

North Norfolk District Council Carbon Footprint Report 2022/23



NORTH
NORFOLK
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Summary

The Council's [Net Zero Strategy and Climate Action Plan \(NZSAP\)](#), which details how we will meet our Net Zero target by 2030, requires routine measuring of our carbon emissions and the reporting of the progress we have made.

The Council's overall footprint for the period 2022/23 is **3,494 tCO₂e**. This is an increase of 24% on the previous year's figure although an overall decrease of 47% on the baseline data from 2018/19.

The main reason for the increase from 2021/22 is the Reef leisure centre being fully operational, whereas for the previous period it had been under construction for part of the time – The Reef is the largest single emitting building within the Council's estate. The Council has also increased its property portfolio by purchasing additional houses to provide more temporary accommodation. In addition, refinements in the methodology for calculating the carbon emissions have meant improved accuracy but slight inconsistency with the previous method.

Over the 22/23 period, investments in energy saving and Net Zero technology realised CO₂e savings in some of the Council's operations. Whilst this demonstrates good progress, there are still significant steps required to maintain and continue the overall trend in reducing emissions. Further investigation is needed into many emission sources, in order to develop viable options for emission reductions. Emissions will continue to be monitored and options for targeting investment into further emissions reductions will be evaluated. These will feed into revisions of the Net Zero Strategy's Action Plan.



Introduction

This report summarises our carbon emissions and completed Net Zero actions for the period April 2022 to March 2023. It follows a methodology based on the Greenhouse Gas accounting tool developed by the Local Government Association.

North Norfolk was the first district Council in Norfolk to declare a climate emergency. In response to this, it adopted a Net Zero Target across its operations for 2030, twenty years in advance of the national target set by the Government.

The Council still believes it is possible to achieve Net Zero by 2030, but action needs to be taken now to accelerate decarbonisation across its estate and services. The proposed actions are outlined in the Council's Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan (NZSAP). The Council renewed its commitment to our Greener Future in the 2023-2027 Corporate Plan.

To monitor the progress of the Action Plan, an annual calculation is made of the Council's carbon footprint. Without measuring our carbon emissions we will not be able to target actions to reduce them. This measurement has been undertaken since 2018/19. The baseline figure was calculated on behalf of the council by the Carbon Trust. The reporting of this figure and the progress we have made are a requirement of the NZSAP.

Net Zero refers to the commitment to eliminate avoidable carbon emissions from our estate and operations. This will be challenging and will still require the residual (unavoidable) emissions to be mitigated by offsetting (principally through schemes that enhance the District's natural assets and/or benefit local communities, for example new tree cover). The carbon benefits of the Council's existing natural assets are not currently included in the overall footprint calculation.

The report covers eight emission areas that contribute to the Council's overall carbon footprint: scope 1 being direct emissions that the Council has complete control over; scope 2, being (indirect) emissions arising elsewhere as a result of the Council's energy consumption (which it can influence but not completely control); while scope 3 emissions arise from the Council's supply chain and are much harder to control.

The principal emissions sources are as follows.

- Gas and other heating fuels (Scope 1)
- Fleet emissions (Scope 1)
- Electricity (Scope 2)
- Business related staff travel (Scope 3)
- Leased buildings (Scope 3)
- Water (Scope 3)
- Council contracts (Scope 3)
- Council's own waste (Scope 3)

