London Borough of Hillingdon
Climate Action

Action Plan
2025 to 2028

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Foreword

It has been three years since we published our Strategic Plan to take climate action and, in that time, Local Authorities have faced unprecedented challenges.

Despite that, I am pleased to present this updated plan on the back of a great deal of progress where we have prioritised resources to maximise the impact of our actions.

Further action remains essential. The impacts of climate change continue to become more apparent. Our aims and objectives have therefore not changed. We will be carbon neutral by 2030 and will continue to embed climate action across our services.

This updated plan reflects on our achievements to date and the need to allocate our resources and prioritise action with care. We will continue to adapt to the changing demands and ensure our short to medium term actions are kept under review to ensure they are achievable.

This means more targeted action planning with the focus on making a noticeable difference.

Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Member for Residents' Services

Common hornbeam. *Bayhurst Wood, Harefield*
200-300 years of age

Preface

In July 2024, the Council adopted its Strategic Climate Action Plan. This set out our response to the climate emergency that the Council declared on 16 January 2020.

The plan set out a range of activities that were guided by six corporate climate commitments aligned to nine themed action areas. It was ambitious and comprehensive and reflects the nature of the climate emergency.

We committed to keeping the plan under review to ensure focussed and prioritised action. The Vision and corporate commitments are intended to remain the same but the actions to meet them are being refreshed where necessary.

Our Plan outlines the actions we intend to take with the resources available to us, emphasizing the need for flexibility in these rapidly changing circumstances.

This is the first review period 3 years after the plan was adopted and results in the short (1 year) to medium (2-3 year) term actions to take us through to the second review period in 2028.

Like all local authorities nationwide, we are grappling with unprecedented financial challenges. Despite this, we have made some exceptional progress against many of our objectives and commitments.

Therefore, it is not considered necessary to markedly alter the approaches adopted in the 2021 Plan but the challenges invariably require us to take a more rationalised approach to climate action.

This Review focusses on how and where best to prioritise our attention for the short to medium term that maximise effective climate action.

To support this, we are committed to leveraging all available grant funding to mitigate and adapt to climate change, recognizing the long-term financial benefits this can bring to the council.

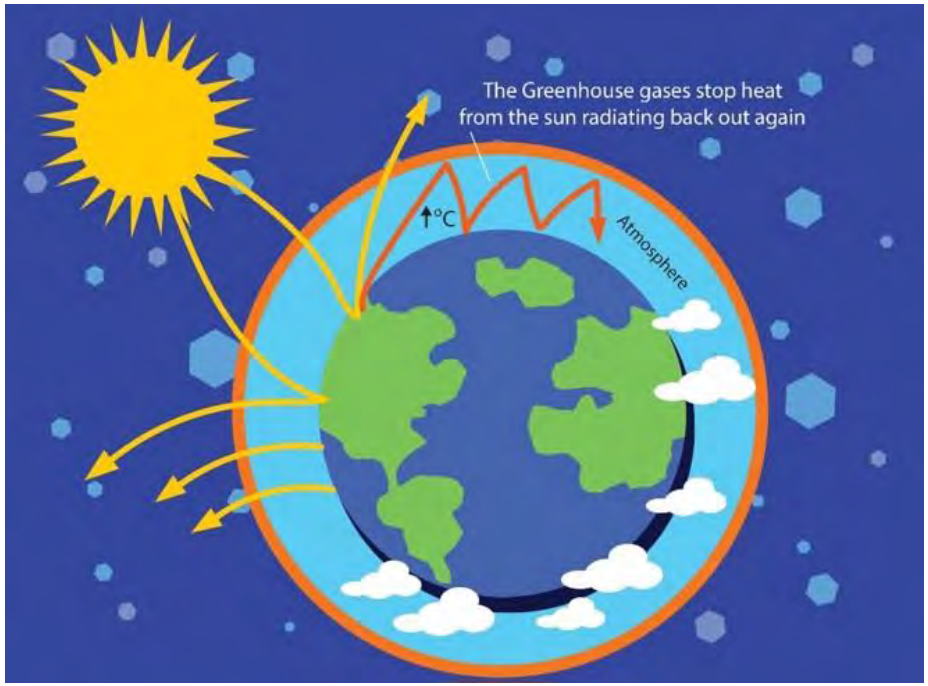
This revised action plan will be subject a lengthy public consultation at the end of 2024 with an aim of adopting the new plan for April 2025.

1. The Need for Continued Action

What is Climate Change?

The world's climate is changing due to increased levels of gases such as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. These 'greenhouse' gases occur naturally in the atmosphere, trapping heat that comes from the sun like the glass in a greenhouse. The 'greenhouse effect' is a natural occurrence and without it the Earth would be over 30 degrees cooler and uninhabitable.

However, due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) and deforestation, concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are rising and making the natural greenhouse effect more pronounced, trapping more of the sun's heat and resulting in a rise in the earth's temperature.



Recent Trends

The changing climate has significant repercussions that are experienced by all our communities. In July 2024 the Royal Meteorological Society published its 2023 State of the UK Climate report. The following are the 'highlights':

Observations show that extremes of temperature in the UK have been affected much more than average temperature. The number of ‘hot’ days (28C) has more than doubled and ‘very hot’ days (30C) more than trebled for the most recent decade (2014-2023) compared to 1961-1990.

UK winters for the most recent decade (2014–2023) have been 9% wetter than 1991–2020 and 24% wetter than 1961–1990, with smaller increases in summer and autumn and none in spring.

Five of the ten wettest years for the UK in the series from 1836 have occurred in the 21st Century.

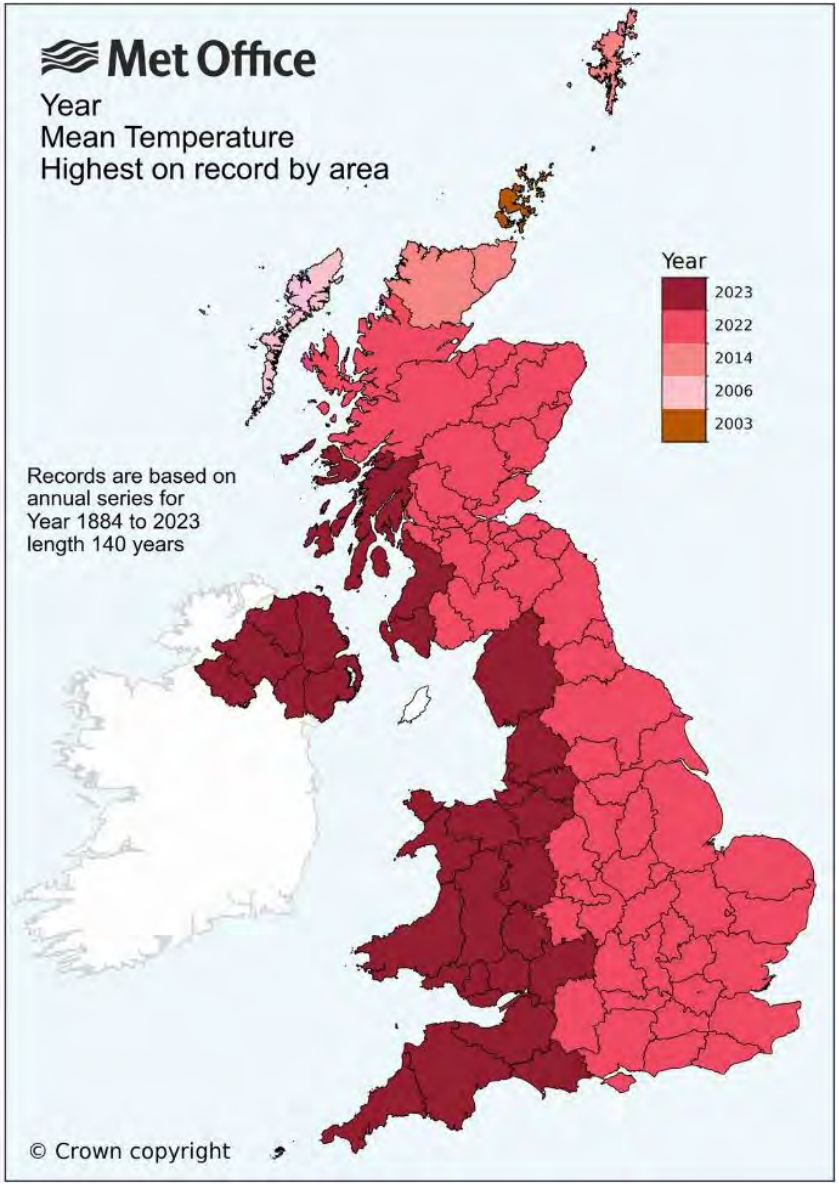
In 2023, the UK recorded its warmest June on record by a wide margin in a series from 1884, with a major North Atlantic marine heatwave a significant contributing factor.

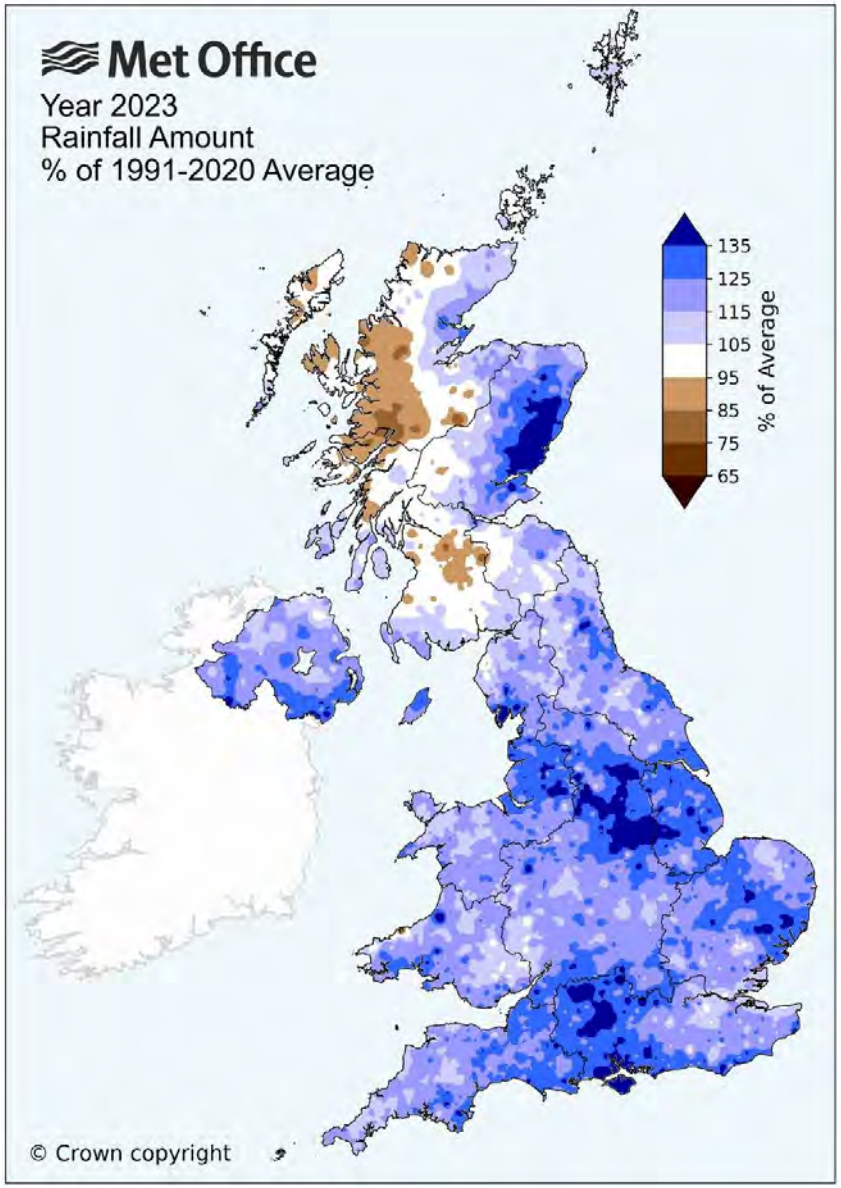
In 2023, the UK recorded its wettest September to December period since 2000 due to persistently wet and unsettled weather, including the sequence of named storms from Agnes to Gerrit.

2023 was the second warmest year on record for the UK in the series from 1884, with only 2022 warmer. Six years in the most recent decade (2014-2023) have been within the top-ten warmest in the series.

In 2023, 30°C was recorded in September in the UK on seven consecutive days, for the first time on record.

Winds from storm Ciarán on 2 November 2023 had the potential to be as severe as from the ‘Great Storm’ of 16 October 1987, but the strongest winds missed the UK to the south.


Met Office
Year
Mean Temperature
Highest on record by area
Year
2023
2022
2014
2006
2003
Records are based on
annual series for
Year 1884 to 2023
length 140 years
© Crown copyright


Met Office
Year 2023
Rainfall Amount
% of 1991-2020 Average
135
125
115
105
95
85
75
65
% of Average
© Crown copyright

Why does climate change matter?

Uncontrolled climate change will lead to higher global temperatures, rising sea levels and more extreme, unpredictable weather conditions across the world.

Climate change is a major threat to human health and wellbeing in the UK. Its far-reaching impacts can be seen in various ways, from direct effects like rising temperatures and increased flooding, to indirect consequences such as food and water scarcity, and reduced air quality. Vulnerable populations, including those with pre-existing conditions, the elderly, and underprivileged communities, are likely to be worst affected.

Here are some of the key impacts identified by the UK Health Security Agency:

Extremes of heat and cold

More frequent and intense heatwaves due to rising temperatures could lead to a dramatic increase in heat-related deaths. By the 2070s, under a high-warming scenario without adaptation, the UK could see over 21,000 additional heat-related deaths annually. Despite the warming climate, deaths from cold are also expected to rise, mainly due to an aging population.

Flooding

Climate change is making more areas prone to flooding, including those previously not at risk. Heavier rainfall and rising sea levels contribute to this threat. Flooding endangers lives and can have long-lasting negative impacts on mental health, risk of infectious diseases, and access to healthcare services.

