

Draft Foreword

Cllr Michael de Whalley, Cabinet portfolio holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity

This strategy and action plan has come about through the dedication and expertise of this Council's Climate Change Manager and Officer, who have my utmost respect and gratitude.

Physicist Carl Sagan wrote in 1980:

"The principal energy sources of our present industrial civilisation are the so-called fossil fuels. We burn wood and oil, coal and natural gas, and, in the process, release waste gases, principally CO₂, into the air. Consequently, the carbon dioxide content of the Earth's atmosphere is increasing dramatically. The possibility of a runaway greenhouse effect suggests that we have to be careful: Even a one- or two- degree rise in the global temperature can have catastrophic consequences."

Mindful of Professor Sagan's warning, now enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement, the 30-year average global surface temperature is projected to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius warming since pre-industrial times by 2030 (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts). 2024 was the first calendar year where we surpassed this boundary.

The National Risk Register is the government's assessment of the most serious risks facing the UK. It includes a wide range of natural and environmental hazards including:

- Storms
- High temperatures and heatwaves
- Low temperatures and snow
- Coastal flooding
- Fluvial flooding

Extreme events have already made their impact in our region such as exceeding 40 degrees Celsius in 2022. In recent times we have also experienced wildfires as well as severe storms with consequent wind damage and flooding.

In September 2021, this Council announced a climate change emergency with a robust climate change strategy and action plan in place.

This document, revises and updates our climate strategy and action plan and includes best practice examples such as:

- St George's Guildhall renovation to include an energy centre replacing gas heating with heat pumps, solar PVs, improved lighting and insulation
- Solar PV installations at KLIC, Downham Mkt Leisure Centre and Corn Exchange
- Electric vehicles replacing internal combustion engines
- An energy efficient replacement of St James swimming pool
- Ongoing conversion to LED lighting

Our efforts since declaring a climate emergency have not only brought in at least £17 million of funding into West Norfolk but also long-term savings through investment in more efficient infrastructure. Even if that were not the case, the cost of mitigating climate change is lower

than the economic damage that climate impacts cause, not least because low-lying and coastal West Norfolk is one of the most vulnerable areas on the planet.

Climate change:

Is real.

Is us.

Is bad.

Has scientific consensus.

Is happening now.

And, most importantly, we still have time to act, but quickly.

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1. Our aspirations

We will support the transition to lower carbon living in King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

We will continue to reduce our own emissions in line with our targets, as an example to others, and work with the wider community to encourage the adoption of more sustainable living.

Our approach will promote low carbon solutions that also address wider challenges of tackling fuel poverty, improving housing standards, improving air quality, and more active travel..

We will encourage low carbon energy generation in appropriate settings.

We will encourage new woodland and planting of gardens and open spaces as a way of storing carbon and improving biodiversity.

We will encourage adaptation to our changing climate.

2. Our targets

We will continue to work towards a local target of 2035 for the elimination of our own emissions and support the national target of 2050.

By April 2028, we aim to have reduced our footprint by 66.1% compared with our 2009 baseline. Amongst the range of projects we are progressing, the replacement of the St James swimming pool has the potential to further reduce our footprint although that is likely to happen after the implementation of Norfolk's new local government structures.

3. What do we mean by low carbon?

When fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas are burnt, greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere that ultimately prevent heat from escaping and cause the world to continue warming.

At over 80%, carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the principal driver of global warming and so, for shorthand, we talk about carbon.

Over the years, greenhouse gases have accumulated in the atmosphere, and their warming effect is now leading to rising sea levels and the breakdown of our climate. Extreme weather is becoming more common and causing floods, heatwaves and droughts in many parts of the world including the UK.

The more warming, the more serious the consequences. The Paris Agreement states that global warming must be limited to well below 2°C, whilst aiming for 1.5°C. Current emission reduction pledges, made as part of nationally determined contributions, are likely to lead to warming above 2°C.

Reducing the energy we use, and instead of using energy derived from fossil fuels, switching to energy from low carbon sources are key.

Net zero carbon means balancing any remaining carbon emissions by removing an equal amount of carbon from the atmosphere, for example by growing more trees.

