

A photograph of children participating in a tree-planting activity in a grassy field. In the foreground, a young girl with curly hair, wearing a colorful puffer jacket and orange gloves, is working with soil. Next to her, a boy in a green jacket and orange gloves is holding a thin sapling. In the background, other children and adults are visible, some holding tools like shovels. The scene is outdoors with trees and a fence in the distance.

Lambeth Council's

Carbon Emissions Report 2023/2024

5400107942 (5/25)

Neighbourhoods
fit for the future



Lambeth

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About this document

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Executive summary

0.1 Introduction

There is an increasing urgency to address climate change, especially as we approach crucial tipping points. Last year was the second warmest on record for the UK, following a record-breaking year in 2022. The Met Office states that a year as warm as 2023 has been made 150 times more likely due to human-caused climate change.¹ Reducing carbon emissions remains essential if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change, and Lambeth needs to adapt to the new challenges this brings. Our [Lambeth Borough Plan](#) sets out our 2030 ambitions, including making Lambeth neighbourhoods fit for the future. This means creating a clean, vibrant and climate resilient borough where people can lead healthier, happier lives.

¹ McCarthy, M. et al. (2024) **Met office: A review of the UK's climate in 2023, Carbon Brief**. Available at: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/met-office-a-review-of-the-uks-climate-in-2023/> (Accessed: 12 September 2024).

This report presents carbon emissions for the borough, using emissions data collected and published by the UK government. Lambeth Council's carbon emissions data are presented using the framework set out in [Lambeth Council's Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan](#) (CCRP). The CCRP defines our approach for measuring and reducing carbon emissions and supports the borough-wide [Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP).

0.2 What is the council doing

Lambeth Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and creating a climate resilient borough. Since 2019, we have invested in our social housing, public buildings and schools, creating more efficient and healthier buildings. In 2024, the council secured a £2.5m grant for a wider £6.2 million programme to install energy-efficient measures in social housing homes and flats in the borough. In addition to improving energy performance in homes, the works will help reduce carbon emissions, tackle fuel poverty, support green

jobs and develop the retrofit sector. The project will work with residents to select homes suitable for a 'fabric first' approach, improving the energy efficiency of these homes to improve comfort, reduce damp and mould, and make them cheaper to heat, meaning residents will be healthier and warmer. Improving the thermal efficiency will also help keep homes cooler during summer's hottest days.

Alongside improvements in our built environment, investing in nature is critical to reducing the impacts of climate change at a local level. Extreme weather events such as flooding and heat waves can have major impacts on residents' health and wellbeing. In partnership with Thames Water Utilities, Lambeth Council is implementing a £6 million programme to help reduce flood risk and improve climate resilience across the borough. The Soak Up Lambeth programme is a series of Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) schemes in estates, schools, highways and parks across Lambeth. The programme reduces flood risk for the borough's residents and businesses,

in addition to providing new and improved green spaces, cooling surrounding areas during heat waves, supporting biodiversity and physical and mental health and improving air pollution. Lambeth Council also launched its Urban Forest Strategy, which sets out how 5,000 new trees will be planted by 2026, aiming to increase the average tree canopy cover to 20% across the borough. Planting is well underway with 1,746 trees planted during the winter of 2023. Trees bring many benefits to everyone living in Lambeth, from filtering out pollution and providing cleaner air to promoting wellbeing and providing a home for nature.

0.3 Lambeth borough carbon emissions

Carbon emissions in Lambeth are falling. The borough's emissions have fallen by a year-on-year average of 4%, from 1,627 ktCO₂e in 2005 to 845 ktCO₂e in 2022. Lambeth's emissions profile is similar to other inner-city boroughs, with transport comprising 23% of emissions and energy use in the home accounting for 38% of emissions. In 2022, emissions from

transport dropped by 4% and emissions from homes by 13%.

Total emissions for the borough equate to 2.7 tCO₂e per person. This is equivalent to driving over 6,000 miles in a petrol car – the distance between Glasgow and Cape Town. It is lower than both the London average (3.2 tCO₂e) and the national average (5.6 tCO₂e). While these decreases are heading in the right direction, we need a step change in the scale and pace of investment to reach net zero by 2030. The [CCRP](#) sets out the scope of this challenge and the resources needed to achieve our goal. The cost of retrofitting all council-owned buildings far exceeds our annual budget, and cuts to local government funding, inflation and the rise in interest rates all present challenges to reaching our goal.

0.4 Lambeth Council carbon emissions

Emissions from Lambeth Council's operations are separated into sources under the council's full control and sources partially controlled or influenced by the council's functions. These

emissions are grouped into the six categories defined in the [CCRP](#).

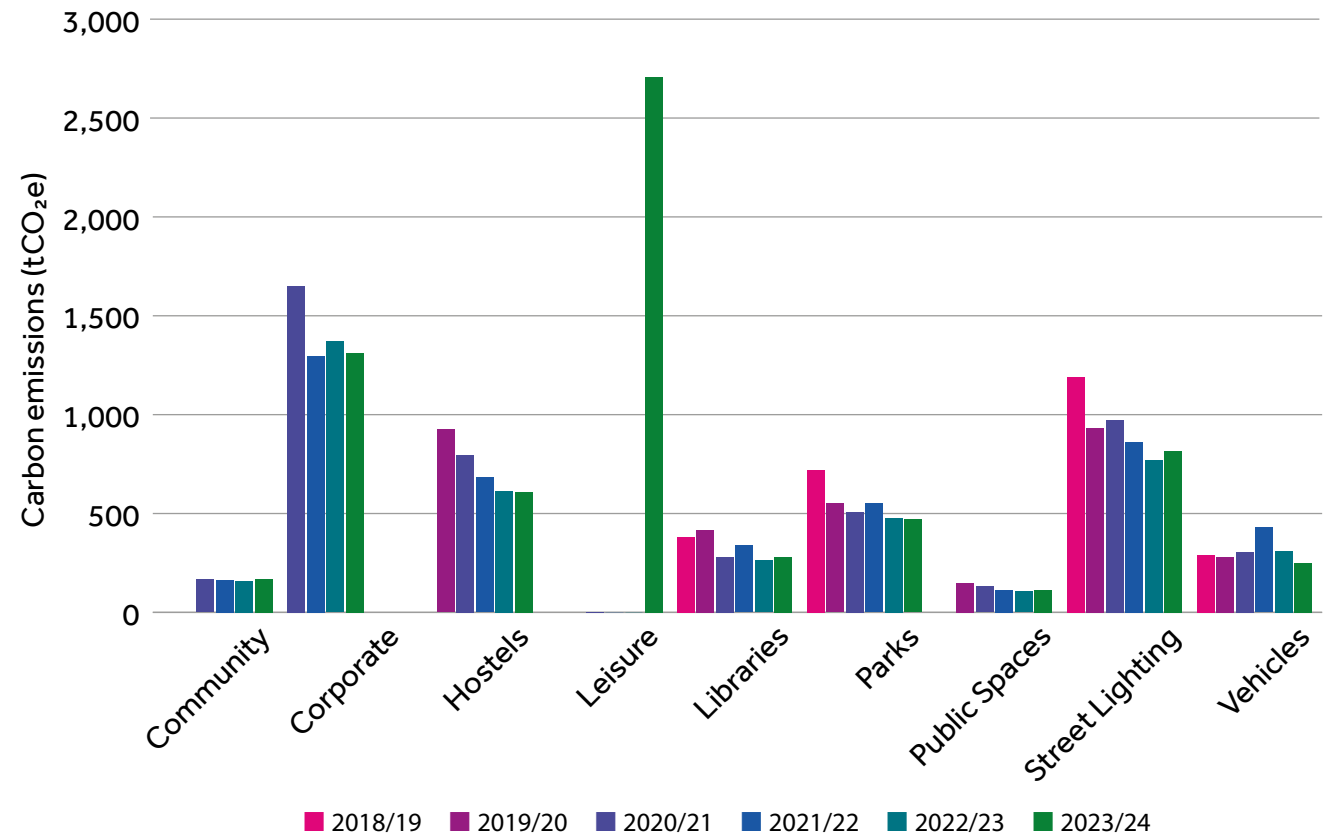
Figure 1 shows emissions from operations and assets under full council control. These are the emissions over which we have the greatest influence. Emissions from full council control were 6,764 tonnes (6.8 ktCO₂e) in 2023/2024, an increase compared to 2022/2023.

