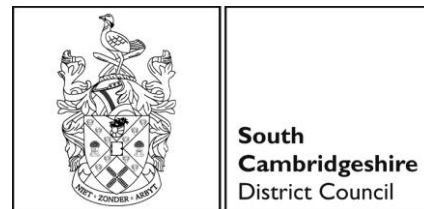


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Friday 26 May 2023

To: Chair - Councillor Pippa Heylings
Vice-Chairs – Councillors Dr Martin Cahn and Geoff Harvey

Members of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee –
Councillors Paul Bearpark, Dr Shrobona Bhattacharya, Ariel Cahn,
Dr Tumi Hawkins, Dr Lisa Redrup, Peter Sandford and Bunty Waters

Substitutes: Councillors Graham Cone, Heather Williams, Dr Richard Williams,
Lina Nieto, Sue Ellington, Stephen Drew, Peter Fane,
Natalie Warren-Green and Sunita Hansraj

Dear Sir / Madam

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Climate and Environment Advisory Committee**, which will be held in **Council Chamber - South Cambs Hall** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **Tuesday, 6 June 2023** at **2.00 p.m.**

Yours faithfully

Liz Watts

Chief Executive

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Agenda

	Pages
1. Apologies	
2. Declarations of Interest	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	5 - 8
4. Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan Annual Review 2022-23	9 - 58
5. Date of Next Meeting	

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Agenda Item 3

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee held on
Tuesday, 4 April 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Geoff Harvey
Vice-Chair: Dr. Martin Cahn

Committee Members in attendance:

Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya
Stephen Drew
Peter Fane
Peter Sandford

Councillors in attendance:

Councillors Brian Milnes and Bridget Smith were in attendance, by invitation.

Officers:

Peter Campbell	Head of Housing
Bode Esan	Head of Climate, Environment & Waste Development Officer - Climate and Environment
Siobhan Mellon	Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager
Alex Snelling-Day	Climate and Environment Project Officer
Luke Waddington	

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Bearpark, Ariel Cahn, Pippa Heylings, Lisa Redrup and Bunty Waters. Councillors Stephen Drew and Peter Fane were in attendance as substitutes.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Doubling Nature - Presentation by Richard Astle, Chair of Natural Cambridgeshire

The Committee received a presentation from Richard Astle, Chair of Natural Cambridgeshire. He explained that Natural Cambridgeshire was an independent charity, which worked in partnership to provide advice on how best to convert areas to a natural habitat. He made the following points:

- On average, 17% of the country had been given over to nature, whilst in Cambridgeshire the figure was only 8.5%.
- The Combined Authority had set up a £1m doubling nature fund, three applications were from South Cambridgeshire.

- In summer of 2023 a fund of £100,000 would become available, offering grants of about £2,000 each.

Members of the Committee noted that:

- Nature could be doubled by replicating small projects throughout the county.
- If a natural habitat could not be provided on the site of a new development, the target could be met by growing the habitat on another site, as a form of offsetting.
- The Council should work with small communities by providing small grants, advice and a leadership role to increase natural habitat in the District.
- The Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership provided an opportunity for increasing nature in the county.
- Cambridgeshire County Council owned a large amount of land in the District that could develop nature.
- The price of land made it difficult to double nature in the District.
- Farmers could be encouraged to convert farmland to a nature reserve.
- New developments, such as Orchard Park and Northstowe, presented opportunities to increase nature in the District.
- Tiny projects, such as encouraging residents to grow potted plants on their balconies, could help the Council to meet its target of doubling nature.
- The quality of the soil was crucial when increasing nature.

The Committee thanked Richard Astle for his presentation and informative answers to their questions.

5. Doubling Nature in South Cambridgeshire: Progress Update

The Project Officer presented this report on the Council's Doubling Nature Strategy, including details of the proposed actions to advance the authority's contribution to doubling nature in the District.

Members of the Committee noted the following points:

- It was appropriate to remember the work of Councillor John Loveluck and see that his initiatives were making a difference and were being used as a case study.
- The target of 20% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for new developments was ambitious and its achievability would often depend on the nature of the development.
- Neighbourhood Plans were proving effective at promoting the preservation and extension of green spaces.
- The Council monitored air quality in the District and fortunately there were no areas of major concern.
- The proposed East West rail development provided an opportunity for Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Small projects, such as putting grass on the roofs of bus shelters, should be supported.
- Encouraging all landowners to take positive action was a key factor to achieving Biodiversity Net Gain.

The Chair thanked the Project Officer for his report, which clearly evaluated the measures being taken and being proposed.

6. Sustainable Food: supporting initiatives in South Cambridgeshire

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment presented this report, which provided

an overview of the current actions and plans by the Council to support sustainable food initiatives.

The Committee noted the following points:

- Britons now consumed a far wider range of food, which often had to be imported, which was less sustainable than local produce.
- Innovative cooking could reduce both costs and waste and be more sustainable.
- Sometimes growing food locally could use more energy than importing it from overseas. Either way, eating food that was out of season was not sustainable.
- Gleaning, which was collecting excess fresh food from local farms, should be encouraged.
- Allotments should be encouraged in existing settlements and not just in new developments.
- Regular local community markets should be encouraged.
- The “Love Food, Hate Waste” campaign should be supported.
- South Cambs magazine was an excellent way to advertise sustainable food initiatives.

The Committee **noted** the report.

7. **Forward Plan**

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment, agreed to look into providing an agenda item on innovative farming at a future meeting.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 6 June at 2 pm.

The Meeting ended at 4.15 p.m.

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Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 06 June 2023
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Brian Milnes
Lead Officer:	Bode Esan

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan Annual Review 2022-23

Executive Summary

1. The Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25 (ZCDNAP) sets out actions in support of achieving Net Zero and Doubling Nature in South Cambridgeshire by 2050. This report provides an overview of progress with a detailed update and proposed revisions and new actions provided at Appendix 1.
2. The report provides the latest government data on CO₂ emissions from South Cambridgeshire. Data on key indicators for nature is not currently available at local authority level.
3. Action in the ZCDNAP is largely on track, as can be seen in the table below:

	Objective	Number of actions including completed actions	Red stalled	Amber delayed	Green On track	Completed
1	Reduce consumption of resources and waste	4	-	-	1	3
2	Decarbonise planning and land use	2	-	-	2	-
3	Decarbonise transport	19	-	2	12	5
4	Decarbonise housing and other buildings	14	-	3	6	5
5	Decarbonise business and industry	6	-	1	4	1
6	Decarbonise food systems and agriculture	2	-	-	2	-
7	Deliver training, education, communications and advocacy	7	-	-	5	2
8	Respond to the ecological emergency	12	-	-	10	2
	TOTAL	66	-	7	40	19

4. The Council has a target to reduce greenhouse gases on its estate and operations by 45% by 2025-26 and 75% by 2030-31 on a 2018-19 baseline. The Council's Greenhouse Gas accounts for 2022-23 are included at Appendix 2 and show a reduction of 25% on the 2018-19 baseline (net emissions) in 2022-23. Plans are underway to switch a proportion of the refuse vehicle fleet from diesel to hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO). Being plant-based, HVO is almost zero carbon for the purposes of standard greenhouse gas emissions reporting. Assuming a decision to use HVO in place of diesel in sufficient volume, this will allow the Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to be met.
5. Key corporate decarbonisation project highlights and details of Zero Carbon Communities grant funded community projects are provided at Appendices 3 and 4 respectively.
6. The ZCDNAP is a live document reviewed annually as opportunities for action emerge. Proposed revisions to actions and new actions are included after each section.

Recommendations

7. The committee are recommended to:
 - Note progress on the ZCDNAP 2020-25
 - Support proposed revisions to actions and new actions

Reasons for Recommendations

8. The progress update has been brought to CEAC to allow the committee to fulfil its role advising Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions and providing updates on progress towards achieving agreed targets and outcomes.

Details

Background

9. Following adoption of Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature strategies in May 2020 and February 2021 respectively, a combined cross-Council action plan to deliver both strategies was received and noted by CEAC in July 2021; an end of year update for this plan was provided in June 2022. This plan was reviewed, and a revised and restructured plan presented to CEAC in December 2022. This report presents the end of year update for this plan.

Council estate and operations

10. Council emissions account for only >0.2% of district emissions. Although relatively small they provide an important opportunity to lead by example.
11. In its Zero Carbon Strategy, adopted in 2020, the Council committed to targets to reduce carbon emissions from its estate and operations (not including Council housing) by 45% by 2025 and 75% by 2030 on a 2018-19 baseline. For the purposes of reporting against our reduction targets, we take this to mean net greenhouse gas emissions, that is
 - direct emissions, (Scope 1; for the Council this is from gas boilers and vehicle fuel)
 - indirect emissions from grid electricity used on the Council's estate and operations, using a market-based conversion factor (Scope 2; using a market-based conversion factor allows us to where the Council purchases grid electricity on a green tariff, this is reported as zero emissions)
 - emissions from business travel in vehicles not owned by the Council (these are classified in standard protocols as Scope 3; they are currently the only Scope 3 emissions included in the Council's accounts. From 2024-25, we intend to extend Scope 3 reporting to include major service contracts).

