



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

West Northamptonshire Council

Emissions Report 2021-2022



Foreword

Sustainability remains one of our core priorities at West Northamptonshire Council. Like many other organisations across the country, we are aware of our climate impact and are dedicated to making changes to our relationship with the environment in order to make a difference today, and for future generations.

In response to the UN's 2030 Sustainability agenda, the United Kingdom has adopted its own sustainability agenda for 2030. The Government has called upon local authorities and communities, highlighting the vital role we all have to play to enable the successful delivery of these targets.

In order to play our part in protecting our environment for years to come, West Northamptonshire Council has taken steps to measure its impact on the environment and set out our intentions to combat these and reduce our footprint.

Within this report, we are outlining the Council's baseline CO2e emissions data, the baseline data details the Council's emissions for the financial year 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.

We launched the West Northamptonshire Council sustainability strategy in March 2022 where we communicated our commitment to achieving Net Zero Council CO2e emissions by 2030.

In order to ensure that we're supporting our communities in reducing emissions across the area, we also committed to achieving Net Zero West Northamptonshire emissions by 2045.

To demonstrate our commitment to leading the way, as a Council we joined the UK 100. An organisation whose purpose is to help local authorities deliver Net Zero targets. Adopting these ambitious Net Zero targets requires the Council to monitor, reduce and where possible, eliminate sources of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions across the organisation. In addition to the benefits Net Zero will bring to West Northants, it will also contribute towards the UK Government's 2050 Net Zero target.

These are ambitious targets, and it is essential that as Councillors and colleagues we come together to make a change.

Both large and small steps in the right direction are vitally important. For example, the council is looking at major investment in solar power to reduce

its carbon emissions, and developing business cases for future change to electric powered waste collection vehicles. We're also taking some small but important steps, and for example in December 2022 we removed all single use hot drinks cups in our canteen at One Angel Square. This will not



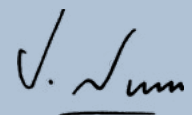
only make a difference inside of the office as people move towards using mugs and reusable coffee cups, reducing our waste; but we know it is also driving the vital behaviour changes that we all need to make to meet Net Zero targets across West Northants, and making us all more conscious of our past reliance on single use items, so that we swap to more sustainable cutlery, water bottles and coffee cups outside of the office too.

There are a number of ways you can join and support our journey. You may already act sustainably in your daily life without thinking about it, whether it is walking to the shops, recycling milk bottles or donating clothes to charity. So to make an even bigger impact, let's all make these acts a conscious and concerted effort.

We're all more likely to complete an action when we commit to it and we tell someone else, so here's your chance to make a pledge today at www.westnorthants.gov.uk/sustainability. There you can make a pledge, by describing the commitment and the changes you are going to make to be more sustainable.

Thank you for taking the time to read through our CO2e emissions report. We hope that you find this information useful and it enables you to consider the steps you can take to support our sustainability goals. Together we can make a difference for the future.

Cllr Jonathan Nunn
Leader
West Northamptonshire Council



'This report represents a significant achievement, and a strong base for delivering actions to cut emissions. CA-WN looks forward to seeing how it influences the council's decision-making and spending.'



Introduction

Alongside the launch of the Sustainability Strategy on 28th March 2022, West Northamptonshire Council committed to achieving Net Zero its own emissions by 2030 and Net Zero West Northants emissions by 2045. Additionally, the Council joined the UK 100, an organisation whose purpose is to help local authorities deliver Net Zero targets. Adopting these ambitious Net Zero targets requires the Council to monitor, reduce and where possible, eliminate sources of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions across the organisation. In addition to the benefits Net Zero will bring to West Northants, it will also contribute towards the UK Government's 2050 Net Zero target.

The purpose of this report is to summarise West Northamptonshire Council's baseline CO₂e emissions data, the baseline data details the Council's emissions for the financial year 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022. Data will be reported annually.

A glossary is available at the end of this report explaining key terms.

Accounting Tool, Control Boundary and Scope

The Council has adopted the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool, produced by Local Partnerships in cooperation with the Local Government Association, the tool is intended for use by local authorities and allows bench marking between authorities.

