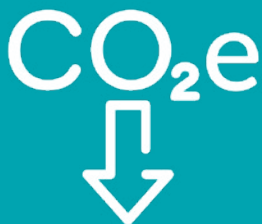


# Bristol City Council Corporate Environmental Performance Summary 2023–24



## 2023–24 Highlights

We calculated our scope 1 and 2 emissions for the year – a total of **7,209 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e**.



We have reduced our use of herbicides by nearly a third since 2020, with a reduction of **13%** last year on the previous year.



Our renewable energy generators, which include solar arrays and a wind turbine, generated enough electricity to avoid **2,544 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e**



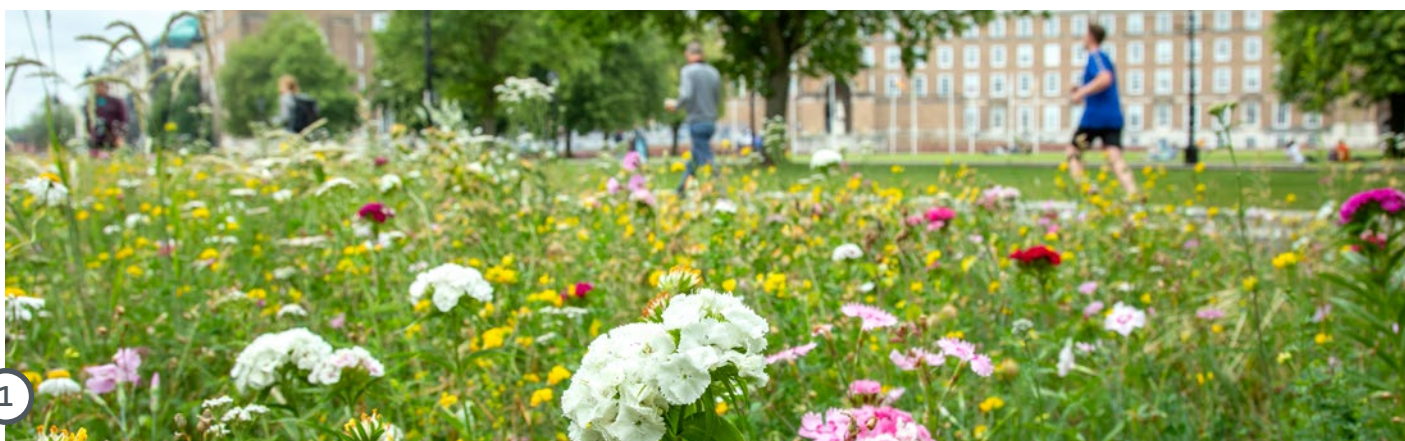
**63%** of council staff used active or sustainable travel to get to work (walking, cycling or taking a bus or train).



**69%** of all council staff have completed the **Climate Change Awareness** e-learning training.



Our parks team reduced grass cutting regime, which allows space for nature in the city.



## 2023–24 In more detail

Bristol City Council has been working on climate change for many years, reducing our own emissions, helping the city to reduce its emissions and improving the city's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

We have made significant commitments to bring down our own emissions and are working towards these, within our financial budget.

In 2019, we set an ambitious target within the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan for Bristol City Council to be carbon neutral for the emissions directly under our control by 2025.

This means that we will reduce as much as possible the emissions that occur as a direct consequence of our operations, for example from our fleet of vehicles, and the buildings we use. To achieve this we continue to switch to electric vehicles, and low carbon energy sources for heat and electricity.



## BRISTOL city leap

The City Leap Energy Partnership aims to attract **£1 billion of investment in the city's energy system.**

Following a procurement process, we selected Ameresco Limited as our strategic partner to form the City Leap Energy Partnership. This partnership will initially deliver

£424 million investment and avoid around 140,000 tonnes of carbon emissions across the city over the first five years of the twenty-year partnership.

City Leap will, amongst other things, deliver energy efficiency measures, renewables and decarbonisation projects to the council's corporate estate reducing our emissions and also deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy measures to the council's social housing. Working groups were set up and run to ensure accelerated project work, with a substantial pipeline of decarbonisation projects created, taking place on the council's corporate estate, social housing and vehicle fleet.

More information on Bristol City Leap and their performance can be found in their [business plan](#).