12. With the exception of the market-based conversion factor for grid electricity, greenhouse gas emissions are calculated using conversion factors supplied and updated annually by the government into units of kilogrammes of carbon dioxide equivalence (kg CO₂e). This provides an indication of global warming potential over 100 years.
13. The Council's reduction targets are absolute; assuming 1.5% annual population growth between 2020 and 2030 (Cambridgeshire Insight projection for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough), per capita reduction targets, given current and projected population growth in the district, are respectively, 49% and 87%.
14. The Council's gross greenhouse gas emissions for 2022-23 totalled 1575 t CO₂e. The gross figure includes location-based grid electricity emissions, that is emissions reported as if electricity were purchased on a standard tariff. The full statement of the 2022-23 SCDC annual GHG emissions accounts is provided at Appendix 2.
15. Figure 1 below shows how greenhouse gas emissions from the various sources which make up the Council's gross greenhouse gas emissions have changed in the period 2018-19 to 2022-23.

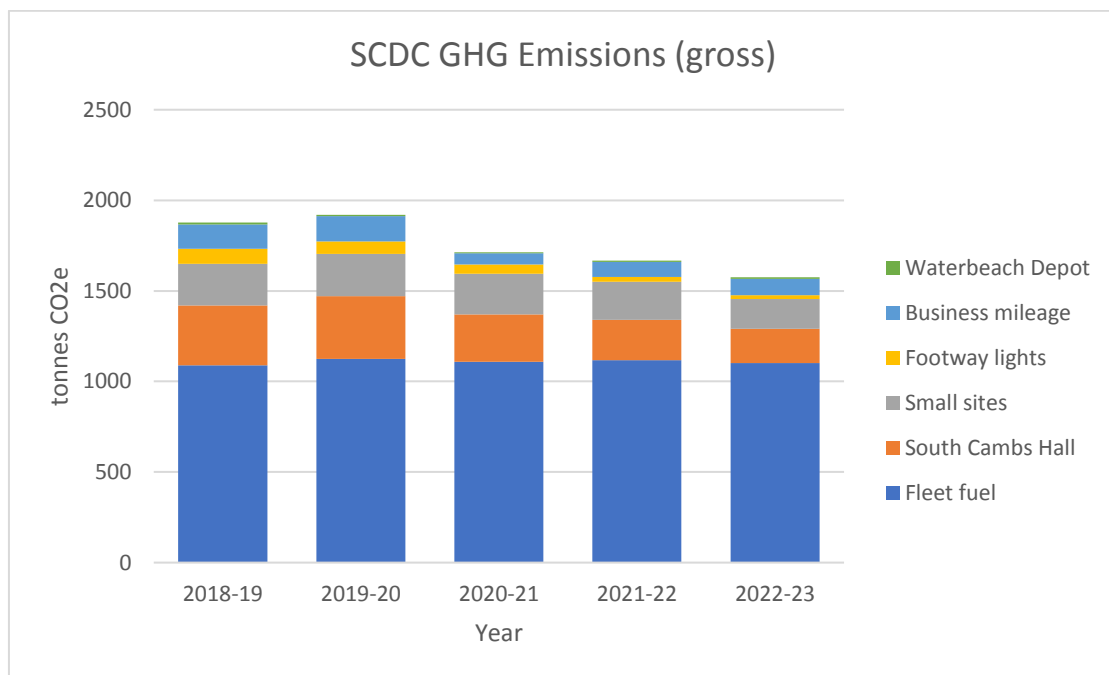


Figure 1

16. These sources are listed below with the proportion of total greenhouse gas emissions in 2022-23 provided in brackets.

- fleet vehicles - mainly bin lorries (70%)
- South Cambs Hall (12%)
- Small sites - the Council is responsible for power and heating on 85 'small sites', all of which fall under the Housing Revenue Account. These are mainly communal areas on housing estates including stairwells and sheltered housing scheme communal rooms; (10%)
- business mileage (6%)
- streetlights - the Council owns a small proportion of streetlights in the District; most are owned by the county council (1%)
- Waterbeach depot (1%)

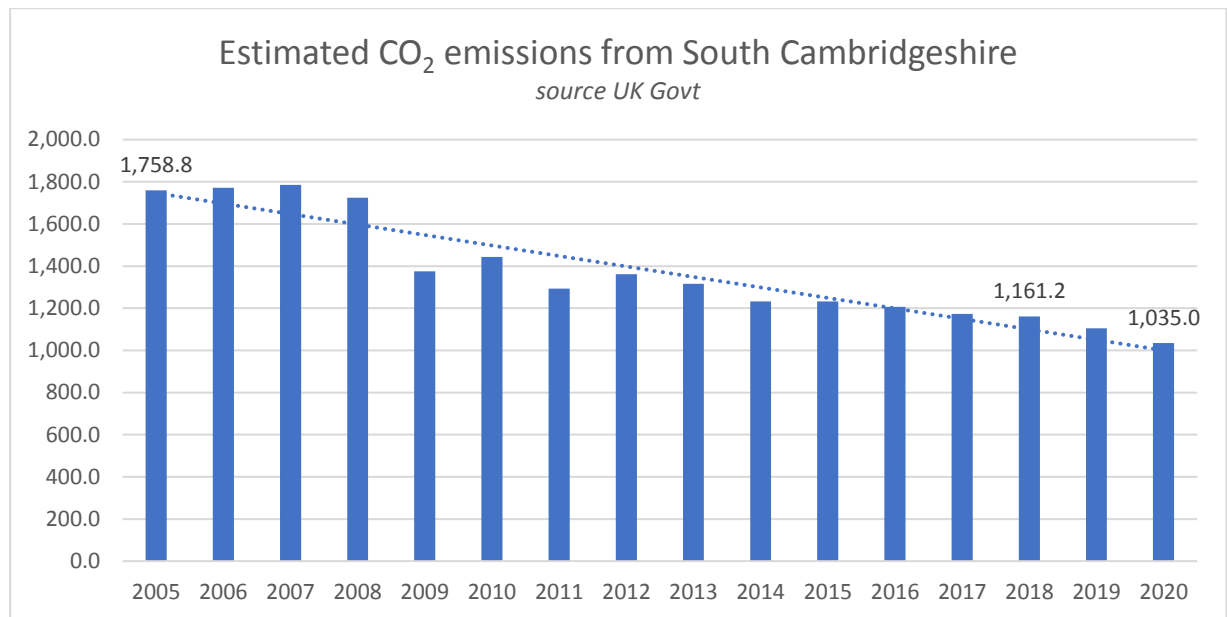
17. Total greenhouse gas emissions (gross) fell by 16% from 1878 tCO₂e in 2018-19 to 1575tCO₂e in 2022-23. Part of this was due to a fall in carbon intensity of grid electricity which reduced by 45% over the period 2017 – 2022. Other significant factors include switching of Council-owned streetlights to LEDs and installation of energy saving improvements especially heating controls in communal rooms.

South Cambridgeshire District Greenhouse Gas Emissions

18. The government started publishing data at local authority level on all greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. Prior to that and since 2005 it published estimated emissions of carbon dioxide, which makes up around 80% of UK emissions and almost all emissions from the use of fossil fuel. The data is broken down according to sector and published at the end of June in the following year, with the most recent data from 2020.

19. Chart 3 shows how total CO₂ emissions from South Cambridgeshire have changed in the period 2005 to 2020. The proportion of total CO₂ emissions in 2020 is shown in brackets below.

- Transport (45%)
- Industry, Commercial, Public Sector and Agriculture (26%)
- Domestic (22%)
- Land Use/Land Use Change (7%)
- Waste Management (>1%)



20. Total CO₂ in 2020 from South Cambridgeshire was 1,035,000 t. This was a reduction of 41% on 2005 and 6% in relation to the previous year, 2019. Much of this reduction has been due to reductions in the carbon intensity of the electricity grid.

The Council's ZCDNAP

21. The ZCDNAP sections correspond loosely with the sectors used in the government's CO₂ emissions reporting. Taking the ZCDNAP sections in turn,

Section 1: Reduce consumption of resources and waste

22. This section of the ZCDNAP comprises four actions. Three of these involved changes within the Council, that is, reviewing and improving recycling facilities, eliminating the use of single-use plastic and moving to paper-free Council and committee meetings, all of which are now completed.

23. The fourth action was to develop and implement a strategy to reduce consumption of resources and waste in the district. This is a major ongoing workstream, reported to CEAC at the 6 December 2022 meeting. Revised wording is proposed to bring this action into alignment with the corresponding action in the Corporate Business Plan.

Section 2: Decarbonise planning and land use

24. The Council is committed to supporting Net Zero through the development of planning policy. Since planning is not just concerned with buildings themselves but place making it has the potential to be a powerful tool in the response to the climate emergency.

25. The two actions in this section are to progress planning policies related to Net Zero and wider climate change policies as part of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan and Greater Cambridge Local Plan.
26. The First Proposals for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan were informed by an extensive Net Zero study. The first proposals include that development is almost entirely located in areas which minimise travel needs. Seven policies are proposed specifically to address climate change, covering Net Zero new buildings, water efficiency in new buildings, design for a changing climate including mitigation for flooding, renewable energy projects and infrastructure and supporting land-based carbon sequestration. Following consultation on the First Proposals, officers are further developing the policies ahead of consultation on the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan in autumn 2023.
27. The North East Cambridge draft Area Action Plan includes a Net Zero carbon buildings policy as well as wider policies related to the role of new development in responding to the climate emergency. The Area Action Plan has been prepared on the basis that the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, currently located in the Northeast Cambridge area, will be relocated off-site. The Area Action Plan process is now paused awaiting a decision on the separate Development Consent Order process for the relocation of this plant. Public consultation on the proposals is expected to take place in 2024.