The tool has two options for setting the emissions control boundary. The Council has opted to use

the financial control boundary, meaning the Council will report on all sources of GHG emissions over which it has financial control. Use of the financial control boundary will ensure the emissions data is collected from all Council services, including the larger outsourced services such as waste collection, social housing contracts and the highways service contract.

Emissions data has been collected for all scope 1 and 2 emissions sources within the Council and for scope 3 emissions which fall within the financial control boundary and where robust data is available. The data is expressed as a figure in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e). CO₂ equivalent or CO₂e allows for accounting of a range of GHG gases.

Accounting for Renewable Energy

The Council and Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) currently purchases 11m kWh of energy from renewable sources, these purchases are supported by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) certificates. The energy purchased this way continues to be counted in the emissions report along with energy purchased via non-renewable sources. This ensures the emphasis remains on reduction in consumption of energy.

In addition to renewable energy purchases, the Council has generated a total of 409,108 kWh of renewable energy. The benefit of these savings are demonstrated through a reduction in consumption figures and reduced reliance on grid energy.



Baseline Data

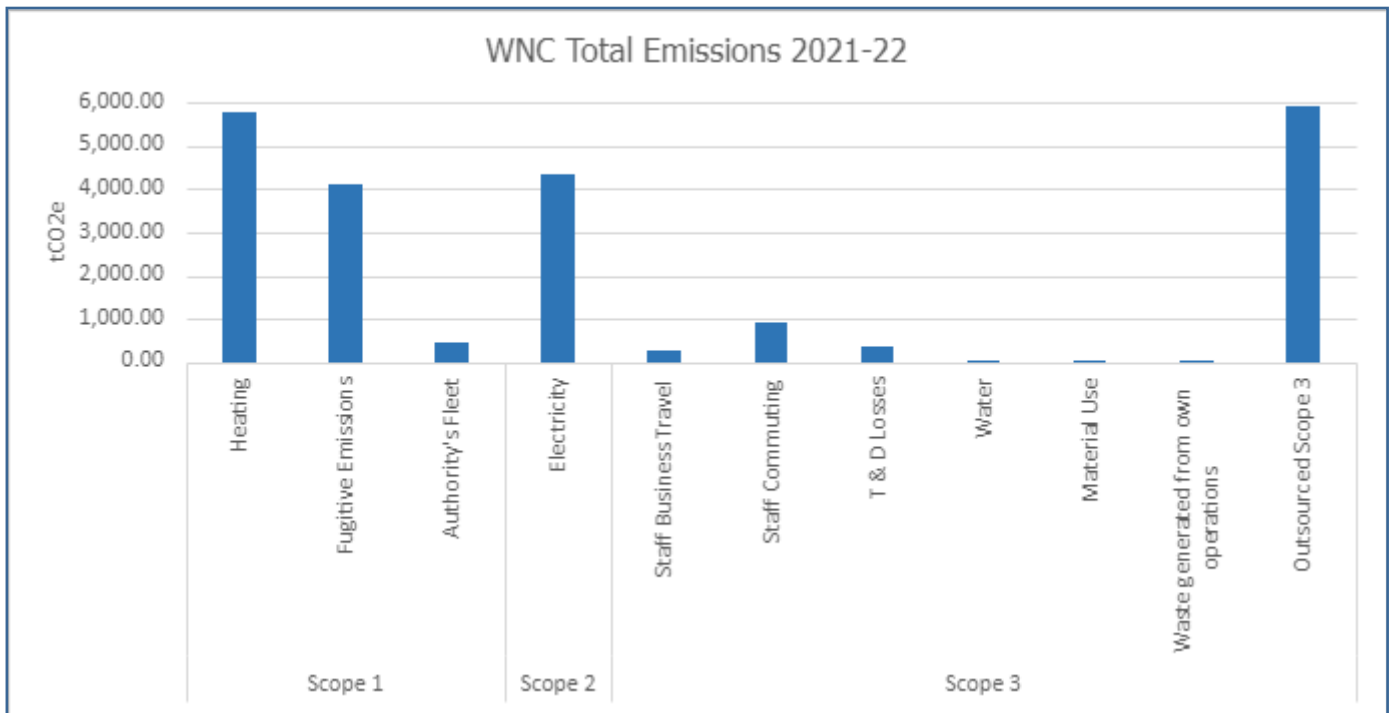
In order to develop a detailed emissions reduction pathway, the Council needed to establish robust baseline emissions data. The Council's sustainability team have gathered data from all Council services to produce a comprehensive CO2 emissions report. The table and graph below summarise all emissions from each scope.

