



CITY OF
Lincoln
COUNCIL

Together, let's deliver
Lincoln's ambitious future



Environmental Performance Report 2021/22



Introduction:

Background

The City of Lincoln Council has a strong track record when it comes to reducing our environmental impact and addressing the challenges of climate change. In April 2007 the Council produced a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan (CM SIP) to identify and plan a series of initiatives to reduce the City of Lincoln Council's (CoLC's) Carbon Dioxide emissions by 20% over the next 5 years based on 2005/06 levels. Over this period the council delivered a range of planned carbon emission reduction projects and was able to exceed this target, reducing emissions by 38% over 5 years. Overseen by an internal working group, which continues today as the Climate Change Vision Group.

The Council has prioritised addressing the challenges of climate change in previous Corporate Strategic Plans since 2008 addressing a wide range of environmental issues and acting as community leader to coordinate climate action across the city. The Council set up the Low Carbon Lincoln partnership in 2012, worked with our partners to develop the Low Carbon Lincoln Action Plan. The group was relaunched in 2019 as the Lincoln Climate Commission with representatives from the public, private and community sectors. In September 2022 the Lincoln Climate Commission approved the [Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan](#).

There are 47 Local Wildlife Sites, making up 740 hectares and account for 21% of the land in the City of Lincoln administrative boundary and protected from development in our Local Plan.

Since 2008 we have been gradually increasing the number of Electric Vehicle Charge Points in city council owned car parks for use by commuters, visitors as well as residents with limited access to off road parking at home. As of July 2022 Lincoln is in the top 15% of Local Authority areas in England for provision of EV charge points with 71 EVCPs per 100 000 population.¹, Citywide reduction of carbon emissions of 42% since 2005 baseline year.²

Continuous Improvement

On the 23rd July 2019 the council agreed a motion declaring a Climate and Environmental Emergency. The motion includes a commitment for Lincoln to achieve a net zero carbon target by 2030.

In August 2020 the Council's Environmental Management System was submitted to Investors in the Environment (iE) for official audit. In September 2020 Investors in the Environment announced that the City of Lincoln Council has achieved the Silver level accreditation with a score of 74%. During 2021 the Council has reviewed and updated its Environmental Policy, carried out an employee travel survey and updated our Employee Travel Plan, prepared a draft Decarbonisation Plan and worked with the Lincoln Climate Commission to prepare a Lincoln 2030 A Climate Action Plan.

This document is updated on an annual basis in order to demonstrate on-going progress and continuous improvement. This report demonstrates our journey towards net zero carbon, where we are now and where we want to be, not just to demonstrate our environmental progress, but to fulfil our duty to protect and enhance the environment for the benefit of our residents.

Angela Andrews . Chief Executive – City of Lincoln Council

¹ [Electric vehicle charging device statistics: July 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

² [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Organisational Structure

Vision 2025 Strategic Plan

This document sets out what we want to achieve over the next five years and how we are going to achieve it. This is the second phase of our long-term vision for Lincoln by 2030 and follows on from the success of Vision 2020. The strategic priorities that support Vision 2025 are:

- Let's drive inclusive economic growth
- Let's reduce all kinds of inequality
- Let's deliver quality housing
- Let's enhance our remarkable place
- Let's address the challenge of climate change

These are underpinned by the One Council programme and reinforced by our core values, which govern our approach to everything we do.

Weblink:- [Vision 2025 Strategic Plan](#)

Corporate Management Team (CMT)

The Council's CMT consists of the Chief Executive, Strategic Director for communities and Environment, Strategic Director for Housing and Investment and Strategic Director for Major Developments who is our CMT Climate Champion.

Lincoln Climate Commission

The Lincoln Climate Commission emerged from a collaboration with the City of Lincoln Council, Siemens, Transition Lincoln and the University of Lincoln. Since then the group has expanded to include the valuable input from a range of businesses, organisations and community representatives who wish to work together to make a positive choice on issues relating to energy, carbon, weather and climate. The Lincoln Climate Commission is part of the wider Place-Based Climate Action Network.

The value of the Climate Commission is its ability to harness the collective energy, vision and ambition of key stakeholders across Lincoln and Lincolnshire to deliver a step-change in its response to the climate emergency.