4. Our approach

As a Council, we have direct control of a very small proportion of carbon emissions from the borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk - less than 1%. However, there is a lot we can do to influence the remaining 99%, and we will encourage progress towards lower carbon emissions where we can.

Our approach has three elements:

1. Becoming an exemplar to others.
2. Using our influence through regulatory policies and how we procure.
3. Making the most of our wider influence through collaborative work, partnerships and in our communities.

5. Our record so far

In September 2021, we declared a climate emergency and put in place our first climate change strategy and action plan. We set an ambitious target of eliminating our emissions by 2035, ahead of the national target of 2050.

Since 2021 we have:

- Switched our electricity to a net zero tariff. Saving an estimated 1,850 tonnes of CO₂ over four years.
- Purchased five battery electric vans.
- Installed solar panels to Alive Downham Leisure, Alive Lynnsport, Alive Oasis, Alive St James, Oldmedow Road depot, King's Court and South Lynn Community Centre.
- Two retrofit exercises (RE:fit) have installed numerous energy conservation measures across our buildings. Measures include solar photovoltaics, heat pumps (both air and ground source), LED lighting, insulation upgrades and more efficient CHP (Combined Heat and Power) units. The second phase of works was undertaken with the support of £3.8 million worth of grant funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
- Reduced the amount of energy used by our streetlights by upgrading the units to more energy efficient LEDs.
- Sponsored the environmental category of the annual Mayor's business awards to highlight exemplary practice amongst the borough's diverse business community.
- Encouraged householders and businesses to install solar panels, battery storage and electric vehicle chargers through the promotion of a group buying scheme.
- 2023 was the first year of our annual schools competition. It is open to all primary schools in the district and aimed at year five. The competition's main aims are to promote ideas, learning and creativity around climate change solutions.
- Created a number of initiatives to encourage people to use healthier, more active or more environmentally friendly forms of transport, such as the active and clean connectivity programme, secure cycle storage and a community cycle hire scheme.
- Worked with Community Action Norfolk, under the Go Green Communities project to help improve the environmental impact of community buildings across the borough.
- Created a community orchard in South Lynn including 43 new trees.

- Established an environment art project called Beuys Oaks that involved the planting of seven oak trees and a related events programme involving local schools and residents.
- Worked with BP Pulse and a Government grant scheme to install 52 electric vehicle charging sockets across the borough on Council car parks.
- Supported the investment of approximately £13 million from energy suppliers to improve the housing stock for the borough's most vulnerable residents. On average, that equates to almost £34,000 investment in each property's retrofit.
- Helped to increase the energy rating (SAP) of 269 properties across the borough to a C or above and helped to tackle fuel poverty.
- Adopted a new Local Plan to ensure that future development contributes to carbon reduction and adaptation to our changing climate.
- Secured planning permission for the redevelopment of the St George's Guildhall that will create an exemplar low carbon arts and cultural destination in the East of England.

Our refreshed strategy outlines our approach to supporting the transition to a lower carbon borough and implementing adaptation to climate change. Government data shows that CO₂ emissions for the borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk totalled 1,319 kt CO₂ in 2023.

Our approach to lowering the borough's carbon emissions is split into the areas that we can influence:

- [Homes](#)
- [Workplaces](#)
- [Transport](#)
- [Recycling and Waste](#)
- [Land use](#)
- [Energy](#)

Each section provides a summary of the issues involved and an outline of the main ways in which we will take action:

- Becoming an exemplar to others.
- Using our influence through regulatory policies and how we procure.
- Making the most of our wider influence through collaborative work, partnerships and in our communities.

6. Council's carbon footprint

The council audits its carbon emissions on an annual basis. A summary of our latest carbon emissions for 2023/24 is set out in Appendix A.

The table below sets out the related emissions for each of the scopes for previous years.

