

# Environmental Performance 2021-22 - Summary



## Leicestershire County Council's Performance

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Since **2008-09** the County Council has reduced its operational greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)<sup>1</sup> by almost **72%**. In **2021-22** the Council increased its greenhouse gas emissions by **7.4%**, due to the expected Covid bounce-back, compared to **2020-21**.

08-09	35,778t
20-21	9,434t
21-22	10,127t



**Net Zero**  
BY 2030

## Main Sources of County Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions

### BUILDINGS

39%



### TOTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

2021 - 22 FROM COUNCIL OPERATIONS

### BUSINESS TRAVEL



11%

27%



FLEET VEHICLES

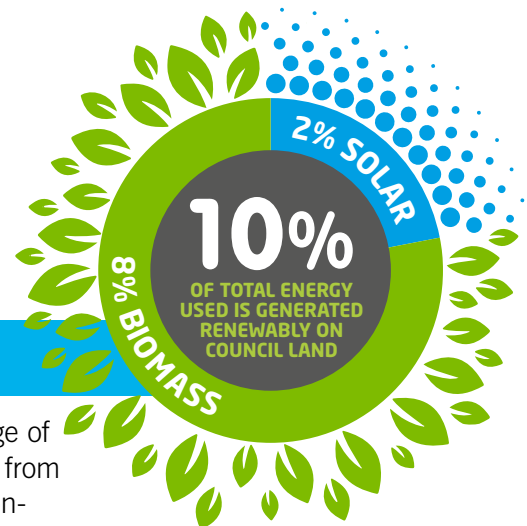
### STREET LIGHTING & TRAFFIC SIGNALS

22%



WATER & WASTE 1%

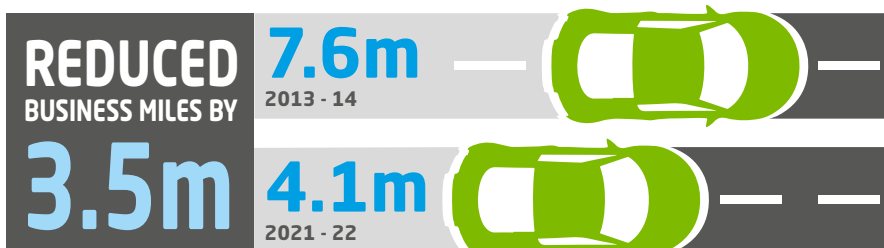
The main sources of greenhouse gas emissions for the County Council in **2021-22** were our buildings, fleet, streetlighting & traffic signals and staff business travel. Compared to **2020-21** there was a **7.4%** increase in emissions, largely due to the expected Covid bounce-back. The main increases were seen in business travel, fleet vehicles and buildings heating.



## Renewable Energy

The amount of renewable energy generated on council land, as a percentage of total energy consumed, was **10%** in **2021-22**. Of that, **2%** was generated from solar power and **8%** from a biomass (woodchip) boiler. The generation of on-site renewable energy avoided 353 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of emissions – equivalent to **3.5%** of the council's emissions. The amount of renewable energy generated reduced during 2021-22 due to the biomass boiler being out of commission from October to January while the system was being upgraded.

## Business Mileage



The Council has reduced its business miles by **3.5 million miles** since **2013-14** saving over **1,255 tonnes** of greenhouse gas emissions. Business mileage increased by **1.1 million miles (57%)** compared to **2020-21** largely due to the Covid bounce-back.

## Office Recycling

The County Council recycled **60%** of its total office waste<sup>2</sup> in **2021-22**. Recycling performance improved by about **11%** compared to **2020-21** with the total amount of waste generated increasing by **98%** to **263 tonnes** as staff and services returned as covid restrictions eased. There was a particular increase in waste paper, dry mixed recycling, ICT equipment and glass.



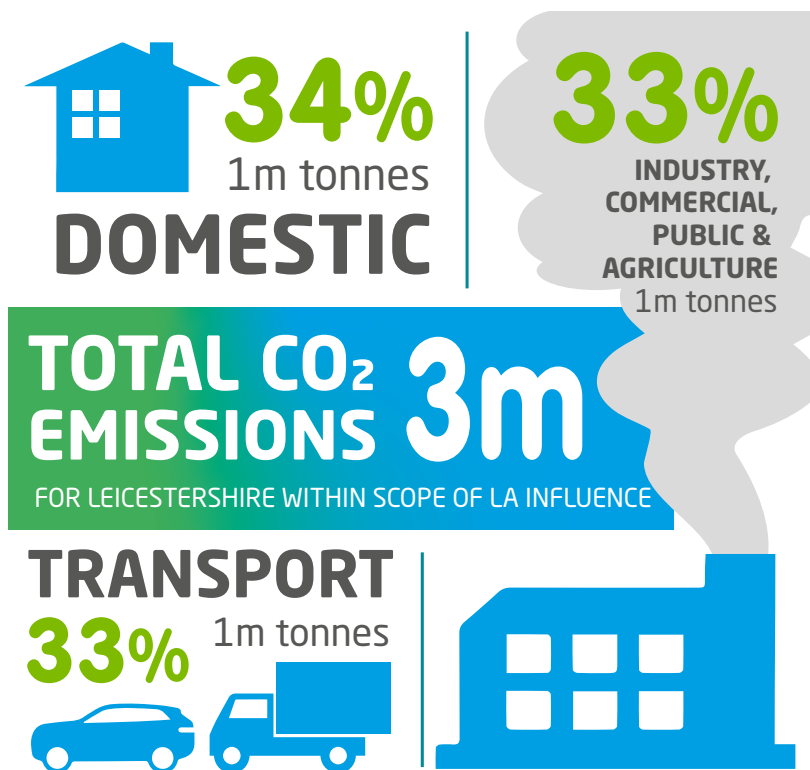
### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>The GHG emissions consist of a mix of gases in addition to carbon dioxide, including methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons. These make up our overall greenhouse gas figure, which is expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent or CO<sub>2</sub>e. GHG reporting follows HM Government's Environmental Reporting Guidelines.

