

Climate Change Action Plan 2022/23



Foreword

Executive Member for Planning and Development Cllr Simon Martin



Welcome to the second annual update on the progress of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).

In September 2019, Fareham Borough Council announced its commitment to become carbon neutral throughout all its buildings and services by 2030. In order to achieve this challenging target, we needed to know how much work was required and therefore undertook an extensive programme of work to calculate our baseline Carbon Footprint in October 2020.

In June 2021 we published our first Action Plan which focused predominantly on reducing the Council's operational carbon footprint. This plan tries to find ways we can lower the carbon emissions created when we provide services to our customers.

However, it is important to note that these only account for around 0.9% of the Borough's total emissions, so there is plenty of work still to do.

We recognise our leadership role and will support and encourage broader change across Fareham with both businesses and residents where we can.

Hampshire County Council has responsibility for the delivery of many service areas and we will work in partnership with them and other organisations where appropriate, given their commitment for the whole of the County to become carbon neutral by 2050.

In addition, the Council wants to help ensure that the Borough can respond to the local changes that climate change will bring.

This annual report will outline the carbon reduction measures we have completed during the last year as well as an overview of how much we have reduced our emissions by. It will also lay out the plans we have for the coming year/s both for the Council buildings and services and the local Fareham community.

Reducing carbon emissions in Fareham is a high priority for us and for me and I am pleased to see the results of the work so far and our plans for the future.



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All information in this document is correct at time of publishing.

The Council's carbon footprint – where we started



In order to fulfil our commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, it was important that we first knew the emissions we were releasing. The Council underwent an extensive programme of work to calculate the emissions we were generating through our operations over the course of the year 2019/20.

Why are we concerned about Climate Change in Fareham?

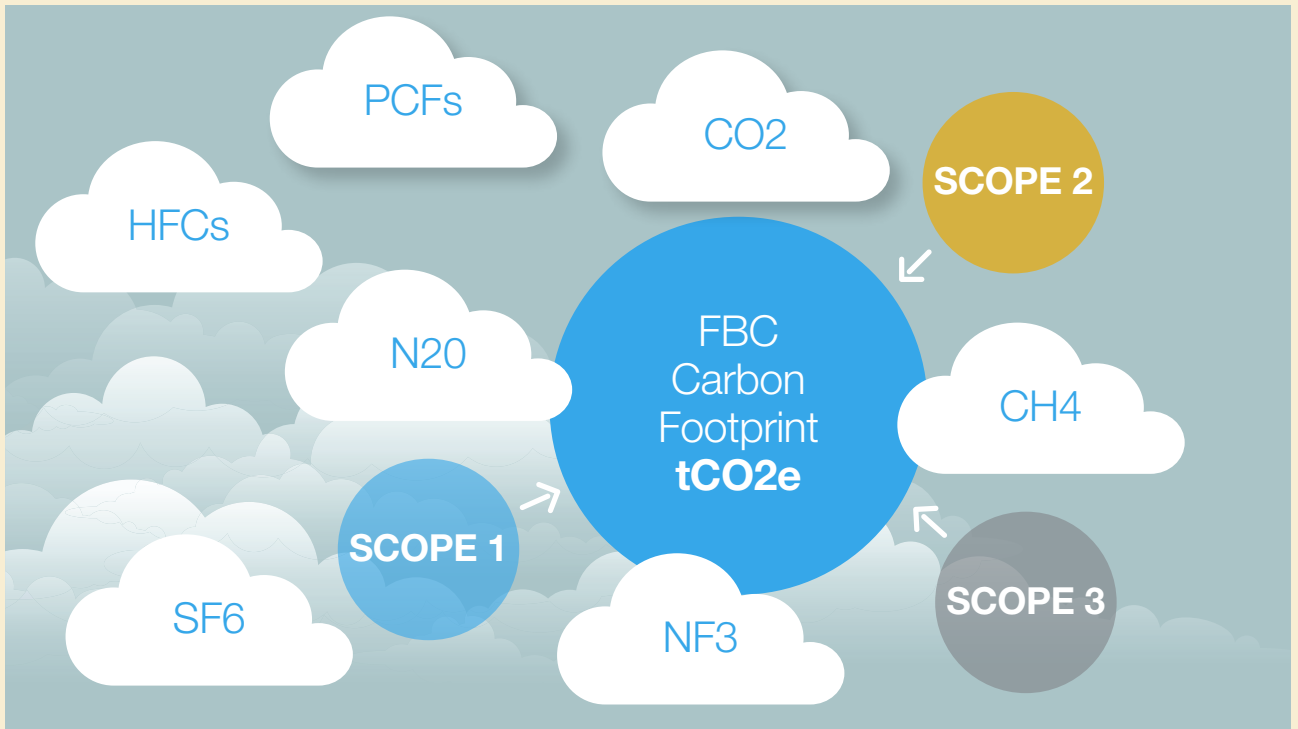
While climate change is a global issue Fareham will likely experience:

- **Hotter, drier summers**
- **Wetter, warmer and stormier winters**
- **An increased risk of flooding, including at the coast due to sea level rises**

In line with Government guidance, we calculate our carbon emissions in tCO₂e, which means **'tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalence'**.