However, Lambeth Council's building portfolio changes over time, which affects our emissions. The rise in emissions for 2023/2024 is mainly due to six leisure centres coming under full council control in September 2023. These sites now make up 40% of emissions in this category.

Greater control also gives us greater ability to cut emissions from these sites. In 2023, we secured funding to install air source heat pumps and solar panels at two leisure centres. These upgrades are expected to reduce emissions by around 475 tonnes of CO₂e each year and generate clean energy. Meanwhile, emissions from hostels, vehicles, and parks have gone down, with only small increases in other areas, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Carbon emissions (tCO₂e) from operations and assets under full council control from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024

Note: leisure centres came under full council control in September 2023



This report also presents data from other emissions categories within our sphere of influence but not full control. This includes our residential estates, schools, community sites and commercial buildings we lease out. For third party contractors, we present reported data for waste treatment and modelled data for our remaining suppliers.

0.5 Methodology and data limitations

The carbon emissions data presented in this report for the London Borough of Lambeth are produced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as part of a nationwide dataset of carbon emissions by local authority area. This dataset is published eighteen months in arrears; therefore, this report uses the data for the year 2022. These cover territorial emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). The methodology for the borough-wide dataset can be found [here](#). UK Government greenhouse gas conversion factors for 2023 were applied to calculate

emissions from Lambeth Council operations. This includes gas and electricity usage, water supply, sewage and distance travelled by different vehicles.

Collecting robust data across a wide range of operations is challenging. In some cases, where the council does not directly purchase energy and data is not provided by occupants or suppliers, we have used modelled data if appropriate. Each section describes the data limitations and assumptions for any modelled data.

There are also several factors that influence year-on-year comparisons for carbon emissions. These include annual temperature fluctuations, the cost of gas and electricity and the availability of renewable energy from the national grid or electricity imports. Overall, this means that year-to-year variations can be significant, and reliable trends will only be seen across several years.

1.0 Lambeth Borough Emissions

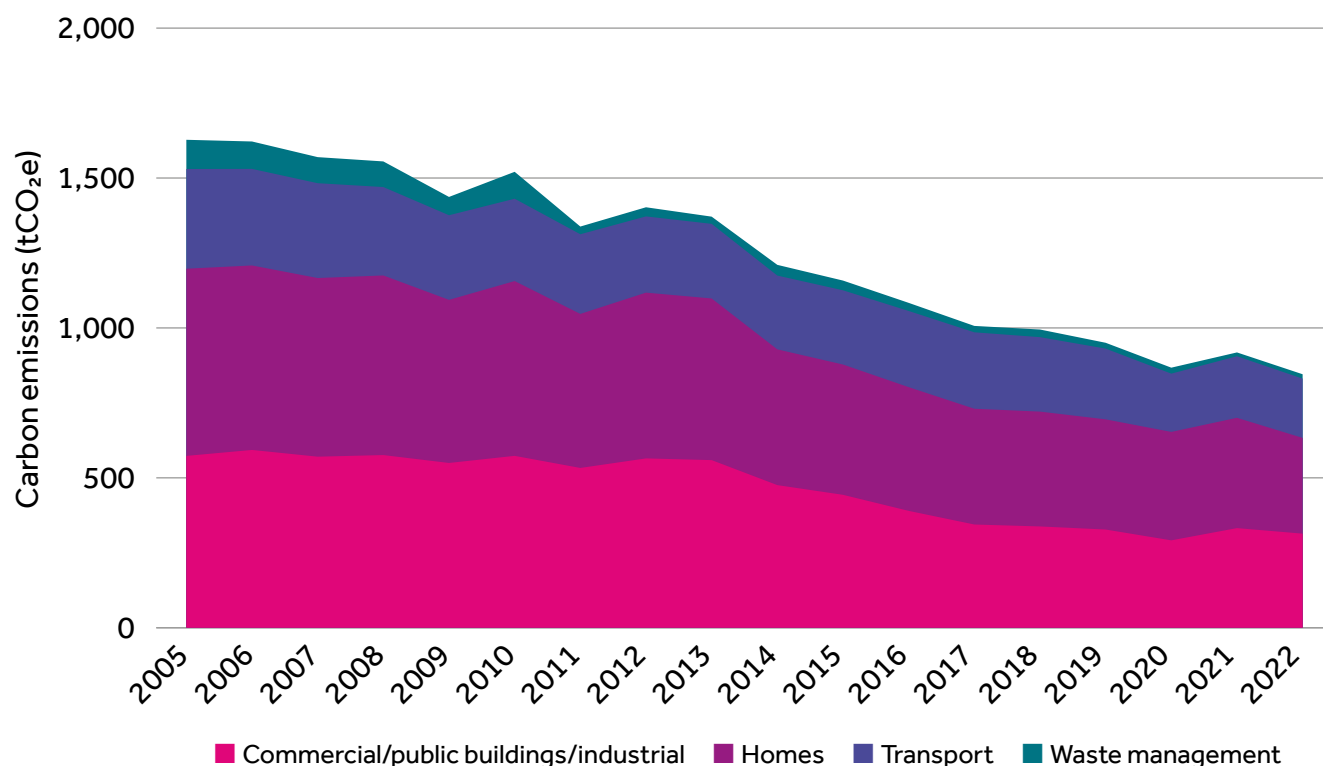
1.1 Emissions trajectory

Lambeth's borough-wide carbon emissions from 2005 to 2022 are shown in figure 2. The borough's emissions have fallen by a year-on-year average of 4%, from 1,627 ktCO₂e in 2005 to 845 ktCO₂e in 2022.

Throughout this time, waste emissions have fallen by 85%, with the remaining sectors falling by approximately 45% each. This significant drop in waste emissions is likely tied to initiatives happening across London and a wider industry shift. In 2005, 65% of waste was sent to landfill and 14% was recycled. In 2023, only 0.1% was sent to landfill, and 33% was recycled. This transition away from landfill happened alongside the introduction of food and garden waste composting as well as accepting a wider range of materials for recycling from 2013.

Between 2021 and 2022, emissions from homes fell by the largest amount at 13%. Whilst the UK experienced a cold spell in December of 2022, January of that year was unseasonably warm, and autumn was the third warmest

Figure 2: Lambeth borough carbon emissions (tCO₂e) 2005–2022, broken down by source sector.
Source: DESNZ (June 2024)



since 1884.² These warmer temperatures could have impacted the energy consumption of households in the borough. Emissions from transport fell by 4%, from 205,299 to 197,742 tCO₂e. Emissions from commercial, public buildings and industrial activity³ also decreased, from 332,312 to 313,832 tCO₂e (-6%). Emissions from waste increased by 14%.

Carbon emissions per person in Lambeth in 2022 were 2.7 tonnes. This is lower than the London average of 3.2 tonnes and less than half the national average of 5.6 tonnes. It is slightly lower than Lambeth's 2021 carbon emissions per person, which were 2.9 tCO₂e.

The CO₂e emissions presented for Lambeth borough are from the DESNZ and BEIS

² McCarthy, M., Christidis, N. and Stott, P. eds., (2023). Met Office: A review of the UK's climate in 2022. [online] Carbon Brief. Available at: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/met-office-a-review-of-the-uks-climate-in-2022/>.

