

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2024/25

In October 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency, including the aim for **net zero carbon in its operations by 2030**. Original carbon reporting covered corporate property, leisure centres, streetlighting and the Strategic Environmental Contract (SEC). Annual reporting was later expanded to include the Council fleet and school transport service. Following a [revised GHG reporting methodology](#) in 2024/25, the reporting boundary was widened further to include Solihull Community Housing (SCH) and other sources such as business travel. Reporting follows an operational organisational boundary. Data has been rebaselined back to 2019/20. This report illustrates the Council's emissions journey, including emissions for the 2024/25 financial year. In addition to this report, the Council maintains the [Carbon Council Plan](#), which sets out how it aims to meet its 2030 ambition.

Rebaselined CO₂e Performance (2019/20 – 2024/25)

Net emissions have fallen 51% since the baseline year and 6% since 2023/24.

Gross emissions have fallen 42% since the baseline year and 5% since 2023/24.

Emission Area	tCO ₂ e			Trend	Change vs Baseline
	2019/20	2023/24	2024/25		
Energy	5457	4125	4012	▼	-0.27%
Streetlighting	1854	0	0	▼	-100%
<i>Streetlighting Gross</i>	1854	984	981	▼	-47%
Strategic Environmental Contract	1959	239	86	▼	-96%
Fleet	549	485	465	▼	-15%
School transport	312	284	263	▼	-16%
Traffic Signals	127	101	93	▼	-26%
Water	284	234	221	▼	-22%
Waste	6	5	1	▼	-75%
Business Travel	347	223	221	▼	-36%
Total T&D	356	227	224	▼	-36%
Net Total	11016	5,705	5,380	▼	-51%
<i>Gross Total</i>	<i>11016</i>	<i>6689</i>	<i>6361</i>	▼	<i>-42%</i>
<i>Outside of Scopes</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1328</i>	<i>1901</i>	▲	<i>8952%</i>

Further information on Emission Areas

The following emission sources are reported upon and form part of the Council's net zero ambition:

Energy – Gas and electricity emissions from Council properties, SCH offices and communal areas within SCH residential buildings and leisure centres.

Fleet – Council vehicles and SCH operational vehicles.

Water & waste – Water used in council properties, SCH corporate properties and leisure.

Business travel – Council and SCH car mileage for business purposes.

School Transport – Journeys undertaken by Council owned and operated vehicles.

Streetlighting & Traffic Signals – The Council purchase zero-carbon electricity for streetlighting.