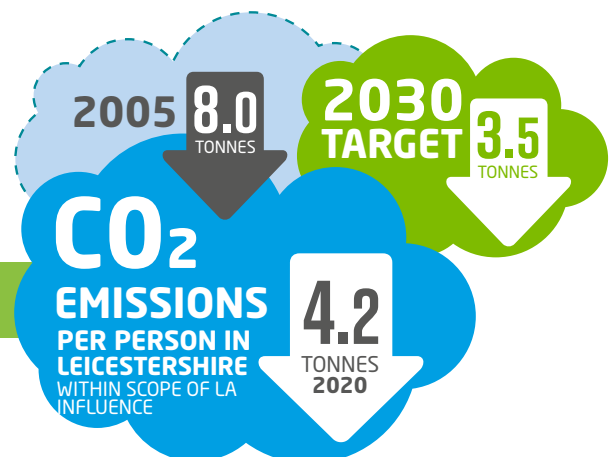
<sup>2</sup>Excludes waste from operational activities e.g. highways maintenance and forestry waste.

# Leicestershire Environmental Performance

## Leicestershire's Carbon Emissions



Based on figures provided by the Government<sup>3</sup>, the carbon emissions for Leicestershire considered to be within 'influence' of local authorities were **3 million tonnes** in **2020**. Emissions are almost evenly split between industrial, commercial, public sector & agriculture, transport, and domestic sources. Emissions have reduced by **40%** between **2005** and **2020**. Some of this decline will have been due to the Covid pandemic during **2020**. The **wider county level greenhouse gas emissions** for Leicestershire in **2020** were **4.4 million tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub>e.



## Carbon Emissions Per Person

The Government figures show that in **2005** each person in Leicestershire emitted the equivalent of **8 tonnes** of carbon. This reduced to **4.2 tonnes** in **2020** with a current target of reducing this to **3.5 tonnes** by **2030**.

## Household Waste & Recycling

There has been a steady decline in the total household waste generated per household since **2011-12**, with total household waste per household falling from **1,105 kg** to **1,014 kg** in **2021-22**, a reduction of almost **8%**.

The amount of household waste recycled in Leicestershire in **2021-22** was **43.4%**.



### Footnotes:

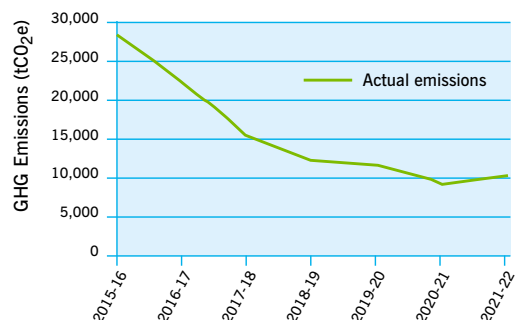
<sup>3</sup>Data is provided by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for all UK regions and is two years in arrears. This includes emissions from industrial, commercial, public sector, agriculture, transport (excluding large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land-use) and from domestic sources (i.e. homes). More information on the BEIS figures can be found here [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-to-2020](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-to-2020)

# Projects on the ground



## Understanding the impact of Covid 19

Council GHG emissions 2015-16 to 2021-22



The **Covid 19 pandemic** has impacted on the council's greenhouse gas emissions. During **2020-21** it contributed to the **reduction in emissions** as council services and activities were reduced. In **2021-22** we have seen an expected **rise in council emissions** following the return of many council services and operations as the pandemic eased, as highlighted in the graph. Despite this increase, emissions remain **13% lower** than **pre-Covid 19 (2019-20)** and the council remains on track to meet its 2025 interim emissions reduction target.

The council has taken steps towards understanding the bounce back in its emissions and has identified that some emissions sources may continue moving towards pre-Covid 19 levels. However, there are **completed and pipeline carbon reduction projects** which will significantly suppress this in future years, alongside actions, such as council employees utilising **smarter working practices**, which will help **limit the levels of bounce back** seen.

## Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The council has successfully carried out **£3.5 million** of Government Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant works to cut emissions from many parts of its estates by using renewable sources of energy. The projects included the installation of a **90,000-litre thermal storage tank**, **additional solar panels** on County Hall and **air source heat pumps** at Beaumanor Hall.