There are a number of greenhouse gasses that are emitted during our operations each with their own warming potential. tCO₂e converts all of these into the warming that would be created by the equivalent amount of CO₂ and combines these into a single carbon footprint figure. (See infographic on following page).

“The Council underwent an extensive programme of work to calculate the emissions...”

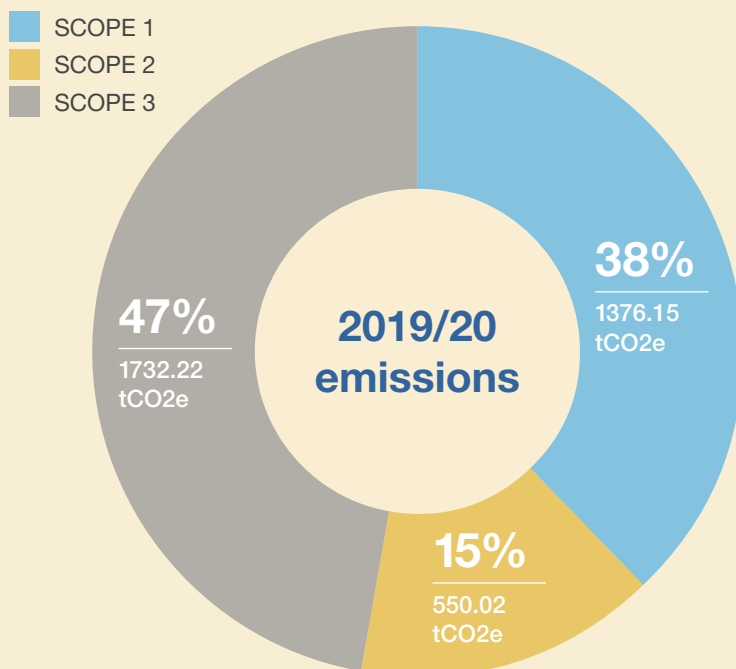


Our total carbon footprint is made up of three different scopes each of which relate to how much control we have over them:

SCOPE 1
Direct emissions such as fuel usage

SCOPE 2
Indirect emissions in our control such as electricity usage at Council owned buildings

SCOPE 3
Indirect emissions out of our direct control such as gas usage at leisure centres



In 2019/20 when we first calculated our emissions, our carbon footprint for that year was **3658 tCO₂e** and we use this figure as our baseline for measuring progress towards carbon neutrality.

You can read more about our carbon footprint at www.fareham.gov.uk/climatechange

Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)

Our Climate Change Action Plan was approved in July 2021 and sets out the projects we think we need to complete to help us on our journey to becoming carbon neutral, as well as supporting the wider Borough where we can.

What's in the Action Plan?

The Plan contains over 40 projects. The main focus of these is on reducing the Council's operational carbon footprint, but we also

recognise our leadership role in encouraging emissions across the wider borough and will support this where we can. We also have a role in making sure the Borough can adapt to

and be resilient to the changes brought by climate change.

The projects come under three main areas.



Reducing the Council's carbon footprint

Projects include:

- Understanding our vehicle replacement and charging point options
- Switching to green energy suppliers
- Developing plans for making our buildings more energy efficient



Borough wide carbon reductions

Projects include:

- Providing advice and facilities on reducing waste and encouraging recycling
- Delivering a community solar panel project with Hampshire County Council
- Advertising Government funding options for energy savings to the wider community



Responding to climate change and protecting Fareham's communities

Projects include:

- Exploring sustainable planting in our flower beds
- Support wetland projects and creation of natural habitats
- Protecting trees through the use of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)



You can read the Climate Change Action Plan in full at www.fareham.gov.uk/climatechange



“We also have a role in making sure the Borough can adapt to and be resilient to the changes brought by climate change.”

What the Council has achieved in the last year

We are proud of the progress we have made in the year 2022/23, with the implementation of many projects designed to reduce the Council's own carbon emissions as well as helping our wider community with education and support.

