

# Annual Climate Report 2024

Huntingdonshire District Council's progress to to Net Zero by 2040 so far...







**Harriet Robinson** 

**Climate Coordinator** 



ClimateConversation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



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## **Executive Councillor Statement -**



**Lara Davenport-Ray - Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment** 

In 2023 this council agreed to take action. We committed our time and resources to tackling the climate crisis and ecological emergency. We agreed to focus on supporting nature recovery on our land and to target net carbon zero council operations by 2040. We also committed to enabling and encouraging both local people and our peers to take robust action with us. One year later, we have made significant progress.

The carbon footprint of our council continues to decrease. Changes to the way we operate are reducing our emissions. From lighting in our buildings to trailing new fuels in our fleet, our progress is promising. However, each year on our journey to net carbon zero will become more challenging. In future years we will have hard choices to navigate and difficult financial decisions to make.

Local people can already see nature thriving in our council's parks and open spaces. Not only are we enriching our own land, we are investing in rural and urban biodiversity projects put forward by residents across Huntingdonshire.

#### Executive Councillor Statement contd. -



**Lara Davenport-Ray - Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment** 

Climate action and supporting nature both require unique skills. Jobs in ecology, horticulture, heating and plumbing are becoming ever more important. We want people in Huntingdonshire to be ready to take up these new jobs. To build local skills, our council has partnered with local university students, hired graduate ecologists, trained job-seekers in countryside management and helped deliver a local energy training academy. Our greatest success this year has been training local people in skills needed for the future while also delivering the tasks in our climate action plan.

After one year our council has achievements to celebrate, but we cannot become complacent. Global temperatures are still rising and extreme weather events continue to endanger our residents. Despite the daunting challenges ahead, our council and local people will work together to recover Huntingdonshire's ecology and play our part in tackling climate change.



## Overview:

- Huntingdonshire District Council's Climate
   Strategy & Priorities
- April 2023 April 2024 Progress Overview
- The Achievements: Key Climate Projects & Updates
- Going forward, what's next?

# Who are your Climate partners? -

Ellie McCreanor Energy and Sustainability
Support Officer

Lara Davenport-Ray Executive Councillor for
Climate and Environment

Helen Lack Development and
Delivery Manager
Parks and Environment



**Harriet Robinson - Climate Coordinator** 



Amber Beardshall Home Energy
Reduction Officer

# **Climate Strategy & Priorities**

In February 2023, Councillors formally recognised a Climate Crisis and Ecological emergency in Huntingdonshire and adopted a Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

We will be:

a positive example to others by reducing our own emissions and adapting our service.

an enabler to support action within our communities and across our partners.

an encourager to ensure all efforts help to deliver our ambition of a Net Carbon Zero Council by 2040.

# **Corporate Plan Priorities**

Our Corporate Plan prioritises our journey to Net Carbon Zero Council operation. Our 3 priorities are:

- Priority 1: Improving quality of life for local people
- Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations
- Priority 3: Delivering good quality, high value-formoney services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations



#### Do

#### Enable

#### Influence

Complete HVO Fuel Trial and present a business case for decision

Deliver a Fleet Decarbonisation Plan

Deliver our Energy Strategy

Deliver the Climate Conversation in 2024

Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include in reporting and establish disposal methods for IT equipment to reduce environmental impact

Establish climate and carbon emissions learning and development plan for Council employees

Accelerate Solar Power Adoption on Council Buildings

Support community projects and plans that reduce carbon emissions

Deliver Biodiversity for All to enable community action and support green skills development

Commission Active Travel Studies (UKSPF) to influence/inform future investment priorities

Deliver the Phase 1 Rural Pilot HDC Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Actions

Develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value

Expand positive climate action support for local businesses, celebrating best practice and sharing knowledge

Adopt the Huntingdonshire Plan for Nature and influence the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy with our priorities



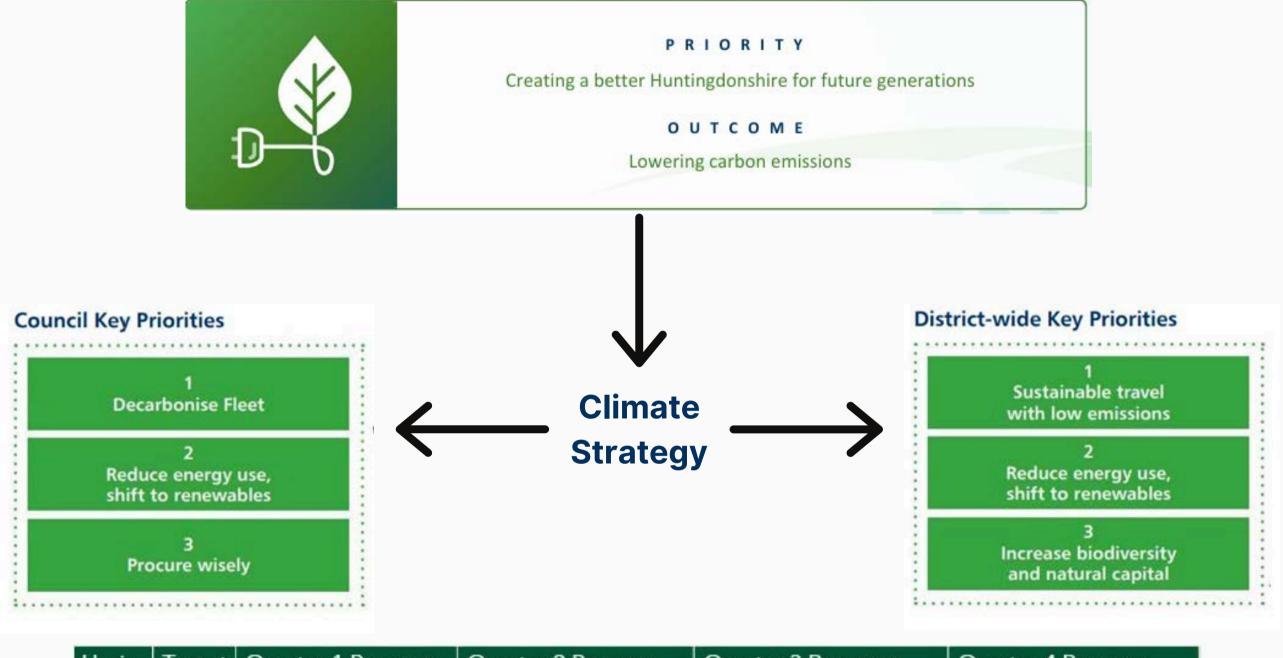
#### PRIORITY

Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations

OUTCOME

Lowering carbon emissions

## **Corporate Plan Outcome Deliverables**





# Facilities, Fleet and Procurement -



Awarded £700,000 by
Sports England to install
solar panels and triple
glazing at One Leisure St
Ives. Decarbonisation works
have been completed in PFH
and there have been LED
light upgrades in EFH. An
Energy Strategy has been
drafted in collaboration with
Local Partnerships



trialled on HVO
(hydrotreated vegetable oil)
fuel, which reduces CO2
emissions by 92%.
Partnership between
Cambridgeshire Police and
Cambridgeshire Fire also
under way and has already
reduced 72 tonnes of CO2
between all 3 services



