



# Annual Climate Report 2025

Huntingdonshire District Council's Journey to  
Carbon Net Zero



# Contents

**Huntingdonshire Place Strategy and Climate**

**Key Achievements**

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**Climate Action Plan Progress**

**Net Zero Villages**

**Annual Climate Conversation 2024**

**Home Energy**



# HDC Place Strategy and Climate

## CLIMATE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN CATEGORISED BY PLACE STRATEGY JOURNEY

### PRIDE IN PLACE



- Completion of 4 roof surveys on 4 key sites: St Ives, St Neots, Ramsey and Huntingdon
- As part of Action on Energy Cambridgeshire Partnership, in the process of producing a local action energy plan
- Collaboration with the LDC project, funded by Innovate UK
- 15 tonnes of WEEE collected
- 39 tonnes of textiles gathered through drop-off points
- HDC provided equipment and collection services enabling 50 community groups delivered 180 litter pick ups

### TRAVEL TRANSFORMED



- Upgraded charge points at 13 locations from funding through the Rural England Prosperity Fund
- Completion of pilot project for HVO trial from Nov 2023 through to June 2024

### ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION



- HDC's electricity is on a green tariff on its main sites from Sept 2024
- Energy Strategy commissioned and due for completion in July 2025
- Invested in 2 flagship sites: Hill Rise (St Ives) and Priory Park (St Neots)
- Community chest grant awarded to fund rainwater harvesting project
- 4 Huntingdonshire Futures grants awarded funding environmental innovation
- Green Flag Awards - HDC received 4 awards for 4 of their parks

### HEALTH EMBEDDED

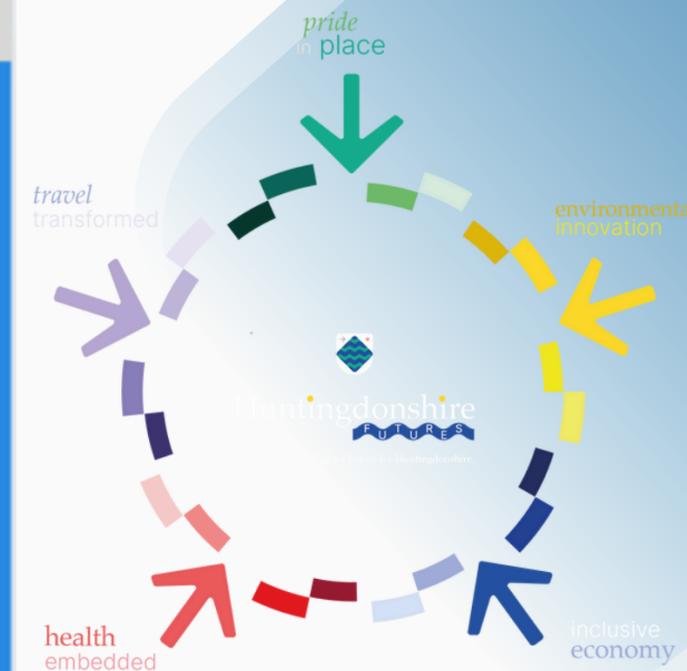


- Total of 29 ECO 4 FLEX applications submitted
- Warm Homes Upgrade Grant (WHUG), replacing HUG 2 announced
- AS part of CERP, nominated as finalists for 3 awards
- 250 menstrual cups given away for free followed by 250 more sold at heavily discounted rate
- Collaboration with partners for "Chef in the School" initiative to reduce school food waste

### INCLUSIVE ECONOMY



- Following the award of £700,000 Swim England funding, the installation of triple glazed windows around the swimming pool and a solar canopy in the car park were completed
- Continuation of the Green Skills programme - 67% of participants secured employment following involvement
- HVO trial partnered with Fire Service and Police
- Partnership with Cambridgeshire Carbon Footprint providing training and use of thermal imaging cameras
- Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme - CPCA funding aiming to help rural communities to reduce their carbon footprint. Awarded to 11 successful applicants
- Climate education - partnership with PECT to provide education programme to 5 schools



# Key Achievements

**Emission Reductions:** from March 2019 to March 2025, HDC has reduced its emissions by 1,032 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**Fleet Transition:** HDC completed a successful HVO trial, resulting in Cabinet approving its use across all standard diesel vehicles. This is estimated to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1,100 tonnes annually.

