

# Solihull Climate Change Action Plan

## 2026 – 2030



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# Executive Summary

Solihull faces significant climate challenges, including rising temperatures, increased flooding, and biodiversity loss. This Climate Change Action Plan explains what needs to happen in Solihull to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. It sets out the actions the Council will take between 2026 and 2030 to make the Borough cleaner, greener and more resilient.

The plan aims to improve everyday life for residents by creating warmer homes, cleaner air, better transport options, more green spaces and stronger protection during extreme weather. It also supports local jobs, helps reduce bills and ensures that everyone, especially those who need the most support, can benefit from a safer, healthier future. The plan focuses on two priorities:

- **Climate Mitigation:** Cutting greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors.
- **Climate Adaptation:** Preparing our communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems for climate risks.

To ensure that the plan meets the Council Plan aim of “Opportunities and fairer outcomes by acting on climate change” and acts as a focal point for delivery of the Climate Change Prospectus, the Climate Change Action Plan has been designed with the following key principles in mind:

<p><b>A Just and Inclusive Transition:</b> Climate action should benefit all residents, businesses and communities.</p>		<p><b>Climate Action that Delivers Local Benefits</b> Every action in the plan should maximise co-benefits for Solihull</p>	<p><b>Mitigation and Adaptation Together</b></p>
	<p><b>Evidence-Led and Focused on Highest Impact:</b> The plan prioritises the sectors where interventions deliver the largest carbon savings and greatest resilience gains.</p>		<p><b>Lead by Example as a Council</b></p>
<p><b>Partnership at Every Level:</b> Climate change action cannot be delivered by the Council alone. Strong partnerships are essential</p>		<p><b>Climate Action Embedded in All Decisions:</b> Climate change is included in the Council plan as a core priority.</p>	
<p><b>Resilient Places and a Thriving Natural Environment:</b> Nature-based solutions, biodiversity recovery, and greenspace enhancement should underpin the Borough's.</p>	<p><b>Empowering Communities and Changing Behaviours:</b> Climate action requires widespread behaviour change. The Council has a core role in enabling this.</p>		<p><b>Innovation, Future-Proofing and Long-Term Responsibility</b></p>



Key themes include:

- **Transport:** Tackling the largest source of emissions through active travel, public transport improvements, and EV infrastructure.
- **Housing:** Improving energy efficiency and transitioning to low carbon heating.
- **Energy Supply:** Expanding renewable generation and heat networks.
- **Green Economy:** Supporting businesses to decarbonise and grow clean tech sectors.
- **Natural Environment:** Enhancing biodiversity and using nature-based solutions.
- **Public Sector Leadership:** Achieving net zero for Council operations by 2030.
- **Waste:** Moving towards a circular economy and reducing residual waste.
- **Community Engagement:** Driving behaviour change and inclusive climate action.

Delivery will require strong governance, partnerships, and innovative financing. Progress will be monitored through clear Key Performance Indicators and reported annually.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Our Approach

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing our Borough, our Country, and the World. Rising global and local temperatures, driven by greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide and methane, are already impacting our environment, economy, and communities. In recent years, Solihull has experienced more frequent extreme weather events: flooding, droughts, and heatwaves, bringing risks to homes, businesses, infrastructure, and health.

This plan sets out how we will continue to respond to these challenges, ensuring that our actions not only reduce emissions but also make our Borough more resilient to the impacts of climate change now and in the future. Our response is focused on delivering multiple benefits: improving the lives of residents, supporting the prosperity of businesses, and enhancing the quality of our natural environment, focusing on where the Council can have most impact.

## 1.2 Key Principles

Solihull's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) is based around 10 core principles:

1. **A Just and Inclusive Transition:** Climate action should benefit all residents, businesses and communities, ensuring that the shift to a low carbon and climate resilient Solihull is fair, inclusive and accessible to everyone. This includes reducing fuel poverty, supporting small businesses, and prioritising communities most affected by climate risks.
2. **Climate Action that Delivers Local Benefits:** Every action in the plan should maximise co-benefits for Solihull. Overall, the plan should help improve:
  - health and wellbeing
  - housing quality
  - cost of living resilience
  - local air quality
  - the natural environment
  - access to green jobs and skills
3. **Mitigation and Adaptation Together:** The plan sets out how we will tackle climate change through:
  - **Mitigation:** cutting emissions in line with the 2041 Net Zero target
  - **Adaptation:** preparing people, services and infrastructure for heat, flooding and other climate risks
4. **Evidence Led and Focused on Highest Impact:** The plan prioritises the sectors where interventions deliver the largest carbon savings and greatest resilience gains; transport, housing, energy and the built environment. This is supported by robust local data, modelling and monitoring.

5. **Lead by Example as a Council:** key elements of this include:
  - decarbonising our own operations by 2030
  - adopting sustainable procurement
  - improving energy performance of our estate
  - embedding climate considerations in planning, risk management and service delivery.
6. **Partnership at Every Level:** Climate change action cannot be delivered by the Council alone. Strong partnerships are essential with:
  - residents
  - businesses and major employers
  - West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and regional bodies
  - schools, colleges and community groups
  - national government, utilities and the private sector
7. **Climate Action Embedded in All Decisions:** Climate change is included in the Council Plan as a **core priority**.
8. **Resilient Places and a Thriving Natural Environment:** Nature based solutions, biodiversity recovery, and greenspace enhancement should underpin the Borough's resilience, helping tackle flooding, heat, air quality, and health inequalities.
9. **Empowering Communities and Changing Behaviours:** Climate action requires widespread behaviour change. The Council has a core role in enabling this through:
  - trusted advice
  - inclusive communications
  - place-based programmes,
  - school and community leadership opportunities
  - practical support that removes barriers to action
10. **Innovation, Future Proofing and Long-Term Responsibility:** The plan will need to enable:
  - future proofing homes, infrastructure and services
  - trialling new technologies and approaches
  - using flexible, smart systems in energy and transport
  - ensuring Solihull is prepared for long term climate and economic shifts.

## 1.3 Our Commitment

In 2019 the Council issued a Climate Change Declaration, which identified our aim for the Borough to be net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2041, in line with the WMCA target. We set out the actions the Council could take to support this aim in our Net Zero Action Plan. The Solihull Climate Change Action Plan supersedes the Net Zero Action Plan building on the commitment and action already taken by the Council. It reflects changes in national and local policy, updated evidence, and the growing urgency of climate adaptation<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Climate adaptation: actions taken to prepare for and adapt to our changing climate, e.g. planting trees to provide shade in hot weather*

This plan is a key part of how we will deliver our vision for a sustainable borough, as set out in Solihull's Climate Change Prospectus and the Council Plan priority of "Opportunities and fairer outcomes by acting on climate change".

Our Climate Change Plan now addresses two critical priorities:

1. **Climate mitigation**<sup>2</sup>: cutting greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors.
2. **Building climate resilience**<sup>3</sup>: helping our services, residents, and businesses adapt to and cope with the impacts of a changing climate.

In order to deliver these priorities, we will:

- Focus on the areas with the biggest impact, such as heat and transport
- Work in partnership with key organisations across the Borough and beyond
- Focus on areas where the Council has greater influence or control to ensure our efforts have the biggest impact
- Deliver climate actions that benefit the Borough, our residents and businesses.

This plan sets out the key challenges and the role of the Council and is split into themed sections, starting with those sectors that have most impact on the Borough's carbon emissions. Governance and monitoring information is included at the end of the document.

## 2. Cutting Green House Gas Emissions

### 2.1 Why is it important to cut greenhouse gas emissions?

The release of greenhouse gases<sup>4</sup> (GHG) into the atmosphere from the use of fossil fuels, (e.g. diesel, petrol and gas), is causing global and local temperatures to rise. This warming drives more extreme weather, disrupts ecosystems, and threatens health and wellbeing. Reducing GHG emissions is essential to limit these impacts, protect our communities, and secure a sustainable future for Solihull.

We are committed to ensuring Solihull benefits fully from the transition to a low carbon economy. Decarbonisation brings opportunities such as cleaner air, lower energy bills, and an enhanced natural environment. Central to our approach is a just transition - meaning every resident and organisation should share in these benefits.

### 2.2 Solihull's Progress

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, Solihull has made significant progress. Our first Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP), adopted in 2021, set out 203 actions across eight priority areas focused on cutting GHG emissions. We have taken action in many areas, for example, the

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<sup>2</sup> Climate mitigation: reducing greenhouse gas emissions e.g. carbon dioxide to limit the impact we have on the climate of our planet

<sup>3</sup> Climate resilience: the ability to cope with and recover from climate events e.g. flooding or extreme heat

<sup>4</sup> Also referred to in this plan as carbon emissions and CO<sub>2</sub>e.

ongoing development of Solihull Town Centre Energy Network, expansion of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and delivery of home retrofit programmes. We have reported annually on our progress, including through a suite of key performance indicators (KPIs). Information from these progress reports has been used in compiling this new Climate Change Action Plan.

Solihull's Climate Change Prospectus sets out plans and policies of the Council that link to climate change. Council policy across the board includes climate change, from the Council Plan to theme specific plans, for example Solihull Connected - the Borough's transport strategy. Embedding climate change across Council policy ensures that action is taken in key areas.

The Council's own net emissions have fallen by over 51% since 2019/20 through the use of low carbon energy and energy efficiency measures. Borough wide emissions have also declined, 38% since 2005, but not at the rate required to meet the aim to be net zero by 2041. A significant proportion of this emission reduction at both Council and Borough level has been due to the decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid. In 2024, 50.4% of UK grid electricity was generated from renewable resources, such as wind, while carbon intensive coal and oil powered generation has been phased out.

In 2023, which is the most recent data at time of publication, Solihull's carbon dioxide emissions were 3% above the straight line trajectory to net zero by 2041, however they were more than 40% above the Tyndall Centre pathway<sup>5</sup> for limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C (see graph below). This recommended pathway advocates steep emission reduction during the 2020s and underlines the urgency of accelerating action across all sectors, while also strengthening adaptation planning to manage climate risks already present.

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<sup>5</sup> *The Tyndall Centre Pathway is a science based local carbon pathway developed from the Tyndall Centre's carbon budgeting method. It shows how fast our emissions must fall each year if Solihull is to play its fair part in cutting carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement – front loading deep cuts in the 2020s and then continuing to decline toward near zero by 2041. It's a steep, science tested descent line it's recommended we should follow to stay within our cumulative carbon budget. (In our chart, the "Tyndall Centre Pathway" is that line.)*

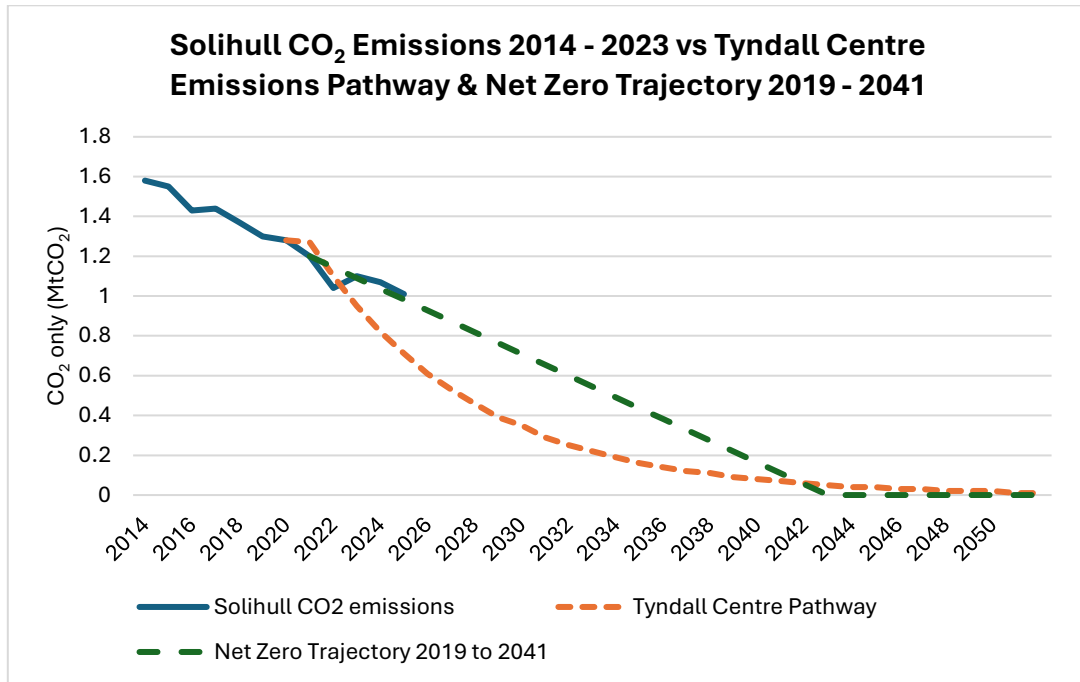


Figure 1: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions vs Tyndall Emissions Pathway & Net Zero trajectory (Solihull, 2014 – 2041)  
 Sources: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Tyndall Centre

### 2.3 Emissions by Sector

Significant challenges remain to meeting our climate change aims and this plan focuses on areas where we can have the greatest impact.

The graphs below show the major sources of Solihull’s GHG emissions are transport and our homes, followed by the commercial sector.

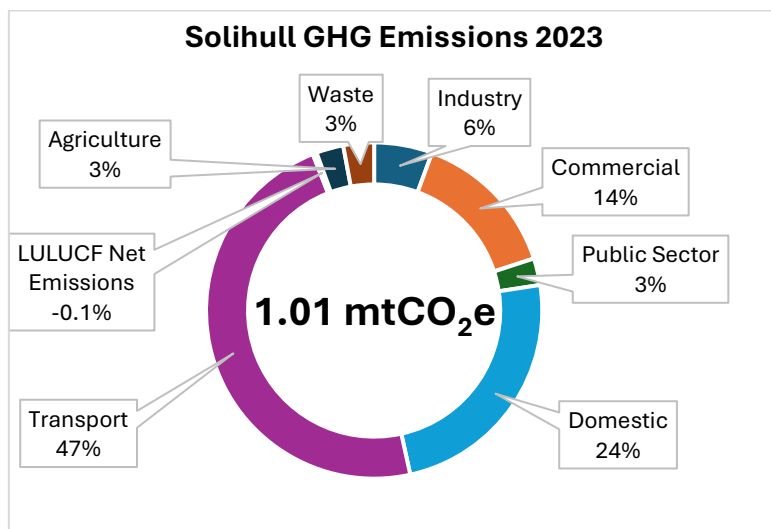


Figure 2: Percentage contribution to Borough GHG emissions by sector (Solihull, 2023)  
 Source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

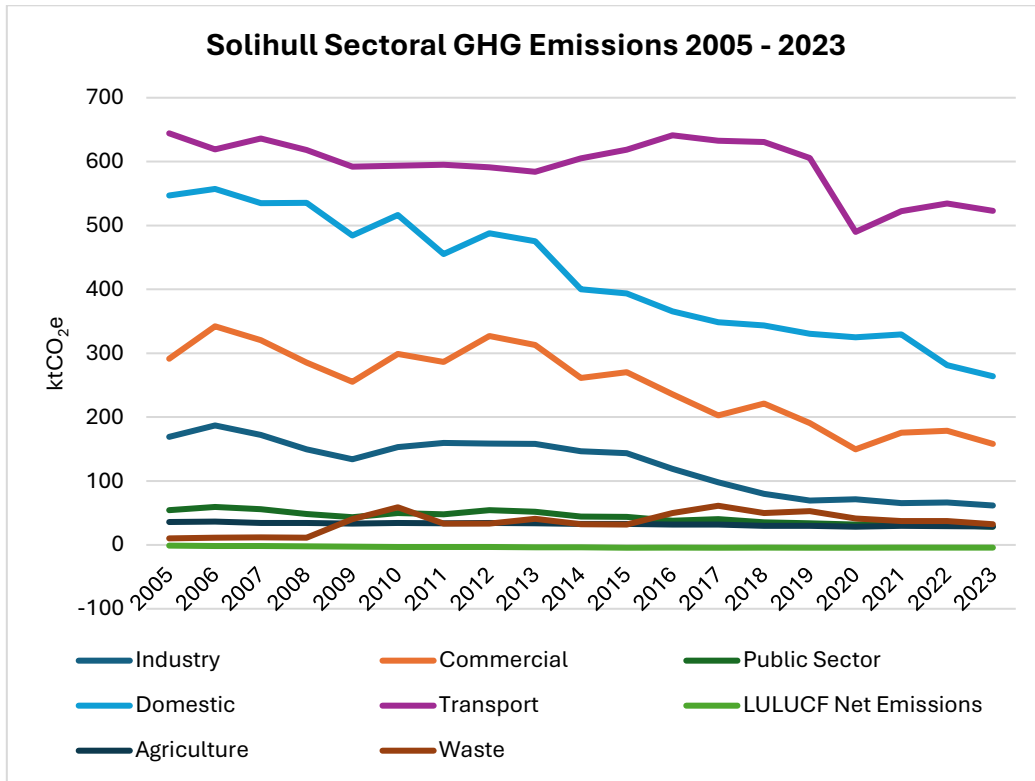


Figure 3: GHG emissions by sector (Solihull, 2005 – 2023)

Data source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

In order to achieve net zero by 2041, Solihull will need to deliver emissions reductions across all sectors, however the pareto graph below shows that 80% of our local emissions are from just a handful of subsectors, with the majority of emissions (74%) arising from the combustion of petrol and diesel for road transport and gas for heating our homes and businesses. These are the areas where focus will be needed, and which will require a step change in investment, innovation, and behaviour change.

