markets, savings from less waste going to landfill and lower operating costs from retrofitted buildings. Understanding future risks can deliver positive financial outcomes by enabling better preparation and helping to avoid long-term costs associated with climate change.

CLIMATE MITIGATION

Mitigating climate change means reducing the heat-trapping greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere.

Our mitigation priorities focus on the areas that contribute most significantly to the Borough's carbon emissions. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) remains the largest driver of climate change among all greenhouse gases. In Wokingham Borough, the majority of direct carbon emissions come from three key sources:

1. **our homes**
2. **our buildings**
3. **road transport**

Most of the carbon emissions from homes, buildings, and road transport come from privately owned sources. Reducing these emissions will take a shared effort from the council, our communities, schools, and businesses, each playing a role in shifting towards more sustainable ways of living and working.

Our everyday actions can make a meaningful difference. By using less and improving energy efficiency at home, choosing more sustainable travel options and reducing waste, residents can directly contribute to cutting emissions. When these actions are repeated across thousands of households, the collective impact is powerful. Not only do these changes help tackle climate change, but they also improve health and wellbeing, create warmer and more comfortable homes, and save money for residents and organisations alike.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

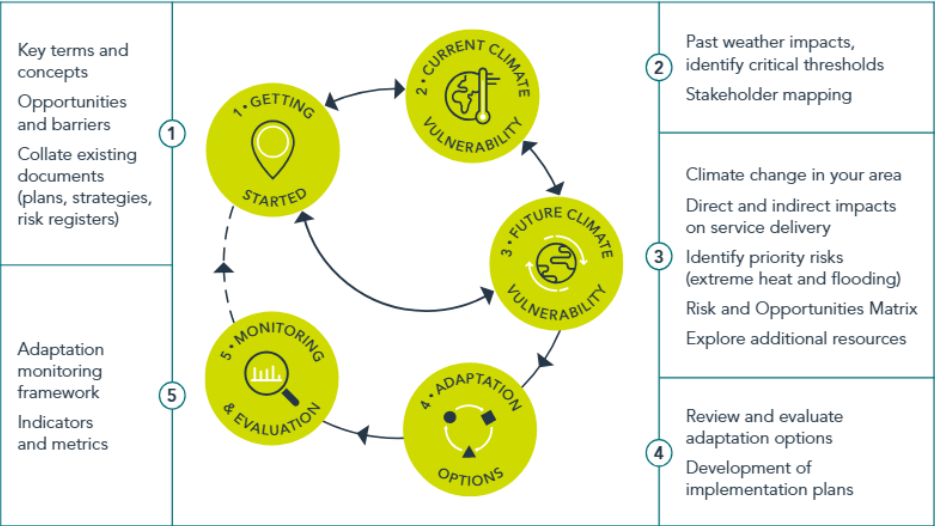
Climate resilience helps ensure our local area can continue to thrive as the climate changes, by supporting our communities, environment, and services to adapt and remain strong over time.

The three areas of focus for climate resilience will:

- Help residents understand climate risks and feel confident taking practical steps to prepare
- Use climate and weather data to support informed decisions and timely borough actions
- Work closely with emergency services and community partners to prepare for and respond effectively to extreme weather

Our approach will be informed by an understanding of local climate risks using the [Met Office Local Authority Climate Service](#) and aligning with national guidance, including the [Climate Change Risk Assessment \(CCRA\)](#), which looks at how climate change could affect everyday life in the UK, and the [Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\)](#), which sets out how the country is preparing for these changes.

A standardised approach will be adopted to assess climate risk and develop associated risk registers and action plans, drawing on established tools such as the Local Partnerships [Adaptation Toolkit](#) outlined here.



Following adoption of this Climate and Nature strategy, we will be embedding climate resilience actions across all nine priorities of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. This will ensure that climate resilience is not treated as a standalone theme, but as a fundamental thread woven through every aspect of our response to the climate emergency.



NATURE

Natural systems play a critical role in both mitigating climate change and helping us adapt to its effects.

