Lambeth Council's

Carbon Emissions Report 2024/2025

SR00151365 (06.26)

Neighbourhoods fit for the future

Lambeth

Contents

About this document
Title: Lambeth Council Carbon Emissions Report 2024/2025
Date: June 2026

Executive Summary

Since we first began reporting our annual carbon emissions, we have seen a reduction of more than 30% across our libraries, corporate offices, street lighting, parks and public spaces. Efforts across council services have driven this change and ensured that climate action benefits the global climate and our local communities.

By the end of March 2025, energy efficiency upgrades to prevent heat loss and reduce the risk of damp and mould had been completed in over 700 social homes in Lambeth. This results in lower emissions and more comfortable, healthier homes for residents.

We have also installed solar panels on more than 200 social housing properties, helping reduce energy bills and build resilience against fluctuating energy prices and rising cost of living.

Restoration work at Brockwell Hall has been completed, with a new ground source heat pump and intelligent technology set to reduce energy demand by 75% and save over £4,000 on energy bills. This restoration has put our heritage assets on a sustainable footing, enabling them to confront the challenges of the twenty-first century.

We have been working with schools across the borough to transition to low-carbon heating and to install permanent School Streets. Our youngest residents will experience the most severe impacts of climate breakdown over their lifetimes; therefore, it is essential that we deliver our climate action in ways that improve their lives.

In November 2024, sector leaders reviewed the council's approach to climate and sustainability as part of the Corporate Peer Challenge. The review found 'positive feedback about partnership working across the borough, as well as the council's role in convening partners and maintaining a consistent presence in multiple partnerships. This is a key strength for the council.' This strong leadership on climate change and the net zero transition will be vital to continuing productive partnerships and collaboration, bringing innovation and benefits to Lambeth residents.

While the council is making good progress, the challenge of scale and pace remains. We are lobbying the central government to influence the policy framework for wider system change and to secure funding settlements to tackle the harder challenges we are beginning to face.

Action will continue as we prioritise our most vulnerable residents and support a fair transition to a low-carbon future for Lambeth.

Introduction

Climate change is already happening. The global average temperature is around 1°C warmer than pre-industrial times. In 2024, the UK and London faced mounting climate challenges, including more frequent extreme heatwaves, flash floods and rising air pollution. These events are directly linked to climate change caused by humans. To protect public health and infrastructure for future generations, collective and ambitious climate action on emissions reduction will be vital to build a more resilient and sustainable future.

Carbon emissions from our own estate are falling. Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, Lambeth Council have made real progress towards our climate goals, from making schools and homes more comfortable and reducing energy usage to improving flood resilience and creating healthier neighbourhoods. We are delivering climate action in the borough in a just, fair, and equitable manner, providing co-benefits such as improved housing conditions, air quality, health, financial security and new employment and skilled jobs.

While we have made progress in reducing emissions across our operations and assets, the pace is not yet where it needs to be. Local government can lead on climate action, but we cannot do it alone. Meeting the scale of the challenge requires greater investment and systemic change - national policy must align with local ambition, funding must flow into sustainable infrastructure, and communities must be empowered to drive the transition. Lambeth remains committed to actions that will enable our residents to live healthier, happier, and more affordably in a clean, vibrant, climate-resilient borough.

This report focuses on carbon emissions generated from Lambeth Council's operations in the financial year 2024/25; it does not focus on the goals set out in the borough-wide Climate Action Plan. We present data collected across a range of activities, and in some cases, use modelled data to estimate carbon emissions.

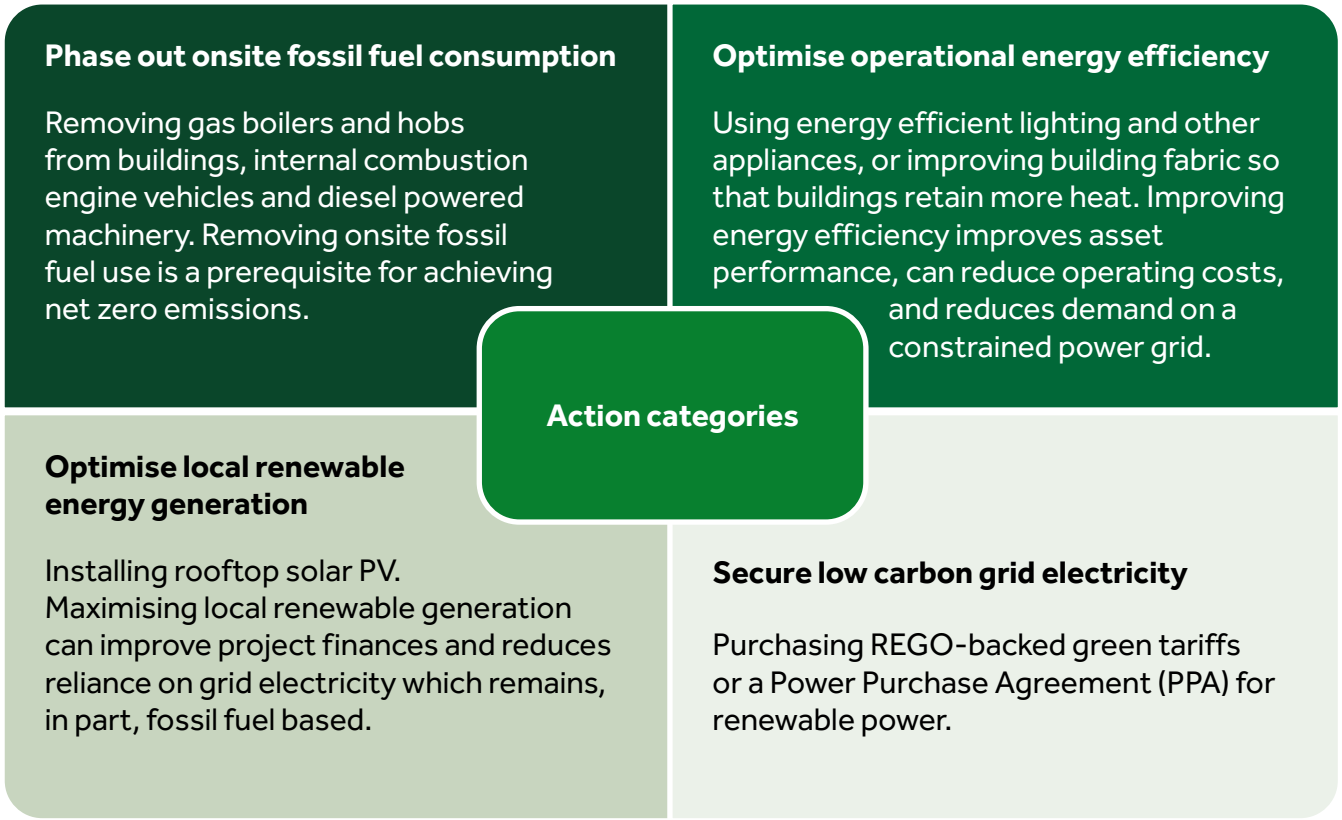
1.0 Carbon emissions in Lambeth

1.1 How we measure emissions

As set out in the Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan (CCRP), there are four action categories that guide our decision-making regarding emissions reductions, as shown in Figure 1. While all four action categories are necessary to reach net zero emissions, the council takes a case-by-case approach in determining which to prioritise for a specific site. This is guided by the CCRP principles of fairness, collaboration and impact-focus.