Partnering with Anglia
Ruskin University, we
developed a sustainable
procurement programme
and toolkit. These will focus
on on examining effective
ways to drive reductions in
supply chain emissions and
the 1st sessions started in
Q4

8.6 million smart phones charged!

## **HVO Fleet Trial**

Research from the Local Partnerships Consultancy showed CO2e from HDC's fleet was one of the Council's largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) was chosen as it reduces these emissions by 92%

Trial timeframe: November 2023 to June 2024

This is a low stress period to allow for the determination of the success criteria

**Currently being trialled** in 15 vehicles including:

- tractors
- mowers
- skip lorries

This reflects the diversity of the fleet in terms of size, usage and vehicle ages

The results will be reported in July 2024

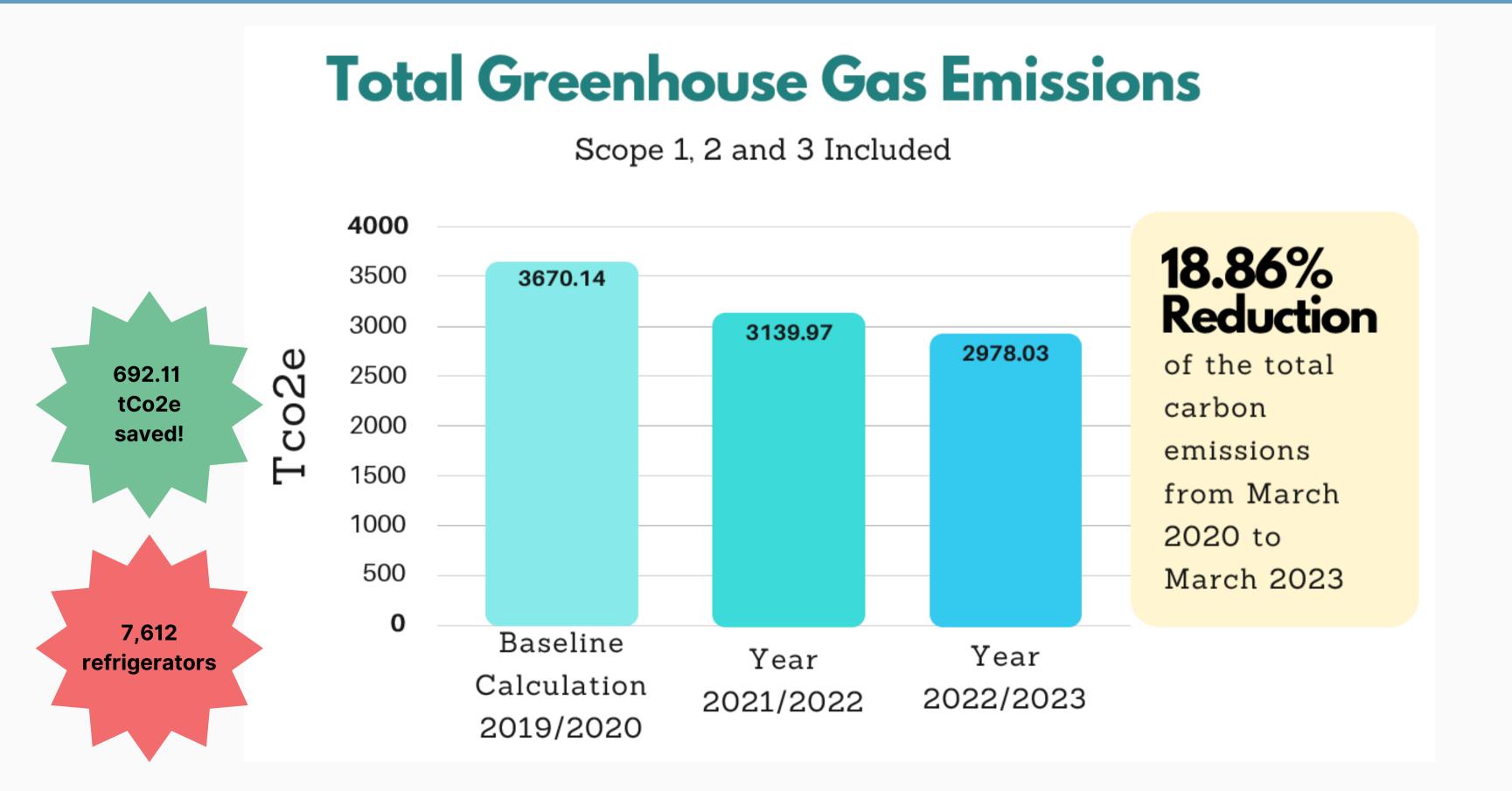
#### **Advantages of HVO:**

- Cleaner than standard road diesel
- Reduces harmful NOx emissions by 25%
- PPMs are reduced by up to 60%



A fuelling station has been established at HDC's depot, granting access to Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire Fire to facilitate with various vehicle types. The trial has already reduced the carbon footprint of the combined services by 72 tonnes of CO2

