

Climate Change Action Plan 2022



FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Foreword

Executive Member for Planning and Development Cllr Simon Martin



Welcome to the first 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 0.8% 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 2019-2020.

Why are we concerned about Climate Change in Fareham?

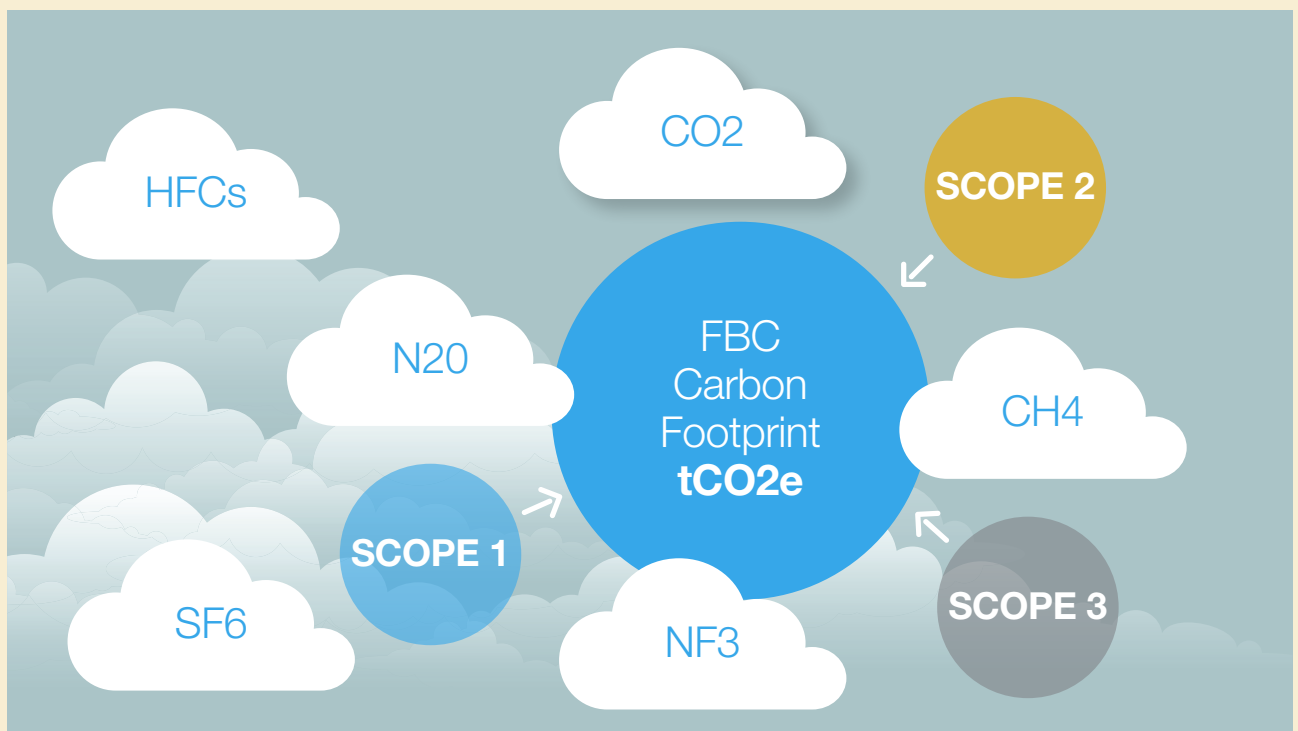
While climate change is a global issue Fareham will likely experience:

- 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...”

