

TO: **All members of Cabinet**

Our reference CS
Your reference N/A
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13 July 2023

Dear Councillor

Cabinet - Tuesday 18 July 2023

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Tuesday's meeting of Cabinet, the following report that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item
9.	<u>2022/2023 West Suffolk Environmental Statement (Pages 1 - 30)</u> Report number: CAB/WS/23/031

Yours sincerely

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West Suffolk
Council

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2022/2023 West Suffolk Environmental Statement

Report number:	CAB/WS/23/031	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	18 July 2023
Cabinet member:	Councillor Gerald Kelly Portfolio Holder for Governance and Regulatory Tel: 07968 396389 Email: gerald.kelly@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Jill Korwin Strategic Director Tel: 01284 757252 Email: jill.korwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk	

Decisions Plan: The decisions made as a result of this report will usually be published within 48 hours and cannot be actioned until five clear working days of the publication of the decision have elapsed.

Wards impacted: All

Recommendation: It is recommended that Cabinet approves the Environmental Statement for the Council’s 2022 to 2023 performance, included as Appendix A to Report number: CAB/WS/23/031.

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 In September 2019, West Suffolk Council declared a climate emergency, having already established the Environment and Climate Change Taskforce (the Taskforce). The aim of the Taskforce was to make recommendations on the Council's future role in protecting and enhancing the environment, both in the way in which it carries out its operations and through specific initiatives. In June 2023, the Council's new Cabinet approved the creation of a new Environment and Sustainability Working Group to review the progress the Council had made in implementing the action plan and to look at further work the Council could lead to support businesses, residents and communities on their own net zero journey.
- 1.2 The working group recommendations will be reported to Cabinet in September 2023. Meanwhile it is important Cabinet considers and approves the Council's full Environmental Statement for 2022/2023, an annual summary of the Council's performance in regard to the environment and climate change.

2. Approach to producing the Annual Environmental Statement

- 2.1 Each year the Council publishes its Environmental Statement that provides a summary of the environmental impact from the activities the Council undertakes to manage and reduce its carbon emissions. This report covers the period year ending 31 March 2023. There is also a significant amount of work which contributes to improving the environment across the district which is not covered in this statement. This work is carried out both by the Council directly and in conjunction with partners. More information can be found on the Council's webpage [Tackling climate change \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://westsuffolk.gov.uk).
- 2.2 The performance against previous years needs to take account of a couple of key factors. In 2021-2022, the period of the last report, there were a number of external developments. Globally, inflation had risen significantly due to a number of factors including the war in Ukraine and the UK was still adjusting from the impact of COVID-19.
- 2.3 2021-2022 saw a gradual increase in office use, as the Council transitioned to an agile working approach and the increase in carbon footprint in that period was attributed to the increased use of the office, leisure centres and other assets that have a carbon footprint. As such the last report compared data with 2019-2020 data.
- 2.4 The 2022-2023 report provides a comparison with the previous reporting period 2021-2022 as well as data from 2010 when this reporting regime was introduced. The report has been assembled from data from services across the Council and is overseen by the Council's Environmental

Management Group, consisting of officers from across the Council. It sets out the progress against the Council’s agreed carbon budget and performance across a range of activities as summarised in section 3 below. It includes emissions from the Council’s leisure operations that are delivered by Abbeycroft Leisure.

3. **Summary of the 2022-2023 Annual Environmental Statement**

3.1 The full report is included at Appendix A. In a number of areas there has been minimal change from 2021-2022 performance, with some notable changes that are shown below. This information will be considered by the Environment and Sustainability Working Group to inform future recommendations for action.

Emissions	<p>Total emissions up 1.4 percent compared to 2021-2022;(down 40 percent compared to 2010 baseline).</p> <p>Total owned vehicle emissions down 0.3 percent compared to 2021-2022 (down 9 percent compared to 2019-2020 baseline).</p>
Consumption and energy	<p>Renewable energy generated down 1 percent compared to 2021-2022. Up 135 percent compared to 2012 baseline.</p> <p>Business travel up 7 percent compared to 2021-2022; down 66 percent compared to 2010 baseline.</p> <p>Total water consumption up 44 percent compared to 2021-2022 (down 18 percent compared to baseline).</p> <p>Total West Suffolk House waste down 1 percent compared to 2021-2022 (down 58 percent compared to 2012 baseline).</p> <p>Office printing down 29 percent compared to 2021-2022.</p>
Infrastructure and recycling	<p>The recycling rate down 6 percent compared to 2021-2022.</p> <p>Public electric vehicle (EV) chargers installed by WSC can support 84 EVs charging at the same time.</p>

Environment and green spaces	6 Green Flags retained. 454 trees and 1419 whips planted during 2022-2023. (318 trees and 560 hedge plants planted during 2021-2022)
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3.2 The **carbon budget** agreed by Cabinet in 2020 is included in the environmental statement. The net zero plan which formed part of the 2020 report illustrates potential routes to net zero by 2030. This plan is still being progressed with work having been undertaken on Council buildings and new electric vehicles now starting to be delivered. Full year impact of these improvements made will not be evident until the 2023-2024 Environmental Statement.

3.3 The carbon budget periods are:

- a. April 2020 to March 2024 – steady annual emission rate of 4,675 tCO₂e (tonnes of CO₂ equivalent) per year
- b. April 2024 to March 2028 – steady annual emission rate of 2,484 tCO₂e per year
- c. April 2028 to March 2030 – steady annual emission rate of 840 tCO₂e per year
- d. Zero emissions in 2030-2031.

3.4 For year 2022-2023, the Council is 282 tCO₂e above the carbon budget at the end of the first reporting period with emissions standing at 4,957tCO₂e against the budgets allowed rate of 4,675 tCO₂e. Work planned for future years not only needs to bring the council back in line with its target reduction, but also accelerate improvements to the next carbon budget four year period which sets a target of almost 50 percent reduction.