Overall emissions

22/23 Emissions:
3,494 tCO₂e

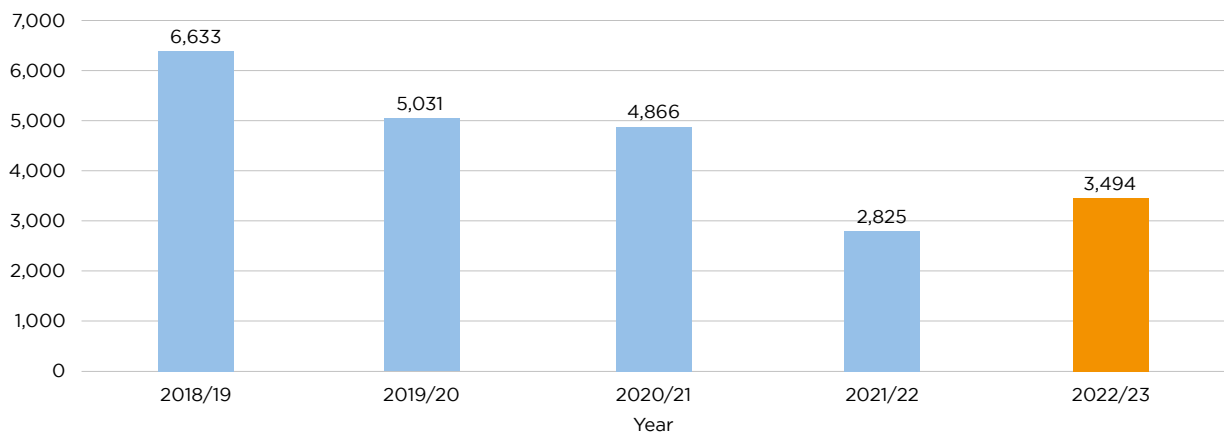


669 tCO₂e on
previous year



3,139 tCO₂e on
18/19 baseline

Overall emissions - tCO₂e

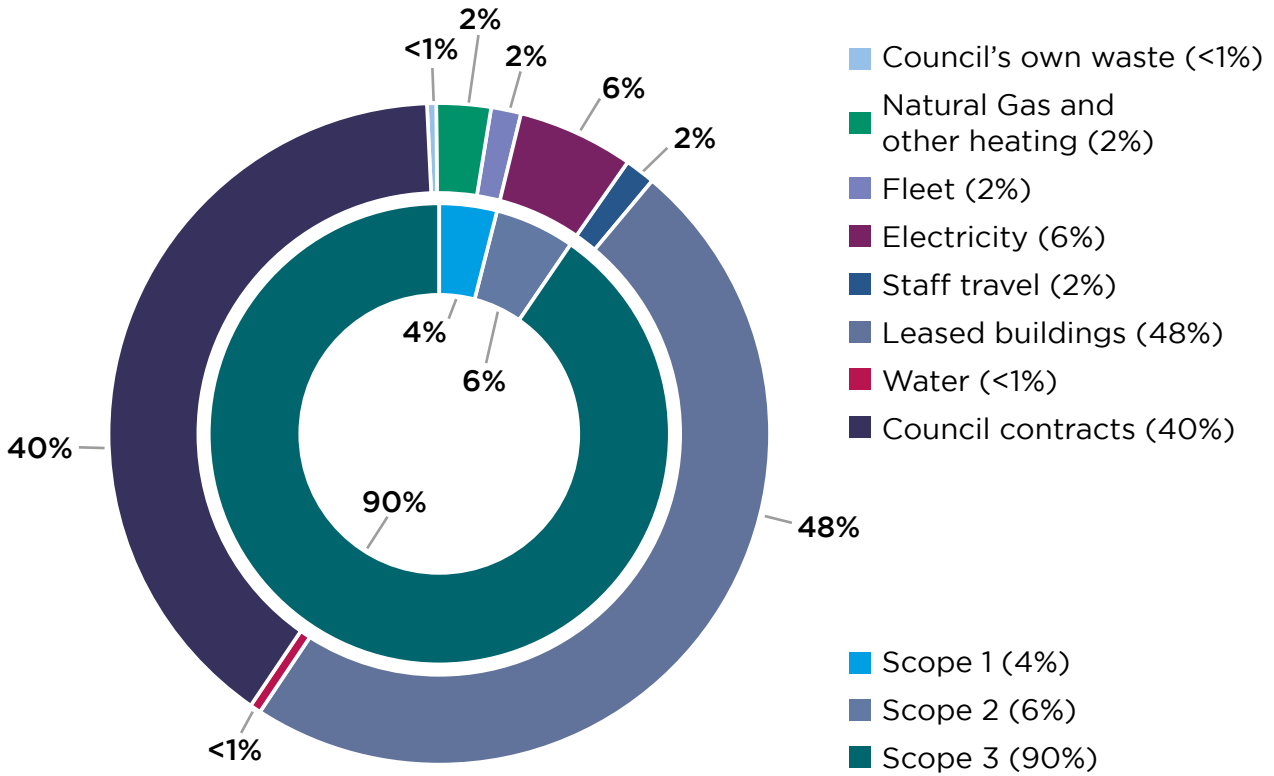


The 2022/2023 carbon footprint for North Norfolk District Council is 3,494 tCO₂e. This includes our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. This is an increase on the previous year's footprint, but a reduction from our 2018/9 baseline and still following the expected profile of a downward trajectory.