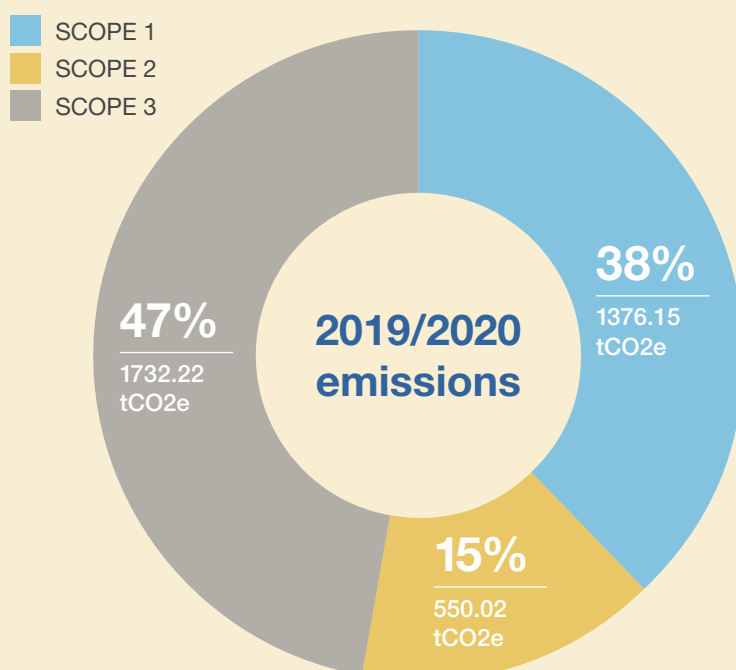


Our total carbon footprint is made up of three different scopes each of which relate to how much control we have over them:

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 2019-2020 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 reduced 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 2021-2022, 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 January 2022, we converted our four garden waste collection vehicles to operate using a biofuel, specifically hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) instead of diesel. Diesel is a significant contributor to the Council's carbon emissions with fleet fuel contributing over 67% of our direct emissions each year. HVO fuel produces 88% less carbon than diesel and switching the four garden waste vehicles to run on HVO will reduce our annual carbon footprint by approximately 99 tCO₂e in the first year. This was part of a year-long trial of HVO fuel.

Following the success of this trial in the early phases, we also converted our small diesel vehicles to operate using HVO. The Council's small diesel vehicle fleet consists of two large road sweepers, four mini-sweepers, three pathway sweepers and 14 ride-on mowers. Converting these vehicles to HVO will reduce the Council's annual carbon footprint by approximately 155 tCO₂e per year.

We have approved switching to a zero-carbon electricity tariff for 2022-23 across all of our Council buildings, which means that all the electricity we use is from a zero-carbon source.

We have allocated £30,000 of grant funding to provide many of our community centres across the Borough with a range of simple energy saving products such as LED lightbulbs, radiator reflectors, water tank thermal covers and replacing some energy inefficient appliances.

We have installed solar powered pay and display machines at our coastal car parks.

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

We have agreed to invest £500,000 in energy efficiency improvements to our housing stock, supplemented by up to £1m from the Government's Local Authority Delivery 2 (LAD2) fund. So far, 81 properties have had measures installed with 66 awaiting installation.

We launched a new Climate Change webpage on the Council's website to provide information and guidance. This can be found at www.fareham.gov.uk/climatechange and includes tools such as a carbon





Working through Coastal Partners to protect our coastline, enhance the natural environment and maintaining coastal defence structures

Supporting the Borough's biodiversity by establishing a balance between planning growth and protecting the natural environment through our Local Plan.



footprint calculator as well as carbon reduction toolkits for residents, businesses and community groups.

Promoted Hampshire's Solar Together scheme, to provide cleaner, greener and more sustainable power for Fareham residents. This scheme helped to support around 1,000 residents across the county obtain heavily discounted solar panels.

Promoted fully funded energy improvements through the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) 2 scheme to low-income households living in poorly insulated homes.

Provided climate change talks to local communities and schools

Helping the Borough respond to the changes brought by Climate Change

Completed a review of our approach to tree planting, agreeing to focus on larger sites which will offer protected wildlife habitats, increased biodiversity and greater resilience.

Successfully trialled sustainable planting schemes and adopted this approach for In-Bloom and floral displays.

Worked with residents and volunteer groups on new meadow, wildflower and perennial planting sites to increase biodiversity in the Borough.



“We have installed solar powered pay and display machines at our coastal car parks.”

