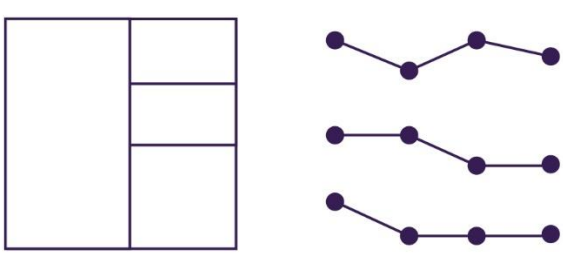
Climate Action

Annual Report 2023-24



BCP Council

Contents

Executive Summary

BCP Council's leadership is characterised by ambitious governance and direction. The Council's published documents, including its Corporate Strategy and Climate Action Annual Reports, illustrate a consistent "golden thread" from the declaration of the climate and ecological emergency through to concrete actions. The Leader has appointed a Portfolio Holder with expertise in renewable energy and climate adaptation to champion the agenda.

This report is the fifth annual update to Cabinet on progress towards commitments made in the BCP Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration, made in 2019.

Progress made during 2023-24 against the main commitments is:

1. Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030 - **scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions reduced by 8.7%** from the 2019 baseline
2. Work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before 2045 – **total area-wide emissions for 2022 had reduced by 12%** from the 2019 baseline (according to data released in 2024).

This report looks back on progress made to date and looks forward at the new Corporate Strategy ambitions and a draft Roadmap of climate actions that the Council will need to adopt in order to deliver a carbon neutral Council by 2030. A similar roadmap to achieve a carbon neutral region by 2045 is in preparation as part of the Local Area Energy Plan project and will be considered by Cabinet later in 2025.

The recommendations in the last annual report agreed by Cabinet have been actioned, including joining the UK100 initiative, adopting the Net Zero by 2045 pledge as our area-wide target and creating interactive web-based dashboards to replace the traditional Annual Report format. These allow instant access to Council and area-wide emissions data, highlight targets and progress towards the corporate and area-wide goals.

As a result of the introduction of the emission dashboards, this more concise Climate Action Annual Report document has a page count 75% smaller than last year's report. The interactive dashboards will be publicly available on the Council website to allow emissions data to be accessible and downloadable, and the Council and area-wide progress to be visible as soon as it is updated.

Introduction

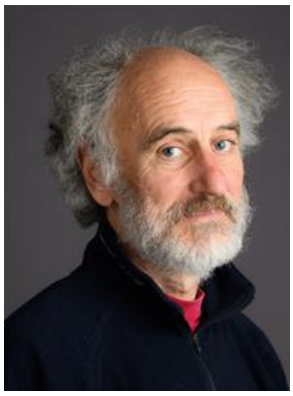
This is my second Climate Action Annual Report as Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, and it marks the change I asked for a year ago. Then I spoke of the urgency to decarbonise, and that more rapid progress was needed. The priorities I set for the following year included identifying clear actions to accelerate progress, setting interim milestones and preparing funding proposals, as well as creating dashboards to make our progress transparent, enabling people to find out in detail how we are performing in a far more dynamic way. I am pleased that this report introduces all of those improvements and hope that it places us in the strongest possible position to make the choices required to achieve significant inroads towards our targets.

As well as these activities, and efforts to revitalise the work to make the Council more effective, decarbonisation projects have continued to bring about emission reductions on the Council estate and wider area. However, the financial pressures on the Council mean that any funding decision must be scrutinised to ensure it supports Council priorities and offers value for money. This report identifies measures that the team have identified could be taken to significantly reduce corporate emissions, but these must be developed to ensure they are financially sound, or with other compelling benefits. Technologies included are proven and available now but require sound business cases if they are to receive funding.

In the intervening year, we have done much to push this agenda forward, including securing funding for a study of geothermal energy opportunities, showing that for the right scheme outside investment can be found. Investigations are underway to identify a direct renewable energy supply for the future, and the creation of a Local Area Energy Plan will have far-reaching effects on the BCP area energy system that we all rely on. The Council's performance in reducing emissions from buildings and vehicles is also a Key Performance Indicator in our new Corporate Strategy, meaning climate action is monitored at the highest level. Part of our progress and journey to net zero is taking people with us and I'm pleased to report that we secured funding during 2024 to take officers and Councillors through Carbon Literacy training. This and other actions are illustrated on the following pages.

We cannot afford to lose focus because of international tensions, and particularly the contrast between the unprecedented wildfires in California, and the new regime in the White House. The local impacts of weather change are significant and building pace.

I look forward to the next year as one where this Council makes the key decisions set out in the roadmaps presented here, and shows real progress on climate action, to move us swiftly to a decarbonised future.



Councillor Andy Hadley
Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Emissions reduction initiatives 2023 – 25

2030 target: Council operations

100 new council eco-homes built with triple glazing, solar panels, and ground source heat pumps

Decarbonisation of 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre heating including £157,000 Sport England grant for solar panels

Council operational buildings made **energy efficient** with £2m Govt grant

Over 213,000 users have hopped on a Beryl bike, e-bike or e-scooter

BCP heathland benefits from £750,000 Govt grant to Dorset Peat Partnership to restore degraded sites

E-cargo bikes supported with Govt funding to reduce vehicle pollution

Signed up to the **UK100 Network** for ambitious climate leaders

Carbon Literacy Training for Councillors and staff launched with funds from the SW Net Zero Hub

Winton Recreation Ground **Sustainable Urban Drainage scheme** reduces flooding pressure downstream

Emissions reduction initiatives 2023 – 25

2045 target: Working with partners

Coastal strategy aims to protect 1,600 properties from erosion risk and 2,200 properties from coastal flood risk

Bus Service Improvement Plan increases services: one route has seen 134% passenger increase

BCP Local Area Energy Plan gives local stakeholders a say in mapping out the area's future energy system

Transforming Cities Fund grants install bike racks, shelters and showers in local businesses

Healthy Homes Dorset **insulation scheme** saves £658k on household bills & 620 tonnes CO_2 each year

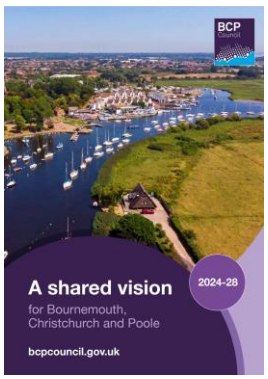
4 more schools benefit from **cleaner air** after 'School Streets' traffic restriction scheme is made permanent

Port of Poole Decarbonisation Plan funded by Innovate UK to reduce emissions and share good practice with others

30 local stakeholders met to discuss the area's climate goals and ideas for **partnership working**

Council constructs new **pedestrian and cycling** bridges at Glenferness Avenue, Bournemouth

A new Corporate Strategy



In 2024, BCP Council produced its new Corporate Strategy, which included a renewed commitment at the highest level to tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Titled **'A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-2028'**, the new Corporate Strategy has the overarching vision for our area to be a place: **'Where people, nature, coast and towns come together in sustainable, safe and healthy communities.'**

Developing this further, the top level priority for 'Our place and environment' is for – **'Vibrant places, where people and nature flourish, with a thriving economy in a healthy, natural environment.'**

This leads on to the Council's ambition when it comes to climate change, which is that: **'Climate change is tackled through sustainable policies and practice'**

The Focus Areas where activity will be concentrated are to:

- Deliver a carbon neutral council by 2030, area wide by 2045
- De-centralise energy networks by 2028, locating energy production closer to energy demand in our homes and buildings
- Increase the amount of renewable electricity generated across the BCP area
- Mitigate effects of climate change on key sites
- Ensure the BCP area has sufficient fit-for purpose waste infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces
- Tackle the effects of climate change with our partners

And the measures of progress that we will be using are to:

- Reduce the tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from our vehicles and buildings
- Increase the total number of sustainable passenger trips in the BCP area per year
- Increase the number of publicly available Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points
- Increase the percentage of waste diverted from landfill

Setting out in this way how our climate commitments sit at the centre of the organisation and where we intend to direct resources and measure progress makes our plans and performance transparent to all. As a direct result, this Annual Report document introduces new developments in the form of our web-based Emissions Dashboard and draft roadmaps that further display our ambitions to play our part in dealing with the climate crisis.

