

# **Environmental Performance** 2019-20 - Summary

# Leicestershire County Council's Performance

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions** 

CARBON

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Since **2008-09** the County Council has reduced its operational greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)<sup>1</sup> by **67%**. In **2019-20** the Council reduced its greenhouse gases by almost **6%** compared to **2018-19**.

> **Net Zero** BY 2030

REDUC

**GHG EMISSIONS** 

FROM COUNCIL OPERATIONS

<sup>§</sup>35,778<sub>t</sub>

**፤ 12,366**t

<sup>§</sup> 11,663t

# Main Sources of County Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions



VEHI

The main sources of greenhouse gas emissions for the County Council in **2019-20** were our buildings, streetlighting and traffic signals, operational fleet vehicles and staff business travel. Significant progress has been made in reducing emissions from streetlighting and emissions from our buildings have reduced by **65%** since **2008-09**.

# **Renewable Energy**

The amount of renewable energy generated on council land, as a percentage of total energy consumed, was **16%** in **2019-20**. Of that, **4%** was generated from solar power and **12%** from a biomass (woodchip) boiler.

## **Business Mileage**



The Council has reduced its business miles by **2 million miles** since **2013-14** saving over **720 tonnes** of greenhouse gas emissions.

#### 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  $CO_2e$ . GHG reporting follows HM Government's Environmental Reporting Guidelines.

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

## **Office Recycling**

The County Council recycled **61%** of its total office waste in **2019-20**. This figure includes plastics, metals, waste electricals, paper and cardboard, glass, and the composting of organic waste generated from offices<sup>2</sup>.



# Leicestershire Environmental Performance

### Leicestershire's Carbon Emissions

Based on figures provided by **`30%** the Government<sup>3</sup>, the carbon emissions for Leicestershire considered to be 'under the 1.1m tonnes influence' of local authorities were COMMERCIAL DOMESTIC 3.6 million tonnes in 2018. 1.3m tonnes Emissions are almost evenly split between industrial & commercial, **TOTAL CO**<sub>2</sub> transport, and domestic sources. **EMISSIONS** Emissions have reduced by 31% between 2005 and 2018. FOR LEICESTERSHIRE UNDER LA INFLUENCE TRANSPORT **33%** <sup>1.2m</sup> tonnes 2005 Carbon Emissions Per Person 5.1 SSIONS **PER PERSON IN** The Government figures show that in **2005** each LEICESTERSHIRE UNDER LA INFLUENCE TONNES 2018 person in Leicestershire emitted the equivalent of 8.3 tonnes of carbon. This reduced to 5.1 tonnes in **2018** 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 TOTAL HOUSEHOLD WASTE since 2011-12, with total household waste HOUSEHOLD per household falling from 1105 kg to 1031 kg in 2019-20, a reduction of almost 7%. 011 - 12 **105kg** The amount of household waste recycled in Leicestershire in 2019-20 was 45.5%.

#### 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 and commercial activity, transport (except for emissions from motorway traffic and diesel railways), and from domestic sources (i.e. homes). Net emissions from forestry and land based industries are excluded. The data does not include large point source emissions from power stations.

# Projects on the ground



#### Street lighting project showing the way

We achieved a further **17% reduction** in emissions from street lighting during **2019-20** meaning that emissions from street lighting have reduced by **73%** since **2016-17**. This amounted to some **6,747 tonnes** of carbon or the equivalent of **1,458** cars being taken off the road.

The annual street lighting energy consumption has reduced from 20.8 million kWh in 2016-17 to 9.2 million kWh in 20-19-20, a 55% reduction.

The additional reduction in emissions during **2019-20** was achieved as a result of further energy saving measures such as further 'trimming and dimming' of the street lighting system and a lowering of the carbon conversion factor used to calculate the carbon emissions from electricity use.

At today's energy rates, the switch to LED lights has produced and annual saving of around £1.7 million for the Council.

#### Going all electric

In **June 2018**, Leicestershire County Council purchased its first all-electric car, with a battery range of up to **180 miles**.

The car, a Nissan Leaf, was purchased as part of a scheme to reduce the council's carbon footprint, help improve local air quality and set a positive example to the residents of Leicestershire, while also saving money.

Staff were encouraged to use the new electric pool car for carrying out council business, rather than using their own personal vehicles. The car saved **1.8 tonnes** of carbon after driving almost **6,500 miles** during **2019/20**.

The county council have identified other vehicles that could be replaced by an electric option and most recently purchased two all-electric cars to replace their petrol camera enforcement car which drove **16,000 miles** last year. These new enforcement vehicles will not only keep our children safe by monitoring traffic outside our schools, but also keep them safe by reducing local air pollution and reducing the amount of carbon emissions (over **4 tonnes** per year) going into the atmosphere.

### Planning for a Green Recovery

Since the end of 2019-20 **COVID 19** has meant that very quickly the council and our communities have needed to come together and change the way we work.

The county council has worked across departments and with partners of the Local Resilience Forum to understand the environmental impacts, threats and opportunities to help us to plan for a green recovery.

The purpose of this work is to **build back better** for a clean, green, healthy, fair and resilient future that does not shift emissions from one organisation or place to another. We want to **maintain the positive benefits** and **avoid locking in any negative trends**. There is a risk of significant future costs from the threat of climate change which we want to avoid by prioritising options that offer co-benefits for the economy, society and the environment

The county council has seen many changes in its own environmental performance in the first half of 2020 with reductions in the total amount of waste produced, business mileage, commuting mileage, printing and energy use.

The challenge moving forward is to maintain these lower impact working practices whilst ensuring that services are delivered effectively and finding ways to support our staff to be environmentally conscious when working from home.



#### **Biomass comes local**

The County Council have sourced a new local biomass supplier, Milner's Forestry, based in Markfield.

The new contract with Milner's will allow for a good 'crosscouncil' effort with multiple benefits, including cost savings, carbon reduction, biodiversity improvement as well as local economy and woodland management benefits.

As a result the distance travelled by the biomass used at County Hall has reduced, whilst supporting local sustainable forestry management and reinforcing green jobs across the county.

Over the five-year contract there will be a potential saving of **30-35 tonnes** of carbon emissions.

**90%** of the new material used is sourced within The National Forest under management plans and felling licences. The remaining **10%** of material is sourced from local arboriculture waste.