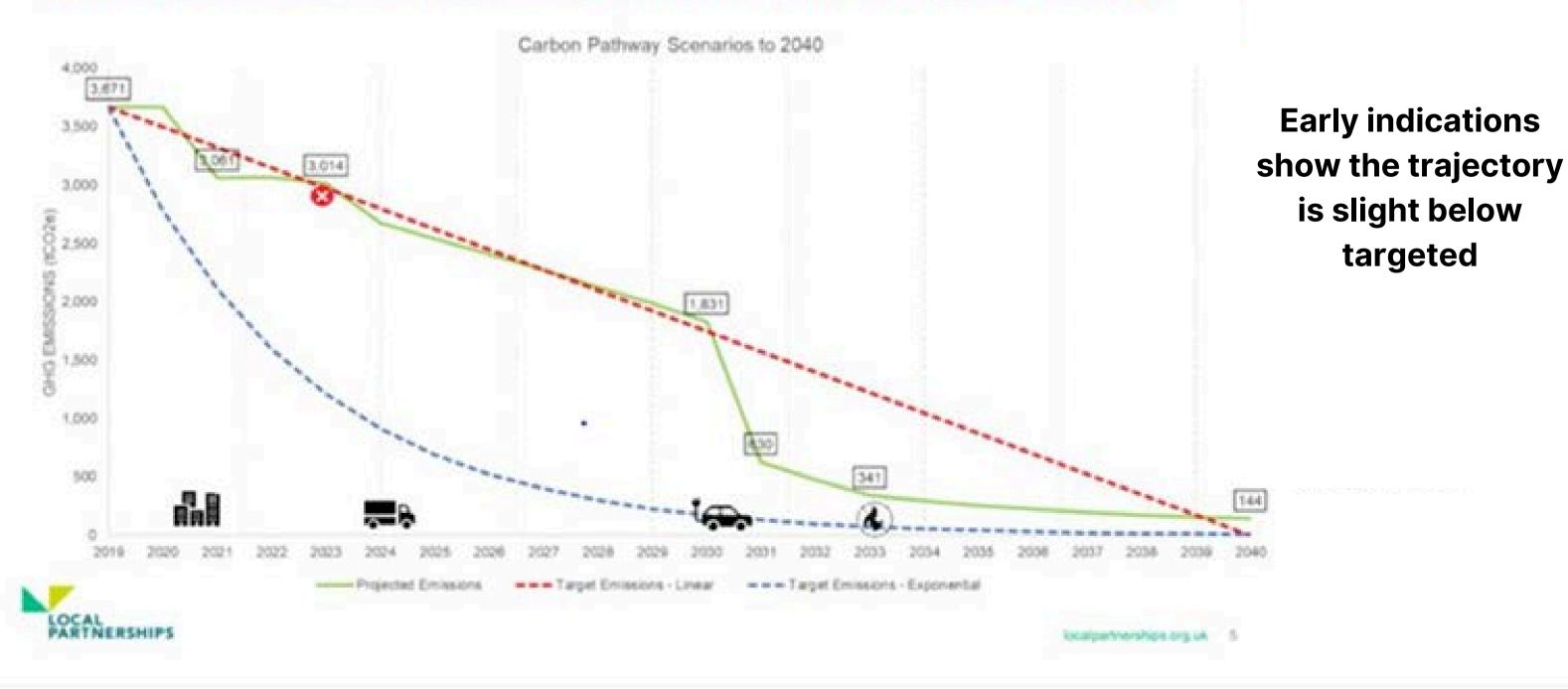
## Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions -



## Greenhouse Gas Calculator







# **Home Energy**

In person events across 2023 and 2024

Action on Energy Cambridgeshire Grants

**Online Climate Hub Platform** 







As Home Energy establishes itself at HDC, key connections have been made with Cambridgeshire Libraries, other local councils within the Cambridgeshire Energy and Retrofit Partnership and home energy service providers, such as Citizens Advice and PECT. As Home Energy and Climate intertwine, retrofitting will help with the delivering of HDC's climate strategy, corporate plan and local plan, whilst building resilient communities.

#### Annual Climate Conversation - you said, we did -



you Said welid

A central place to access content concerning HDC's work on climate and how people can contribute to tackling climate change

Utilise connections for further events with local groups, parish councils and Cambs Libraries

Online Climate Hub launched in May 2024

Environment Hub - 4th June 2024

CANFFUND Locally Determined Contribution Workshop - 6th June 2024

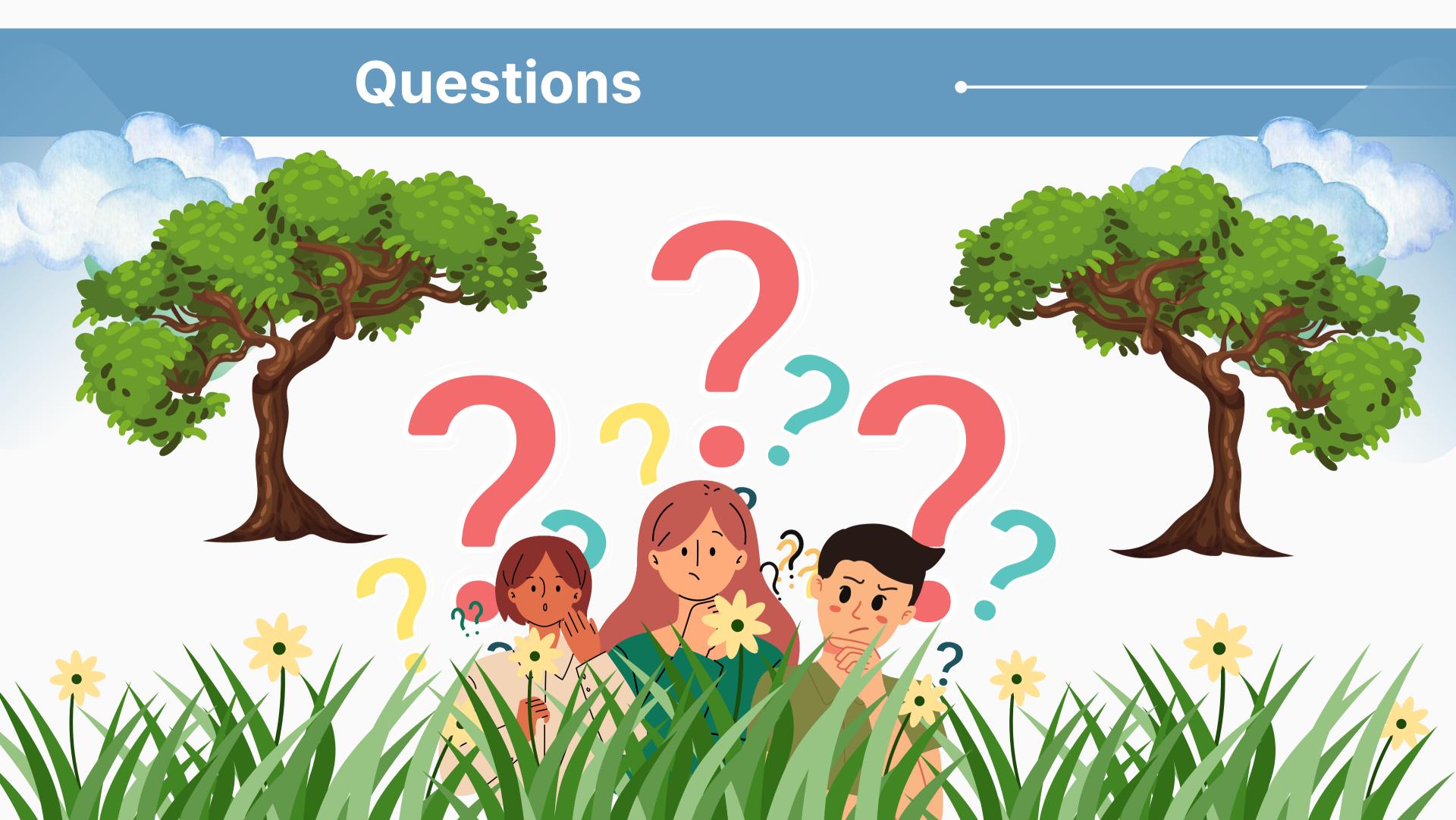
Cambridge Libraries
Workshops - planning in
progress