The Council's Carbon footprint – where we are now

Council total carbon footprint in 2021/22 is 3327.08 tCO₂e which is 331.31 tCO₂e less than 2019/20, a 9.06% reduction.

2019/20

Council total carbon footprint

3658.39 tCO₂e

2021/22

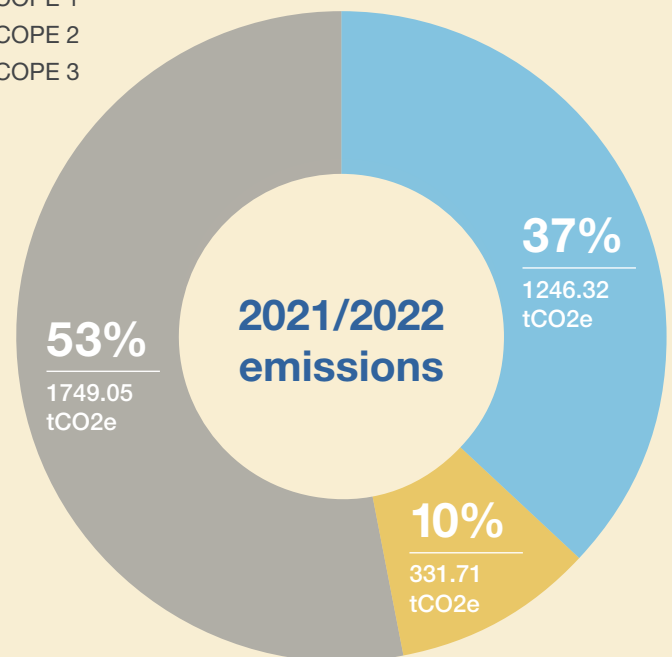
Council total carbon footprint

3327.08 tCO₂e

331.13 tCO₂e less

9.06% reduction

SCOPE 1
SCOPE 2
SCOPE 3



Why has our carbon footprint changed?



There are a number of reasons why our Carbon Footprint reduced during 2021/22.



Scope 1 emissions

The diesel used by our vehicles now has a biofuel content and therefore lower carbon emissions. Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil was introduced during 2021/22, reducing emissions further. We also used slightly less fuel overall during the year.



Scope 2 emissions

Less electricity was used at the Civic Offices as a result of home working which has meant less usage of lights, kitchen facilities, and computers. There was also a reduction in the electricity used in the communal areas of the Council's social housing buildings.



Impact of COVID-19 on our emissions

We have seen an increase in Civic and Depot gas usage. This is mainly due to ventilation systems operated to help reduce the risk of COVID-19.



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 trialling HVO as a low emission fuel. However, the cost of the fuel has varied and become more expensive during the energy crisis. Although the market for smaller electric vehicles is maturing, larger vehicles such as HGVs and Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) are our biggest emitters but remain expensive and relatively untested.

In 2022/23 we plan to:

- Design a vehicle replacement programme that identifies opportunities for including low emission vehicles in our fleet, including the infrastructure required
- Design a programme for replacing petrol powered hand tools with electric versions
- Develop an agreed corporate approach to electric vehicle charging provision





“...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 2022/23 we plan to:

- Develop Asset Management Plans for our Civic Offices, Depot and community buildings to explore the feasibility of using new technologies to reduce their energy use in the longer term and any interim measures required
- Fund a programme of small carbon reduction measures in our community centres, prioritising those most in need



Electricity and gas emissions

While we have transitioned to a zero-carbon electricity tariff for 2022/23, we will also need to reduce our electricity and gas use.

In 2022/23 we plan to:

- Introduce a zero-carbon electricity tariff
- Continue to explore options for low-carbon alternatives to gas
- Continue to assess opportunities to minimise the use of electricity and gas needed across our estate





Energy generation and offsetting

We need 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 2022/23 we plan to:

- Develop an agreed corporate approach to solar energy generation provision, exploring opportunities to offset our own emissions
- Explore the feasibility of potential options for 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.

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