The most significant increases this year are accounted for by:

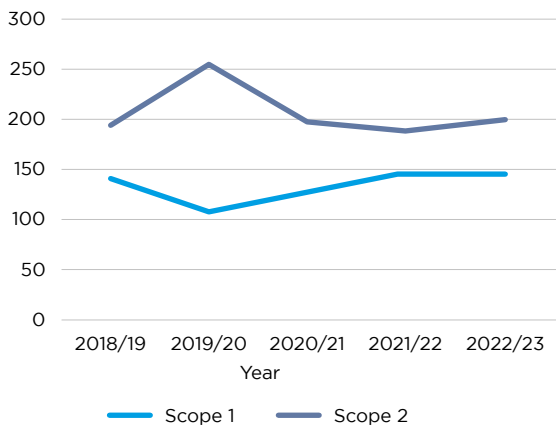
- The Reef leisure centre, the largest single emitting building within the Council's estate, being fully operational in this period, compared to only four months in the previous year;
- The addition of new emission sources, such as the Council's recently purchased temporary accommodation stock; and
- More accurate analysis and a better understanding of our assets and related data sources including better data from our operational partners.

NNDC's emissions by area and scope, 2022/23

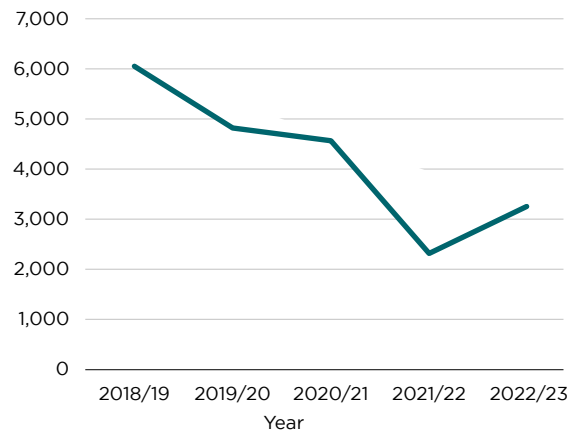


The Council's Scope 1 (Natural gas and Fleet) and Scope 2 (purchased electricity) emissions have remained reasonably steady throughout the 5 years of reporting. The Council's Scope 3 emissions have increased this year but remain significantly below the baseline.

Scope 1 & 2 progress - tCO₂e



Scope 3 progress - tCO₂e



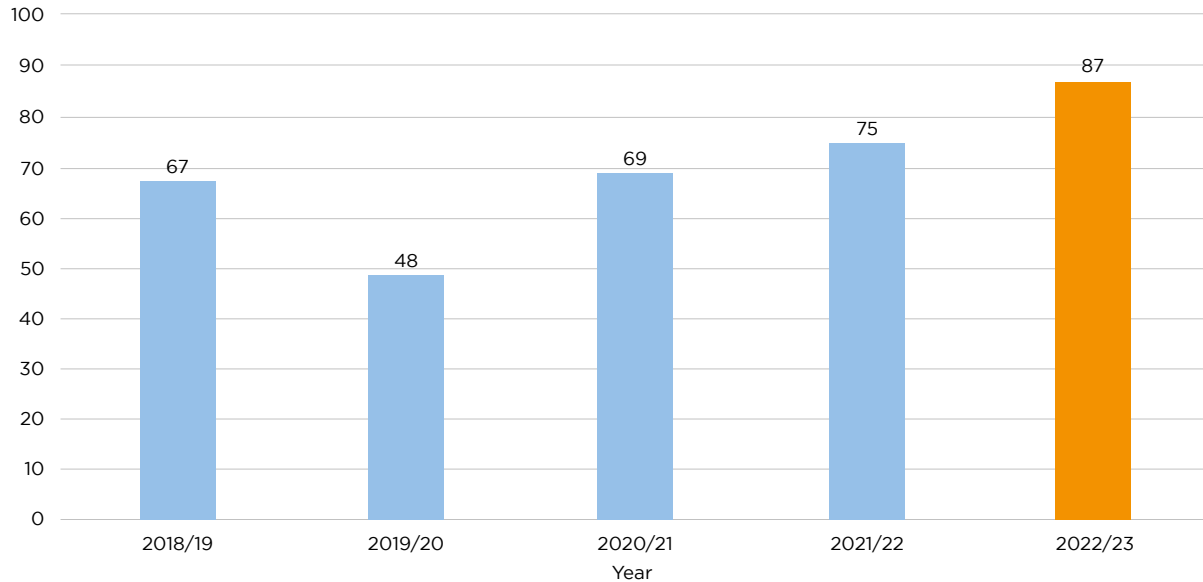
3.1. Scope 1 - Natural Gas and other heating

22/23 Emissions:
87 tCO₂e

↑ 12 tCO₂e on
previous year

↑ 20 tCO₂e on
18/19 baseline

Gas consumption emissions - tCO₂e



These emissions are produced by the natural gas and heating oil that is burned in boilers to heat our offices and buildings. The biggest gas-using buildings the Council owns and occupies are the offices at Cromer and Fakenham, which have seen an increase in use due to a return towards pre-pandemic working practices. These emissions are recorded in Scope 1.