In September 2020 the Commission approved the Lincoln Roadmap to net Zero Carbon by 2030 and throughout 2022 has been working together to produce Lincoln 2030 A Climate Action Plan. Lincoln 2030 was formally adopted by the Lincoln Climate Commission on the 5th of September 2022 and published on the commission and City of Lincoln Council websites

Weblink:- [Lincoln Climate Commission | Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan](#)

Remarkable Place Portfolio Holder

Councillor Bob Bushell is the Council Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place and holds responsibility for championing and driving environmental progress at the Council at the highest level. The portfolio holder receives monthly portfolio briefings which include an update on climate change, which is a standing item on the agenda.

Climate Change Vision Group

The Climate Change vision group is responsible for supporting the Council's Investors in the Environment Scheme, along with a range of priority climate actions as part of the council's Vision 2025 priorities. The Group consists of representatives from all service areas within the Council and are responsible for encouraging environmental behavioural change and delivering carbon reduction projects within their service areas.

Internal Communication and Engagement

City People (Intranet)

The Council's Intranet site contains information on Climate Vision initiatives including the Environmental Policy, the Climate Vision Group Team and monitoring table, employee Travel Plan, the Council's latest Environmental Performance Summary report, and guidance on Sustainable living and office recycling. Employees can find out who their service area representative is on the Climate Change Vision group.

In July 2021 a new MS 365 SharePoint [Zero Carbon Lincoln - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](https://sharepoint.com) has been set up with all the documents related to the council's zero carbon journey in preparation for when City People will be transferred to SharePoint and all staff transition to MS 365.

Councillors Briefing

City Councillors receive a fortnightly email briefing, which regularly includes updates on the Council's environmental performances as well as new and initiatives on Climate actions.

Assistant Directors and Service managers updates

The Council's Assistant Directors and Service Managers are updated on a quarterly basis on the Council's V2025 Climate Action Plan.

Weekly CX update

Chief Executive sends a weekly email update and this regularly includes information on the council's environmental performance, staff surveys etc.

Your Lincoln

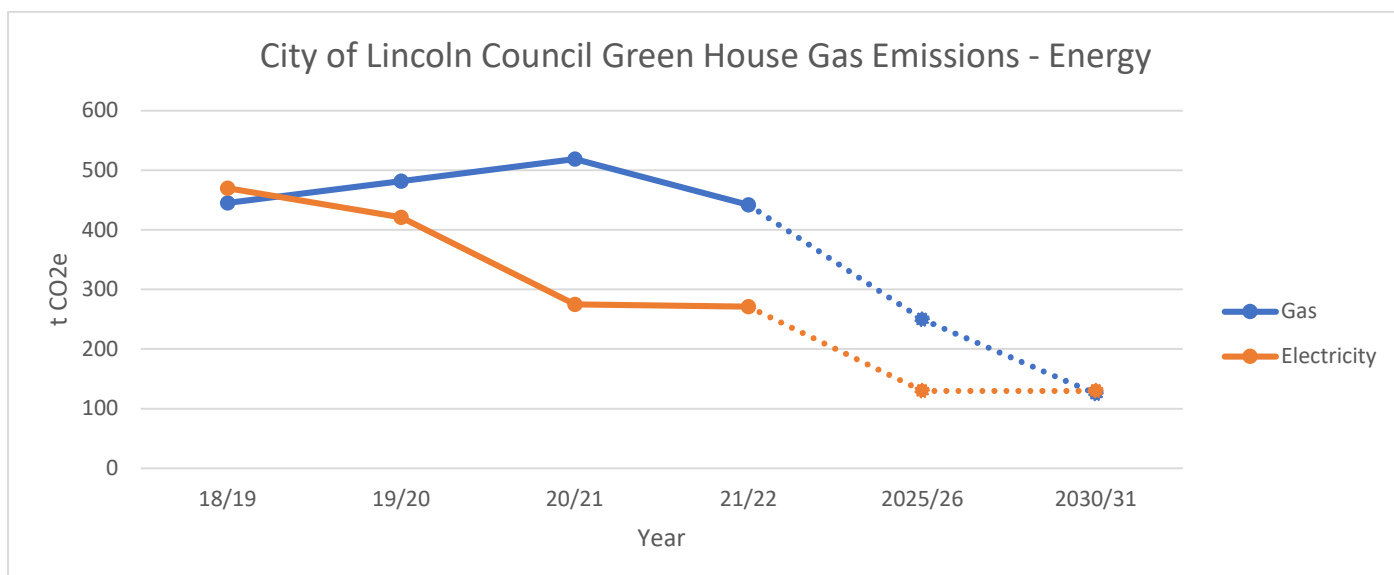
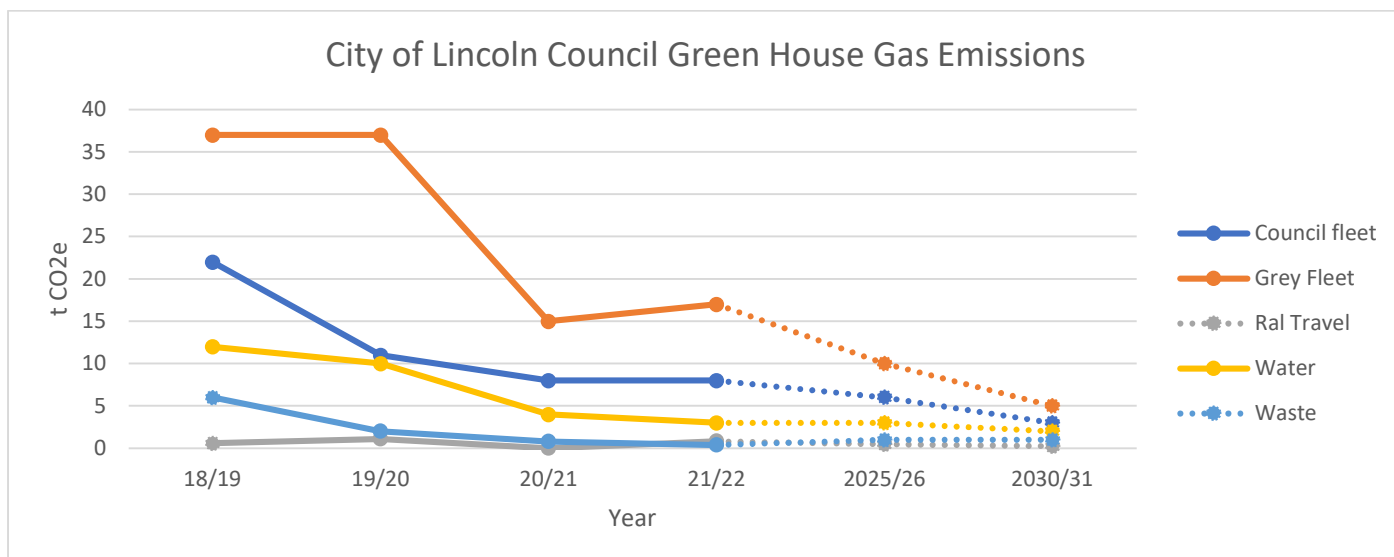
The Council's news magazine is distributed to residents of Lincoln 3 times a year and this is used to share information on climate action and environmental news to our residents, in addition to social media, Lincoln Climate Commission quarterly newsletter.