Trees, hedgerows, healthy soils and grasslands capture carbon helping our response to climate change. By planting and managing the right vegetation in the right places, we enhance natural cooling, stabilise soils and create habitats where wildlife can thrive. These landscapes also help reduce flood risk, protect soil health and support the pollinators that our local ecosystems depend on, while making outdoor spaces more comfortable during hotter weather.

These environmental benefits extend directly to people too. Spending time in nature is good for our health. The [World Health Organization's Urban Green Spaces](#) and Health report shows that parks, woodlands and other natural areas help people feel calmer, encourage everyday activity like walking and cycling, and reduce exposure to air pollution, noise and heat supporting healthier hearts, lungs and minds.

Wokingham Borough Council declared an Ecological Emergency in January 2024 recognising the severity of the degradation of the natural environment and loss of wildlife and the urgent need to take action to restore nature.

We are committed to **increasing the proportion of land that is protected, enhanced or actively managed for its biodiversity value.**

This covers sites of:

- **Special Scientific Interest**
- **Local Wildlife Sites,**
- **Local Nature Reserves,**
- **Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)**
- **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) areas.**

To achieve this, the Council will prioritise the enhancement, restoration and rewilding of local landscapes in line with the [Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#). The LNRS identifies where action will deliver the greatest ecological benefit, ensuring planning, development and investment decisions contribute directly to nature recovery. This approach ensures new development provides Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in the most effective locations and that funding is directed where it will have the strongest impact.

Through mandatory BNG and new nature-focused allocations in the Local Plan Update, more land will be secured for wildlife each year.



OUR CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

[The Climate Emergency Action Plan \(CEAP\)](#) is the council's **strategic roadmap** that sets out how we will work towards our carbon neutral goal and how we will address the increasing impacts of climate change.

The CEAP outlines the council's **long-term vision of creating a cleaner, greener and more resilient borough**, where residents benefit from cleaner air, low-carbon homes and sustainable transport options and where climate action supports healthier communities, protects vulnerable residents and enhances local biodiversity.

To support this, the CEAP focuses on nine strategic priority areas.

1. Transport
2. Renewable Energy Generation
3. Building Retrofitting
4. Nature
5. Waste & Recycling
6. New Developments
7. Procurement
8. Engagement & Behaviour change
9. Council specific actions

These priority areas ensure that climate action is fully integrated across all council services and decision-making processes.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) is regularly updated to reflect emerging evidence, national policy changes and advances in technology. Each year, progress against these actions is also reported and published.

The plan also recognises that meaningful climate action cannot be achieved by the council alone. **We work in partnership with neighbouring authorities, schools, voluntary groups, town and parish councils, community organisations and the University of Reading.**

This holistic approach will help create a more resilient, greener and healthier borough, where climate mitigation, climate resilience and nature recovery will shape current and forward planning and deliver long-lasting benefits for our communities.