Poor outdoor air quality

Climate change can worsen air pollution episodes by altering weather patterns and exacerbating heatwaves. Poor air quality is already a significant environmental risk, contributing to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and increased mortality.

Allergies

Longer and more intense pollen seasons for plants like birch and oak, as well as extended fungal spore

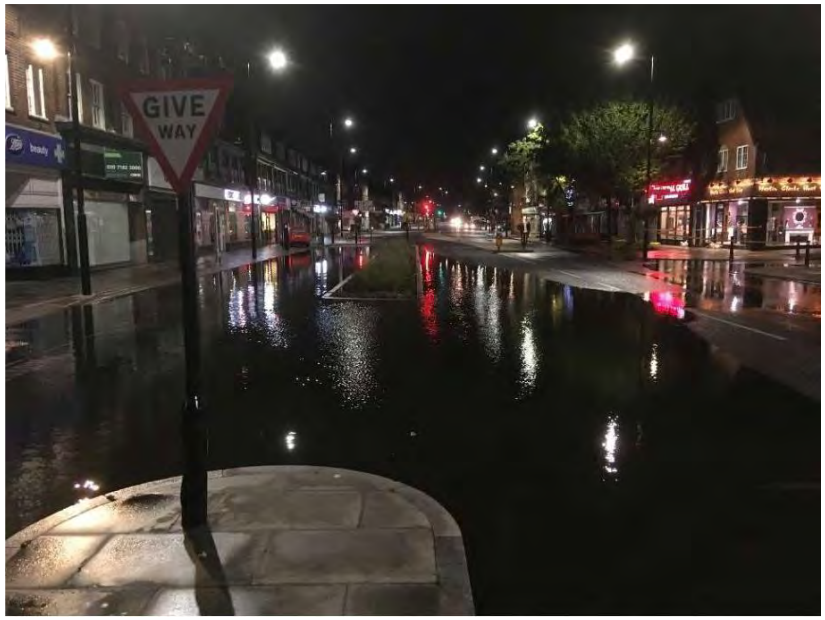
seasons, could worsen seasonal allergies for sensitive individuals.

Drought and food security

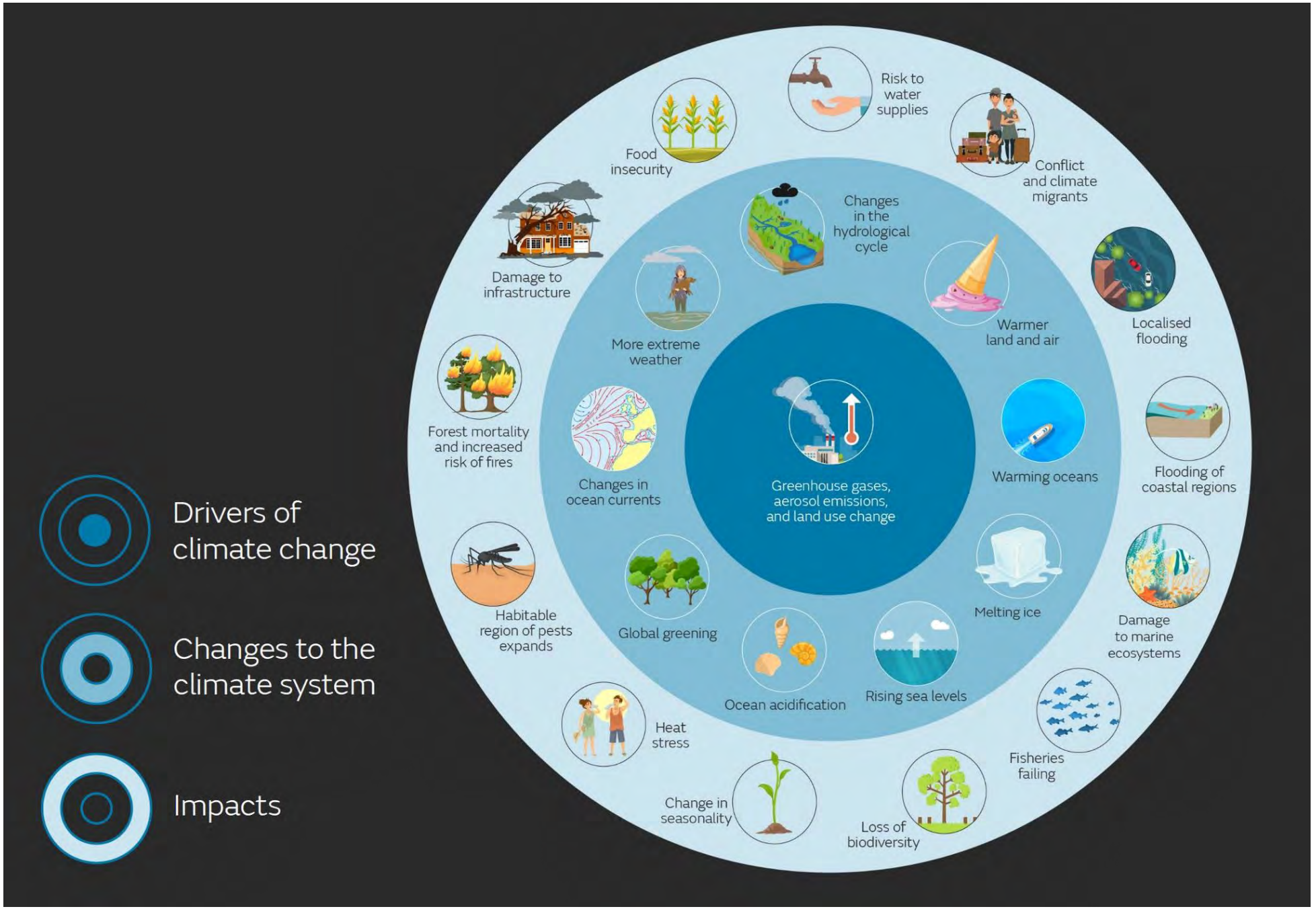
More frequent and severe droughts driven by low rainfall and higher temperatures could disrupt agriculture, leading to food shortages, price increases, and food insecurity.

Poor housing

Energy-efficient homes are vital for mitigating climate change and promoting healthy indoor environments. However, improvements must be implemented carefully to avoid issues like poor air quality, overheating, noise, and inadequate ventilation, which can adversely affect respiratory and cardiovascular health, as well as mental wellbeing.



Flooding within the borough in 2016


Drivers of climate change
Changes to the climate system
Impacts
Greenhouse gases, aerosol emissions, and land use change
Changes in the hydrological cycle
Warmer land and air
Warming oceans
Melting ice
Rising sea levels
Ocean acidification
Global greening
Changes in ocean currents
More extreme weather
Risk to water supplies
Conflict and climate migrants
Localised flooding
Flooding of coastal regions
Damage to marine ecosystems
Fisheries failing
Loss of biodiversity
Change in seasonality
Heat stress
Habitable region of pests expands
Forest mortality and increased risk of fires
Damage to infrastructure
Food insecurity

2. Our Vision

In response to the impacts of climate change we declared a climate emergency in 2020:

> *Looking to the future, this Council declares that there is a current global climate emergency and, as a consequence, agrees to extend the Council's climate change targets beyond those currently set, as follows:*
>
> *i. To become carbon neutral across the Council services by 2030 and;*
> *ii. To achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's services by 2030.*

We then produced our first Strategic plan to address climate action. This plan set out 6 corporate commitments aligned with 9 Key themes to respond positively to the Climate Emergency. These underpinned our ambitious vision:

To become the greenest London borough, to protect and enhance the environment, and to provide a brighter prospect for future generations.

The 6 Corporate Commitments
To lead and inspire our residents, businesses and schools to reduce their own carbon emissions.
To become 'Carbon-Neutral' by 2030.
To achieve 100% clean electricity across the Council's services by 2030.
To raise awareness and develop the potential of young people to respond to the challenge of the climate emergency.
To enhance opportunities for biodiversity across the borough and particularly in urban areas.
To remain open to the opportunity to go further, to be innovative and creative to exceed the stated goals wherever possible.

In addition, at a meeting of the Council in November 2021, the following motions on climate change were approved:

i. *Ensure that, where practical and cost effective, all the council's procured services are net carbon zero by 2035.*

ii. *Support and work with businesses and organisations towards making the entire borough net zero carbon by 2050;*

This Council also commits to increasing its accountability and transparency on climate change action by:

iii. *Proactively including young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;*

iv. *holding an annual 'people's assembly' with residents and relevant organisations to discuss and shape revisions to the climate change action plan.*

The 9 Themes	
Objective	**Theme**
C1	**Community Leadership**
C2	**The Council's Own Operations**
C3	**Building better places**
C4	**Using and Producing Clean and Green Energy**
C5	**Waste Management**
C6	**Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation**
C7	**Carbon Offsetting**
C8	**Sustainable Transportation**
C9	**Transparency**

Our Carbon Neutral Target

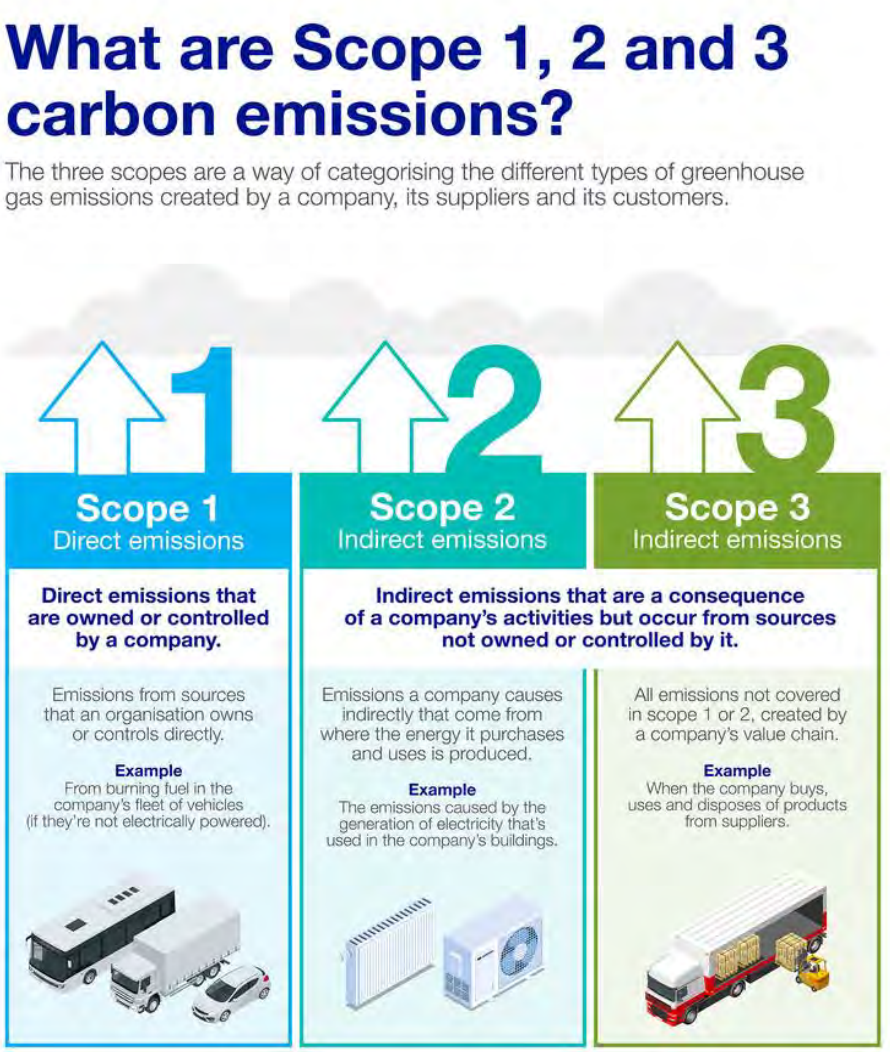
At the heart of the Plan is the Council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. The target relates to our Scope 1 and 2 emissions associated with all our operations. It applies to the assets that are:

under our direct operational control and financial management.
(C2.1, Strategic Action Plan)

There are 5 key components that contribute to the Council's carbon neutrality target associated with the Scope 1 and 2 emissions and considered later in this report:

i. Emissions from corporate assets where the Council has operational control **and** monetary management of energy purchasing
ii. Emissions from operational transportation (including grounds maintenance)
iii. Carbon reduction from sequestration i.e. coverage of tree canopies on Council land
iv. Carbon reduction from renewable energy production i.e. solar panels
v. Carbon reduction from the purchasing of green energy

The Council separately made a commitment for Scope 3 emissions to be carbon neutral by 2035.



Source: https://www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained/what-are-scope-1-2-3-carbon-emissions

3. Our Progress

We undertake an annual review of our performance set against the detailed objectives that stem from the 9 key themes. This is presented to Cabinet for scrutiny and review, with further actions or priorities set and agreed as necessary.