Section 3: Decarbonise transport

28. Due to the impact of Covid on travel, 2020 (the most recent year for which estimated data is available) cannot be viewed as typical. Transport CO₂ emissions from South Cambridgeshire were down 9% on the previous year at 480 kt CO₂. This represented 45% of total CO₂ emissions from South Cambridgeshire for 2020. Government data for 2020 includes a breakdown as follows:
- A roads 288 (60%)
 - Motorways 90 (19%)
 - Minor roads 91 (19%)
 - Diesel railways and 'other' 11 (2%)
29. The percentage of total Transport CO₂ emissions is shown in brackets. In 2020 A roads accounted for a slightly higher proportion, and motorways and minor roads slightly a slightly lower proportion than in 2019.
30. Nationally emissions from surface transport have been broadly flat falling just 1% between 2009 and 2019. They need to fall by 90% by 2050 to meet the economy-wide Net Zero target. The government's Decarbonisation Plan was published by the Department for Transport in July 2021. On top of the commitment to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030, the plan includes measures to ban the sale of new large diesel trucks by 2040 with smaller diesel trucks banned from 2035.

31. Statutory responsibility for transport planning in the whole of Cambridgeshire lies with Cambridgeshire County Council but there are several areas where the District Council can take action to support the reduction of emissions from transport. The ZCDNAP includes seven sub-sections under Transport covering the Council's fleet, business mileage, EV charging, working with partners on sustainable transport and travel strategy, taxi licensing, community sustainable travel initiatives and planning policy.
32. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Climate Action Plan reports that four strategies are being progressed that will look to reduce travel and provide the infrastructure required to enable low carbon transport. These are due to be approved by Summer 2023 and are the Local Transport Connectivity Plan, EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy, Alternative Fuel Strategy and Bus Service Improvement Plan. Additional projects also progressing are: a Mayoral precept to support the bus network; the Zebra project to replace 10% of buses with electric buses; and ongoing consultation by Greater Cambridge Partnership on a Sustainable Travel Zone in Cambridge.

Section 4: Decarbonise housing and other buildings

33. Domestic emissions accounted for 22% of CO₂ emissions from South Cambridgeshire in 2020, of which 25% from electricity, 52% from gas and 23% from other, that is heating oil, solid fuel etc. According to the government's advisors, the Climate Change Committee, the UK's legally binding climate change targets will not be met without near complete elimination of greenhouse gas emissions from buildings.
34. The ZCDNAP groups actions to reduce carbon emissions from all types of buildings together in three sections – Council buildings, Helping house-holders decarbonise their homes by improving home energy efficiency and moving to low carbon heating, and Design and construction. Action to upgrade Council owned streetlights is included with action on Council buildings.

Council housing

35. There are around 60,000 dwellings in South Cambridgeshire with 5,295 of these in the Council's ownership and management including 1090 sheltered homes. There are a further 475 leasehold properties to which management services are provided. Added together these make up around 10% of total homes within the district and mean that the Council is by far the largest provider of rented accommodation, with Registered Providers contributing a further 5%. The Council's rented stock is predominantly between 40 and 100 years old with only 3% having been built since 2002.
36. The approach to decarbonising the Council's housing is set out in the Housing Revenue Account Asset Management Strategy 2021-26, approved February 2022. It sets out 9 priorities, of which Priority C is to have a long term strategy and programme in place to improve the thermal efficiency of homes and reduce their carbon emissions with the aim of being carbon neutral by 2050.

37. The Council commissioned a study in 2019 by an external consultant on how best to meet this aim, which recommended a three stage project whilst ensuring that overall costs to tenants are kept to a minimum:

- Stage 1 – reduce energy demand in dwellings by improving the level of insulation, including external walls and ground floors
- Stage 2 – install alternative heating systems
- Stage 3 – eliminate residual carbon through installation of solar panels or offsetting. If the grid has been decarbonised in line with government plans then this stage will not be necessary.

38. Following a successful bid to the government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) for £1.7 M, a project is being mobilised to deliver over 600 efficiency measures to bring 300 properties up to EPC level C over the next two years. A limited number of solar panel installations are included in the mix, brought forwards from the original plan and included where they will most help with cost-of-living challenges. The SHDF funding does not cover all properties. Assessments of the work needed to bring all remaining properties up to at least EPC level C will be made following the results of the Stock Condition Survey in early 2024.

39. Earlier in the year, taking advantage of government funding from the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme, LAD1b, solar PV was installed to 15 Council properties.

40. Two further actions concern Housing Revenue Account properties. Work will start in the coming months to install solar PV to Elm Court sheltered housing scheme in Over and remote heating controls have been fitted to all communal rooms on sheltered housing schemes. Assessments to determine potential carbon reduction measures from all communal rooms on sheltered housing schemes are being carried out.

Streetlighting

41. Work to install LED fittings in all Council owned streetlights has now been completed.

Private housing

42. Around 85% of domestic properties in South Cambs are privately owned. There are various obstacles to householders improving energy efficiency/decarbonising their homes including cost and inconvenience of arranging work, and lack of skilled and trusted perceived lack of skilled and trusted tradespeople. The Council is working to overcome these through partnership initiatives from the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership, (CERP).

43. Solar Together Cambridgeshire, a group buying scheme for solar panels and batteries, was set up by CERP in 2020. The scheme is run by iChoosr,

specialists in setting up group buying schemes. Householders are invited to register their interest in the scheme by a deadline after which iChoosr run a reverse auction to select one or more installer companies to deliver the work. A targeted mailshot is sent to households most likely to be interested. The scheme has run twice with 416 installations completed in South Cambridgeshire in the first round. At 4th May 389 installations had been completed in South Cambridgeshire in the second round with approximately 230 still to complete.

44. CERP has also bid successfully for government funding for home energy improvements for low income households. The first of these schemes, the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery 1b scheme, completed in June 2022, delivering work to a total of 152 homes across Cambridgeshire including 15 in South Cambs (solar panels to Council owned properties).
45. The second scheme, Sustainable Warmth, is in the final stages of delivery. Sustainable Warmth comprised the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG1) funding for off gas properties and Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD3) funding for on gas properties. Final figures are not yet available. It is likely that work will have been completed on around 150 properties in Cambridgeshire including 28 in South Cambridgeshire.
46. Both schemes have under delivered due to lack of installer capacity, (which has affected delivery of government schemes across the country). To address this issue, CERP has procured a framework of five installer companies to operate under the local authority branding Action on Energy Cambridgeshire.
47. The framework will deliver a third government funded scheme, HUG2. As with HUG1, this provides funding for work to poor performing homes occupied by low income households in off-gas areas. It will be delivered by installer companies on the Action on Energy framework over the next two years.
48. The Action on Energy framework is also intended to provide a trusted route for self-funding customers. Householders can contact any of the five companies signed up to the framework with confidence that they have been through the Councils' procurement process. As and when new schemes such as the Great British Insulation scheme come on line, householders will be able to access funding and get work delivered using the framework companies. Details are on the [Action on Energy Cambridgeshire](#) website.

Section 5: Decarbonise business and industry

49. Business, industry, the public sector and agriculture accounted for 26% of CO₂ emissions from South Cambridgeshire in 2020. The Council's approach has been to signpost businesses to various sources of information on all aspects of sustainability, with further information and networking opportunities provided through a series of Green Business webinars.

50. Funding allocations from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and complementary Rural England Prosperity Fund, launched last year, provide further opportunities for supporting businesses to decarbonise and improve other aspects of environmental sustainability. Plans are being finalised for a £170,000 Green Business Grant scheme, which aims to provide grants of up to £5,000 to around 50 businesses over two years. Larger grants for green measures will be available through other schemes currently in development.

Section 6: Decarbonise food systems and agriculture

51. The Council's current and planned action in this area was outlined in a report to CEAC's 4 April meeting. This set out various ways the Council currently encourages sustainable food initiatives covering support for allotments and community food growing initiatives through planning policy and grants; supporting a local food economy with help for community markets; influencing food behaviour, as with the Love Food Hate Waste campaigns and through Zero Carbon Communities grant funded projects promoting climate-friendly diets.
52. A key next step is to explore local appetite for a cross-sector food partnership to lead and co-ordinate action to strengthen the local food economy in South Cambridgeshire.

Section 7: Deliver training, education, communications, and advocacy and engage communities

53. Actions in this section are around increasing the capacity for action through training, education, communications, advocacy and engagement, both internally at the Council and in the local and wider community.
54. An important development during 2022-23 was the Council's Carbon Literacy training course for staff. This is an in depth seven hour course taking place over two sessions and accredited by the Carbon Literacy Trust. Two cohorts of staff have taken the course with further courses planned on a quarterly basis.
55. The established Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme provided grants for 13 projects in 2022, made up of five focussed on community engagement including a second round of the successful Net Zero Now programme to train and recruit climate leaders and two sustainable food projects and eight focussed on carbon reduction including solar panels and insulation projects to village halls. A summary of progress on the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme is included at Appendix 4.

Section 8: Respond to the ecological emergency

56. The Council uses a wide range of levers to increase and/or enhance land managed for nature in South Cambridgeshire. A report detailing these was provided to CEAC in April.

Proposed new or revised actions

57. The action plan at Appendix 1 proposes five new or revised actions to capture work not previously included in the action plan or streamline reporting with the Corporate Business Plan. These are:

- Revise action 1.1 to identify and implement strategies for overall waste/materials reduction, decreased residual waste and increased recycling.
- Add action - working through Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership, deliver government funded HUG2 scheme by Q4 2024-25
- Replace actions 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5 with 5.2 Provide advice and resources to help businesses understand what they can do to become greener and 5.3 Identify funding opportunities to help businesses meet economic challenges specifically to help businesses to be greener.
- Subsume Action 7.2 (Support staff to understand and engage with the climate emergency) under 7.3 (Deliver Carbon Literacy Training to staff and Members)
- Add action to award grants of up to £15,000 to at least nine community projects to reduce carbon and engage communities on climate change through the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme Add action to promote gardening for nature to our residents to increase awareness and better enable residents to preserve and enhance nature within their own spheres.

