

Our vision

“We will mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions”.



We will be a net carbon zero organisation by 2030

Leading

We've reduced our corporate carbon emissions by 12% vs 2019/20 and have agreed a new capital investment of £10 million being allocated towards climate change projects such as: uplifting planned works for greater decarbonisation, enabling works to facilitate future carbon reductions and individual projects focused solely on decarbonisation. To date, £442,000 is allocated to projects supporting reduction of our biggest carbon source - heat demand from schools.

This is in addition to £42m which is already allocated for future energy generation and storage projects to explore green energy technology, reduce the council's reliance on fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions, and generate a sustainable financial return for the council.

Enabling / inspiring

We featured in the Local Government Association (LGA) 'First' magazine, demonstrating how we contributed to the development of the LGA's greenhouse accounting tool thereby improving national data and participate in shared learning.

Our long-standing commitment to renewable energy is featured in the LGA's 'Pass the Planet' campaign for COP26, which showcases best practice from councils.

We will reduce the carbon associated with road-based transport

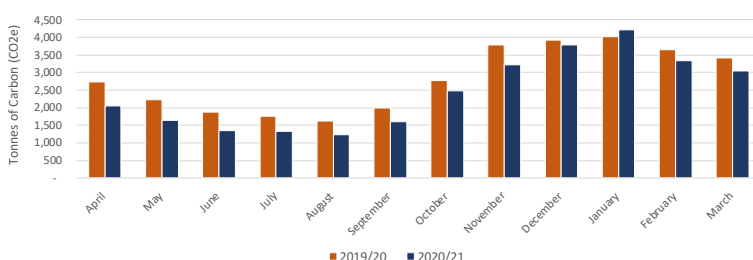
Leading

Our business travel mileage has decreased significantly between 19/20 Q1 and 21/22 Q1, down 66%. This reduction was driven by Covid-19 measures and was relatively consistent across travel types. Grey mileage (use of private cars) remains the largest source of miles travelled. There are early indications of a return to public transport, with 21/22 (year to date) levels reaching roughly 60% of pre-covid demand. Travel currently accounts for 3% of overall operational carbon emissions, down from 10% in 2019/20.

To decarbonise our business travel, we're moving our fleet to low emission models, and 2020 saw 42 hybrid cars joining the fully electric cars already on our fleet, replacing diesel and petrol models.

Covid-19 has triggered alternative ways of working, and our new Smarter Working approach will enable staff to continue working flexibly, while reducing the impact of our IT infrastructure. We're committed to using technology to help us reduce the need to travel. IT Services have supported the organisation by expanding remote technology capabilities to increase staff effectiveness when working from home, collaborating with colleagues, and engaging with stakeholders. We've invested to extend and refine our ability to host interactive, hybrid meetings (mixing remote and face to face attendance).

Combined Operational Carbon Consumption



Enabling/inspiring

In partnership with six district and borough councils, we tendered a contract to create a publicly accessible and affordable electric vehicle chargepoint network across the county. The network will be powered by renewable energy, in line with our carbon reduction objectives. This work supports delivery of our Electric Vehicle Strategy and its ambitious vision for electric vehicle adoption.

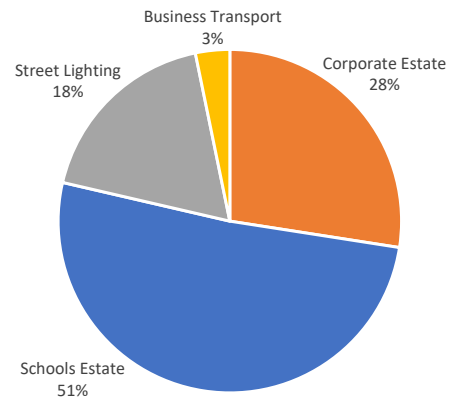
We presented at an Energy Saving Trust webinar entitled: 'The County Council perspective: A discussion on delivering EV chargepoints in a two-tier authority'. We are members of an Office for Zero Emission Vehicles working group shaping future EV funding and ensuring it incorporates a more rural and countywide perspective.

The County Council was successful in securing over £2.3m of funding to develop and implement a range of permanent infrastructure measures to support Active Travel.

The Local Transport Improvement Programme (LTIP) continues to focus on the development and implementation of capital improvements to encourage and enable active travel such as improved walking routes around schools, formalised and controlled crossing and school safety zones. This includes a range of behavioural change activities to win hearts and minds. The County Council has submitted a bid to the Department for Transport for 'Capability Funding' that will seek to enable additional behavioural change projects to influence active travel choices.

The West Sussex Transport Plan is being reviewed to update our approach to managing and investing in the transport network from 2022 to 2036. Stakeholders have expressed concerns such as environmental impacts, congestion, road safety, lack of cycling infrastructure, rural accessibility, and the effects of planned development. This feedback has shaped the draft West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036, which sets out how the County Council intends to address these challenges.

2020/21 - Carbon Source Overview



We will increase the amount of renewable energy used and generated in West Sussex.

Leading

Energy Strategy – The County Council is preparing a major update of the Energy Strategy which will go out to public consultation in the last quarter of 2021. The strategy is aligned with the County Council's Climate Change strategy and will support the authority to achieve its aim of becoming net zero by 2030.

Largescale battery storage – The County Council approved the business case for a new 12MW battery storage site at Halewick Lane, Sompting. Demolition work was completed in December 2020 and construction is scheduled to begin during autumn 2021. Once operational, the batteries will be used to balance supply and demand on the grid by storing surplus electricity and releasing it when it is needed.

Corporate estate solar and battery – Feasibility work identified 56 schools and 20 corporate buildings with the potential to increase the installed solar PV and battery storage capacity. Some of the sites identified already have solar PV, while others will be switching to renewable electricity for the first time. The County Council is currently considering the feasibility work and next steps.

Enabling / inspiring

Solar Together – In September 2020, the County Council launched the first round of its popular Solar Together Sussex scheme in partnership with councils across Sussex and iChoosr. More than 1,000 people registered to install a high quality and competitively priced solar PV and battery storage system at home. A second round of the scheme will launch in autumn 2021.