# Our Corporate Strategy Climate and Ecological Goals:

## ENV1: Carbon Neutral

- BCC direct operations to be carbon neutral by 2025
- BCC's indirect emissions to be carbon neutral by 2030
- Support the city in a Just Transition to be carbon neutral for all emissions by 2030

## ENV2: Ecological Recovery

- At least 30% of the council's land to be managed for the benefit of wildlife by 2030
- Reduce the council's use of pesticides by at least 50% by 2030
- Double the tree canopy cover in the city by 2046

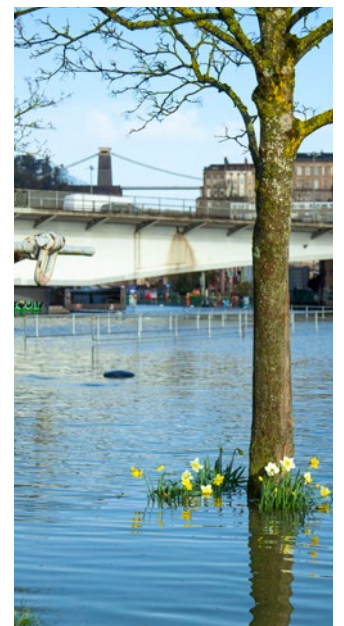
## ENV3: A cleaner, low waste city

- Create a cleaner city and become a national leader in reducing waste
- Help the city reduce its consumption of products
- Transform Bristol's relationship with waste, increasing recycling, repair, reuse and sharing of goods

## ENV4 Climate Resilience

- Reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding
- Invest in infrastructure and systems that cool the city and help us adapt to the effects of climate change
- Do this in ways that provide inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

The full suite of targets can be found within our [Corporate Strategy](#).



# Climate Emergency – Our Carbon Reduction

Carbon neutrality is where the carbon emissions of one thing (for example an individual, an organisation, a city or a product) have either been eliminated or balanced by removals of greenhouse gases (including through compensating for those emissions by making equivalent reductions of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere locally or internationally).

Our approach as an organisation is to eliminate our carbon emissions as much as possible before considering any balancing through compensation. We have already halved the

council's operational emissions since 2015 and we have set a very ambitious target to tackle the other half – aiming to be carbon neutral by 2025. Emissions can be put into three categories, called scopes. As last year, rather than give one figure for our total emissions, we have separated out and quantified our total scope 1 and 2 emissions.

**Our total scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2023–24 were 7,209 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e).**

We continue working towards robust quantification of our scope 3 emissions.

## Scope 1:

Carbon that is emitted directly from the council's vehicle fleet and gas usage, including in heating our buildings.



## Scope 2:

Carbon that is emitted from electricity usage including streetlighting and lighting our buildings.



## Scope 3:

Carbon emissions from sources that the council does not own or control, such as business travel, goods and services that we buy and building materials when constructing new council homes.

## Highways

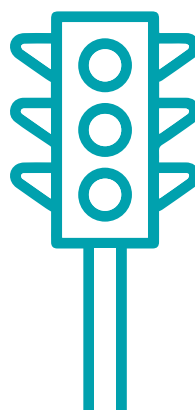
A two year program began in April 2023 to replace all streetlighting with efficient LED bulbs and improve lighting controls.

Consumption will be reduced by half when the project is completed in April 2025.

Grant funding was received to pay towards LED retrofit of traffic signals over Bristol, 50 to 60 traffic signal sites will be retrofitted across the city.

## Fleet

Work on further electrifying the whole fleet was accelerated and projects drawn up in collaboration with City Leap to be delivered in 2024/25.



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## Ecological Emergency in review

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2023/24 was a busy year for the council working on the Ecological Emergency with a lot of work going into strategic elements such as the fifteen year Parks and Green Space Strategy and Food Growing and Allotment Strategy for Bristol which amongst other things sets out the council's ambition for nature in our city's green spaces. The percentage of citizens who have made space for nature is also up by just over 2% this year to 54.6%.

Our parks teams have reduced grass cutting regime, some areas of grass are being mowed less in parks and on streets. We have also changed some of our one-cut per year areas currently in place to one cut every three years. This benefits invertebrates that require long grass over winter to complete their life-cycle.

Later this year we will start to trial other new 'managing for nature' cutting regimes across part of the city, as we continue to work towards our corporate target of managing 30% of Council land for nature.

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## Training

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We continue to train council leaders and staff on climate change to help them incorporate climate action into everything the council does. Climate Change awareness e-learning training is mandatory and 4,500 staff members have completed the course so far, 69% of all staff.

Last year two new e-learning courses were released in response to requests from staff on heat pumps and embodied carbon in housebuilding. 573 other climate related courses were completed online around various subjects including biodiversity, heat pumps, sustainable procurement and food waste.

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## Procurement/buying things

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A carbon reporting tool has been developed and piloted, with the aim of mandating annual carbon reporting (of scope 1 and 2) for higher value contracts. Carbon reduction plans are already requested for high value contracts, but it is being considered as a requirement for all relevant contracts.

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## Improving the sustainability of our capital project work

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Following a pilot last year, we have updated our framework for improving the environmental performance of capital projects (for example building new homes and transport infrastructure projects). This framework includes a set of sustainability activities for projects to carry out to influence decision making and metrics to demonstrate their performance. We also create detailed guidance on how projects should be adapted to climate change and assess energy and carbon.