In undertaking this work, we also protect our environment, improve public health and ensure a fairer, more resilient borough. Reducing emissions helps tackle climate risks like flooding and heatwaves, improves air quality, and supports biodiversity, but it also brings benefits for our residents. Switching to electric heating systems, like heat pumps, and retrofitting homes to reduce damp and mould. Both of these can help to improve indoor air quality. Insulating buildings keeps them cooler in summer and warmer in winter. Choosing active travel, like walking or cycling, boosts health and reduces air pollution. Installing technology like heat pumps, insulation, solar panels, and electric vehicle (EV) chargers can create new local jobs and businesses. Improving energy efficiency also

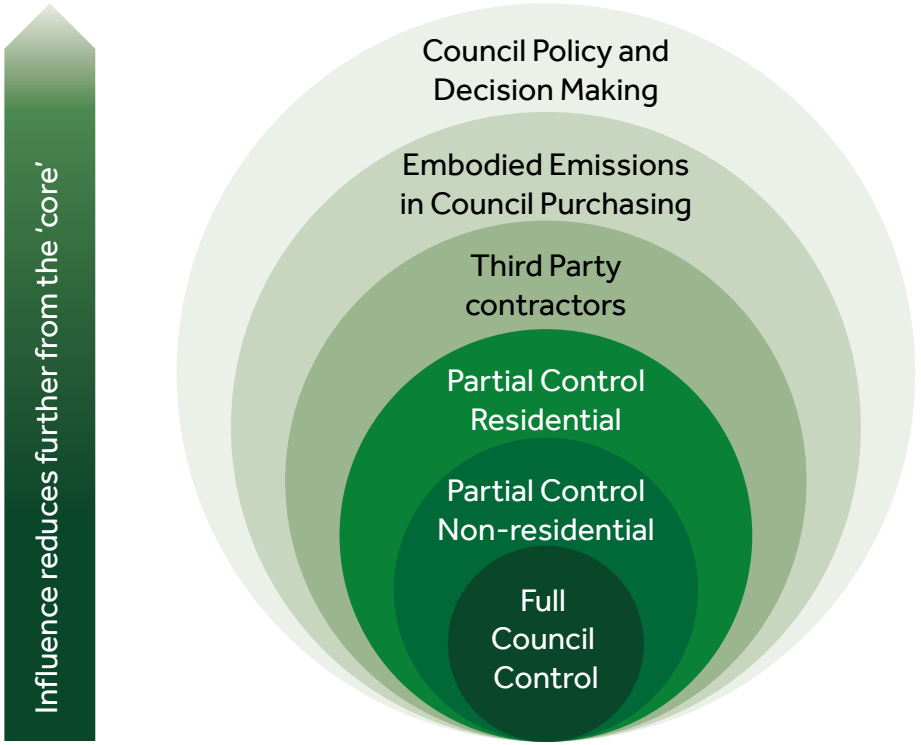
Figure 1: CCRP action categories



saves residents, businesses and the council money. As such, cutting emissions isn't just about long-term climate goals; it also brings significant short-term and long-term benefits to our communities.

Lambeth Council is responsible for several emission sources, including buildings that we own and operate, our fleet of vehicles, as an owner and lessor of buildings used by others, the goods and services we purchase and as an authority that makes decisions that affect investment, development and behaviour across the borough. We have categorised our emissions based on the degree of control and influence we have over each of the areas. Figure 2 shows how Lambeth Council emissions are broken into these six categories; you can see a full explanation of definitions and examples in Annex 1. The council has a greater ability to reduce and mitigate the emissions from assets under full and partial council control, whereas emissions from the outer circles of control can be influenced but not directly controlled by council policy and decision-making.

Figure 2: CCRP operational areas

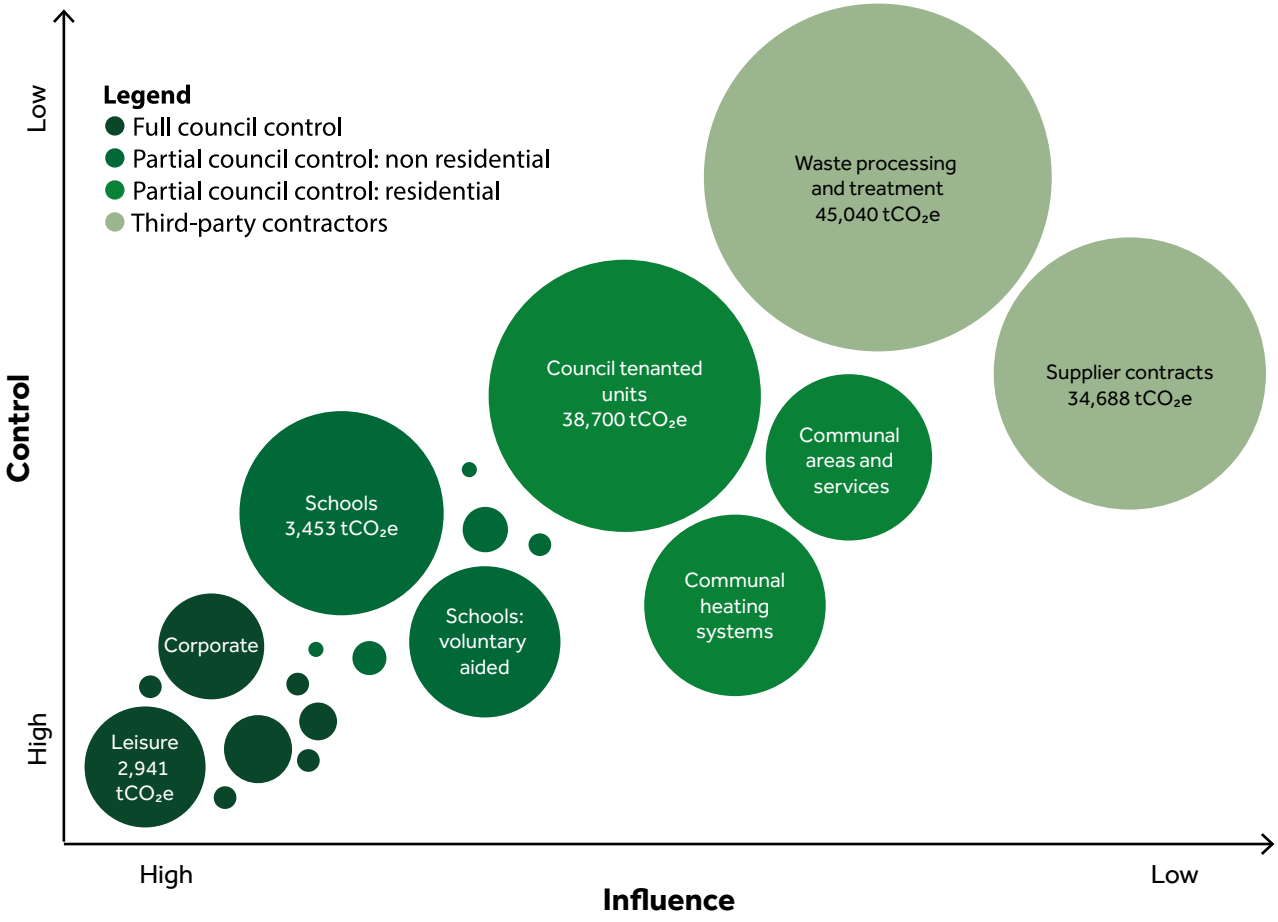


1.2 Emissions from the council

Figure 3 depicts the annual emissions for 2024/25 across full council control, partial council control (residential and non-residential) and third-party contractors. Each bubble represents a sub-category (e.g. leisure centres, corporate buildings, schools) in each sector. The size of the bubble is representative of the annual carbon emissions produced.[1]