4 **Alternative options that have been considered**

4.1 The Council has committed to work to achieve net-zero by 2030. This Environmental Statement summarises performance for 2022-2023. It will be further investigated by the Environment and Sustainability Working Group.

5 **Risks associated with the proposals**

5.1 The Environmental Statement does not show the level of improvement that had been predicted in 2022-2023 and there is a risk that council operations, which could have an impact on carbon emissions, have not reduced. This may damage the reputation of the Council as a Climate Change Leader. Risks associated with the delivery of the Council's Net Zero

ambitions and environmental objectives will be explored by the Environment and Sustainability Working Group.

6 Implications arising from the proposals

- 6.1 The report shows that the Council is slightly off track on its carbon budget for the first period and work needs to be done to accelerate reductions in emissions to meet the Net Zero ambition. This will be considered by the Environment and Sustainability Working Group.
- 6.2 **Financial**
There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Where individual projects require investment, this will be a separate report.
- 6.3 **Legal Compliance**
No implications
- 6.4 **Personal Data Processing**
No implications
- 6.5 **Equalities**
No implications
- 6.6 **Crime and Disorder**
No recommendations
- 6.7 **Environment or Sustainability**
The publication of the Environmental Statement shows the Council's commitment to environmental improvements.
- 6.8 **HR or Staffing**
No implications from this report; further activity may require additional staff to support, and this will be subject to business cases or separate requests.
- 6.9 **Changes to existing policies**
No implications
- 6.10 **External organisations (such as businesses, community groups)**
Data on Abbeycroft Leisure performance has been produced in consultation with them

7 Appendices referenced in this report

- 7.1 Appendix A – West Suffolk 2023-2024 Environmental Statement.

Should approval be given, note that a fully designed and accessibility compliant version will be published on the website in due course.

8 Background documents associated with this report

- 8.1 [CAB/WS/22/040 Environment Task Force 2022 update](#) including 2021-22 Environmental Statement
[WSC-Environmental-Statement-2021-2022.pdf](#)

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West Suffolk Council Environmental Statement 2022-2023



DRAFT



Contents

- 1.
- 2. xx
- 3. xx
- 4. xx
- 5. xx
- 6. xx
- 7. xx
- 8. xx
- 9. xx
- xx



1. Introduction

This report is a summary of the environmental impact from the activities West Suffolk Council (WSC) undertook to manage and reduce its carbon emissions during the year ending 31 March 2023.

After the declaration of an Environment and Biodiversity Emergency in West Suffolk in September 2019, West Suffolk Council launched an Environment and Climate Change Task Force to evaluate current progress and develop new avenues to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with current aspirations. The Task Force's recommendations were confirmed by Cabinet and West Suffolk Council agreed a Net Zero Emissions by 2030 target with carbon budgeting periods agreed to measure performance towards this target – see Table 1. The Environmental Management Group has taken the outcomes of the task force and developed an action plan to achieve them. The Environmental Management Group has cross council membership with progress also included in the annual report. A high level summary of the council's commitments can be found in the [Environmental Policy Statement](#).

Table 1 shows the carbon budget periods set out in West Suffolk Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Declaration

Budget period	Period	Annual emissions at end of period	Emissions budget for the period
First	April 2020 to Mar 2023	4,675 tCO ₂ e per year	18,700 tCO ₂ e
Second	April 2023 to Mar 2026	2,484 tCO ₂ e per year	8,292 tCO ₂ e
Third	April 2026 to Mar 2030	840 tCO ₂ e per year	2,520 tCO ₂ e
Fourth	2030-31	Net zero emissions	

This statement focuses on the Council's own emissions. There is also a significant amount of work which contributes to improving the environment across the district which is not covered in this statement. This work is carried out both by the Council directly and in conjunction with partners. More information can be found on the council's webpage [tackling climate change](#).

The methodology used to write this report is based on the Government's [Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting \(SECR\)](#) requirements. The council is not obliged to report under these regulations but reports on a voluntary basis. A breakdown of reporting scopes and details of any estimated data is included in Appendix 1.

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Overview of environmental performance during 2022-2023

Emissions



40%

Reduction in total emissions compared to 2010 baseline

Up 1.4% compared to 2021-22

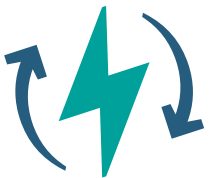


9%

Reduction in total owned vehicle emissions compared to 2019-20 baseline

Down by 0.3% compared to 2021-22

Consumption and energy



135%

Increase in renewable energy generated compared to 2012 baseline

Down 1% compared to 2021-22

66%

Less business travel compared to 2010 baseline

Business travel up 7% compared to 2021-22



18%

Reduction in total water consumption compared to baseline

Up 44% compared to 2021-22



58%

Reduction in total West Suffolk House waste compared to 2012 baseline

Down 1% compared to 2021-22



29%

Reduction in office printing compared to 2021-22

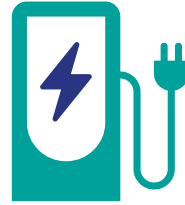
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Infrastructure and Recycling



6%

**Recycling rate down,
compared to 2021-22**



84

**Electric vehicles (EV) can
be charged at the same
time using public chargers
installed by West Suffolk
Council**

Energy delivered to drivers
powered 462,190 miles

Environment and green spaces



6

Green Flags retained

Abbey Gardens, East Town
Park, Brandon Country Park,
Aspal Close & West Stow
Country Park, Nowton Park



1419

**Whips planted and 454
trees during 2022-23**

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Greenhouse gas emissions arising from West Suffolk Council activities

Target: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from West Suffolk Council activity to net zero by 2030. Measured in Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).

