

PROGRESS REPORT ON NET ZERO TARGET	
Executive Summary	The main indicator of progress against the Net Zero Action Plan is the Council's carbon footprint which has been calculated each year since 2018/19. This shows progress towards the Council's Net Zero target. The data and methodology are outlined in the accompanying Carbon footprint for 22/23 report.
Options considered	This is a progress report and options are not given for consideration.
Consultation(s)	This is a progress report and has not involved any consultation.
Recommendations	To note the progress towards and the challenges of the Council's Net Zero target. To welcome planned projects and interventions for 2024/25 to help reduce the Council's carbon footprint and wider district emissions.
Reasons for recommendations	In line with the Council's climate emergency declaration and Net Zero Strategy.
Background papers	

Wards affected	All wards
Cabinet member(s)	Cllr Adam Varley
Contact Officer	Kate Rawlings, Climate Change and Environmental Policy Manager

Links to key documents:	
Corporate Plan:	Our Greener Future
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	This report has no implications for the MTFS. Individual tasks and projects in the action plan generate both financial and carbon costs and savings but are considered separately.
Council Policies & Strategies	Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan

Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	No
Has the public interest test been applied	No
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. Overview and Scrutiny has requested a report on the progress against the Net Zero Action Plan which accompanies the Council's Net Zero Strategy.
- 1.2. The main indicator of progress is the Council's carbon footprint which has been calculated each year since 2018/19. The accompanying Carbon footprint report for 22/23 shows our latest emissions data and progress towards the Council's Net Zero target.
- 1.3. The reporting of carbon emissions is currently voluntary for public sector organisations however the Council publishes its report on the Council website.
- 1.4. This report is produced annually and the 23/24 report is due late summer 2024.

2. Introduction & Background

2.1. The Council uses the LGA Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool to calculate its carbon footprint. This is used to record Council emissions, over Scope 1 and 2 plus basic Scope 3 emissions, using UK Government Conversion Factors.

2.2. Advantages of using the LGA Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool include:

- Using a standardised way to measure and report carbon emissions to enable consistent sector wide benchmarking and disclosure.
- Using a similar method each year to see if interventions have made a difference.
- Confidence from using a robust and reviewed tool to calculate and store baselines and the outputs.
- It will show the Council the scale of the challenge (and potential cost) of achieving net zero carbon targets.

2.3 Limitations of the footprint calculation include:

- Reliance of third parties to provide timely and accurate data.
- "Good" interventions may lead to increases in footprint. Initiatives will provide a long term benefit and reduce our carbon footprint, but in the first instance there may be a temporary increase in our carbon footprint during the set-up/installation period.
- Always working in arrears, so success, or otherwise of interventions will take time to affect the calculation.
- No methodology that has yet been agreed for offsetting carbon using the Council's assets e.g. for Holt Country Park there's no agreed calculation yet for the carbon that the trees are absorbing.

3. Proposals and Options

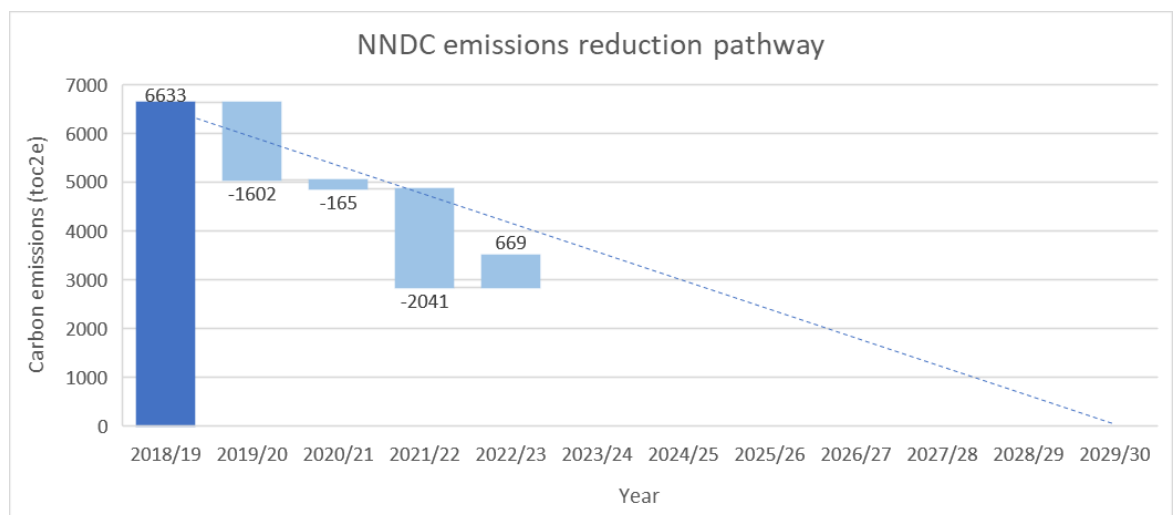
3.1 Summary of Carbon Footprint Report for 22/23

- 3.1.1 The Council's carbon footprint for 22/23 is 3,494 tCO₂e. This is an increase on the previous year's footprint, but a reduction from our 2018/9 baseline and is still following the expected profile of a downward trajectory (see figure 3.1 below). The main reasons for this increase are that more accurate data is now available and there have been increases

to the Council's estate as discussed in the attached footprint report (see page 4 of that report).