Full council control emissions account for 4% of our overall emissions; a very small percentage compared to third-party contractors, which account for over 50%. Our largest source of emissions is waste processing, which accounts for almost 30% of our total emissions. However, as Figure 3 shows, we have less control and influence over these emissions.

Figure 3: A bubble matrix showing the relationship between the source and amount of emissions from different emissions categories and the degree of control and influence the council has over each sector



1 The bubble sizes are not to scale

In Table 1 on the next page, 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 residential housing on communal heating systems. We have included modelled emissions using data such as Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating and floor area where we do not have access to primary or secondary data. The more control the council has over the operational area, the higher the confidence level in the data.

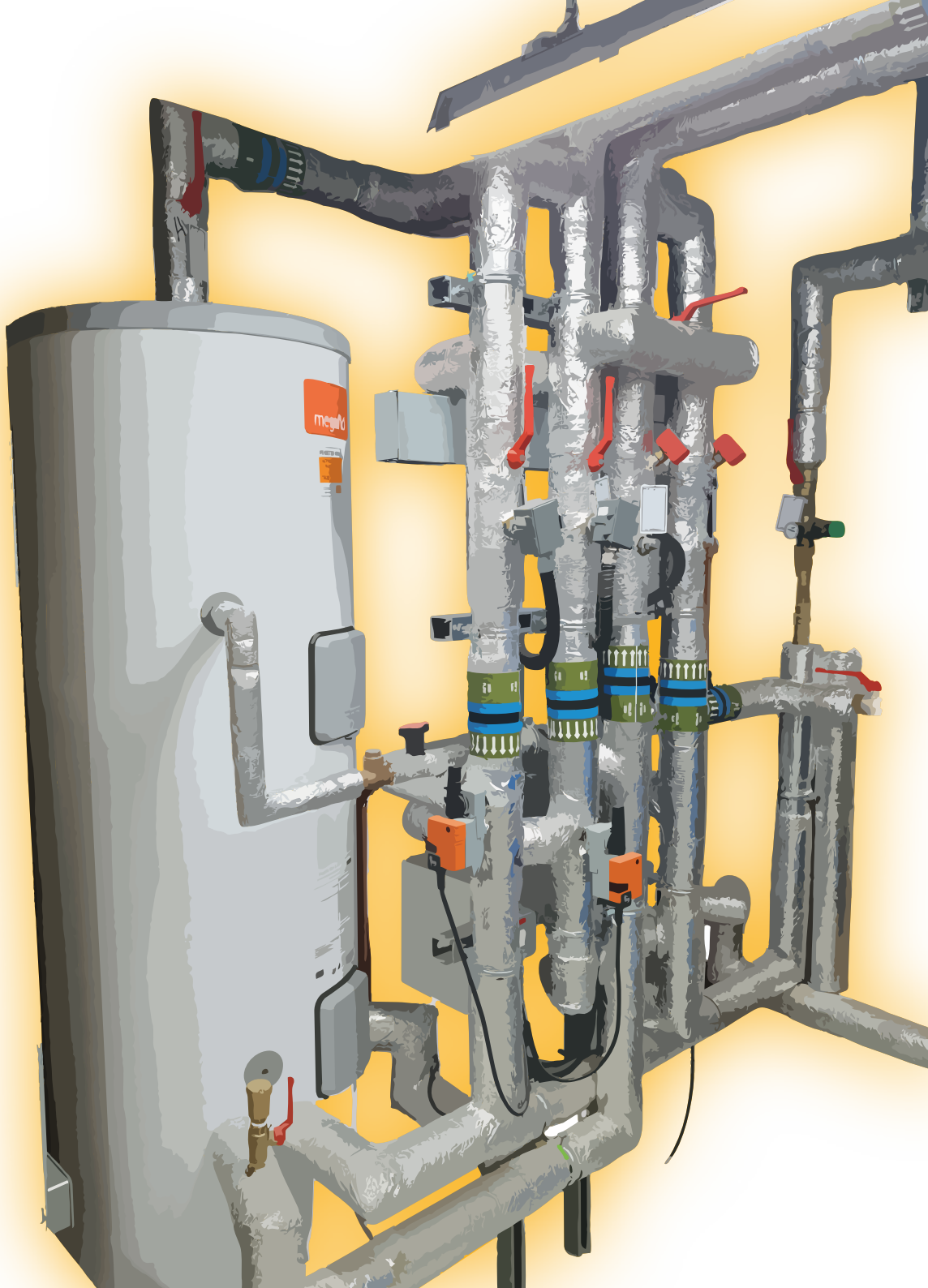


Table 1: Lambeth Council emissions categories, associated emissions, highest emitter and confidence level