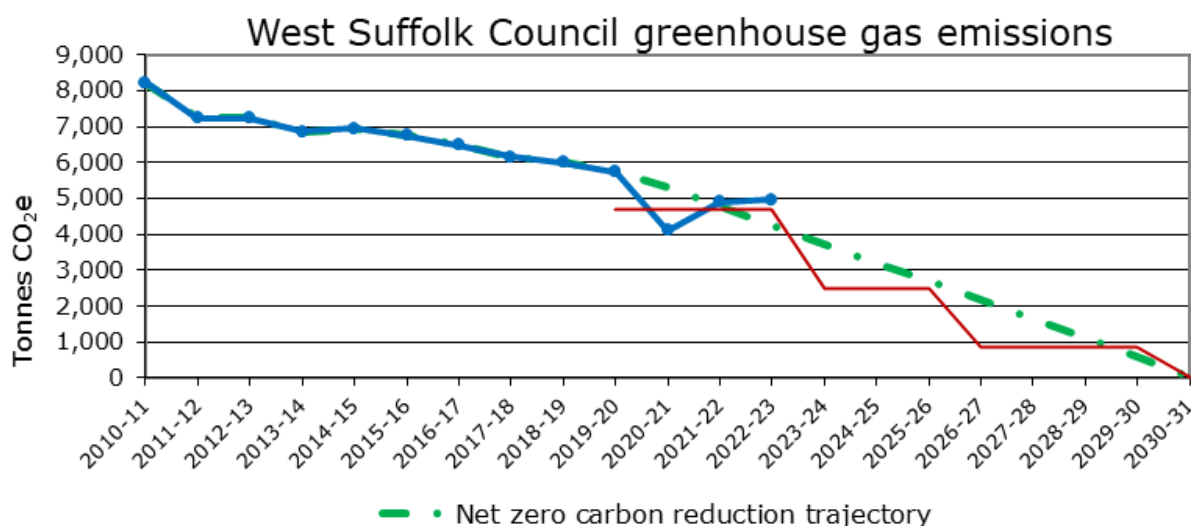
West Suffolk Council and Abbeycroft Leisure	
Baseline emissions 2010	8,215 tonnes CO ₂ e
Annual emissions in 2022-23	4,957 tonnes CO ₂ e

Carbon Dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) is a unit of measurement used to indicate the global warming potential of a greenhouse gas, expressed in terms of the global warming potential of one unit of Carbon Dioxide. It is used to evaluate the releasing (or avoiding releasing) of different greenhouse gases against a common basis.

We include emissions that arise from buildings and transportation. This includes the leisure centres operated by Abbeycroft Leisure (ACL) and other operational buildings such as the Apex; it also includes buildings that we purchase energy for but excludes buildings that we own and are leased to local businesses who pay their own energy bills. The figures do not include the staff commuting journeys to our sites.

Despite an increase in emissions compared to 2020-21 where exceptional circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in building closures and travel restrictions, the combined emissions from WSC and ACL activity has continued to decrease compared to pre-pandemic levels- see Figure 1 below. Total emissions are up 1.4 per cent compared to 2021-22. There has been a 3.9 per cent increase in emissions from council activity and a 3 per cent decrease in emissions from Abbeycroft Leisure compared to 2021-22 – see Figure 2 on the next page. Finally, Figure 3 shows a breakdown of total emissions by source.

Figure 1 – Combined greenhouse gas emissions by year



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Figure 2 – Greenhouse gas emissions by organisation over time

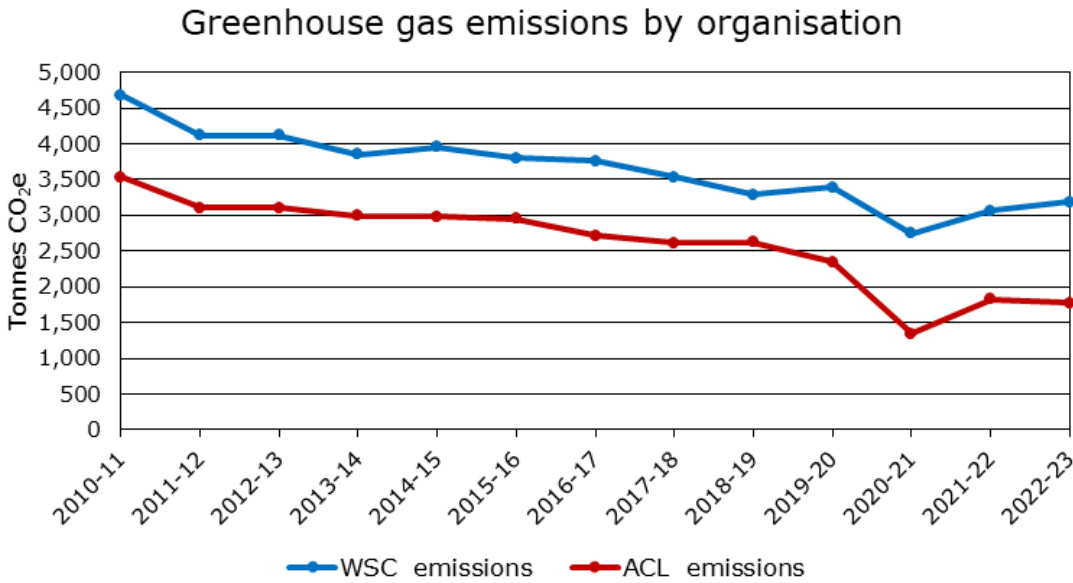
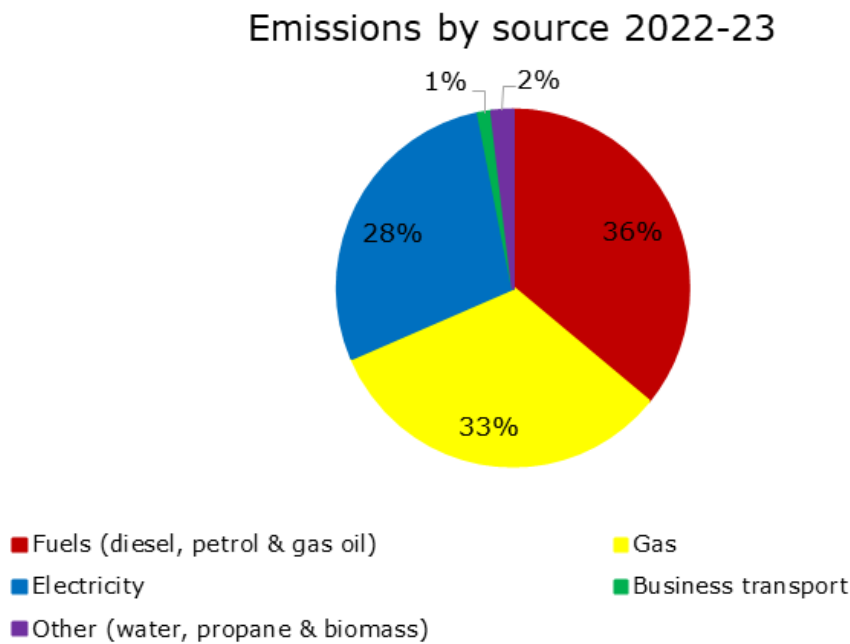