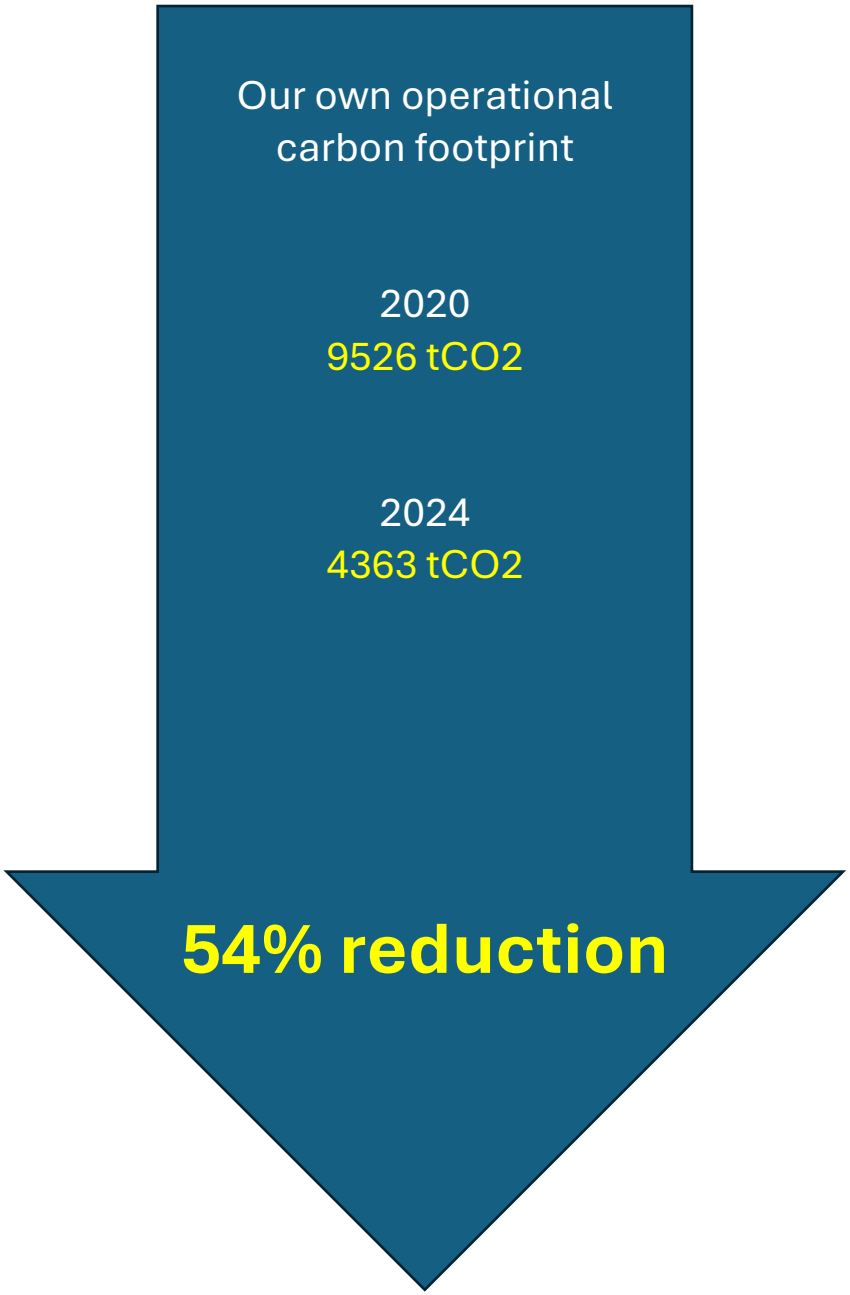
Progress is also scrutinised by Residents' Services Select Committee on an annual basis.

Our climate change activity is also considered by the Corporate Management Team and embedded within the work of officers.

This structure allows us to respond positively to the changing environment which has become progressively challenging since the declaration of the climate emergency.

The challenging financial climate means we have not been able to deliver on all our aspirations and we have focussed on delivering tangible outcomes that we have direct control over.

However, the coming pages, starting with a high level analysis of the key themes, reveal extremely positive progress from the starting position of 2020. There is a lot more to be achieved and this is reflected in priorities for the forthcoming plan period (2025-28)



Theme	Progress	Commentary
Community Leadership	Moderate	The focus has been on getting the Council's 'own house in order' which means further development of the work on community leadership is required. Work has been undertaken with the Friends of the Earth and wider Council objectives reflected in the Plan have a significant resident facing element, e.g. sustainable transportation, flood risk work, waste management activity. We will further develop educational resources to assist our communities with recording and reducing their own carbon footprints.
The Council's Own Operations	Very Positive	The progress against this objective is very positive. The main area of development is to capture all this positive work in the context of the Plan which will allow for trajectory analysis of the carbon neutral target. In turn, this will allow for the appropriate focus of attention and will assist with informing a pipeline of projects to achieve carbon neutrality.
Building Better Places	Very Positive	Progress against this objective is very positive. The Council implements the policies of the London Plan which are highly progressive in securing zero carbon development. This is also the route to securing Section 106 funds to facilitate actions elsewhere in this plan. Work is necessary to determine whether the current cost of offsetting 1tCO2 (i.e. £95) from new development is sufficient.
Using and Producing Clean and Green Energy	Positive	The cost of electricity from certified renewable energy sources has become cost prohibitive. Procuring clean energy where feasible will be prioritised for the Plan period. Work on renewable energy generation at our sites is ongoing and should these begin to be delivered it is expected that a 'very positive' report will be set out in the next review period.
Waste Management	Very Positive	Progress against the waste management objectives is very positive. The Plan effectively mirrors the Waste Management strategy and there is alignment between the objectives. Development is required to capture the waste management progress in the context of climate change.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	Positive	Progress against this objective is positive largely due to the work on air quality and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy alongside other flood risk related activity. There is more to be done on water efficiency and public facing campaigns, and these will be programmed as part of this Review. A climate change adaptation and mitigation action plan will be developed as part of 2025-28 Plan period.
Carbon Offsetting	Positive	Progress against this objective is positive largely due to the tree planting and ongoing green space management. More work is required to align this work with the objectives of the plan with particularly focus on the biodiversity work which needs to be progressed further.
Sustainable Transportation	Positive	Progress against this objective is positive due to the work with TFL, schools' campaigns and development of the cycle strategy. Further work on a sustainable transportation strategy needs to be programmed to ensure all the sub objectives of this theme are given attention. Importantly the work against this theme needs to be captured in the context of this Plan so as to ensure there is alignment against the climate change objectives.
Transparency, Communication and Reporting	Development Required	This is an area where progress needs further development. Annual progress reports are available and public scrutiny undertaken through the work of the Residents' Services Select Committee. Work will be undertaken for the new Plan period to ensure more resources and reporting is available on our website.

Very Positive	Most actions within the theme have been progressed well
Positive	Some actions within the theme have been progressed well with others programmed
Moderate	Progress has been made against a small number of the actions
Further development required	Further development against most actions in the theme is required or information is not captured.

4. Our Own Operational Carbon Footprint

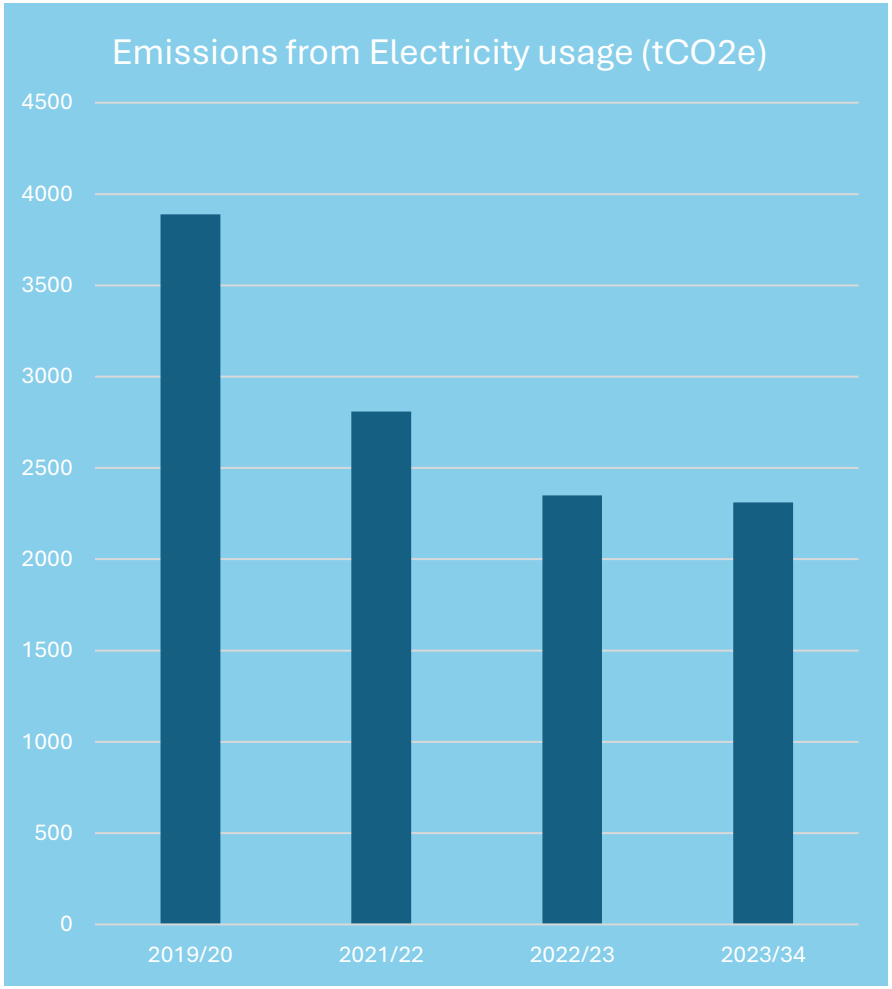
Measuring our own carbon footprint was a major part of the original Plan. We intended to lead by example and to be able to demonstrate effective carbon reduction progress.

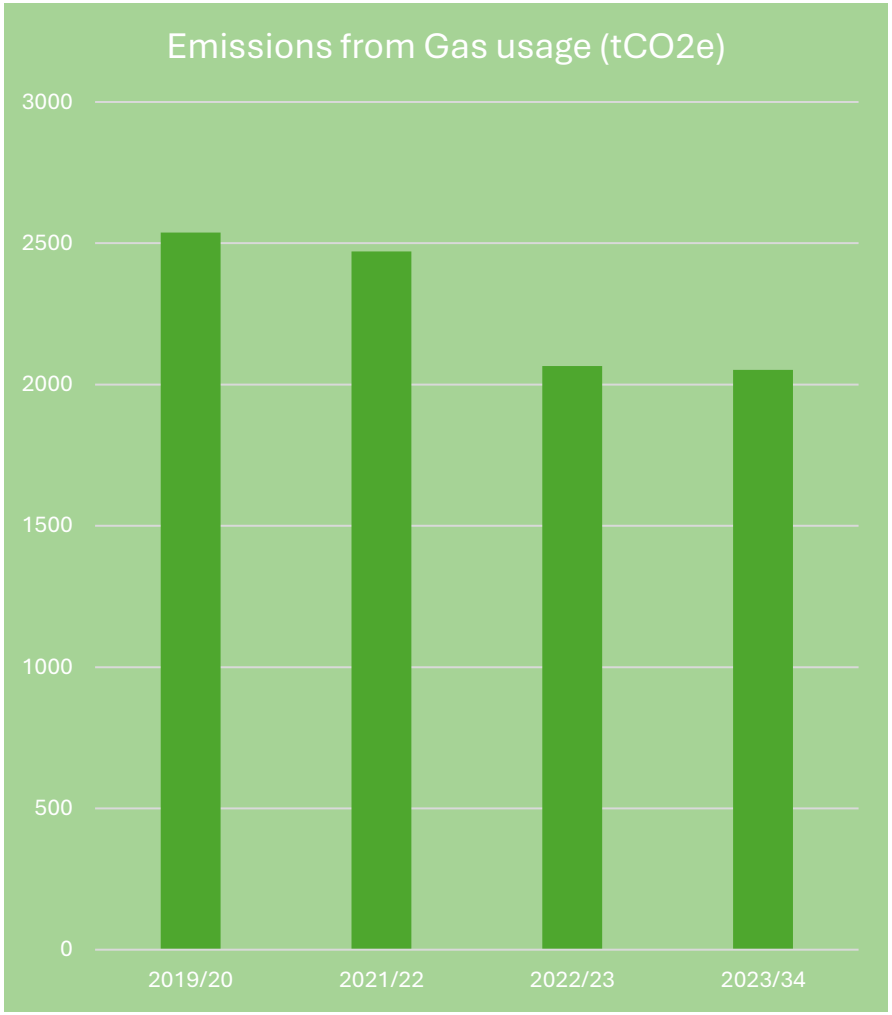
Measuring the starting point on which to assess progress is vital. The baseline carbon footprint reported in the 2021 plan has been subject to further refinement and analysis; this was reported in the 2022 Annual Review.

The 2021 baseline in the original Plan factored in emissions from our own housing stock which did not reflect the carbon neutral target.

Leaving this data in the baseline but not recording it subsequently would misrepresent any subsequent savings. Consequently the 2022 Annual Review provided an updated baseline which is the position on which our carbon neutral target is based. The baseline position is recorded here for ease of reference.

As set out in the graph below, we have made considerable carbon reduction progress since 2021. Progress is linked to direct interventions such as the installation of low and zero carbon technology, improved building performance and usage, as well as through the disposal of assets.





Progress related to emissions from electricity usage is more pronounced than with gas consumption. This is largely down to the availability of a wider range of improved technologies and because electricity consumption is a

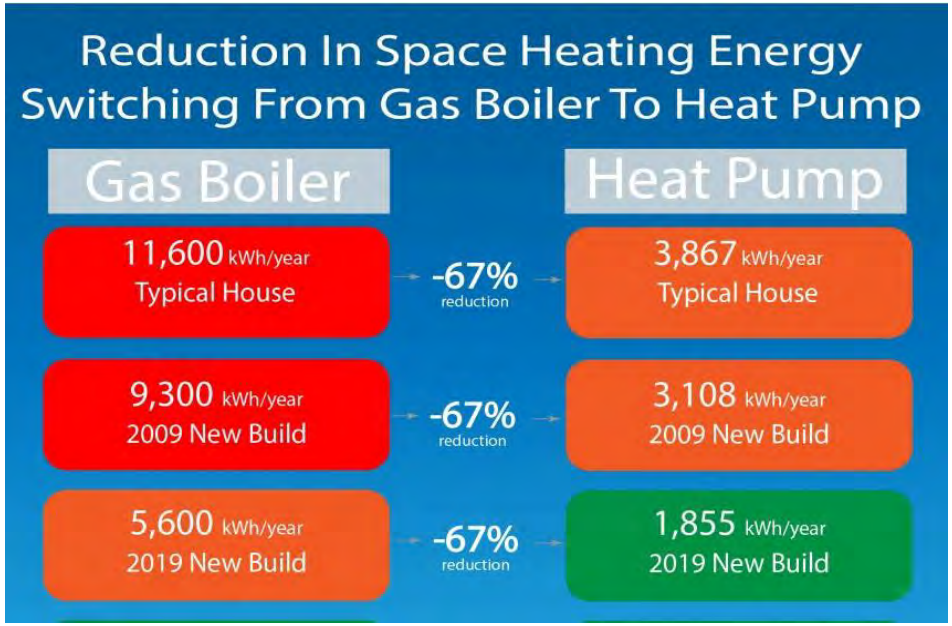
‘Scope 2’ emission and therefore benefits from improvements within the national grid.