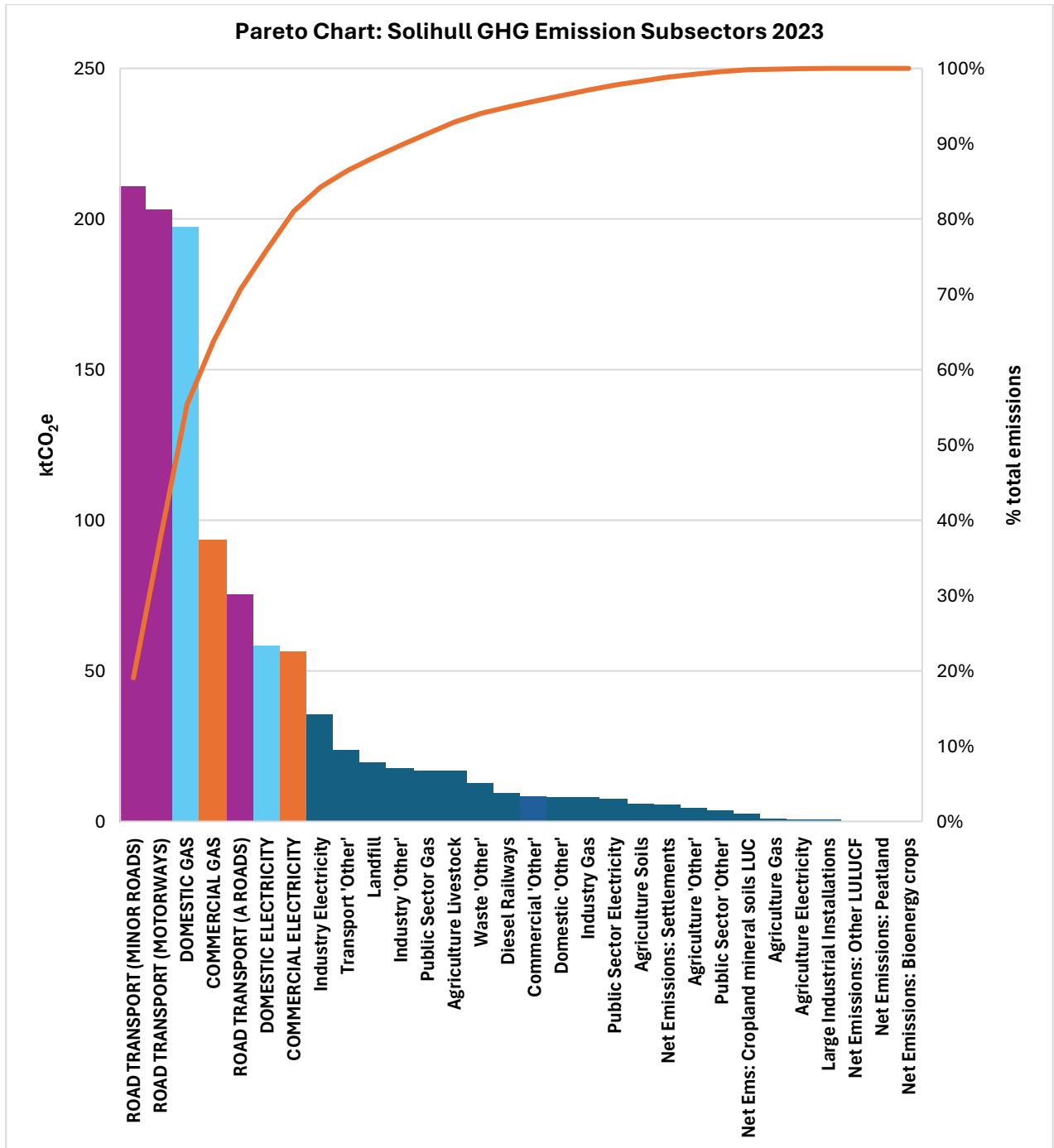


Figure 4: Pareto Chart – GHG emission subsectors (Solihull, 2023)

Source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

### 3. Climate Adaptation and Resilience

#### 3.1 Why focus on climate adaptation?

While reducing emissions is essential, greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere for many years, so we must also prepare for the impacts of climate change that are already locked in. Solihull, in common with the rest of the Country, is already experiencing the effects of climate change. We have seen hotter summers, more intense rainfall and localised flooding. These changes affect homes, businesses, transport, and health.

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) has undertaken a climate impact risk assessment for the region. It includes an outline assessment of risks for Solihull and shows people most at risk are those in areas of higher deprivation in North Solihull, whereas risk to infrastructure and natural environment are spread across the Borough, with the River Blythe catchment posing increased risk of flooding.

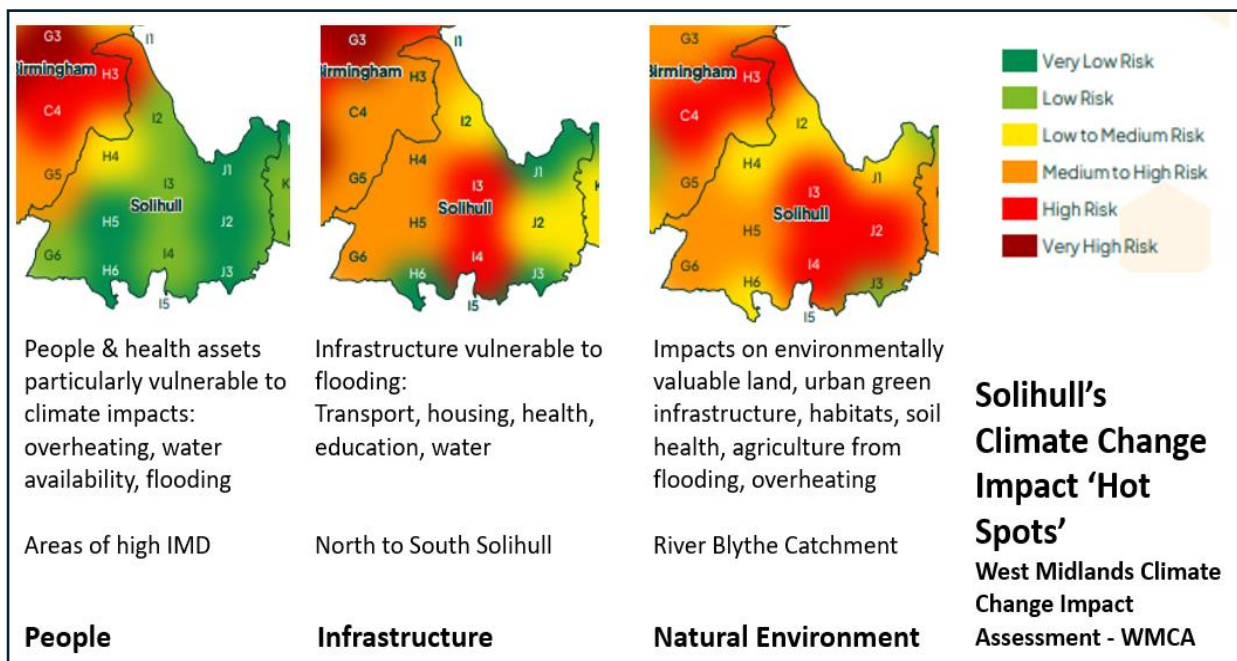


Figure 5: Climate Risks in Solihull include heatwaves, flooding and biodiversity loss  
Source: West Midlands Climate Impact Assessment - WMCA

Taking action to adapt to climate change helps to:

- **Protect people, homes, and businesses** from climate related risks
- **Reduce economic losses** from extreme weather and disruption
- **Enhance biodiversity and natural resilience**
- **Support health and wellbeing** during heatwaves and poor air quality events



This approach aligns with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) [climate change strategies](#), which emphasise climate resilience alongside climate mitigation.

### 3.2 Solihull's Climate Adaptation Progress and Future Aims

Although this is the first time that adaptation to climate change has been included in the Council's climate change action plans, we have taken important steps already. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are being used in new developments to manage surface water at times of intense rainfall. Tree planting and habitat projects are helping to cool urban areas in hot weather, as well as support wildlife. Heatwave protocols are in place for vulnerable residents. We have mapped flood risks and adopted a risk-based approach to gully maintenance in line with the Solihull Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

These provide a vital starting point, but, in common with the rest of the UK, action will need to continue to develop and be better integrated across services and infrastructure.

We need to make resilience part of everything we do. This means further planning for future risks, protecting vulnerable people and places, and using nature-based solutions wherever possible. Our goal is to ensure that homes, roads, schools, and green spaces can cope with future extreme weather. We also need to continue to make sure we have strong emergency plans so communities can respond and recover quickly.

**While this action plan includes a range of climate adaptation actions, we intend to undertake further work to assess what more we need to do, including a climate risk assessment of the Council's services and assets.**

## 4. Challenges

Delivering net zero by 2041 and climate resilience for Solihull is ambitious and will require overcoming several significant challenges:

### 4.1. Funding Constraints

Substantial investment in infrastructure, technology and skills is required. While we have funded a range of improvements, including drainage and green space, and secured external funding for projects such as energy networks and retrofit programmes, the scale of funding needed far exceeds current allocations. National funding streams are competitive, often short-term and can be fragmented, making long-term planning and work on interconnected systems difficult. We must explore innovative financing models, partnerships, and private sector investment to bridge this gap.

### 4.2. National Policy and Regulation

Local action is shaped by national policy on issues such as energy, transport, housing, land use planning and climate adaptation. Delays or uncertainty in Government decisions such as the pace of grid decarbonisation, support for heat pumps, changes to building regulations and the National Planning Policy framework, can hinder local progress. We will continue to advocate for clear, consistent policy frameworks that enable local delivery and provide certainty for businesses and residents.

### 4.3. Behaviour Change

Technical solutions alone will not deliver net zero and climate resilience. Significant changes in travel habits, energy use, consumption patterns and community preparedness are required. Encouraging behaviour change at scale is challenging and requires sustained engagement, clear communication, and support for households and enterprises to make low carbon choices and improve the resilience of their own homes and businesses.

### 4.4. Skills and Capacity

The transition to a low carbon and resilient economy depends on a skilled workforce in areas such as construction, building retrofit, renewable energy, and electric vehicle infrastructure and shortages in green skills, risk slowing delivery. We will encourage education providers and industry to develop training pathways and attract talent to the sector.

## 4.5. Inter-connected Systems

Infrastructure systems such as transport, energy, and water are interconnected, so a failure or a change in one can affect others. We need better data to understand risks and strong governance to coordinate action between different agencies.

**We must also ensure a just transition, so that the benefits of climate action are shared fairly across our communities.**

## 5. The Council’s Role

### 5.1 Council Control and Influence

The Council directly controls less than 1% of borough wide emissions, primarily from our own estate, fleet, and operations. Much of the Borough’s infrastructure, land and most buildings lie outside the Council’s direct control.

While we can lead by example, achieving the aims of net zero and climate resilience requires everyone in the Borough to act, including businesses and residents. We have a vital role in influencing and guiding carbon reduction and climate resilience in our communities, through activities such as transport and land use planning, procurement, engaging and communicating with residents and businesses.

The diagram below shows how we can play a key role in climate action in our Borough. This has been used to help shape the actions in this plan.

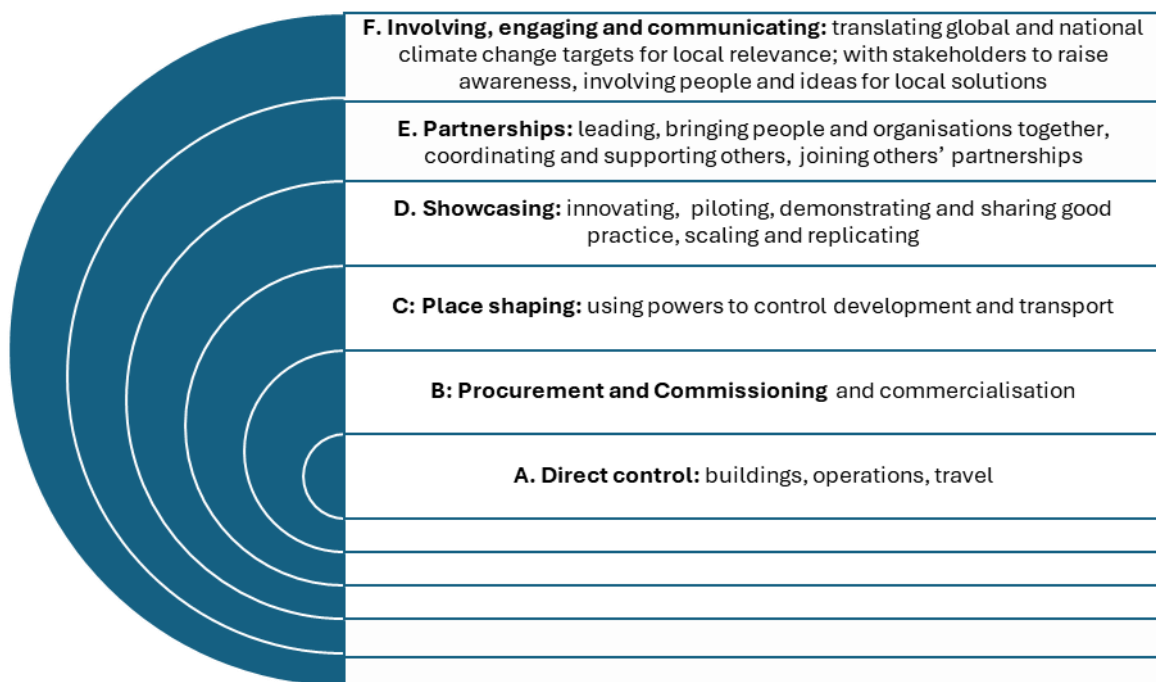
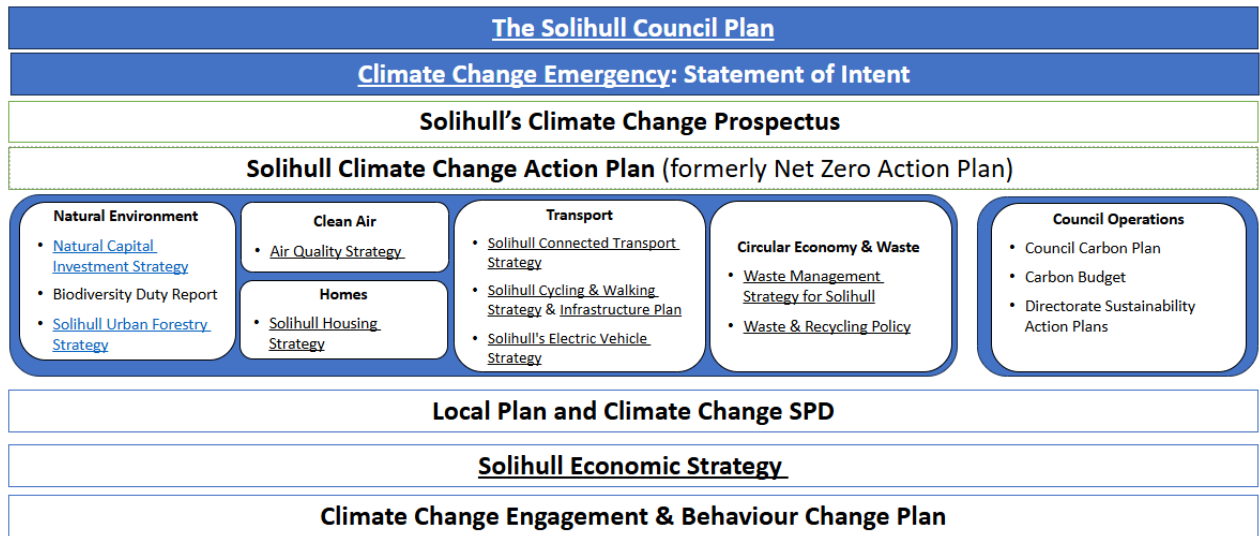