Figure 3 – Total greenhouse gas emissions by source



Notes

The gradual 'decarbonisation' of grid electricity is a key component of the UK emissions reduction targets. Emissions arising from grid supplied electricity dropped by 9 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021 data. Appendix 1 contains information on emission reporting scopes.

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2. Building energy use

Target: Meet the net zero emissions target we need to reduce energy consumption from buildings operated in 2019-20 by 50 per cent by 2025.

West Suffolk Council and Abbeycroft Leisure	
Emissions in 2010	5,436 tonnes CO2e
Emissions in 2022-23	2,955 tonnes CO2e

Emissions arising from all gas, electricity and biomass consumption are included in this section. Biomass is a fuel stock comprised of wood chips. Combined emissions from WSC and ACL buildings have continued to decrease following previous years when excluding 2020-21 due to building closures. In comparison to 2021-22, total emissions from buildings are down by 1.3 per cent and down by 45.6 per cent compared to 2010. Figure 4 shows the overall decrease in emissions over time.

During 2022-23, a significant investment has been made in building decarbonisation measures. The carbon impact should be visible in the 2023-24 reporting. Building improvements range from the 'quick wins' (for example, LED lighting upgrades and energy efficient hand driers) to more substantial investment (such as roof insulation and air source heat pumps). The buildings that have had improvements made are:

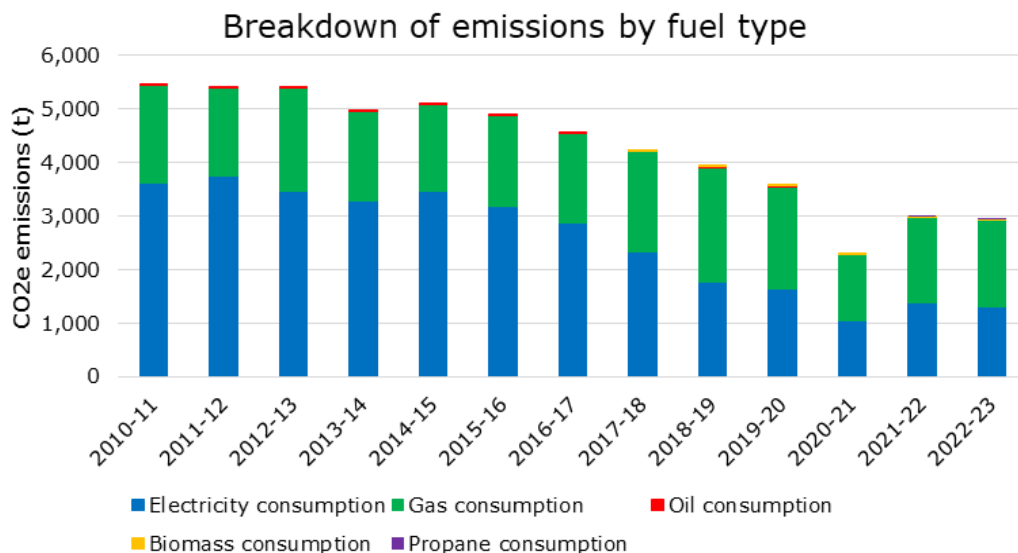
- The Apex
- The Avenue
- The Athenaeum
- Brandon country park bungalow and toilets
- Bury St Edmunds Bus Station
- East Town Park toilets
- Heldhaw Road Changing Rooms
- James Carter Road, Mildenhall
- Lake Avenue Housing
- Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre
- Moyse's Hall
- Nowton Park Lodge Cottage and toilets
- Provincial House
- Rangers Flat, Hardwick Heath
- The Severn Road Enterprise Units
- The Elms, Brandon Housing
- Jubilee Walk toilets
- Ram Meadow toilets
- Recreation Ground toilets
- West Stow Country Park toilets
- West Suffolk House

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This year the Council was awarded Low Carbon Skills Funding to engage with consultants to produce decarbonisation plans for key buildings. The reports represent the initial stage of investigating and prioritising projects to reduce emissions, with a view to completely ending gas consumption at the selected buildings. Further analysis needs to be undertaken to refine the preliminary findings and it is the Council’s aim to apply for more funding in the autumn to carry out decarbonisation works, subject to business cases. Gas consumption at all sites represents 33 per cent of total emissions.

Figure 4 – Emissions from building utility consumption over time



Electric vehicle charging

Additional public charging infrastructure was added to 16 spaces during 2022-23, and significantly more installations for public car parks are planned during 2023-24. The electricity provided to support public charging infrastructure in West Suffolk accounts for 38tCO2.

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3. Renewable energy

Target: Increase the amount of renewable energy generated each year.