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions (tCO2e)	Percentage of Total Emissions
Scope 1	Heating	5,784.07	26.05%
	Fugitive Emissions*	4,091.68	18.43%
	Authority's Fleet	474.23	2.14%
Scope 2	Electricity	4,325.12	19.48%
Scope 3	Staff Business Travel	252.63	1.14%
	Staff Commuting	926.73	4.17%
	T & D Losses	382.75	1.72%
	Water	28.6	0.13%
	Material Use	18.21	0.08%
	Waste generated from own operations	2.46	0.01%
	Outsourced Scope 3	5,917.16	26.65%
Total Emissions		22,203.64	100%
Renewable Energy Generation (kWh) (WNC & NPH)	409,108		
Green Tariffs (kWh) (WNC & NPH)	11,011,151	2,169	
Net Emissions		20,034.64	

*Fugitive emissions are from closed landfill sites only



Baseline Data



Key Points

- The majority of emissions, 66.1%, fall within our direct control under scopes 1 and 2.
- The most significant source of emissions, 45.6%, is combined energy use.
- The second significant source of scope 1 emissions, 18.4%, are fugitive emissions from decommissioned landfill sites located across West Northamptonshire.
- The remaining 33.8% of emissions fall within scope 3 and outsourced scope 3 with the majority, 26.6%, being from outsourced scope 3 activities, this includes the Council's highways and contracted waste services.