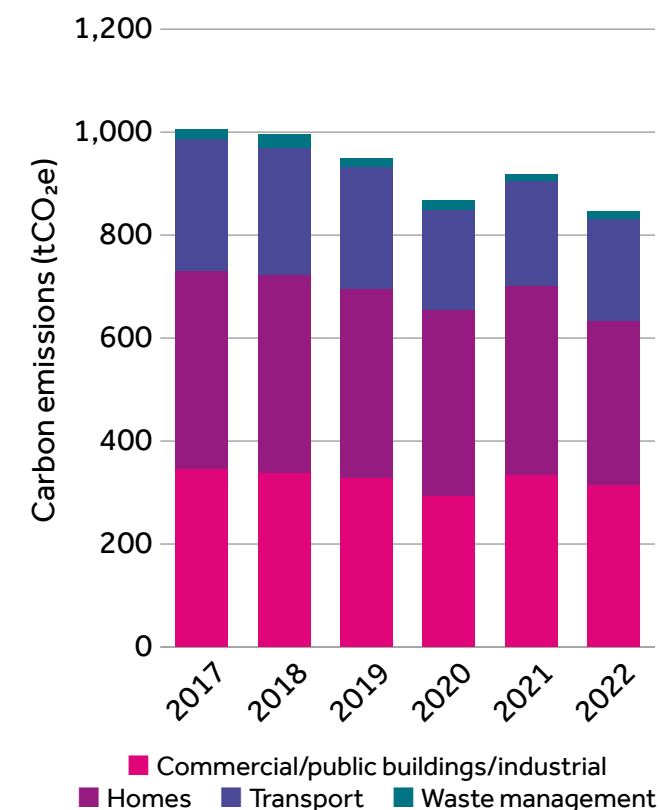
³ Emissions from fuel combustion in the manufacturing and construction industries, industrial processes, and F-gases from industrial refrigeration.

statistics. The figures relate to emissions from energy consumption (largely gas, electricity and petrol/diesel) in Lambeth. They do not include emissions from other goods and services consumed by Lambeth residents, such as flights or food and clothing. The statistics across the entire time series going back to 2005 are revised yearly to account for methodological improvements, so the estimates presented here supersede any previously published.

Due to their comparatively small size, emissions from agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry have been excluded. Lambeth Council has limited control over these emission sources but seeks to work collaboratively with residents, public sector organisations and businesses in the borough to transition to more sustainable forms of energy consumption, travel and food. The council aims to maximise this influence through the [Lambeth Climate Partnership](#), which was established in March 2022, to help deliver our borough-wide [Climate Action Plan](#) and accelerate collective action.

Figure 3: Lambeth borough carbon emissions (tCO₂e) 2017 to 2022.

Source: DESNZ (June 2024)



1.2 National and London-wide comparison

The emissions profile for Lambeth is typical of that of an inner-city borough; transport emissions tend to be lower, due to lower levels of car ownership, and energy use in the home is higher. Energy use in the home continues to be the highest source of emissions for Lambeth households (319,335 tonnes), however this is 13% lower than the previous year. Emissions from transport in the borough were 197,742 tonnes, 4% lower than in 2021. Most of Lambeth's reported transport emissions are from on-road petrol and diesel vehicles. Aviation emissions (flights taken by Lambeth residents out of the borough) are not reflected in government statistics for local authority emissions.

Lambeth's emissions profile looks similar to that of other inner London boroughs, but it differs from the UK-wide average. Inner city boroughs, such as Lambeth, have characteristics that set them apart from other local authorities outside of cities and influence the breakdown of emissions. These areas tend to have lower levels of car ownership and greater availability of public transport; therefore, emissions from transport tend to be lower.

The proportion of emissions generated from commercial and public buildings and industrial activity is similar to the wider UK, but emissions from homes comprise a higher proportion of the total in Lambeth (38% compared to 26% nationally).

Figure 4: Emissions profile for Lambeth, London and the UK in 2022.

Source: DESNZ (June 2024)

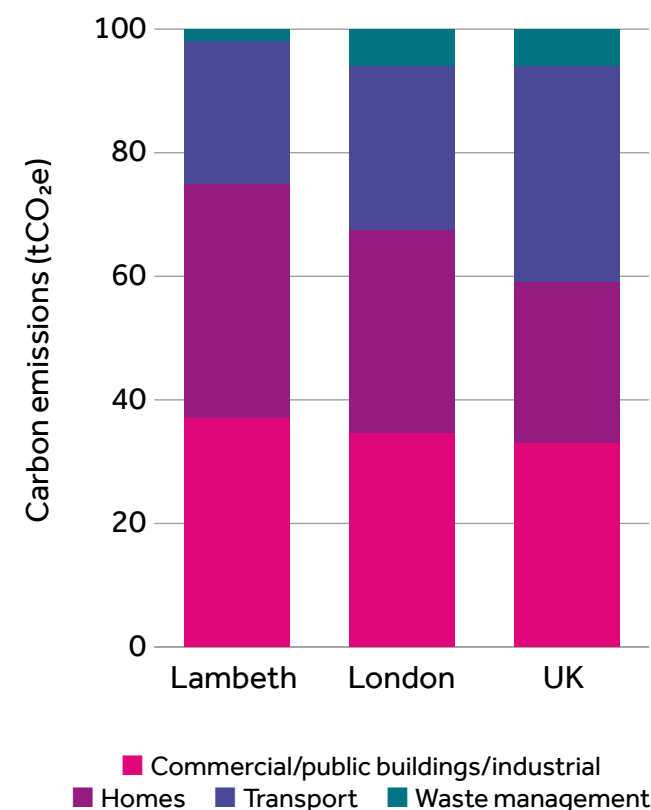
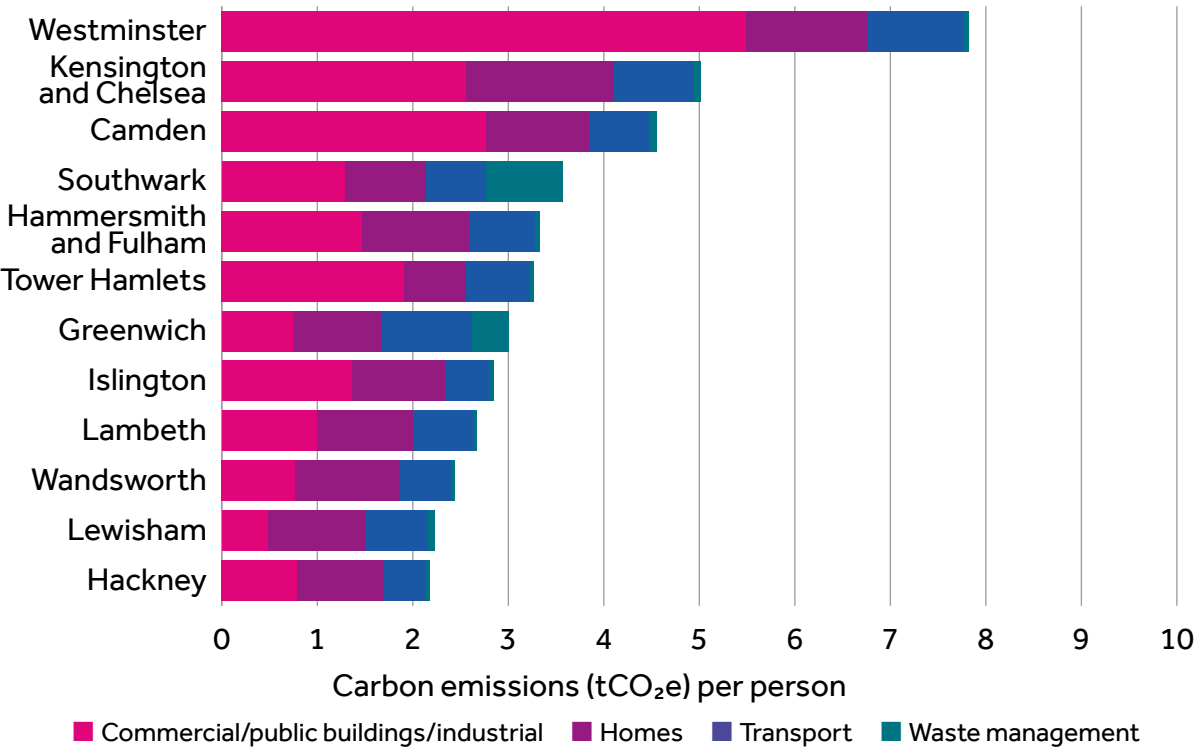


Figure 5 illustrates emissions per person across each of the inner London boroughs. Emissions per person in Lambeth are towards the lower end. Total emissions per person are similar to those of its immediate inner London neighbour, Wandsworth. Across inner London local authorities, we see similar emissions from homes and transport, whilst emissions from commercial, public and industrial activity vary significantly, reflecting the unique characteristics of each borough.