Figure 6: Local authorities’ control and influence  
 Source: Local Government Association (LGA)

### 5.2 Solihull Council’s Strategy and Policy framework

Solihull Council has embedded climate change throughout our policy framework, from strategic documents, such as the Council Plan, through to technical specific documents, such as the Air Quality Strategy. The diagram below is also included in the Climate Change Prospectus and outlines the plans that are overarching and guide direction, other plans that touch upon issues of

climate change, and the plans that underpin action, such as the Local Plan and Solihull Economic Strategy.



## 6. Sector Actions

This action plan covers the period from 2026 to 2030, with an aim for Net Zero by 2041. This corresponds with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Climate Change 5-year plan.

The action plan is divided into separate areas of focus, starting with those sectors that have most impact on the Borough's carbon emissions and where acting has most benefit for residents and businesses.

For each section we include a brief outline of the current situation, highlight some of the key issues and actions the Council has taken since the publication of the Solihull Net Zero Action Plan in 2021, and the actions we are going to focus on in the lifetime of this plan. Actions relating to resilience to climate change are also included. Appendix C contains a tabulated action plan including estimated carbon savings, and co-benefits.

## 7. Transport

### 7.1 Current Position

Transport is the largest source of emissions in Solihull, contributing 47% of Borough wide greenhouse gases (2023). The rate of reduction has been relatively slow compared with other major sectors due to continued reliance on private cars and the influence of major transport corridors, such as the M42 and M6. The emissions trend shows a modest decline from 2005 to 2019, a pandemic related dip and partial rebound 2020 - 22, followed by further decline as shown in the graph below.

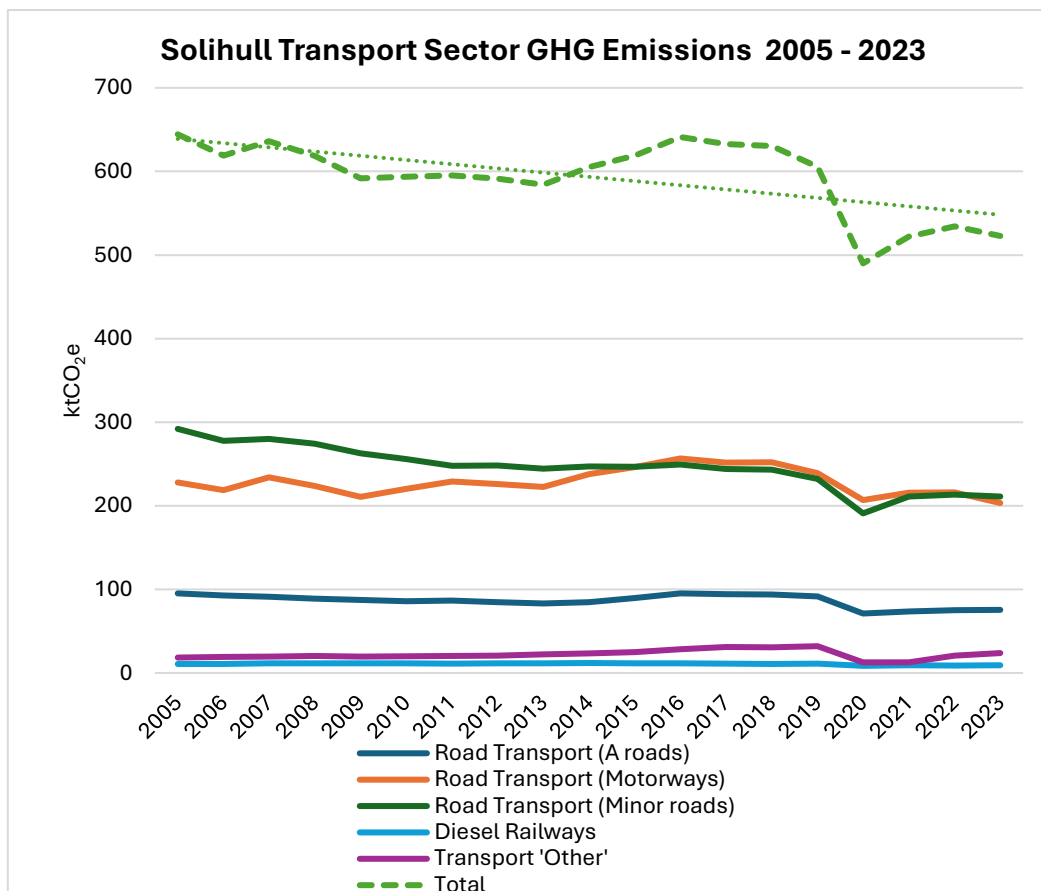


Figure 7: Transport sector GHG emissions trend (Solihull, 2005 – 2023)  
 Source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero<sup>6</sup>

In 2023, emissions from minor road and A road traffic together made up nearly 55% of Borough transport emissions (40.3% and 14.4% respectively), with motorway traffic contributing 38.9%, diesel rail 1.8%, and 'other' transport 4.6%. Over the long term, minor roads and A roads show

<sup>6</sup> Transport 'Other' = minor and non-classified transport activities e.g. motorcycles, mopeds and other small/non-road transport sources. It excludes aviation, shipping and military transport, these modes are not allocated to individual local authorities in DESNZ's methodology.

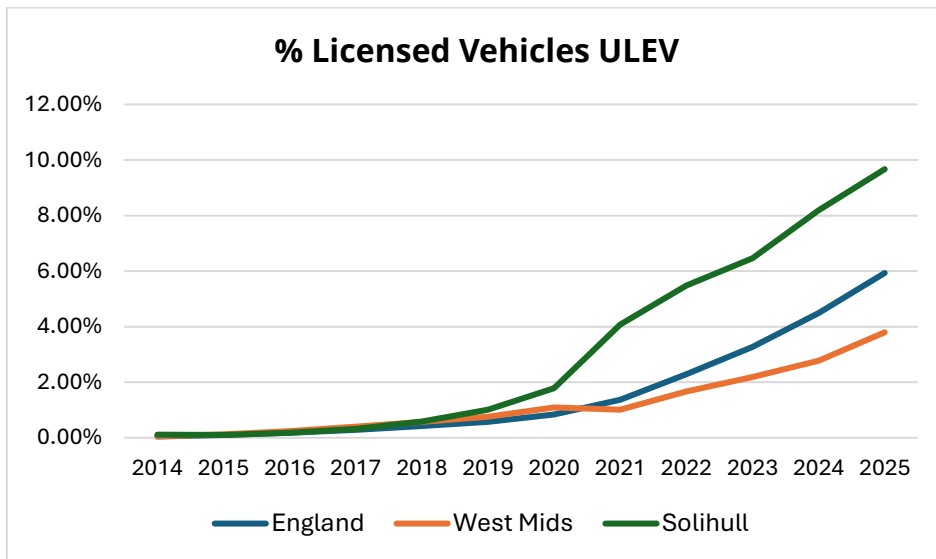
emission reductions of 27.8% and 20.8% respectively since 2005, compared with 10.8% reduction from Motorway traffic.

The difference is likely to be driven by several factors including motorways carrying substantial through traffic not impacted by local interventions – Solihull's central location within the United Kingdom brings a lot of long-distance traffic onto the sections of M6 and M42 within the Borough. Birmingham Airport and the NEC are both significant traffic generators, with the motorway network being the principal access point for most long-distance traffic to those places.

Motorways also carry a higher proportion of HGVs and large vans, which produce more emissions per mile (and are less likely to electrify early). Alongside this, local trip making fell more steeply during COVID and has recovered more slowly than long distance motorway traffic.

Solihull exhibits high car ownership within the West Midlands, shaping travel behaviour and mode share. Air quality is generally good overall but NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are elevated near major roads, highlighting transport's health impacts.

In March 2025 9.67% of Solihull's licensed vehicles were Ultra Low Emission (ULEV), significantly above regional and national averages. (This may be partly impacted by the number of vehicle leasing companies based in Solihull.)



Data Source: UK Local Authority ULEV statistics, Department for Transport and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Electric vehicle (EV) charging provision is expanding, with up to 500 new public EV charge points in deployment (supported by Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) and other funding sources). Continued expansion of both public and private charging provision is required to maintain momentum and support a faster shift to zero emission mobility.

Public transport accessibility is good in many areas, however North - South connectivity remains limited, creating barriers to sustainable travel. Significant trip attractors: the Airport and NEC,

increase demand. New bus services have begun, but further provision would help local access and mode shift.

Active travel participation is above average for leisure but below national average for everyday trips, indicating scope to convert more short journeys to walking and cycling.

Climate change intensifies heatwave and flooding risks to transport infrastructure, underscoring the need for adaptation measures alongside emissions reduction.

## 7.2 Key Issues

- **Limited north - south public transport connectivity:** reinforcing car dependency
- **Motorways/strategic road emissions beyond direct local control:** requiring partnership
- **Behaviour change:** entrenched travel habits demand sustained engagement, attractive alternatives and incentives
- **Funding constraints for infrastructure at scale:** reliance on external funding programmes
- **Demographics:** an **ageing population** requires inclusive, accessible design and services
- **Climate resilience:** vulnerability to **flooding and heatwaves** across key corridors and assets

## 7.3 What We've Done (since 2021)

- **Electric vehicle infrastructure:** delivered 75 new public charge points through LEVI and commercial partners. There are now more than 400 charge points in the Borough.
- **Active travel:** implemented new cycle routes and improved walking links via Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs).
- **Public transport:** collaborated with Transport for the West Midlands (TfWM) on bus/rail improvements and Sprint rapid transit routes from Birmingham.
- **Behaviour change campaigns:** delivered large promotional activities (e.g. A45 behaviour change project) to raise awareness of bus, rail, cycling and walking networks, and the pollution from internal combustion engines.
- **Employer travel planning:** worked with Birmingham Airport, JLR, NEC and other major employers on travel plans and infrastructure interventions to provide alternatives to car travel.
- **Delivered Phase 1 of Solihull & Coventry Automated Links Evolution (SCALE) project:** supporting low emission autonomous mobility.
- **Air quality measures:** rolled out School Streets and anti-idling campaigns around schools.
- **Adaptation/green corridors:** the European Regional Development funded Wildlife Ways programme enhanced routes for walking/cycling, helping to reduce 'heat island' effects.

## 7.4 What We Are Going to Do (2026 - 2030)

### Engagement & Advice

- **Continue to support school travel plans and workplace mobility schemes**, with tailored engagement to shift routine trips from car to sustainable modes.
- **Ongoing promotion of active travel and public transport** options, linked to new infrastructure and service enhancements.

### Active Travel Infrastructure

- **Deliver the Solihull Cycling and Walking Strategy**: new cycle routes, improved pedestrian crossings, safe routes to schools, and additional secure cycle parking.
- **Seek to integrate green infrastructure** (trees, shade, SuDS) into routes to enhance comfort and resilience.

### Public Transport

- **Work with Transport for the West Midlands (TfWM) to:**
  - improve bus frequency/reliability
  - explore new rapid transit options to address north - south connectivity
  - advocate rail electrification/station upgrades
  - investigate and support new bus and rail service opportunities

### Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

- **Further expand the EV charging network** via LEVI and private partnerships, and support transition of **taxis/private hire** to zero emission vehicles.
- **Work with TfWM to increase the number of electric buses** operating in the Borough.

### Innovation

- **Extend SCALE (Solihull & Coventry Automated Links Evolution)** project to Birmingham Business Park.

### Climate Adaptation

- **Work with partners to continue to assess flood and other extreme weather risks** for transport infrastructure; implement SuDS and other measures where feasible.
- **Maintain and continue to refine emergency response plans** for severe weather transport disruption.

## 7.5 Outcomes We Are Aiming For

- **Higher active travel mode share** - moving towards national ambitions for short trips (50% walking and cycling) - especially in central Solihull
- **More people choosing bus and rail** over driving for everyday journeys
- **Growth in zero emission taxis/private hire**, aligned with TfWM strategy
- A **comprehensive EV charging network** supporting large scale adoption of electric vehicles
- Better **understanding of impact of travel choices on air quality**
- **Improved active travel and public transport infrastructure** with better integration to create a choice of modes for people's journeys in the Borough
- Transport infrastructure with **improved resilience to extreme weather**.

## 7.6 Key Performance Indicators

- Transport sector emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).
- EV charge points per 100,000 population
- EV uptake (% of licensed vehicles)

## 8. Housing

### 8.1 Current Position

Homes are the second largest source of emissions in Solihull, accounting for 24% of Borough-wide greenhouse gases, so decarbonising domestic energy is pivotal to our net zero by 2041 aim. Ensuring housing stock is energy efficient is a great way of providing direct benefits to residents from climate action, in the form of warmer, healthier homes and cheaper energy bills.