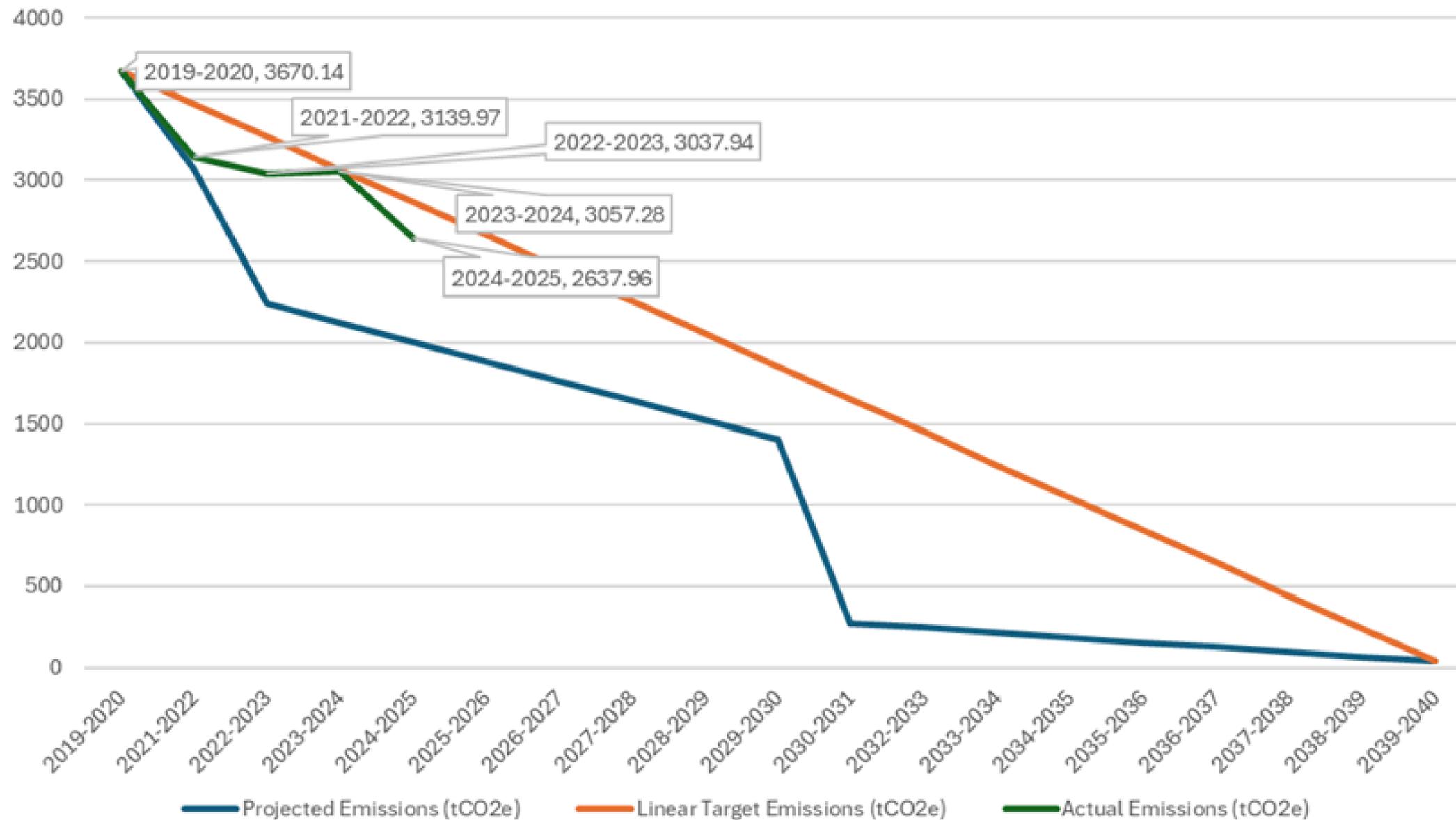
**Facilities upgrades:** retrofitting Council buildings, including the installation of a solar panel canopy at One Leisure St Ives in January 2025, which was commissioned in April 2025.