Annual Climate Conversation - November 2024

# **Upcoming Events**









# Climate Strategy and Priorities -

#### **Scope 1 Emissions**

Emissions from sources that an organisation owns or controls directly e.g. from burning fuel in our fleet of vehicles

#### **Scope 2 Emissions**

Emissions that are caused indirectly and come from where the energy it purchases and uses is produced e.g. emissions caused when generating the electricity that we use in our buildings

#### **Scope 3 Emissions**

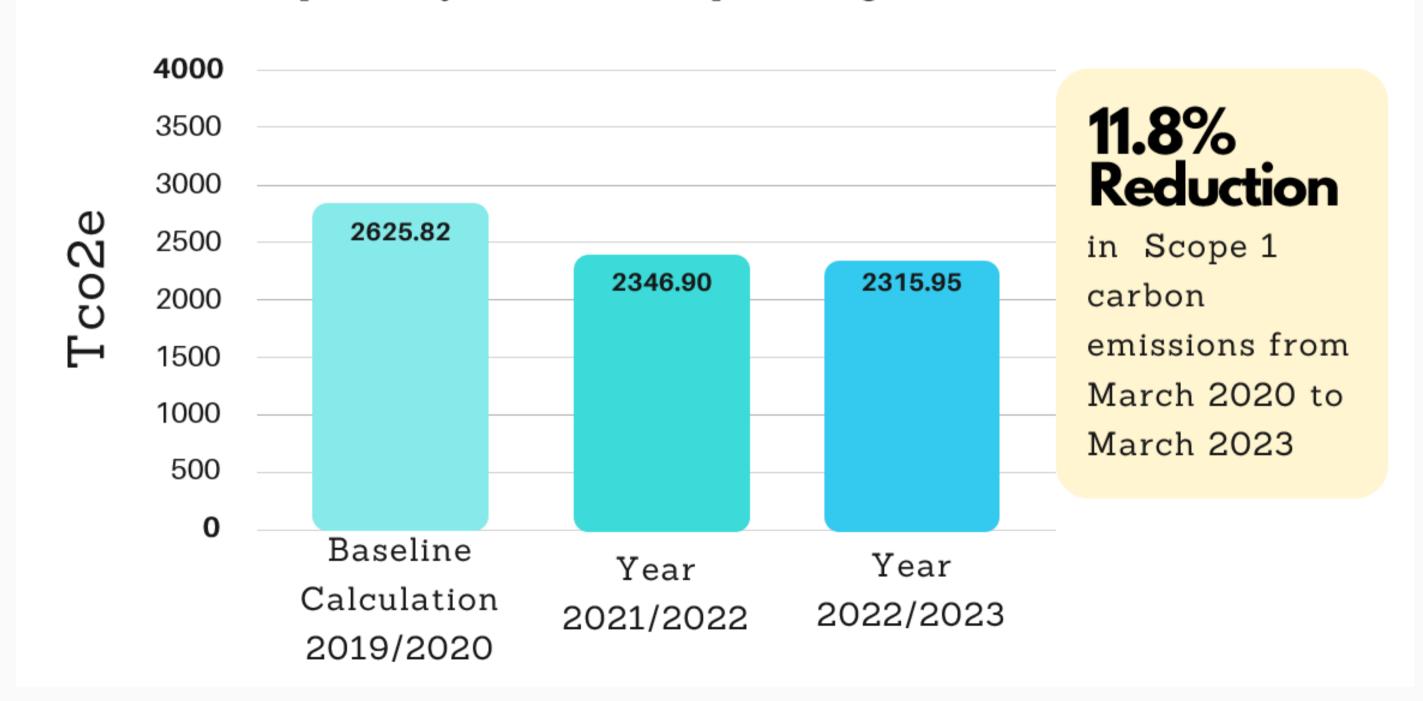
Emissions that are not produced by the company itself and are not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them but by those that it's indirectly responsible for up and down its value chain e.g. when we buy, use and dispose of products from suppliers. They include all sources not within the Scope 1 and 2 boundaries.