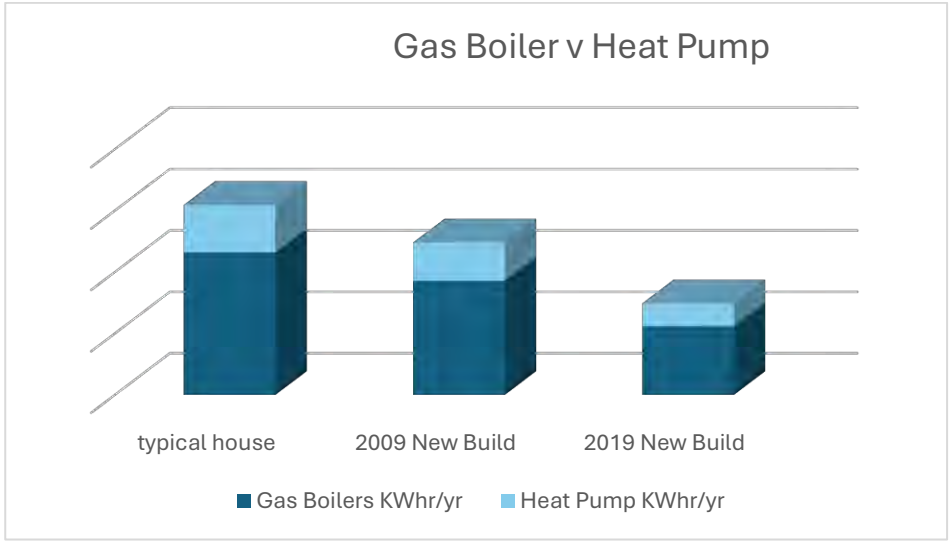
Emissions are calculated from point at which the energy source is generated. For example, the energy produced through the burning of gas within a boiler occurs directly within the appliance; conversely electricity is generated from various locations and sources across the UK before being distributed through the National Grid.

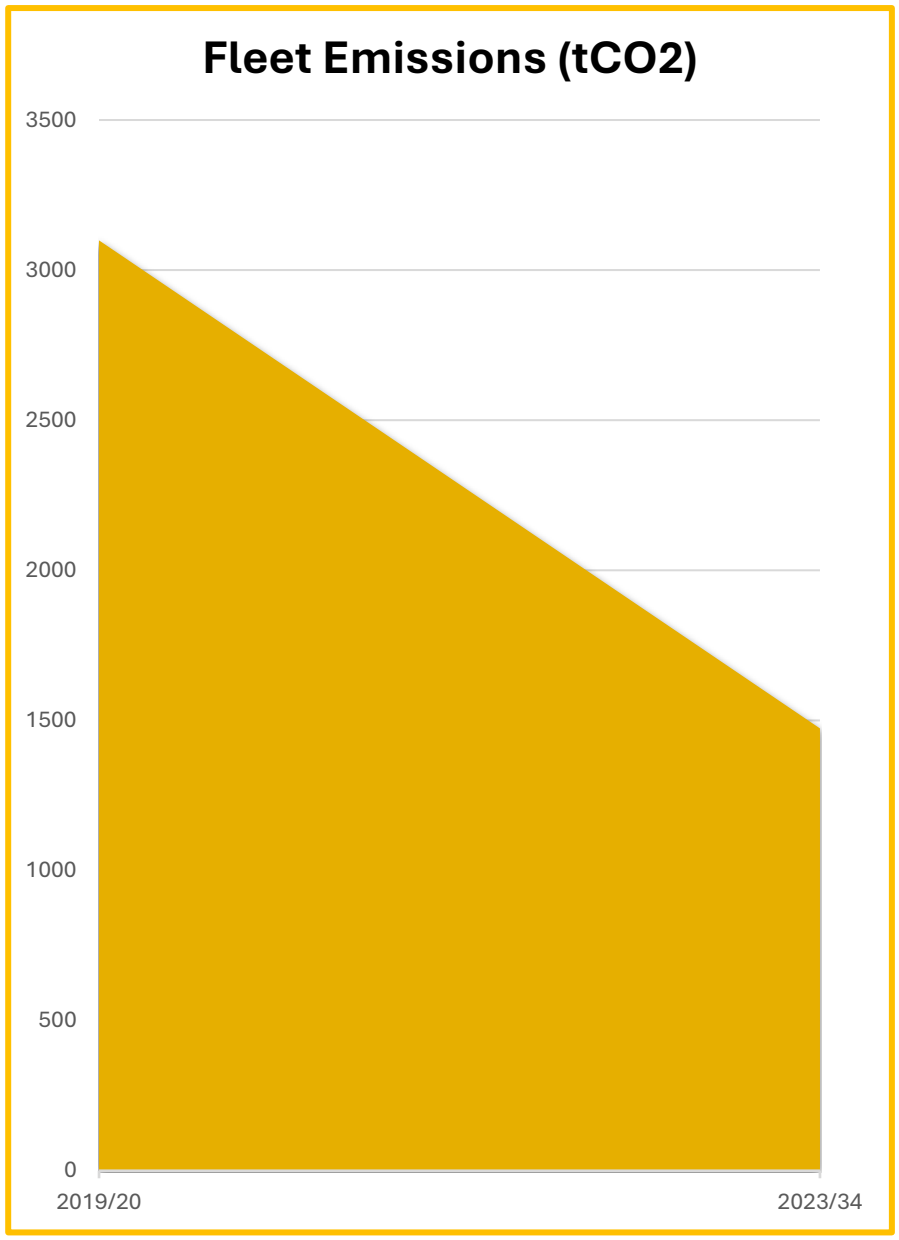
Converting the gas burned into a carbon footprint is straightforward and consistent. Carbon from electricity produced in the national grid is more complex to calculate and is dependent on the ratio of renewable energy produced to that from fossil fuels.

As renewable energy becomes more common place in the grid, the amount of carbon associated with generating a unit of electricity is reduced. If the National Grid conveyed 100% of electricity from renewable sources, our carbon footprint from our electricity supplies would be 0tCO2.

This is an important factor in managing our assets moving forward and is one of the reasons why air source heat pumps which use electricity are now preferred to gas boilers for all heating requirements.





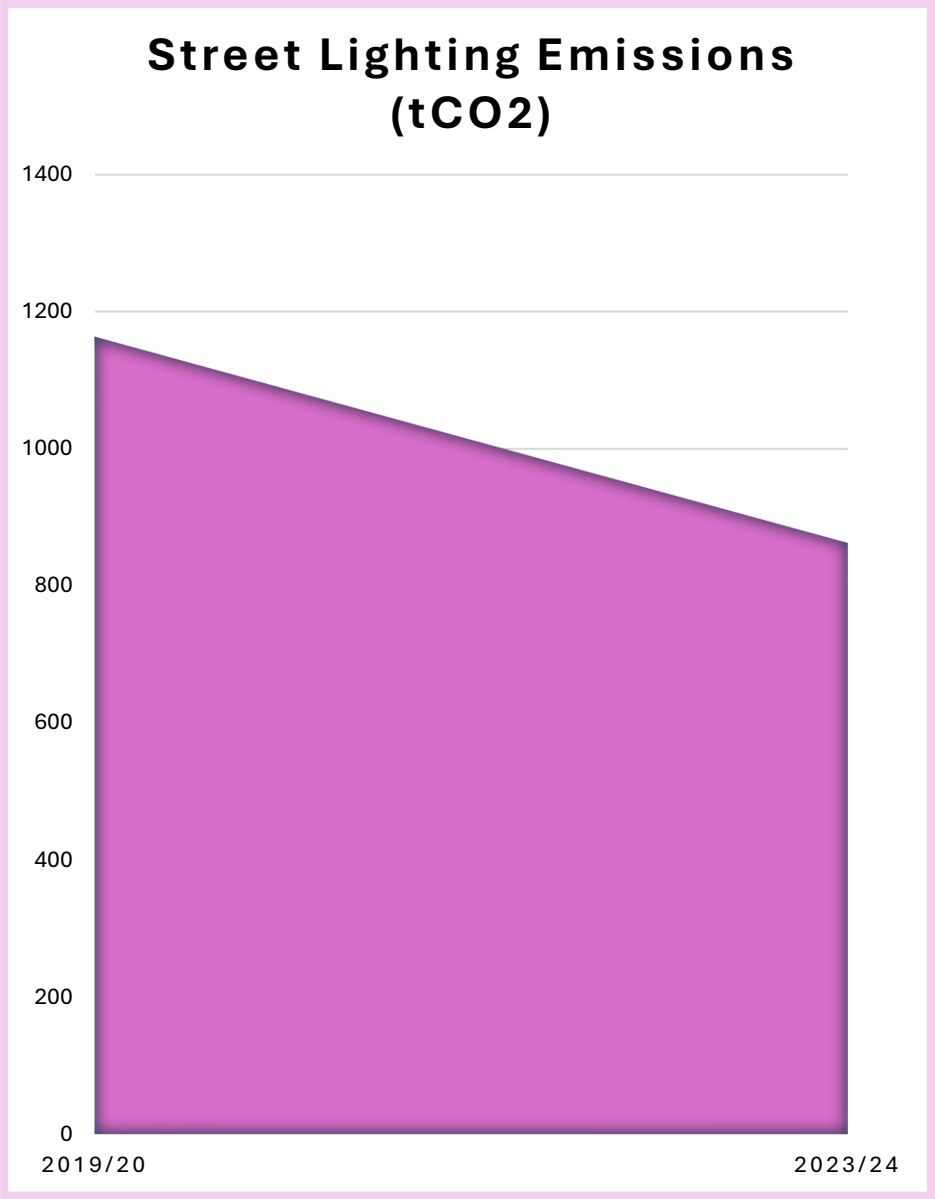


We have over 200 vehicles in our fleet. These relate to our need to undertake a significant range of duties, including refuse collection, street cleaning, housing repairs, passenger services, green space management and mobile library services.

This results in over 2,000,000 miles being driven a year.

We have focussed a lot of attention on improving the efficiencies within our fleet vehicles. This is made up of reducing the mileage of vehicles through improved routing along with switching to more efficient vehicles with lower emissions.

A large scale fleet replacement plan is underway which will see the older diesel units removed and replaced with cleaner technology as well as electric powered vehicles. We have not pursued low emission vehicles at all costs though as larger electric vehicles are relatively new, scarce and consequently exceptionally expensive. This demonstrates a prudent balance of improving the fleet within a responsible funding envelope.

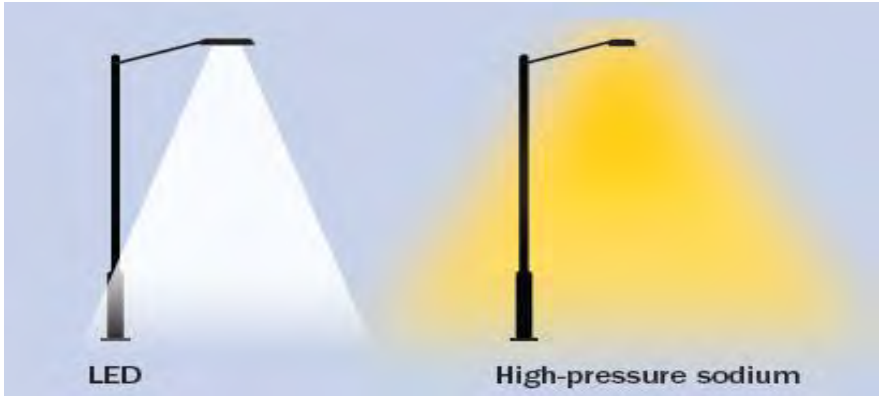


As the highway authority, we have a legal responsibility to maintain approximately 25,000 street and subway lights, as well as 3,000 illuminated signs, bollards and zebra crossings.

We have replaced all our old high pressured sodium lamps in the streetlighting with LED lanterns also also replaced 1000 bollards illuminated bollards with non-illuminated types.

LED lighting not only reduces carbon emissions but also have lower running costs (i.e. use less electricity) and have improved maintenance performance.

We will continue to review the streetlighting options recognising that this still constitutes a large portion of our carbon footprint.



Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

A major workstream currently under way relates to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). The PSDS provides grants for public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures.

The Council secured £13,751,385 through Phase 3 of the PSDS. The funds, with match funding from Section 106 secured from developers, will deliver large scale carbon reduction interventions at:

- Civic Centre, Uxbridge
- Hillingdon Leisure Centre
- Highgrove Leisure Centre
- Winston Churchill Theatre and Hall

The Civic Centre work involves removing the gas based heating system and replacing with more efficient air source heat pumps, secondary glazing, and additional insulation.

The Civic Centre has always been one of the prominent factors in our carbon footprint. The baseline data from 2020 shows the Civic Centre to have a considerably higher carbon footprint; more than the nine next highest building combined.