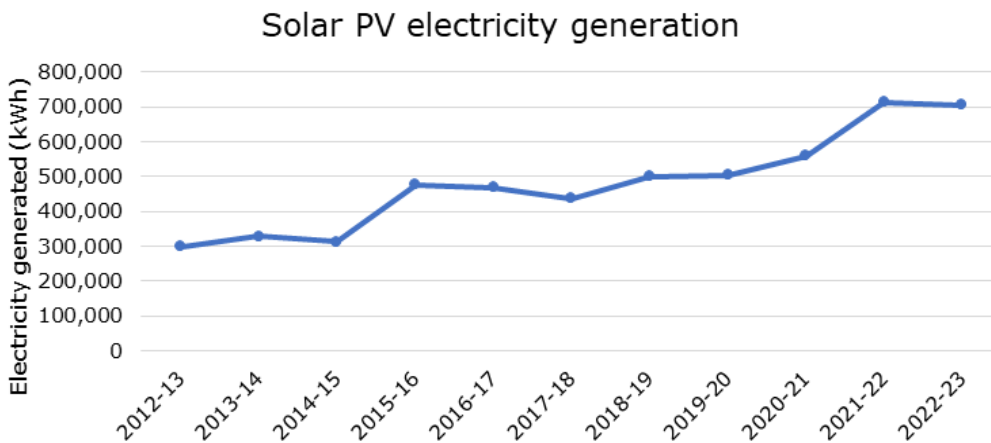
Renewable energy generated	
Baseline generation in 2012-13	300,220kWh
Generation in 2022-23	704,553kWh

The Council has installed solar PV systems to reduce its electricity costs and carbon emissions. The energy generated by all systems installed on council offices, depots and leisure centres is totalled in this section.

The total capacity of the PV systems installed on West Suffolk Council property and leisure centres stands at 1,053 kilowatt peak (kWp) and they generated 704,553 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity during 2022-23, which is enough to power 198 average sized homes for the year. This figure is less than last year due to excluding Mildenhall depot and Mildenhall council offices that are no longer occupied by the council. Additional PV was installed at West Suffolk House, but not until the autumn.

Figure 5 below shows the amount of electricity generated per year which is generally increasing over time.

Figure 5 – Annual renewable electricity generation on council properties



We also install solar PV on third party buildings through our Solar for Business scheme. 2022-23 was a record year for installations, with 1,319 kWp installed, bringing the total to 6,463 kWp. This is not included in our carbon accounting, as electricity is consumed by third parties.

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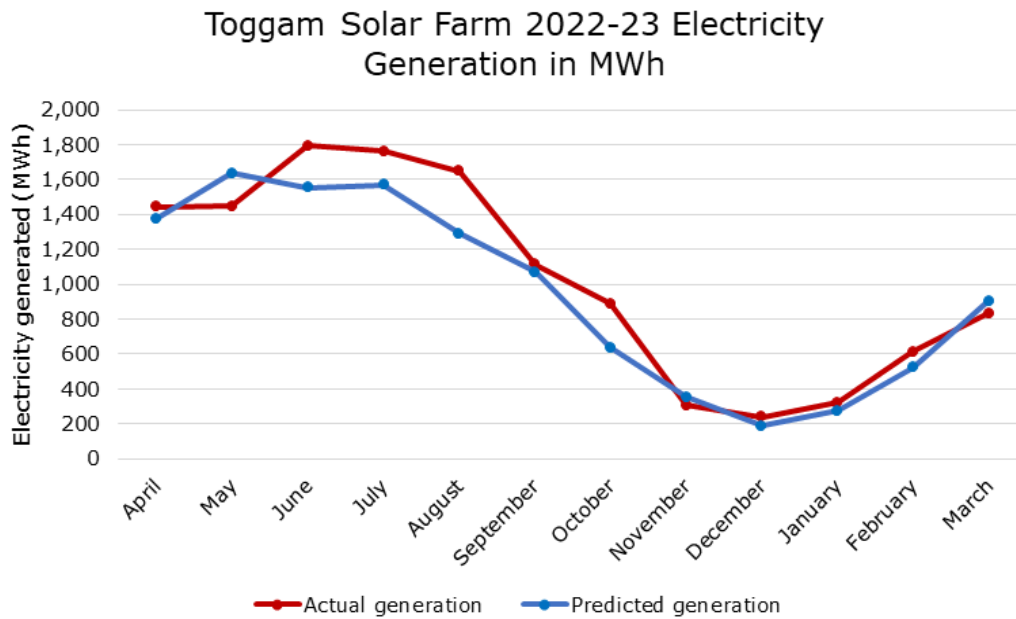
Toggam solar farm

2022-23 was the second-best performing year for the solar farm, with the site producing 12,415 megawatt an hour (MWh) of renewable electricity. The electricity that is sold into the National Grid is enough to power around 3,478 homes and offset the carbon dioxide emissions from 1,581 cars.

Over the last three years the amount generated by the solar farm has created more than £4.6million of income which after costs, has meant that £1.8m has been pumped into public services.

Figure 6 shows the target electricity generation along with actual generation for Toggam Solar Farm in 2022-23.

Figure 6 – Chart showing electricity generation during 2022-23



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Toggam solar farm



4. Fuel use

Target: Reduce the emissions from total fuel consumption from the baseline year in 2010.