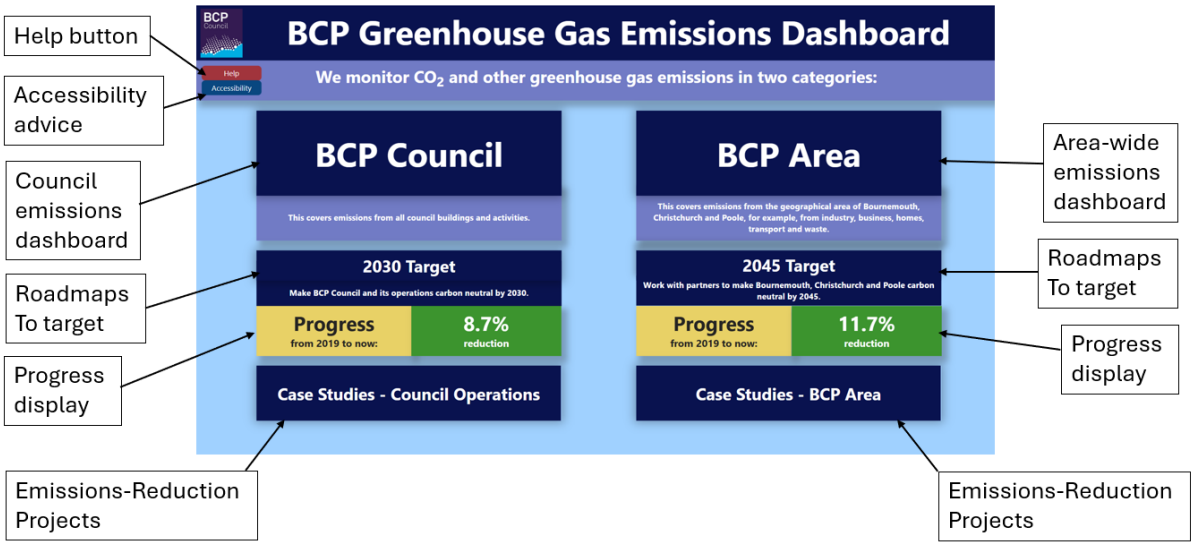
A New Way of Reporting

The Council's new operating model is driving a data-led approach to reporting, and we have responded to this by developing an in-house climate dashboard. As a result, this Climate Action Annual report for 2023/24 represents a major change in the way the Council reports its progress on the Climate and Ecological Emergency targets. It is much more concise than previously, containing only selected key information, as last year we committed to making the full breadth of emissions data available in a more accessible way.

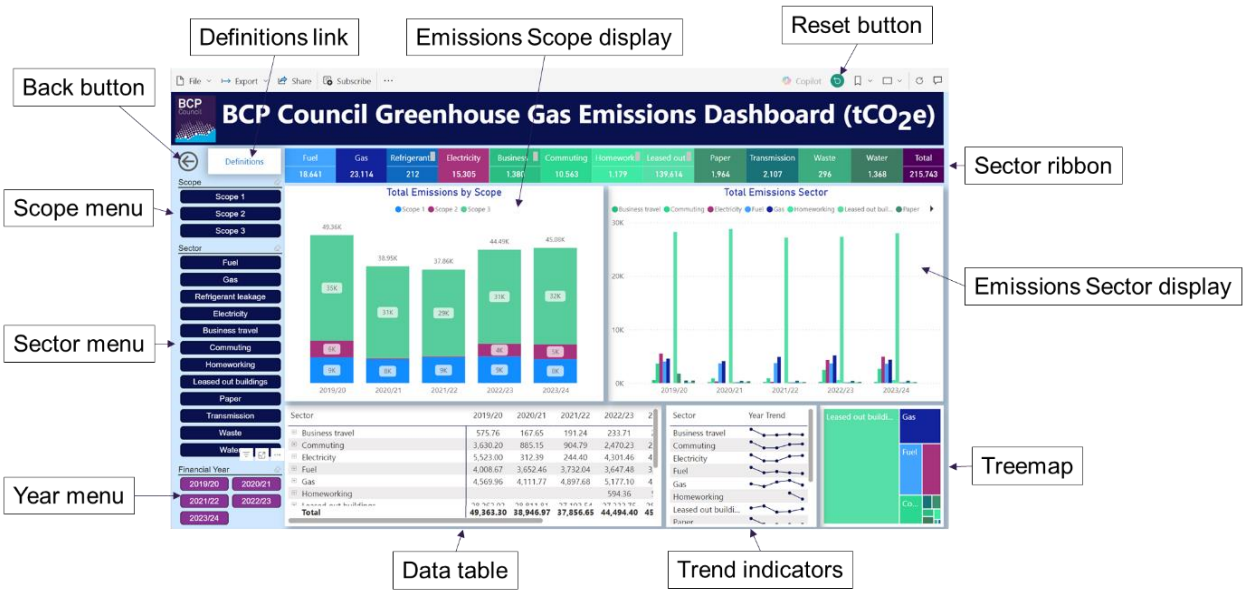
Constructed to make finding information easier and to allow data to be displayed in various ways and downloaded, the BCP Council Emissions Dashboards have been launched along with this report. Providing more information than traditional Annual Reports, the dashboards can be accessed at any time and contain data from 2019 to present (or as recent as possible), as well as further information on Council climate action. The advantage of the dashboards, which have been constructed in Power BI, is that they are not set in time, as printed reports are, but can be constantly refined and updated to improve the user experience, and this is our intention moving forward.

Emissions Dashboards: Key Features

Home Page – the Emissions Dashboard Home Page is split into two sections, one taking users to the BCP Council emissions dashboard, with information on our activities towards our target of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. The other side takes users to emissions data for the wider BCP Area and progress towards the area-wide target of working to be carbon neutral by 2045. This area-wide target was revised last year, following the Council's declaration to the UK100's 2045 net zero target. The Dashboard Home Page shown below also displays the % progress figures towards targets so users can see immediately how well we are doing at a glance, as well as access to selected Case Studies and featured activities.



BCP Council Emissions Dashboard – selecting this option takes the user to the dashboard displaying all the emissions data relating to BCP Council operations. The main features are shown below.