Figure 5: Comparison of per person emissions in Lambeth with inner London boroughs for 2022 (tCO₂e). Source: DESNZ (June 2024)



2.0 Lambeth Council Emissions

Lambeth Council's emissions are categorised based on the degree of control over each operational area. The council has a greater ability to shape and impact the emissions from assets under full council control, whereas emissions from partial or minimal control can be influenced but not directly controlled by council decision-making and policy. Figure 6 shows how Lambeth Council emissions are broken down into these categories. Table 1 gives definitions and examples for each of these categories.

Figure 6: CCRP operational areas

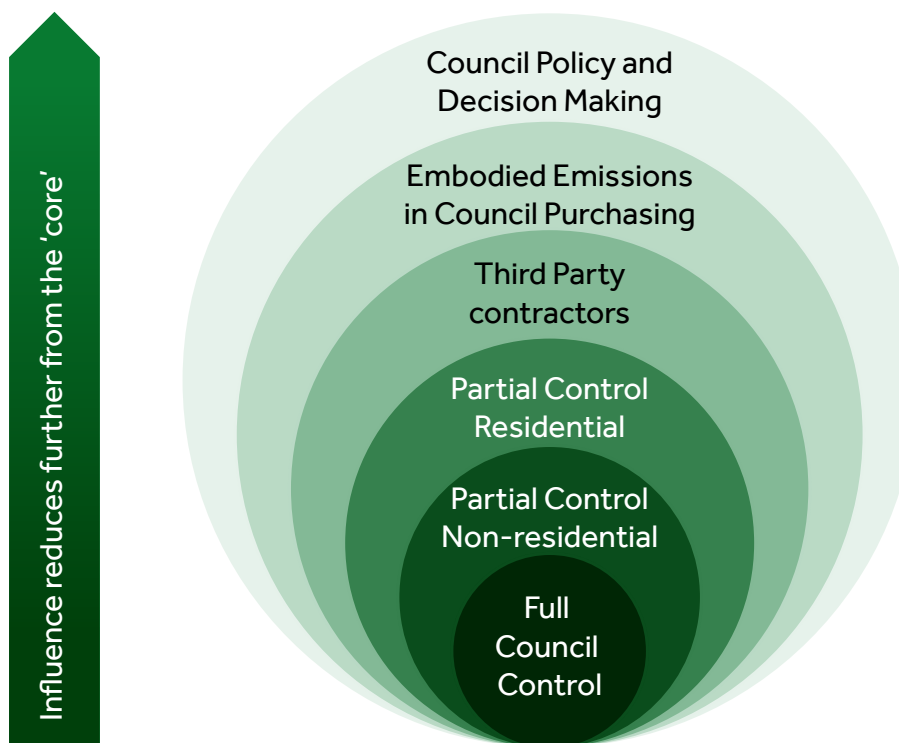


Table 1: CCRP operational category definitions and examples

Category	Definition	Examples
Full council control	<p>All assets owned and occupied by the council where the council has full control over the energy performance of the asset, including energy purchasing, energy consumption, infrastructure installation, repairs and maintenance and how the asset is used.</p> <p>All assets owned and occupied by the council where the council has full control over the energy performance of the asset including energy purchasing, energy consumption, infrastructure installation, repairs and maintenance and the way the asset is used.</p>	<p>Buildings, e.g. the Town Hall, Civic Centre, and other council offices, in buildings that the council owns</p> <p>Leisure centres and playing fields</p> <p>Street lighting</p> <p>Vehicles</p> <p>Parks and public spaces, including fountains, market facilities and machinery</p>
Partial council control: non-residential	Buildings owned by the council and leased or delegated to third parties, and buildings owned/controlled by a third party, leased to/used by the council.	<p>Buildings, e.g. maintained schools and commercially leased properties</p> <p>Parks and public spaces, including fountains, market facilities and machinery</p>
Partial council control: residential	All residential assets that the council owns and maintains are where the council has substantial control over the energy performance of the asset through responsibility for infrastructure installation, repairs, and maintenance.	<p>Council tenanted units</p> <p>Leasehold units within council freehold properties</p> <p>Communal areas and services (electricity used in lighting communal areas, lifts and offices)</p> <p>Communal heating systems</p>
Third-party contractors	Service design, procurement and contract management processes implemented by the council that influence contractor emissions.	<p>Supplier contracts</p> <p>Waste services</p>

Category	Definition	Examples
Embodied emissions from goods purchased by the council	Procurement and contract management processes implemented by the council that influence emissions embodied in goods purchased directly by the council, including but not limited to, IT equipment, machinery, furniture, fixtures and fittings, catering, construction materials.	Goods purchased by the council
Council policy and decision-making	Key processes and decisions implemented by the council to deliver its core functions that substantially influence emissions.	Planning and place shaping Local regulation, standard and setting enforcement Investment Staff travel

2.1 Emissions from council operations

Lambeth Council is responsible for several emission sources, including its buildings and vehicles, as an owner and lessor of buildings used by others, a purchaser of goods and services, and an authority that makes decisions that affect investment, development and behaviour across the borough.

In Table 2, we present carbon emissions based on data collected by the council, such as electricity or gas used in buildings or distance travelled by council-owned vehicles. Energy consumption data are only available for sites where the council pays for the energy bills or for residential housing on communal heating systems. UK government conversion factors are then used to calculate estimated carbon emissions. Where we don't have access to primary or secondary data, we can model emissions using data such as Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating and floor area.

The following sections outline the carbon emissions associated with each category and

provide an explanation of the differences in data availability and changes in emissions. It is important to note that alongside initiatives undertaken by the council, building users and operators, energy consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions can change each year due to several external factors. For example, milder weather reduces the need for heating and cooling, while higher energy costs can lead to reduced consumption as people become more conscious of their usage. The emissions factors published by the government change each year due to fluctuations in imports and exports of energy. The council's portfolio of buildings also changes each year as assets are bought and sold. This report, therefore, presents overall trends alongside case studies on a subset of buildings or specific sites where works have been undertaken to illustrate more clearly how energy efficiency and performance are improving.

Table 2 summarises the emissions categories, associated emissions, the highest emitter in that category, and the confidence level of the data. The more control the council has over the operational area, the higher the confidence level in the data.

Table 2: Lambeth Council emissions categories, associated emissions, highest emitter and confidence level

Category	Sum of total emissions 2023/2024 (tCO ₂ e)	Highest emitter in category	Confidence
Full council control	6,764	Leisure centres	High confidence Data available for all sites where the council pays the energy bills Use of government conversion factors where data are available
Partial council control: non-residential assets	12,115	Leased buildings	Medium confidence Data for 82% schools Modelled data for leased buildings Use of government conversion factors where data are available
Partial council control: residential assets	59,112	Council tenanted units	Medium confidence All communal heating systems data No access to actual consumption data from tenanted properties (modelled data are presented in this report) Use of government conversion factors where data are available
Third party contractors	71,309	Waste processing and treatment	Medium confidence Data available for waste processing and treatment Modelled financial data for remaining suppliers
Embodied emissions in council purchasing	No data	-	-
Council policy and decision making	No data	-	-



Case study: Streatham Ice and Leisure Centre and Clapham Leisure Centre

Many of our public sector buildings rely on fossil fuel-based heating, and decarbonising these has been identified as a key part of the UK's Net Zero strategy. As the heating systems approach the end of their working lives, it presents an ideal opportunity to transition to low-carbon heating. Transitioning to low-carbon heating helps reduce carbon emissions and lowers overall energy costs for the council. By investing in renewable energy sources, such as heat pumps or district heating systems, Lambeth Council can work towards its climate goals while also saving money on energy bills.