58. An additional section to capture the Council's work on adaptation and resilience to climate change will be added following the report to CEAC on climate risks and adaptation, scheduled for the 12 October meeting.

59. Next year's review of the ZCDNAP will be provided a little later in the year to allow inclusion of the most recent local authority greenhouse gas emissions data. (Annual data is published 18 months in arrears in late June).

Implications

60. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

61. Financial resources for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been assigned through the Council's usual budgetary processes.

Staffing

62. Staffing for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been assigned through the Council's usual processes.

Climate Change

63. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change.

Consultation responses

64. The action plan has been the subject of internal consultation.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Being green to our core

65. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change and double nature.

Background Papers

Doubling Nature in South Cambridgeshire Progress Update to CEAC, 4 April 2023

<http://modern.gov/documents/s130881/Doubling%20Nature%20CEAC%20Report%20March%202023%20V.2-bm-approved.pdf>

Sustainable Food: supporting initiatives in South Cambridgeshire report to CEAC, 4 April 2023

http://modern.gov/documents/s130882/230404%20CEAC%20Sustainable%20Food%20Report%20BM_BE%20signed.pdf

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan Progress Update, 6 December 2022

<http://modern.gov/documents/s129558/221206%20ZCDNAP%20update%20to%20CEACv2.pdf>

Zero Carbon Strategy report to Full Council, 21 May 2020

<https://scamb.modern.gov.co.uk/documents/s116330/200521%20Zero%20Carbon%20Strategy%20Report%20to%20Council%20FINAL.pdf>

Doubling Nature Strategy report to Cabinet, 03 February 2021

<https://scamb.modern.gov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy.pdf>

Appendices

1. Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan Progress Update
2. SCDC Greenhouse gas emissions accounts 2022-23
3. Key corporate decarbonisation projects
4. Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme report

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South Cambridgeshire District Council Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25

RAG rating	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 01/05/23	Next milestone
1	Reduce consumption of resources and waste				
1.1	Implement a strategy to reduce consumption of resources and waste	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Action plan reviewed and revised weekly; KPIs reported internally monthly	See proposed revised action
	Completed actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review recycling facilities across the Council and implement changes – completed 2019 • Review use of disposable single-use plastic and implement changes – completed 2019 • Move to paper-free Council and committee meetings – completed 2022 				
	Proposed new or revised action: Revise action 1.1 to identify and implement strategies for overall waste/materials reduction, decreased residual waste and increased recycling.			Rationale: This makes reporting more efficient by bringing the wording into alignment with the corresponding action in the Corporate Business Plan	
2	Decarbonise planning and land use				
2.1	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	First Proposals include seven policies relating to climate change, viz, CC/NZ Net zero carbon new buildings CC/WE Water efficiency in new developments CC/DC Designing for a changing climate CC/FM Flooding and integrated water management CC/RE Renewable energy projects and infrastructure CC/CE Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy	Draft version of the Local plan to be completed for consultation in 2023.

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
	consultation and work on the draft plan			<p>CC/CS Supporting land-based carbon sequestration</p> <p>Details of the proposed policies can be viewed at</p> <p>https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/climate-change</p>	
2.2	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the Northeast Cambridge Area Action Plan	Planning Policy Manager	2024/25	<p>The submission draft Area Action Plan includes a net zero carbon buildings policy as well as wider policies related to the role of new development in responding to the climate emergency.</p> <p>Further details can be viewed at</p> <p>https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/north-east-cambridge-area-action-plan/</p> <p>The Area Action Plan has been prepared on the basis that the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is currently located in the Northeast Cambridge area, will be relocated off-site. The process is now paused until a decision has been made on the separate Development Consent Order process for the relocation of this plant.</p>	Public consultation expected 2024

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
3	Decarbonise transport				
3.1	Decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet				
3.1.1	Procure low emissions vehicles where new vehicles are needed and when replacing end of life vehicles (subject to availability of suitable alternative models and charging infrastructure)	Service Manager, Operations	Ongoing, fleet decarbonisation strategy sets out a programme from 2020 - 2028	3 electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCV) and 3 electric vans procured	Order to be placed for 4 th eRCV to be delivered in 23/24 subject to available power supply. Still on course and additional power now sourced.
3.1.2	Develop and deliver solar PV, battery storage and electric vehicle charging network at the Council Depot - Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network project (WREN)	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	Q3 2023/24	Business cases have been approved by the CPCA (providing approximately 40% of total project costs, that is £2.7M) and are in the final stages of sign off by the two councils, South Cambs and City. Commercial contracts are in final stages of preparation.	Contracts expected to be signed by end of June with start on site soon after.
3.1.3	Investigate feasibility of substituting diesel with HVO biofuel in one or more vehicles as an interim measure to reduce GHG emissions	Service Manager, Operations	Q2 2022/23	Trials completed with both Councils' agreeing to deploy fuel use further subject to budgetary sign off on fuel costs	n/a
3.2	Reduce emissions from the Council's business mileage				

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
	Completed actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up salary sacrifice electric car scheme – completed April 2022; purchase of 7 cars approved through the scheme in 2022-23 				
3.3	Work with partners to install EV charging points across the district				
3.3.1	Install Rapid chargers to help meet vehicle charging needs of taxi-drivers	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Two Rapid Chargers have been installed at SCH and are available to the public including taxi drivers. The plan to install a third Rapid Charger at Babraham Park and Ride has been dropped as projected costs exceeded the allocated budget. As indicated below, we continue to work with Cambridgeshire County Council to enhance public EVCP provision.	n/a
3.3.2	Support development of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council's Cambridgeshire-wide Electric Vehicle charging strategy	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Ongoing	Draft EV Infrastructure Strategy and action plan written by Cambridgeshire County Council with input from Districts and presented to CPCA Board in March 2023	Continue to Support CPCA/CPCA in development of strategy and actions
3.3.5	Deliver publicly accessible EV Charge Points, working with partners	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Public EVCPs installed at 2 sheltered accommodation sites and now in operation as of February 2023 A new Electric Vehicle Charge Point Grant scheme was approved at Grants Advisory Committee October 2022 with funding now being distributed, two awards made and a further two applications under consideration as of 9 th May 2023	Monitor usage of sheltered accommodation EVCPs for 6 months to assess if replicable on other sites

RAG rating	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 01/05/23	Next milestone
					Continue to run and promote EVCP grant
3.3.6	Install EVCPs at South Cambs Hall for use by staff and visitors	Corporate Programme Manager	Q3 2022/23	18 x 7kW EV chargers and 2 x 42kW Rapid chargers installed and back office system in place. Expected to be fully operational by end of Q1 22/23	Final adjustments
3.3.7	Procure single supplier for EV chargers on Council assets			The expected volume of public EV chargers on Council assets can be supplied through existing contracts. The need for a separate procurement will be kept under review. (EV chargers will continue to be installed in new Council homes, but these are installed by the developer and do not require a supplier to be procured).	
	Completed actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategy for EV charging infrastructure on Council assets, see here – completed October 2022 				
3.4	Work with partners on sustainable transport and travel strategy				
3.4.1	Through the CPCA, develop and implement a strategy to decarbonise transport	N/a	ongoing	Four Cambridgeshire strategies are being progressed that will look to reduce travel and provide the infrastructure required to enable low carbon transport. Those due to be approved by Summer 2023 are: Local Transport Connectivity Plan, EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy, Alternative Fuel Strategy and Bus Improvement Plan. A Mayoral precept to support the bus network, and the Zebra project to replace 10% of buses with electric buses are also progressing, see CPCA Climate Action Plan report, workstream 5 here .	-

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
3.4.2	Through the Greater Cambridge Partnership, develop and implement City Deal funded sustainable transport initiatives.	N/a	ongoing	Current GCP projects are Cambourne to Cambridge, Cambridge Southeast, the 12 Greenways and the Making Connections proposals to transform the bus network, invest in other sustainable travel schemes and create Sustainable Travel Zone. Details can be accessed at Greater Cambridge Partnership .	-
	Completed actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of CCC's Active Travel Strategy, see here adopted March 2023 (SCDC led the development of the Active Travel Toolkit for New Developments) 				
3.5	Taxis and private hire				
	Completed action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise taxi licensing policy to phase out fossil fuelled vehicles- completed 2019 and amended 2021 to require all licensed private hire and hackney carriage vehicles to be zero or ultra-low emission by 01 December 2028. 				
3.6	Support community sustainable travel initiatives				
3.6.2	Explore feasibility of community car share/e-club schemes with rural coverage	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2023-24	Not started	Initial report to Green to our Core Cluster Board by Q3
	Completed actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community-led active travel projects through Zero Carbon Communities grants (13 community-led active travel projects supported through Zero Carbon Communities grants schemes in 2019 and 2020, see list of projects supported here) 				
3.7	Support sustainable travel through planning policy				