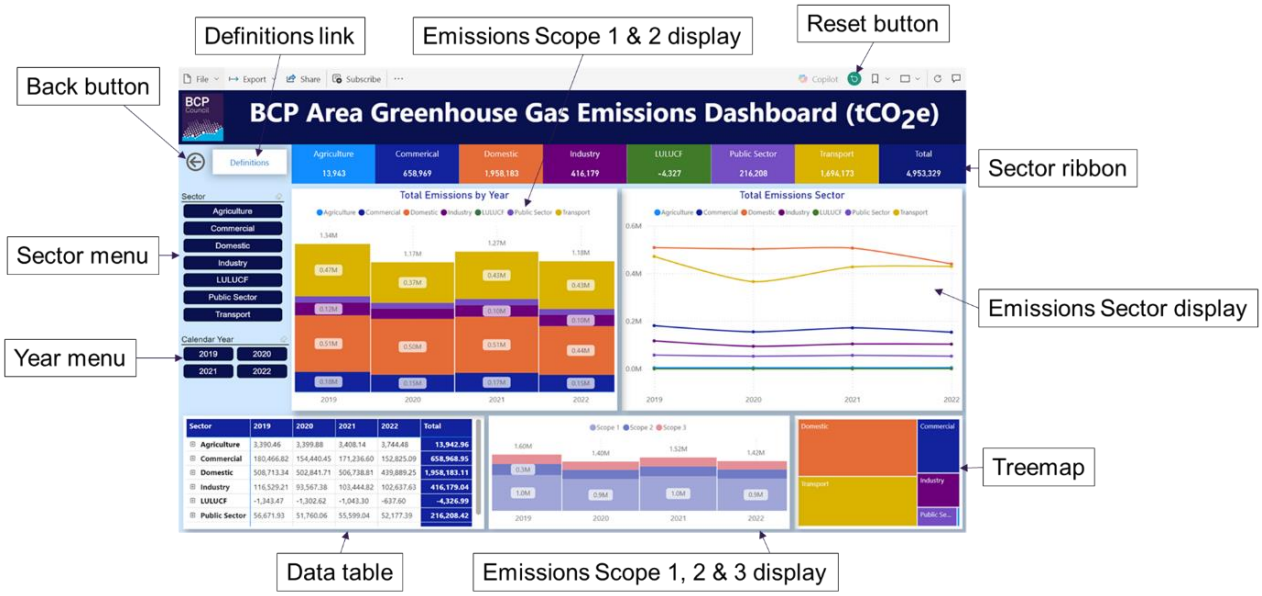
Main features are:

- Emissions Scope display – shows total annual emissions split into scopes 1, 2 and 3
- Emissions Sector display – shows total annual emissions split into sectors
- Scope menu – select to display any combination of emissions split into scope(s)
- Sector menu – select to display any combination of emissions split into sector(s)
- Year menu – select the year(s) for which you want to view emissions data
- Sector ribbon – current display of emission data for the sectors selected
- Data table – current data selected in table form
- Trend indicators – trend lines for at-a-glance view of direction of travel
- Treemap – visual display of current data selected shows relative size(s) of sectors
- Definitions link – information on scopes and sectors
- Back button – returns user to previous page
- Reset button – cancels selections and resets dashboard to original view

Any combination of scope, sector and year data can be selected, and all areas of the dashboard will change to only feature this selection. The reset button can be used to return the dashboard to its original complete display. Graphs and data tables can be downloaded by users.

Data displayed on the dashboard is collated and calculated by BCP Council using recognised environmental reporting methodology. As additional information becomes available it will be included in future versions of the dashboard.

Area-wide Emissions Dashboard – selecting this option takes the user to the dashboard displaying all the emissions data relating to the BCP area. The main features are shown below.



Main features are:

- Emissions Scope 1 & 2 display – shows annual scope 1 & 2 emissions by sector
- Emissions Sector display – shows annual trends of scope 1 & 2 emissions by sector
- Sector menu – select to display any combination of emissions split into sector(s)
- Year menu – select the year(s) for which you want to view emissions data
- Sector ribbon – current display of emission data for the sectors selected
- Data table – current data selected in table form
- Emissions Scope 1, 2 & 3 display – shows annual scope 1 & 2 emissions with estimated scope 3
- Treemap – visual display of current data selected shows relative size(s) of sectors
- Definitions link – information on scopes and sectors
- Back button – returns user to previous page
- Reset button – cancels selections and resets dashboard to original view

This Area-wide Emissions dashboard works in exactly the same way as the companion BCP Council Emissions Dashboard but displays slightly different data. The data displayed is provided by UK Government and consists mainly of scope 1 & 2 emissions split into sectors without a full scope 3 due to the complexity of calculation. We have chosen to display the information made publicly available, however for completeness, adding a display that contains an estimated scope 3 based on previous work by the SCATTER project. These Emissions Dashboards serve to replace the detail in previous Annual Reports by displaying all previous data and more, including information on projects and initiatives to reduce emissions, and are publicly accessible here: BCP Emissions Dashboard and on the Council website at: https://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/environment/sustainability-and-carbon-reduction/our-climate-actions-and-achievements-so-far

The remainder of this report provides a concise update on the Council's progress towards its Climate and Ecological Emergency targets. Data used is available on the Emissions Dashboards.

Performance Overview: Delivering on the recommendations

The recommendations in the last annual report agreed by Cabinet on 6 March 2024 have been actioned as follows:

- The Council joined the UK100 initiative, and in doing so adopted the Net Zero by 2045 pledge as our area-wide target
- This Annual Report document contains Roadmaps with interim reduction targets for elements of the Council owned estate, specifically the priority emission sources of Council buildings and energy supply. In addition, the Local Area Energy Plan for the wider Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area, to be published in 2025, will include similarly detailed targets for energy use in homes and road transport reduction
- A £1m reserve has been established for energy improvements in Council-owned buildings, emissions-reduction activities and ecological projects, and funding from other sources has been successfully obtained for low-carbon projects
- A Carbon Neutral Steering Group has been established and is bringing services together to actively find solutions to carbon reduction challenges across the corporate estate
- The Council renewed work with external partners towards the area-wide commitment to Net Zero with a stakeholder meeting in Summer 2024, and activity will continue in 2025
- Interactive web-based dashboards have been created to replace the traditional Annual Report format
- Funded carbon literacy training for officers, members and the business community has commenced, which will empower decision making to meet carbon neutral targets.