Environmental Policy:

The Council's Environmental Policy demonstrates a top-level commitment to sustainability. The Environmental Policy is reviewed annually and is signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, along with contact details for the Council's Climate Change Manager. A copy of the Environmental Policy is available on the Council's Intranet and Zero Carbon Lincoln SharePoint site along with guidance on how to apply the policy and access to additional training for staff and councillors. The full Environmental Policy is located on our website [Environmental Policies – City of Lincoln Council](#) and can be viewed in Appendix A.

Targets

The Council have a strong track record of delivering CO₂e emission reductions and financial savings. There have been significant reductions in emissions over time against both the target and business as usual (BAU) scenarios. Since our first baseline year was set in 2008/9 CO₂e emissions reduced by 36% by 2020, against a target of 20% by 2020. The current reduction trend sets a solid foundation upon which to aim for carbon neutrality. Due to changes in the Council's operations and services we set a new baseline year in 2018/19, since then CO₂e emissions have reduced by 31% overall and a breakdown of emission reductions and projections up until 2030 are shown in the following graphs.



Overall green house gas emissions have reduced across a range of council owned and managed buildings as well as our operations since 2018/19. This is with the exception of our public buildings due to a significant increase in gas consumption at the Council's Crematorium between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The Council's 50 year old Crematorium underwent a major refurbishment in 2021/2022 and the gas consumption for the building reduced by 20% between 2020/21 and 21/22. This is despite an increase in usage of the building over this period.

Monitoring Resources:

The iiE scheme requires the Council's 'resources' to be monitored regularly. Three resources are mandatory being gas, electricity and water use and there needs to be three additional chosen resources. Each resource must have a minimum target of 2% set against it, but iiE recognises that it may not be possible to achieve these targets on an on-going basis and annual progress and previous achievements will be taken into consideration. All of the resources are reported in the Council's [Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan](#).

The chosen resources are listed below with an explanation of how each nominated resource is used within the council, a table showing the annual consumption and CO2e data and a summary of the achievements to date.