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
3.7.1	Progress planning policies which limit the need to travel and facilitate active travel modes as part of work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan.	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	Proposed locations for development take into account the need to limit the need to travel and facilitate active travel modes, see here .	Draft version of the Local plan to be completed for consultation in 2023.
3.7.2	Progress planning policies which limit the need to travel and facilitate active travel modes as part of work on the as part of work on the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Planning Policy Manager	2024/25	<p>The vision is for North East Cambridge to be a healthy, inclusive, walkable, low-carbon new city district.</p> <p>Further details can be viewed at https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/north-east-cambridge-area-action-plan/</p> <p>The Area Action Plan has been prepared on the basis that the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is currently located in the Northeast Cambridge area, will be relocated off-site. The process is now paused until a decision has been made on the separate Development Consent Order process for the relocation of this plant.</p>	Public consultation expected 2024
4	Decarbonise housing and other buildings				
4.1	Decarbonise the Council's buildings & streetlighting				

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
4.1.1	Complete retrofit of South Cambridgeshire Hall to include Ground Source Heat Pump, Solar PV car park canopy, Lighting upgrade and new Building Energy Management System	Corporate Programme Manager	Q4 2022/23	After some issues with the tarmac and sub layer the car park is now complete and operational. The EV chargers and solar panels have been installed and are awaiting final sign off which is imminent. The new BMS system is installed and awaiting user training and final sign off. The Ground Source Heat Pump is installed and awaiting commissioning. The fire alarm has been replaced. All internal LED are installed and operational.	Q2 2023/24 Project Completion
4.1.2	Review community rooms on our sheltered housing schemes to identify and deliver carbon reduction opportunities	Service Manager, Housing Assets	Q4 2024-25	Remote heating controls fitted to all communal rooms. PAS 2035 assessments to be carried out on all communal rooms to determine carbon reduction measures available from current technologies and methods, potential proposals to be created from them, these will be complete by July 2023, based on the information obtained a programme will be created to be proposed for funding	Funding proposal due Oct 2023
4.1.3	Install solar PV array to Elm Court sheltered housing scheme, Over	Service Manager, Housing Assets	Q3 2023-24	A new proposal has been received and is being progressed. Funding is agreed and in place in the 23/24 budget. Work is due to commence mid 2023.	Deliver on site by November 2023
4.1.4	Install LED fittings in all Council owned streetlights	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	Q4 2022/23	Streetlighting upgrade and replacement works reached practical completion for standard lights, heritage lights and SCDC Housing lights in March 2023.	

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
4.1.5	Raise energy performance of all Council properties to band C or above	Service Manager – Housing Assets	Q4 2026/7 subject to securing funding from Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, Government targets moved to 2030	Following the successful award of £1.7m of SHDF funding from DEZNZ we are mobilising the project of over 600 efficiency measures covering 300 properties, over the next 2 years, this will be a step towards reaching EPC C on all properties, measures are restricted within this funding and will not cover all properties, further assessments will be made on remaining properties to bring them up to EPC C following the results of our Stock Condition Survey in early 2024 when an accurate picture of the remaining properties will be gained.	Commencement on site of the SHDF project June 2023 Create plan of remaining properties June 2024
4.1.6	Improve energy efficiency of the Council's Ermine St Housing Company properties	Head of Ermine Street	ongoing	Contractor commissioned to inspect the portfolio and aim to introduce energy improvements to those properties with EPCs at a level C and below. Generally most of acquired stock is D and above with some exceptions. Aran Insulation are continuing with their energy audit, and installing energy efficiency improvements such as additional insulation, and cavity wall insulation. A full stock condition survey is currently being undertaken, including RDSAP data which will assess the energy performance of the portfolio.	Completion of stock condition survey 30 June 2023.
4.2	Help householders to decarbonise their homes by improving home energy efficiency and moving to low carbon heating and electricity				
4.2.1	Working with neighbouring LAs through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP), set up a scheme to deliver home energy	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	Contracts have been signed with six companies for the Action on Energy framework. A new website is up and running, see here , and preparation of marketing materials is underway. An outline application to the government's Home Energy Upgrade 2 scheme (HUG2) for £11.5M for retrofit of 556	HUG2 scheme launch June 2023

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
	improvements through government schemes and for self-funding households.			homes across Cambridgeshire was successful. Funding will be released in stages as batches of 'ready to go' homes are submitted. HUG2 will fund low carbon energy improvements to homes occupied by low income households or households in eligible Lower Super Output Areas in off-gas areas. Delivery April 23-March 25.	
4.2.2	Deliver the government-funded Sustainable Warmth project to upgrade up to 80 privately owned properties occupied by low income households	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Of the two funding streams making up the Sustainable Warmth scheme, HUG1 (off gas) is now closed and LAD1b (on gas) nearing completion. Expected completions will be around 50% of the revised mid-year forecast of 300 due to installer capacity issues. In South Cambs a total of 28 properties completed under Sustainable Warmth, (13 HUG1 and 15 LAD3).	Work will continue until scheme ends on 31 Mar 23
4.2.3	Raise energy performance of private rented sector properties	Principal Officer – People & Protection	ongoing	A new Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) enforcement policy for the private rented sector approved by Cabinet (14/11/22).	MEES project to identify properties which fall below minimum standards and actions required
	<p>Completed actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Energy Advice Project providing free home energy advice for eligible households set up and in operation, 2019 Revamped free thermal imaging camera loan scheme and training for residents set up and in operation, 2022 Webpage created, providing information, resources and case studies to support owners to make their heritage homes more energy efficient, see here. Cambridgeshire County Council's Cambridgeshire Solar Together group buying scheme supported and delivered in South Cambs 				

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme set up and providing an annual round of funding to support community-led projects to improve energy performance of community buildings, see here. 				
	Proposed revised/new actions Add action - working through Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership, deliver government funded HUG2 scheme by Q4 2024-25			Rationale This captures work taking place	
5	Decarbonise business and industry				
5.1	Decarbonise the Council's commercial property	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	270 Cambridge Science Park solar pv completed and tenants benefiting from the energy generated. Proposed work at 140 Science Park on hold on hold until tenant break clause following discussions with the tenant.	
5.2	Signpost local SMEs to information, advice and funding on energy efficiency, renewable energy, water efficiency and recycling	Economic Development Team Leader	ongoing	ongoing	See next action
5.3	Develop partnership approaches to supporting local businesses to become more sustainable	Economic Development Team Leader	ongoing	Delivering Green Business Grants through the Shared Prosperity Fund in partnership with Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council deliverable 23/24 and 24/25. Working closely with Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service to help support SMEs with planning applications	n/a

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
				aligning to core strategies around meeting green and sustainable targets or reducing carbon net zero emissions.	
5.4	Explore setting up work hubs and co-working spaces to reduce commuter travel distances	Economic Development Team Leader	ongoing	Project underway to convert ground floor of South Cambs Hall into a co-working space for use by new and expanding business, business advisory and community groups who are looking for meanwhile desk space, collaborative and meeting space.	n/a
5.5	Support and promote small South Cambs businesses to becoming greener	Economic Development Team Leader	ongoing	<p>Delivering a series of 'Green Business' webinars. 'Why reducing your carbon makes business sense' delivered Feb 23 and had 27 attendees. At least one more webinar to be delivered in 2023.</p> <p>Providing businesses the use of SCDC thermal imaging cameras free of charge.</p> <p>Promoting 'shop local' ethos to residents with campaigns to support small local independent existing businesses, and to provide support to develop local markets across the district through the South Cambridgeshire Markets Webpage</p>	
	<p>Completed actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put in place new procurement rules requiring that awarding of contracts >£5,000 takes account of decarbonisation plans of bidders – completed 2019 				
	<p>Proposed new or revised action: Replace actions 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5 with 5.2 Provide advice and resources to help businesses understand what they can do to become greener and 5.3 Identify funding opportunities</p>			<p>Rationale: This makes reporting more efficient by bringing the wording into alignment with the corresponding action in the Corporate Business Plan</p>	

RAG rating	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 01/05/23	Next milestone
	to help businesses meet economic challenges specifically to help businesses to be greener.				
	Proposed revised/new action: Replace previous action 'go beyond current building regulations for energy efficiency (part L) in new build on Council owned land subject to feasibility' with an action which captures the intention to deliver Net Zero housing through the South Cambs Investment Partnership.			Rationale: Nearly all new Council homes are properties built by developers to meet Section 106 planning obligations. On these design specifications are agreed through the planning process, making it difficult for the Council to require specifications beyond building regulations and planning policy.	
6	Decarbonise food systems and agriculture				
6.1	Run communication campaigns to encourage carbon-friendly diets eg Meat Free Monday, Veganuary	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Funding awarded for community projects focussing on sustainable food from Cambridge Sustainable Food and Let's Cook in the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme, 2022, see details here .	n/a
6.2	Explore feasibility of further work in this area, for example, Sustainable Food Strategy	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Report to CEAC on Sustainable Food March 2023. Next step is to investigate whether there is sufficient interest within South Cambs for a Sustainable Food Partnership.	
7	Deliver training, education, communications and advocacy				
7.1	Embed environmental sustainability into HR processes	HR Co-ordinator	Q4 2023/24	Work has started, see below. Next step is to review HR processes and identify opportunities to embed sustainability.	
7.2	Support staff to understand and engage with the climate emergency	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	Staff climate change toolkit has been launched including intranet webpage and Climate Change handbook.	See below

