
Bristol City Council Corporate Environmental Performance Summary 2020-21

At Bristol City Council we aim to inspire others by continuously improving the environmental performance of our operations. This report outlines our performance in 2020/21 and covers the action we have taken to improve the environmental performance of our own operations. It does not include information on the wider action taken by the Council to reduce the environmental footprint of the city of Bristol.

Our Environmental Management System is externally certified to the ISO14001:2015 standard. We are one of very few councils in the UK to be certified to this standard.

2020/21 at a glance..

87.4% total carbon reduction from our operations against our 2005/06 baseline

73% of waste sent for recycling and 99% diverted from landfill

20 GwH energy generated from wind and solar sources owned by Bristol City Council

51% of those staff not working from home travelled by public or active transport

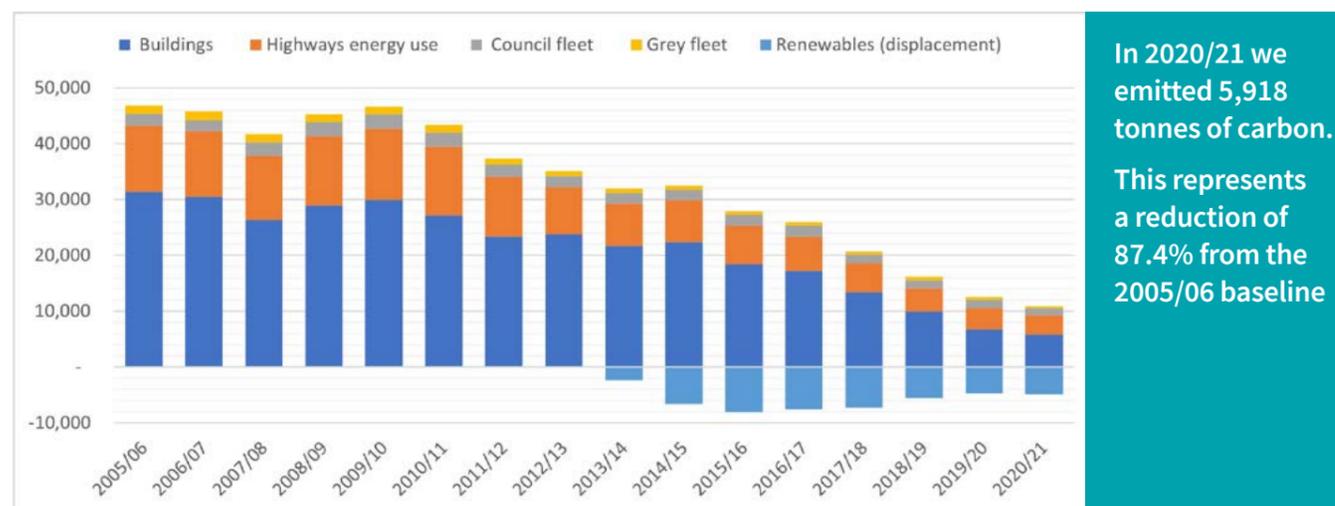
Increasing funding

We aim to play our part in the **One City Climate Strategy** and the **One City Ecological Emergency Strategy**. In November 2020, we allocated an additional £4 million of council funding to support the delivery of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme over the next 3 years. This includes £900K to implement projects focused on improving our own council operations in support of the One City Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategies. In addition, we have invested in energy efficiency, new streetlighting and new electric vehicles in 2020/21.

Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

The impacts of pandemic measures have been wide ranging; fewer staff in workplaces meant that there were substantial declines this year in commuting to work and travel on business mileage, electricity and water use, waste and printing. These emissions are expected to briefly increase as we return to greater office-based working, but efficiency measures should continue to improve our long-term performance.

Carbon reduction performance



This graph shows the progress made to date in reducing our combined emissions against our 2005/06 baseline. This data includes a range of emissions included the carbon performance in Scope 1-3 of the **Greenhouse Gas Protocol**. In our next environmental performance report, we will calculate our carbon reduction performance by scope of emissions so that we can measure progress towards our aim to be carbon neutral for direct emissions (Scope 1) and emissions from the purchase of energy (Scope 2) by 2025.

During the current reporting year emissions have reduced in all areas, building heating, electricity use and staff travel. Grid decarbonisation has also continued to reduce overall emissions from electricity.

Improving energy efficiency and street lighting

Overall, energy use was reduced by 12% compared to the previous year. This was achieved by measures such as:

- Completing energy efficiency projects using Salix funding. Salix is a publicly-funded scheme that provides 100% interest-free, conditional loans to public sector organisations to improve their energy efficiency. We used this funding source to complete projects in 2020/21 which will save 334 tonnes of carbon annually. Projects completed range from lighting upgrades to insulation installation. Salix funded work continues
- Continuing to upgrade street lighting to more efficient LED fittings
- In 2020/21 we produced 2,557 tonnes of waste. Of this, 1,962 tonnes was recycled or composted. By comparison, in 2019/20 we produced 3,543 tonnes of waste

Energy generation from our existing wind and solar facilities increased by 2% in 2020/21

Reducing waste

99% Diverted from landfill

73% Recycled

Remaining waste went to energy recovery

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Declaring an Ecological Emergency

In February 2020, the Mayor of Bristol came together with One City partners to declare an ecological emergency in response to the decline in wildlife.

Later that year, One City partners agreed the **One City Ecological Emergency Strategy**. The strategy focuses on 4 goals around making space for nature, pesticide use, pollution and reducing our wider footprint.

Bristol City Council has published its Ecological Emergency Action Plan of our own activities to help achieve the strategic goals.



Reviewing pesticide use

We use pesticides, mostly herbicides, to control weeds in open space and roads where we assess it to be necessary. By endorsing the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy, the Council has set an ambition to reduce the amount of pesticide we use by 50% by 2030. In 2020/21 the Council used 2,030 litres of herbicide

Increasing staff engagement

We're working hard to ensure all our staff are aware of the climate emergency facing us and how changes can be made in their work areas and personal lives. A full e-learning climate awareness training package had been made available for all staff to access and provides a comprehensive understanding of climate change.

51% of staff commuting use active travel or public transport

Part of our pandemic response meant that most of our staff worked from home for much of the year. However, of those staff who continued to work at a council site, 51% got to work using active or public transport.



Increasing the proportion of electric vehicles

Bristol City Council operates a fleet of vans and some cars to enable us to carry out services across the city. We are changing our fleet to electric vehicles. As of the end of 2020/21, our fleet has 32 electric vehicles (10% of the total) with a further 10 on order. As larger vans become available as electric models, we will be able to change to electric vehicles more quickly.

Ongoing environmental management

The Council runs an environmental management system which is externally accredited to the international standard ISO 14001. In 2020, external independent auditors spent 10 days assessing us against the requirements of that international standard. They concluded that we met all the requirements and we retained our certification.

Looking forward to 2021/22

In the next reporting period, Bristol City Council will be working to:

- Improve the environmental performance of our major capital projects through development of objectives, metrics and putting in place new processes
- Review our estate to see how we can reduce the emissions from the property that we own
- Update our Climate Emergency Action Plan in response to the One City Climate Strategy
- Set out our own Ecological Emergency Action Plan in response to the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy
- Undertake a full review of pesticides used across our estate and plan ways to reduce our pesticide use
- Offer climate change training to all councillors
- Create a new procurement policy that will help us to achieve our climate and ecological targets
- Commission a combined heat and power pump in our 100 Temple Street office which will reduce our carbon emissions



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