- Gas consumption(kWh)
- Electricity consumption(kWh)
- Water consumption (M3)
- General waste and recycling produced (kg)
- Council vehicle fleet (miles)
- Grey Fleet (miles)
- Train Journeys (km)
- Paper Consumption has been included for the first time in the 2021/22 report.

Gas Consumption

The Council owns several buildings which use gas as a main form of space heating and hot water. For recording and monitoring purposes the buildings are split into council buildings and public buildings. Council buildings include City Hall as the main administrative building for the Council and shared with the DWP and various charities and organisations. Public buildings include the Central Market and the City Crematorium. Gas consumption for our public buildings is unpredictable due to the marked variation of usage throughout the year.

The buildings are listed in Appendix C with monthly consumption expressed as KWh and Green House Gas Emissions expressed as Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO2e) emissions. The building's gas meters are all automated and readings are provided by Total Gas and Power once a month and uploaded onto a spreadsheet which is available to staff to help monitor consumption throughout the year. The Council also monitor gas consumption in our outsourced buildings such as community and leisure centres and work with organisations occupying the building to identify and deliver projects to reduce gas consumption and CO2e emissions.

Gas Target – Reduce CO2 emissions from gas consumed on site by 2%.

The following table shows gas consumption and Green House Gas (CO2e) emissions for council office buildings and public buildings.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		21/22	
	kWh	tCO2e	kWh	tCO2e	kWh	tCO2e	kWh	tCO2e
Council Office Buildings	1,274,153	234	1,201,325	221	1,546,457	278	1,372,252	247
Council public buildings	1,203,271	221	1,679,237	309	1,409,86	258	1,192,277	214
Total	2,477,424	456	2,743,100	530	2,956,244	541	2,564,529	461

Priority actions to further reduce CO2e emissions from gas consumption are available in the Decarbonisation Action Plan 2020-2030.

Achievements

During 2021/22 total gas consumption has reduced by 13% and CO2e by 14% on the previous year resulting in . This is largely as a result of significant reductions of gas consumption at City Hall and the Crematorium. Between October 2020 and March 2021 City Hall had unusually high gas consumption which returned to more normal levels during this same period in 2021/22. Data also shows that temperatures during Oct to December were 0.7 degeed higher compared to the same period in 2020³

The Central Market remained open and operational throughout 2021/22 with most traders opening their stalls again following periods of lockdown in 2020/21. However ongoing issues with the gas heating has resulted in increased gas consumption over recent years. In July 2022 the Central Market has been closed for refurbishment, works will include improved insulation and low carbon heating. As a result of the works gas consumption will significantly reduce during 22/23 and will switch to electric heating from 2023 onwards significantly reducing CO2e.

Despite the increased usage of the Crematorium compared to the previous year, gas consumption reduced by 20%, this is due to a new second chapel being built during 2020 and major refurbishment work taking place in the main chapel during 2021. Works included replacing the old cremators with new more efficient cremators. The full CO2e benefit of the works should be evident during 22/23.

Further details of the Central Market and Crematorium improvement works are included in the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan.

Total CO2e increase since the 18/19 baseline year for gas – 1%

Electricity Consumption

Electricity consumption in Council's office buildings is mostly used for lighting, lifts, IT equipment and supporting infrastructure as well as air conditioning units in the IT server room. In the council's public buildings electricity is mostly used for heating and lighting.

The building's electricity meters are automated and readings are provided by Total Gas and Power once a month and uploaded onto a spreadsheet which is available to staff to help monitor consumption

³ [ET 7.1 AUG 22.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

throughout the year. The Council also monitor electricity consumption in our outsourced buildings such as community and leisure centres and work with organisations occupying the building to identify and deliver projects to reduce gas consumption and CO2e emissions.

Electricity Target – Reduce CO2e emissions from electricity generated off site and consumed by 2%.

The following table shows electricity consumption and Green House Gas (CO2e) emissions for council office buildings and public buildings.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		2021/22	
	kWh	kg CO2e	kWh	kg CO2e	kWh	kg CO2e	kWh	Kg CO2e
Council Office buildings	618,352	175	621,178	159	473,855	110	481,169	93
Council Public buildings	1,064,945	301	1,054,692	270	837,722	195	935,634	181
TOTAL	1,683,298	476	1,675,870	306	1,311,577	298	1,416,803	274

Priority actions to further reduce CO2e emissions from electricity consumption can be viewed in the Decarbonisation Action Plan 2020-2030.