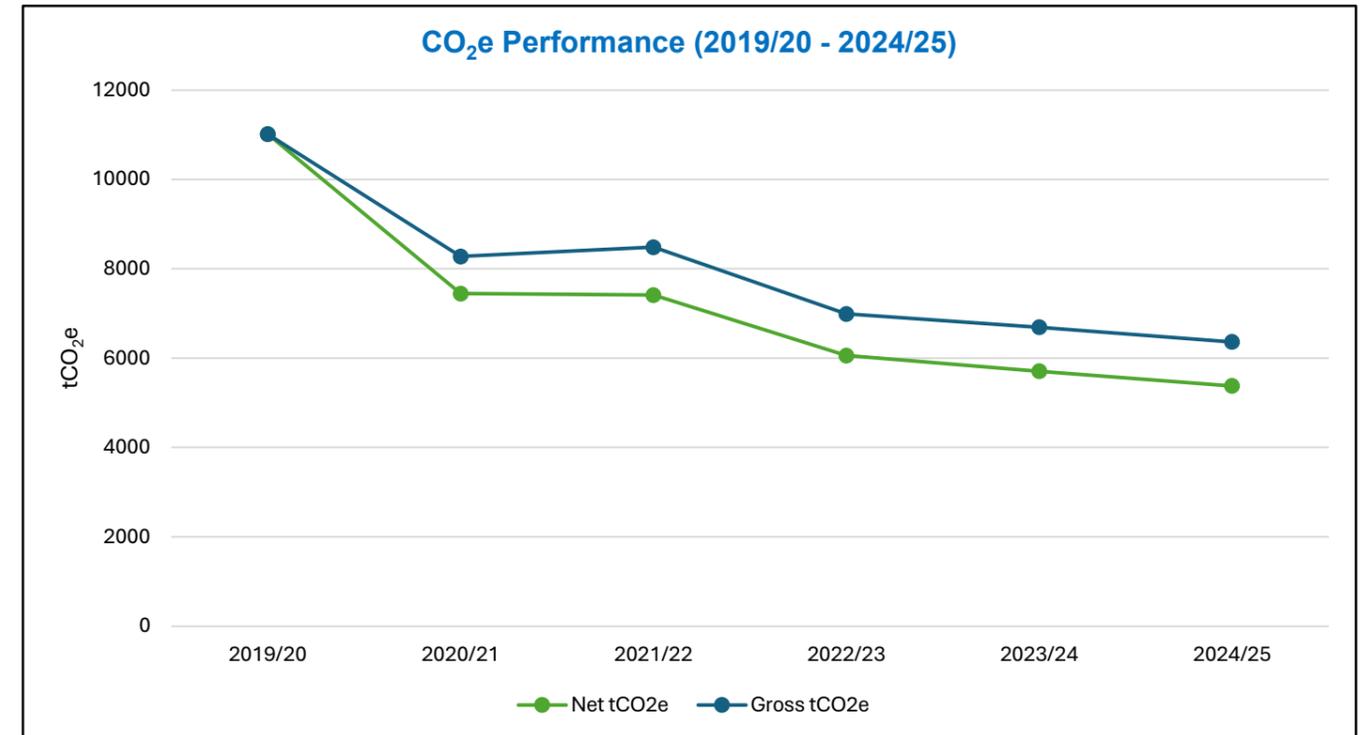
Strategic Environmental Contract – Vehicles that operate the municipal waste & recycling collections, street cleansing and grounds maintenance operated on behalf of the Council by Veolia using Council owned vehicles.

T&D (Transmission & Distribution) – these are emissions associated with electricity moving from where it is generated to where it is used.

N.B. Fuel used in our fleet vehicles, including school transport and the Strategic Environmental Contract (SEC), appears in different parts of our emissions reporting.

- CH₄ and N₂O from biofuels, and CO₂ from the mineral portion of petrol and diesel, are reported as direct emissions.
- CO₂ from biofuels is reported as Outside of Scopes because it comes from carbon recently absorbed by the plants used to make the fuel, rather than adding new fossil carbon to the atmosphere.

As the SEC has increased its use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biofuel, direct emissions have fallen, while Outside of Scopes emissions have risen, as more biogenic CO₂ is reported separately.



Understanding Key Emissions Terms

Net carbon emissions represent the overall balance between the Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) released into the atmosphere and the amount removed or offset. **Gross** emissions refer to the total emissions generated directly by an activity, without accounting for removals or offsets. **Outside of Scopes** covers CO₂ emissions released from the direct combustion of biofuels such as HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil is a renewable diesel alternative made from waste fats and vegetable oils). Outside of Scopes emissions are not included within direct emission scopes.

This year's progress

Some of the key actions which have led to a reduction in emissions this year include:

- **Corporate Properties:** Improvement measures (e.g. energy efficient lighting & improved data recording), temporary closure of crematorium, disposal of property
- Pool covers at **leisure centres** and solar PV at North Solihull Sports Centre
- Continued delivery of **streetlighting** and **traffic signal infrastructure** improvement programmes
- Increase use of HVO in **Strategic Environmental Contract**, replacing diesel with HVO reduces emissions as HVO produces less direct emissions
- Continued purchase of zero-carbon electricity for **streetlighting**
- Reduction in claimed **business miles**
- Reduction in **Council waste** and **waste** from **leisure centres**

The full report for this year's carbon emissions can be found here: [Net Zero Carbon Council Plan \(NZCCP\) | Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council](#). For further information: www.solihull.gov.uk/your-future-solihull.