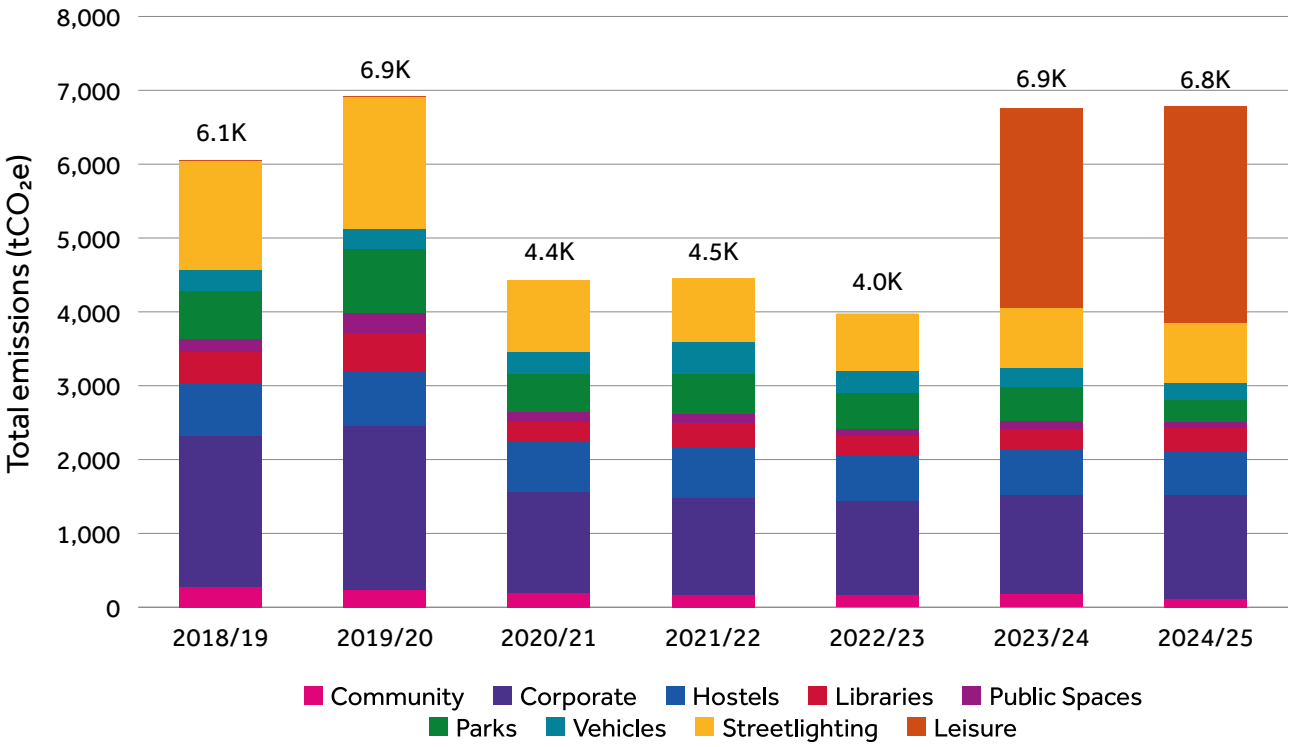
Category	Sum of total emissions 2024/25 (tCO_2e)	Highest emitter in category (proportion of emissions in category)	Confidence
Full council control	6,783	Leisure centres (43%)	High confidence Data available for all sites where the council pays the energy bills Use of government conversion factors where data are available
Partial council control: non-residential assets	12,307	Leased buildings (58%)	Medium confidence Data for 74% schools Modelled data for leased buildings Use of government conversion factors where data are available
Partial council control: residential assets	58,196	Council tenanted units (66%)	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	79,728	Waste processing and treatment (56%)	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	-	-

1.3 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 how the asset is used. In 2024/25, our building portfolio consists of over 370 sites, including the Civic Centre, Town Hall and other administrative buildings, five children's centres, 37 youth and adult care sites, eight leisure centres and 11 libraries. Electricity procured centrally for our sites is covered by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin - a certification scheme used in the UK to verify that electricity has been generated from renewable sources.

In 2024/25, the carbon emissions from full council control were 6,783tCO_2e. Excluding leisure, emissions from full council control have fallen by over 30% since 2018/19.[2] Most of our carbon emissions come from a small number of sites; in 2024/25, ten sites accounted for almost 80% of emissions. Leisure centres make up the largest proportion of emissions at 43%.

Figure 4: Full council control emissions (tCO_2e) from 2018/19 to 2024/25



2 Excluding leisure centre emissions as they came into full council control from September 2023

Buildings and offices
For buildings and assets under full council control, we have the greatest influence over how the building is used and managed. Since 2018, we have undertaken work across our corporate buildings, leisure centres and libraries to improve energy efficiency and to ensure buildings are powered by low carbon, clean energy. At South Lambeth Tate Library, we installed a range of measures, including air source heat pumps, draught proofing, LED lighting, and a building management system, which assisted with energy optimisation and reduced energy consumption by 75%.

Building works have been carried out at Streatham and Clapham leisure centres too. Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels were installed, gas boilers were replaced with air source heat pumps, installation of a water source heat pump, LED lighting, improved insulation of pipework and building fabric, as well as upgrading the building management system. These measures are projected to cut energy consumption across both sites by 35%. The PV solar panels across both leisure centres are expected to produce 427,400kWh of electricity per year, enough to power over 150 homes in the UK for a whole year.[3]

Streetlighting
Across Lambeth streets, we have over 12,000 lighting columns and almost 2,000 illuminated signs. In 2024/25, emissions from streetlighting were 807tCO_2e, making up 12% of emissions from full council control. Emissions from streetlighting have fallen by over 40% since 2018/19, largely as a result of switching to LED and a remote controlled management system.

Vehicles
Our fleet of vehicles used to carry out work across the borough accounted for 228tCO_2e, a 9% decrease compared to 2023/24. Increasing the percentage of EVs is a key step toward reducing carbon emissions, as EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions and are significantly more energy-efficient than internal combustion engine vehicles. Our fleet includes light and heavy-duty diesel-fuelled vehicles such as minibuses and refuse collection vehicles with high primary CO2 emissions. Tackling our own fleet means we will be leading by example.

In our new Air Quality Action Plan (subject to approval by cabinet) we have committed to reducing the carbon emissions generated through our fleet by prioritising replacing 90% of internal combustion engine vehicles in the council fleet with zero-emission Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) or Hybrids as they come out of service by the end of 2028. Currently, 24% of our fleet has zero tailpipe emissions. We began to manage our lamp column chargers for EVs in-house from October 2024 and are now managing 397 chargers, with a projected total of 800 by the end of 2025. This infrastructure is key to transitioning to cleaner vehicles.

Table 2: Breakdown of the council's fleet in 2024/25

Vehicle type	Count	Percent of fleet
Battery Electric Vehicle	54	24
Biodiesel	4	2
Diesel	108	48
Petrol Hybrid Electric	33	15
Petrol	26	12
Total	225	100

3 Using estimates for the average electricity usage per home published by Ofgem. Available at: Average gas and electricity usage | Ofgem

Lambeth Together's new electric Health and Wellbeing Bus marks a significant step toward environmental sustainability. By replacing the older diesel model, the electric bus is expected to cut around 2,500kg of CO_2 emissions annually - equivalent to over 11,000 miles in a petrol car. The new bus produces zero tailpipe emissions, helping reduce nitrogen dioxide levels, a pollutant linked to respiratory issues such as asthma. The bus also has a solar panel to power onboard equipment and a built-in screen.

From a health perspective, the bus brings vital services directly to Lambeth communities, including blood pressure checks, mental health support and welfare advice. Staffed by health champions, it enhances accessibility with full wheelchair access. The screen shares health messages and campaigns, aligning with Lambeth's Climate Action Plan and broader goals for a greener borough. This mobile unit helps residents stay healthier for longer by raising awareness of local services and encouraging low-carbon lifestyles.

Parks and public spaces

Lambeth Council owns and operates over 150 public spaces and parks. These green spaces are essential for community wellbeing, offering residents places to relax, exercise and connect with nature, acting as vital infrastructure for public health and social cohesion.

They also support biodiversity, preserve the borough's cultural and historical heritage and play a key role in tackling climate change. Trees and greenery help cool urban areas, absorb rainwater, reduce flooding and improve air quality. Sustainable management of these sites through biodiversity protection, sustainable construction and community engagement is a key priority for Lambeth Council.

> Emissions from parks and public spaces fell by over a third in 2024/25.