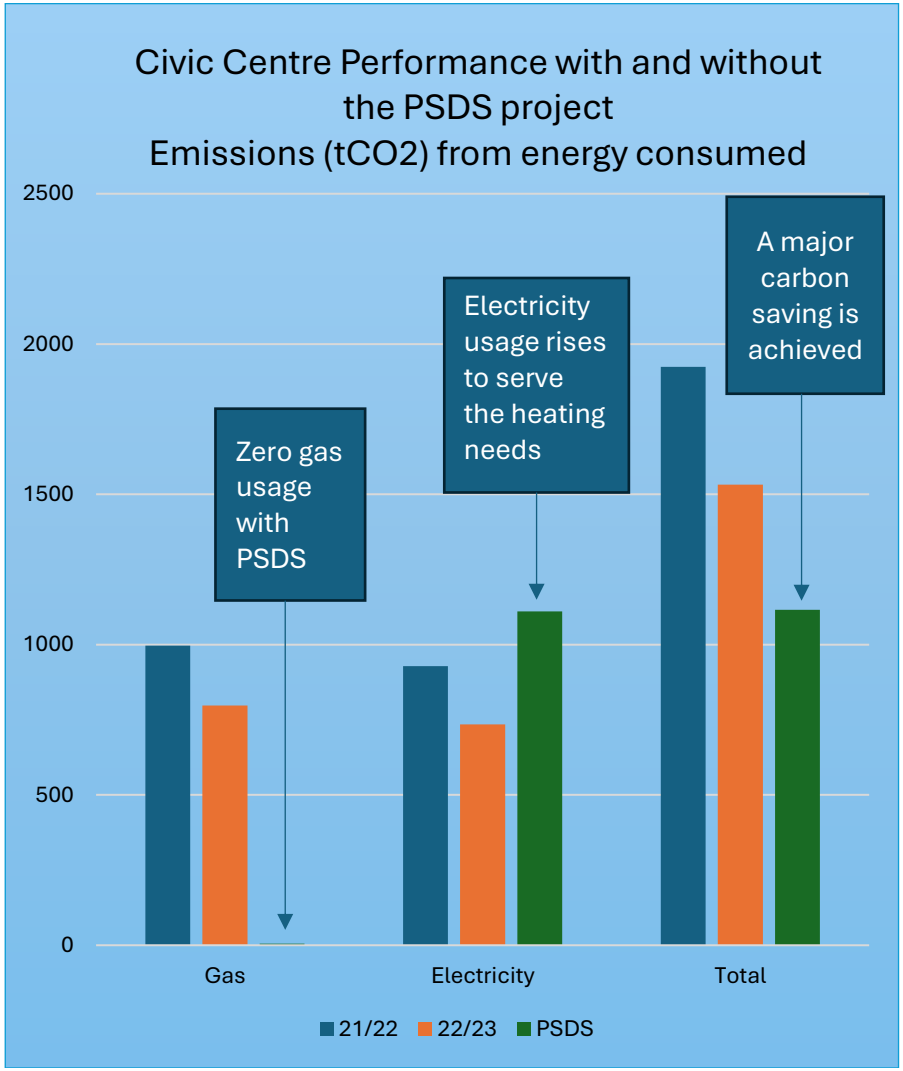
The PSDS project is highly innovative and provides the much needed interventions within the Civic Centre; an asset that was recognised in the original Strategy as being a difficult proposition due to its age and listed status.

Rank	Building	tCO2
1	Civic Centre	1,867
2	Breakspear Crematorium	540
3	Uxbridge Library	162
4	Harlington Road Depot	129
5	Battle Of Britain Museum & Visitor Centre	95
6	The Pembroke Centre	80
7	Colham Road 3 Residential Home	74
8	Hatton Grove Residential Home	69
9	Queens Walk Resource & Wren Centre	63
10	Winston Churchill Hall	59

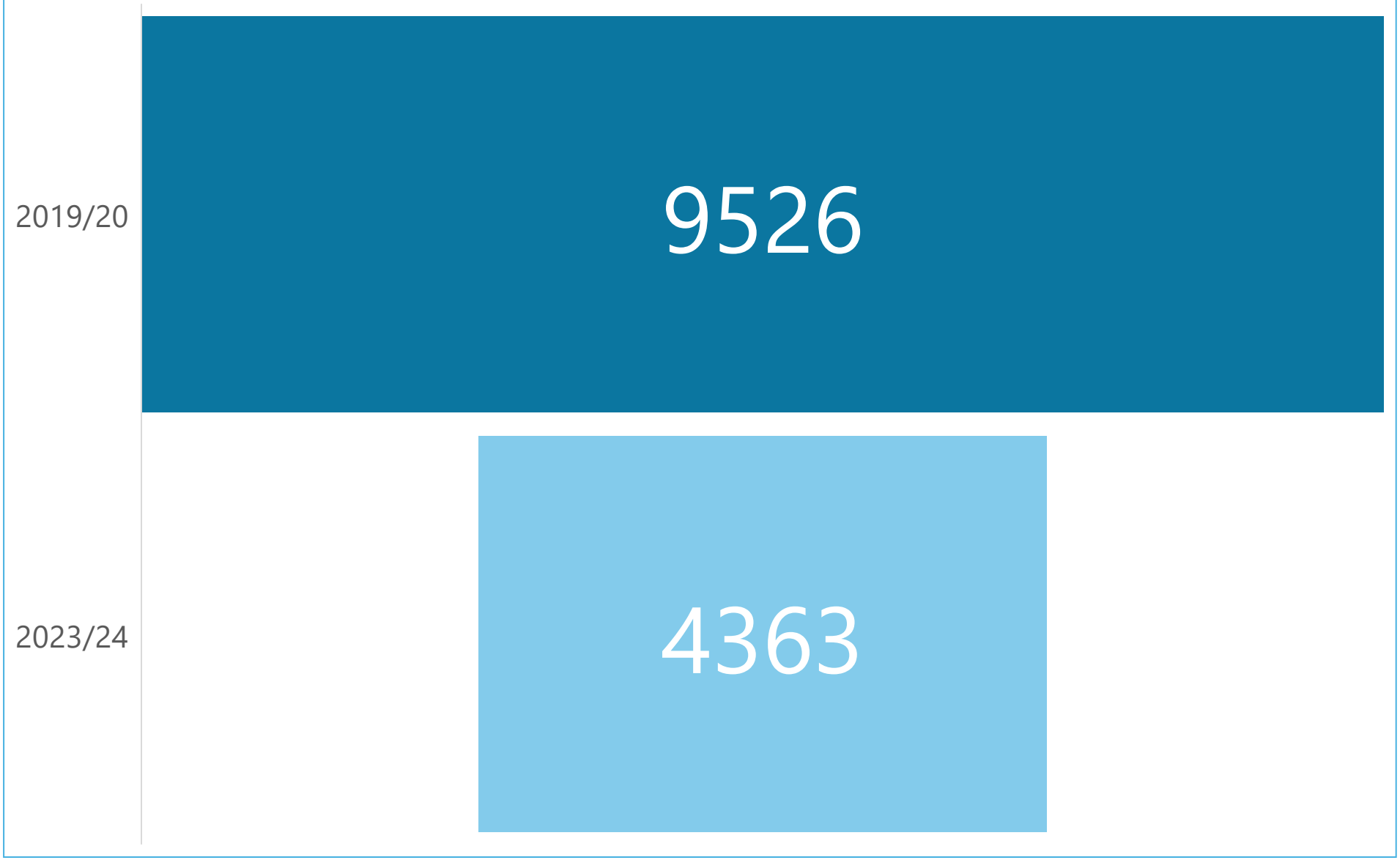
The graph opposite shows the forecasted improvements to the Civic Centre with the PSDS project intervention. The electricity supplies increase with the PSDS project (green bar in the middle) but there is no third bar on the left hand side (gas). This is because all gas boilers are to be removed.

The PSDS project will therefore result in a major impact. Importantly, the interventions will continue to bear fruit. The move from inefficient gas boilers (scope 1 emission) to state of the art electricity based air source heat pumps (scope 2 emission) means that that the carbon footprint of the building will continue to fall in line with decarbonisation of the National Grid.

By 2030, the Civic Centre would have a lower carbon footprint than in 2024 even without any further interventions.



Overall Reduction (tCO2e)



5. Wider Climate Action Progress

Tree Planting

Hillingdon is one of the greenest boroughs in London and home to a significant number of trees. Ruislip Woods National Nature Reserve is London's single largest woodland in London covering c300 hectares.

We also have extensive tree coverage throughout our numerous parks and open spaces as well as along many of our streets.

All trees absorb carbon dioxide (known as carbon sequestration) and are therefore important in tackling climate change. Trees are also important in creating a diverse environment for wildlife and promoting biodiversity.

In addition, urban tree planting can have significant benefits in cooling, managing surface water, and removing pollutants helping to improve the environment.

To support our aspirations to become the greenest London borough we have undertaken extensive further planting.

Year	Trees Removed [1]	Total Trees Planted
2020/21	213	14,288
2021/22	193	11,655
2022/23	90	17,295
2023/24	55	8,378[2]
Total	**551**	**51,616**

1 – Trees removed are general because of being categorised as 'dead, dying or dangerous'

2 – Planting season is between November and March. Tree planting numbers are not yet available for winter 2024.

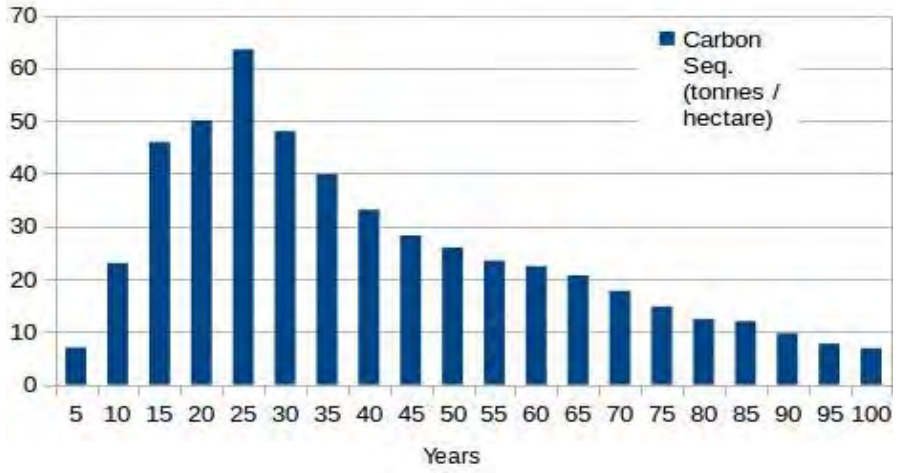
Trees and Carbon Sequestration

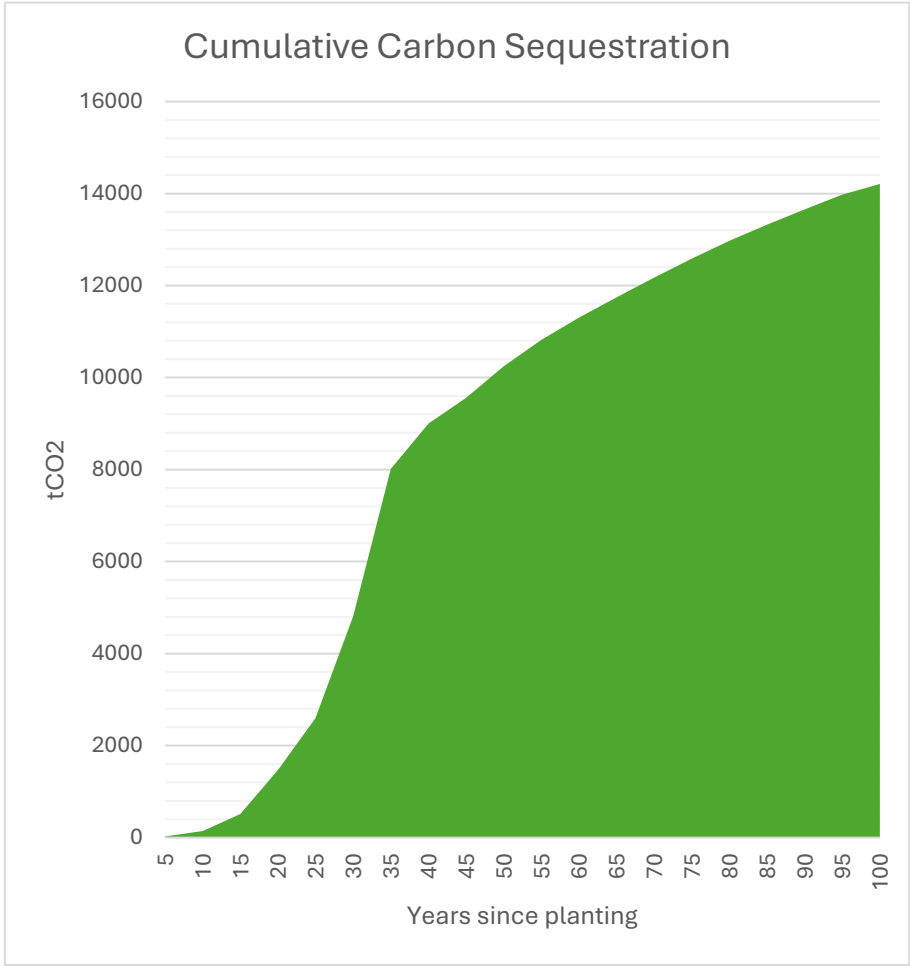
Determining the carbon benefits of the trees planted is a complex task. It is not straightforward to simply equate one tree with an amount of CO2 absorbed and then multiply by the number of trees planted.

Trees capture very little CO2 in their formative years. To the contrary; delivery of the saplings, soil disturbance through planting and use of machinery create a carbon footprint of its own. Large scale tree planting can start life with a negative carbon footprint.

However, over time the extent of carbon asborption increases significantly peaking at around 25 years of growth. It is estimated that 1 hectare of woodland will capture approximately 60tCO2 for the five year period between years 20 and 25.