CURRENT AND FUTURE EMISSIONS

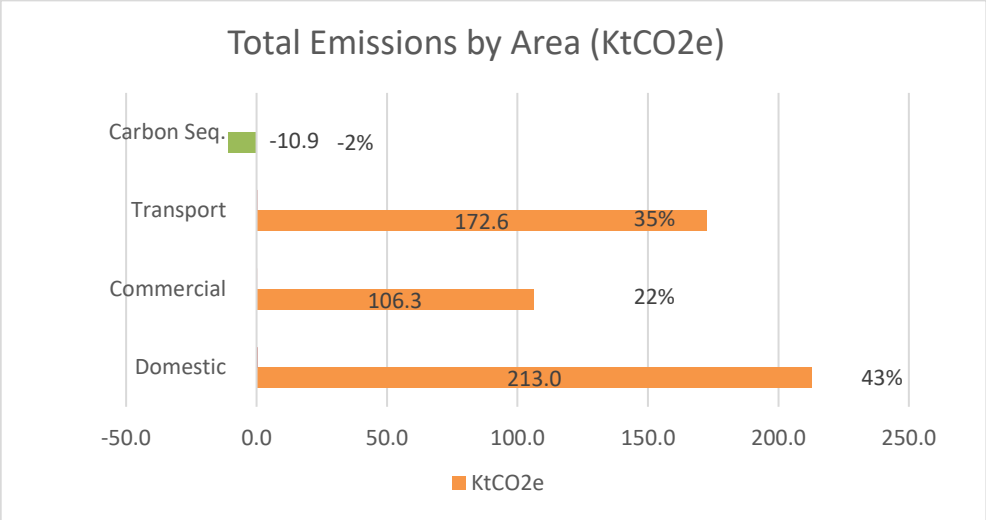


Figure 1. Wokingham Borough’s Carbon Footprint is 482 kilotons of carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO₂e). This incorporates a negative figure for carbon sequestration (e. g. tree planting) and is based on government data that is reported three years in arrears ([DESNZ 2023](#)).

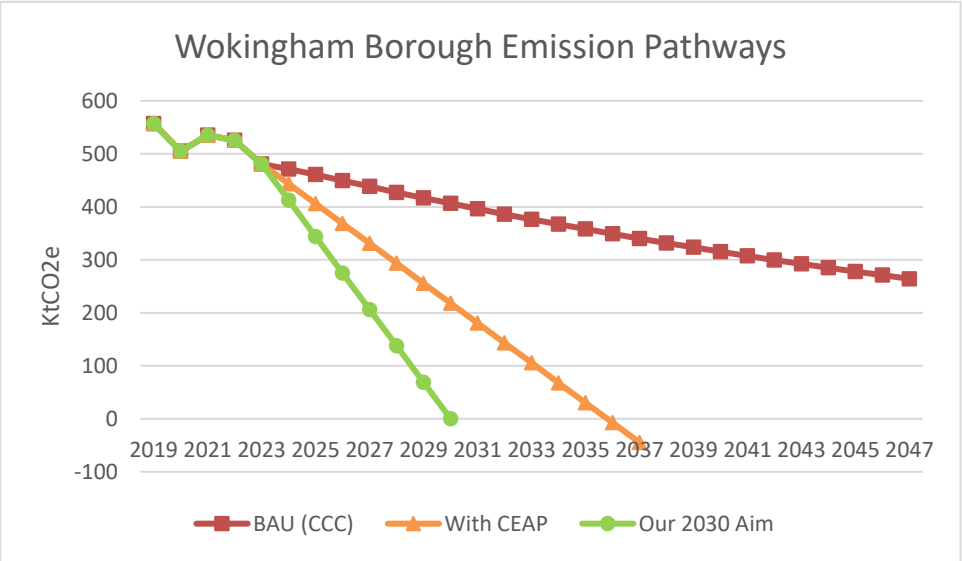


Figure 2. Wokingham Borough Emissions Trajectories for 2030 onward (ktCO₂e). The 3 lines represent 3 potential scenarios for emissions based on the extent of actions taken by the council and wider borough. A 'business as usual' line showing minimal intervention (with exceptions), a 'with CEAP' line to 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

Wokingham Borough’s emissions come from several sources, with a detailed breakdown available in appendix 2. At the moment, **approximately 25% of energy used in homes comes from electricity.** [The Climate Change Committee \(CCC\) report](#) advises this will need to increase to around 60% to reach carbon neutrality, driven primarily by replacing gas systems with low-carbon electric alternatives. In the commercial sector, where electricity accounts for nearly half of energy use, a similar shift away from gas will also be required.

Around 70% of travel emissions come from people using petrol and diesel cars. That’s why helping our community move towards electric vehicles is a key part of cutting emissions. The Climate Change Committee says that by 2040, 75% of vehicles need to be electric to help the UK reach its 2050 net-zero target.

Figure 2 | Future Emissions

Figure 2 shows how Wokingham Borough’s emissions are expected to change between now, 2030 and beyond. The “business as usual” (BAU) projection shown by the red line, is based on the latest CCC data as the best currently available on this subject. With double counting removed (more information available in the full methodology), this is estimated at between a 2 – 2.5% reduction per year.