Case study: Brockwell Hall

Brockwell Hall, a Grade II* listed manor house, has been the heart of Brockwell Park since 1813. For the last few years before it was closed for refurbishment, the building was used as a café, council offices and park maintenance depot. However, most of the buildings and sites were largely underused, undiscovered and unappreciated.

In March 2021, the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) awarded Lambeth Council nearly £4m to restore Brockwell Hall. The council also secured £429,000 from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) in February 2021 to install a ground source heat pump to provide all the heating and hot water for the Hall, the new events space and the adjacent buildings.

The refurbishment now includes new intelligent absence detectors to switch off lights in rooms that are only occasionally occupied, such as toilets, storerooms and back-of-house areas. This is particularly helpful in a building with multiple types of users, where behaviour change isn't as easy to achieve.

The new space, which will be used for a wide range of events, such as weddings, conferences, away days and meetings, has been designed to the highest sustainability specifications. The extension has high insulation and airtightness to reduce heat loss in the winter, but it also uses passive ventilation via high- and low-level windows to circulate air during the hotter summer months. Heat recovery systems are used in the adjacent kitchen areas, with intelligent LED lighting throughout. The building consumes 20% less energy than the standard requirement for meeting building regulations.

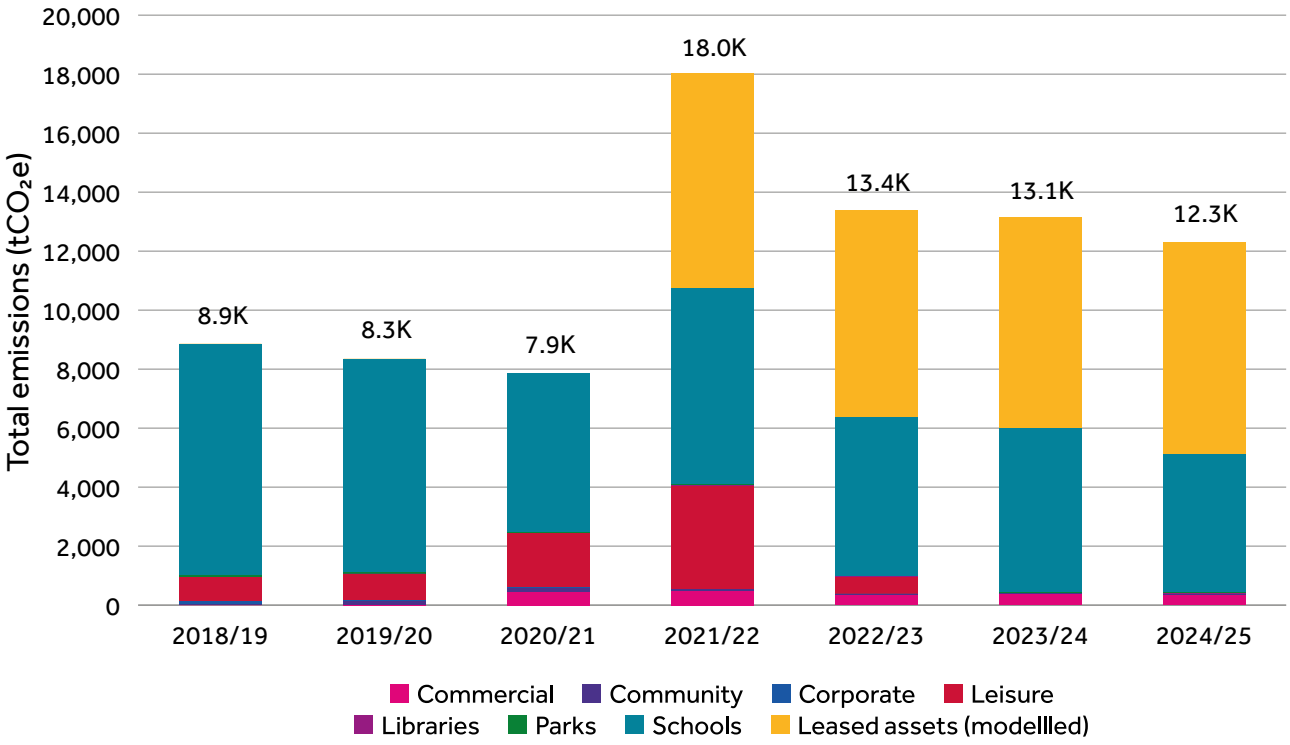
The total energy savings are expected to be 221,076kWh per year, with gas savings of 280,927kWh/yr and an increase in electricity consumption of 59,851kWh/yr, leading to a 75% reduction in energy consumption. This will lead to carbon emission savings of over 46tCO_2e and annual energy cost savings of £4,200 for heating and hot water compared to the previous usage in the building.

1.4 Partial council control: non-residential assets

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. The council has a portfolio of over 500 public buildings that are either leased out or used for public services, such as schools and community centres, or leased for commercial purposes.

We can present data where the council procures or pays for the energy, including most school sites, some commercial sites, libraries, community buildings, and parks. Where the council does not have energy data, we can estimate based on floor area and CIBSE benchmarking. For non-residential assets under partial council control, we estimate carbon emissions in 2024/25 were 12,307tCO_2e, a 6% decrease compared to last year. Schools and leased assets make up for almost all of these emissions, accounting for over 95% in this category.

Figure 5: Partial council control: non-residential emissions (tCO_2e) from 2018/19 to 2024/25



Schools

Schools in Lambeth are responsible for their own energy procurement; however, we can view energy consumption data directly if they have opted to be part of the council's central procurement. For schools not part of that programme, we ask for energy consumption data to be shared. For 2024/25, we have consumption data for 74% of schools.

The council has been working with schools and building operators to transition to low carbon heating and engage with premise managers on energy saving measures.

During the school year 2024/25, Lambeth commissioned Retrofit Action For Tomorrow (RAFT) to develop a Premises Manager Network to support premises managers, officers and similar staff with sustainability in their schools. All schools were invited to participate, and once a term, the group met in a workshop to discuss topics such as energy audits, overheating, building fabric and staff behaviour change. Participants also attended online 'clinics' where they got to ask questions to RAFT's service engineer, who offered expert advice on lighting systems, meters and more.

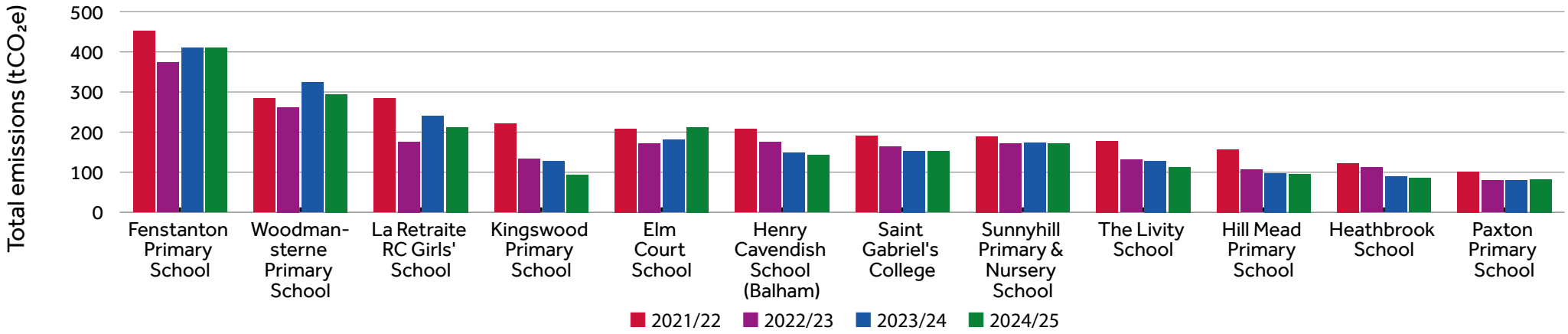
The group met six times across the academic year and co-developed a 'how-to' guide for premises managers to share with their fellow school staff on how to use their heating and equipment efficiently, and other small behaviour changes that can make a big difference in school energy use.