Fuel use	
Consumption in 2019-20	773,431 litres
Consumption in 2022-23	711,309 litres

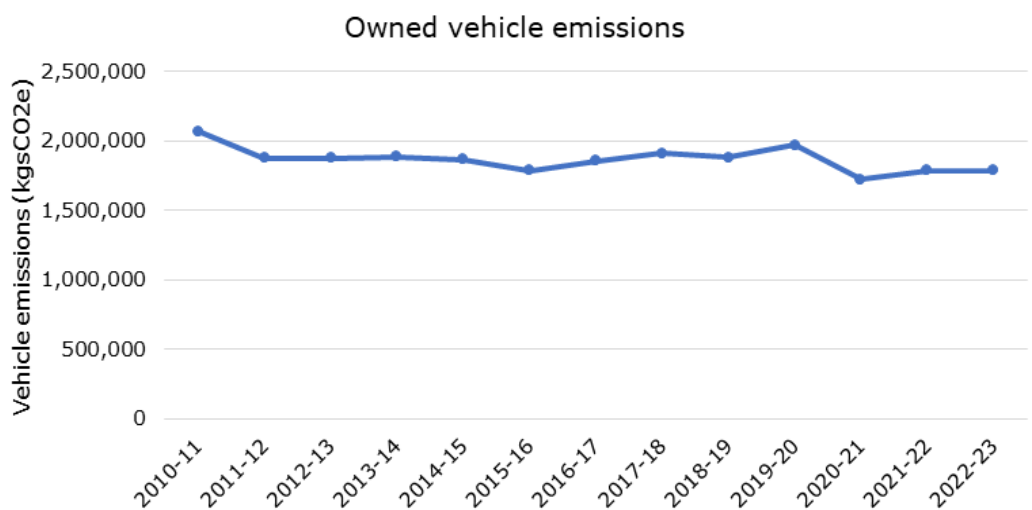
This section includes the total litres of fuel used in, but not limited to, refuse collection vehicles, road sweepers, grounds maintenance vehicles, petrol or diesel bought using fuel cards and industrial mobile machinery.

Total emissions from fuel use remains 8 per cent below the baseline year of 2019-20 and fuel use has decreased marginally by 0.7 per cent compared to 2021-22. There were 74tCO₂e of out-of-scope emissions from fuel use in 2022-23. See Appendix 1 for more details on out-of-scope reporting.

The Council’s electric van has travelled 7,031 miles during 2022-23, producing zero point of use emissions. Driving the electric van has saved 1.6tCO₂e compared to driving the same distance using a similarly sized diesel equivalent.

This year the first wave of orders using a dedicated decarbonisation fund was made for additional electric vehicles starting with four vans and a sweeper for operational staff. Deliveries are expected during 2023-24. A press release containing further details can be found at [West Suffolk Council – A budget to help West Suffolk be greener, healthier, and more prosperous is approved.](#)

Figure 7 – Chart showing owned vehicle emissions by year



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5. Business travel

Target: Reduce the amount of grey fleet miles from the baseline year in 2010. Grey fleet includes vehicles that are owned and used by council employees.

Distance travelled	
Baseline 2010	673,285 miles
Distance travelled in 2022-23	228,863 miles

Business travel includes staff and councillor journeys, pool car use and other owned or leased vehicles. Business travel has increased 7 per cent compared to 2021-22, as shown in Figure 8 below however, the total miles travelled remains 66 per cent lower than the 2010 baseline. Business travel contributed 59tCO₂e to the council’s total emissions. Of the total distance travelled, private car use (grey fleet) increased by 7 per cent and pool car use decreased by 21 per cent compared to 2021-22. During 2022-23, 8 per cent of total staff mileage claims were for journeys taken in a pure electric vehicle and the Council aims to increase this percentage over time.

Although the Council doesn’t own the vehicles used for business mileage, it is responsible for the emissions created from business activity. These emissions are reported in scope three. Appendix 1 contains more details on emissions scopes. The continued use of agile working and technology such as Microsoft Teams has helped to keep staff mileage lower than pre pandemic levels. The council will continue to use these arrangements, helping to minimise emissions from business travel.

Figure 8 – Chart showing business passenger miles travelled



Public transport

Staff used public transport to cover 18,637 miles during 2022-23 which was 380 per cent greater than last year. Use of public transport produced 1,075 kgCO₂e during 2022-23.

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6. Water consumption

Target: Reduce the amount of water used in council activities from the baseline year in 2010.

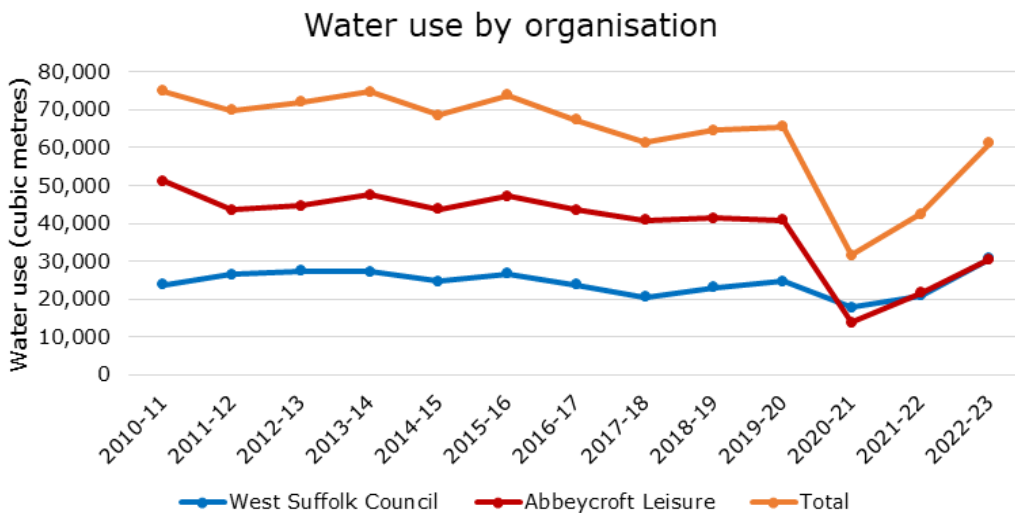
Water consumption (m3)	
West Suffolk Council baseline consumption in 2010	23,827
West Suffolk Council consumption in 2022-23	30,623
Abbeycroft Leisure baseline consumption in 2010	51,076
Abbeycroft Leisure consumption in 2022-23	30,467
Total baseline consumption in 2010	74,903
Total consumption in 2022-23	61,089

This section includes the total of water consumption from all WSC owned and operated properties, as well as those run by ACL. Total water consumption contributed 26tCO2e during 2022-23.