The actions in the climate emergency action plan (CEAP) could then currently save a further 188 ktCO₂e by 2030, but there would still be a gap of 218 ktCO₂e. This shows why delivering the CEAP actions is essential, and why extra support and funding from national government is needed to reach the 2030 target shown by the green line. These 3 trajectories represent respective falls of approximately 10, 40 and 70 ktCO₂e per year.

TRANSPORT & RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
1. TRANSPORT	52%
1A 49% Mileage Share for ICE vehicles	69,867
30% Mileage Share for Electric Vehicles	63,107
13% Mileage Share for Public Transport	3,062
8% Mileage Share for Active Travel	2,143
1B 5% Reduction in Road Freight	5,492
Subtotal	73,803

Transport is one of the largest contributors to emissions in the borough, and higher-than-average car ownership makes this a priority area for action. Our targets focus on reducing mileage from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles across both private and commercial sectors and to encourage and support residents and businesses in transitioning towards more sustainable and active modes of travel.

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
2. RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION	14%
2.1 Increase the generation of renewable energy through investment in solar farms to generate 49,000 MWp	8,808
2.2 Support the generation of renewable energy in the Borough to generate the equivalent of approx. 1,550 kWh per household	11,173
Subtotal	19,981

In addition to national ambitions to decarbonise the grid, our aim is to generate more renewable energy locally such as through solar farms, we can feed clean power back into the grid and reduce reliance on fossil fuels even further. Smaller installations on homes, businesses and community buildings also help by supplying clean power directly to residents. In both cases, carbon savings come from replacing electricity generated by burning fossil fuels with renewable, zero-carbon alternatives.

RETROFITTING BUILDINGS & NATURE

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
3. RETROFITTING DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS	30%
3.1 Social housing stock to be EPC C or above	1,756
3.2 School buildings to be EPC C or above	266
3.3 75% of private homes to be EPC C or above (an increase of 16,859 homes)	39,873
Subtotal	41,894

Reducing energy demand through retrofitting homes and commercial buildings is essential for cutting overall emissions. The [Climate Change Committee report](#) highlights this as a priority, and progress is often measured using Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings. By raising awareness of energy-saving measures and helping residents and businesses identify and install improvements, significant reductions in both carbon emissions and energy bills can be achieved.

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
4. NATURE	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 % of the borough area is managed or designated for its biodiversity importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, SANGS and BNG sites)	Neutral *
Subtotal	875

Some emissions will be very difficult to remove completely, which means carbon sequestration will still play a role alongside efforts to reduce emissions.

Our focus is on managing land in ways that increase the amount of carbon-absorbing space, through planting more trees, expanding allotments and improving soil and grassland quality. Trees will be added in the most effective locations, whether as part of hedgerows, orchards or new woodland areas.

* primarily focused on biodiversity % gain ([refer to LNRS](#))

WASTE AND RECYCLING & NEW DEVELOPMENT

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
5. WASTE & RECYCLING	(Out of Scope)
5.1 Achieve 70% recycling rate	4,051
5.2 Achieve 3% of waste going to landfill	Completed
Subtotal	4,051

To help Wokingham reach carbon neutrality it is important to reduce the amount of waste we produce by following the waste hierarchy. As more waste is avoided, carbon savings increasingly come from reducing how much waste is produced in the first place. Key actions include working with residents to encourage waste-reducing habits and higher recycling rates and providing the support and infrastructure needed to make these changes easier.

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
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 *

* With new homes needed across the borough, it is important they are built sustainably so that future carbon emissions are minimised (i.e. considered neutral), and costly retrofitting avoided. Most actions sit within the Local Plan Update, which reviews existing planning policy and sets standards for development, including energy performance requirements for new homes.

PROCUREMENT & ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
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 *

The Council recognises its ability to reduce carbon emissions through the way it buys goods and services, and procurement is therefore an important part of our climate response.

*By encouraging suppliers to adopt stronger sustainability practices and giving greater consideration to environmental performance during tendering and evaluation we can influence a wider shift toward low-carbon operations in the future (i.e. neutral).