Alongside the Premises Managers Network, RAFT also delivered school engagement sessions with three of our schools that received funding for low-carbon equipment heating systems. RAFT delivered workshops for pupils at The Livity School, The Norwood School, and Elm Court School. The workshops covered a range of topics depending on the pupils' ages and abilities, including activities such as identifying hot spots with thermal imaging cameras, touring the boiler rooms and air source heat pump systems, and experimenting with the movement of heat through pipes.

On behalf of the schools, Lambeth Council secured funding for Elm Court School (£100,000 grant) to install new LED lighting. Through the Greener Schools Programme, the school will benefit from a projected saving of

Premises Managers Network meeting

Figure 6: Carbon emissions (tCO_2e) from the top emitting schools, where consistent data is available



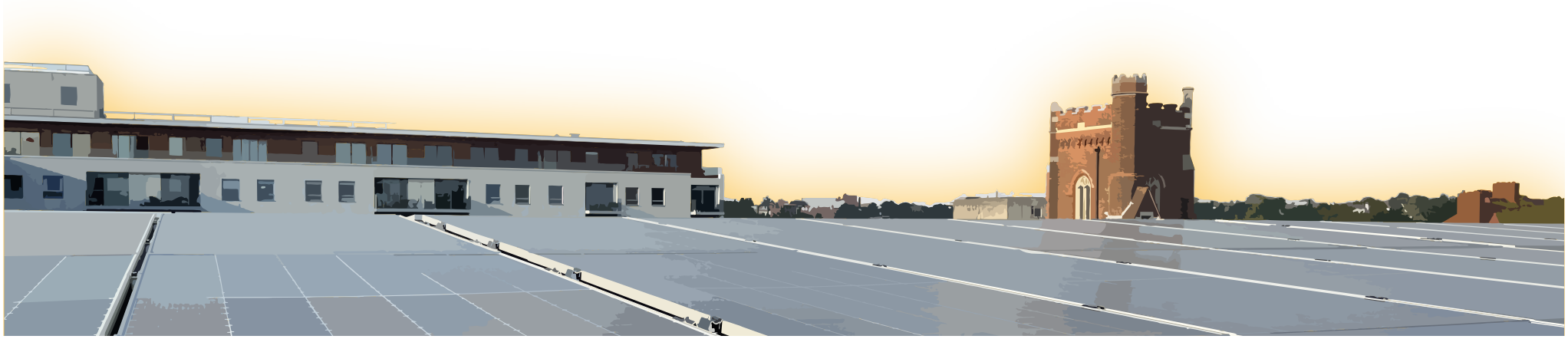
£15,000 per annum on its energy bills. Richard Atkins Primary School will also receive new solar panels for their music building, saving the school a projected £4,000 per year in electricity costs.

Figure 6 shows the top-emitting schools in this period, where we have at least three consecutive years of complete data.

> For school sites where we have recent consistent data, we have seen a 22% decrease in overall emissions since 2021/22.

Table 3: Carbon emissions (tCO_2e) from all school sites and the percentage of schools that submitted data in each year

Site type	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Schools: maintained	5,253	3,855	3,980	3,453
Schools: foundation	136	125	313	172
Schools: voluntary aided	1,239	1,409	1,233	1,085
Total emissions	6,628	5,389	5,526	4,710
Percentage of school sites with available data	77%	77%	87%	74%



Commercially leased properties
We have lease arrangements for over 500 commercial assets. Whilst we cannot access energy consumption data for these sites, we can model emissions using CIBSE benchmark values, which estimate typical electricity and fossil fuel consumption per m^2 floor area, according to building type. Following this methodology, we estimate that emissions from these assets were approximately 7,177tCO_2e.

As a local authority, Lambeth Council is responsible for improving the energy efficiency and sustainability of our leased buildings in alignment with the CCRP. Our target is to upgrade all council-owned and leased properties to at least EPC level B by 2030. This includes granting permissions for tenants to decarbonise buildings, integrating sustainability into lease agreements and securing funding for retrofit works. In 2024/25, over 60% of our leased assets are rated EPC C or above.

In June 2024, the council completed a portfolio analysis of its leased properties, modelling five scenario pathways of possible retrofit programmes to achieve EPC C or above and optimising carbon reduction. Further analysis will be commissioned for a specific parade of shops in the borough based on a detailed review of their current energy usage and building condition to inform the council's approach. This will also include no or low-cost interventions and behaviour changes that will be included in our tenants' handbook.