Reducing the carbon footprint in the delivery of our services

In February 2022, we converted our garden waste collection vehicles to operate using a biofuel, hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) instead of diesel. Following the success of the trial, we also converted our small diesel vehicles to operate using HVO.

Diesel is a significant contributor to the Council's carbon emissions with fleet fuel contributing over 39% of our direct emissions in 2022/23. HVO produces significantly less carbon than diesel and continuing to run the garden waste and small vehicles on HVO in 2022/23 reduced the Council's annual carbon footprint by approximately 299 tCO₂e.

We have approved a rolling vehicle replacement programme for the Council's vehicle fleet over the next 5 years. As part of the programme the Council will look to procure 15 electric vans and one electric small Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV). To accommodate these we will look to install a number of electric vehicle charging points at our Depot

site as well as explore the feasibility of distributing some of these at strategic sites across the Borough. It is estimated that by 2027/28 the programme will have reduced the Council's carbon footprint by 40 tCO₂e.

The Council launched a staff campaign, 'Small Change Big Difference', which focused on getting employees to think laterally about climate change and how together small changes in our individual behaviour can collectively make a big difference. Some of the changes have focused on turning devices off at the end of the day and using the stairs where possible. This has contributed to a 9.7

tCO₂e reduction in electricity emissions in our Civic Offices.

Helping to reduce wider carbon emissions where we can across the Borough

The Council successfully implemented a total of 177 energy efficiency improvements to 159 properties in our housing stock. Funded in part by a government scheme known as LAD2, the measures focused on solar panels, loft insulation, and upgrading electric storage heaters helping to improve the comfort and reduce energy bills of Council tenants.

The Council started working with a number of other Councils





to offset losses that have occurred at other sites where intertidal habitats are in decline.

The Council worked with Gosport and Fareham Friends of the Earth to install a new wildlife meadow at Fareham Cemetery.

Abbey Meadows saw 180 trees planted as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



as part of the Warmer Homes consortium in 2022/23. The scheme provides free energy saving measures to low-income households with poor performing homes. The scheme has delivered 78 private low-income households with energy saving measures worth nearly £450,000.

We have continued to work with the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) who offer low income and vulnerable residents a completely free of charge service that provides energy and debt advice alongside a range of measures such as free small energy saving devices and funding for insulation.

In May 2022, £30,000 of funding was allocated to

carbon reduction measures across the Council’s community centres. The measures installed range from small energy saving products such as LED lightbulbs to larger measures such as replacing old energy inefficient appliances.

Helping the Borough respond to the changes brought by Climate Change

The Council no longer uses peat in its landscaping and gardening works and has a programme of sustainable planting across the borough.

Coastal Partners are in the process of conducting a Coastal Management Study at Hook Lake investigating opportunities for habitat creation



“The Warmer Homes scheme has delivered 78 private low-income households with energy saving measures worth nearly £450,000.”

The Council's Carbon footprint – where we are now

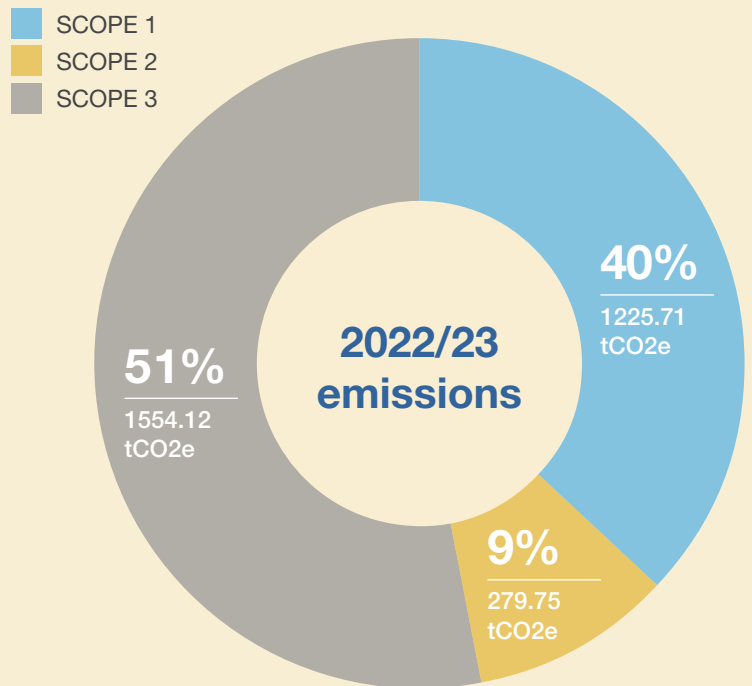
Council total carbon footprint in 2022/23 is 3059.58 tCO₂e which is 598.81 tCO₂e less than 2019/20, a 16.37% reduction.