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## Looking forward to 2024–25

- **Ecological Emergency:** 2024–25 will see the publication of the **One City Tree and Woodland Strategy** as well as the **West of England Local Nature Recovery Toolkit**. The council will also start to deliver the **WECA Green Recovery Fund Nature Recovery Project** that will deliver more land being managed for nature, improve quality of river habitats and aim to engage citizens in their natural environment, including more volunteer action.
- **Capital Projects:** This year we will start applying the sustainability framework on major new projects.
- Complete **LED street lighting** and **LED traffic signal** retro fits.



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### Documents available in other formats:

You can request alternative formats of this document by contacting:  
[environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk)

**BRISTOL**  
CLIMATE HUB

**BRISTOL**  
CLIMATE ACTION



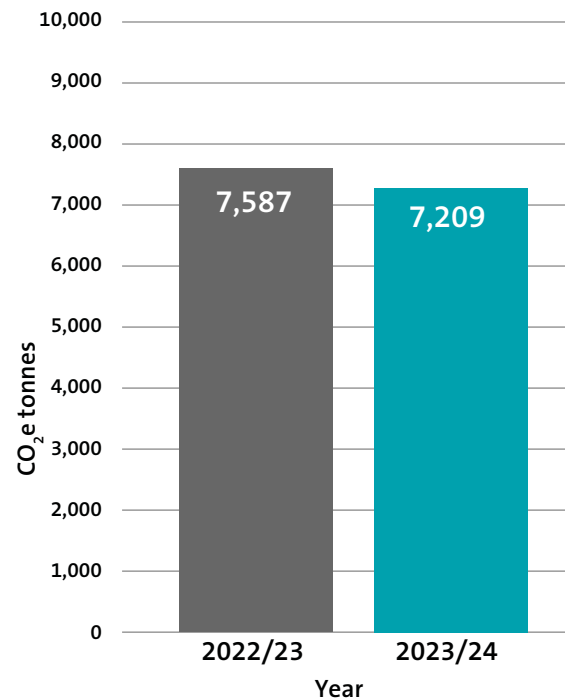
# Appendix A

**This report covers our scope 1 and 2 emissions. We are committed to quantifying our scope 3 emissions and made an initial assessment of these in 2020.**

Our scope 1 and 2 emissions are measured from emissions that come from our estate and operations over which we have direct control. These include our offices, libraries, museums, children's homes, our elderly persons home, highways street lighting, our public mortuary, our two crematoria and our fleet. Schools are excluded from this figure as we do not have direct operational control over schools.

Our reporting methodology follows Defra's environmental reporting guidelines. All figures are expressed in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) and government conversion factors are used where available. Scope 1 and 2 reported data is compiled of all available data at the time of publishing, actual figure may differ slightly.

A change in methodology means that last years figures have been revised. Changes in carbon factors and issues with green gas supplies affected our carbon figures this year.



## Appendix B – Jargon Buster

**Adaptation:** The act of changing something or changing your behaviour to make it suitable for a new purpose or situation.

**Benefits:** The good things that come out of something.

**Biodiversity:** The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable

**Carbon:** is commonly used as a shorthand for carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas released by humans

**Carbon Neutral:** Carbon neutral is where the carbon emissions of one thing (for example an individual, an organisation, a city or a product) have either been eliminated or balanced by removals of greenhouse gases (including through compensating for those emissions by making equivalent reductions of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere locally or internationally).

**Climate Change:** The planet is getting dangerously hot because of how people are using fossil fuels. This is leading to lots of problems locally and around the world.

**Community climate action plans:** These are plans that many communities have made to work out how they are going to change what they do so that it is better for the planet, nature and local people.

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**Consultation:** When people like the council ask communities for their thoughts on a plan that they have made.

**Culture:** Things like art, entertainment, beliefs, traditions, and other ideas. It has a big effect on how we think, feel and act.

**Declaration:** Something that is said to show how someone thinks and feels about something. It is a promise to act in a certain way.

**Ecology/Ecological:** The branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings

**Emissions:** The production and discharge of something, especially gas or radiation

**Enable:** To support or allow someone to do something.

**Environment:** Surroundings in which an organisation operates including air, water, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelationships

**Greenhouse Gases:** are the gases in the atmosphere that raise the surface temperature of planets such as the Earth

**Just transition:** When a place changes how it works and lives so that it isn't causing damage to the planet and nature, but also makes sure that this is done in a fair way for workers and communities.

**Net zero:** Net zero is the point at which the number of greenhouse gases being put out into the atmosphere is equal to the number that are removed out of the atmosphere.

**Pesticides:** Are substances that are used to control pests.

**Principles:** A set of statements that says how something is going to be done. They show what is thought to be important in how something is done.

**Scopes:** Emissions can be put into three categories these are called scopes.'

**Solar panels:** A device that changes energy from the sun into electricity.

**Values:** What someone cares about.