- 3.1.2 There are difficulties with data collection – particularly where we rely on third parties for information. The team continues to work with contractors and suppliers to collect accurate data for our calculations.
- 3.1.3 The footprint will fluctuate depending on Council operations in any one year. However by continuing to embed carbon awareness into our decision-making processes, and by always aiming to minimise carbon emissions from operations and projects, this will ensure the desired overall downward direction of travel of our carbon footprint will be achieved.
- 3.1.4 As the calculation is retrospective it should be noted that this footprint does not include any of the interventions made in 22/23 or 23/24 such as the Solar Car Port at the Reef or the insulation added at the Cromer Office.

Figure 3.1. Summary of carbon footprint data showing direction of travel to Net Zero



3.2 Embedding carbon awareness into decision-making.

- 3.2.1 To ensure that carbon is considered in all decision making the Council has recently embarked on a series of carbon literacy training sessions which have been delivered so far to the Senior Leadership Team, Management Team, Cabinet and most Service Managers. A carbon awareness course has been developed for other staff.
- 3.2.2 The Council is beginning to use Internal Carbon Pricing to ensure that the value of carbon emissions is considered when looking at alternative solutions for projects or service delivery. Internal carbon pricing is a voluntary mechanism by which organisations can put a monetary value on their carbon emissions to reflect the cost to society of emitting that carbon. The values of the units used in the calculation are provided by the government and these are updated annually. This should give consistent and reliable calculation results across the country.

- 3.2.3 Several decision wheels/models which bring carbon emissions considerations to the centre of a project's business case are also being trialled.

3.3 Next Steps

- 3.3.1 Collection of the data for the 23/24 footprint will begin in April 2024. This will follow best practice and use the most up to date tools available from the LGA. The report should be completed over the summer of 2024. The results will help prioritise further work.
- 3.3.2 The original action plan that accompanies the Net Zero Strategy covers years 22/23 and 23/34 and is now due for review. This will be the first task of the Council's net zero board following the board restructure resulting from the Corporate Peer Challenge. This new governance process and associated terms of reference are in development.
- 3.3.3 Projects for 24/25 to actively reduce the Council's emissions are currently being planned. These include:
- Further solar PV installations.
 - Exploring Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil for all or part of the waste fleet.
 - Decarbonisation plan for the Cromer Office.
- 3.3.4 Although the Council does not measure and does not have responsibility for the wider district's carbon emissions, the Council aims to influence and drive down emissions wherever possible. Current projects in this area include:
- Expansion of Electric vehicle charging points in our car parks.
 - Plans for a Green Business Event.
 - Promotion of Energy efficiency schemes and grants.
 - Community Projects with the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.

4. Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. This report is directly linked to **OUR GREENER FUTURE** We will continue our work to create a cleaner, green and zero-carbon future for North Norfolk.

5. Financial and Resource Implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this report. However actually achieving net zero will likely be a cost to the Council as the carbon reducing options often come at a premium. However this is something the Council will need to accept to achieve net zero.

Comments from the S151 Officer:

There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this report. However achieving net zero will have financial implications in the future. There is currently a reserve to fund initiatives that will result in carbon reductions.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. The Council's Net Zero target and declaration of a climate emergency are not legally binding.
- 6.2. The reporting of carbon emissions is currently voluntary for public sector organisations.

Comments from the Monitoring Officer

Whilst the Council has Corporate priorities as to creating a greener future there are no apparent legal or governance issues arising.

7. Risks

- 7.1. There are no risks associated with the presentation of this report.
- 7.2. Not achieving the Net Zero 2030 target is a corporate risk.

8. Net Zero Target

- 8.1. This report is concerned with the measuring progress towards the Council's Net Zero Target

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

- 9.1. Not Applicable

10. Community Safety issues

- 10.1. Not Applicable

Conclusion and Recommendations

To note the progress towards and the challenges of the Council's Net Zero target.
To welcome planned projects and interventions for 2024/25 to help reduce the Council's carbon footprint and wider district emissions.