1.5 Partial council control: residential assets

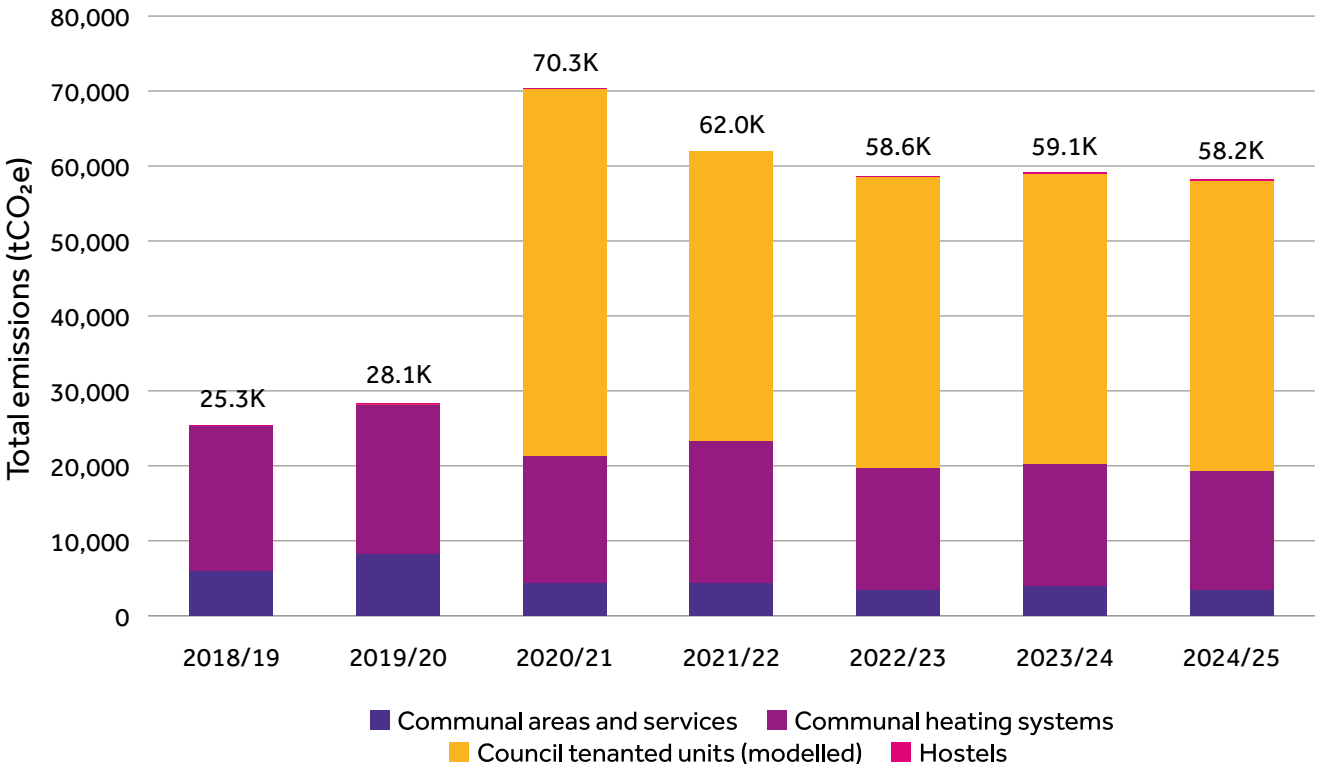
This category includes homes that the council owns and maintains, where it controls aspects such as heating systems, communal spaces and repairs, but not the energy consumption of residents. These buildings generated an estimated 58,196 tonnes of carbon emissions in 2024/25.

The council can present energy usage 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 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 frequently. According to this methodology, we can estimate that emissions from tenanted non-communal heating properties amount to 38,700tCO_2e.

By the end of March 2025, over 700 homes across the borough were upgraded as part of a national scheme to retrofit socially rented properties. The retrofitting project in Lambeth, part of a £6.9m partnership with Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing, started in 2021 and was delivered with funding from the DESNZ. The funding is part of the government department's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), aiming to make energy efficiency improvements to homes across the UK. In addition to the replacement of doors and windows to prevent loss of heat and energy through draughts and reduce the risk of damp and mould, over 200 homes had solar panels installed.

Figure 7: Partial council control: residential emissions (tCO_2e) from 2018/19 to 2024/25



Case study: Bloomhall Road

Lambeth Council's Passivhaus retrofit pilot showcases a transformative approach to sustainable housing. It delivered substantial environmental benefits by upgrading two derelict social homes in Norwood to the EnerPHit standard - a rigorous benchmark for energy efficiency in retrofitted buildings.

The project focused on a "fabric first" strategy, meaning the building envelope was thoroughly insulated and sealed to minimise energy loss. Improvements included enhanced insulation in walls, roofs, and floors, triple-glazed windows and airtight doors. These upgrades drastically reduced the homes' energy demand - by up to 93% - making them far more efficient than standard retrofits. This cuts carbon emissions and reduces the need for fossil fuel-based heating.

The homes were also fitted with air source heat pumps and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems. These technologies ensure a consistent indoor climate while using minimal energy, and they help maintain excellent air quality. The airtight design also prevents heat loss, making the homes warmer in winter and cooler in summer without excessive energy use.

Overall, the Passivhaus retrofit pilot demonstrates how deep retrofitting of existing buildings can play a vital role in achieving Lambeth's climate goals. It highlights the potential for older housing stock to transform into low-carbon, resilient homes that support environmental sustainability and occupant wellbeing.

1.6 Third-party contractors

Lambeth Council's third-party contractors play a key role in our overall emissions, particularly through service design, procurement, and contract management processes. Emissions from contract delivery - such as energy used in offices and transport - are included in this category. To reduce these impacts, the council's Responsible Procurement Policy requires contractors on new contracts over £100,000 to report their carbon emissions and outline reduction measures. Engaging suppliers in sustainable practices is essential to help Lambeth reach its net zero goal.

Waste treatment and processing is the largest contributor to contractor emissions. In 2024, the Cory Group, which handles this service, reported 45,040 tonnes of CO_2e. This figure is lower than previous years due to more accurate monitoring equipment that better measures biogenic content. 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 the borough is sent to landfill, instead it is separated for incineration, recycling or organics treatment.

For other suppliers, emissions are estimated using purchase order values and greenhouse gas intensity factors from the Office for National Statistics. In 2024/25, these modelled emissions totalled 34,688 tonnes of CO_2e, excluding utilities contracts. The increase in emissions reflects a rise in council spending compared to the previous year. However, not all contracts are captured due to limitations in internal systems, with only 44% of commercial spend going through purchase orders, and the rest processed via other channels in social care, emergency housing and legal services.

1.7 Council policy and decision making

Lambeth Council influences carbon emissions through its policies and decisions by embedding sustainability into procurement, planning and service delivery. Through initiatives and policies, the council can influence behaviour, encourage adoption of greener operations and make strategic decisions, such as investing in low-carbon infrastructure, that support our net zero ambitions.

Lambeth Local Plan
Local authorities play a key role in driving climate action through policy and planning. Lambeth Council uses tools like building codes, low-emission zones, and green infrastructure standards to embed sustainability into everyday decisions. The Lambeth Local Plan includes climate-focused objectives, requiring major developments to demonstrate how they support net zero goals, including on-site renewable energy and innovative technologies. As part of the upcoming Local Plan review starting in late 2025, the council will explore stronger carbon reduction policies and introduce indicators to track progress, ensuring long-term climate goals are supported by clear standards and effective enforcement.

Sustainable travel
Lambeth's Transport Strategy supports the borough's net zero by 2030 ambition by prioritising active travel, public transport, and a shift away from private car use. Around 80% of journeys in Lambeth are already made by sustainable modes, with a target to increase this to 85% by 2030. Lambeth's Kerbside Strategy sets out to reclaim 25% of the kerbside space, most of which is currently

mainly used for car parking, and repurpose it for more sustainable uses such as cycle hangars, greenery, climate change mitigation and shared mobility. This work is supported by other key programmes, including Healthy Neighbourhoods, Healthy Routes, the Electric Vehicle Strategy and the Road Danger Reduction Strategy, which help to create safer, cleaner and more accessible streets.

Skills and awareness

Lambeth Council works with Lewisham and Southwark Councils on the development of strategic approaches to net zero jobs and skills across the tri-borough. Achievements to date include securing funding to develop further education infrastructure to deliver low-carbon heat and energy skills across the Central London Forward sub-region, including local South Bank Technical College. We have also contributed to shaping policy and provision for green skills at a local, regional and national level. The tri-borough councils are also strategic partners in London South Bank University's Green Skills Hub, which will run until March 2026. The Hub has had success in upskilling residents with net zero skills, and connecting them with local employment opportunities, and from January 2024 to March 2025, 157 Lambeth residents have participated in training or education facilitated through the Hub. As part of this work, and to improve awareness of the sector, LSBU and the tri-borough councils developed a virtual work experience programme "Discover Net Zero Careers" which offers an innovative programme of careers information and virtual work experience in green economy sectors. The three councils jointly commissioned a feasibility study into an insulation and retrofit fabric skills centre which was completed in November 2023, with Lambeth now looking to be the likely home of this centre.