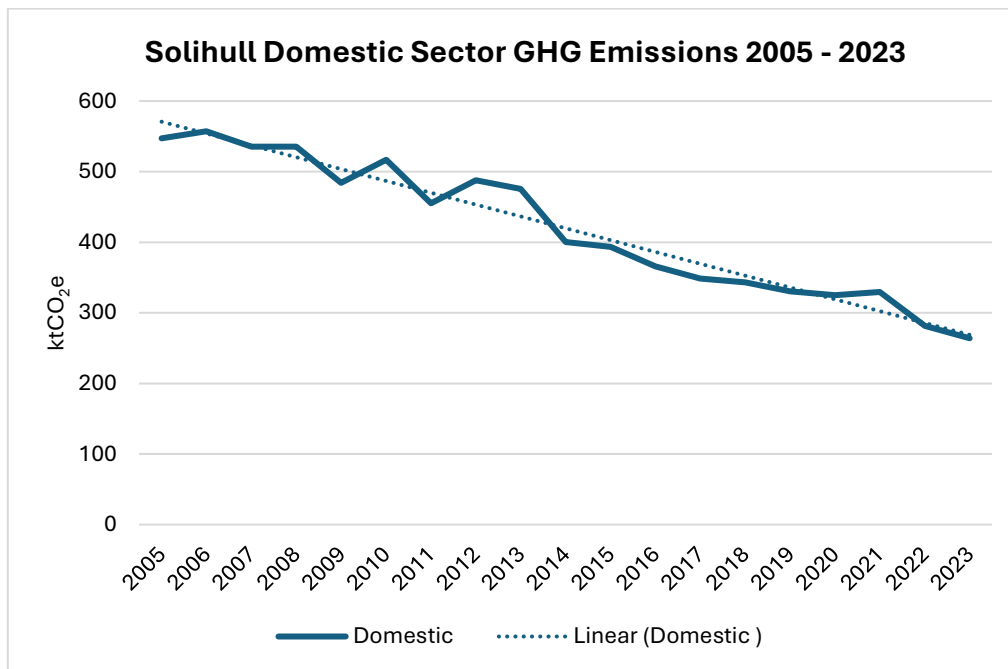


Figure 8: Solihull domestic (housing) sector GHG emissions trend 2005 - 2023  
 Data source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

The graph above shows that emissions from housing have more than halved since 2005, largely due to the decarbonisation of grid electricity. Yet most of Solihull’s ~96,000 homes still rely on gas fuelled heating and many have low energy efficiency, especially within older stock. An estimated 35,000 homes remain below EPC C, and fuel poverty affects 11.8% of households, with high energy costs impacting health and wellbeing.

Climate change is already increasing the risk of summertime overheating and localised flooding, so adaptation must be considered alongside mitigation to safeguard health, reduce disruption, and protect vulnerable residents. National policy is evolving, clean heating systems<sup>7</sup> will be mandatory in new homes under the Future Homes Standard from March 2027, (with transitional

<sup>7</sup> Under the Future Homes Standard (FHS), a clean heating system is one that meets all space heating and hot water demand from low carbon sources - in practice heat pumps or low carbon heat network connection rather than fossil fuel boilers.

arrangements then moving to full compliance thereafter). In parallel, Solihull is preparing a new Local Plan, which will need to align local policy with national climate objectives.

The national funding landscape for housing upgrades is changing; however funding will continue. The UK's £15bn Warm Homes Plan (released in January 2026) aims to upgrade 5 million homes, cut energy bills, and lift 1 million households out of fuel poverty by 2030. Key priorities include installing energy-efficient insulation, heat pumps, and solar panels through £5bn in grants for low-income households and low-interest loans for others.

## 8.2 Key Issues

- **Scale and cost:** Upgrading homes will demand sustained funding, efficient delivery, and strong partnerships.
- **Private sector engagement:** Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards<sup>8</sup> (MEES) enforcement and motivating “able to pay” homeowners to retrofit their homes remains challenging; trusted advice and simple offers are essential.
- **Workforce capacity:** We face shortages of accredited retrofit installers, assessors, and heat pump engineers, which could slow delivery.
- **Climate resilience:** Some housing is vulnerable to overheating and flooding, requiring integrated adaptation measures (e.g. shading, ventilation, SuDS) alongside decarbonisation.

## 8.3 What We've Done (since 2021)

- **Delivered energy efficient low carbon retrofit** in low-income homes and social housing via Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) and, through Solihull Community Housing (SCH), the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF).
- **Built 25 net zero homes** in Kingshurst using high levels of insulation and air source heat pumps.
- **Launched ‘Your Future Chelmsley Wood’**, a place-based home retrofit initiative targeting fuel poverty.
- **Enforced Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES)** in the private rented sector.

## 8.4 What We Are Going to Do (2026 - 2030)

### Community Engagement & Advice

- **Expand community engagement** through direct engagement and the Solihull Sustainable Communities Network, focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

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<sup>8</sup> *Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES): Regulations setting minimum EPC standards for rented properties.*

- **Seek to establish a “one stop shop” retrofit advice service** for homeowners and landlords (in partnership with WMCA), with tailored engagement events, for example “green doors” open home events to build trust.

### Social Housing (SCH)

- **Decarbonise existing stock** with fabric first upgrades, heat pumps, and solar PV, leveraging the WMCA Building Retrofit Pilot funding.
- **Deliver further net zero homes** in regeneration schemes (e.g. Kingshurst, Simon Digby) using Passivhaus principles.

### Private Sector Homes

- **Maximise delivery of grant funded measures for low-income households**, including the WMCA Building Retrofit Pilot and Healthy Homes activity within the Your Future Chelmsley Wood project.
- **Continue MEES enforcement**, coupled with compliance guidance for landlords.
- **Incentivise “able to pay” households** through promoting schemes such as Solar Together (Switch Together Solar) group buying and green finance options, delivered via the above ‘one stop shop’.
- **Promote uptake of the Government funded Boiler Upgrade Grant Scheme** for heat pump installation.

### New Build & Planning

- **Where required, ensure implementation of the Future Homes Standard** for housing from March 2027, (managing the transition to full compliance thereafter).
- **Through preparation of the new Local Plan, consider what additional local policy may be possible and desirable** to support net zero delivery and climate resilience in new housing.

### Climate Adaptation

- **Explore the integration of cool roofs, shading, and ventilation** into home retrofit programmes to cut overheating risks.
- **Continue to require sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)**, including permeable surfaces on new housing developments, to manage flood risk.
- **Seek to expand urban greening and tree planting** around residential areas to mitigate heat island effects.

## 8.5 Outcomes We Are Aiming For

- **Reduction in Fuel Poverty**
- **All rented homes EPC C or above by 2030**
- **All new homes with zero emissions heating systems** under the Future Homes Standard



- **Significantly reduced reliance on fossil fuel heating by 2035**, with a Borough-wide transition to heat pumps and (where available) low carbon heat networks by 2041
- **Homes resilient to the impact of climate change**

## 8.6 Key Performance Indicators

- Housing sector emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Fuel poverty rate
- Proportion of assessed homes at EPC C+

## 9. Energy Supply

### 9.1 Current Position

Energy supply is a critical enabler of net zero and climate resilience. In Solihull, energy used in buildings remains a major contributor to emissions (47% of emissions). Decarbonising heat and power is essential to meeting our 2041 target and protecting residents and businesses from volatile energy prices. UK Government is aiming to deliver Clean Power by 2030 by significantly increasing generation of renewable energy. Local renewable energy generation capacity in the Borough is growing, (see graph below), but still very low compared to total demand. The vast majority of installations are roof top solar PV.

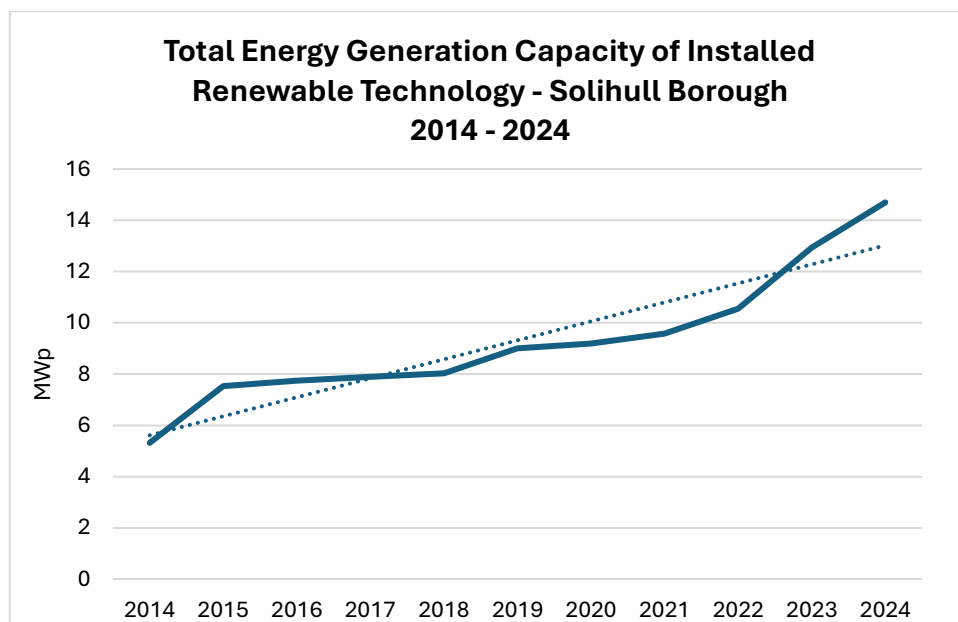


Figure 9: Installed renewable energy generation capacity - Solihull 2015 - 2024

Data Source: UK Local Authority Renewable Energy Generation Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

The Council has initiated flagship projects, such as the Solihull Town Centre Energy Network, and installed solar PV on council buildings, demonstrating practical routes to decarbonise heat and power. To keep pace with the scale of change required, across the Borough the adoption of renewable energy needs to accelerate, and flexibility services (energy storage, demand side response) should be integrated to manage peaks of supply and demand, support EV charging, and enable wider electrification of heat.

### 9.2 Key Issues

- **Low uptake:** Awareness, confidence, and upfront costs still deter householders and SMEs from installing solar PV, energy storage, and heat pumps.
- **Power Grid constraints:** Connection queues and network thermal limits can slow the roll out of renewables, EV charging, and electrified heat.

- **Planning and coordination:** Delivering heat networks and local generation requires alignment with development plans and emerging heat network zoning approaches.
- **System flexibility:** Limited adoption of energy storage and demand side response increases costs and hampers integration of renewables.
- **Skills and supply chains:** Shortages in accredited installers, energy engineers, and heat network specialists risk delivery delays.
- **Climate resilience:** Energy assets and critical services must withstand heatwaves and flooding and maintain continuity during extreme events.

### 9.3 What We've Done (since 2021)

- **Solihull Town Centre Energy Network:** commenced construction of a low carbon district energy scheme with 5 km of pipework, air source heat pumps and combined heat and power (CHP) units.
- **UK Central (UKC) Hub Energy Network:** secured funding for and led early-stage development to support decarbonisation of existing operators and new developments, while reducing demand on the grid and enhancing security of supply.
- **Solar Together** (Switch Together Solar): promoted a group buying scheme for solar PV and battery energy storage, increasing installations on homes and businesses across the Borough.
- **Regional collaboration:** worked with WMCA Energy Capital and Midlands Net Zero Hub to provide technical, financial, and delivery support for Council led renewable projects and heat networks.
- **Council estate:** Installed solar PV on a number of council buildings and assessed sites for further generation, energy storage, and efficiency upgrades.

### 9.4 What We Are Going to Do (2026 - 2030)

#### Engagement & Advice

- **Continue the Switch Together Solar** offer and include renewable energy advice and routes to finance in **one stop advice services** for households and SMEs.
- **Support community energy groups** to develop local generation and ownership models, e.g. shared roofs and neighbourhood batteries.

#### Heat Networks

- **Deliver the Solihull Town Centre Energy Network** Phase 1 by late 2026 and prepare Phase 2 to connect additional public, commercial and residential buildings.
- **UK Central Hub Energy Network:** continue to seek investment in the development of low carbon heat network(s) at the UKC Hub.

## Renewables & Flexibility

- **Work with WMCA and Midlands Net Zero Hub to target further rooftop solar PV** (domestic, public, commercial) and on-site battery energy storage, focusing on large roofs and regeneration areas.
- **Work with the distribution network operator (DNO) to deploy flexibility services** (demand side response, battery energy storage, smart EV charging) that reduce peak demand and unlock grid capacity.

## New Development

- **Where possible, seek to ensure new developments incorporate renewable generation**, energy storage and smart energy systems, with heat network readiness or zero emissions heating where appropriate.
- **Explore the use of planning and procurement levers to aggregate demand** for low carbon heat and power solutions across major sites.

## Climate Adaptation

- **Seek to enhance resilience of energy infrastructure** (energy centres, rooftop systems) to heat stress and flooding, including passive cooling, flood proofing and emergency backup.

## 9.5 Outcomes We Are Aiming For

- **Greater energy security and affordability** for residents and businesses through local generation and flexible demand.
- **Significantly increased local renewable energy capacity**, led by widespread rooftop solar PV and energy storage.
- **Balanced local power system** that enables growth in EV charging and air source heat pumps without power grid bottlenecks.
- **Zero carbon heat networks** where anchor loads and density support viable deployment.
- **All new developments to integrate renewables**, energy storage and smart controls from the outset.

## 9.6 Key Performance Indicators

- Local renewable electricity capacity (MWp)
- Local renewable electricity generation (MWh)
- Proportion of electricity consumed that is locally generated.

# 10. Thriving Green Economy

## 10.1 Current Position

The commercial and industrial sectors are major contributors to Solihull’s building related emissions, together accounting for 20% of the Borough’s carbon footprint. The graphs below show that emissions have declined significantly since 2012, largely because grid electricity has decarbonised; however, progress is slowing due to the cost and complexity of decarbonising heat, which is still predominantly gas fuelled across many premises.

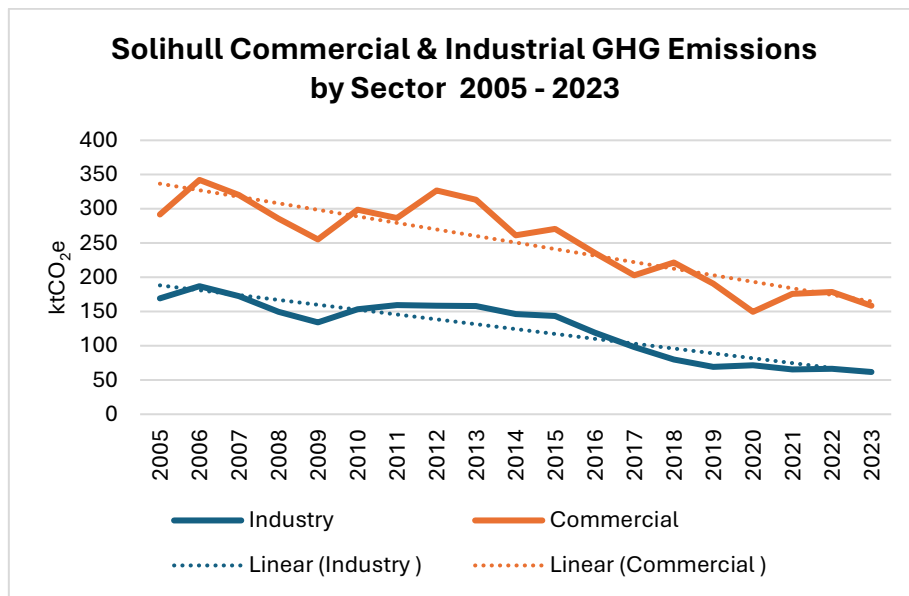


Figure 10: Commercial & industrial sector GHG emissions trends (Solihull, 2005 – 2023)  
 Data source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

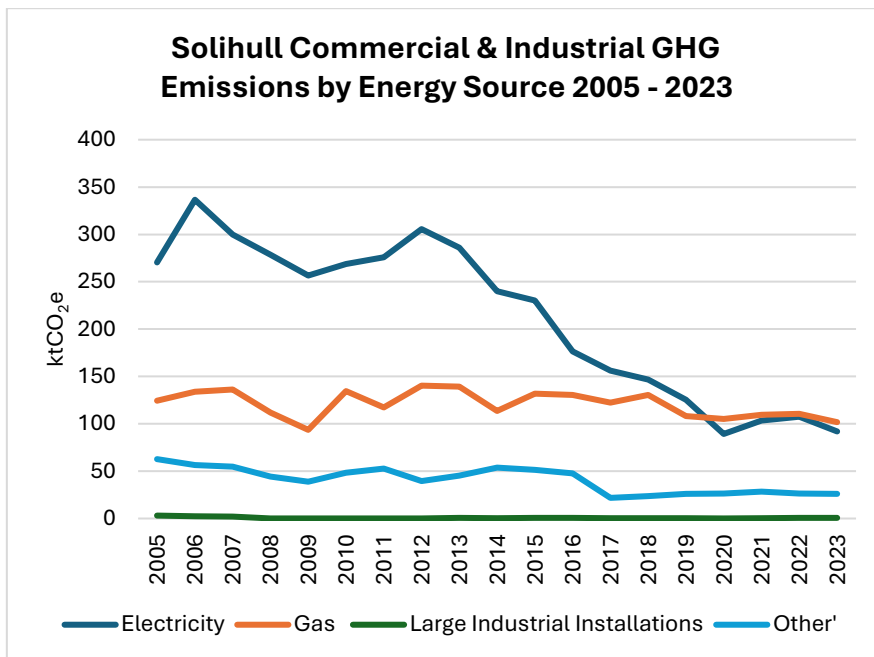


Figure 11: Commercial & industrial sector GHG emissions by energy source (Solihull, 2005 - 2023)  
 Data source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

The Borough's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods & Services (LCEGS) sector has grown significantly, (6% growth 2022/23 - 2023/24). Growth is projected to continue to £1.58bn over the next five years, supporting new jobs, investment and innovation in clean technologies, resource efficiency and green manufacturing. Harnessing this growth will help businesses reduce emissions, improve resilience to climate risks such as heatwaves and flooding, and lower exposure to volatile energy prices.