Building works were carried out at Streatham and Clapham leisure centres as part of a wider project under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3b. The following energy conservation measures were installed:

- Installation of PV solar panels on available roof space
- Replacement of gas-fired boilers with air source heat pumps; modernisation of emitters (radiators)
- Installation of water source heat pump
- Improved low-energy LED lighting

- Improved insulation of pipework and building fabric
- Upgrades to the building management system.

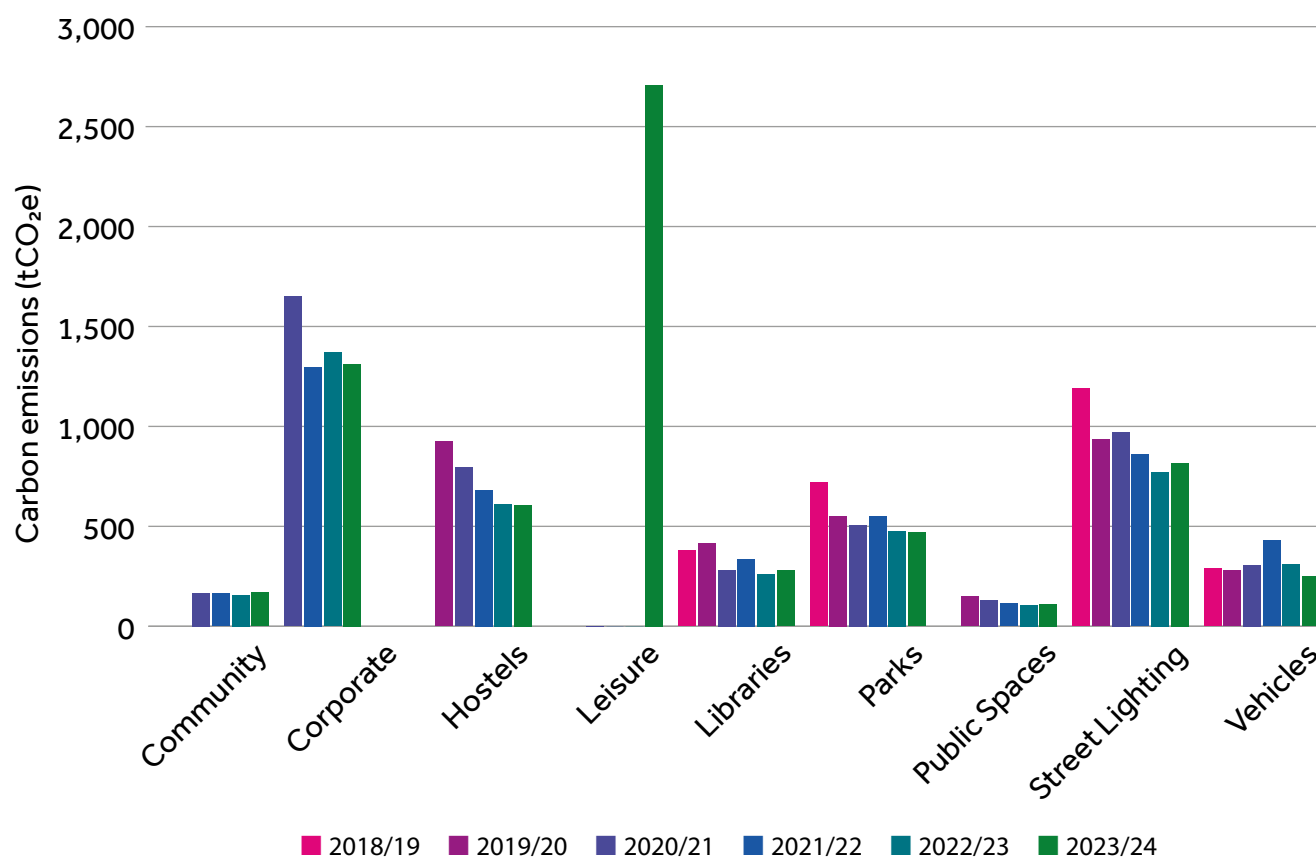
These works contribute towards the council's target of achieving net zero emissions on its own estate by 2030. At the Streatham Ice and Leisure, energy consumption will be reduced by 35%, more than 1.5m kWh/yr, and will cut 302.7 tCO₂e/yr of carbon emissions per year. In addition to reducing carbon emissions, replacing gas boilers contributes to improving indoor air quality.

2.1.1 Full council control

Full council control includes all assets owned and occupied by the council where we have full control over the energy performance of the asset, including energy purchasing, energy consumption, infrastructure installation, repairs, maintenance and the way the asset is used. This includes the Town Hall, Civic Centre, and 16 other council offices in buildings owned by the council. It also includes eight in-house leisure centres and sports facilities, nine libraries, and council-owned and operated vehicles and machinery.

For operations under full council control, the carbon emissions were 6,764 tonnes (6.8 ktCO₂e) in 2023/2024. Absolute emissions under full council control increased in 2023/2024 due to six leisure centres that came in-house, moving from partial to full council control in September 2023. Leisure sites now make up 40% (2,708 tCO₂e) of full council control emissions and, therefore, are a large contributor to our overall footprint. With these additional sites now in-house, the council has greater control over the building's operation, which means we are better placed to reduce their associated emissions.

Figure 7: Full council control emissions (tCO₂e) from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024



Whilst there are small annual variations in consumption and emissions across most sites, since 2020/2021, gas consumption for sites in full council control have decreased by 19%. Over the same period, emissions have fallen by 10%. Both of these figures exclude leisure sites, as they only came in-house last year.

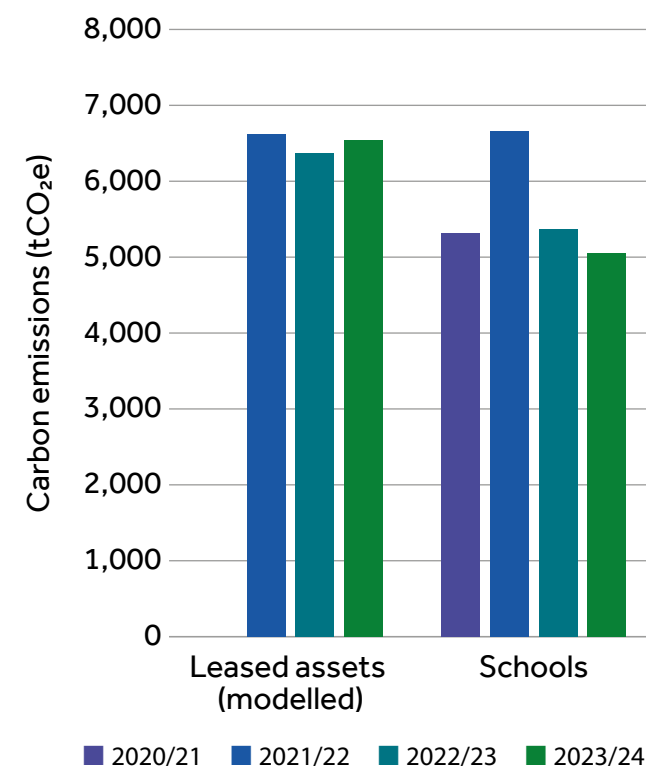
As we switch from gas to electric heating, electricity use has increased. This trend is clear in areas fully controlled by the council, where electricity use has increased, and gas use has dropped. However, the UK's electricity still isn't fully renewable, and the carbon impact of electricity changes each year depending on how it's produced and how much is imported. In 2023, the carbon emissions from both electricity and gas were higher than in 2022, especially for electricity. So, even though we're using less gas and more electricity, the carbon emissions can still be higher. Things like fuel prices and weather also influence these changes that led to less wind power, so more electricity had to come from gas power stations.