Baseline Data

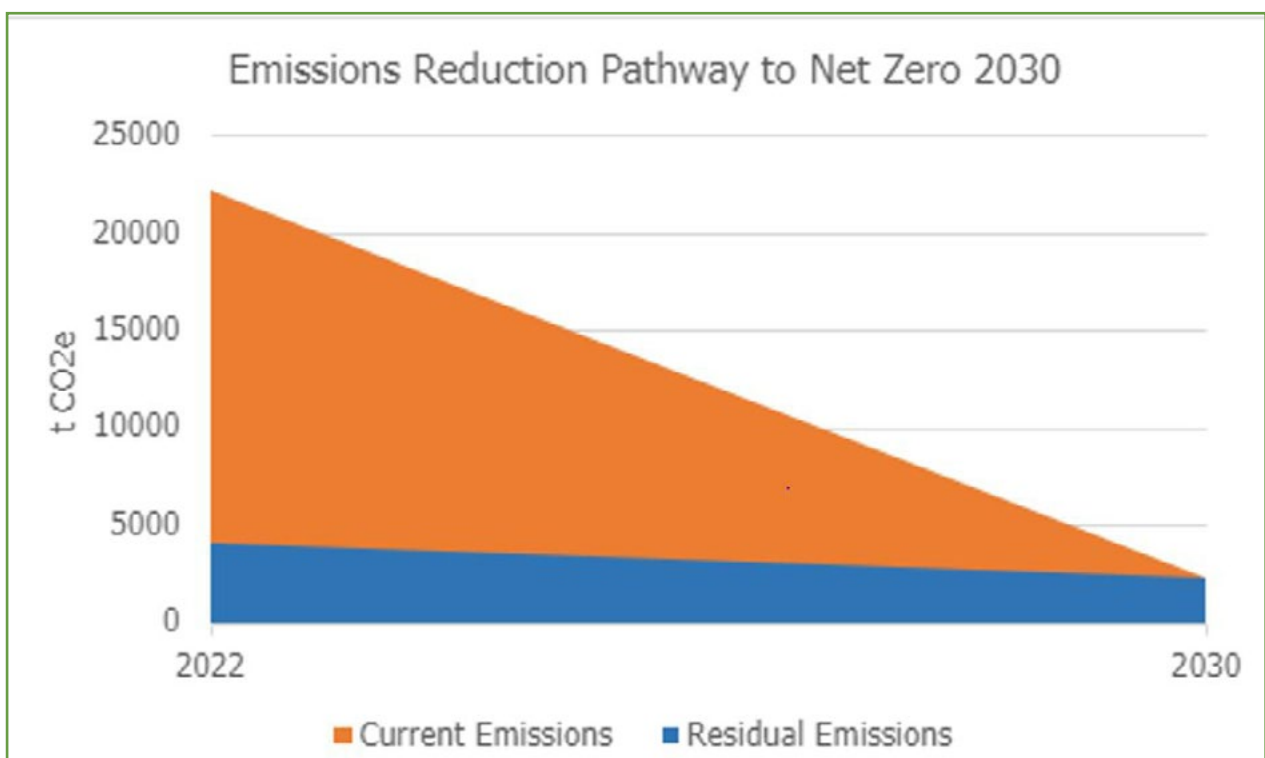
Out of Scope Emissions

The out of scope emissions are from social housing stock managed by third parties on behalf of the Council, and commercial leased properties. The use of the LGA tool excludes this data from inclusion within Scopes 1, 2 or 3 and will therefore form part of the Council's 2045 area wide net zero emissions target along with privately managed social housing stock.

		tCO ₂ e
Social Housing Stock	The Daventry Estate Company Limited (TDECL) managed housing and NPH managed housing	35,716.90
Commercial leased properties	Daventry, Brackley & Towcester	3,909.65

Emissions Reduction Pathway

The Council is currently developing a detailed emissions reduction pathway to achieve Net Zero 2030. For the purpose of the report, an indication of the CO₂e reduction required to meet our target is shown in the graph below.



Emissions Reduction Pathway

At present we have limited data for emissions sources which can't be eliminated or significantly reduced, the graph above shows the current data we hold. The residual emission data is for closed landfill sites only.

The current projected pathway to Net Zero requires an annual reduction of 2,587 tCO₂e over the next 7 financial years.

Early work on our reduction pathway includes several projects intended to inform development of the plan, this includes:

- Preparation of a report to develop a fleet decarbonisation pathway
- A review of the energy purchased by the Council, with the intention of increasing the proportion of energy from renewable sources
- A feasibility study looking at the siting of solar panels on Council buildings and land, with a view to increase the Council's generation of renewable energy.

Next Steps

The Council will continue to refine the emissions data publishing an annual report showing progress towards our Net Zero target and outlining key actions taken during the year. The Net Zero delivery plan will continue to be developed and the emissions reduction pathway will be updated to reflect developments within the plan.

Contact us:

Email: sustainable@westnorthants.gov.uk

Twitter: [@SustainableWN](https://twitter.com/SustainableWN)



Glossary

Scope 1 emissions - Direct GHG emissions occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the company, for example, emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers and vehicles. (1)

Scope 2 emissions - Indirect GHG emissions from the generation of purchased electricity consumed by the company. (1)

Scope 3 emissions - Scope 3 is an optional reporting category that allows for the treatment of all other indirect emissions. These emissions are a consequence of the activities of the company, but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the company. (1)
For example, staff business travel, water usage, waste.

Financial Control Boundary - The authority reports on all sources of carbon emissions over which it has financial control. The authority has financial control over a service if it has the ability to direct the financial and operating policies of the service with a view to financially managing its activities, e.g. setting budgets, managing expenditure, and/or obtaining an 'income', such it might be the case in leisure centres, community centres, etc. (1)

Outsourced Scope 3 emissions – These emissions are from high value, large, outsourced contracts which are likely to present the biggest opportunity for making emissions reductions. For example waste management services (collection, disposal, treatment), facilities management, leisure centres, highway maintenance, social care and children's services (including home to school transport) (2)

Fugitive emissions - These emissions result from intentional or unintentional release. (1)
The only fugitive emissions included in this report are those emitted from closed landfill sites.

Authority's Fleet - Vehicles owned and operated by the authority. 2

Staff Business Travel - Vehicles owned by employees but used to carry out the business of the authority. (2)

Staff Commuting – This represents emissions from vehicles used for staff commuting to and from work. (2) This data was obtained by a survey undertaken by WNC.

T & D Losses – Electric utility companies often purchase electricity from independent power generators or the grid and resell it to end-consumers through a transmission and distribution (T&D) system. A portion of the electricity purchased by a utility company is lost during its transmission and distribution to end-consumers. (1)

References

1. GHG Protocol - <https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/ghg-protocol-revised.pdf>
2. LGA - Climate Change: <https://www.local.gov.uk/climate-change-reporting-guidance-local-authorities>