What we have done:

- Continued to investigate low carbon technologies and energy saving measures across our estate.
- Pursued government funding for decarbonisation technology, although to-date grant applications have been unsuccessful.



3.2. Scope 1 - Fleet

22/23 Emissions:
55 tCO₂e

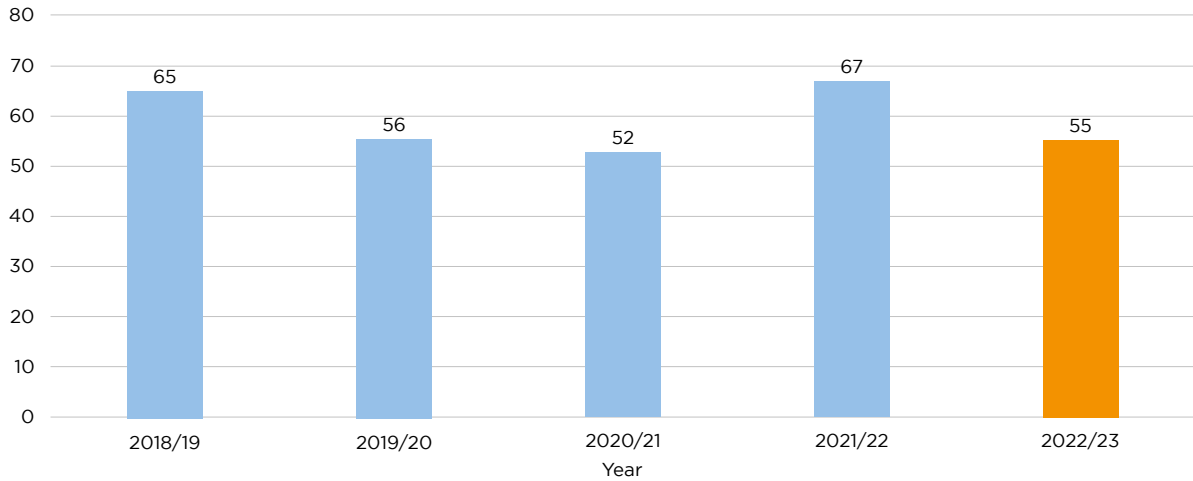


12 tCO₂e on
previous year



10 tCO₂e on
18/19 baseline

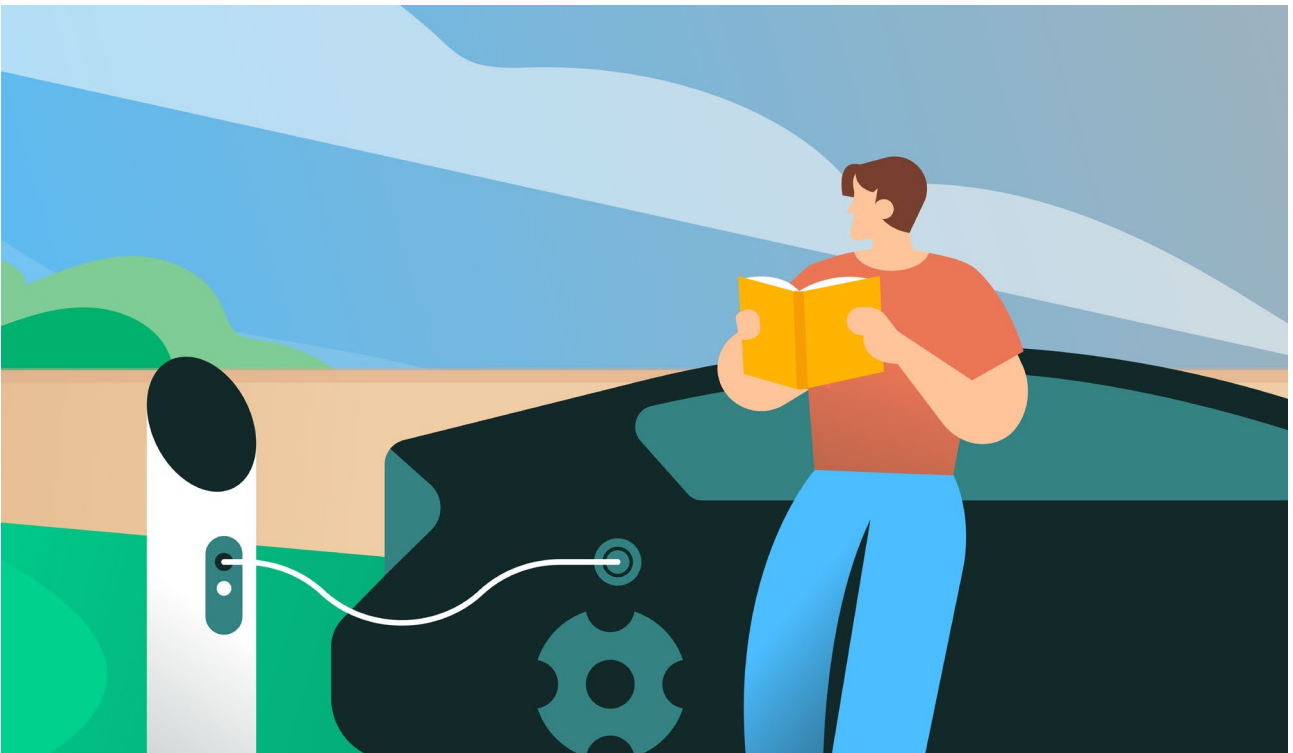
Fleet emissions - tCO₂e



Fleet emissions include those from the vehicles owned or leased by the Council to carry out its services and operations. These emissions are included in Scope 1.

What we have done:

- Leased an electric van which the property services team uses, this is charged at the charging point at our Cromer office, which utilises any available electricity generated by the building's roof-mounted photovoltaic panels.



3.3. Scope 2 - Electricity

22/23 Emissions:
200 tCO₂e

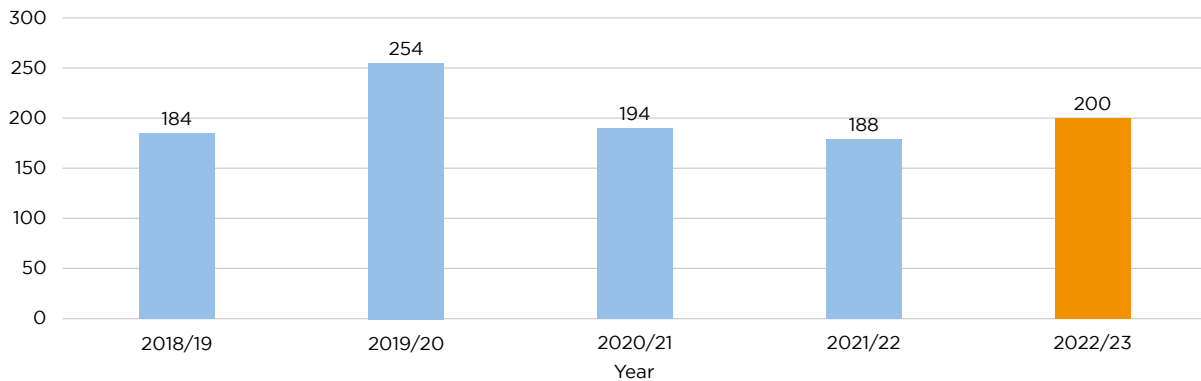


12 tCO₂e on
previous year



16 tCO₂e on
18/19 baseline

Electricity emissions - tCO₂e



This comprises emissions produced through the generation of electricity (from the national grid). The CO₂e conversion factor used to calculate the emissions figure is for the general UK energy mix as a whole (sometimes referred to as ‘the dirty grid’) and is irrespective of the 100% renewable tariff the Council has. Any national increase in renewable energy generation helps to decarbonise (‘clean’) the grid as a whole, which helps to reduce the Carbon footprint for all electricity users in an appropriate proportion. Feeding electricity from renewable sources into the grid and purchasing electricity from a 100% renewable tariff help to accelerate/incentivise this. These emissions are included in Scope 2.

What we have done:

- The Cromer office photovoltaic (PV) panels produced 90,976 kWh of electricity during this period, saving 18 tCO₂e from being released into the atmosphere.
- Supplied 151,927kWh of green electricity to residents, visitors, staff members and partner organisations to charge their electric vehicles and travel 43,407 low emission miles.
- Started a conversion of the Cromer office lighting and public convenience lighting to LED. These lights should save at least £4,000 a year in running costs and 4,000 kg CO₂e from our carbon footprint.