**Source: National Grid** 

# Scope 1 Emissions



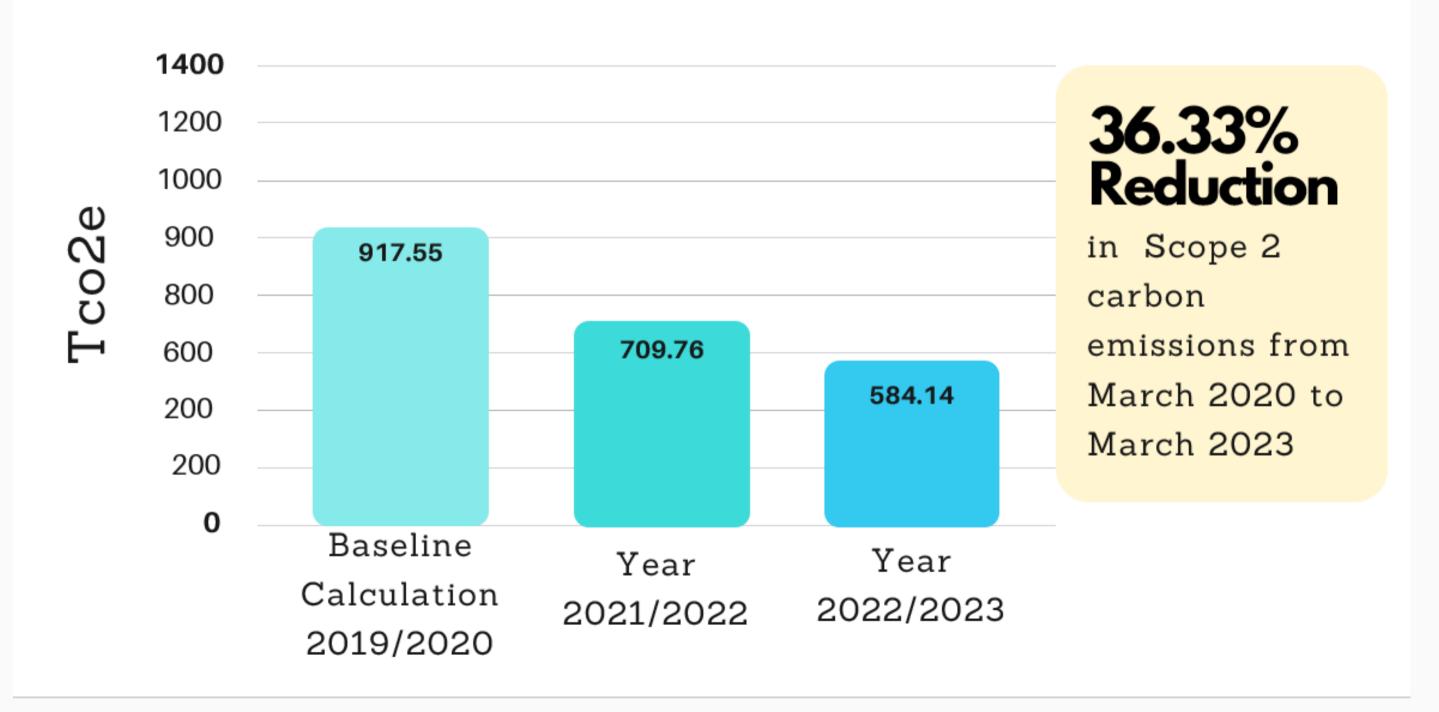
Scope 1 Only - Gas Consumption, Logs & Fleet



# Scope 2 Emissions

## **Scope 2 Emissions**

Scope 2 Only - Electricity Consumption



# Scope 3 Emissions



# Appendix

We will be a Council that proactively tackles the climate crisis and ecological emergency, working closely with partners, and leading by example



业. **ENERGY AND** RENEWABLES



TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT



COMMUNITY

The buildings and infrastructure around us shape how we live, our health and our well being. We need to ensure what is built

is as environmentally

sustainable as possible

We need to reduce emissions caused by our activities and ensure that our energy is from renewable sources

We know our residents highly value the open spaces and natural environment in Huntingdonshire. We need to protect, restore and improve our environment, and build resilience to extreme weather events

We want to see a Huntingdonshire where our residents are able to access what they want locally, with effective lower carbon transport options and safe cycling routes

We want to see a Huntingdonshire where much less is thrown away

Our communities should shape the places they live in to be better adapted to the future climate

The Climate Strategy is the Council's response to the climate crisis and ecological emergency. It sets out what we will do to play our part in addressing climate change. We will be a positive example to others by reducing our own emissions and adapting our service to the changed climate, an enabler to support action within our communities and across our partners, and an encourager to ensure all efforts help to deliver our ambition of a Carbon Net Zero council by 2040.



Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings, and by 2040 stop using gas for heating

Adapt our buildings and make our services more resilient to prepare for the impacts of climate change

Look for opportunities to install renewable energy generation on our land and buildings

Implement an Energy Strategy to guide our future decisions on renewable energy supply and resilience Deliver community developed plans for greater biodiversity gain and more trees on our land

Develop a plan to invest in fleet to reduce emissions from council owned vehicles to zero by 2040

Understand how our staff travel for work. and how we can reduce these emissions

Reduce the carbon impact and waste from our own services and those we commission

Openly share progress against our climate targets

Include climate and biodiversity in our impact assessments to ensure they are embedded in our decision making



Support development of sustainable communities through our Local Plan review to provide lower carbon places for people to live and work

Support schemes that help communities and businesses reduce their emissions and use renewable energy

Engage our communities, partners and businesses in managing their open spaces for nature, sharing opportunities to increase biodiversity

Seek partnerships and funding to enhance our electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Work with partners to expand the infrastructure for sustainable and low carbon travel

Improve information, knowledge and advice to increase the recycling rate of municipal waste and reduce the amount of our waste that goes to landfill

Host Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation for sharing of best practice, concerns and priorities



**ENCOURAGER** 

Use Sustainable Business Awards to recognise and promote great practice

Work with our partners and communities to adapt to the needs of climate change

Support the sharing of guidance and advice to residents and businesses on measures they can take to improve energy efficiency, insulation, switch to low carbon heating, and install renewables