2.1.2 Partial council control: non-residential

Non-residential buildings in partial council control include sites owned by the council and leased or delegated to a third party, and buildings owned or controlled by a third party, leased to or used by the council. For example, maintained schools and commercially leased properties. For all non-residential assets under partial council control, we estimate carbon emissions in 2023/24 were 12,115 tonnes (12.1 ktCO₂e). Schools and leased assets account for over 98% of emissions in this sub-category. A small number of commercial, community, library and park sites generate the remaining emissions.

Lambeth Council has lease arrangements for around 500 non-residential property assets. The council does not have energy consumption data for these sites, but we can model emissions using CIBSE benchmark values, which estimate typical electricity and fossil fuel consumption per m² floor area, according to building type. According to this methodology, we estimate that emissions from these assets are approximately 6,542 tCO₂e.

Figure 8: Carbon emissions (tCO₂e) from schools and leased assets under partial council control: non-residential



Lambeth schools are responsible for their own energy procurement. We can view energy consumption data directly where they have opted to be part of the council’s central procurement. For schools not part of that procurement, we ask for energy consumption data to be shared. For 2023/2024, we have consumption data for 82% of schools. Figure 9 shows the top 10 emitting schools in 2023/2024 with at least three years of complete data. For school sites where we have consistent data across the last three years, we have seen a 21% decrease in overall emissions.

Figure 9: Carbon emissions (tCO₂e) from the top ten emitting schools in 2023/2024 compared to previous years

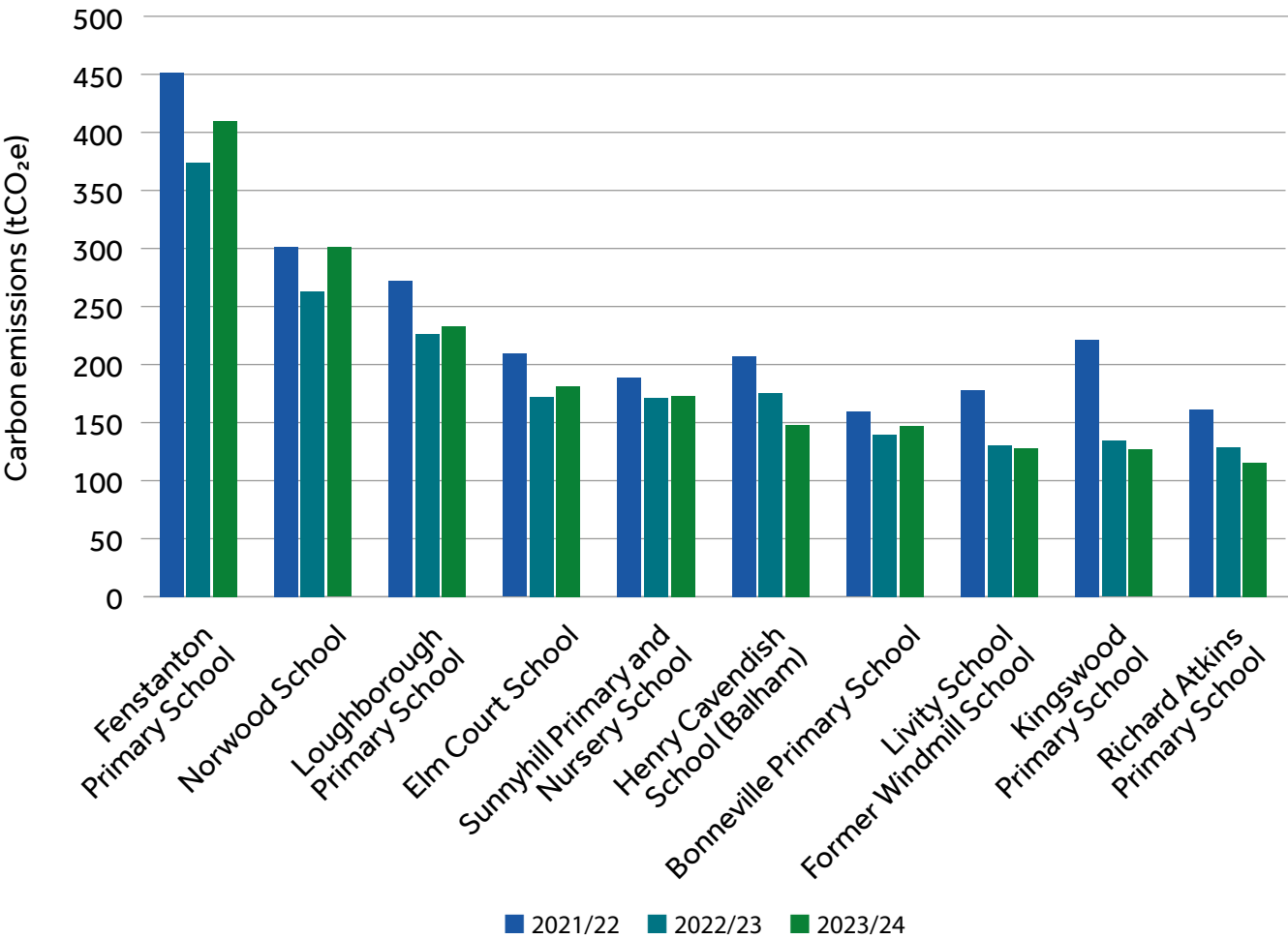


Table 3 presents all the data we have received from schools over the past three years. In 2023/24, we had the highest number of schools reporting, yet emissions have still decreased.

The council’s ability to cut emissions from buildings depends on who owns, uses, and maintains them. For schools, libraries, and community buildings, we apply for government funding to lower their carbon footprint. One such programme, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), gives grants to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions. Lambeth Council used PSDS funding to upgrade Upper Norwood Library and Waterloo Action Centre, aiming to cut their emissions by 59% and 41% respectively. Since schools are our biggest source of emissions, we’re working with them on retrofit projects.

Table 3: Carbon emissions (tCO₂e) from all school sites and the percentage of schools that submitted data in each year

Site type	2021/22	2022/2023	2023/2024
Schools	5,292	3,810	3,914
Schools: foundation	136	125	299
Schools: voluntary aided	1,239	1,437	839
Total emissions	6,667	5,372	5,053
Percentage of school sites with available data	79%	78%	82%



Case study: LJ works

Located in the heart of Loughborough Junction, LJ Works is a neighbourhood workspace offering below market rate makerspace, small and large studios, meeting rooms and an event space for local people, start-ups and small businesses.

Enabled by the council's capital budgets and funding from the Mayor of London in 2016, the council has committed the land to this project for 20 years, on a peppercorn rent, and will create around 1,800 m² of employment space. All 22 businesses on site have a community give-back offer as part of their tenancy agreements, offering various skills and training opportunities for the wider community. The project also secured the

long-term future of the Loughborough Farm community food growing project, which had developed informally on a long-term vacant site. This was achieved by making productive use of hard standing and otherwise incidental landscaping on site. Primarily staffed by volunteers, the farm makes the employment-led site accessible to the wider community, fostering social interaction, developing skills, and bringing health and wellbeing benefits to local residents and employees alike.

The farm is developing a business case and securing funding to install a micro-anaerobic digester, which will turn waste food from local businesses into renewable energy for the site. With food grown on the farm, cooked at the

community kitchen, and waste processed into energy and compost for the farm, LJ Works serves as a hub for a circular economy, offering training, skills, and volunteering opportunities in sustainable food systems and waste management.