2019/20
Council total carbon footprint
3658.39 tCO₂e

2022/23
Council total carbon footprint
3059.58 tCO₂e

598.81 tCO₂e less

16.37% reduction



Why has our carbon footprint changed?



There are a number of reasons why our Carbon Footprint reduced during 2022/23.



Scope 1 emissions

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil was used in our Garden Waste and Small Vehicle fleet throughout 2022/23 reducing emissions significantly. We also used less gas in the Civic Offices compared to last year.



Scope 2 emissions

Less electricity was used in the Civic Offices in 2022/23. This is due to the introduction of LED lighting to some floors and also the staff campaign focusing on reducing electricity usage within the building. There was also a reduction in the electricity used in the car parks.



Impact of the weather on our emissions
We have seen an increase in Depot and Housing gas usage. This is mainly due to the relatively cold winter we had this year.



Tackling our carbon challenges over the next 12 months

Like other organisations, there are a number of key challenges we face in order to achieve our commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.



Vehicle fuel emissions

We are continuing to use HVO in part of our fleet as a low emission fuel. However, due to the relatively high cost of the fuel, we are not able to rollout HVO across the whole fleet. Although the market for smaller electric vehicles is becoming quite developed, larger vehicles such as Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) are our biggest emitters but electric versions remain expensive and relatively untested.

In 2023/24 we plan to:

- Introduce more electric vehicles into our vehicle fleet, including the infrastructure required
- Roll out electric vehicle charging provision at key locations across the Borough
- Update our rolling vehicle replacement programme.





“...the Civic Offices were built before energy efficiency was a serious design consideration.”



Decarbonising our buildings

Opened in 1975, the Civic Offices were built before energy efficiency was a serious design consideration. Heating and providing energy to the Civic and our Depot are significant proportions of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Emissions from our leisure centres and community centres also contribute to our Scope 3 footprint.

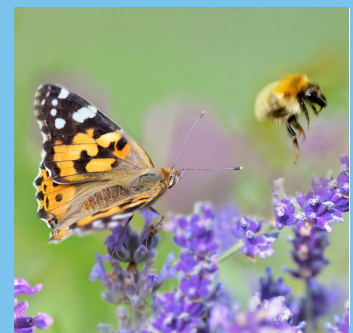
In 2023/24 we plan to:

- Continue to use hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) in a 1/3 of our vehicle fleet
- Apply for Government funding to improve the energy efficiency of our Leisure Centres
- Complete a feasibility study for a 3.5MW Solar Farm in the Borough and assess the potential on other Council controlled sites.



In 2023/24 we plan to:

- We plan to rollout HVO in our vehicle fleet at Solent Airport and also in the Council Mayoral car
- Install a bog garden at Park Lane in partnership with Friends of the Earth to increase biodiversity in the area
- Identify Biodiversity Net Gain projects within the Borough.





Energy generation and offsetting

We are continuing to explore options for generating our own green electricity, such as solar panels on Council owned buildings to reduce energy costs and possibly offset carbon emissions.

- In 2023/24 we plan to:**
- Continue with solar energy schemes on existing Council buildings and new capital projects
 - Explore the feasibility of delivering a Solar Farm on Council land



Programme to carbon neutral by 2030
One of the most important projects over the next 12-months will be developing timelines for reducing our Scope 1 and 2 emissions. This will include the costs involved in achieving our commitment to carbon neutral by 2030.

Interested in air quality?

You can find out more about air quality in Fareham and what the Council has done to help improve it at www.fareham.gov.uk/licensing_and_inspections/air_quality/intro.aspx

Find out more and get involved

We have a dedicated set of climate pages on our website www.fareham.gov.uk/climatechange where you can find a range of advice and support on the following topics:



Understanding climate change

Simple information on the science behind climate change and its potential impact on Fareham



Calculating your carbon footprint

This is often the most useful first step when working out what you can do reduce your own carbon footprint



Climate Change toolkit

We have created a number of guides aimed at different audiences



Residents

Get ideas for reducing your carbon footprint whether you are a beginner or a climate hero



Community groups

Guidance and links to advice on how to plan climate activities in your community



Businesses

Links to helpful resources, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on options for reducing your company's carbon footprint

Get in touch

If you have any questions about our Climate Change Action Plan please get in touch by emailing us climatechange@fareham.gov.uk, phoning 01329 236 100 or visiting us at the Civic Offices.

Climate Change Action Plan 2022/23