Carbon captured every 5 years from 1 hectare of woodland (not cumulative)





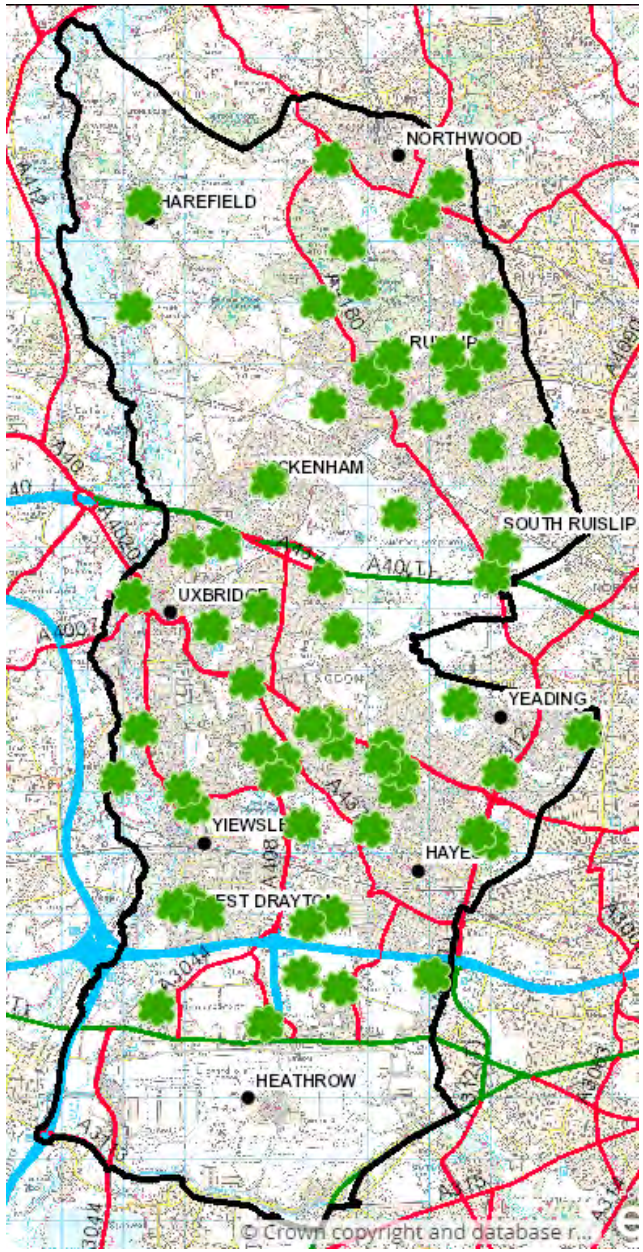
Applying the broad formula to the planting of our c50,000 trees, overtime the cumulative capture of carbon will be significant, c14,000tCO2. These figures are estimates based on the Woodland Code and further detailed analysis is being undertaken to determine the extent of carbon capture of newly planted trees, as well as the annual capture from all our existing woodland.

Green Space Management

Open and green spaces play an invaluable role in tackling climate change and creating climate resilient places. They also have significant benefits for the natural environment, human health and well-being. Natural areas provide opportunities for physical activity, social interactions, and stress relief. Urban green spaces can lead to improved mental and physical health. They also have direct impacts by storing carbon, aiding cooling and assisting with the management of surface water.

We recognise the importance of our parks as reflected in the 2024 announcement that we retained 67 Green Flag awards. An award that recognises parks and green spaces of the highest calibre.

> *This is fantastic news for residents who continue to see investment, maintenance and improvements to the green spaces which make our borough so pleasant.*
>
> *We're committed to creating a green future for residents and nature and this is reflected in the continued prioritisation of our parks as key assets for all.*
>
> *The Green Flag Awards show these parks meet the highest international standards so we don't take for granted having achieved the top spot nationally for 12 years in a row.*
>
> *Cllr Eddie Lavery, Hillingdon Council's Cabinet Member for Residents' Services*



Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation

The climate has already changed. As set out above, the climate data for the UK shows significant variations to those historically recorded. The UK has wetter periods, more intense weather events such as storms as well as warmer and drier periods.

All this places a great deal of strain on environmental and social conditions, which ultimately have negative economic impacts. Climate change adaptation and resilience is therefore about how to respond to the irreversible impacts that have already happened.

In the context of climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines adaptation as the process taken to "adjust to the actual or expected climate and its effects". Resilience to climate change is defined as the capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climatic events while incurring minimal damage to societal wellbeing, the economy and the environment.

The running of our green spaces, the planting of trees and the management of flood risk all help to make us more resilient and adaptable to the changing climate. Tree planting helps to increase areas of cooling, outdoor space provides environmental protection and reduces overheating whilst managing flood risk responds to the more impactful weather events.

Flood Risk Management

In the context of flood risk management, we have a statutory role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to manage and coordinate flood risk action.

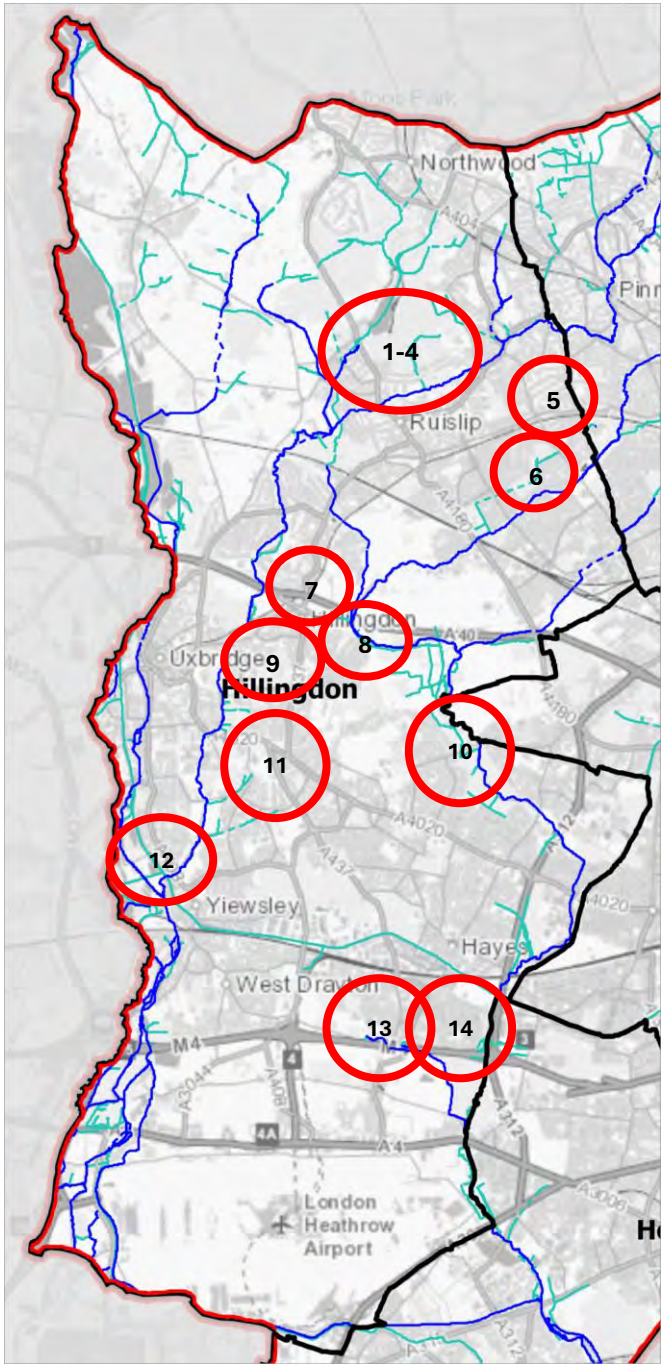
We recently adopted our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which sets out how we intend to manage flood risk and undertake a leadership role.

Included within our role as a LLFA is the need to identify and deliver new projects to help reduce flood risk. We lever in funding from external sources to identify and prioritise areas for flood risk management.

The details on the following page outline some of the projects we have delivered or currently in the process of developing.

No.	Name of Flood Risk Project	Stage
1	Park Wood SSSi NFM* Phase 1 and 2	Phase 1 completed Phase 2 under development
2	Pinn Meadows NFM	Under development
3	Kings College Road Rain Gardens	Due to commence
4	Property Level Protection (50+ properties) (Environment Agency Project)	Nearing completion
5	Eastcote Rain Gardens	Completed
6	Bessingby Park Flood Attenuation	Completed
7	A40 Infrastructure Flood Alleviation	Feasibility Stage
8	Elephant Park Flood Attenuation	Completed
9	Court Park Flood Attenuation	Completed
10	Kingshill Flood Alleviation	Feasibility Stage
11	Colham Green Flood Alleviation	Feasibility Stage
12	River Colne Fish Passage	Feasibility Stage
13	Frogs Ditch Catchment	Under development
14	Croyde Avenue Estate	Completed

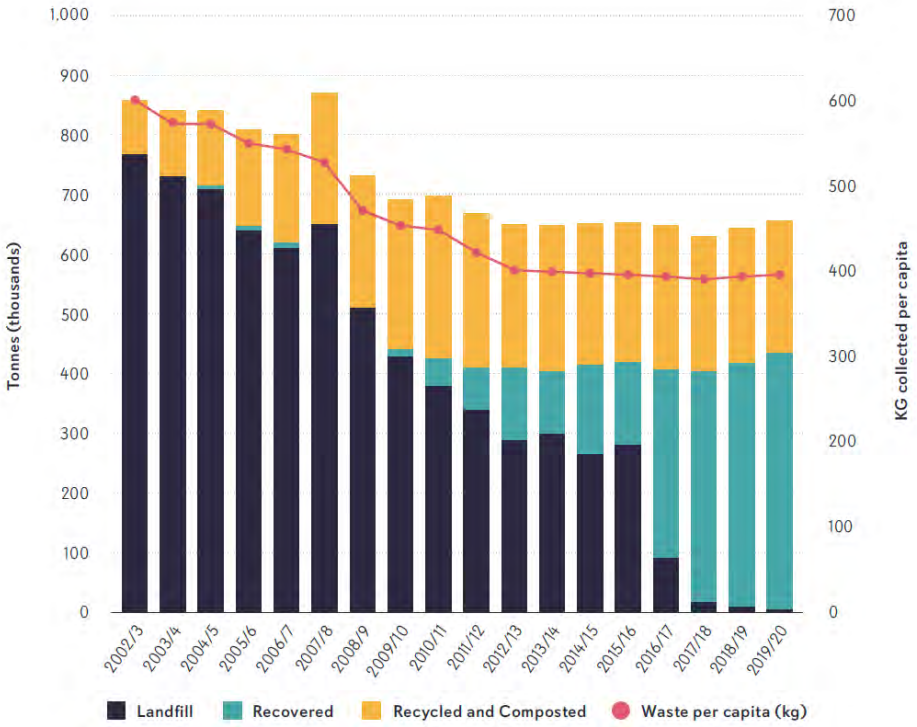
**NFM: Natural Flood Management*



Waste Management

We are one of 6 authorities that come under the waste management umbrella of the West London Waste Authority (WLWA). The WLWA is a statutory waste disposal authority and is responsible for disposing of our waste.

We work with residents and business to help reduce waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Some of the positive work we have undertaken to reflect the higher levels of the hierarchy are set out on the next page. Once collected, though, the waste is then disposed of by the WLWA.



The graph shows the significant reduction in waste sent to landfill. This is because the WLWA work in in partnership with operators of two energy recovery facilities. This means waste that historically was buried in a hole in the ground is now recovered for energy production:

Around 96% of west London's rubbish is sent to generate energy at two Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs).

Most is sent to the Severnside Energy Recovery Centre (SERC) located beside the river Severn just north of Bristol. The facility is part of the Authority's Residual Waste Services Public Private Partnership Contract with SUEZ UK Limited. The facility is able to treat 400,000 tonnes of rubbish and has its own bottom ash treatment plant to turn the ash into an aggregate with a recognised end product status for use in construction projects.

The other facility is located close to Heathrow Airport and is run by a company called Lakeside Energy from Waste Ltd. Our arrangement is with one of the co-owners of the Lakeside facility, Viridor Waste Management.

Energy from Waste facilities offer a modern treatment process that means your waste is used to generate energy in the form of both heat and power (electricity). This waste is used instead of coal, oil or gas to produce energy.

(https://westlondonwaste.gov.uk/where-your-waste-goes)

Leading by example on waste collection

We have improved our own recycling services at the Civic Centre and at Harlington Road Depot with waste electrical equipment (WEE) collections available to all staff.

Working with Businesses

We have liaised with almost 3000 businesses about the importance of food waste collections with most also now have waste segregation facilities

Changes to waste service management system allows better monitoring and education of improved waste segregation

Improved waste segregation services at New Years Green Lane civic amenity site

Working with Schools

We have undertaken school visits in 2023 to educate on waste reduction behaviours and importance of recycling

We have engaged with 28 schools on food waste recycling, including signing up to our services to support with collection issues

Supporting West London Waste Authority

We Promote and encourage attendance at repair workshops in partnership with Traid, Restart party, Friends of the Earth, Freegle and Hillingdon's Doctor Bike, ReLondon and WLWA.

We hold two annual repair events to allow residents to learn how to extend the life of equipment.

Supporting Residents

We have engaged 50,000 residents and secured 12,000 new signatories to our food waste collection services.

We have organised 13,000 roadshows and engaged with 3,500 residents to educate on food waste, recycling and WEE collections.

We have collected almost 10 tonnes of small electrical waste diverting it away

Planning and New Development

The London Plan sets out the planning policy for all new major development to be zero carbon. This has resulted in a greatly improved new building stock within the borough.

On average new residential development is estimated to have approximately **60% lower** carbon emissions onsite than an equivalent building regulations compliant scheme.

Developments that don't achieve the zero carbon standard on site are required to make a contribution to our carbon offset fund depending on the shortfall.

This results in both a much improved building stock but also provides a funding source to allow us to make carbon savings in our own buildings for example in the Civic Centre.

Biodiversity Net Gain

We are also now implementing the recent planning changes to secure biodiversity net gain which will help in responding to the decline of our natural environment.

We will continue to develop how to exploit the biodiversity net gain opportunities within the borough to maximised benefits for our own natural environment

London Plan Policy
SI 2 Minimising greenhouse gas emissions

A Major development should be net zero-carbon. This means reducing greenhouse gas emissions in operation and minimising both annual and peak energy demand in accordance with the following energy hierarchy:

1) be lean: use less energy and manage demand during operation

2) be clean: exploit local energy resources (such as secondary heat) and supply energy efficiently and cleanly

3) be green: maximise opportunities for renewable energy by producing, storing and using renewable energy on-site

4) be seen: monitor, verify and report on energy performance.