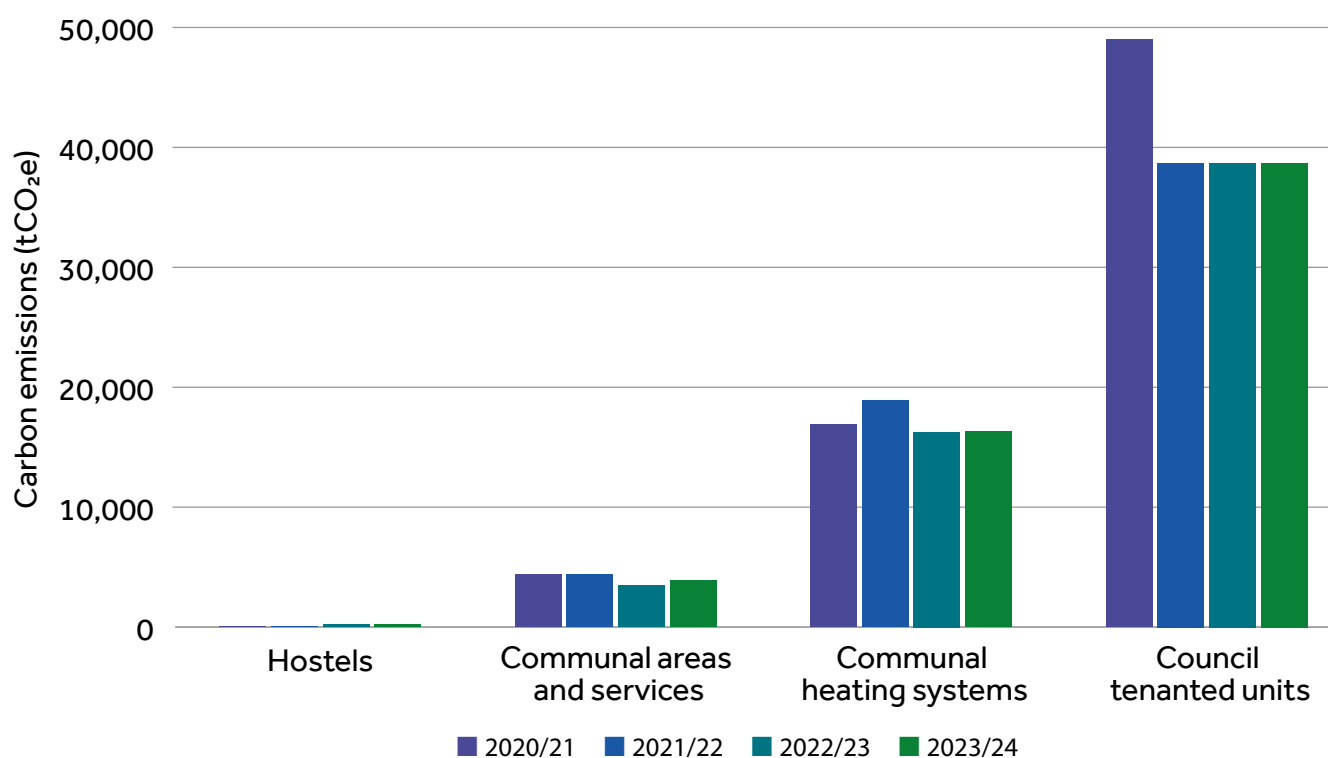
Managing local waste on-site is projected to save 135.3 tonnes of CO₂e over 15 years. This includes carbon savings from processing 39 tonnes of food waste, 51 m³ of green waste, generating 5,571 m³ of biogas, producing 18.5 tonnes of biofertiliser, and 35.4 m³ of compost. Additionally, carbon sequestration from compost applied to soil and the reduction in food and waste transport distances contribute to the overall savings.

2.1.3 Partial council control: residential

This category includes homes that the council owns and maintains, where it controls aspects such as heating systems and repairs, but not the energy consumption of residents. Examples include tenanted homes, shared heating systems, and electricity for communal areas like hallways, lifts, and offices. These buildings produced a total of 59,112 tonnes of carbon emissions.

The council can present consumption data where it directly purchases gas or electricity for communal heating systems and communal areas. The council does not have energy consumption data for most tenanted properties, as residents in homes that are not connected to a communal heating system are responsible for contracting their own energy supplies. It is possible to estimate total emissions for council tenanted units using the Parity Projects Carbon Reduction Options for Housing Managers (CROHM) tool, which models emissions based on property type and EPC ratings. EPC ratings indicate how energy efficient a property is. Once issued, the certificate is valid for up to ten years, meaning certificates are not updated very

Figure 10: Carbon emissions (tCO₂e) from operations under partial council control: residential assets



frequently. According to this methodology, we can estimate that emissions from tenanted non-communal heating properties amount to 38,700 tCO₂e (38.7 ktCO₂e).

2.1.4 Third-party contractors

Third-party contractors include service design, procurement, and contract management processes implemented by the council that influence contractor emissions. Emissions released as part of contract delivery (e.g., energy used in back-office functions and transport) are also included in this category.

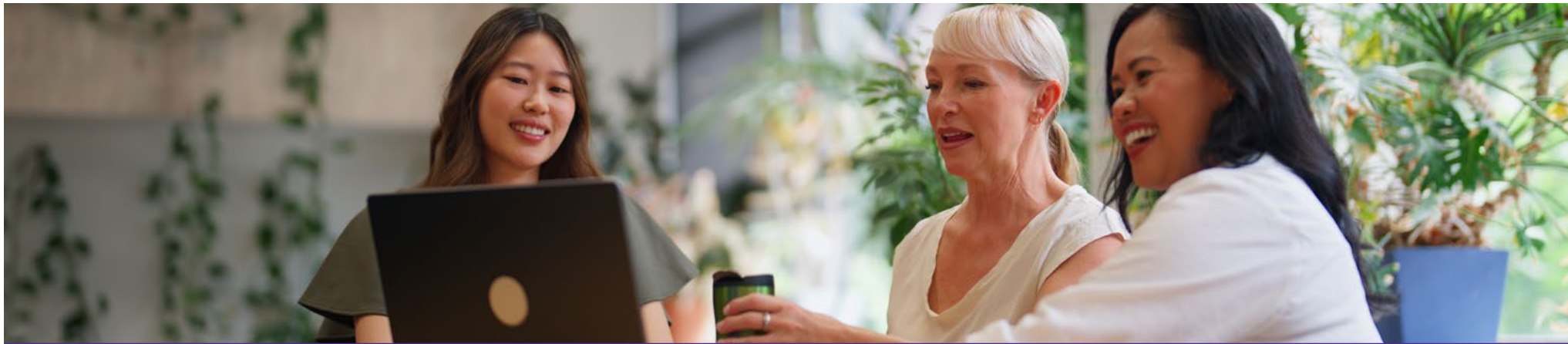
Lambeth Council's supply chain emissions contribute significantly to our carbon footprint. Responsible procurement allows us to engage our businesses and suppliers in developing more sustainable and climate resilient operations, contributing to Lambeth Council reaching net zero. The council's Responsible Procurement Policy requires contractors on new contracts with a value over £100,000 to

report on the carbon emissions associated with contract delivery and set out steps they are taking to reduce emissions. Working in partnership with our suppliers is critical to drive progress and encourage more sustainable operations.

Waste treatment and processing is this category's single largest source of emissions. The Cory Group, which provides this service, reported 47,782 tCO₂e emissions in 2023. Lambeth Council is a member of the Western Riverside Waste Authority, which is responsible for disposing of the borough's municipal waste. No waste in Lambeth is sent to landfill, with the majority sent for incineration, recycling, and organics treatment.

For our remaining suppliers, we present modelled data that uses purchase order value and sector-specific greenhouse gas intensity factors produced by the Office for National Statistics. The greenhouse gas intensity

figures include emissions from carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride and sulphur hexafluoride to give a carbon dioxide equivalent. For our supplier contracts in 2023/2024, estimated emissions are 23,527 tCO₂e. This figure does not include emissions from utilities contracts, which are accounted for under full council control assets and residential communal areas/heating systems.