## 10.2 Key Issues

- **Non-domestic EPC ratings:** show significant variation, with older commercial properties often below EPC C, requiring insulation, smart controls and low carbon heating.
- **Solihull's economy includes strategic assets:** such as Birmingham Airport and the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), which are important for jobs and growth and sit largely outside direct Council control. Many have their own carbon reduction plans. Continued collaboration is required to deliver consistent progress across the wider local economy.
- **Skills and supply chains:** shortages of specialised commercial and industrial retrofit, heat network and low carbon technology skills can limit speed of decarbonisation.
- **Funding and market readiness:** many SMEs lack capacity, cashflow and confidence to invest in low carbon solutions (particularly heat) without support.
- **There is funding uncertainty** for SME decarbonisation support beyond current Government allocations.
- **Climate resilience:** business parks and industrial sites can face flooding and heat stress risks, affecting operations and supply chains.

## 10.3 What We've Done (since 2021)

- **Delivered** UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) **supported advice and grant schemes for SMEs**, including those in our supply chain, to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.
- **Continued and enhanced the Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG)**, engaging major employers in collaborative climate action.
- **Promoted business engagement** on retrofit, renewable energy and climate risk awareness.
- **Supported growth of the LCEGS sector**, which employs thousands across the Borough.
- **Incorporated social and environmental value requirements** into Council procurement

## 10.4 What We're Going to Do (2026 – 2030)

### Solihull Economic Strategy

- **Align delivery of the Borough's economic growth plans with the Climate Change Action Plan**, seeking to ensure sustainability drives investment and job creation.

## Engagement and Business Support

- **Seek to expand Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group** to include a broader base of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and sector bodies offering energy efficiency and sustainability support through sharing of best practice, networking and collaboration opportunities.
- **Seek to continue and evolve SME support programmes**, focusing on energy audits, carbon reduction planning, waste minimisation, compliance with MEES regulations and green finance options.

## Decarbonising Non-domestic Buildings

- **Promote fabric first upgrades** (insulation, airtightness, glazing), smart controls and energy monitoring to lift EPC ratings.
- **Seek to facilitate low carbon heat adoption** via suitable district heat network connections or air source heat pumps.

## Skills & Supply Chains

- **Work with WMCA to support the availability of skills training** and promoting new opportunities to residents and businesses in retrofit, heat network engineering, solar PV, energy storage and building management systems.
- **Further develop social value and sustainability criteria** in Council procurement, to help build low carbon supply chains and encourage apprenticeships in green skills.

## Grow the Low Carbon Sector

- **Collaborate with regional partners such as WMCA and the Midlands Net Zero Hub** to attract investment in clean technologies, renewable energy, and green manufacturing.

## New Development Requirements

- **Where required, seek to ensure implementation of Future Buildings Standard** for new commercial and industrial developments from March 2027, integrating renewables, storage and smart systems by design.
- **Through preparation of the new Local Plan, consider what additional local policy may be possible and desirable** to support emissions reduction and climate resilience in new commercial and industrial developments.

## Climate Adaptation

- **Encourage climate risk assessments and business continuity planning** for extreme weather events.
- **Promote green infrastructure** (e.g. tree planting, SuDS) in business parks to help manage flood risk and reduce heat island effects.

- **Seek the integration of nature-based solutions** into new commercial and industrial developments to enhance biodiversity and resilience.

## 10.5 Outcomes We Are Aiming For

- **Deep emissions reductions across commercial and industrial buildings** through energy efficiency, smart energy management and adoption of low carbon heat e.g. connection to suitable district heat networks or installation of air source heat pumps (ASHP).
- **A further expanded LCEGS sector**, delivering jobs, innovation and local supply chain strength
- **Mainstream circular economy practices**; less waste, higher resource productivity and lower costs.
- **Resilient business infrastructure**, capable of operating effectively under heatwaves and flood conditions
- **Consistent standards** in new developments, supporting low carbon heat, energy security and climate resilience.

## 10.6 Key Performance Indicators

- Commercial & industrial sector GHG emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Carbon intensity of economy (tCO<sub>2</sub>e/£mGVA)
- Number of businesses supported and CO<sub>2</sub>e reductions achieved
- Non-domestic EPC performance: proportion of properties assessed EPC C or better
- Low carbon and environmental goods & services sector (LCEGS) metrics: £ GVA, £ sales, number of jobs & companies

# 11. Natural Environment

## 11.1 Current Position

The natural environment (including agriculture) contributes a relatively small share of direct Borough emissions (3%) but delivers multiple benefits; storing carbon, reducing flood risk, cooling urban areas, supporting biodiversity, and improving health and wellbeing. The graph below shows Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) operating as a modest but important local carbon sink, while agricultural emissions have declined gradually over time.

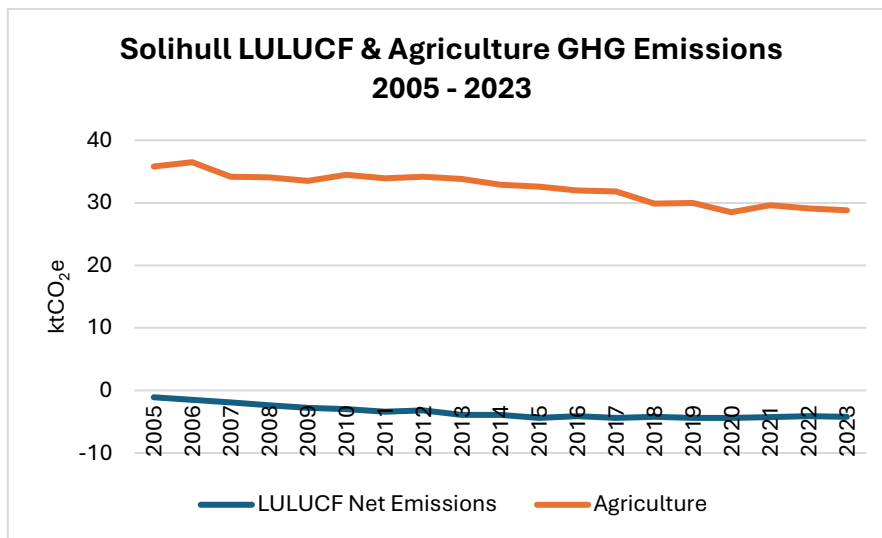


Figure 12: LULUCF & agriculture GHG emissions trends (Solihull, 2005 – 2023)  
 Data source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Solihull’s tree canopy cover is 13.1% (2022), below the national baseline (14.9%) and long-term national target (16.5% by 2050). Expanding tree canopy, improving habitat quality, and connecting green and blue<sup>9</sup> spaces are central to climate resilience. Solihull’s Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS, 2024) provides a Borough-wide framework to meet the Council’s Biodiversity Duty<sup>10</sup> and embed nature into decisions across housing, growth, skills, and transport.

## 11.2 Key Issues

- **Development pressure:** risks habitat loss/fragmentation and weak ecological connectivity.
- **Climate risks** (flooding, heat stress, pests/diseases): challenge habitat health and agricultural productivity.

<sup>9</sup> Watercourses

<sup>10</sup> English local authorities are required to set policies and specific objectives and take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity through the exercise of their functions.

- **Tree canopy expansion constraints:** urban space, airport safeguarding, farmland and other ecologically valuable habitats constrain the land available for tree planting.
- **Funding constraints:** limited resources for large scale habitat restoration, green infrastructure projects and long-term maintenance costs.
- **Variable management of green space** and limited incentives on private land.
- **Behaviour Change:** encouraging landowners and developers to adopt biodiversity and nature-based solutions.
- **Data and monitoring:** consistent baselines for canopy cover, ecological condition, and access to nature.

### 11.3 What We've Done (since 2021)

- **Planting Our Future Programme:** over 125,000 trees planted since 2020, contributing to carbon sequestration and urban cooling.
- **Arden Free Tree Scheme:** distributed thousands of free trees to residents and community groups to encourage local planting.
- **Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS) adopted** (2024) to coordinate delivery of the Biodiversity Duty across Council functions.
- **Delivered Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) actions** in partnership with WMCA to enhance biodiversity corridors.
- **Wildlife Ways and habitat projects** implemented through external grants and partnerships (e.g. Tame Valley Wetlands, Arden Farm Wildlife Network).
- **Active site management across 23 local nature reserves** (many also Local Wildlife Sites) with strong volunteer support.

### 11.4 What We're Going to Do (2026 – 2030)

#### Urban Forestry

- **Continue the Planting Our Future Programme** to meet the 250,000 trees planted by 2030 target, prioritising native, climate resilient species and urban greening.
- **Continue the Arden Free Tree Scheme** to engage residents and community groups.

#### Biodiversity Policy & Governance

- **Implement NCIS actions and the Council's Biodiversity Duty** to integrate natural capital into all major planning and relevant investment decisions.

#### Regional Nature Recovery & Biodiversity Net Gain<sup>11</sup> (BNG) Investment

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<sup>11</sup> Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): new developments are required to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state (minimum +10%).

- **Work with neighbouring authorities and regional bodies (e.g. WMCA) on large scale nature recovery strategies**, such as the West Midlands LNRS, that transcend administrative boundaries.
- **Explore regional BNG investment and assess Council land** as potential receptor sites through the LNRS.

#### **Planning Policy & Development Quality**

- **Develop a Public Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** to help ensure new developments deliver biodiversity net gain (BNG) and accessible green infrastructure.

#### **Habitat Creation & Climate Resilience**

- **Develop wetland and woodland creation projects** to improve flood resilience and carbon storage.

#### **Community Engagement & Access to Nature**

- **Deliver community engagement initiatives** to promote conservation, citizen science, and inclusive access to green spaces.

### **11.5 Outcomes We Are Aiming For**

- **A bigger, better, more connected nature network** that stores more carbon, reduces flood risk and cools urban areas.
- **Increased tree canopy cover and improved habitat quality** across public and private land.
- **More Local Wildlife Sites in positive management**
- **Better access to high quality green space**
- **Biodiversity and natural capital integrated** into planning and investment decisions
- **Nature based solutions embedded into flood management** and urban cooling strategies

### **11.6 Key Performance Indicators**

- % Tree Canopy Cover
- Number of trees planted
- Number and proportion of local wildlife sites in positive management

## 12. Public Sector

### 12.1 Current Position

The public sector accounts for a small proportion of Solihull’s total emissions (3%), but it offers high levels of control and visibility, making it a critical area for leadership and influence. Solihull Council’s own operations account for less than 1% of Borough emissions but are central to demonstrating best practice and inspiring wider action. Emissions from the public sector have declined over time, helped in the main by grid decarbonisation and also energy efficiency measures.

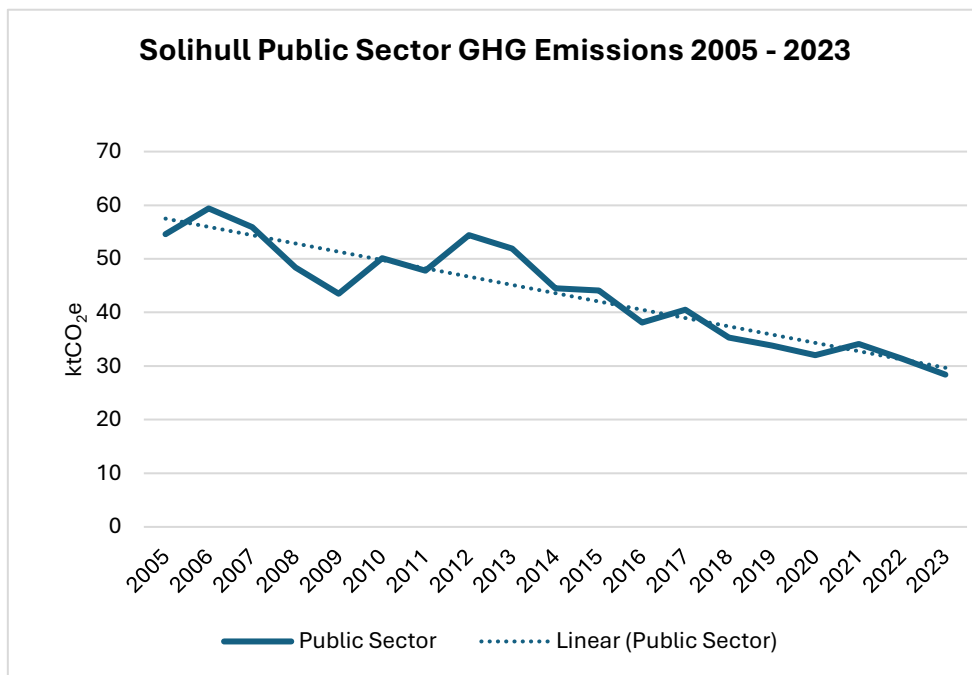


Figure 13: Public Sector GHG emissions trend (Solihull, 2005 – 2023)  
 Data source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Display Energy Certificates (DECs) show significant variation in performance across public buildings, highlighting opportunities for improvement, in particular for efficiency of heating systems.

Solihull Council’s net operational emissions have fallen by 51% since 2019/20, primarily through renewable energy adoption, decarbonisation of grid electricity and energy efficiency measures.

As lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) the Council is responsible for managing local flood risk under the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy including approving SuDS. Through the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), the Council is also jointly responsible for preparing for, responding to and recovering from extreme weather events, such as heat waves and floods.