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
7.3	Deliver Carbon Literacy Training to staff and Members	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Ongoing	First two Carbon Literacy accredited courses have been delivered by the Climate and Environment team to staff.	Further training courses to be delivered in July, October, and January.
7.4	Develop and deliver appropriate communications around climate change	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Continuing work to develop and deliver co-ordinated messaging to residents through internal Climate and Environment Communications group and as part of the Cambridgeshire Climate Change Communications group.	Ongoing work
7.5	Advocacy work to influence and support other bodies	All, including elected Members	Ongoing	Various presentations and articles, including presentation on the Zero Carbon Communities programme to LGA webinar on Neighbourhood approaches to decarbonising buildings and transport.	
	<p>Completed actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff climate change toolkit launched including intranet webpage and Staff Climate Change Handbook – completed 2022 • Carbon Literacy Trust accredited 7 hour training course for staff successfully piloted January 2023; the first of a rolling programme of quarterly courses was delivered in April. 				
	<p>Proposed new or revised action: Subsume Action 7.2 (Support staff to understand and engage with the climate emergency) under 7.3 (Deliver Carbon Literacy Training to staff and Members)</p>			<p>Rationale: This makes reporting more efficient by bringing the wording into alignment with the corresponding action in the Corporate Business Plan</p>	

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
	Add action to award grants of up to £15,000 to at least nine community projects to reduce carbon and engage communities on climate change through the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme			Capturing existing work.	
8	Respond to the ecological emergency				
8.1	Increase green infrastructure and enhance biodiversity through Planning				
8.1.1	Progress planning policies related to doubling nature as part of wider work on green infrastructure on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan.	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	<p>Seven policy areas have been identified under the Biodiversity and Green Spaces theme for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BG/BG Biodiversity and geodiversity BG/GI Green infrastructure BG/TC Improving tree canopy cover and the tree population BG/RC River corridors BG/PO Protecting open spaces BG/EO Providing and enhancing open spaces CC/CS Supporting land-based carbon sequestration <p>Further detail can be viewed at https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/biodiversity-and-green-spaces</p> <p>In partnership with Natural Cambridgeshire and Natural England, 14 strategic green infrastructure initiatives have been identified and published alongside the First Proposals for the Local Plan.</p>	Project planning is underway with our partners to identify the tasks needed to refine these initiatives and identify deliverable projects supporting them.

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
8.1.2	Promote good practice in securing benefits to biodiversity through development by publishing case study/ies	Natural Environment Team Leader	ongoing	We are currently collating information that can be used to demonstrate positive outcomes for biodiversity from development mitigation. This will be presented as single-side narrative case studies with one or two photos.	Case studies to be posted on website
	Completed action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and strengthen guidance relating to biodiversity by drafting and adopting a new Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, adopted Feb 2022 				
8.2	Increase nature by supporting community action				
8.2.1	Provide grants for biodiversity through the Community Chest	Communities Manager	ongoing	Community nature projects funded over previous 6 months from December 2022 to May 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meldreth multi use community garden Whittlesford nature trails Fulbourn community herb bed Duxford community allotments biodiversity project Swavesey biodiversity planting 	Continue and increase promotion of the fund via SCDC channels and through publication of case studies of local nature recovery projects to encourage/inspire grant uptake.
8.2.2	Support tree-planting through Six Free Trees scheme	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Ongoing	3 rd /2022 scheme completed with 49 parish councils taking part	Run scheme again in 2023 with ambition of at least 50 Parish

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
					Councils taking part
8.2.3	Explore options for delivering support for parish councils and community groups to create and deliver Local Nature Recovery Plans	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Natural Cambridgeshire's Local Nature Recovery Toolkit is being promoted alongside SCDC's Community Chest Biodiversity grant in relevant SCDC publications e.g., South Cambs Magazine. ZCC Newsletter	Continue promotion of the Toolkit, and explore with Nature Cambridgeshire areas that SCDC and NC can work more closely together to promote and support parish and community groups
8.2.4	Support volunteers through our role as Tree Warden network co-ordinator	Natural Environment Team Manager	Under review and on hold	New Trees Officer appointed - The Tree Warden scheme was impacted from the pandemic and the previous Tree Officer leaving. It is understood that the Tree Warden Network is self-sustaining with the long-term ambition to re-engage when SCDC Planning Tree Services have availability to take up.	Long-term review
8.2.5	Share community project good practice at Green Connect webinars and	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Case study of nature recovery work in Cottenham currently being written, to inform and inspire parish/community groups to undertake nature projects, to be shared at Green Connect, SCDC website, and other media channels.	Publish and promote case study on appropriate

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
	Climate and Environment fortnight				channels. Climate Conference, Autumn 2023 to showcase exemplars of community nature projects
	Proposed new or revised action: Add action to promote gardening for nature to our residents to increase awareness and better enable residents to preserve and enhance nature within their own spheres.			Rationale: This captures ongoing work referred to in the report to CEAC on Doubling Nature, compiling online materials to help residents garden for nature, building on the resources identified in the SCDC Staff handbook to be promoted through SCDC media channels, digital and print.	
8.3	Enhance opportunities for nature on our own estate				
8.3.1	Take forward opportunities for tree-planting, wildflower strips and other initiatives on Council housing estates	Service Manager, Tenancy and Estates	ongoing	262 trees and hedge whips planted on two areas of HRA land through a successful joint bid led by Cambs County Council to the LA Treescapes Fund Tree. We are assessing areas where we can reduce frequency of grass cuts in growing season for 2023, and alongside that considering areas where we could stop cutting altogether and allow wildflowers to grow, again for 2023 growing season. We are working up a pilot of an area where we don't use weedkiller to control weed growth.	Scoping exercise underway to identify more areas of HRA land suitable for nature improvements, and to establish management plan for these areas, developed for Summer 2023.

<i>RAG rating</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 01/05/23</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
	Completed action: Complete audit of trees on Council housing estates and undertake recommended maintenance work				
8.4	Enhance opportunities for nature through our work managing watercourses				
8.4.1	Review management of awarded watercourses with a view to action to improve biodiversity	Environment Operations Manager	ongoing	<p>SCDC have corporately joined the Wild Trout Trust and are continuing work with the Trust to improve biodiversity on council managed watercourses and to support local groups.</p> <p>In April 2023 the WTT trained SCDC watercourse staff in water vole habitat identification, and SCDC will be assisting WTT in creation of new wild trout habitat in Melbourn by providing staff and equipment.</p>	Moving forwards with WTT and other partner organisations on projects identified by WTT for example restoration work at the River Rhee, and bank strengthening at Shepreth.
8.5	Work with Highways England to ensure positive environmental legacy from A428 Improvement works	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Highways England updated in May that that they are engaging with Bidwell's and land owners to see which of various proposals for carbon sequestration and biodiversity can be progressed. The proposals were outlined in a feasibility study funded from the Carbon Theme of Highway England's Environmental Legacy Fund.	Highways England to progress. Updates via the relaunched A428 Legacy Working Group.

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South Cambridgeshire District Council Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Account 2022/23 (Pre-Audit)

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1. Introduction

These accounts have been compiled to better understand the impact of the Council's estate and operations on climate change, and to inform action to mitigate this impact by reducing emissions. They have been drawn up according to the [Environmental Reporting Guidelines](#) issued by the Government's Departments for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), updated March 2019.

The guidelines provide procedures and principles for accounting and reporting environmental impacts drawn from the internationally recognised Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard from the World Resources Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, known as the "GHG Protocol Corporate Standard". These principles are that the accounts should be relevant, quantitative, accurate (insofar as is practical), complete (with any exclusions specified, disclosed and justified), consistent, comparable and transparent.

Under the GHG Protocol, emissions are defined in three different Scopes.

- Scope 1: direct GHG emissions from activities owned or controlled by the organisation.
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions associated with consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling.

- Scope 3: Indirect emissions that are a consequence of the organisation's actions, but which occur at sources not owned or controlled by the organisation.

2. GHG Emissions from the Council's Estate and Operations

Table 1: Overall GHG emissions for 2022-23 showing the percentage change from the baseline year

	GHG Emissions (tCO ₂ e) 2022-23	GHG Emissions (tCO ₂ e) 2018-2019 (baseline year)	Percentage change from baseline year
Scopes	2022-23	2018-19	
Scope 1 (direct emissions)	1303	1360	-4.2
Scope 2 (indirect emissions, electricity)	182	383*	-52.5
Scope 3 (indirect emissions, other)	91	135**	-32.6
Total gross emissions	1575	1878 (adjusted baseline)	-16.1
Population ¹	163,002	157,519	+3.5
Intensity measurement (tonnes of CO ₂ e per person)	0.009	0.01192	-24.5
Electricity generated from Council owned sources and exported to the grid	1	0	-
GHG Emissions Avoided (Green electricity Tariff)	158	0	-
Total Net Emissions	1416	1878	-24.6

*scope 2 emissions figure is different to that reported in 2018-19 due to the baseline recalculation of electricity 50% shared with Cambridgeshire County Council at the Waterbeach depot.