Achievements

Council Office Buildings

During 2021/22 electricity consumption has increased at City Hall by 2% on the previous year, however due to the decarbonisation of the electricity supply nationally this has actually resulted in a 15% reduction in CO2e. The increase in electricity consumption has been due to employees returning to working in the office throughout 21/22 compared to the previous year. However the transition to more agile working has enabled a significant reduction in the number of physical IT servers and the need for air conditioning units for the Server room.

Council Public Buildings

During 2021/22 electricity consumption has increased for the council public buildings by 10% on the previous year as all buildings returned to normal occupancy rate during this year. With the exception of the Crematorium which reduced by 15% consumption as a result of refurbishment works which took place during 2020/21 with the internal and external car park lighting upgraded to LEDs.

Total CO2e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for electricity – 42%

Water Consumption

Water consumption in Council’s office and public buildings is mostly used in kitchens and toilets. Due to water meters not being automated, readings are taken manually on a quarterly basis.

The Council also monitor water consumption in our outsourced buildings such as community and leisure centres and work with organisations occupying the building to identify and deliver projects to reduce water consumption and CO2e emissions.

Target - Reduce CO2e emissions from electricity generated off site and consumed by 2%.

The following table shows water consumption and Green House Gas (CO2e) emissions for council office and public buildings.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		21/22	
	M3	kg CO2e	M3	kg CO2e	M3	kg CO2e	M3	kg CO2e
Council Office buildings	7398	7783	6602	6945	6023	2536	2899	1220
Council Public buildings	3704	3897	2636	2773	2429	1022	3840	1617
TOTAL	11,102	11679	9238	9718	8452	3558	6739	2837

Consumption and CO2e emissions in council office buildings reduced by 52%. Water consumption in Council’s public buildings increased by 37%, this was partly due to a significant increase in water consumption at the Crematorium due to construction works. There was also a 48% increase in water consumption at Hartsholme Country Pak as a result of increased visitor numbers to both the park and caravan site.

Total CO2e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for water – 76%

General waste and recycling

Waste and recycling is produced from council offices the volume of waste is recorded on a monthly basis. The volume of waste and recycling is also recorded and monitored at community centres, public buildings, parks, however this is outside the scope of the council’s environmental management system and therefore not included in the council’s total waste figures or CO2e emissions.

In order to encourage recycling of waste in council office buildings all kitchen areas are provided with a separate glass bin and combined plastic/cans recycling bin. All offices have a paper recycling bin (confidential waste) and shared general waste bin. Individual general waste bins have been removed to encourage staff to use the recycling bins provided. Our Caretakers regularly monitor general waste bins and remind staff if they identify recycling bins are not being used. Posters and stickers are located in communal areas to remind staff what materials they can put in the bins.

A waste audit carried out in September 2022 revealed that the communal recycling bins were being used with minimal evidence of contamination. A copy of the audit can be viewed in Appendix C under the tab ‘Sep 2022 Waste Audit’. The audit will be repeated in Autumn 2023.



The Council have a waste and recycling contract with Biffa, dry mixed recyclable waste is collected from various council buildings and taken to the material recycling facility sorting plant (MRF) in Lincoln depot where mixed recyclables are sorted into single waste streams. The plastic bottles are sent to Biffa's plastic bottle sorting facility in Aldridge in the West Midlands. Aluminium and steel cans go through a 60 day closed loop recycling process, cans are sorted, crushed and bailed at the Lincoln MRF and the sent to a polishing plant in Derby.

Confidential paper from all remote council office sites are collected weekly by the caretakers and brought to City Hall. Paper waste is then collected from City Hall by Restore datashred where it is taken to be shredded at a facility in Rugby before being baled and sent for onward recycling back to paper based products.

General waste materials are sent to the Energy from Waste Plant in North Hykeham, located 5 miles from our City Hall site in Lincoln.

Target - Reduce general waste produced in council buildings by 2%.

In 2021/22 the total volume of waste and recycling reduced by 44% and the CO2e from waste and recycling reduced by 42%. In 2021/22 recycling made up 34% of waste, this reduced from 51% in 2020/21

Council Office buildings	18/19		19/20		20/21		2021/22	
	Weight kg	kg CO2e	Weight kg	kg CO2e	Weight kg	kg CO2e	Weight kg	kg CO2e
Glass	4	82	1	20	1	20	0.15	3
Dry Mixed recyclables	49	1052	23	484	14	291	3	66
Confidential Waste	158	3382	19	404	4	84	2	37
Total recycled	211	4516	43	908	19	395	5.15	106
General Waste	64	1370	30	631	21	450	15	309
TOTAL	275	5887	72	1539	40	844	20.15	415

Achievements

The total amount of waste produced in council office buildings has further reduced by 49% since 2020/21. This is mostly due to changing working patterns where a significant number of employees combine office and home working.