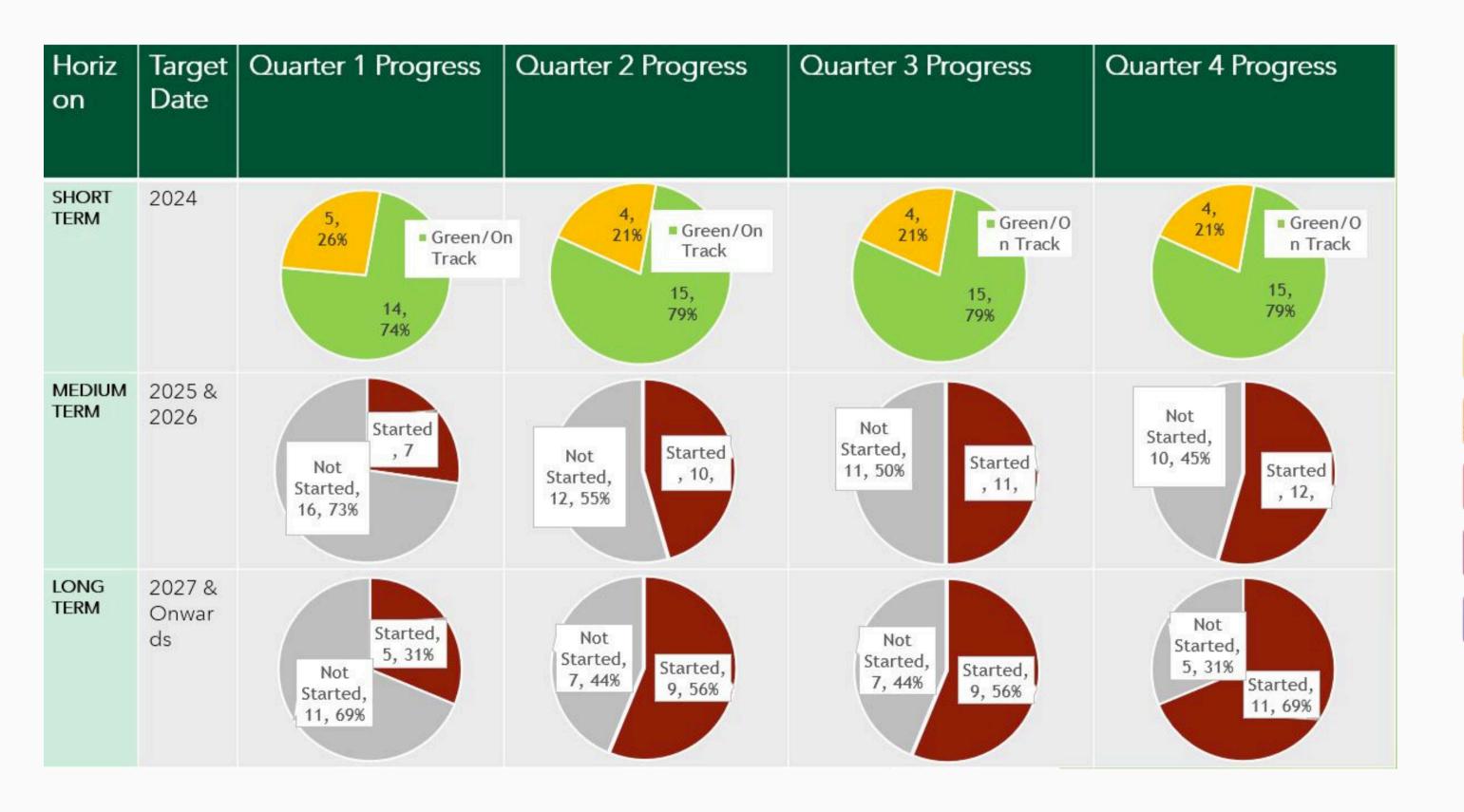
Work with communities and businesses to help them look after the natural environment including delivering community litter picking/river cleaning projects

Promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices

Support and celebrate re-use and recycling schemes to reduce the use of disposable products

Work with communities and partners to support climate action across the district

## April 2023 - April 2024 Progress Overview





# April 2023 - April 2024 - what we have done so far

Priority	Action	Service Area	Theme	Portfolio	Status	Progress	Target Completion Date
High	Review Council assets to establish further opportunities to improve insulation, energy efficiency and adaptation to reduce their carbon impact	Facilities	Energy and Renewables	Corporate and Shared Services	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Medium	Appoint a Climate Co-ordinator	Open Spaces	All	Climate and Environment	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Medium	Set the Council's emissions baseline and continue to report on an annual basis	Climate	All	Climate and Environment	Green	Completed*	01/02/2024
Medium	Deliver the communications plan for the Climate strategy	Comms	Community	Place	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Medium	Include all services in the Climate Conversation to ensure objectives in services plans achieve carbon net zero by 2040	Climate	Community	Climate and Environment	Green	Completed but ongoing	01/02/2024
Medium	Conduct a staff travel survey on employee commuting, to assess climate impact	Climate	Travel and Transport	Climate and Environment	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Medium	Implement a real nappy initiative scheme	Waste	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Low	Commission a provider to offer expert net zero business planning advices to SMEs and access to capital match funding grants for implementation	Economic Development	Buildings	Jobs, Economy and Housing	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Low	Undertake a behavioural study/survey on EV choices and charging in Huntingdonshire	Operations - Parking	Travel and Transport	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Low	Commission a feasibility study to look to expand the Council's existing network of EV Charging, exploiting any funding opportunities that become available	Operations - Parking	Travel and Transport	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Low	Develop an EV strategy for Huntingdonshire	Operations - Parking	Travel and Transport	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Green	Completed - on to the next phase	01/02/2024

## **HVO Fleet Trial**

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#### Biodiversity and Green Skills Programmes ...

With funding received from the CPCA, the Bio4All team have been tackling the national biodiversity crisis on a local level, enabling HDC's aims of combatting climate change. They identified 'strategic sites' and examined a number of key pointers:

- Carbon sequestration
- Improved air quality
- Shading
- Reduced physical erosion through chemical water

Using Bio4All's environment grant scheme, ecologists are reporting on and facilitating financial incentives for these environmental improvements, which will be carried out on externally owned public landholdings.

The team has extended its 'Green Skills' programme to the wider community through several educational packages carried out through biodiversity work on HDC's own estates



Use of the app 'iNaturalist' has helped connect the public to nature, whilst providing our ecologists with vita data concerning Huntingdonshire's flora and fauna responses to climate change

Each applicant to the Biodiversity Community

Grant Scheme will have their land audited and a report written, which will provide 3 additive scenarios to improve the local environment and outline a way to manage the land sustainably.

HDC will fund up to £8,000 of the work the applicant has selected to adopt from their report.

# Biodiversity and Green Skills Programmes .





HDC Ecologists running an educational programme in Hinchingbrooke Country Park

# Green Recovery Project

HDC has hosted its 4th Green Recovery Project in collaboration with Groundwork East, this time focusing on Paxton Pits Nature Reserve.

Paxton Pits supports a high diverse habitat for wildlife and this work will help to maintain that level of biodiversity and condition of those habitats already developed.

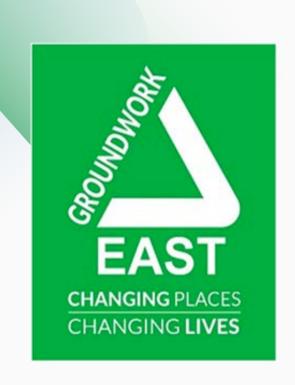
The initiative ran for 8 weeks, honing in on landscaping skill development for the volunteers taking part, including earning a Level 1 City & Guilds qualification in Horticulture and Landscaping.