**Green tariffs:** HDC moved on to green tariffs on its main sites from September 2024, reducing our Scope 2 carbon emissions to zero

**Education and events:** HDC held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Climate Conversation in November 2024 bringing together stakeholders and residents to discuss and inspire Climate action

# GHG Emissions

## HDC Trajectory to Carbon Net Zero by 2040



Carbon savings from HDC's emissions is 1,032.18 tCO<sub>2</sub>e - this is the equivalent of powering electricity for 215 homes.

Combination of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions

- Scope 1 - direct emissions from our owned or controlled sources
- Scope 2 - indirect emissions e.g. from the generation of purchased energy
- Scope 3 - all other indirect emissions in a company's value chain

Our recorded Scope 2 electricity emissions have been purchased from a Green Tariff, which have reduced those emissions to 0. HDC has the relevant energy guarantees of origin (REGO) confirming the electricity is from renewable sources

# Climate Action Plan 2024-2025 Progress.

Horizon	Quarter 1 Progress	Quarter 2 Progress	Quarter 3 Progress	Quarter 4 Progress
Short Term	<p>Outstanding, 15, 79%</p> <p>Completed, 4, 21%</p>	<p>Completed, 5, 26%</p> <p>Outstanding, 14, 74%</p>	<p>Outstanding, 3, 16%</p> <p>Completed, 16, 84%</p>	<p>Completed 100%</p>
Medium Term	<p>Completed, 2, 10%</p> <p>Started, 13, 65%</p> <p>Not Started, 5, 25%</p>	<p>Completed, 2, 10%</p> <p>Started, 15, 75%</p> <p>Not started, 3, 15%</p>	<p>Outstanding, 11, 55%</p> <p>Completed, 9, 45%</p>	<p>Outstanding, 9, 45%</p> <p>Completed, 11, 55%</p>
Long Term	<p>Started, 7, 39%</p> <p>Not started, 11, 61%</p>	<p>Not started, 9, 50%</p> <p>Started, 9, 50%</p>	<p>Not started, 8, 44%</p> <p>Started, 10, 56%</p>	<p>Not started, 4,</p> <p>Started, 14, 78%</p>