3.4. Scope 3 - Business related staff Travel

22/23 Emissions:
54 tCO₂e

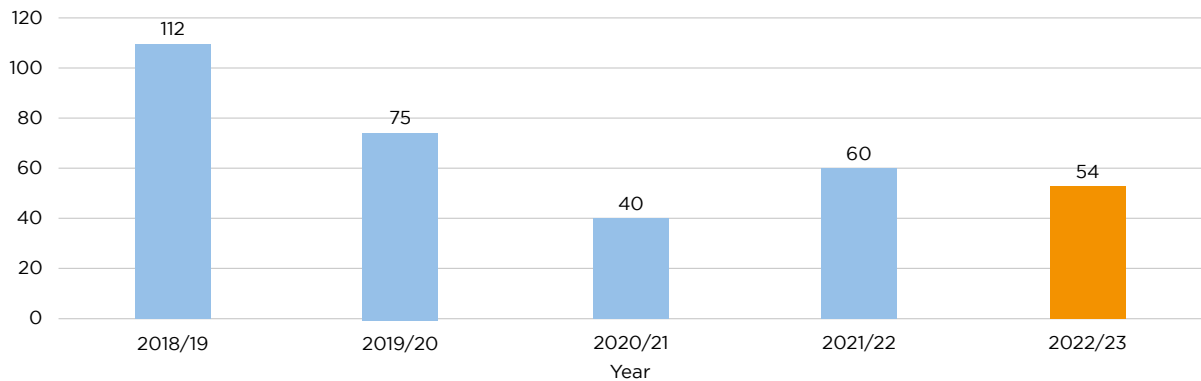


6 tCO₂e on
previous year



58 tCO₂e on
18/19 baseline

Staff travel emissions - tCO₂e



These emissions include all those produced by staff travelling in their own vehicles on Council business. The vast majority of vehicles are either small petrol or medium diesel cars.

What we have done

- Introduced a salary sacrifice scheme to encourage staff to purchase an electric car.
- Carried out a staff travel survey to understand the barriers to lower carbon work related travel.
- Launched an intranet site to promote hybrid working, encourage alternative transport options and use of tools such as Microsoft Teams to reduce the need to travel.



3.5 Scope 3 - Leased buildings

22/23 Emissions:
1,647 tCO₂e

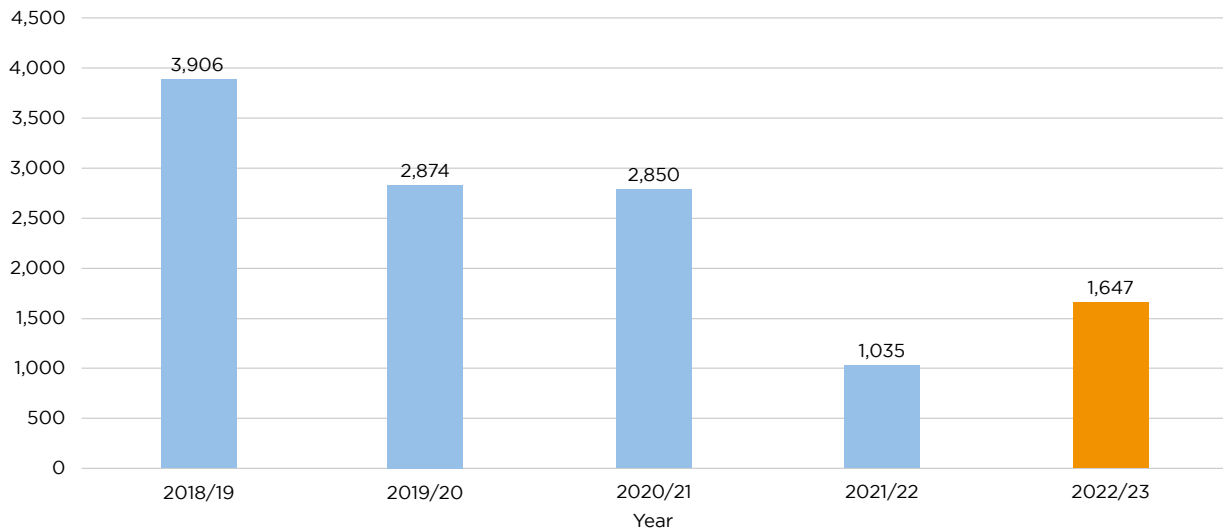


612 tCO₂e on
previous year



2,259 tCO₂e on
18/19 baseline

Leased buildings - tCO₂e



The Council owns a number of properties that are leased to third parties either to run services on behalf of the Council or as a third party landlord. This includes Cromer Pier, leisure centres, theatres and museums. The Council's carbon budget includes the scope 1 and 2 emissions of those organisations operating services on behalf of the Council.