The Project is a key step towards creating a greener, more resilient future for Huntingdonshire and was made possible through a £1.3 million grant from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA).

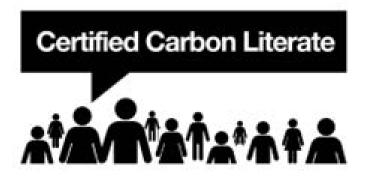




# **Carbon Literacy Training**



62 members of staff have been certified as carbon literate so far

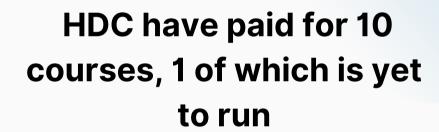


Certified staff
encompass a wide range
of Council employees.
They have taken both the
management/leadership
course and the generic
staff course



The course encourages members of staff to make 2 pledges towards working to combat climate change

HDC have partnered with Groundwork
East to deliver some carbon literacy
training, which has been made available
to all staff initially from January through
to April 2024





#### Food Poverty and Sustainable Food Action Plan

HDC is assisting and funding (through the climate reserve) for consultancy services to develop a plan for sustainable living and comprehensive food security for Huntingdonshire. The consultation is set to finish in December 2024, cost £5,000 and will provide a 10-year plan for the whole district to combine fighting food poverty and engaging in sustainable living.



The plan will align its goals with the climate action plan, climate stratagy and corporate plan. It will also link in with community green spaces and growing food.

work has already begun through the 'Food for Nought' initiative, which has delivered more than 2,600 tonnes of surplus food from local farmers and supermarkets, which would have otherwise gone to landfill.

The plan will involve working with schools, food banks and partners in order to lower carbon emissions whilst promoting communities to grow their own food. This will promote and encourage them to become more self-sufficient, creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.

## Climate Education

In partnership with PECT, HDC is piloting a climate engagement programme within 4 school: Thongsley Fields Primary School, Crosshall Junior School, Ernulf Secondary Academy and Stukeley Meadows Primary School

The project is designed to continually engage and educate young people on key climate issues including:
sustainability
increasing biodiversity for all minimisation waste engaging their own communities

Initial trial: Jan 2024 to Jan 2025
If successful, the aim is to expand this to fund additional schools in the following year.

HDC have also been invited to attend the ECO Awards hosted by PECT.

This is an opportunity for primary and secondary schools to come together and take part in practical hands-on activities to inspire new ideas and projects to back to schools.

HDC have developed a climate change guide for children to use in schools. It explains what Climate Change is, what HDC's Climate Strategy is and ideas on how we can tackle Climate Change together





We want Huntingdonshire to be the best place to live and grow up in, and we want to make sure future generations are able to learn about Climate Change and how to look after the planet so that we can all try to tackle Climate Change together in the years ahead.

It's not something that one person can do alone, it needs every person to play their part and make small and big changes to make a difference to tackling climate change.

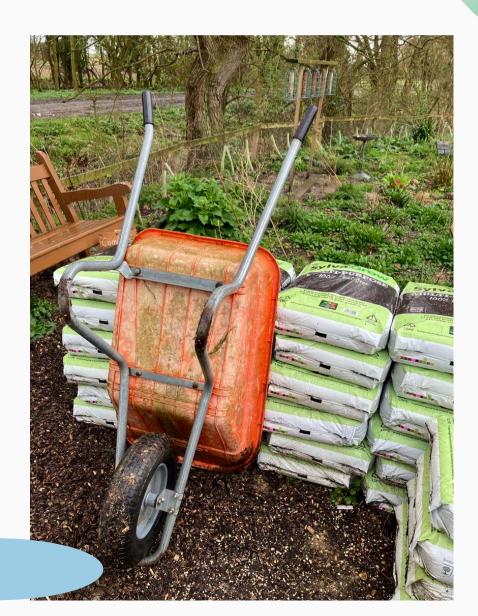
# **Community Chest Grants**

Initially, the community chest scheme welcomed applications to focus on residents recover post the pandemic. This has now evolved into provision of funding for community projects which have to meet one of the following criteria: improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone, keeping people out of crisis, helping people in crisis and lowering carbon emissions. HDC has awarded grants to key community green initiatives including £1,000 to Hilton Community Garden to provide equipment to grow their own fruits and vegetables and £1,000 to Upwood Allotments to provide a shed to house gardening equipment.





**Hilton Community Garden** 



## **Online Climate Hub**

From feedback from our Annual Climate Conversation back in 2023, HDC have launched an online climate hub in May 2024. One action was to have an online resource

to educate, inform and guide Huntingdonshire residents through:

- Referencing HDC's progress on combatting climate change
- Provide links to tools, documents and guidance to encourage influence Huntingdonshire to take further climate action
- Educate the public on what Climate Change is
- Note the positive work that has already been undertaken in our district
- Listen to residents

#### The hub is split into 12 sections:

- What are HDC doing?
- What's happening in Huntingdonshire?
- Active Travel
- Climate Education
- Biodiversity
- Extreme Weather Adaptation

- Home Energy
- Waste
- Resources & Funding
- Resources for Local Authorities
- Resources for Local Businesses
- Engagement, Events and Climate Calendar

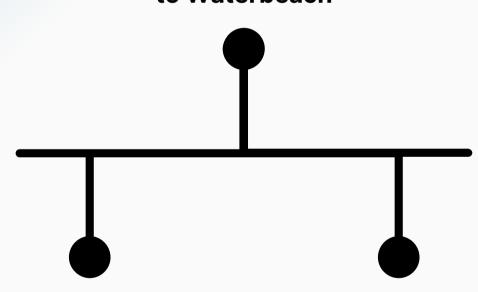




## **Waste Minimisation**

#### **Current linear method:**

Mattresses plus other bulky items are sent to Waterbeach



Resident asks for HDC to collect bulky waste.

Cost for resident is £35 for 1-3 items

Thalia sends our mattresses to a nearby landfill



#### Proposed circular method:

Resident asks for HDC to collect bulky waste.

Cost for resident is £35

for 1-3 items

REMATT collects the mattresses and recycles them into new mattresses, car seats, dog beddings and more!

