

# STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2024-2025

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<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Dan Kennedy Corporate Director – Residents Services
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<b>Papers with report</b>	Strategic Climate Action Plan – Progress Report 2024-25  A Report into Hillingdon Council's Tree Canopy Cover and relative Carbon Values (Hillingdon Carbon Sequestration Report) - Treeconomics

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Council declared a climate emergency in 2020 and followed this with the adoption of the comprehensive Strategic Climate Action Plan. 'The Plan' contains six corporate commitments aligned with nine Key Themes to cover a wide range of action to address the climate emergency.</p> <p>This Report sets out the progress over the period of 2024 – 25 with carbon footprint data now available.</p> <p>This report follows the review of the Strategic Climate Action Plan which was adopted earlier in 2025 and sets out actions for the current financial year through to 2028.</p> <p>The Progress Report focusses on the newly released energy usage data (gas and electricity) and provides an update on the key actions. Further work is being commissioned for 2026 in line with the updated Strategic Climate Action Plan.</p>
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>  <b>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026</b>	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Live in a sustainable borough that is carbon neutral</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Green and Sustainable Borough</p> <p>The Strategic Climate Action Plan sits as a parent strategy and is supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport Strategies including the Local Implementation Plan</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan</li> <li>• Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy</li> <li>• Air Quality Action Plan</li> <li>• Flood Risk Management Plan</li> <li>• Tree Strategy</li> <li>• Green Space Management Plans</li> <li>• Procurement Strategies</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Cost</b>	<p>The production of the Progress Report has been developed using existing internal resources with expert consultancy assistance to produce the Carbon Sequestration Report as well as consultancy expertise to review carbon footprint data. The consultancy support has been funded by Section 106 (carbon) funds.</p> <p>The Progress Report does not commit new activity and reflects on work undertaken to date and upcoming workstreams that are being developed in line with the adopted Strategic Climate Action Plan.</p>
<b>Select Committee</b>	Residents' Services Select Committee
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the progress made in the Strategic Climate Action Plan Progress Report 2024-25, be noted.**

### Reasons for recommendation

The Council declared a climate emergency in 2020 and responded by producing the strategic climate action plan ('the Plan') which was adopted in 2021. The plan included a commitment to produce an annual report to track progress and ensure action remains focussed and targeted. The Report is produced to ensure transparency and accountability.

### Alternative options considered / risk management

The Council has committed to producing an annual progress report on the Strategic Climate Action Plan. Alternative options were therefore not considered.

### Select Committee comments

Past and present Overview and Scrutiny Committees have regularly reviewed implementation of the Council's Climate Action Plan, since inception. This report will be subject to further scrutiny in Autumn 2025.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The Council declared a climate emergency in 2020 and adopted its Strategic Climate Action Plan in 2021. The Plan provides the roadmap to securing the ambitious target of achieving carbon neutrality across council operations by 2030.
2. The Plan also commits to various other objectives and action plans that require outcomes beyond just reducing carbon emissions. It sets out aspirations to be a leader for businesses, communities, and educational facilities to reduce their own carbon footprint.
3. The Plan identifies six corporate commitments and a suite of objectives across nine key themes. Importantly, the intent of the Plan was to ensure that all of the Council's operations are set within the context of the declared climate emergency rather than creating additional workstreams.

### *Purpose of the Report*

4. The annual Progress Report provides a method of monitoring attainment of the Council's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. It provides updated carbon footprint data, including emissions from buildings, fleet, and offsetting efforts. It also reinforces transparency, ensuring residents and stakeholders can see how the Council is performing against its climate objectives
5. Importantly, it identifies areas for improvement, helping to refocus priorities and guide future actions as well as provide detail of the imminent workstreams.

### **Summary of Progress**

#### *Carbon Neutrality Target*

6. Hillingdon aims to achieve carbon neutrality across its operations by 2030, following its climate emergency declaration in 2020. The Progress Report identifies the three main sectors that make up the Council's operational carbon footprint:
  - a. Emissions from static sources (i.e. buildings and streetlighting)
  - b. Emissions from Fleet
  - c. Emissions offset through tree planting or other initiatives.

#### *Emissions from static sources*

7. Further progress was made in 24/25 with a c400tCO<sub>2</sub> saving across all static sources. This does not fully account for current improvements to the Civic Centre which constitutes a quarter of the carbon footprint in this sector.

#### *Civic Centre Emissions*

8. Emissions at Uxbridge Civic Centre have been reduced by 34% over five years, thanks to energy efficiency upgrades and operational improvements. The recent Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme will bring this down further.

### *Streetlighting*

9. Raw energy usage associated with streetlighting remains consistent. A new streetlighting contract is due to be implemented in April 2026 with consideration of the energy usage and carbon footprint embedded within the procurement processes.

### *Fleet Emissions*

10. Fleet operations lack a centralised emissions monitoring system. Work is underway to implement reliable tracking tools to support strategic decision-making. Previous reporting years have attributed c1500tCO<sub>2</sub> in this sector. These figures have been retained to allow for consistency.

### *Carbon Offsetting*

11. Investments in non-operational Council buildings and leisure centres are helping offset emissions. These efforts are delivered through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for schemes at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Centre and Highgrove Leisure Centre. This equates to c800tCO<sub>2</sub>.

### *Tree Canopy and Sequestration*

12. Hillingdon has the second highest tree canopy coverage in London. Annual carbon sequestration from trees is 7,342 tCO<sub>2</sub>, exceeding the Council's operational footprint of 4,618 tCO<sub>2</sub>. Trees on Council owned land sequester 3108tCO<sub>2</sub> per annum. Data is collated within the separate *Carbon Figures for Hillingdon's Trees* report produced by Treeconomics on behalf of the Council.

### *New Tree Planting*

13. Over 56,000 trees have been planted since 2020. Proposed planting for 2025/26 is 4,045 trees, contributing to long-term carbon offsetting and biodiversity.

### *Flood Risk and Climate Resilience*

14. Multiple flood mitigation projects have been completed or are underway, including rain gardens and natural flood management schemes.

### *Total*

15. The Council's operational carbon footprint is c3000tCO<sub>2</sub> from static sources which includes the reduction from carbon offsetting; and c1500tCO<sub>2</sub> from Fleet. Further data analysis is required to ensure full accountability.

## **Financial Implications**

16. There are no direct financial implications arising from this strategic progress update.

## RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

### The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

17. The Strategic Climate Action Plan Progress Report sets out the measures the Council has taken to date to significantly reduce its own carbon emissions and the outline actions needed to be fully carbon neutral across the Borough by 2030. Taking action to continue to further reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change will help residents, businesses and communities to avoid disruption to day to day lives, and ensure the Borough is a cleaner and healthier place to live.

### Consultation & Engagement carried out (or required)

18. Internal engagement was carried out to produce data across the various themes. Significant previous public consultation has taken place on the Action Plan.

## CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

### Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance have reviewed this report and concur with the Financial Implications set out above, noting there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

### Legal

The Climate Change Act 2008 (“the Act”) provides the legal framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby enable the UK to adapt to climate change. The Council plays a pivotal role in meeting the government’s net zero strategy to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions through its strategic climate action plan (“the Plan”) that was adopted in 2021.

In order to ensure that the Council is on track to achieving its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, the Annual Progress Report provides evidence of how the Council remains aligned with its corporate commitments and objectives, as well as demonstrate its continued compliance with the Act.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [Strategic Climate Action Plan approved in July 2021](#) (as per review in this report)
- [Strategic Climate Action Plan 2025-2028](#) (strategy approved going forward)