The Reef leisure centre has been fully operational in this period, compared to only 4 months in the previous year, and accounts for the majority of the increase in emissions from our leased buildings. The remainder of the additional emissions result mostly from improved data from our partners.

What we have done

- Managed a refurbishment of Sheringham Little Theatre, introducing energy saving measures such as energy efficient lights, timers and presence detectors and improved insulation.
- Provided energy efficiency advice to our partners and tenants including OpenWide (Cromer Pier) and Cromer Tennis Club.
- Carried out a high level review of the energy efficiency of all our temporary accommodation.

3.6. Scope 3 - Water

22/23 Emissions:
14 tCO₂e

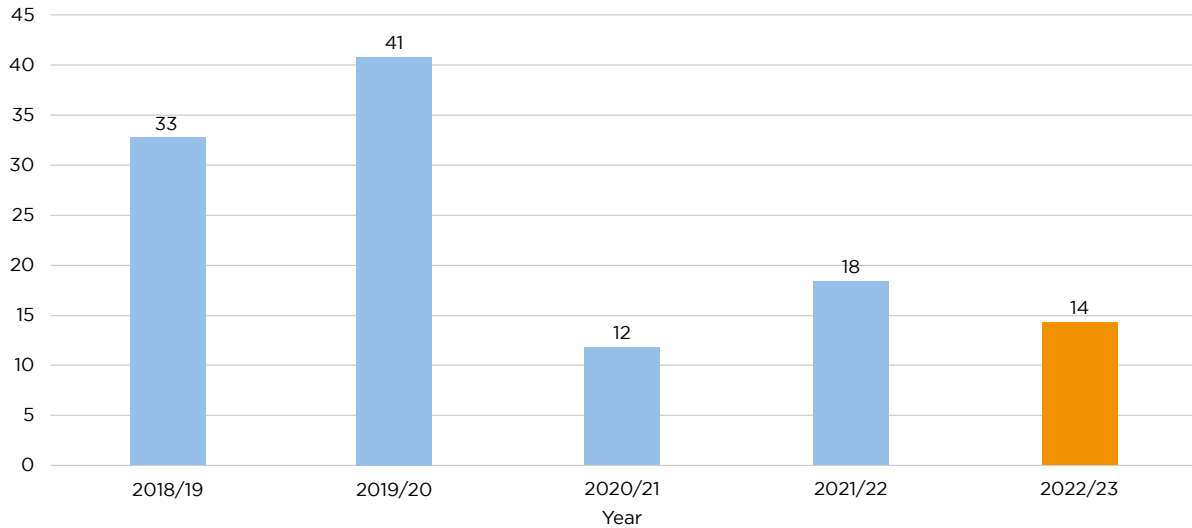


4 tCO₂e on
previous year



19 tCO₂e on
18/19 baseline

Water usage emissions - tCO₂e



This includes emissions from the processing, pumping and cleaning of water used by the Council for its services and operations (including the Council's offices and public conveniences). These emissions are included in Scope 3.

What we have done:

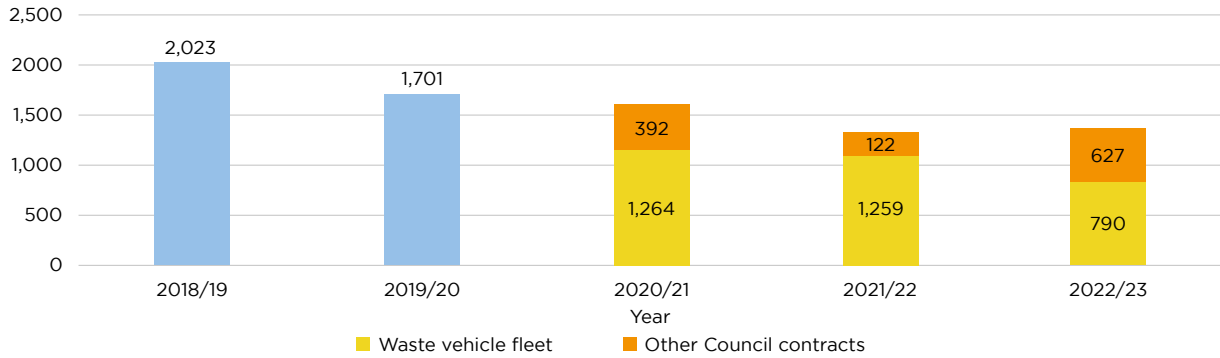
- Implemented water saving devices in some of our public conveniences.
- Upgraded the water meters across our estates to improve data quality and allow better response to water leaks and faulty equipment.