Mattresses sent to Alconbury Recycling Centre



# **Energy Academy Slide**

HDC celebrated the opening of the East Anglia Energy Academy in St Ives, which will bring forward new jobs, skills and investment into the district

The Academy is a joint venture between Reed Environment and Oxford Energy Academies

HDC's 'Invest in Huntingdonshire'
team have used their influence whilst
working with Reed Environment over
the last 6 months to identify a suitable site
for this academy to help assess and retrofit
social housing stock

The academy will support 150 apprentices and 400 adult learners by September 2025





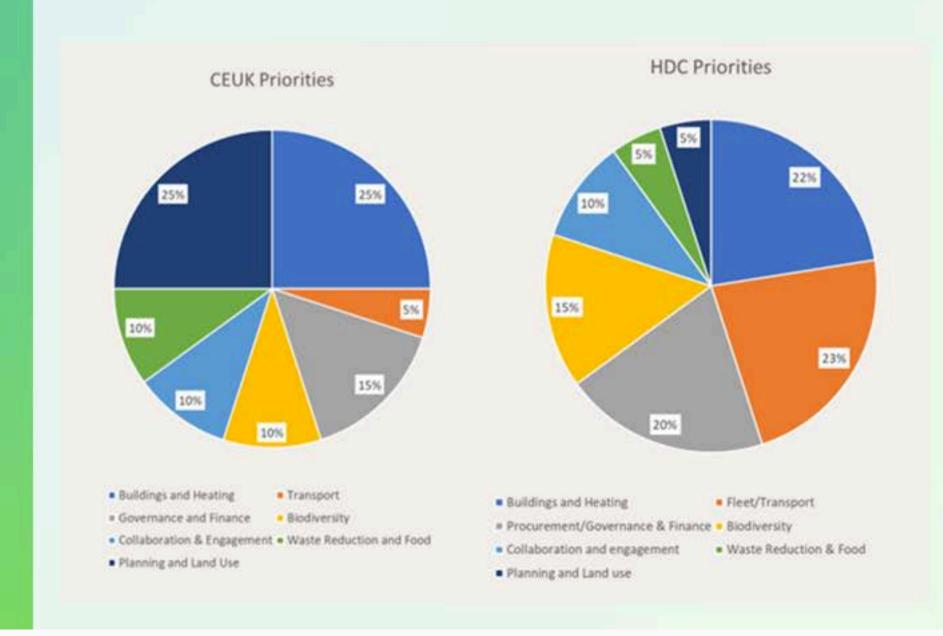
## Climate Emergency UK – Council Climate Scorecards GAP Analysis

Benchmarking. Learning. Identifying gaps.

Undertaking the GAP analysis based upon our Climate Emergency UK council scorecards score, has identified -

- Possible areas for improvement
- Suggested new actions for forthcoming years
- Help to improve our score and also enhance the Climate Action Plan.

Suggested actions to bridge the gaps are currently being discussed and agreed with relevant services and will be put forward as suggestions in the Annual Climate Review.



A FURTHER
BENCHMARKING
TASK USING CIPFA
NEAREST
NEIGHBOURS WILL
ALSO BE
UNDERTAKEN AS
PART OF THIS
WORK, TO
UNDERSTAND MORE
ABOUT OUR SCORE
COMPARATIVELY



## Climate Scorecard Slide

- HDC scored 27%, which is just below UK average of 29%
- · 96th out of 164 districts.
- In 2021 we scored **zero** along with 42 other Councils this shows how far we have come in a short space of time and our continued focus on positive climate impact and reducing emissions.
- We want to keep this momentum of progress going by focussing on the areas that we scored lower in and will be undertaking a GAP analysis based on this in the new year.

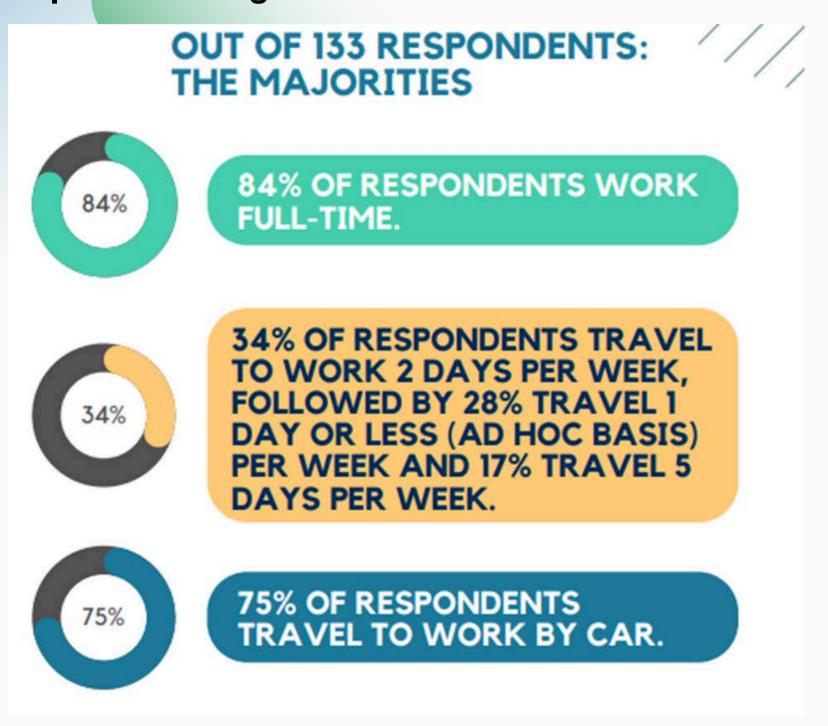


- This scoring was based upon only publicly available information up until March 2023, we have since made many further steps of progress which will be accounted for in the next scorecards
- We can use this score to inform the annual revision of the climate action plan and look at areas that need more focus on.
- Checking <u>correct actions are prioritised</u>
   <u>alongside resident priorities</u> which we will
   gather from our responses from our Climate
   Conversation survey and feedback and the Gap
   Analysis in the new year.

Questions	Huntingdonshire District Council	Councils with full marks per question	
Buildings & Heating	41%		~
Transport	8%		~
Planning & Land Use	17%		~
Governance & Finance	11%		~
Biodiversity	25%		~
Collaboration & Engagement	35%		~
Waste Reduction & Food	36%		~
Total score	27%		

### **Staff Travel Survey**

In February 2024, we asked staff to fill out a travel form to help us understand how we travel to work and also how we travel within working hours. The results will help us to see where there is room for positive changes and how we can help to encourage more sustainable and active travel amongst staff.



#### **CAR SHARING**

Although 26% of respondents said that 'nothing' would encourage them to car share, there was a positive response towards providing respondents with the tools and rewards of finding a car share partner.

#### Q. WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO CAR SHARE TO WORK?