Communication on recycling has been limited throughout 2021/22, due to limited capacity within the Council's communications team. In 2022 a new communications officer with responsibility for climate change and environmental issues was appointed and a communications plan has been prepared to increase internal communications. New posters were placed above recycling bins providing clear information on where staff need to put recyclable waste. The 2022 waste audit showed recycling bins were being used correctly and that bins are emptied regularly to reduce the need for using the wrong bins due to lack of space.

In addition, we have started collating data on the amount of paper used, as this information is available via the photocopiers. They have now been set up to send monthly data to Directorate administration teams who are now responsible for recording and monitoring paper consumption.

Total CO2e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for waste – 86%

Target – Reduce the amount of paper usage by 2% from 2021/22 onwards.

Total Paper Usage	2021.22	
	Volume	Kg CO2e
No of Sheets	592692	
Tonnes	0.38	353

Council vehicle fleet



The Council’s vehicle fleet is made up of 84 vehicles and include small diesel cars and vans, the majority of the council’s fleet is made up of short wheel-based diesel vans, used to carry out housing repairs to just under 8000 council homes. In addition the council have an electric van used by our parking services team.

Target - Reduce vehicle fleet mileage by 2%.

In 2021/22 vehicle fleet mileage reduced by 23% compared to the previous year and 44% compared to the 18/19 baseline year.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		21/22	
	Miles	tCO2e	Miles	tCO2e	Miles	tCO2e	Miles	tCO2e
Fleet Vans	551800	207	394155	159	301763	117	335447	80
Fleet Cars	30564	11	31862	16	24005	5	13922	3
Total	582364	218	426017	175	325768	122	355899	83

Achievements

In early 2020 the Council carried out a successful trial of area based housing repair work and in Summer 2020 this was introduced across the whole housing repair service resulting in significant reduction in vehicle miles and fuel consumption. During the lockdown from March to May 2020 housing repairs were reduced to a minimum, essential repairs only service. At this time housing repair operatives were diverted to other Covid emergency response tasks such as setting up testing sites, delivering food parcels to vulnerable households and providing a telephone befriending service. Therefore depending on the task some staff increased or decreased their mileage during this time.

Throughout 2021/22 the council continued to improve the efficiency of their working practices adopting an area based housing repair schedules which has continued to result in a reduction of vehicle mileage and emissions.

The Council's electric van, which is used by our parking services team used 16% of CO2e emissions when compared to the same distance for a small diesel fuelled van. The Council's housing repair team have reviewed the lease contract and in April 2022 have replaced the diesel cars with ultra low emission vehicles and have switched the vans to a combination of petrol and the most efficient diesel available on the market. The availability of equivalent ULEV vans that can cover the required range currently isn't available however these will be considered for the next lease in 2025/26. In 2022 the Council have also replaced the civic car, used by the mayor for civic visits, to an electric vehicle.

Total CO2e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for council fleet – 62%

Grey Fleet (council business miles)

A number of staff use their own vehicles to carry out council work, this could be attending site visits within the city boundary or meetings in and outside the city. A record of mileage claims are recorded on a monthly basis.

Target - Reduce grey vehicle fleet mileage by 2%.

In 2021/22 the council's grey fleet miles reduced by 32% on the 2018/19 baseline year.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		21/22	
	Miles	t CO2e	Miles	tCO2e	Miles	tCO2e	Miles	tCo2e
Grey fleet	129,414	37	131,999	38	55,477	15	90,723	25

Achievements

The reduction of grey fleet miles in 2020/21 was largely due to many staff working from home on a full time basis, switching to virtual meetings and even site visits, i.e. Building Control Officer carried out virtual site visits during periods of national lockdown. Due to the return of a small number of in person meetings and site visits there has been a 40% increase in grey fleet miles, however this remains significantly below pre pandemic levels. The transition to online working was helped by the introduction of MS 365 to many mobile staff in late 2019 and the remaining staff being transferred throughout 2020. As a result staff continue to attend virtual meetings, training courses and conferences and some of the reduction in mileage is expected to be maintained in future years.

Total CO2e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for council fleet – 43%

Rail Journeys

Pre Covid many Council staff travel by rail to attend meetings, conferences or training courses and the council keep a record and monitor rail mileage and CO2e emissions.