** scope 3 emissions figure is different to that reported in 2018-19 due to the baseline recalculation using the 'unknown' fuel type conversion factor

¹ Based on Office for National Statistics 2021 Mid-Year Population Estimates released December 2022: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

Table 2: Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2022-23 – by scope showing the percentage change from the baseline year

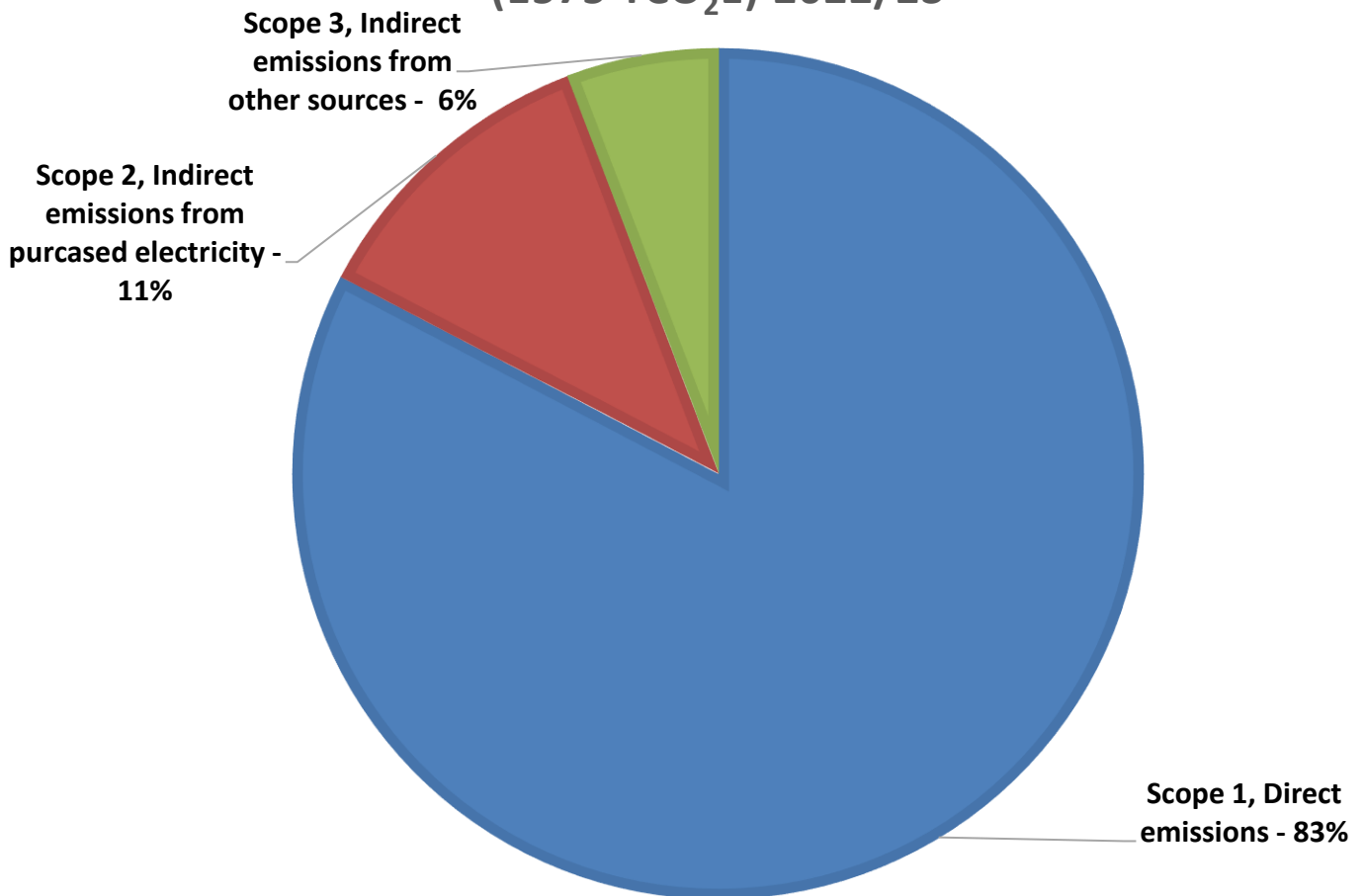
	GHG Emissions (tCO ₂ e) 2022-23	GHG Emissions (tCO ₂ e) 2018-2019 (baseline year)	Percentage change from baseline year
Scope 1			
Gas consumption	202	271	-25.5
Fleet	1100	1089	+1.0
Process emissions	n/a	n/a	-
Fugitive emissions	n/a	n/a	-
Total Scope 1	1302	1360	-4.3
Scope 2			
Purchased electricity	182	383*	-52.5
Total Scope 2	182	383*	-52.5

Scope 3			
Business Travel	91	135**	- 32.6
Transmission and Distribution losses	Not included	Not included	-
Employee commuting	Not included	Not included	-
Procured goods and services	Not included	Not included	-
Waste Disposal	Not included	Not included	-
Total Scope 3	91	135**	-32.6
Total gross emissions	1575	1878	-16.1

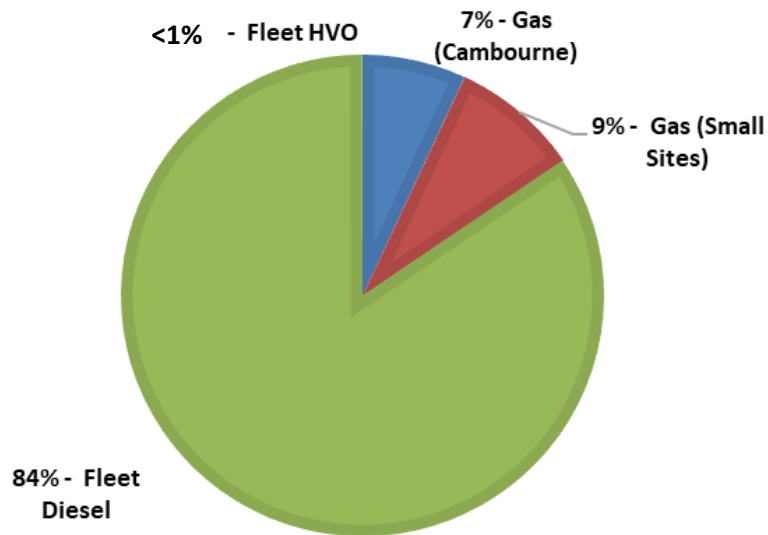
*scope 2 emissions figure is different to that reported in 2018-19 due to the baseline recalculation of electricity shared 50% with Cambridgeshire County Council at the Waterbeach depot.

** scope 3 emissions figure is different to that reported in 2018-19 due to the baseline recalculation using the 'unknown' fuel type conversion factor

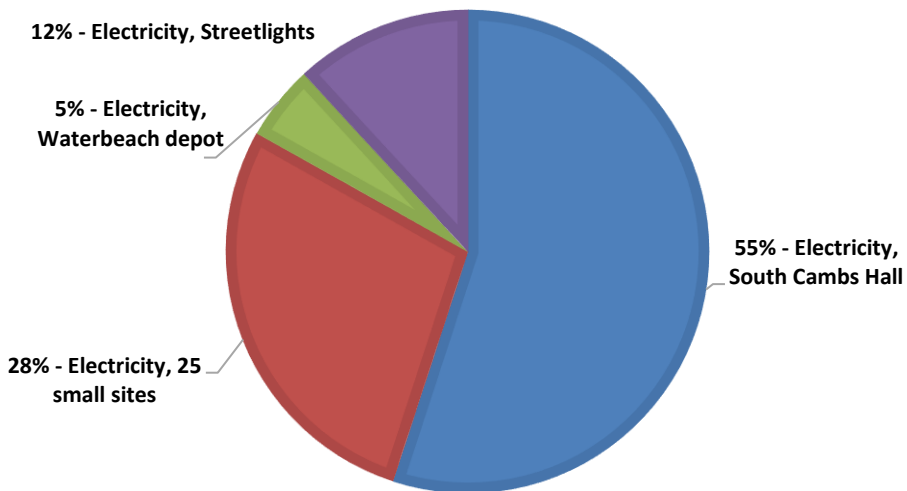
GHG EMISSIONS FROM SCDC ESTATE AND OPERATIONS (1575 TCO₂E) 2022/23



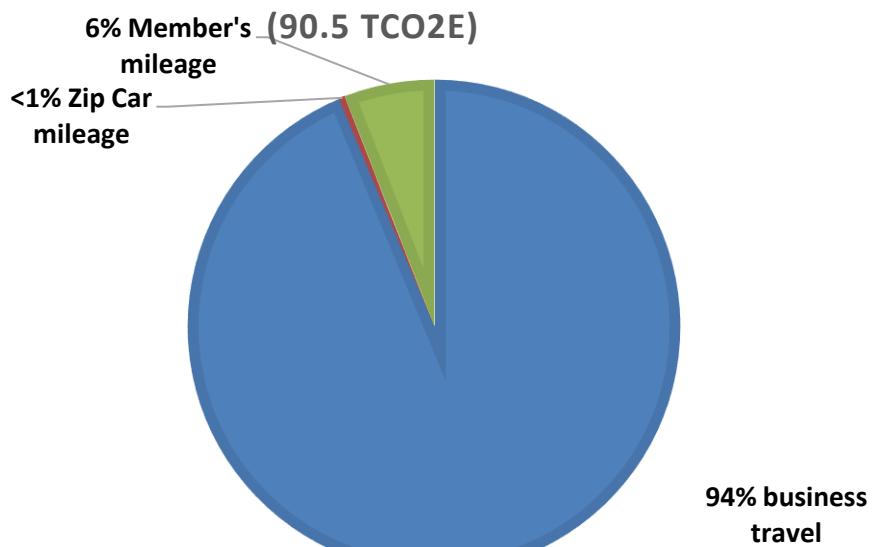
SCOPE 1: DIRECT EMISSIONS (1303 TCO2E)



SCOPE 2: INDIRECT EMISSIONS FROM PURCHASED ELECTRICITY (246 TCO₂E)



SCOPE 3: INDIRECT EMISSIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES



3. About the Council

South Cambridgeshire District Council is a non-metropolitan district authority and is responsible for providing a range of services to residents of South Cambridgeshire, visitors to the district, and businesses and other organisations based in the district. Services include housing, refuse and recycling collections, licensing, planning and building control, Council Tax collection, and environmental health services. The Council serves a population of 163,002 living in 106 parishes and settlements, has 45 elected Members; and employed 698 members of staff as of 31 March 2022. Further information about the Council can be found on our website at www.scambs.gov.uk.