In doing so, the Council not only reduces its own emissions but also aims to set a clear example for local organisations, showing that sustainable procurement is both achievable and effective. Over time, this will help to build a greener supply chain, stimulates innovation and reinforces our commitment to leading by example in tackling the climate emergency.

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
8. ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE	Neutral
8.1 Raise awareness in the community about climate emergency agenda	Neutral
Subtotal	Neutral *

*WBC recognises that it cannot achieve its climate goal alone, and the success of the Climate Emergency Action Plan depends on everyone; residents, businesses, schools, Town and Parish Councils, partners and community groups, working together to reduce emissions and adopt more sustainable behaviours to support the more specific carbon reduction actions in the CEAP.

We want to support communities in taking practical steps to prepare. We also want to help people value and care for the borough’s green spaces and nature, recognising the crucial role they play in supporting wellbeing, wildlife and a more climate-resilient environment.

COUNCIL SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Priority area	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
9. COUNCIL SPECIFIC ACTIONS	3%
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	4,347
9.3.3 Gorse Ride regeneration project	271
Subtotal	4,671

The council is committed to leading by example on the journey to carbon neutrality and has set an ambitious goal to become a carbon-neutral organisation. To achieve this, we are focusing on the areas of our operations that create the most emissions and where meaningful change can make the biggest difference. At present, the council produces around 23.4 ktCO₂e each year, equating to around 4% of the borough's total emissions.

Our main sources are energy use, transport and waste, although waste is currently outside the scope of CEAP reporting. By tackling these high-impact areas, the council aims to significantly reduce its carbon footprint and demonstrate what can be achieved through targeted, responsible action.

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 [Climate Change Committee's \(CCC\) 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 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 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 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 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 EV Infrastructure Strategy 2022 outlines the government's 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.

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 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.

The 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 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 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. Interim targets and delivery plans have been amended towards delivery of statutory targets.

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

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 a government to get there.

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 four at most and ensuring consistent materials, including glass are collected across all councils and at the kerbside for the majority.

Extended Producer Responsibility 2025 and Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024 will place further responsibility onto goods providers with regards to their packaging and electrical waste and ensuring it is more sustainable by charging producers for excess.

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 Circular Economy Taskforce aims to facilitate economic growth by stimulating investment in technologies and infrastructure to resources in circulation for longer, create new jobs, increase resource efficiency and productivity.

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) 2030 and Decent Homes Standard 2026 are set to come into place and aim to raise the minimum energy standard requirements for properties including domestic and commercial rented, social housing and schools.

Regional Energy Strategic Planning and the Reforms to the energy connection process (2026) follow the CP2030 goals in aiming to help ensure that local areas get the energy infrastructure they need to meet local net zero and growth ambitions, and help communities to access reliable, clean and affordable energy.

APPENDIX 2. WOKINGHAM BOROUGH CARBON FOOTPRINT DATA

Table 5: DESNZ Summary GHG inventory table of Borough Emissions

Wokingham Carbon footprint	KtCO ₂ e
Industry and Commercial Electricity	44.95
Industry and Commercial Gas	21.81
Large Industrial Installations	0.05
Industrial and Commercial Other Fuels	22.76
Public Sector Total	16.70
Domestic Electricity	48.53
Domestic Gas	154.18
Domestic 'Other Fuels'	10.29
Road Transport (A roads)	67.20
Road Transport (Minor roads)	94.71
Transport Other	10.72
LULUCF Net Emissions	-10.86
Total	481.02

DESNZ data (table 5) is from 2023, as this is the most recent available. It follows the standard Greenhouse Gas Protocol and is directly from a government source, more consistent and more directly applicable in terms of scopes we are able to capture. It shows us that the boroughs emissions are comprised of approximate emissions from: transport 35%, the industrial and commercial sector 22%, and the domestic sector 43%, with a contribution of -2% from carbon sequestration efforts.

APPENDIX 3. 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 tCO₂e
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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