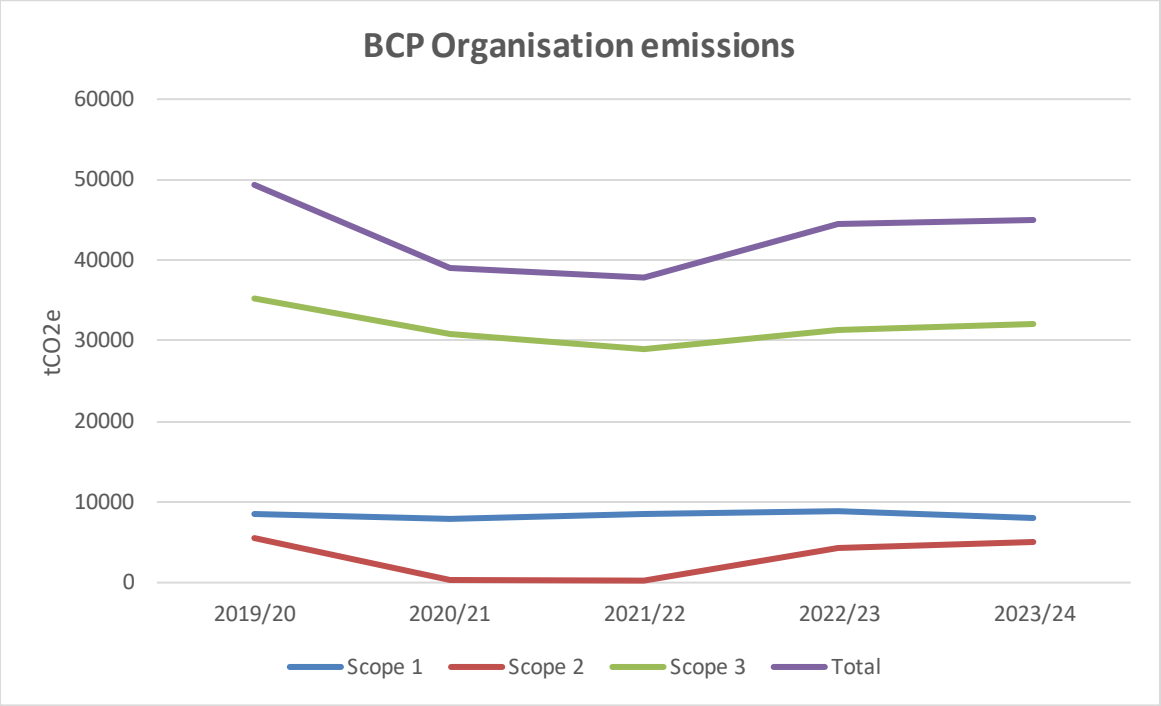
Performance Overview: 2030 target

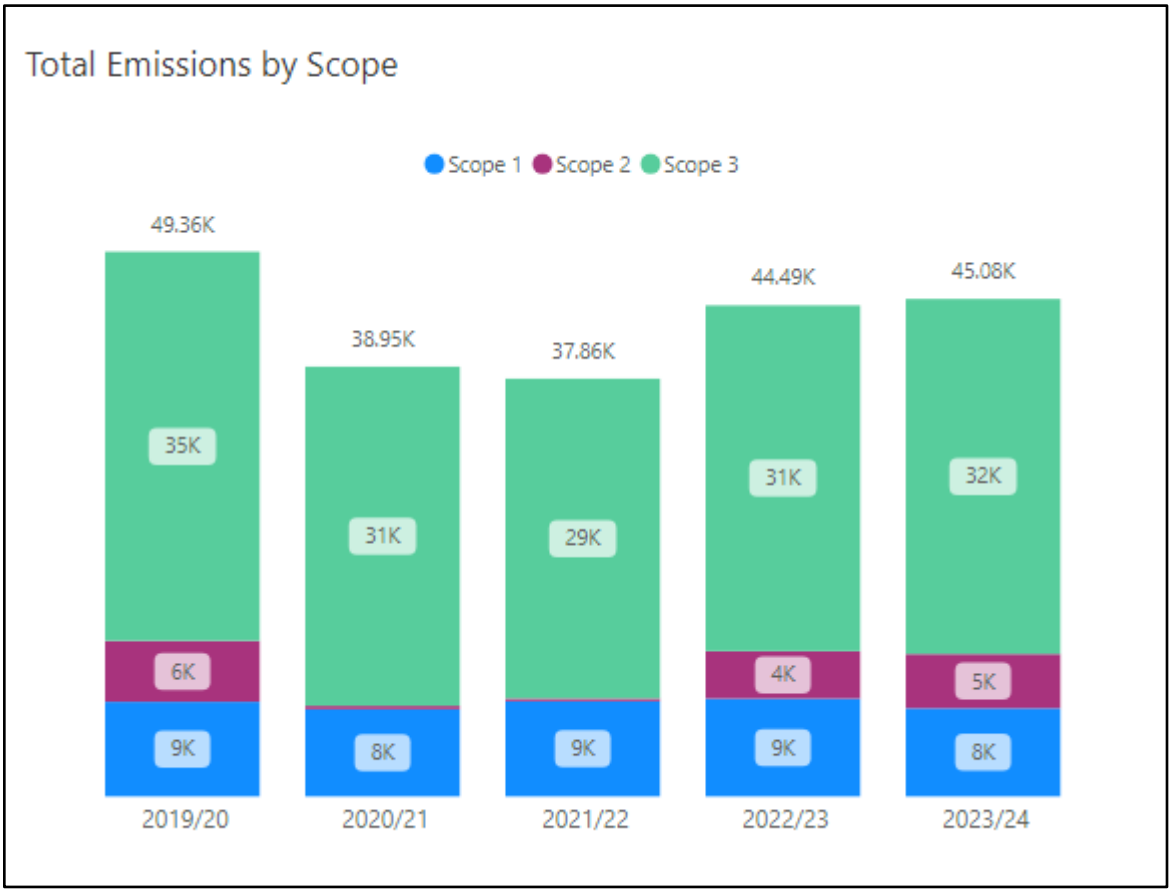
Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030.

What is overall progress for this target?

The overall trend for the Council's emissions as an organisation continues on a downwards trajectory. In 2023/24, total recorded emissions had **decreased by 8.7%** since the baseline year of 2019. However, emissions rose by 1.4% from the previous year. This is illustrated in the graphs below. The Council has continued to pursue the commitment for a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 in reducing scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 8.7% since 2019. However, the reduction is slightly less than last year's figure of 9.9% reflects that although some sectors (e.g. gas use) are progressing well, there are unavoidable increases in others (e.g. electricity use) where some of the increase is due to an increased reliance on this form of energy for charging electric vehicles, new traffic signals and a small number of heat pumps in buildings. Additionally, data is becoming more readily available, which allows calculation

of increasingly accurate emission totals, as in the case of the leased-out buildings sector of the Council's Scope 3. A more detailed examination of these sectors follows.





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Emissions Dashboard

Data as of 22/01/25, 05:02

How have emissions reduced per sector, and which is the largest emitter?

Sector	Scope 1, 2 or 3	Trend from baseline (2019/20)* (% change)	% share of total emissions in 2023/24 (largest highlighted)
Natural gas usage	1	4.7% decrease	**9.7**
Refrigerant leakage	1	78.7% decrease	0.1
Vehicle fuel	1	10.2% decrease	**8.0**
Electricity consumption	2	10.9% decrease	**10.9**
Water	3	61.7% decrease	0.4
Paper	3	98.5% decrease	0.1
Energy lost in transmission	3	9.1% decrease	0.9
Waste	3	37.5% decrease	0.1
Business travel	3	63.3% decrease	0.5
Staff commuting	3	26.4% decrease	5.9
Home working	3	1.6% decrease	1.3
Leased out property	3	0.7% decrease	**62.1**
	TOTAL	**8.7% decrease**	

*Or most recent year with data.

Where do we have the most influence on emissions?

The council has the most influence and control over its Scope 1 and 2 emissions, namely the following three sectors:

- Gas use
- Vehicle fuel use
- Electricity use

If leased out buildings are not considered, then each of these sectors contributes about a quarter of total emissions each.

Leased out buildings contributed 62% of total emissions in 2023/24. Council housing forms 94% of this category and the council is limited in the impact it can have in reducing emissions from this.

Why have emissions changed within each sector in the last year?

Below the reasons for increases and decreases in emissions per sector are explained.

Gas

2023/24 data	4,357 tCO2e 9.7 % of total emissions 25.5% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year 2022/3	↓ 15.8% decrease	**Change from baseline year 2019**	↓ 4.7% decrease
Reason	Reduction in the number of council assets – 5 disposed of during 2023/24, two of which were industrial areas with more than one building. Poole Crematorium heat pumps came online in September 2023 thereby replacing all gas use for space and water heating. COVID advice of keeping windows open in winter (and thereby losing heat) no longer in action.		
Current work	Plans for Leisure Centres to switch from Gas to Solar power and Heat-pumps for space and pool heating. Two Riversmeet work is nearing completion, Rossmore and Dolphin Leisure Centres plans underway.		