3.7. Scope 3 - Council contracts

22/23 Emissions: 1,417 tCO₂e ↑ 36 tCO₂e on previous year ↓ 607 tCO₂e on 18/19 baseline

Water usage emissions - tCO₂e



The most significant Council contract as a source of emissions is the waste collection contract. Others include such things as the Council’s IT systems and external consultants. These emissions are included in the Council’s Scope 3 emissions.

What we have done:

- Worked with our contractors to improve data collection – it should be noted that this has identified new emissions sources that were not previously included in the footprint calculation.
- Worked with our waste contractor to optimise the refuse collection routes. This has saved 469 tCO₂e compared to the previous year. This included introducing separate collections for batteries and small electrical goods to increase the amount of waste recycled.



3.8. Scope 3 - Council's own waste

22/23 Emissions:
1.38 tCO₂e

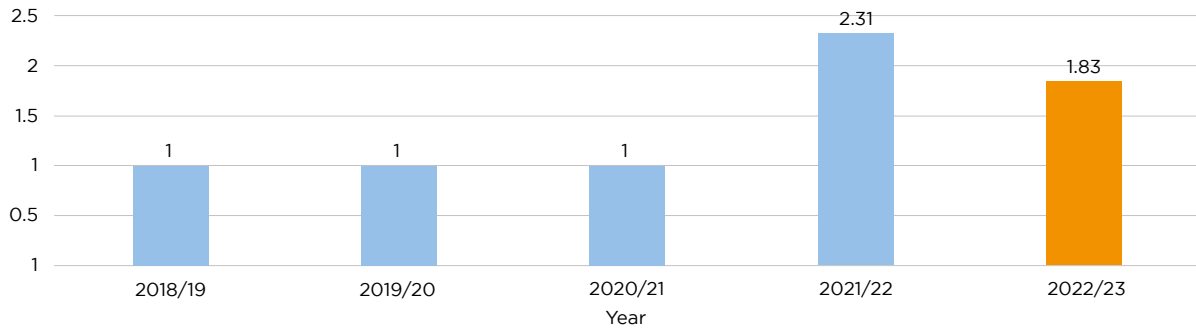


0.48 tCO₂e on
previous year



0.83 tCO₂e on
18/19 baseline

Council's own waste - tCO₂e



This includes waste generated in Council owned offices and buildings and general building waste put into skips.

What we have done:

- Continued to make best use of our equipment – reusing and repurposing our equipment wherever possible and only sending items for recycling or landfill when no other option is possible



4. Wider District Emissions

Alongside the work to reduce our council emissions, we have continued to work on reducing carbon emissions and supporting and influencing others in the North Norfolk District. This is part of our wider commitment to work alongside residents, businesses, schools and community groups to influence positive change and help reduce the District's (community's) carbon footprint to Net Zero by 2045.

This year's activities have included:

- A series of Greenbuild online events engaging the community and local business
- Continuing our work with colleagues and neighbouring authorities as part of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.
- Awarding more than £170,185 through the Council's sustainable communities fund to North Norfolk groups and organisations, supporting a wide range of projects.

Conclusions and Next Steps

The annual calculation of the Council's carbon footprint allows the monitoring of progress against the Council's journey to Net Zero by 2030.

The 2022/23 footprint shows a decrease of 47% in the Council's overall footprint from the 2018/19 baseline but an increase in emissions since the last year.

This increase in the carbon footprint demonstrates the challenges that the Council faces in meeting its Net Zero target, whilst at the same time seeking to address other challenges, such as housing need, developing communities, supporting the local economy, delivering infrastructure and maintaining a financially sound position.

Our Corporate Plan for 2023-2027 renews the Council's commitment to Net Zero and 'our greener future' and recognises the need to embed carbon literacy at the core of the Council's decision making.

In 2023/24 the Council will continue to conduct projects detailed in the Corporate and Net Zero Action Plans and find the most effective ways of delivering carbon emission reductions. The Council will also continue to monitor the methodology for calculating its carbon footprint and revise its processes to match best practice.