# Net Zero Villages

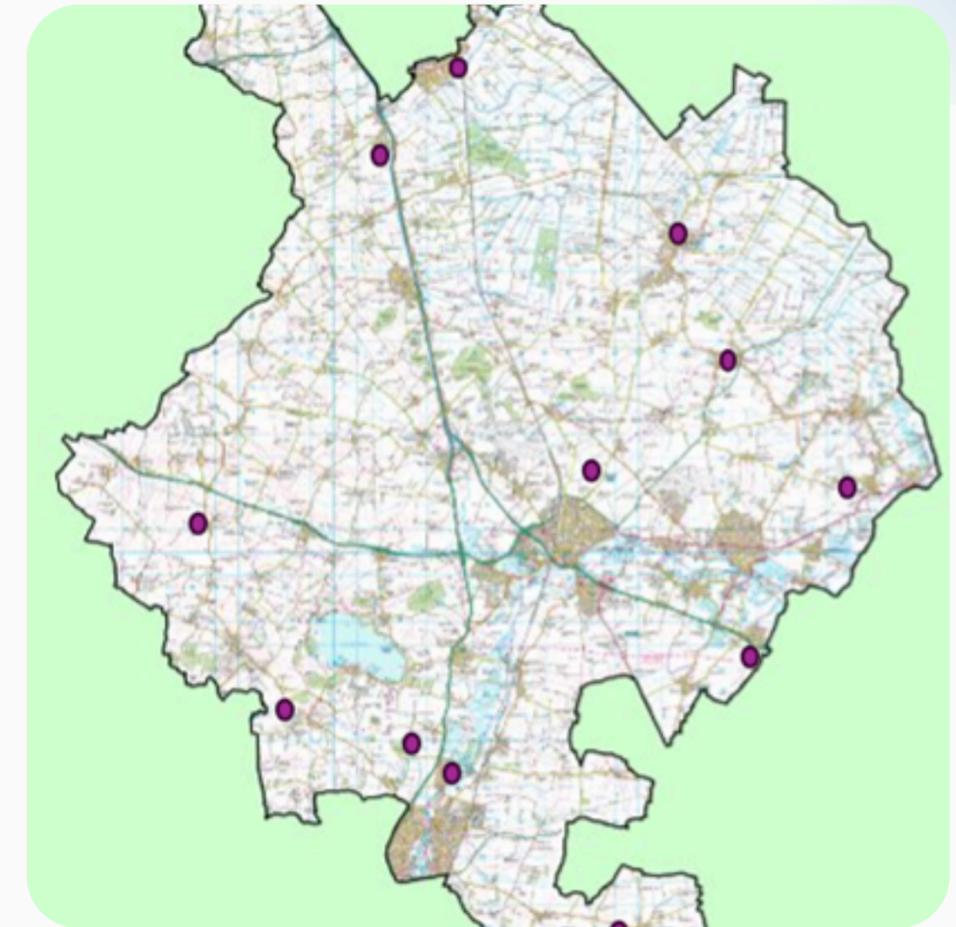
The Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme is a CPCA-provided fund aiming to help rural communities reduce their carbon footprint. A total of £257,376.60 was available for grant distribution, which ranged in amounts between £5,000 and £50,000.

The categories of project to apply for were:

- Tackling energy use and/or supporting energy efficiency or generation retrofit to community buildings
- Enabling access to public transport or access to local services through low carbon transport
- Nature-based solutions to tackle overheating of community buildings

The 11 successful applicants were located in: Yaxley, Great Staughton, Bluntisham, Little Paxton, Southoe, Fenstanton, Catworth, Great Gransden, Ramsey, Warboys and Stilton

Projects included: solar panel and battery installations, replacement of heating from oil to electric, solar streetlights and heat pump installations



# Annual Climate Conversation 2024.



On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Climate Conversation was held by HDC at the Burgess Hall. It was attended by 90 people from community groups, businesses, energy charities and local Councils. The keynote speakers came from a wide range of backgrounds including sustainability, procurement, energy saving through using thermal cameras and retrofitting at scale to reduce energy consumption.

As a direct result of this Climate Conversation, further development has been made on:

- Engaging community groups in Biodiversity tracking through the iNaturalist app
- The continued contribution of toolkit development for a locally determined contribution. This will stipulate work Councils will need to do to reach their own carbon net zero targets
- Networking opportunities for those who are interested in retrofitting their own homes
- Further promotion of retrofitting government funding schemes such as HUG2 (now finished) and ECO4 FLEX (ongoing until March 2026)/
- Incorporating a further shift into sustainable purchasing practices



# Home Energy

The Home Energy work continues through the 'Action on Energy (AOE) Cambridgeshire' network. A total of 29 Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 FLEX applications have been submitted over the last financial year. A total of 24 properties were approved to be upgraded for the HUG2 (Home Upgrade Grant) scheme in 2024-25. This scheme provided energy efficient upgrades and low-carbon heating to low-income households living in off-gas grid homes in England.

The HUG2 scheme has now closed and will be replaced with the Warm Homes Upgrade Grant (WHUG) scheme. Depending on eligibility, free energy saving improvements can be made to homes and is only available in England. The details of this scheme are currently being finalised and the 3-year programme is being launched in 2025-26. This will receive £8.5 million worth of funding to retrofit properties across Cambridgeshire as a whole, a lower figure than initially bid for.

The Home Energy team along with the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) were nominated for the following awards, in which CERP were shortlisted as finalists:

- APSE Energy Awards - 'working in collaboration'
- Retrofit Academy Awards - 'best Local Authority Led Retrofit Program'
- iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards - 'Green Public Service' Bronze Award





Questions?