Refrigerant

2023/24 data	29 tCO2e 0.1% of total emissions 0.2% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year 2022/3	↓ 25.5% decrease	**Change from baseline year 2019**	↓ 78.7% decrease
Reason	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions are a result of leaks in refrigerant due to unpredictable faults so no trend can be allocated. All air conditioning systems are subject to 6 or 12-month routine inspections as required to guard against the likelihood of leakage.		
Current work	Annual inspections continue.		

Vehicle fuel

<table>
<tr><td>2023/24 data</td><td colspan="3">3,601 tCO2e
8.0% of total emissions
21.1% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Change from previous year</td><td>↓ 1.2% decrease</td><td>Change from baseline year</td><td>↓ 10.2% decrease</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reason</td><td colspan="3">Increase in number of electric vehicles. An additional 24 EVs purchased in 2023/24.

<table><tr><th>Financial year</th><th>No. of electric vehicles purchased</th></tr><tr><td>2021/22</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>2022/23</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>2023/24</td><td>24</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Current work</td><td colspan="3">Sustainable Fleet Replacement Strategy Phase 2 to be approved – will add 101 EVs. Additional charger capacity at Hatchpond depot. Review of charging at remote sites.</td></tr>
</table>

Electricity

<table>
<tr><td>2023/24 data</td><td colspan="3">4,923 tCO2e
10.9% of total emissions
28.8% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Change from previous year</td><td>↑ 14.5% increase</td><td>Change from baseline year</td><td>↓ 10.9% decrease</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reason</td><td colspan="3">Streetlighting unmetered electricity increased very slightly from 2022/23 to 2023/24 by 0.4% due to inventory update to include new traffic signals. Poole crematorium heat pumps came online in September 2023. The pumping element of the heat pumps uses electricity.
24 new EVs were purchased in 2023/24 adding electricity consumption.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Current work</td><td colspan="3">Procurement of a fully renewable energy agreement, which should see a significant decrease in this measure.</td></tr>
</table>

Energy lost in transmission

2023/24 data	426 tCO2e 0.9% of total emissions 2.5% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 8.3% increase	**Change from baseline year**	 9.1% decrease
Reason	This is the energy loss that occurs in getting the electricity from the power plant to the point of use. These emissions increase and decrease in line with electricity usage.		
Current work	Figure is based on national supply. Renewable energy procurement, and real-world calculation could see this significantly decreased.		

Water

2023/24 data	175 tCO2e 0.4% of total emissions 1.0% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 21% decrease	**Change from baseline year**	 61.7% decrease
Reason	Water consumption has decreased by 13%.		
Current work	Utilities Manager now oversees corporate water contract, with a view to bringing about further improvements and access data to better monitor usage.		

Paper

2023/24 data	27 tCO2e 0.1% of total emissions 0.2% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 6.8% decrease	**Change from baseline year**	 98.5% decrease
Reason	Paper use continues to decrease as IT systems increasingly remove the need for printing.		

	New Multi Function Devices (MFDs) record a 60% rate for duplex printing which is above sector average. MFDs also save paper by deleting print jobs that have not been released after a set time period.
Current work	Work with our MFD supplier to obtain energy and emissions data annually.

Waste

2023/24 data	63 tCO2e 0.1% of total emissions 0.4% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	↑ 24.4% increase	**Change from baseline year**	↓ 37.5% decrease
Reason	The government emission factor for landfill is very high and increased by a further 11%, whilst the other waste treatment emission factors remained constant, so a small diversion of waste to landfill can have a large impact. Our residual waste contractors sent slightly more waste to landfill than normal due to logistical/contractual reasons.		
Current work	Maintenance and capacity issues downstream hopefully now resolved. In rebalancing rounds, and renegotiating Waste Contracts, vehicle movements handling waste are anticipated to be reduced.		

Business travel

2023/24 data	212 tCO2e 0.5% of total emissions 1.2% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	↓ 9.5% decrease	**Change from baseline year**	↓ 63.3% decrease
Reason	Use of IT for meetings so reduced need to travel.		
Current work	Facilitate/encourage further use of IT for meetings.		

Staff commuting

<table>
<tr><td>2023/24 data</td><td colspan="3">2,672 tCO2e
5.9% of total emissions
15.7% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Change from previous year</td><td>↑ 8.2% increase</td><td>Change from baseline year</td><td>↓ 26.4% decrease</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reason</td><td colspan="3">The estimated number of employees travelling by different modes of transport has not changed since 2022/23 as GHG emissions are based on the 2022 staff travel survey for this year. The estimated GHG emissions have, however, increased due to an increase in the average national commute which is used in the calculations. Next year's GHG emissions will make calculations based on the 2024 Staff Travel Survey; an improved survey that asks about the distance travelled by staff rather than relying on national statistics.
<table>
<tr><th>Mode of travel</th><th>2022 survey data (% of respondents)</th><th>Estimated no. employees in total workforce</th></tr>
<tr><td>Drive car/van/BCP vehicle alone</td><td>54.50</td><td>2,199</td></tr>
<tr><td>Work from home</td><td>25.18</td><td>1,016</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bike</td><td>6.14</td><td>248</td></tr>
<tr><td>Walk</td><td>6.00</td><td>242</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bus</td><td>4.09</td><td>165</td></tr>
<tr><td>Car share</td><td>2.00</td><td>81</td></tr>
<tr><td>Motorbike</td><td>1.00</td><td>40</td></tr>
<tr><td>E bike/E scooter</td><td>1.08</td><td>44</td></tr>
<tr><td>Invalid survey result</td><td>0.09</td><td>4</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Current work</td><td colspan="3">The accommodation and business transformation programmes underlying the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will make the council more environmentally friendly through a reduced estate and different ways of working, including the continued ability for staff to work effectively from home.</td></tr>
</table>

Homeworking

2023/24 data	585 tCO2e 1.3% of total emissions 3.4% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 1.6% decrease	**Change from baseline year**	 1.6% decrease
Reason	The decrease continues as the government emission factor for this metric has been decreased for 2024.		
Current work	The accommodation and business transformation programmes underlying the MTFP will make the council more environmentally friendly through a reduced estate and different ways of working, including the continued ability for staff to work effectively from home.		

Leased out property

2023/24 data	28,011 tCO2e 62.1% of total emissions		
Change from previous year	 2.6% increase	**Change from baseline year**	 0.7% decrease
Reason	The increase in estimated GHG emissions is not due to any material change in the housing stock but the result of a data cleansing exercise carried out in 2024 to improve accuracy. Sector: Bournemouth Housing — 52% Poole Housing — 34% Leisure — 10% Other — 4%		
Current Work	EPC Assessment and ratings are being refreshed and reviewed.		