4. Reporting Period

1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

5. Approach

We have followed Government guidance, published by Defra at [Environmental reporting guidelines: including Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting requirements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk).

6. Organisational Boundary

We have defined our organisational boundary following the Financial Control approach which means we have included operations which the Council owns and controls. Further detail on which operations or activities have been included within our organisational boundary for the purposes of compiling this greenhouse gas report is provided under 'Operational Scopes' below.

7. Operational Scopes

We have included Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions for all properties and vehicles that we fully own and control and for properties that we lease from others, where the Council is delivering a service.

We reported Scope 3 emissions where we have access to comprehensive and reliable data; and where we have a degree of control over the operation/ activity in question. See the table below for details:

Table 4: Rationale for Inclusion and Exclusion of Emissions.

Source of Emissions	Included in reporting?	Reason for exclusion where applicable
Source 1 (Direct)		
Gas consumption in buildings we own and control	Yes	This includes our main office buildings, our three hub offices and our sheltered housing community rooms.

Gas consumption in buildings we lease to others	Partially	We have only included emissions arising from energy used in the communal areas of some of the buildings that we lease out (energy used in communal areas is provided and paid for by the Council). We have not included data on energy used in Council housing, Ermine Street Housing (the Council's private sector housing company), or in the commercial building, 140 Cambridge Science Park owned by the Council.
Gas consumption in buildings we lease from others	No	The Waterbeach Depot is the only building we lease from others. No gas is consumed on these premises.
Fuel consumption in owned transport	Yes	Includes Shared Waste Services transport, e.g. refuse vehicles, operating in South Cambridgeshire; excludes Shared Waste Services transport operating in the City Council.
Process emissions	No	Not applicable.
Fugitive emissions, e.g. from air conditioning units	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Scope 2 (Indirect, energy)		
Purchased electricity; in buildings we own, occupy and control	Yes	This includes our main office buildings, our three hub offices, our sheltered housing community rooms and the two traveller sites- Whaddon and Blackwell.
Purchased electricity in buildings we lease to others	Partially	We have only included emissions arising from energy used in the communal areas of some of the buildings that we lease out (energy used in communal areas is provided and paid for by the Council). We do not have access to data on energy used by our tenants.
Purchased electricity in buildings we lease from others	Yes	Waterbeach depot.
Purchased electricity used in street lighting owned by the Council	Yes	1,803 streetlights.

Scope 3 (indirect, other)		
Purchased goods and services	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Business travel	Yes	This includes mileage claimed by staff and Members; and travel using the Zipcar.
Commuter travel	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Waste disposal	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Water usage	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Outsourced activities	No	

8 Conversion/ Emissions Factors Used

The emissions factors used to calculate the emissions in this Greenhouse Gas Report are those provided by BEIS (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) and Defra (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs) titled: 'UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting' which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2021>

9. Geographical Breakdown

All of our operations and activities are carried out in the UK.

10. Baseline Year

1 April 2018 - 31st March 2019

11. Base Year Recalculation Policy

For consistent tracking of performance over time, the Council may need to recalculate the baseline year to compare current emissions with historic emissions. The reasons for change are documented in Part 9 of the Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions provided by DEFRA. For example, changes in calculation methods or improvements in the accuracy of emission factors or activity data that result in a significant impact on the base year emissions data. Since the 2018 -19 report was published, a survey identified the number of footway lamps in use to be 1796, not 1677 as reported. Although the figure of 1796 was used in 2019-20, this number has since changed again for 2020-21 to 1803 due to the identification of some more footway lamps not captured in last year's survey. Due to the very small difference in numbers and the fact that a small number of streetlamps are due to be disconnected, a second baseline recalculation is not necessary.

Further baseline recalculations have been made to reflect 50% of the electricity shared with Cambridgeshire County Council at the Waterbeach depot and the amendment to the fuel conversion factor from 'diesel' to 'unknown' which is used for the business fuel consumption.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69282/pb13309-ghg-guidance-0909011.pdf

12. Intensity Measurement

We have included an intensity ratio of 0.009 tonnes of CO₂e per resident of South Cambridgeshire, which is based on mid-year population statistics, produced in December 2022.

This dataset is at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

13. External Assurance Statement

This is a pre-audit draft: the Authority's Internal Audit service will have an opportunity to review the reported emissions figures, supporting calculations and sample test available source data.

14. Avoided GHG Emissions

For South Cambridgeshire Hall and the Council owned small sites, a purchased green electricity tariff has been included as avoided emissions.

15. Amount of Electricity Generated from Owned or Controlled Sources

The solar array on the Waterbeach Depot started exporting electricity in March 2019. We have included the total renewable electricity exported from the PV array as avoided emissions. This is split 50:50 with Cambridgeshire County Council.

For further information about this report, please contact:

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Orla.Gibbons@scambs.gov.uk, 01954 713490

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan Annual Review 2022-23

Appendix 3 – Key Corporate Decarbonisation Projects

Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles



Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service's fleet of diesel-powered refuse collection vehicles account for 65% of SCDC's emissions, so this is a key area for the council to reduce its GHG emissions. This is being achieved through a programme of transition to electric refuse collection vehicles (e-RCVs). A new e-RCV has recently arrived at the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste depot, bringing the service's total to three e-RCVs and three electric vans. A fourth e-RCV and an electric road sweeper have also been ordered.

Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network



The WREN project is pivotal to decarbonisation of the refuse fleet and will generate renewable energy to be used by the e-RCVs. The Network includes solar PV panels, battery storage, EV chargers and an energy management system. Good progress is being made; a design review has been completed and pre-commencement planning conditions have been discharged. The project team are now moving into the contracting and construction phases.

Greening of South Cambridgeshire Hall



South Cambs Hall is the council's second largest emitter, accounting for 15% of our GHG emissions. The Greening project addresses this by providing a ground source heat pump, solar carport, EV chargers, LED lighting and efficiency improvements, to reduce the building's annual CO2 emissions 66% by 2030. Works are largely complete pending final proving of some of the systems including the GSHP.

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan Annual Review 2022-23

Appendix 4 - Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme

The Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme is in its fifth year. Over the course of the first four rounds a total of £415,959 of funding has been awarded to 61 projects as follows:

Round 1: £120, 959. 19 projects

- Categories were Nature, Cycling and Other
- 5 projects under the Nature category
- 8 under the Cycling category
- 6 under the Other category, including anti-vandal water dispensers to reduce single use plastic at Melbourne Village College, a plastic free pop-up shop at Gamlingay and several education/training schemes.
- Two projects received funding of £15,000, Cambridge Carbon Footprint for their Net Zero Now training scheme and Cambridge Sustainable Food for their 'Food our Future' campaign.

Round 2: £94, 660. 17 projects

- Categories were Nature, Cycling and Community Buildings
- 10 projects funded under the Nature category
- 5 cycling projects were funded
- 2 projects were funded for Community Buildings
- Two projects received grants of £15,000, St John the Evangelist Parish Church for the installation of solar panels and an air source heat pump, and Milton Cycling for the installation of secure bike shelters.

Round 3: £79, 796. 13 projects

- Categories were Community Buildings, Nature and Other
- 3 projects funded under Community Buildings
- 7 projects funded under nature, including Willingham wildflower meadow and hedgerow (see photos)

- 3 projects under Other, including website setup costs for Bassingbourn-based Zero Carbon Collective

Round 4: £120,544. 13 projects

- New categories: reducing carbon emissions/locking up carbon, and community engagement around climate change
- 8 projects funded under the first category – emphasis on community buildings retrofits and upgrades, see photos of Cottenham Village Hall Solar PV
- 5 under community engagement - Sheddit! mobile library of things, Sustainable Northstowe funded £1,551 to secure their projects, events and engagement with the community for the next 3 years

The Grant Scheme has now re-launched for a fifth round, with an increased pot of £125,000. Non-profit organisations and parish councils can bid for £1000-£15,000 for a project that reduces carbon emissions or locks up carbon, or a project that engages the community around climate change.

An application support workshop was held on 26 April, featuring advice from South Cambs officers, Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service and Harston Village Hall Trust (a previous awardee). The event was well-attended and will hopefully result in 7/8 further applications to the grant scheme. Applications close 2 June and the awards will be announced in July.

Photos of Previous Projects:



Round 3: Willingham wildflower meadow and hedgerow



Ro

Six Free Trees

In the 2022-23 Six Free Trees Scheme, 49 Parish Councils across the District applied and received either 1 large tree or 6 whips to plant in an area for general community benefit.

In the 2023-24 Scheme we hope to onboard at least 50 Parish Councils.

Online and In Person Events

We are keen to re-establish our Green Connect seminars as quarterly networking and knowledge-sharing events for Zero Carbon Communities. We have identified Cambridge County Council's Swaffham Prior Heat Network for an in-person visit – this would be to raise the profile of air and ground source heat pumps and scalable local energy solutions.

Newsletter

The Zero Carbon Communities newsletter is a digital newsletter with distribution list of over 600 individuals. The most recent edition (published in April) publicised the ZCC grant scheme and the Community Chest, celebrated the successes of the EVCP grant and the Six Free Trees scheme, and appealed for Repair Café volunteers. Feedback from the newsletter was excellent.

Social Media

We continue to use the Zero Carbon Communities Facebook page to publicise the grant scheme. In the week following the launch, daily posts profiled a previous project funded under the scheme, which saw the highest engagement in the page's history. We co-ordinate with Comms to disseminate ZCC news across the SCDC Facebook page, Instagram and twitter feeds.

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