Total water consumption has decreased by 18 per cent compared to the 2010 baseline and consumption has increased by 44 per cent compared to 2021-22.

This is comprised of an increase in water consumption by both WSC and ACL by 47 per cent and 41 per cent respectively. Figure 9 shows the change in total water consumption over time and by organisation. The Council has started to install water saving taps starting with publicly accessible sites to reduce water consumption.

Figure 9 – Chart showing total water consumption by year



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7. Office waste

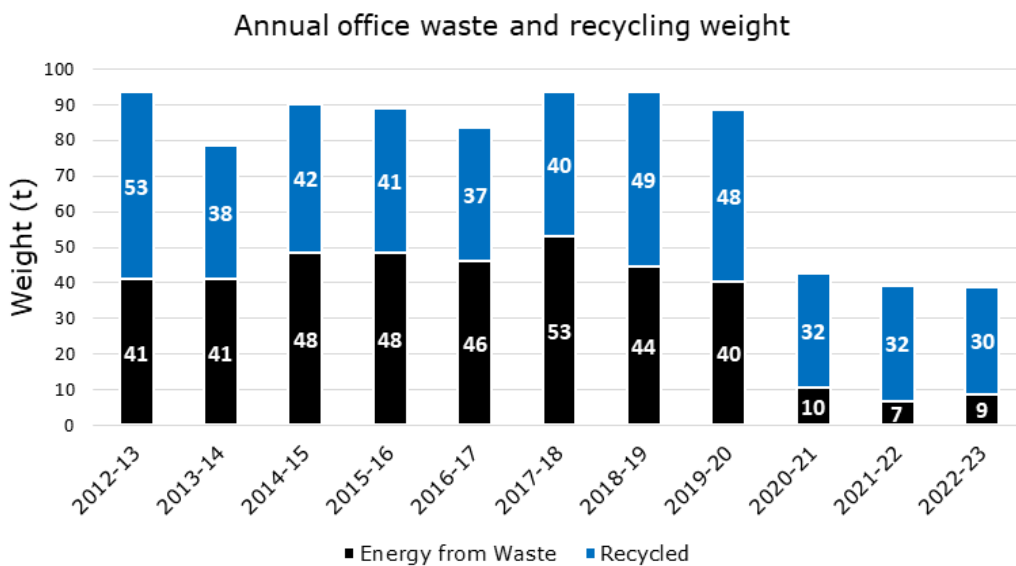
Target: To increase the office waste recycling rate and decrease the total waste arising from council operations from the baseline year 2018.

Waste arisings	Tonnes (t) or percentage
Baseline 2018	93.53t
Waste arisings in 2022-23	38.88t
Recycling rate 2022-23	77.16 per cent

During 2022-23, the total amount of waste generated was 38.88 tonnes. Of this, residual waste accounted for 8.88 tonnes and recycling was 30 tonnes.

Figure 10 shows the proportion of waste recycled compared to that sent to the Energy from Waste (EfW) centre each year. EfW aims to move waste up the waste hierarchy, unlocking useful electricity from waste which would otherwise have gone to landfill. More information on the Suffolk EfW facility can be found at [Suffolk EfW](#).

Figure 10 – Chart showing annual office waste and recycling weights

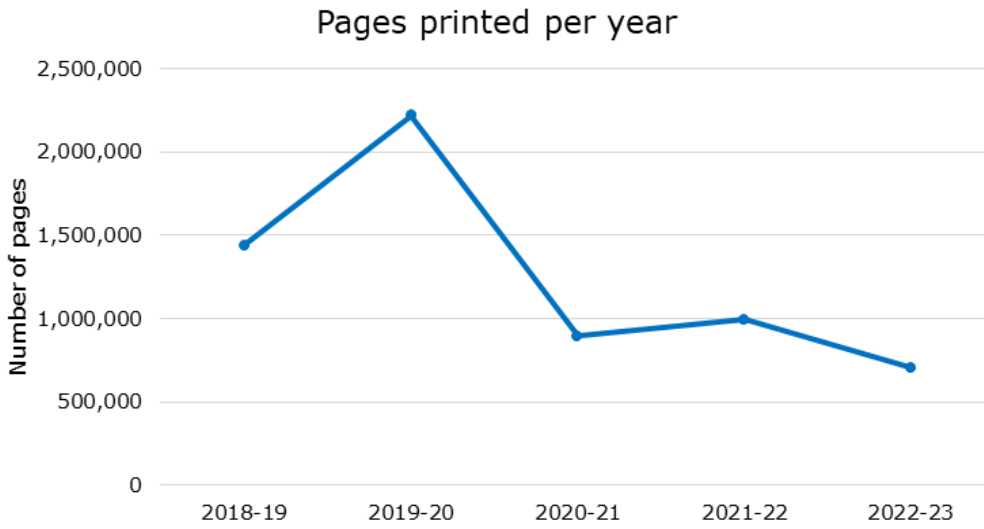


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Office printing

In 2022-23, 703,951 pages were printed. This is a 29 per cent decrease from 2021-22 and is 51 per cent lower than 2018-19.

Figure 11 – Chart showing number of pages printed per year



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8. Biodiversity and parks

Target: Maintain or increase the number of green flag accredited sites compared to the baseline year 2016.

Green flag status

The following sites successfully retained Green Flag accreditation during 2021-22:

- Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds
- Nowton Park, Bury St Edmunds
- East Town Park, Haverhill
- Aspal Close, Mildenhall
- Brandon Country Park, Brandon
- West Stow Country Park.

More information on Green Flag Awards can be found at [Green Flag Award](#).

The number of trees planted in on council owned land was 454 trees and 1419 whips.