Target - Reduce rail travel by 2%.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		2021/22	
	Miles	kg CO2e	Miles	kg CO2e	Miles	kg CO2e	Miles	kg CO2e
Rail travel	36254	1604	27813	1145	0	0	2359	84

The reason for including a target for rail travel is due to the Carbon emissions and opportunity to replace some rail journeys with virtual events and online meetings, reducing CO2e emissions and achieving a financial saving for the council. However due to the reduced CO2e emissions from rail travel compared to the same distance for an individual to travel by car, where staff need to attend meetings in person they will be encouraged to travel by public transport where possible.

Carbon Reduction Pathways to achieve a net zero target.

The Council has set an ambitious target to be net zero carbon in all its buildings operations and services by 2030. To achieve this ambitious target, it is necessary to break decarbonisation down into the following six manageable pathways to identify the key actions required.

Decarbonisation Pathway	What does this cover?	Emissions %
Heat	Decarbonising space and water heating (and cooling) in CoLC's buildings will be part of a wider transition away from a national heating system based on a standardised gas grid. It is very early in this transition but it seems clear that the switch will not be to a single technology, but involve a range of alternatives such as district heating networks, heat pumps, hydrogen and solar thermal to fit local circumstances.	38%
Transport	Direct transport includes all work related travel by CoLC employees, whether in their own, or in CoLC fleet, vehicles or by public transport. This also covers indirect transport such as the refuse fleet vehicles owned and operated by a contractor to deliver a council service.	37%
Electricity	This transition is now well underway, with the grid becoming increasingly green as a variety of forms of renewable power are installed (solar, wind, hydro). Energy efficiency is also improving, with the council making substantial investments in energy efficiency throughout its buildings. Low carbon electricity will also play a key area in decarbonising other areas such as heating and transport, placing pressure on supply.	24%
Waste	This pathway focuses on waste from council offices and depots as well as waste generated by the public at council owned and managed sites such as Hartsholme County Park. Public behaviour has a large impact on the volume and type of waste entering our waste system. Not just at the point of waste disposal, but in consumer choices made prior to this. Waste that is not recycled is converted to energy, at the Energy from Waste facility at North Hykeham.	0.08%
Built Environment	The Council has some influence on Lincoln's built environment, through the building, renovation, repair and remodelling of over 7000 council homes. The Council is also the Planning Authority for Lincoln and has a joint Central Lincolnshire Local Plan with an ability to influence carbon neutral planning policy.	NA
Natural Environment	There are 47 Local Wildlife Sites, making up 740 hectares and account for 21% of the land in the City of Lincoln administrative boundary. The	-2%

	<p>natural environment plays an important role in decarbonisation, removing emissions from the atmosphere, these negative emissions are crucial to achieving carbon neutrality. In addition, as land owner the council is responsible for substantial carbon stocks already captured, grasslands, wetlands, trees and soil are the main natural carbon stores in the city.</p>	
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In December 2021 the Council approved the Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2026), which has been published on the Council’s website is due to be approved by the Council’s Executive in October 2021. The purpose of the plan is to describe how the City of Lincoln Council intends to replace fossil fuel reliant systems with low carbon alternatives (e.g. Electric Vehicles, renewable energy). To meet the challenge of net zero, the Council will need to decarbonise its buildings and transport over the next 8 years. The plan is reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis to monitor the Council’s performance and clearly set out what the Council has already done, what it is currently doing, what it plans to do in the future to achieve our net zero target.

A copy of the Council’s draft Decarbonisation Plan is here [Zero Carbon Lincoln – City of Lincoln Council](#)

City of Lincoln Council’s Environmental Projects

In addition to monitoring the Council’s own environmental performance we are also delivering a range of environmental projects throughout the City, working with our community to deliver a citywide net zero target. The following projects are a summary of the Council’s community environmental actions.

Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure.

Since 2006 the City of Lincoln Council have been installing electric vehicles charge points in Council owned and managed car parks to gradually increase electric vehicle infrastructure to meet the growing demand from residents, commuters and visitors to the City. Currently seven of the city council car parks provide charge points ranging from 7kW to 50kW and are accessible 24/7. Residents without access to off road parking can purchase reduced price parking permits, enabling them to park free of charge overnight to charge their vehicles. As of July 2022 Lincoln has 71 publicly available EV chargers and is in the top 15% local authority areas with the highest provision per 100 000 population in the UK⁴

Sustainable Warmth Programme

In 2018 the City Council launched the Lincs 4 warmer homes scheme, along with a consortium of Local Authorities in Greater Lincolnshire, to support households living in fuel poverty. The consortium was able to secure funding from the Warm Homes Fund and jointly provided additional funding for an administrator to provide advice to householders on grants available and provide ongoing support throughout the application and installation process. The scheme has provided support for 150 homes with the installation of a range of energy efficiency measures. In 2021 the Council secured additional funding to deliver the Green Homes Grant and installed energy efficient measures in 32 homes by the end of 2021 and have a target to improve 200 households in 2022.