B Major development proposals should include a detailed energy strategy to demonstrate how the zero-carbon target will be met within the framework of the energy hierarchy.

Heathrow Expansion

The 2021 reaffirmed our opposition to runway expansion at Heathrow Airport. Whilst no proposals have been presented subsequently, we will continue to oppose runway expansion due to the extensive negative environmental and social impacts.

Sustainable Transportation

As an outer Borough, we have a relatively high car ownership to the rest of the London. We have links to the neighbouring counties as well as central London and with less public transportation than other boroughs, the car remains a vital part of life.

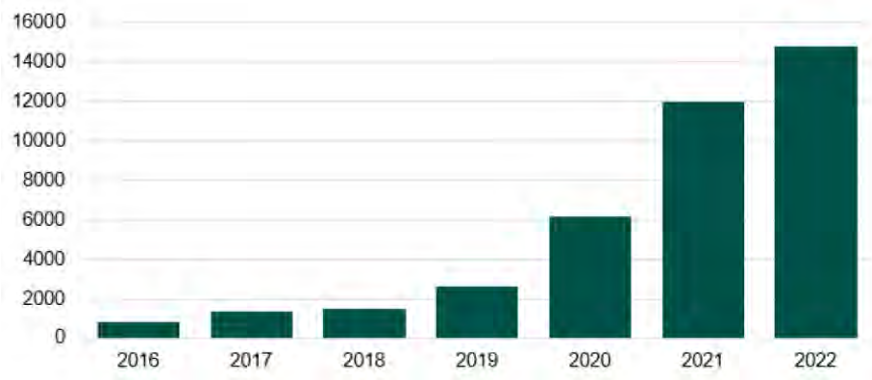
This means actions to enforce a dramatic modal shift away from the car is likely to have significant negative social and economic impacts. It is therefore necessary to balance carefully the need to improve alternative options for our residents and businesses whilst recognising that private vehicle travel remains an important choice.

The Elizabeth Line has resulted in an improved connection into London and to Heathrow Airport greatly reducing vehicular traffic on the road but there is a need to improve the facilities and options across the borough.

Electric Vehicles

To assist with these options we launched our electric vehicle charging strategy in 2023. This sets out our initial approach to improving infrastructure on our own sites. Combined with progressive planning policies to secure vehicle charging points in new development, there is a much greater coverage of the facilities to support and influence the demand in electric vehicles.

Registered plug-in vehicle registration across the borough (cumulative)

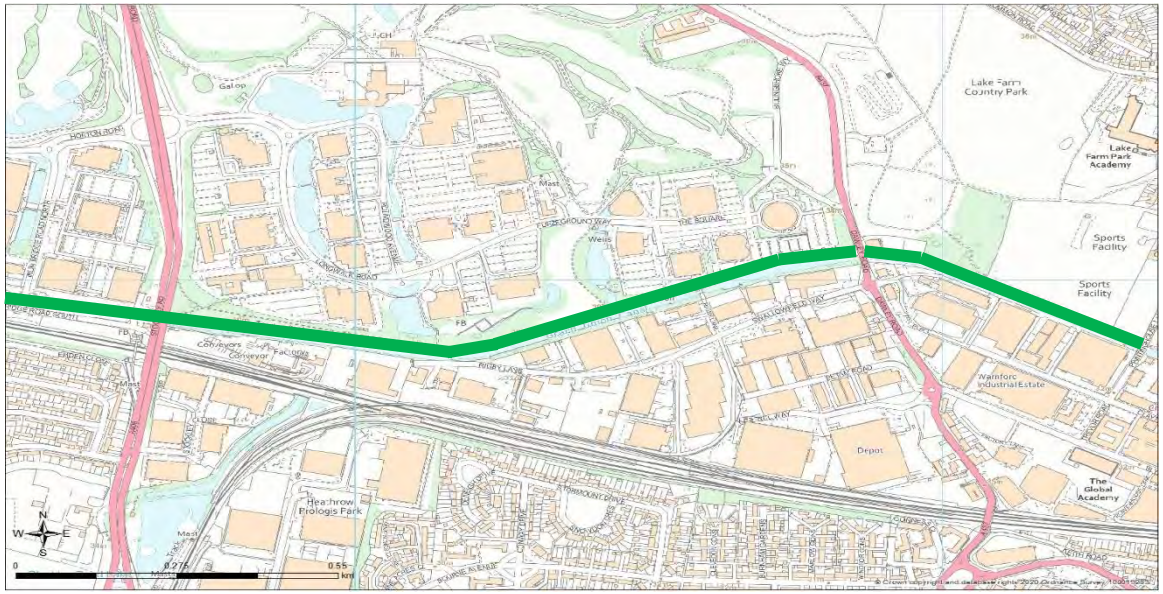


Cycling

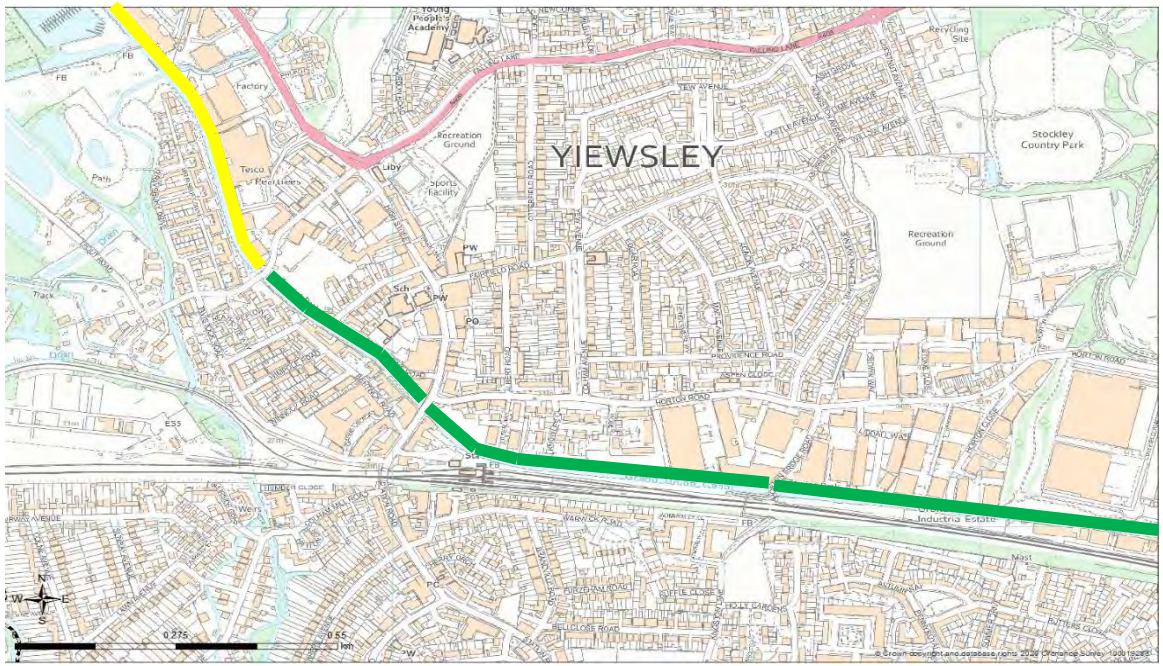
In early 2024 we consulted on our new cycling strategy which builds on our previous positive progress. This promotes 6 new cycling routes within the borough and supports those routes already provided or being developed.

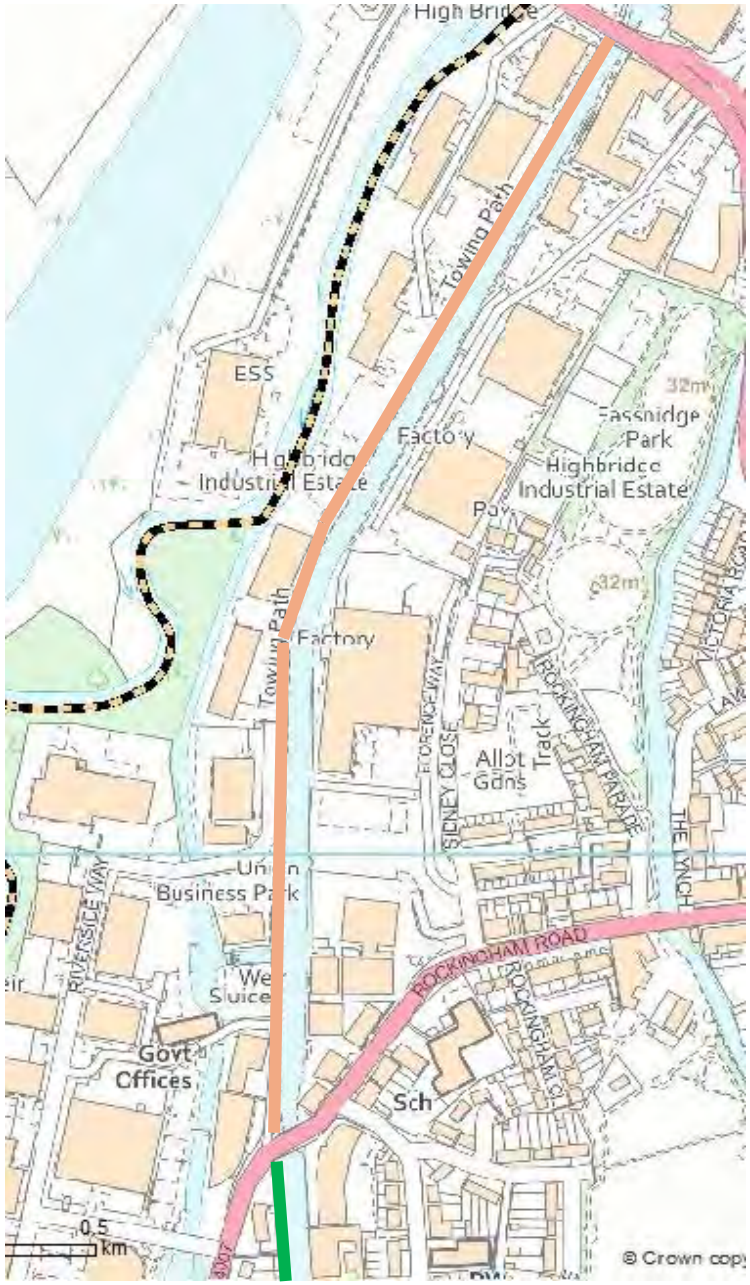
The School Travel and Road Safety (STaRS) Team also offers training to all our schools allowing pupils to learn the necessary skills to cycle for travel. Cycle skills sessions are also offered to children and adults between the months of April and October at Pield Heath School Cycle Track. Dr Bike events run throughout the year allowing residents to have minor bike repairs and checks free of charge in numerous locations around the borough.

Schools are encouraged to develop School Travel Plans through TfL's Travel for Life programme. The STaRS team works with schools to develop the plans and promote them in communities through campaigns in order to support active and safe cycling.



Some of the lengths of the Grand Union Canal towpath (for cyclists and pedestrians) that have been improved (green), being improved (brown), or planned to be improved (yellow).

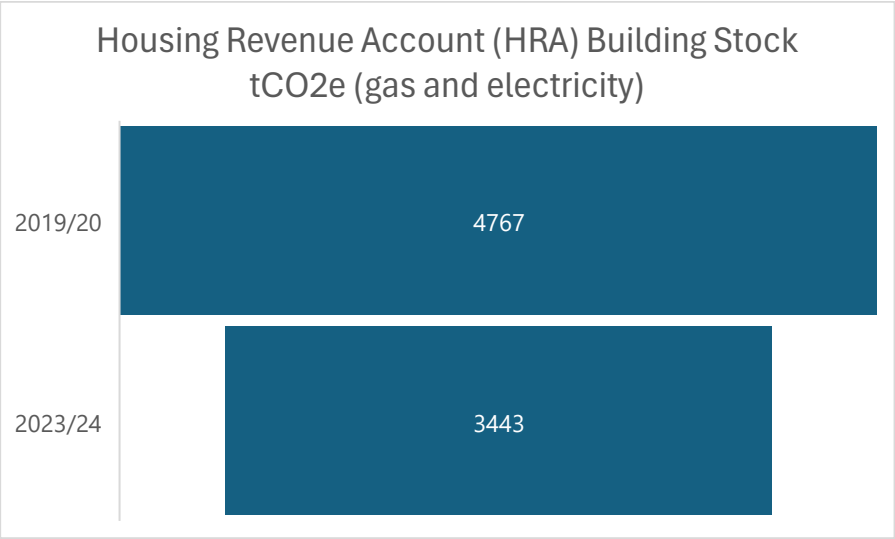




Carbon Neutral Borough

Our own carbon neutral target is set out above and relates to our operational work. In terms of buildings, it covers assets within our financial **and** operational control. We do have a range of other assets that do not trigger one of those criteria. For example, we don't have full control over the energy used within our housing stock but we have embarked on a significant suite of improvements that has resulted in a reduced carbon footprint as set out below.

The work completed on these assets all contribute to the aspiration of having a carbon neutral borough in line with the Government 2050 target. We also recognise that these works improve the performance of the buildings, reduce energy costs for our residents and promote a healthier lifestyle.