Ongoing biodiversity and natural environment programmes

Tree Planting taking place at Nowton Park

Nowton Park is taking part in a project to conserve the nationally rare native Black Poplar tree by growing on cuttings of the Black Poplar clone types found in Suffolk. According to the Forestry Commission, Black poplar (*Populus nigra* ssp. *Betulifolia*) is the most endangered native timber tree in Britain. The tree is beneficial for wildlife being the food plant for moth caterpillars, bees, birds and insects.



48 cuttings of Black Poplar being grown in the walled garden at Nowton Park

In addition to the Black Poplar a variety of other tree species have been planted at Nowton Park including Wild Service Trees (*Sorbus torminalis*), Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Common Walnut (*Juglans regia*) and Japanese Elm (*Zelkova serrata*).

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Habitat and Pond Restoration at Nowton Park

Rangers have been working with Nowton Park volunteers to create a new pond habitat in the Woodland Garden planted with reeds and lilies and to restore the larger Meadow Pond. Together these habitats will help support a variety of wildlife including frogs, dragonflies, water snails, grass snakes, brown carp, moorhen and deer. Meadow Pond would have originally been dug as a cattle pond. It's great for all sorts of wildlife, including toads, frogs, grass snakes, dragonflies, moorhens and much more.



Nowton Park volunteers installing woven fencing at Meadow Pond

Woodland pond



Tree Planting at East Town Park

New sponsored fruit trees have been planted in the Heritage Orchard at East Town Park. The recent additions are the Lord Stradbroke apple discovered by the Earl of Stradbroke's Head Gardener at Henham Hall, Suffolk in about 1900, Coe's Golden Drop plum a very old (C1800) Suffolk bred late dessert plum, and a Bramley apple grafted from the original Bramley tree now over 200 years old.



Willow cutting at East Town Park

Rangers and Park Volunteers carry out conservation work throughout the year to maintain and enhance habitats for wildlife. The volunteers at East Town Park are coppicing willow, which is used for basket weaving, part of the natural heritage of Haverhill.

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Bicycle rack installed in Abbey Gardens

A new cycle rack was installed in October 2022 underneath the Dovecote in the East Gate Nursery area within Abbey Gardens, helping visitors to reduce transport emissions while visiting the park.



Water Meadows Management Plans

We are working in partnership with the Bury Water Meadows Group (BWMG) on the Water Meadows Management Plans. Our partnership with BWMG facilitates the monitoring and improvement of these historic landscape features, engaging the local community and raising public awareness of their importance for nature.



Wildflower signs to show designated spaces that are being left to increase biodiversity

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9. Environmental compliance

Target: No incidents leading to formal action being taken by regulatory bodies.

Target date: Ongoing

The Council continues to maintain environmental permits for two operational sites located in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill, which are used to support the strategic management of West Suffolk’s municipal waste. The Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have carried out regulatory inspections and reported there have been no compliance issues, breaches of the permit conditions or any action required by them in any aspects of the requirements.

We eagerly await the central government reforms to waste collection in England. In the meantime, we continue to work closely with strategic partners to meet the forthcoming challenges and to maintain compliance while ensuring that waste collected is managed in a safe, efficient and cost-effective way.



West Suffolk Council’s first electric street sweeper at work in Haverhill

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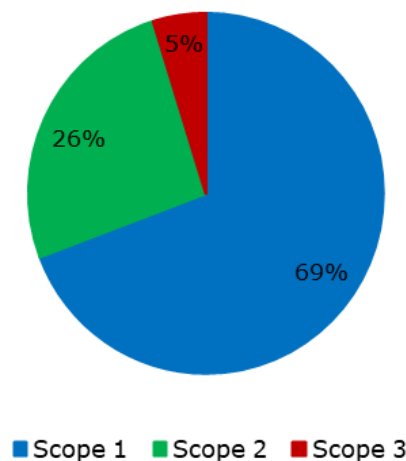
Appendix 1

Emissions scopes

Figure 18 shows the total greenhouse gas emissions by reporting scope. The greatest proportion of emissions originates from Scope 1, referred to as direct emissions; this includes emissions from the consumption of gas and owned transport. Table 2 details where each source of emissions sits within the reporting framework.

Figure 18 – Total emissions by reporting scope

Emissions by scope 2022-23



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Table 2 – Sources of emissions by scope

Emissions scopes	Activity	Emissions
<p>Scope 1 – direct emissions</p> <p>Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under its control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSC gas consumption • WSC owned transport • WSC propane • ACL gas consumption • ACL biomass 	3,434tCO2e
<p>Scope 2 – indirect emissions</p> <p>Emissions from electricity or other energy purchased and used by the organisation. These emissions are created during the production of the energy by another before they are used by the organisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSC purchased electricity • ACL purchased electricity 	1,286tCO2e
<p>Scope 3 – all other indirect emissions</p> <p>All other indirect emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that it does not own or control. The council currently only reports key Scope 3 emissions sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSC purchased electricity transmission and distribution • ACL purchased electricity transmission and distribution • WSC public transport • WSC water consumption and treatment • ACL water consumption and treatment • WSC pool cars • WSC staff and councillor mileage in personal vehicles • WSC use of public transport 	238tCO2e
Total emissions		4,957tCO2e
<p>Emissions per resident</p> <p>Resident population: 179,948 Data source: Suffolk Observatory</p>		27.55KgCO2e/ resident
<p>Out of scope</p> <p>Direct carbon dioxide impact of burning biomass and biofuels where the Scope 1 impact of these fuels has been determined to be net zero – since the fuel source itself absorbs an equivalent amount of CO2e during the growth phase as the amount of CO2e released through combustion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSC fuel consumption with average biofuel blend • WSC biomass use • ACL biomass use 	133tCO2e

Notes

- Out of scope emissions figure included for fuels with biogenic component following SECR guidelines.
- Calculations include floor area apportionment for gas and electricity at Mildenhall Hub.
- Calculations exclude water consumption at Skyliner leisure centre due to metering issues.
- Emissions from streetlighting and public EV charging included for first time.
- The council is working to secure accurate data where omitted and the environmental statement will be updated once data becomes available.

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