⁴ [Electric vehicle charging device statistics: July 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

More information about the scheme can be found on the Council's website [Green and sustainable living – City of Lincoln Council](#)

Lincoln Climate Commission

In 2019 the City of Lincoln Council set up the Lincoln Climate Commission, since then the group has expanded to include the valuable input from a range of businesses, organisations and community representatives who wish to work together to make a positive choice on issues relating to energy, carbon, weather and climate.

The value of the Climate Commission is its ability to harness the collective energy, vision and ambition of key stakeholders across Lincoln and Lincolnshire to deliver a step-change in its response to the climate emergency.

In September 2020 the Commission approved and published the [Lincoln Roadmap to net Zero Carbon by 2030](#) as well as the [Lincoln Sustainability Toolkit](#) providing a one stop guide to all things sustainable. It includes everything from saving energy to reducing plastics at home. Learn about local cycle routes and how to easily transition from carbon consumer to carbon saver.

During 2021 the commission organised a range of practical workshops and online events to engage the community in climate action. On the 27th of September 2021 the Commission hosted the Lincoln Roadmap to net Zero event, which is part of a UK wide tour to promote the UN Climate Conference to be held in Glasgow in November 2021.

Throughout Spring and Summer 2022 the commission worked with the community to prepare the Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan which was adopted by the commission on the 5th of September 2022 and published on the Council and commission websites.

[Zero Carbon Lincoln – City of Lincoln Council](#)
[Lincoln Climate Commission |](#)

Plastic Free Lincoln

A member of the Council's small business support team and a City Councillor sits on the Plastic free Lincoln steering group and is supporting the group to achieve plastic free status for the city. In September 2019 the Council passed a motion to become a single use plastic free council and has since carried out an audit and prepared an action plan which is updated quarterly.

<https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/environmental-issues/green-sustainable-living-1/5?documentId=346&categoryId=90>

Lincoln rewilding projects

In January 2020 the Council successfully secured £658,700 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund towards the restoration of Boultham park lake. To total project value is £1.17 million and was completed in Summer 2021. The project focused on improving biodiversity and restoring the lake, supported by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and provides more opportunities for people to get involved in the park, create more space for wildlife to flourish and open up natural and cultural heritage to existing and new visitors.

[Boultham Park – Boultham Park in Lincoln is undergoing an extensive regeneration project](#)

In Spring 2021 the City Council launched several 'rewilding' initiatives to support biodiversity and enable the natural environments in the city to thrive in a way that best supports native wildlife.

[City council 'rewilding' initiative to introduce more wildflower areas to Lincoln – City of Lincoln Council](#)



Rewilding sites have been maintained and extended during 2021/22 and included new biohavens on the Brayford Pool.



Local Climate Impacts Profile

A Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCIP) for Lincolnshire was undertaken by the City of Lincoln Council in 2021 to increase our understanding of the county's vulnerability to severe weather events. Based on data which spans the period from 2010-2020, it aims to help inform public sector organisations about those weather events which affect the Council's assets, infrastructure and capacity to deliver services. The LCIP also informs the Council about the impacts on other public service providers and local communities. The purpose of an LCIP is to help the council prepare for future climate change and inform the Lincoln Climate Adaptation strategy which is due to be completed by the end of 2022.

City of Lincoln Travel Plan

The Travel Plan is designed to reduce car use and provide improved travel options for Council employees traveling to their place of work as well as while at work. The Travel Plan was introduced in 2019 following a staff travel survey. The staff travel survey was repeated in June 2021 once all teams had been advised on longer term, post pandemic working arrangements. The next employee survey has been scheduled to take place in Spring 2023. The Travel Plan was reviewed and updated in June 2022.

Following the survey the Travel Plan has been updated and approved by the Council's Corporate Management Team and published on the council's website as well as the Council's Zero Carbon share point page. For many people the Covid Pandemic has made a significant change to their working practices and has had a positive impact on reducing the number of vehicle journeys to and from work as well as travel while at work.

[A copy of the City of Lincoln Council Employee Travel Plan can be viewed here](#)