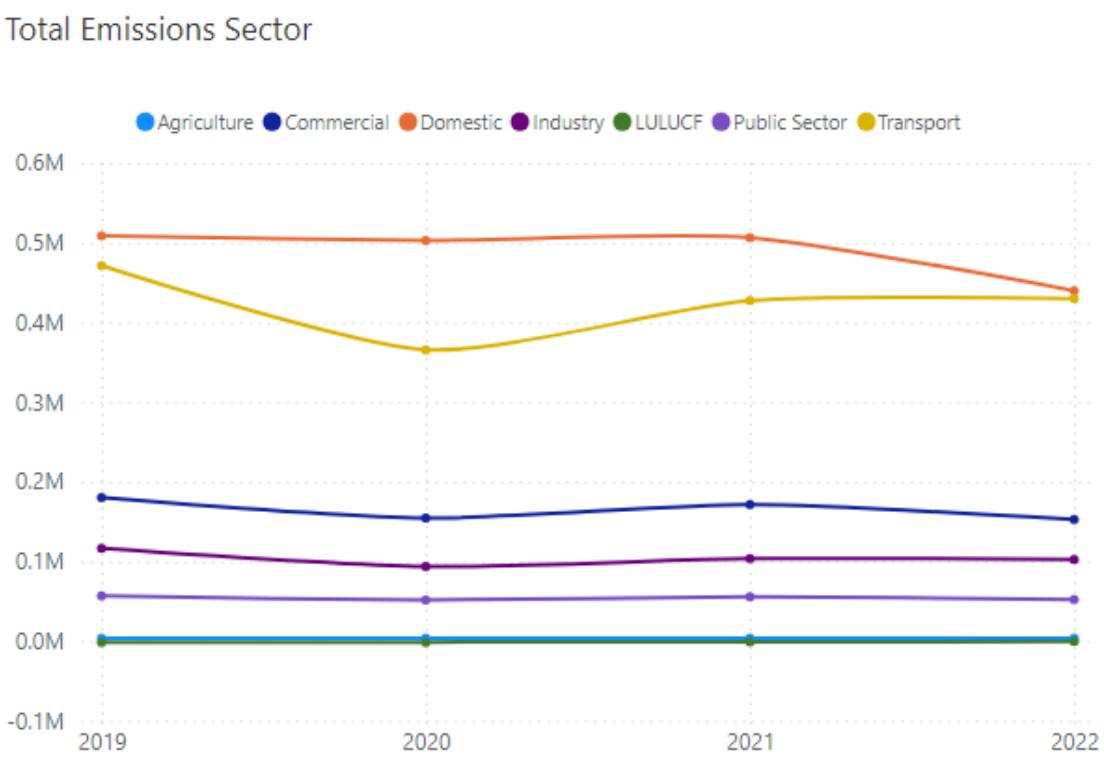
Performance overview: 2045 target

Work with partners to make Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole carbon neutral by 2045.

The overall trend of greenhouse gas emissions for the BCP area remains on a decreasing trajectory. Total recorded emissions have **reduced by 12%** since the baseline year of 2019.

Data is the most recent available from the UK Government but features a two-year delay. Despite this time lag there is now sufficient data available to illustrate area-wide progress from 2019 to 2022. UK Government data consists mainly of scope 1 & 2 emissions split into sectors without a full scope 3 due to the complexity of calculation. We have chosen to display the information made publicly available, however for completeness our Emissions Dashboard contains an estimated scope 3 based on previous work by the SCATTER project.

Emissions since baseline (tCO2e) estimated Scope 3 not included



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The commitment for a carbon neutral area before 2045 (revised from 2050 due to the Council's adoption of the UK100 Pledge) sees the trend continue in the desired direction. However, the pace needs to be accelerated if the Council and wider area are going to meet their ambitions. The main gains area-wide have been a 13.7% drop in emissions from gas and electricity use in homes. This will be due to a range of interventions and pressures including improving energy efficiency (helped by national and local grant schemes, such as the Home Upgrade Grant and Healthy Homes Dorset), continued decarbonisation of the national electricity grid, increased energy-efficiency of household items, the move away from gas central heating boilers to heat pumps and other alternatives, greater awareness of the effects of climate change and the rise in energy costs forcing households to limit their energy use. The increasing trend in Transport emissions from motor vehicles has levelled off, a contributing factor is likely to be the improved walking and cycling provision made possible by the Transforming Cities Fund and increased availability of Beryl bikes and e-scooters, which are proving very popular.

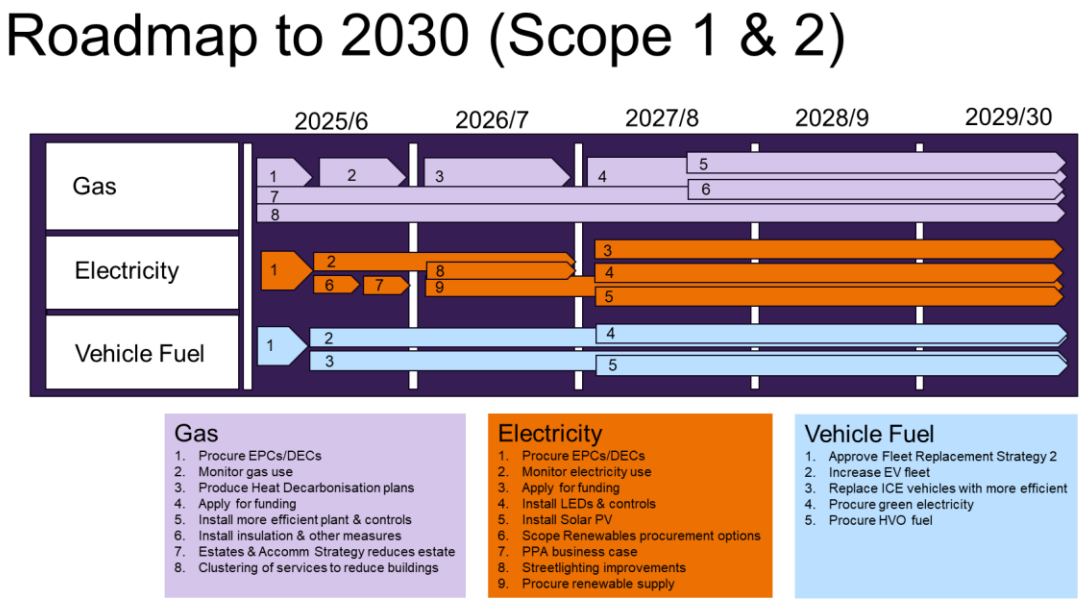
Roadmaps to 2030 – Scope 1 and 2

The last Annual Report acknowledged that a clear path to our targets was needed in order to show the steps required to reach them. In response, we have produced Roadmaps incorporating interim reduction targets for elements of the Council owned estate. These will guide us in seeing clearly the areas that are most significant and where actions within our control can make a real difference towards our 2030 target. To this end, a roadmap has been produced for the Council's Scope 1 & 2 emissions sources, since these are all significant in terms of size and their improvement is completely within our control. This includes the gas, electricity and vehicle fuel used by Council operations. To further embed Scope 1 & 2 emissions within Council performance monitoring, this has been made a Key Performance Indicator in the new Corporate Strategy and will be regularly reviewed.