The upgrades installed with the grant will **save** the council an estimated **£130,000 per year** and reduce carbon emissions by **380 tCO<sub>2</sub>e a year** compared to pre-project. These savings will first be seen in 2022-23.



## Food for Life Gold and Procurement

The council has a **Leicestershire Food Plan** which looks at how we can reduce the environmental footprint of food, including the carbon emissions associated with food production and consumption. **Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS)** is the council's trading arm and provides school meals to over **32,000 children** a day. LTS achieved **Gold Food for Life Served Here** for these meals, which includes 15% spend on organic produce, 5% on free range pork and poultry, 75% of dishes freshly prepared from unprocessed ingredients, all ingredients UK grown and reformulation of recipes to include 20% less meat by adding beans and pulses.



All of these actions help to **improve the environmental footprint of school meals** through lower impact food production, fewer food miles and lower carbon footprint ingredients. Much of our improvement in environmental impact comes from a focus on purchasing UK produce. Whilst it is known that the majority of UK farmed products have a lower carbon impact than imported products, we are currently working to understand how this impact could be further reduced.

## Environment Matters

Want to keep informed of what is happening within Leicestershire County Council and beyond on **environmental and waste matters**? Why not sign up to get an electronic copy of our Environment Matters newsletter – Click on this link for more details: [Environment Matters sign up](#)

## Climate Change Reading Lists

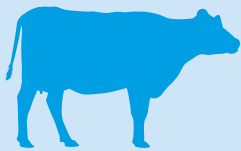
Interested in learning more about **Climate Change**? Why not use our climate change booklists. Enjoy learning about climate change from either the children's or adult booklists. For more information click [here](#).

# Action For Nature Performance

## Hectares of Council Land in Better Management for Nature

Total Land in Better Management  
for Nature 2021-22

**3,844**  
hectares



County Farms  
**2,154**  
hectares

Highway  
Verges

**1,068**  
hectares



Country Parks  
**585** hectares

Playing Fields **37** hectares



Wildlife Verges



2021 - 22

**55**  
verges

**42** parishes participating

These new metrics are **currently under development** and are seeking to show how much of council land is in **better management for nature**, in area terms and as a percentage of the total council land that could be in better management for nature.

Only land where there is a **conscious decision made to manage the land in a way that protects or enhances nature** is included. The figures do not say anything about the quality of that land from a nature perspective. The figures presented are based on the **current available data** so are not the final figures but are **indicative of the position**. Further refinement of the data will be carried out ahead of producing the figures for 2022-23.

The available data shows that **3,844 hectares** of council land are in better management for nature and include county farms and highway verges. This is equivalent to **97%** of the land that could possibly be suitable.

### % of Suitable Council Land in Better Management for Nature



The County Council started the **Urban Wildlife Verge scheme** pilot in **2020**. Since then, the scheme has grown in the number of verges included and the number of parish councils participating. At the end of **2021-22** there were **55 verges** in the scheme managed by **42 parishes**. These verges are managed by reducing grass cutting, which is also done at the best time of the year for wildlife. The grass clippings are removed to provide good soil conditions for wildflowers to thrive. For more information on the scheme go to the [Leicestershire County Council website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk).



## Number of Trees Planted in Leicestershire



The County Council has set a target to help plant **700,000 trees** in Leicestershire by **2030** as part of its net zero and nature recovery commitments. At the end of **2021-22** some **100,000 trees** were planted across the county by the county council and other organisations and individuals. For more information on this and to keep track of how many trees are being planted visit the [Leicestershire County Council website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/council).

## Treescape Project

During **2021-22** the County Council secured over **£227,000** in funding from the Forestry Commission's **Treescape project**. The funding supported the planting and maintenance of **20,000 trees** across Leicestershire. The scheme was developed in partnership with district and parish councils.

## Projects on the ground

### Biodiversity Net Gain

As part of the County Council's policy to ensure **10% Biodiversity Net Gain** on any of its strategic property development, it has carried out works on a number of its Country Parks to the value of **£5,368**. The works took place at **Donington Le Heath**, **Bagworth** and **Snibston Country Park** and included dredging a pond, heath restoration, hedge-laying and willow pollarding. These biodiversity net gain offsetting works took place as part of the development of the new **waste site** at **Bardon**.

### Trent Rivers' Trust Project

Through partnership with the **River Soar Catchment Partners**, the County Council secured a budget of **£46,700** to **improve grassland** at Watermead Country Park, other Council land and land owned by Broughton Astley Parish Council. So far, the area of natural grassland has been increased by **0.2 hectares**. The project will collectively help to join up grassland habitat along the River Soar Catchment and is part of a wider project which will see **£421,100** spent in Leicestershire.



### Leicestershire Local Growth Funding

A **£500,000** project in **Watermead Country Park** has **improved** the **visitor experience** while also creating **greater access for nature**. The works undertaken included physical access improvements and wayfinding for visitors and improvements to natural habitats including wetland scrapes. This helps threatened species such as Lapwing, tree planting, island restoration, grassland work and more planting of vegetation around park entrances.