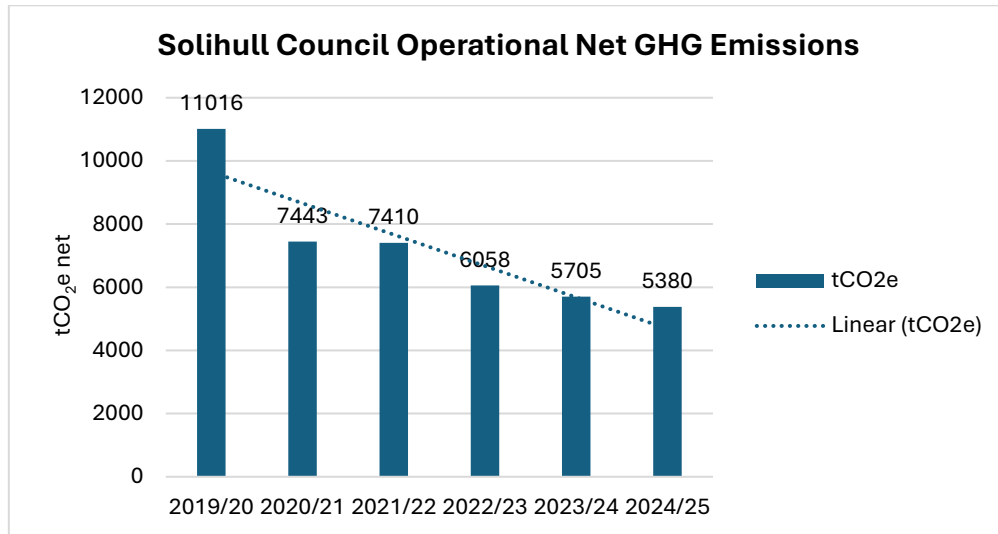


Figure 14: Solihull Council operational net GHG emissions trend 2019/20 - 2024/25

## 12.2 Key Issues

- **Funding constraints:** decarbonising public buildings, particularly moving to low carbon heating, requires significant investment often beyond current allocations. External funding opportunities can be short term in nature.
- **Heritage and older buildings:** retrofitting properties while maintaining character can be complex.
- **Capacity and skills:** need for specialist contractors, energy management and robust project/programme management.
- **Partnership boundaries:** the Council does not have control over other public organisations; however, the Council has an enabling and collaboration role
- **Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe** putting Council resources under further pressure
- **Building resilience to extreme weather requires a whole of community response** involving communities, public and private sector in adaptation planning.

## 12.3 What We've Done (Since 2021)

- **Set an annual carbon budget for the Council's operational** emissions and published annual emissions reports for transparency and accountability.
- **Reviewed the Council's operational carbon reduction plan.**
- **Delivered decarbonisation projects,** including energy network development, energy efficiency measures and solar PV on some Council buildings, making use of external funding sources.
- **Improved energy performance** across maintained schools and council buildings.
- **Delivered the Council's LLFA and LRF** extreme weather planning roles.
- **Included Climate Change in the Council's risk management** framework

## 12.4 What We're Going to Do (2026 – 2030)

### Reduce the Council's Own Emissions

- **Continue to implement the Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan** with its ambition of operational decarbonisation by 2030.
- **Utilise WMCA's Public Sector Building Retrofit pilot** to fund decarbonisation measures in Council buildings:
- **Maintain a pipeline of decarbonisation projects** to enable the Council to benefit from short notice external funding opportunities e.g. through GB Energy.
- **Explore innovative financing models.**

### Decarbonisation of Public Buildings

- **Enable other public sector organisations to reduce their carbon** emissions through schemes such as the Solihull Town Centre Energy Network.
- **Share best practice** with other public sector organisations.
- **Through preparation of the new Local Plan, consider what additional local policy may be possible and desirable** to support net zero delivery and climate resilience in new public sector developments.

### Climate Adaptation

- **Undertake a climate risk assessment of Council operations and assets** to assess further adaptation work required
- **Explore the integration of cool roofs, shading, and ventilation** into public sector retrofit programmes to cut overheating risks.
- **Continue to ensure sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)** on new public sector developments to manage flood risk.
- **Seek to expand urban greening and tree planting** around public sector areas to mitigate heat island effects.

## 12.5 Outcomes We Are Aiming For

- **Net zero Council operations by 2030:** resilient, efficient public services.
- **A public estate that costs less to run,** is comfortable, and climate ready.
- **Strong partnership delivery** across schools, health, and emergency services - scaling impact beyond the Council's own footprint.

## 12.6 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Public Sector GHG emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Council net GHG emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Energy intensity (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>) for Council corporate buildings and maintained schools
- Environmental Social Value commitments (£) delivered through Council procurement

# 13. Waste

## 13.1 Current Position

Household and business waste is responsible for a relatively small share of Solihull’s total greenhouse gas emissions (3%). While businesses are responsible for their own waste management arrangements, household waste management is a core Council service. The main sources of waste related emissions are landfill, energy from waste (EfW) treatment, and the transport used for collecting and moving materials. Some waste emissions occur outside the Borough boundary where materials are processed; these emissions are still relevant when we look at opportunities to cut emissions.

There has been a long-term gradual decline in Solihull’s waste sector emissions, with year-to-year variation linked to changes in treatment routes (e.g. landfill to EfW), recycling rates, and how materials are handled.

The Government’s Simpler Recycling policy is changing how councils and businesses collect and sort materials. From 2026, weekly household food waste collections are required, with consistent collections of paper/card, plastics, metals and glass across England. Businesses have been required to separate the same materials for recycling from 2025, with very small businesses being required to comply from 2027.

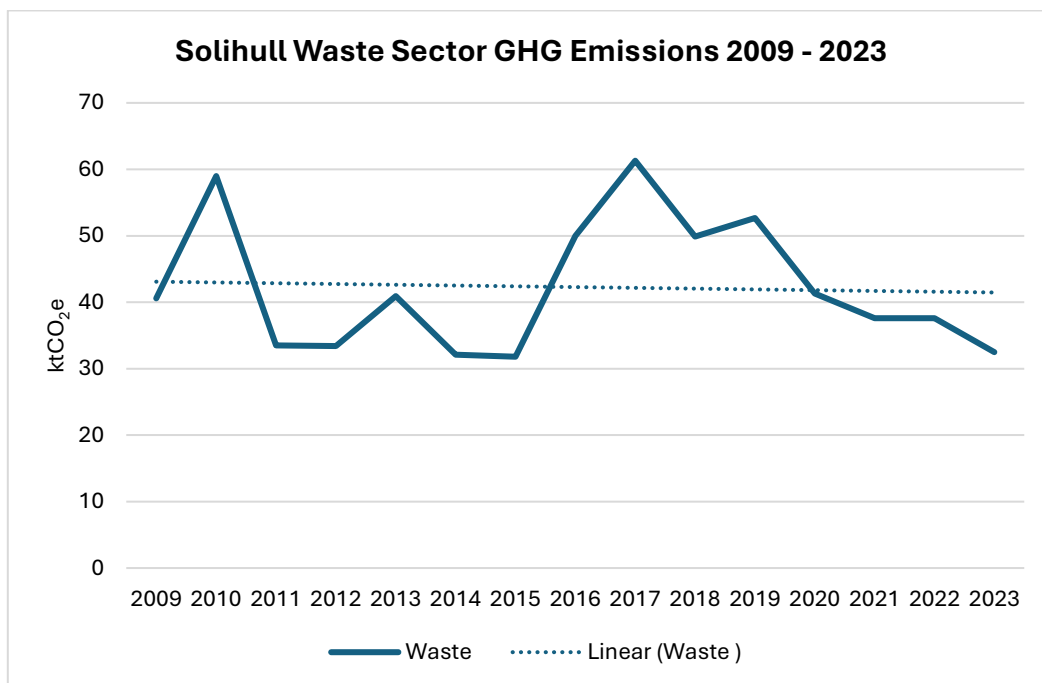


Figure 15: Waste sector GHG emissions trend (Solihull, 2009 - 2023)  
 Source: UK Local Authority GHG Emissions Statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

## 13.2 Key Issues

- **Service transition:** designing household food waste collection roll out and aligning residual and recycling frequencies.
- **Infrastructure & growth:** new/expanded HWRC<sup>12</sup>, household waste transfer and depot capacity needed to serve a growing population.
- **Behaviour change:** contamination and incorrect participation in recycling reduce quality and value; consistent materials help, but ongoing engagement with residents is essential.
- **Fleet decarbonisation:** shifting to low emission waste collection and waste transport vehicles and efficient routing.
- **Whole system carbon:** reducing waste transport miles and increasing local reprocessing where viable.

## 13.3 What We've Done (since 2021)

- **Improved kerbside recycling** for households, widening the range of plastics collected and improving quality of materials through communications and improved processing facilities.
- **Run waste minimisation and contamination reduction campaigns** for households and communal settings.
- **Worked with WMCA and Midlands Net Zero Hub on circular economy** opportunities for local businesses (repair, reuse, resource efficiency).
- **Deployed lower emission household waste collection vehicles** and operational improvements to cut fuel use.
- **Opened Sherbourne Recycling** (2023) in partnership with other neighbouring local authorities to secure a regional recycling facility for household waste.

## 13.4 What We Will Do (2026 – 2030)

### Service Changes and Operations

- **Introduce weekly food waste collections** (2026), and move most households to fortnightly residual waste, with consistent paper/card, plastics, metals and glass collections.
- **Continue the transition to renewable fuel /electric household waste collection vehicles** and optimise routing.

### Behaviour Change and Participation

- **Targeted, inclusive campaigns to boost food waste capture**, reduce contamination, and promote prevent, reuse, repair (e.g. repair cafés, swap events, work with schools/community groups).

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<sup>12</sup> Household Waste Recycling centre

### Infrastructure and Local Processing Options

- **Invest in HWRC, household waste transfer and depot capacity** to support growth, service resilience and efficient routing.
- **Explore further local reprocessing where viable** to cut waste transport emissions and improve value (e.g. organics treatment capacity).

### Strategy and System Alignment

- **Update the Solihull Waste Management Strategy** to include Simpler Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility<sup>13</sup> (EPR), Deposit Return Scheme<sup>14</sup> (DRS), circular economy principles, carbon reduction and planned growth.
- **Work with WMCA and Midlands Net Zero Hub to help businesses** implement resource efficiency, compliance with Simpler Recycling, and packaging changes prompted by EPR requirements.

### Council Leadership

- **Seek to embed waste reduction and recycling requirements** in Council operations and procurement and apply zero waste principles to Council run events.

### Climate Adaptation

- **Seek to ensure waste management sites and depots are designed for heat and flood resilience** (e.g. raised storage, ventilation, tree planting).
- **Keep emergency waste collection plans current for extreme weather.**

## 13.5 Outcomes We Are Aiming For

- **Less residual waste and higher capture of recyclables**, with lower contamination.
- **Lower operational emissions** through cleaner fleets, efficient routes and local processing.
- **Resilient, cost-effective services** that keep pace with growth and climate risks.

## 13.6 Key Performance Indicators

- Waste sector emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Recycling, reuse and composting rate (%) for households.
- Residual waste per household (kg)

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<sup>13</sup> *Extended Producer Responsibility: a policy that makes producers pay the full net costs of managing household packaging waste*

<sup>14</sup> *Deposit Return Scheme: From Oct 2027, a refundable deposit will be added to single-use PET, aluminium & steel drinks containers, refunded when the container is returned to a designated point.*

## 14 Community Engagement & Behaviour Change

### 14.1 Current Position

Community action is essential to delivering Solihull's climate goals. National research (UK Climate Change Committee (CCC)), indicates that over 60% of carbon emissions cuts needed will come from changes in people's behaviour. People's travel choices and decisions on how they heat their homes will have the largest impact.

Locally, residents consistently express strong concern about climate change. In the 2025 Solihull Place Survey, 68% of residents said they were concerned, but the cost of living, time pressures and confidence barriers can slow action. This means our engagement needs to be fair, practical, and inclusive.

The Council's Your Future Solihull campaign brings together sustainability advice, stories and events for residents, schools and businesses. Local projects like Your Future Chelmsley Wood, Solar Together, and Planting Our Future show what can be achieved when there are clear routes to supported action, and communities work together.

The biggest behaviour change opportunities are travel choices (more walking, cycling and public transport) and home energy (insulation and clean heating), supported by a trusted advice offer and local programmes. Schools are critical anchors; every school should have a Sustainability Lead and a practical Climate Action Plan that connects learning with real world projects and green careers.

### 14.2 Key Issues

- **Equity and inclusion:** reaching households facing language, disability or digital barriers; including offers that work for renters and low-income families.
- **Affordability and access:** helping residents and SMEs bridge upfront costs and navigate grants/finance with confidence.
- **Trust and misinformation:** providing clear, impartial advice and visible local examples.
- **Measuring impact:** moving from awareness raising activities to evidence of actions taken (energy efficient building retrofits, travel mode shift, energy savings).
- **Skills and capacity:** ensuring community programmes connect to local skills, installers and supply chains.

### 14.3 What We've Done (since 2021)

- **Expanded Your Future Solihull** web hub and events
- **Supported low carbon energy schemes** like Solar Together and HUG2 for eligible households.
- **Ran the Greener Schools programme**, which includes Greener Schools Awards, schools' climate conferences and resources.
- **Engaged businesses** through the Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG).



- **Set up the Solihull Sustainable Communities Network** supporting voluntary, community and faith groups to take action on climate change.
- **Delivered active travel promotions** and anti-idling campaigns linked to School Streets.
- **Supported environmental improvement projects** like Planting Our Future and Love Solihull.
- **Established the Your Future Chelmsley Wood** neighbourhood project.

## 14.4 What We Are Going to Do (2026 - 2030)

### Engagement & Advice

- **Further develop Your Future Solihull** advice hub, with clear routes for residents, schools and businesses to take action and find grants and support.
- **Develop** peer to peer ambassadors to build confidence in energy efficient retrofit and low carbon technologies, including heat pumps, EVs.

### Neighbourhood Programmes

- **Seek to develop further place-based projects** that combine home retrofit support, local energy/EV advice, air quality monitoring, and active travel, starting with areas of highest need.

### Education and Skills

- **Support school Sustainability Leads and school Climate Action Plans;** help connect curricula to green careers, employer encounters and hands on projects.

### Business and Community Partners

- **Strengthen SSVG and SME engagement** with targeted events and support on clean heat, transport & climate resilience.
- **Develop Solihull Sustainable Communities Network further** to support the VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) sector to share best practice and take further climate actions.

### Inclusive Practice and Communications

- **Provide translated materials, accessible formats and outreach** via trusted intermediaries, tailor messages to health, comfort and cost savings.
- **Develop approach to measuring impact** of engagement and behaviour change actions.

## 14.5 Outcomes We Are Aiming For

- **More residents taking action:** higher retrofit uptake, greater use of sustainable transport, and increased participation in local nature projects.
- **Improved equity:** targeted support reaches households most affected by high bills or poorer air quality.
- **Confident schools and communities:** visible leadership from schools, community hubs and faith groups.
- **Stronger local economy:** demand for green skills and services grows, improving delivery capacity.
- **Clear evidence of impact:** annual reporting shows actions taken and benefits for health, comfort and cost.

## 14.6 Key Performance Indicators

- Number of residents, schools and businesses engaged
- Growth in SSVG membership and uptake of energy audits
- Level of Climate Change concern (% of residents concerned)
- Tree planting
- Switch Together Solar take up

## 15. Governance

Strong governance is essential to ensure accountability, transparency, and effective delivery of our net zero ambitions. Solihull Council has established a robust framework to oversee progress and maintain alignment with regional and national priorities.

### 15.1 Strategic Oversight

The Climate Change Action Plan is overseen by the Climate Change and Sustainability Board, chaired by senior leadership within the Council. This board provides strategic direction, monitors performance, and ensures integration with other corporate priorities, such as economic growth, health, and transport.

### 15.2 Political Leadership

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Sustainability, supported by cabinet members for Environment & Infrastructure, and Economy, plays a key role in championing the plan and ensuring decisions reflect our net zero commitment. Regular updates are provided to Cabinet Portfolio Holders, Full Council and Scrutiny Boards to maintain democratic accountability.

### 15.3 Delivery Structure

Implementation embedded across Council activity, supported by cross departmental work, including the Climate Change and Sustainability Group and other working groups that focus on priority areas such as energy, transport, and natural environment, aiming to ensure that climate considerations are embedded across all services. Robust business cases are required for new initiatives.