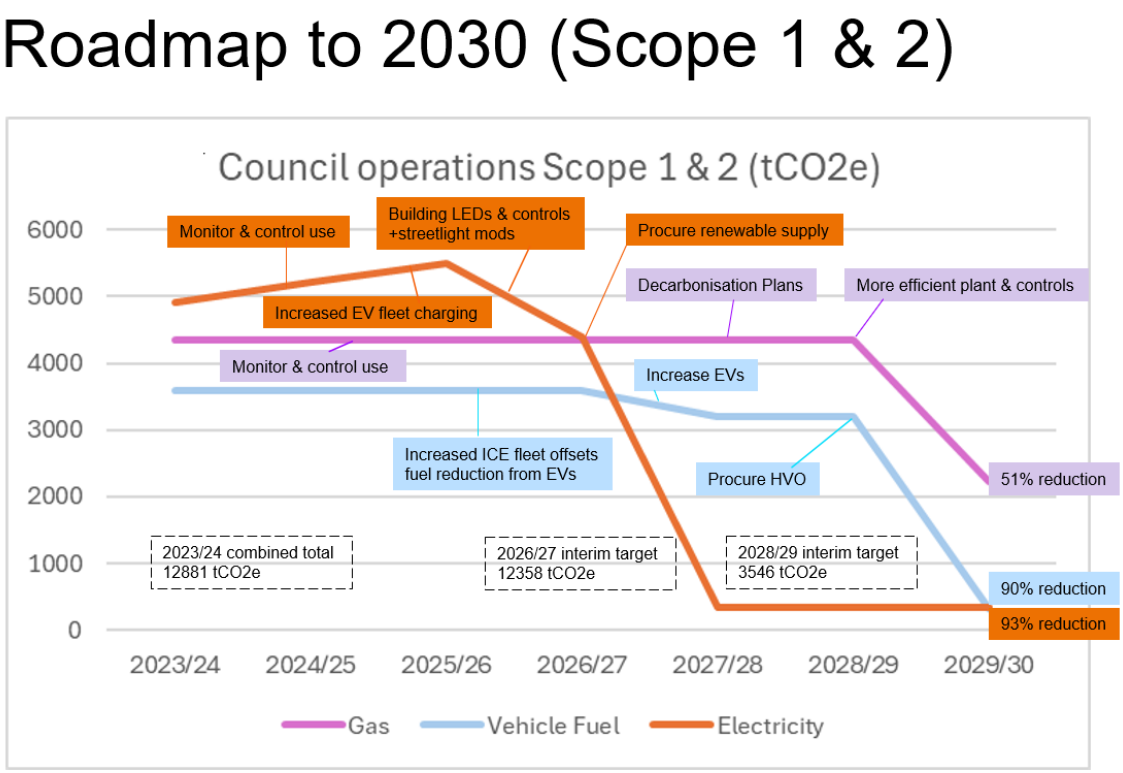
A roadmap has also been produced for the Council's Scope 3 emissions sources. This includes our largest emissions source, but one over which we do not have complete control - leased-out buildings, as well as much smaller sources contributing as little as 0.1% to our total emissions.

To address our 2045 area-wide target, the Local Area Energy Plan for the wider Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area (to be published in 2025) will include similarly detailed roadmaps, actions and targets.

The graphic below illustrates the sequence of actions that could be undertaken to reduce the Council's Scope 1 & 2 emissions. Action 1 in each sequence is underway at the time of writing. However, the roadmaps are presented in draft and serve to illustrate how individual decisions could shape progress. All technologies included are currently available and emission reductions are based on methodologies used by recognised bodies, such as APSE, or Council data. The Council's Carbon Neutral Steering Group is in the process of discussing these draft roadmaps and if Cabinet approves this report, will continue in earnest to take forward these proposals to assess their operational and financial suitability.

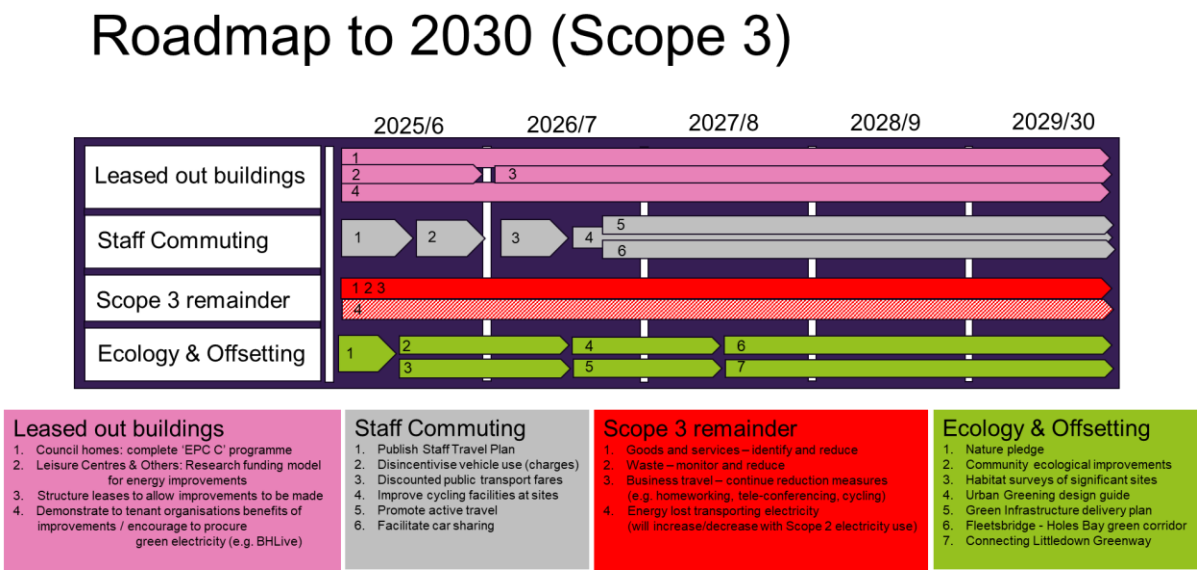


How the interventions will reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions



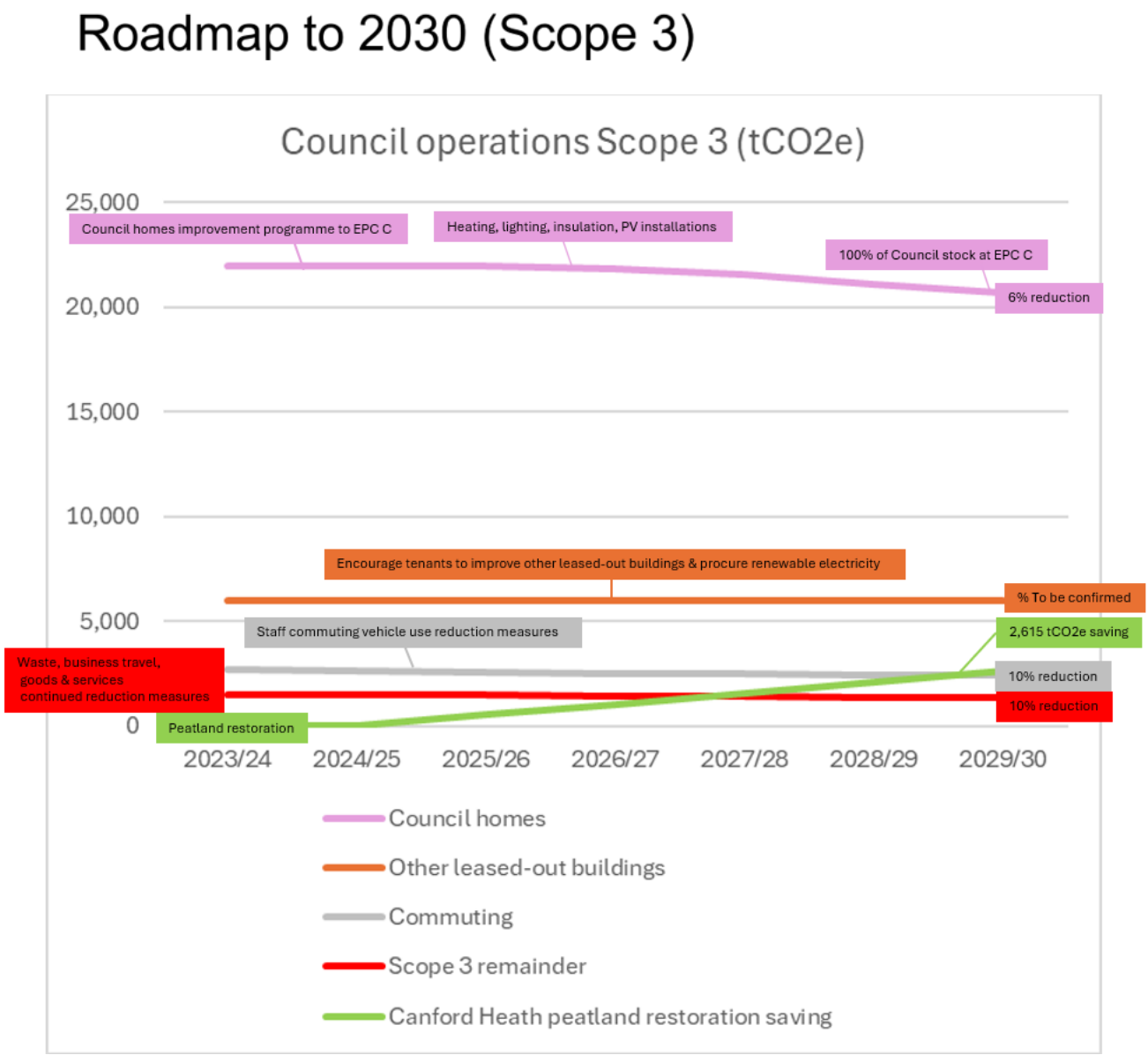
Roadmaps to 2030 – Scope 3

As outlined elsewhere in this report, scope 3 emissions are less straightforward to reduce. However one Scope 3 source is the largest of the Council's sources that can currently be estimated – leased-out buildings – so must be addressed. The vast majority of the Council's leased-out buildings are Council homes and there is a programme of works to improve the energy efficiency of these and ensure they reach EPC C rating. This involves installation of insulation and modern heating measures. However choosing energy suppliers and the day-to-day use of energy is controlled by tenants.



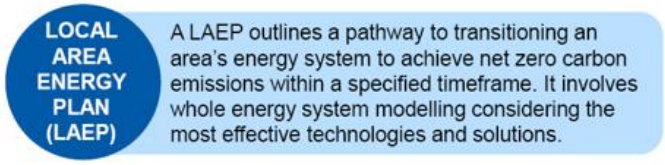
Other tenants of Council leased-out buildings, such as those operating leisure centres, have demonstrated that they are willing to take action to reduce emissions. In the case of BHLive, they have chosen to procure zero emissions electricity to cut their, and in turn the Council's emissions. It is also acknowledged that a certain amount of emissions will remain after all steps have been taken and will have to be offset. This is where both aspects of the Climate and Ecological Emergency combine to best effect as increasing biodiversity and the resilience of nature can in turn reduce and store carbon. In recognition of this, Ecology and Offsetting is included in the roadmap graphic above, along with a list of proposed projects. To illustrate the benefits of improving ecosystems, one current project is illustrated in the graph below. Peatland restoration on Canford Heath is projected to have stored 2,615 tCO2e by 2050. Further work to estimate the emissions removal potential of future projects needs to be undertaken.

How the interventions will reduce Scope 3 emissions



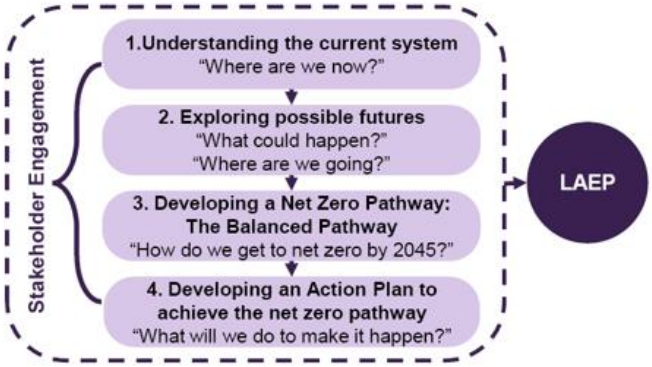
Roadmaps to 2045

Roadmaps similar to those above, but to achieve the area-wide target of a carbon neutral area by 2045, are in preparation as part of our Local Area Energy Plan project and will be presented to Cabinet later in 2025. The latter stage of the process leading to the roadmap creation is outlined below.



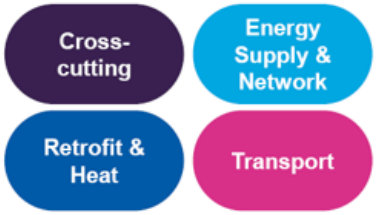
The LAEP Process

We began by assessing the baseline system, and subsequently developed and tested two exploratory scenarios modelled to net zero by 2050. Following this, we co-developed and refined the chosen pathway – the Balanced Pathway – which is designed to enable net zero by 2045. We are now progressing the action planning stage.



Action Planning

The action planning process began with the co-development of a long-list of actions through three action development workshops, attended by a range of BCP Council representatives and external stakeholders from across the area. These actions were then prioritised and refined based on feedback from a range of key BCP Council teams, resulting in a short list of the 15 highest priority actions across four key sectors:



Each action will undergo detailed development, including defining the delivery timeframes, implementation steps, co-benefits and KPIs. These details will be reviewed and refined during the three upcoming Focus Groups, enabling in-depth discussion with key stakeholders.

Following this, we will develop the Action Roadmap and write-up the actions into the final LAEP reports.The Action Plan write-up will provide a comprehensive overview of the 15 priority actions to achieve the milestone targets set out in the Net Zero Pathway.

Strategy Development: Key achievements and future milestones

2023-2024

BCP Council draft Local Plan published setting out the ambitious strategy for development across the region until 2039 – public consultation launched

Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy published covering Hengistbury Head to Hurst Spit, encompassing Christchurch Harbour

Public consultation on the draft BCP Council Urban Forest Strategy, created to maximise the benefits trees and woodlands provide to our environment and communities

Electric vehicle charging survey helps inform and create a reliable and accessible charging infrastructure for residents, businesses and visitors

2024-2025

New BCP Council Corporate Strategy published – renewing climate change commitments

Public consultation on a new flood defence scheme from Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill to reduce significant tidal flood risk to properties

BCP Council submits Local Plan to Secretary of State for independent examination

BCP Council Cabinet approves introducing food waste collections for Poole in 2026

BCP Council joins the UK100 Network of local authorities acting to tackle climate change

BCP Council Trees and Woodland Strategy adopted

Biodiversity Net Gain requirement is included in the forthcoming Local Plan

2025-2026

Adopt the BCP Council Sustainable Fleet Replacement Strategy Phase 2

Publish a final BCP Council Climate Action Strategy

Publish the BCP Council Local Area Energy Plan

Have a new 15-year BCP Council Local Plan in place

Publish plan for the management and maintenance of BCP Council housing stock

Adopt the Local Transport Plan

Delivery of the BCP Council Public Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

Publish the BCP Council Urban Greening Design Guide

Publish the pan-Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Seek BCP Council Cabinet approval to set up habit banking vehicle