Air quality

As set out in our Climate Action Plan, Lambeth is committed to break the association between inner-London living and poor air quality by pursuing World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines. Currently the WHO recommends that NO_2 should not exceed an annual mean of 10 µg/m^3 and PM10 should be under 15 µg/m^3.

To reduce emissions of air pollutants in Lambeth we have implemented School Streets to discourage the use of private cars for school drop off and pickup. In 2024, we implemented nine new School Streets and now have 24 permanently in place. We have installed a network of lightweight air quality sensors across the borough that give real-time air quality readings available. We have employed a dedicated construction compliance officer to work with developers to reduce their pollutant emissions and continue to work with local communities to reduce emissions in neighbourhood areas through the council's Low Traffic Neighbourhood programme as part of a wider strategy to reduce traffic across the borough.

Pensions and investments

As outlined in Lambeth's Pension Fund Stewardship Report 2023/24, climate change is recognised as a significant financial risk. In response, the Pensions Committee unanimously adopted a 2040 net zero target in January 2022, emphasising the need for urgent action to meet their fiduciary duty. Progress has been made, with improvements

shown in the Fund's carbon footprint and emissions metrics following a recent review. Looking ahead, the Fund is beginning to update its investment strategy for the period from April 2026, including a review of its investment beliefs and responsible investment policy, which will assess how well the Fund is tracking against its net zero goals.

Staff travel

Lambeth's Workplace Travel Plan encourages staff to reduce car use by promoting practical and sustainable travel options. A 2024 staff survey received 455 responses. The results show that many staff live within walking or cycling distance of Brixton, highlighting strong potential for active travel. Over 80% of respondents were satisfied with current cycle storage facilities, reinforcing the importance of infrastructure in enabling sustainable travel choices.

2.0 Annex

Annex 1: Methodology

Following an update to the Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan (CCRP) in 2024, Lambeth Council's carbon emission reporting process has been updated and improved. The CCRP introduced a new reporting matrix for our annual emissions report that assigns metrics and indicators to six emissions categories. These categories and their definitions are detailed in Table 4.

Table 4: CCRP emission category definitions and examples

Category	Definition	Examples
Full council control	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.	Buildings, e.g. the Town Hall, Civic Centre, and other council offices, that the council owns
		Leisure centres and playing fields
		Street lighting
		Vehicles
		Parks and public spaces, including fountains, market facilities and machinery
Partial council control: non-residential	Buildings owned by the council and leased to or delegated to third parties, and buildings owned/ controlled by a third party, leased to/used by the council.	Maintained schools and commercially leased properties
		Parks and public spaces, including fountains, market facilities and machinery
Partial council control: residential	All residential assets that the council owns and maintains where the council has substantial control over the energy performance of the asset through responsibility for infrastructure installation, repairs, and maintenance.	Council tenanted units
		Leasehold units within council freehold properties
		Communal areas and services (electricity used in lighting communal areas, lifts and offices)
		Communal heating systems

Table 4: CCRP emission category definitions and examples continued

Category	Definition	Examples
Third-party contractors	Service design, procurement and contract management processes implemented by the council that influence contractor emissions.	Supplier contracts
		Waste services
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.	Goods purchased by the council, including but not limited to, IT equipment, machinery, furniture, fixtures and fittings, catering, construction materials
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

Lambeth Council is linking its carbon emissions objectives and targets to its internal business processes, particularly its progress reporting and monitoring processes. This places emissions reporting and reduction at the heart of decision making and helps us drive the change needed to deliver it. Table 5 is an excerpt of the updated emissions reporting framework from the CCRP. Within each of the six emissions categories, there is a list of assets with their own targets, metrics and example progress indicators.

Table 4: CCRP emission category definitions and examples continued

Asset	Target description	Metric	Example progress indicator
Full council control			
Buildings	Phase out gas consumption by 2030 in buildings where an appropriate low carbon option is available	Annual gas consumption (kWh)	No. of low carbon heating systems installed
Street lighting	Optimise energy efficiency	Average efficiency of installed modules (lm/W)	Investment in new modules
Vehicles	All of the council's fleet, except those for which there is no viable zero emissions model, to be electric or zero emissions by 2030	Percentage of fleet with zero tailpipe emissions	Purchase of new EVs
Partial council control: non-residential assets			
Buildings owned by the council but delegated to a third party e.g. schools	Optimise energy efficiency	Annual energy consumption/floor area (kWh/m^2)	Investment in fabric efficiency
Building owned by the council and leased to a third party	Bring all void properties up to EPC B by 2030, and integrate the removal of fossil fuels, energy efficiency optimisation and renewable generation into planned major works	Evidence of council policy and practice	Case studies
Partial council control: residential assets			
Council tenanted units	Achieve as close to an EPC B as possible by 2030	EPC rating	Investment in fabric efficiency
Communal heating systems	Install heat meters in all residential units connected to communal heating systems in line with regulations	Percent of units with a heat meter	Investment in meter installation, number of meters installed

Table 5: A sample of the new emissions reporting matrix, as published in the CCRP continued

Asset	Target description	Metric	Example progress indicator
Third party contractors			
Contractors	Work with existing high value, long-term contractors to agree on an emissions reporting process, prioritising the highest value 25 contracts	Evidence of council policy and practice	Case studies
Embodied emissions from goods and purchases			
Goods purchased by the council	Progressive introduction of whole life-cycle emissions reporting requirement for purchased goods, starting with high impact goods for which established methodologies are in place	Evidence of council policy and practice	Case studies
Council policy and decision making			
Planning and place shaping	Transport Strategy to be compatible with net zero	Evidence of council policy and practice	Proportion of journeys made by walking and cycling, proportion of Lambeth highway that enables walking and cycling, proportion of Lambeth kerbside used sustainably
Local regulation, standard setting and enforcement	Air Quality Action Plan to be compatible with net zero	Evidence of council policy and practice	Air quality objectives in Local Plan

Lambeth Council has access to primary data such as gas and electricity usage, water supply, sewage and distance travelled by different vehicles. This consumption data is used alongside UK Government greenhouse gas conversion factors for 2024 to calculate emissions from Lambeth Council operations. 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.

Emissions factors published by the UK government change each year because they reflect the evolving carbon intensity of energy sources and industrial processes. As the UK decarbonises its electricity grid, shifting from coal and gas to renewables like wind and solar, the emissions associated with each unit of electricity decrease. Similarly, changes in fuel composition, efficiency improvements and updated scientific understanding of emissions from various activities all contribute to annual adjustments. These changes ensure that emissions reporting remains accurate and aligned with the most current data and climate science. There are 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.

Occasionally, methodologies for calculating carbon emissions factors or carbon footprints are updated and improved. As such, any figures published here supersede previous reports.

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