Case study: Refuge – delivering women’s and children’s services in Lambeth

Refuge’s commitment to sustainability started with an internal evaluation to assess existing practices and opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint. Building on this, they partnered with the research team at Birkbeck University to carry out a detailed, organisation-wide, pro-bono research project engaging employees across all directorates. This involved three focus group discussions with staff members from across the organisation. Discussions focused on:

- What do we already do to promote sustainability across the head office, outreach locations, and refuge properties?
- What can we do better?
- How can we begin our journey to reducing our carbon emissions?

Following these consultations, Birkbeck produced a detailed report outlining key findings and a set of recommendations for next steps, including a timeline for implementation. These recommendations include:

- enhancing environmental awareness among staff and residents through engaging communication campaigns.
- establishing a ‘green team’ to drive change within the organisation.
- measuring baseline emissions to set clear goals, track progress, and implement improvements.

Refuge’s board is currently reviewing these recommendations and intends to integrate them into their sustainability strategy.

Aside from embedding sustainability into their operations, Refuge are also strengthening external engagement. They actively participate in the Members’ Sustainability Forum hosted by FORA, their office provider. The platform connects organisations to exchange best practices and explore solutions to shared challenges. Engaging with like-minded organisations has already helped them adopt effective strategies, implement practical changes, and contribute to a broader movement towards environmental responsibility.

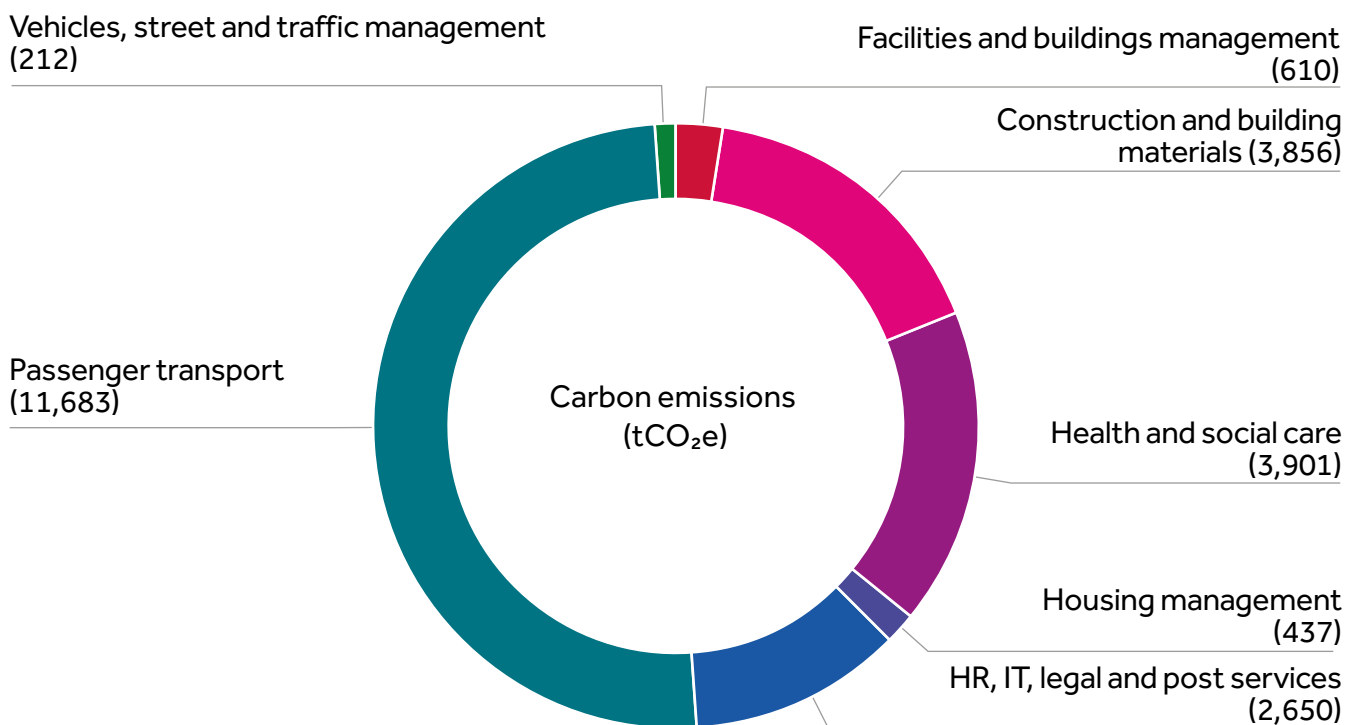
It is also important to note that not all purchase orders are accessible on Lambeth Council's internal systems; therefore, not all contracts are captured in this figure. In 2023/2024, 48% of commercial spend went through purchase orders, the remainder went through other systems – 24% on social care, 10% on emergency housing, 8% for building repairs and maintenance, 2% on legal fees and 9% through other manual payments.

2.1.5 Embodied emissions from goods and purchases

The council implements procurement and contract management processes that influence emissions embodied in goods purchased directly by the council, including but not limited to IT equipment, machinery, furniture, fixtures and fittings, catering, and construction materials.

Measuring embodied carbon is challenging because it requires detailed data from every stage of a product's lifecycle, often across complex and global supply chains. For smaller companies, it can be difficult to access or afford the tools, expertise, and data needed to calculate these emissions accurately.

Figure 11: Modelled carbon emissions (tCO₂e) from third-party supplier contracts



Many suppliers don't yet track this information, and industry standards are still developing, making embodied carbon reporting relatively immature and inconsistent across the market.

As part of the CCRP, the council has committed to implement best practices emerging from other public sector bodies and progressively introduce life cycle emissions reporting. Initially, we will assess the extent to which suppliers are considering lower carbon materials and/or products with higher sustainability ratings or environmental accreditations.

2.1.6 Council policy and decision making

This category includes key processes and decisions the council implements to deliver its core functions that substantially influence emissions. This includes core functions that directly influence carbon emissions, such as planning, pensions and new homes built by the council. Lambeth Council does not currently have an established methodology for quantifying indirect emission implications for

all policies, but we do review all key decisions to ensure alignment with our net zero target.

Lambeth Council's Transport team delivered on several policies and decisions that encourage active travel and reduce traffic across the borough. Several of the Big Shift community parklets became permanent, converting existing parking bays into parklets that serve as a pavement extension with space for seating, cycle parking and planting. These parklets provide a safe and welcoming space for residents to meet and socialise on their street and for communities to take ownership over their local area to create a space that suits their needs. The greening increases biodiversity and soft surfaces in residential areas.

Our Healthy Neighbourhoods programme caters to the community's needs, focusing on making spaces safer, cleaner and greener. Throughout 2023/2024, several changes were made permanent in Healthy Neighbourhoods across the borough, including the Larkhall Rise Bridge pedestrian and cycle zone and additional

traffic restrictions following feedback from residents.

We launched [Lambeth Council's Electric Vehicle Strategy](#), which outlines how electric vehicles will help us reach our net zero 2030 objective. It takes a targeted approach to reducing traffic and making our streets safer, fairer, more accessible, and liveable for everyone. It will also deliver an electric vehicle charging network to support the transition away from polluting vehicles.

Lambeth's Parks, Trees, and Bereavement teams' working vehicle fleet achieved the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) Bronze standard in 2023. FORS is a national accreditation scheme aiming to improve fuel efficiency, carbon emissions and road safety standards. Lambeth's Fleet Management Team successfully demonstrated that Lambeth vehicles met the targets set by the FORS accreditation across all areas of the service, from driver compliance to day-to-day operations.

Annex

Annex 1: Methodology and data improvement

Methodology

The detailed methodology for the DESNZ dataset, as reported in section 1, is [available here](#). To estimate the council's emissions, DESNZ conversion factors for 2023 were applied to activity data obtained from across the organisation, including gas and electricity usage, water supply and sewage, and distance travelled by different vehicles.

Data improvement

Lambeth Council is developing its approach to data collection annually. Each year, areas that need a greater focus or improvement in the quality of data collected are identified. As such, it is difficult to accurately compare emissions from year to year.

Teams across the council are collaborating to develop policy and data collection methods that will give a clearer picture of our emissions profile.