### 15.4 Partnership Working

Achieving net zero and climate resilience requires collaboration beyond the Council. We work closely with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), other public sector organisations, local businesses, charities, community organisations, including the Solihull Sustainable Communities Network to share best practice, leverage funding, and deliver joint initiatives.

### 15.5 Performance Monitoring

Progress is tracked through a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) aligned with carbon reduction and climate resilience aims, using national datasets and local service data. Annual reports will be published to provide transparency. We will also review the plan every four years (or sooner if needed) to reflect changes in policy, technology, and funding.

## 15.6 Risk Management

Governance includes a formal risk register covering financial, operational, and reputational risks. This ensures that emerging challenges, such as funding shortfalls or policy changes, are identified early and mitigated effectively.

## Appendix A: Glossary Terms

- **Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP):** Electric heating technology that transfers heat from outdoor air to heat buildings and hot water with high efficiency.
- **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG):** Legal approach requiring developments to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state (minimum + 10%).
- **Carbon Budget:** Limit on the total amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted over a period while staying within a temperature target.
- **Carbon Intensity:** Emissions per unit of activity (e.g. tCO<sub>2</sub>e per m<sup>2</sup> or per £GVA).
- **Circular Economy:** Keeps products and materials in use longer through reduction, reuse, repair, remanufacture and recycling.
- **Clean Power 2030:** UK ambition to largely decarbonise electricity by 2030 via increased renewable/low carbon generation.
- **Combined Heat and Power (CHP):** Generates electricity and useful heat from the same fuel; overall efficient, but fuels must decarbonise over time.
- **Climate Adaptation:** Actions that help people, places and services prepare for and cope with climate impacts such as heatwaves, flooding and drought.
- **Climate Mitigation:** Actions that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Climate Resilience:** Ability to anticipate, withstand, adapt to and recover from climate related shocks and stresses.
- **CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent):** Unit expressing the warming effect of different greenhouse gases as an equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- **Demand Side Response (DSR):** Adjusting electricity use in response to signals (e.g. time of use tariffs) to reduce peaks and support the grid.
- **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ):** UK government department publishing local authority GHG statistics and energy policy.
- **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS):** A refundable deposit added to single-use drinks containers, refunded when the container is returned to a designated point. Incentivises recycling and reducing littering.
- **Display Energy Certificate (DEC):** Shows actual energy use of public buildings and an A - G operational rating.
- **District Heat / Heat Network:** Piped network supplying heat from a central source to multiple buildings - enables low carbon heat at scale.
- **Distribution Network Operator (DNO):** company licensed to distribute electricity. They own and operate the system of cables and towers that bring electricity to homes and businesses.
- **Electrification of Heat:** Replacing fossil fuel heating (e.g. gas) with electric systems such as heat pumps/heat networks.
- **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC):** Rates building energy efficiency from A (best) to G (worst), with improvement advice.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Makes producers pay for household packaging waste management; incentivises better design and recycling.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV):** Vehicle powered fully or partly by electricity (battery electric and plug-in hybrid).

- **Future Buildings Standard (FBS):** Forthcoming standard for new nondomestic buildings - high efficiency, low carbon heat.
- **Future Homes Standard (FHS):** Forthcoming standard for new homes - very low emissions and clean heating ready.
- **Grid Constraint:** Capacity/connection limitation on the electricity network that can delay generation, EV charging or heat electrification projects.
- **Heat Island Effect:** Urban areas are hotter than surroundings due to buildings/surfaces; mitigated by trees, shade and cool materials.
- **Heat Network Zoning:** Identifying areas where district heat is the lowest-cost decarbonisation option to accelerate connections/investment.
- **Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2):** Funded energy efficiency and clean heating upgrades for eligible homes.
- **Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC):** Local authority run site where residents can take household waste and recyclable materials for reuse, recycling or safe disposal.
- **Just Transition:** Ensures costs/benefits of decarbonisation are shared fairly; supports workers and communities through change.
- **kWh/m<sup>2</sup>:** Kilowatt hours per square metre - building energy intensity metric.
- **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** Plan for priority routes and measures to increase everyday walking/cycling.
- **Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI):** Government funding programme for public EV charge points.
- **Low Carbon & Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS):** Sector covering technologies/services that cut emissions and environmental impacts.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS):** Statutory strategy identifying priority actions/areas for nature recovery.
- **Local Resilience Forum (LRF):** Partnership planning for, responding to and recovering from emergencies, including extreme weather.
- **Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF):** Sector covering carbon stored in soils/vegetation and emissions from land use changes.
- **Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH):** Government funded regional support programme helping organisations to develop, finance & deliver local net zero projects.
- **Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES):** Regulations setting minimum EPC standards for rented properties.
- **MWp / MWh:** MWp = peak output of solar PV; MWh = megawatt hours of energy generated/consumed.
- **National Energy System Operator (NESO):** Independent body to plan and operate Great Britain's energy system across electricity and gas.
- **Net Zero:** Balance between greenhouse gases emitted and removed – ambition to achieve for 2041 for Solihull.
- **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA):** Contract buying electricity directly from a generator at agreed, often long term, terms.
- **Passivhaus:** Ultra-low energy building standard with very high insulation/airtightness and excellent comfort.

- **Residual Waste:** Waste left after prevention, reuse, repair, recycling and composting.
- **Retrofit (Fabric First):** Upgrading buildings to cut energy demand (insulation, airtightness, glazing) before adding low carbon heating.
- **SCALE (Solihull & Coventry Automated Links Evolution):** project testing connected and autonomous electric mobility solutions.
- **School Streets / Anti Idling:** Measures around schools to reduce traffic, improve safety and air quality.
- **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF):** Funds upgrades in social homes' energy performance and heating.
- **Smart Energy System:** Integrated controls, storage and tariffs optimising when/how energy is used across a site or network.
- **Solar Photovoltaics (Solar PV):** Panels that convert sunlight directly into electricity.
- **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS):** Natural process measures (permeable paving, swales, wetlands) to manage surface water runoff.
- **Tyndall Centre Pathway:** Science based local carbon reduction pathway showing the steep cuts needed this decade.
- **UK Central (UKC) Hub:** Major employment/development area around the NEC, Birmingham Airport and HS2 Interchange.
- **ULEV (Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle):** Vehicles with very low tailpipe CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, including battery EVs and some plug-in hybrids.
- **West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA):** Regional authority coordinating transport, skills, economic development and net zero programmes.
- **Your Future Chelmsley Wood (YFCW):** Place based programme supporting retrofit, wellbeing and local climate action.
- **Your Future Solihull (YFS):** Council campaign and advice platform with stories, events and guidance for residents and businesses.

## Appendix B: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI	CCAP Section	KPI	Data source	Notes
1a & 1b	Overarching metrics	Total Borough wide GHG emissions per year and per capita (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	<a href="#">DESNZ LA GHG Data</a>	Data taken from last available year of data
2	Overarching metrics	Sectoral breakdown of GHG emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	<a href="#">DESNZ LA GHG Data</a>	Data taken from last available year of data
3	Overarching metrics	Total Council's own operational net GHG emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	Council's annual carbon report	Council's annual carbon report
4	Overarching metrics	Carbon intensity per unit of Gross Value Added (CO <sub>2</sub> /£ GVA)	<a href="#">Gross Value Added Data</a>	Total CO <sub>2</sub> e (KPI1) divided by Million £ GVA
5a	Non-Domestic Buildings	Proportion of assessed non-domestic buildings in the Borough reaching Display Energy Certificate rating of 'C' or equivalent (%)	<a href="#">DEC data</a>	Calculated by - DEC Certificates A, B or C divided by total DEC certificates (%). All DEC data taken up to end of financial year of reporting
5b	Non-Domestic Buildings	Proportion of assessed non-domestic buildings in the Borough reaching EPC rating of 'C' or equivalent (%)	<a href="#">EPC Data</a>	Calculated by - EPC Certificates A, B or C divided by total EPC certificates (%). All EPC data taken up to end of financial year of reporting
6	Public Sector	Energy use in kWh per m <sup>2</sup> floor area from owned and operated Council buildings	Council's own data	Energy data from Council owned buildings (excluding schools) in kWh divided by floor area of the same buildings to give an intensity figure in kWh/m <sup>2</sup>
7	Public Sector	Energy use in kWh per m <sup>2</sup> floor area from Council maintained schools (i.e. excluding academies)	Council's own data	Energy data from schools (excluding academies) in kWh divided by floor area of the same buildings to give an intensity figure in kWh/m <sup>2</sup>
8	Community Engagement	Number of schools engaged on sustainability	Council's own data	Total number of schools engaging with the sustainability team - this could include Greener Schools award, Sustainable Schools conference and Model COP
9a	Housing	Proportion of assessed domestic buildings in the Borough reaching Energy Performance Certificate rating of 'C' or above (%) and overall number of domestic EPCs logged	<a href="#">EPC Data</a>	Calculated by - EPC Certificates A, B or C divided by total EPC certificates registered reported as a %. All EPC data taken up to end of financial year of reporting

9b	<b>Housing</b>	% Borough households in fuel poverty	<a href="#">Fuel Poverty Data</a>	Taken from most recent year's data reported
10	<b>Housing</b>	Proportion of Solihull Community Housing homes in the Borough reaching Energy Performance Certificate rating 'C' or above (%)	Data Provided by SCH	Calculated by - EPC Certificates A, B or C divided by total EPC certificates registered reported as a %.
12	<b>Transport</b>	Number of licensed ultra-low emissions vehicles as a proportion of all vehicles	<a href="#">ULEV data</a>	Licensed ULEV vehicles as a % of total licences.
13	<b>Transport</b>	Number of public EV Charging points per 100,000 population	<a href="#">EV Charge points</a>	
14	<b>Transport</b>	Number of Council installed EV charging points	Council's own data	From Council's own data
15	<b>Waste</b>	Proportion of Solihull municipal waste municipal waste reused, recycled or composted (%)	<a href="#">Annual waste data</a>	Data taken from last available year of data
16	<b>Natural Environment</b>	Urban Tree Canopy cover across Solihull (%)	<a href="#">i-Tree Survey data</a>	Data from i-Tree Survey 2023
17	<b>Natural Environment</b>	Number of trees and hedgerows planted by Council schemes across Solihull	Council's own data	From Council's own data
18	<b>Community Engagement / Natural Environment</b>	Number of people and businesses engaged through local environmental initiatives e.g. Love Solihull	Council's own data	From Council's own data
19	<b>Natural Environment</b>	Number of local wildlife sites in positive management	Council's own data	From Council's own data
20	<b>Energy Supply</b>	Total installed capacity of all renewable technology by type (MW)	<a href="#">Renewable Energy Data</a>	Data taken from last available year of data
21a	<b>Energy Supply</b>	Total renewable electricity generation from all renewable technology types (MWh)	<a href="#">Renewable Energy Data</a>	Data taken from last available year of data
21b	<b>Energy Supply</b>	% of electricity consumed in Borough generated from local renewable resources	<a href="#">Electricity Consumption Data</a>	Total generation GWh (KPI 21a) divided by total electricity consumption GWh

22	<b>Public Sector</b>	Amount of Environmental Social Value generated through Council procurement contracts (£)	Council's own data	Committed spend social value on sustainability TOMs
23	<b>Thriving Green Economy / Community Engagement</b>	Number of businesses engaging with SMBC on sustainability	Council's own data	Numbers SSVG membership
24	<b>Community Engagement</b>	Level of climate change concern (% concerned)	Solihull Council Place Survey	From Council's own data
25	<b>Thriving Green Economy</b>	Number of Solihull businesses receiving advice on decarbonisation	B&S Growth Hub data	From Birmingham and Solihull (B&S) Growth Hub
26	<b>Thriving Green Economy</b>	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e reduced through business support programmes	B&S Growth Hub data	From Birmingham and Solihull Growth Hub
27	<b>Thriving Green Economy</b>	Solihull Low Carbon & Environmental Goods & Services Sector (Annual £GVA)	<a href="#">MNZH data</a>	Data taken from last available year of data

## Appendix C: Climate Change Action Plan Table

### Legend:

- **Sphere of influence:**

Control (SMBC direct delivery); Enable (SMBC facilitates funding/tools); Influence (policy/engagement levers); Partner (joint delivery with regional/national bodies).

- **Estimated Cost bands:** £ (≤£250k), ££ (£250k - £2m), £££ (£2m - £10m), ££££ (>£10m). The estimated costs presented within this plan are provided on an indicative basis only and should not be interpreted as secured funding or a firm commitment to expenditure at this stage. These figures are intended to give a high-level view of potential resource requirements and are subject to significant refinement as the plan develops.

As the Net Zero Action Plan progresses, each proposed action will undergo detailed scoping and assessment. This process will include:

- A more comprehensive breakdown of cost estimates for delivering each action
- Identification of potential funding sources and mechanisms
- Consideration of affordability, prioritisation, and alignment with available budgets and external funding opportunities.

Final costs and funding arrangements will only be confirmed following completion of detailed development work, and actions will only be implemented once all necessary funding has been secured and formal approval has been granted for both expenditure and commencement of work.

- **Estimated Carbon impact values** are indicative pending detailed appraisal.
- **CC&S:** Climate Change & Sustainability
- **CLAUDE:** Conservation of the Historic Environment, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design & Ecology

### Cross Cutting Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & Other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
C1	Consider what additional local policy possible/desirable in new Local Plan to support net zero delivery and climate resilience in new development	Planning	Control (policy)/Influence	£ (policy) + developer capex	Future proofing; lower lifetime emissions; design quality	High (lifetime; avoids lock in)	2026 - 27
C2	Promote integrated cool roofs, shading, ventilation in retrofit to cut overheating	Private Sector Housing (with CC&S) /SCH	Influence/Enable	£ - ££ (Capex as part of grant funded schemes) £ (Revenue - advice)	Health & comfort; climate resilience	Carbon neutral; resilience gain	2026 - 30
C3	Seek to expand urban greening/tree planting around developed areas.	Planning / CLAUDE	Control/Influence	£ (policy) + (developer capex)	heat-island mitigation; biodiversity	Indirect - resilience & sequestration benefits	2026 - 30
C4	Promote green infrastructure (trees, SuDS) in business parks; integrate nature-based solutions in new developments	Planning / CLAUDE	Influence/Enable	£ - ££ (Capex - developer /Revenue)	Heat island reduction; flood mitigation; amenity	Indirect sequestration & resilience	2026 - 30

## Transport Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & Other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
T1	Support school travel plans and workplace mobility schemes; tailored engagement for mode shift. Promote active travel options.	Sustainable Travel / Public Health	Influence/Enable	£ (Revenue)	Health benefits; reduced congestion / parking pressure; air quality gains	Low - Med (behaviour dependent)	ongoing 2026 - 30
T2	Deliver Solihull Cycling & Walking Strategy: new cycle routes, safer crossings, safe routes to schools, secure cycle parking	Transport Planning	Control / Partner (TfWM)	£££ (Capex TfWM)	Safety, inclusivity, public realm uplift; shade/green corridors for resilience	Med - High (if sustained mode shift)	ongoing 2026 - 30
T3	Work with TfWM to improve bus frequency/reliability; explore north - south rapid transit; advocate rail electrification/ station upgrades	Transport Planning with TfWM	Partner/Influence	££££ (TfWM Capex)	Access to jobs/education; air quality improvements; reduced car dependency	High (car trips displaced)	ongoing 2026 - 30
T4	Expand public EV charging via LEVI/private partnerships; support zero emission taxis/private hire	UK Central	Enable/Partner	££ - £££ (mixed grant & private sector funding)	Air quality; supports fleet decarbonisation; equitable access	Med (depends on grid mix & utilisation)	2026 - 30, phased