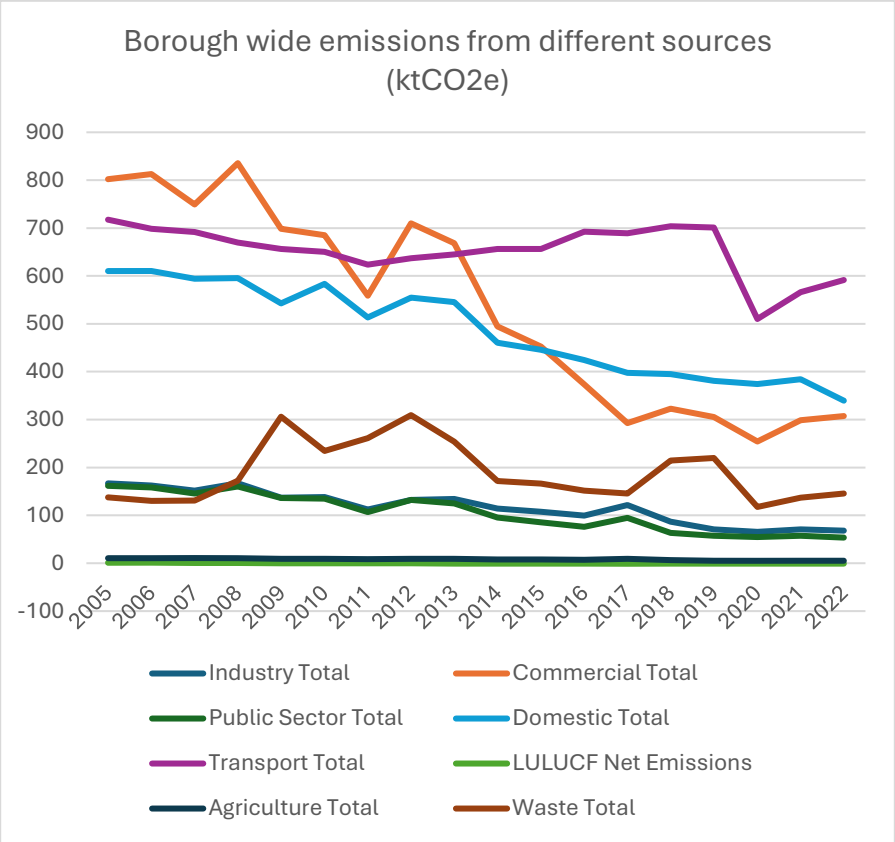


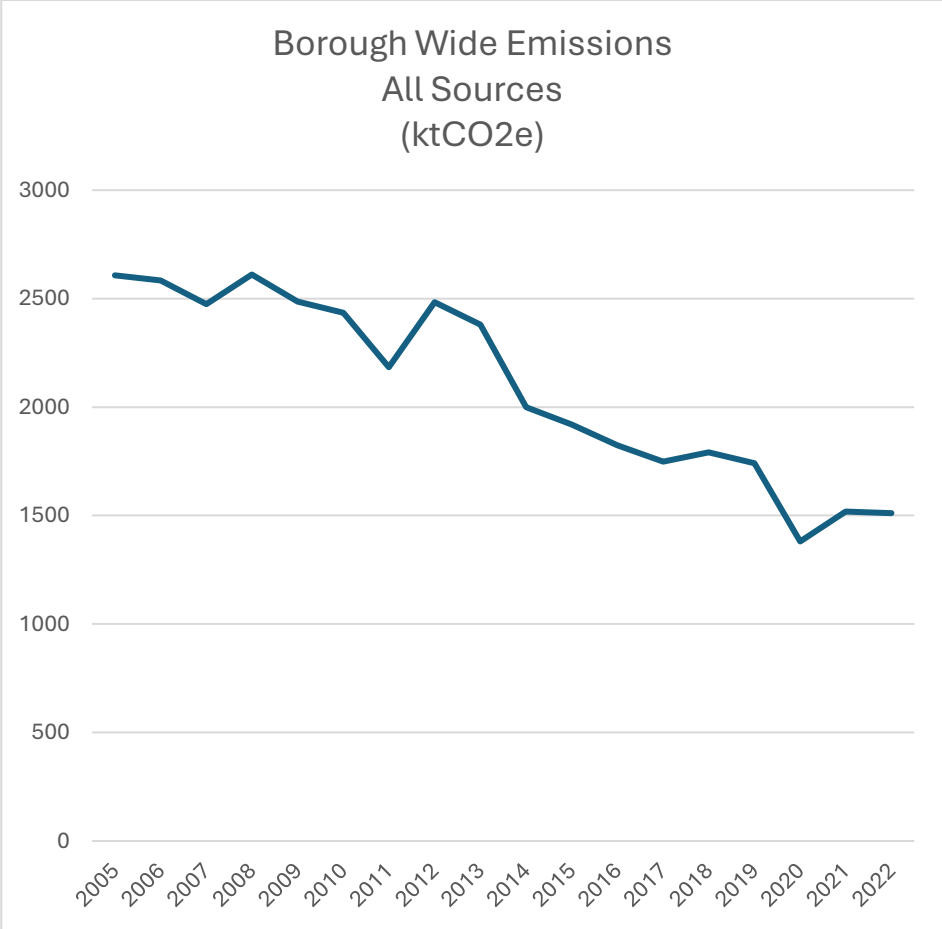
Some of the improvements we have delivered in our building stock:

- Intelligent lighting within car parks (Cedars, Blyth Road, and Grainge's)
- Improved LED communal lighting in low and medium rise blocks.
- 920 homes upgrades through the Green Homes Grant
- 433 homes with upgraded EPC certificates
- 1144 individual measures through the Green Homes Grant
- Cavity wall insulation delivered through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
- 573 efficient boilers as part of the 2022/23 replacement programme
- 2006 efficient boilers replaced in the 2023/24 replacement programme
- 1917 efficient boilers replaced in the 2024/25 replacement programme underway

Across the wider borough the emissions are inevitably significant. The location of Heathrow in the south along with many strategic transport routes results in a above average borough wide carbon footprint.

Despite this and consistent with the UK carbon footprint the graph below shows improvement across the borough. The emissions are associated with industrial, commercial, public sector, domestic, forestry, agriculture and waste. The totals are shown in ktCO2e (1000tCO2e).





We do not have control over these emissions but can use our position to encourage others to take action. Clarifying the emissions across the borough and then taking positive action will be programmed for the medium to long term.

Data from: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022

6. Actions for 2025-28

The 2020 Action Plan contained a range of ambitious objectives covering a wide scope of activities. As set out above, progress has been highly positive despite the challenges facing the Local Authority.

Continuing to focus resource and attention where it is most impactful remains our priority. This review allows us to set out what we consider are the essential workstreams to continue to meet our commitments and achieve our vision.

Specific actions related to businesses will follow once more work has been undertaken to understand the baseline position to ensure action can be prioritised.

The Action Plan set out below is a refinement of the previous version and sets out work to be undertaken over the short (1 year) to medium term (2 – 3 years).

The Action Plan has also been updated to reflect the motions approved by Council after the adoption of the previous Action Plan

The proposed plan will inevitably be subject to change and review through the annual reporting process alongside scrutiny of Cabinet and the Residents' Services Select Committee.

Guide to review	
Theme	Theme headings remain consistent with the 9 key themes
Ref	New Actions are given a 'R' prefix to differentiate from the original plan prefix of 'C'
Action	This provides a description of the Action to be taken within this plan period.
Commentary	Provides a brief statement of the relationship between the stated action and any previous iterations
Timeframe	The intended scope of completion/delivery for the Action

Community Leadership

Ref	Action	Commentary	Timeframe
R1.1	To provide a dedicated online resource to provide information on how to record your carbon footprint alongside actions that can help reduce it. The resource will also outline options for external funding and how to improve an individual's environmental footprint.	Merged C1.2 and C1.12	**25/26**
R1.2	To promote and support volunteer groups with dedicated climate and environmental objectives.	Hillingdon Friends of the Earth regularly engaged with bi-monthly meetings to continue.	**Ongoing**
R1.3	To bring together community and business groups, along with other interested parties as part of a 'people's assembly' to discuss and shape revisions to the review of the Climate Action Plan in 2 years time.	This action would overlap with the motion of the Council in November 2021 for a 'People's Assembly'	**2026**
R1.4	To use our unique access to communities through, for example residents associations, to support and promote climate action.	Revision to C1.3 Through existing engagement channels	**Ongoing**
R1.5	During 25/26, the Council will engage all schools within the borough and support them in the publication of a climate action plan with annual progress reports to be provided thereafter.	Revision to previous objectives to rationalise and focus the output. To be delivered subject to external funding (Section 106 funds)	**25/26**

The Council's Own Operations

Ref	Action	Commentary	Timeframe
R2.1	All our operational assets under our direct operational control and financial management will be accredited as carbon neutral by 2030. Other assets we own but not under our control will be decarbonised in line with prevailing legislation and, go even further with the availability of additional funding.	Action Retained	**Ongoing** Trend analysis to be delivered in 2025.
R2.2	By 2030, our fleet will be powered by the cleanest available technology available within budget constraints and suitable for the operational requirement.	Action Retained	**Ongoing**
R2.3	Ensure all corporate plans and strategies, particularly regarding estate management and property disposal evaluate and mitigate for climate impacts.	No change	**Ongoing**
R2.4	Undertake feasibility studies and act to install small scale low and zero carbon technologies in our own building stock.	Action Retained	**Ongoing**
R2.5	To ensure procurement practices align with the objectives of this Plan	Action Revised for short to medium term recognising the Council motion that 2035 is the target date for Scope 3 emissions (i.e. those embeded within the supply chain)	**Ongoing**
R2.6	To ensure our street lighting assets are targeted for further carbon reductions, using new low energy and renewable technologies.	Action Retained	**Ongoing**

Building Better Places

Ref	Action	Commentary	Timeframe
C3.1	To use the development plan system to ensure all new major development will be zero carbon.	Action Retained	**Ongoing**
C3.2	To consider new planning policies to ensure all non major new development is also zero carbon.	Action Retained	**Ongoing**
C3.3	To ensure no new development is built in high and medium flood risk areas unless absolutely necessary and only then when flood risk management is properly understood and mitigated in accordance with council flood policy.	Action Retained	**Ongoing**
C3.4	To ensure all new development is environmentally responsible, including protecting existing designations and sites of interest.	Action Retained	**Ongoing**
C3.5	To ensure all new [add] *major* development contributes and supports the goal of sustainable transportation, such as the promotion of public transport, cycling or EV charging.	Small amendment to align with Planning Policy	**Ongoing**
C3.6	To ensure that wherever possible during development, existing trees are retained. Where they cannot be retained, new trees should be planted to facilitate carbon gain.	Action Retained	**Ongoing**

Using and Producing Clean and Green Energy

Ref	Action	Commentary	Timeframe
R4.1	To ensure and certify that the Council secures energy supplies from low or clean forms of generation by 2030 [add] *where feasible*.	Revised Purchasing renewable energy at any cost would not be a prudent use of public money and would have an unlikely impact on the grid availability of green energy. A more prudent approach is necessary.	**Ongoing**
R4.2	To investigate opportunities for large scale electricity generation from Council owned land (e.g. solar farms).	No change	**Ongoing**

Waste Management

Ref	Action	Commentary	Timeframe
R5.1	Lead by example with a clear waste collection and sorting strategy for the Council's own operations with year on year targets for improvements.	No change	**Ongoing**
R5.2	Support the West London Waste Authority on waste reduction campaigns.	No change	**Ongoing**

R5.3	Work with businesses to reduce waste productivity and to provide more opportunities to customers to reduce and recycle their waste.	No change	**Ongoing**
R5.4	Encourage and support residents and communities to avoid, reduce, reuse, and recycle waste in that order.	No change	**Ongoing**
R5.5	To ensure all waste is managed sustainably and there is transparency and information on processes the Council utilises and destination of waste.	No change	**Ongoing**

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Ref	Action	Commentary	Timeframe
R6.1	To develop a climate change adaptation and mitigation action plan.	No change	**26/27**
R6.2	To review the Council's water consumption for its own operations (such as green space watering, depot operations and corporate buildings) and put in place measures to reduce consumption	Revised to be more feasible	**Ongoing**
R6.3	To ensure the Council's flood resilience and management work incorporates a changing climate and that the Council's own land and property decisions consider the need to make space for water.	No change	**Ongoing** and reflected in the recent Flood Risk Strategy

Carbon Offsetting

R7	Action	Commentary	Timeframe
R7.1	To develop an offset strategy to develop local solutions to any remaining residual carbon emissions from council operations.	No change	**26/27**
R7.2	To develop a tree and green space management strategy that supports and accounts for the offsetting objectives and commitments.	No change	**25/26**
R7.3	Understand and increase current carbon sequestration through increased planting and changes to green space management.	No change	**25/26**
R7.4	Increase the number of trees, particularly in urban areas to complement objectives to improve air quality and promote urban wildlife.	No change	**Ongoing**
R7.5	To exploit opportunities to increase carbon sequestration to maximise opportunities for biodiversity and flood risk management	No change	**Ongoing**

Sustainable Transportation

Ref	Action	Commentary	Resources
R8.1	Produce a sustainable transportation strategy that reflects the objectives and commitments in this strategy.	No change	**26/27**

R8.2	Work with TFL to improve bus connectivity and services.	No change	**Ongoing**
R8.3	Identify opportunities for improved cycleways, cycle paths and public rights of way.	No change	**Ongoing**
R8.4	To promote cycling opportunities through campaigns and awareness events.	No change	**Ongoing**
R8.5	To secure improved cycling facilities across the borough.	No change	**Ongoing**
R8.6	To review the electric charging vehicle action plan in line with changing demand and data.	Reviewed We have adopted an EV charging strategy but this needs to be kept under review to ensure it aligns with demands.	**26/27**
R8.7	To ensure the Council's Air Quality Action Plan aligns with the objectives in this plan to ensure a safe transition to increased levels of cycling and walking in urban areas.	No change	**25/26**

Transparency, Communication and Reporting

Ref	Action	Commentary	Timeframe
R9.1	To ensure transparency in the Council's measuring of carbon footprints with clear details on methodologies as well as the outputs. All details to be available online.	No change	**25/26**
R9.2	To publish an annual progress report of the objectives of this plan	No change	**Annual (Sept/Oct)**
R9.3	To establish a People's Assembly to consider review of the Actions necessary to meet the Corporate Climate Commitments.	Revised	**2026 (Oct/Nov)**

Cedar of Lebanon
Cranford Park, Hayes
100 to 200+ years of age