T5	Increase number of electric buses operating in the Borough (with TfWM)	TfWM / Transport Planning	Partner	£££ (Capex via operators)	Better air quality; improved service quality	Med - High (service-level dependent)	2026 - 30
T6	Extend SCALE (Solihull & Coventry Automated Links Evolution) to Birmingham Business Park	UK Central	Control/Partner	££ (Capex/R&D - grant funded)	Innovation profile; low emission mobility pilots	Low - Med (pilot dependent)	2026 - 28

### Housing Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & Other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
H1	Seek to establish one-stop-shop retrofit advice (with WMCA): clear routes to action, grants, 'able-to-pay' finance options advice	Private Sector Housing (with Comms, CC&S)	Enable/Influence/ Partner	£ - ££ (Revenue - WMCA grant)	Trust & confidence; local skills/jobs; health/comfort	Med (drives uptake)	Set-up 2026; operate as pilot 2026 - 28
H2	Run "green doors" open home events	Private Sector Housing (with Comms & CC&S)	Influence	£ - (Revenue - grant)	Trust & confidence;	Med (drives uptake)	2026

H3	Seek to decarbonise Solihull Community Housing (SCH) stock: fabric-first upgrades, heat pumps, solar PV (via WMCA Building Retrofit Pilot)	SCH (with CC&S)	Control (SCH)	£££ (Capex, grant leveraged)	Bill savings; warmer homes; improved air quality	High (per dwelling; programme scale High)	2026 - 28
H4	Deliver net-zero homes in regeneration (Kingshurst, Simon Digby) using Passivhaus principles	UK Central (with SCH)	Control	£££ (Capex - WMCA grant)	Exemplar standards; very low running costs; fuel-poverty relief	High (lifetime)	2026 - 30 (phased completions )
H5	Deliver private sector housing retrofit grant schemes (WMCA Building Retrofit pilot)	Private Sector Housing	Control /enable	£ (WMCA grants)	Improved Private sector housing standards; health & safety; fairness	Med - High (targeted to worst performing homes)	WMCA programme 2026 - 2028
H6	Continue MEES enforcement with landlord guidance	Trading Standards	Control (enforcement)/Influence	£ (enforcement & guidance)	Improved Private sector housing standards; health & safety; fairness	Med - High (targeted to worst performing homes)	Ongoing 2026 - 30
H7	Promote Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUGS) heat-pump uptake; signpost further green finance	Private Sector Housing (with Comms)	Influence/Enable	£ (Revenue) + grant funding + private spend	Lower bills; market confidence; supply chain growth	Med (uptake dependent)	BUGS 2026 – 27 Annual campaigns 2026 - 30

### Energy Supply Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & Other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
E1	Run Switch Together Solar scheme	CC&S / Comms	Enable	£ (Revenue - staff time)	Confidence, lower bills, consumer protection	Indirect (drives uptake)	2026 – 29 (current tranche)
E2	Support community energy groups	CC&S / Community Partners	Enable/Partner	£ (Revenue - staff time) + private / community	Local ownership; resilience; skills	Low - Med (project dependent)	Ongoing 2026 - 30
E3	Deliver Town Centre Energy Network Phase 1 by late 2026; prepare Phase 2 to connect additional buildings	UK Central	Control/Partner	££££ (Capex - mixed sources)	Energy security; cost stability; anchor loads decarbonised	High (low-carbon heat, rising with connections )	Phase 1 complete end 2026; Phase 2 preparation has commenced
E4	Progress UK Central Hub low carbon energy network(s) development - seek investment and take forward design	CC&S / UK Central	Partner/Enable	£ (Revenue - staff time) ££££ (Capex - grant and private sector funded)	Strategic growth; grid capacity relief	High (cluster scale)	2026 - 30 (phased – dependent on funding & uptake)
E5	Work with WMCA & MNZH to target rooftop solar PV and on-site battery storage	CC&S (with Property,	Enable/Partner/Control	££ - £££ (Capex, grant and private sector)	Bill savings; backup resilience; supply-chain jobs	Med - High (generation dependent)	Rolling 2026 - 30

	(public, commercial, domestic) focusing on larger scale opportunities	Private Sector Housing, SCH, Economic Development)					
E6	Work with Distribution Network Operator to explore flexibility: demand-side response, smart EV charging, batteries to reduce peaks & unlock capacity	CC&S (with UK Central, Property)	Partner/Enable	£ (Revenue - staff time) ££ (capex grant & private sector)	Avoided reinforcement; enables electrification	Indirect - enables other savings	On going 2026 - 2030
E7	Seek to ensure new developments integrate renewables, storage and smart systems; heat network readiness or zero emission heating	Planning / Building Control	Control (policy)/Influence	£ (policy) + developer capex	Future proofing; lower lifetime costs	High (lifetime; avoids lock-in)	From Dec 2026; ongoing
E8	Explore use of planning levers to aggregate demand for low carbon heat & power across major sites	CC&S (with Planning / UK Central)	Influence/Enable	£ (policy)	Market shaping; economies of scale	Indirect - accelerates deployment	2026 - 30
E9	Explore enhancement of resilience of energy	UK Central/	Control/Partner	£ (revenue - staff time)	Continuity of service; risk reduction	Carbon neutral;	2026 - 30

	infrastructure to heat & flooding (passive cooling, flood-proofing, emergency backup)	Property/LLFA				strong resilience benefit	
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### Thriving Green Economy Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
GE1	Align Solihull Economic Strategy delivery with the Climate Change Action Plan	Economic Development (with CC&S)	Influence/Control (policy)	£ (Revenue - Staff time)	Coherent growth; clearer signals for investors; social value	Indirect - enables low carbon investment	2026 – 30, review annually
GE2	Expand Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG) to include SMEs and sector bodies; share best practice and collaborate on clean heat, transport and climate resilience.	CC&S	Enable/Influence	£ (Revenue - staff time)	Network effects; faster diffusion of solutions; supplier readiness	Low - Med (via business uptake)	2026 – 30, quarterly convening
GE3	Continue & evolve SME support: energy audits, carbon plans, waste minimisation & resource efficiency, MEES	Economic Development (with B&S)	Enable/Partner	£ - ££ (Revenue + grants)	Business cost savings; competitiveness; compliance;	Med (aggregated across cohorts)	Cohorts each year 2026 - 30

	compliance, access to green finance	Growth Hub)			pipeline for projects; local jobs		
GE4	Commercial building retrofit: promote fabric first upgrades, smart controls and monitoring to lift EPC ratings	Economic Development (via B&S Growth Hub)	Influence/Enable	££ - £££ (private capex)	Comfort; OPEX reduction; asset value uplift	High (if heat decarb follows)	2026 - 30, rolling
GE5	Seek to facilitate low carbon heat in non-domestic sites: connection to heat networks where viable or install ASHPs	CC&S/ UK Central/ Private sector	Influence/Enable/Partner	££ - £££ (grants + private Capex)	Decarbonised heat; air quality improvement	High (site specific)	2026 - 30, rolling
GE6	Work with WMCA to support the availability of skills training and promoting new opportunities to residents and businesses (retrofit, heat networks, PV, storage, BMS)	Employment & Skills with WMCA	Enable/Partner	£ (Revenue staff time + grants)	Local jobs & apprenticeships; delivery capacity	Indirect – accelerates implementation	2026 - 30
GE7	Further develop social value & sustainability criteria in Council procurement.	Procurement (with CC&S)	Control/Influence	£ (Revenue)	Market shaping; investment confidence; inclusive growth	Indirect - accelerates delivery	2026 - 30

GE8	Collaborate with regional partners (e.g. WMCA, MNZH) to attract investment in clean tech, renewables, green manufacturing	Economic Development / CC&S	Partner/Enable	£ (Revenue) + grant + private capex	Jobs; innovation; diversification	Med - High (portfolio dependent)	Ongoing 2026 - 30
GE9	Promote climate risk assessments and business continuity planning for extreme weather	CC&S / LRF	Influence	£ (Revenue)	Reduced downtime; insurance resilience; safer workplaces	Carbon neutral; resilience gain	Ongoing 2026 - 30

### Natural Environment Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & Other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
NE1	Planting Our Future - deliver 250,000 trees planted by 2030; prioritise native, climate-resilient species and urban greening	Planting our Future (with Love Solihull & Forestry Team)	Control/Enable	££ (Capex/Revenue; grants)	Cooling; flood mitigation; amenity; biodiversity	Low - Longer-term sequestration	Ongoing 2026 - 30
NE2	Continue Arden Free Tree Scheme to engage residents & community groups	CLAUDE (with Community groups / Love Solihull)	Enable	£ (Revenue - external funds)	Community stewardship; neighbourhood pride	Low (establishment dependent)	Ongoing 2026 - 30

NE3	Implement NCIS actions and Biodiversity Duty – embed natural capital in planning/investment decisions	CLAUDE / Planning	Control (policy)	£ (Revenue - policy)	Better decisions: co-benefits accounted	Indirect – enables nature & carbon outcomes	Ongoing 2026 – 30 NCIS 2026 - 29
NE4	Work with WMCA/neighbouring authorities on West Midlands LNRS – large-scale nature recovery across boundaries	CLAUDE with WMCA partners	Partner	££ (external funds)	Connectivity; ecosystem health; shared delivery	Low - Med (local), high resilience benefits	Project waves 2026 - 30
NE5	Explore regional BNG investment and assess Council land as receptor sites through LNRS	CLAUDE (with Planning)	Enable	£ (Revenue - potential source of income)	Financing for habitat creation; policy compliance	Indirect - supports net biodiversity gain	2026 - 27 scoping; delivery
NE6	Develop Public Open Space SPD to secure BNG and green infrastructure in new developments	CLAUDE / Planning	Control (policy)	£ (policy)	Higher quality places; climate resilience	Indirect - prevents loss, supports sequestration	Adopt 2026
NE7	Deliver wetland & woodland creation projects for flood	CLAUDE with Environmental Agency & WWT partners	Partner/Enable	££ - £££ (Capex; grants)	Flood attenuation; habitat; access	Med (sequestration; avoided flood impacts)	2026 - 30, phased

	resilience and carbon storage						
NE8	Community engagement initiatives - conservation, citizen science, encouraging inclusive access to green spaces	CC&S / Love Solihull / Comms / Community Development	Influence	£ (Revenue - staff time - including grant funded)	Health & wellbeing; volunteering; inclusion	Low - Med (behaviour dependent)	Annual programme 2026 - 30

### Public Sector Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
PS1	Deliver Council Net Zero Carbon Plan to 2030	CC&S - coordination across Council	Control	££ (Capex: mixed predominantly grant funding) + £ (staff time) included in Council budget papers	Lower bills; comfort; leadership by example	Med (estate scale)	2026 - 30, annual pipeline
PS2	Deliver WMCA public-sector building retrofit pilot	CC&S & Property (with Finance)	Control/Enable	££ - £££ (Capex - grant funded with Council match identified)	Access to funds; Lower bills; comfort; leadership by example	Med - High (site-specific)	WMCA pilot 2026 – 28

				£ (Revenue - staff time)			
PS3	Maintain & develop project pipeline; explore innovative financing	CC&S & Property (with Finance)	Control	£ (Revenue - staff time)	Access to funds; speed of delivery	Med - High (site-specific)	Ongoing 2026 - 30
PS4	Enable other public organisations to decarbonise (e.g. connect to Town Centre Energy Network); share best practice	UK Central / Partnerships	Partner/Enable	£ (Revenue - staff time)	Wider system impact; consistency	Med (aggregated across partners)	2026 - 30
PS6	Undertake climate risk assessment of council operations/assets	Risk / CC&S	Control	£ (Revenue - staff time)	Service continuity;	Carbon neutral; strong resilience benefit	Assess 2026

### Waste Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & Other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
W1	Introduce weekly food waste collections (2026) and move most households to fortnightly	Waste Services	Control	££ (Capex/Revenue -	Public health; less landfill; service efficiency;	Med - High (biogenic)	Implement 2026;

	residual; standardised dry recycling			primarily via UK Gov)	resident convenience	methane avoided)	
W2	Transition to renewable fuel/electric collection vehicles and optimise routing	Waste Services / Delivery Partner	Control	Revenue neutral - Renewable fuel ££ EVs (Capex - business case dependent)	Air quality; lower fuel costs; quieter streets	Med (fleet emissions reduced)	2026 - 30, phased
W3	Targeted, inclusive campaigns to boost food waste capture, reduce contamination, and promote prevent - reuse - repair	Waste Services (with Comms) CC&S / Community Development	Influence	£ (Revenue)	Community engagement; circular economy; cleaner streams	Low - med (participation-dependent)	Annual waves 2026 - 30
W4	Explore development of investment in HWRC, transfer station and depot capacity (consider climate resilient design)	Waste Services / Property	Control	££-£££ (Capex - business case dependent)	Service resilience; efficient routing; future growth	Med (transport & handling efficiencies)	ongoing
W5	Explore local reprocessing (organics treatment)	Waste Services	Enable/Influence	££ (Capex/partnership - business case dependent)	Value retention; reduced transport miles	Med (supply chain emissions cut)	ongoing
W6	Embed waste reduction & recycling in Council operations/procurement;	Procurement / Events / CC&S	Control	£ (Revenue - staff time)	Leadership; cleaner events;	Low - Med	2026 - 30

	zero waste principles for Council events				reputational benefits		
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### Community Engagement & Behaviour Change Actions

Action ID	Action	Lead Service	Sphere of Influence	Estimated Costs	Co-benefits & Other Factors	Estimated Carbon Impact	Timescales
CE1	Further develop Your Future Solihull advice hub: energy & active travel advice, simple routes to action, grants, advice on finance options etc.	CC&S (with Comms, Private Sector housing & Sustainable Travel)	Enable	£ (Revenue - WMCA grant)	Trust & confidence; health/comfort; consumer protection	Indirect (drives uptake)	Develop 2026; ongoing updates 2027 – 30
CE2	Develop ambassador programmes to build confidence in retrofit and low carbon technologies; heat pumps, EVs etc	CC&S, Private Sector Housing (with Comms)	Influence	£ (Revenue - grant funded)	Peer learning; visible exemplars; local supply-chain momentum	Med (uptake dependent)	2026
CE3	Seek to deliver further neighbourhood programmes: retrofit support, local energy/EV advice, air quality monitoring,	CC&S	Enable/Partner	££ (Revenue/Capex mix - grant funded)	Fuel poverty relief; cleaner air; wellbeing; place pride	High (aggregated actions)	2026 - 30

	active travel – working with WMCA						
CE4	Support Sustainability Leads & Climate Action Plans in schools; connect to green careers and hands on projects	CC&S	Influence/Enable	£ (Revenue, grant and private sector funded)	Skills pipeline; student leadership; community spillovers	Low - Med (long term behaviour change)	Ongoing 2026 - 30
CE5	Develop Solihull Sustainable Communities Network to support VCFSE climate action plans and best practice sharing	CC&S (with VCFSE partners)	Enable	£ (Revenue -staff time)	Capacity building; inclusion; local pride	Low - Med (project dependent)	Ongoing 2026 - 30
CE6	Inclusive practice & communications: translated materials, accessible formats, outreach via trusted intermediaries	CC&S (with Community Development)	Influence	£ (Revenue staff time and grant funded)	Equity; reach into priority neighbourhoods	Low (enabler)	Develop 2026 Ongoing 2026 - 30

## **Appendix D: Data and methods.**

Solihull's Borough-wide emissions are sourced from the UK Local Authority and Regional GHG Emissions Statistics (DESNZ, latest release July 2025, covering 2005 - 2023). The dataset is compiled from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, uses an end user approach for energy, and provides sector level totals for every local authority. At local authority level, F-gases and international aviation/shipping are not included. These statistics are used to set the baseline, track sector trends, and report per capita indicators, complemented by local operational data for programme design and evaluation.