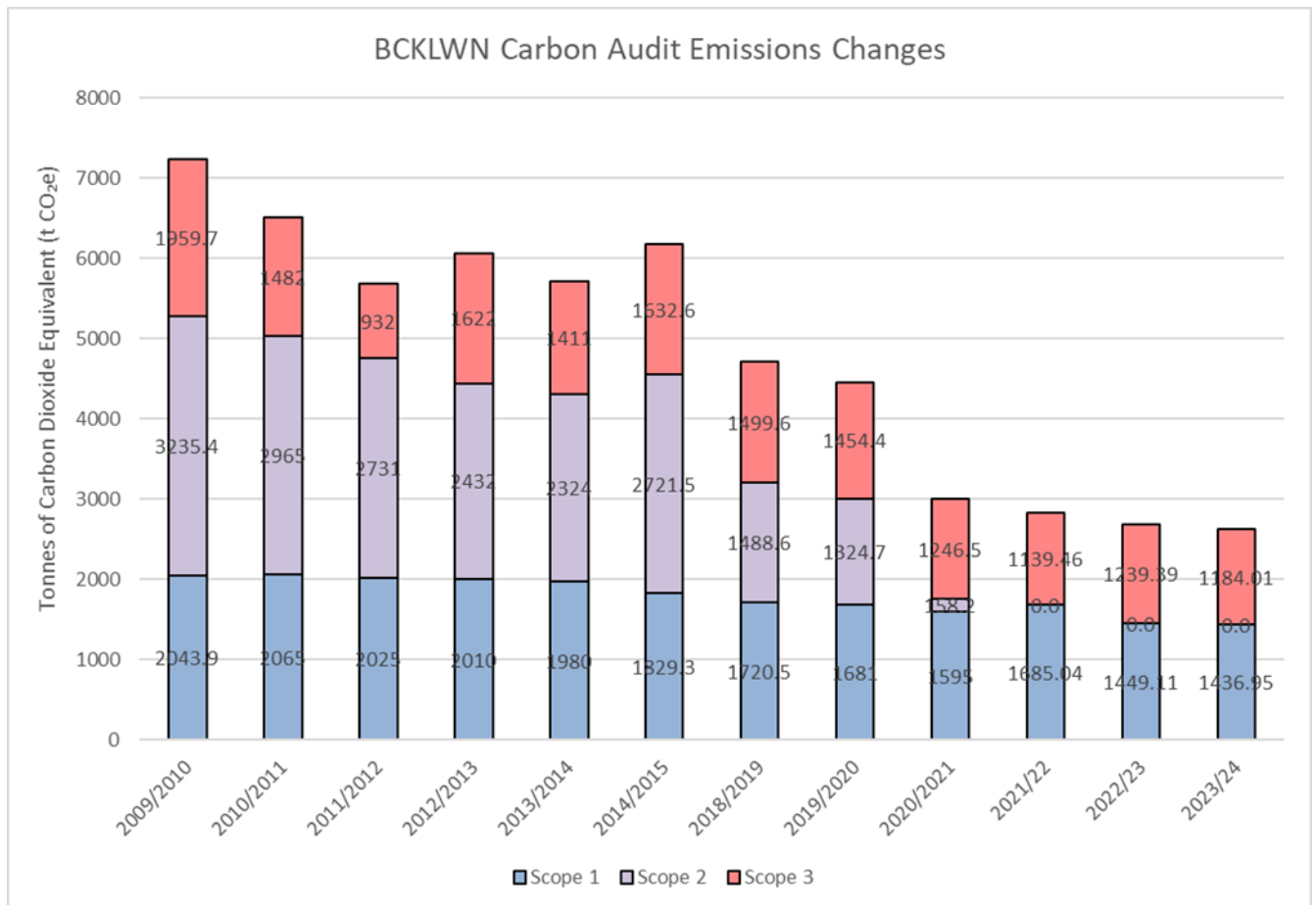
BCKLWN tCO ₂ e Emissions					
Year	2009/10	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Scope 1	2,109.2	1,595.0	1,685.0	1449.0	1,436.0
Scope 2	3,235.4	829.5	843.5	885.1	965.2
Scope 2 renewable tariffs	-	-671.3	-843.5	-885.1	-965.2
Scope 3	2021.5	1,243.8	1,146.41	1,239.4	1,184.1

Scope 3 Transmission Losses renewable tariff	-	-	-6.95	-80.9	-83.52
Total gross emissions	7,366.1	3,668.3	3,674.9	3,573.6	3,586.1
Total net emissions	7,366.1	2,997.0	2,824.5	2,607.5	2,537.4

The table below sets out what is included in each of the scopes.

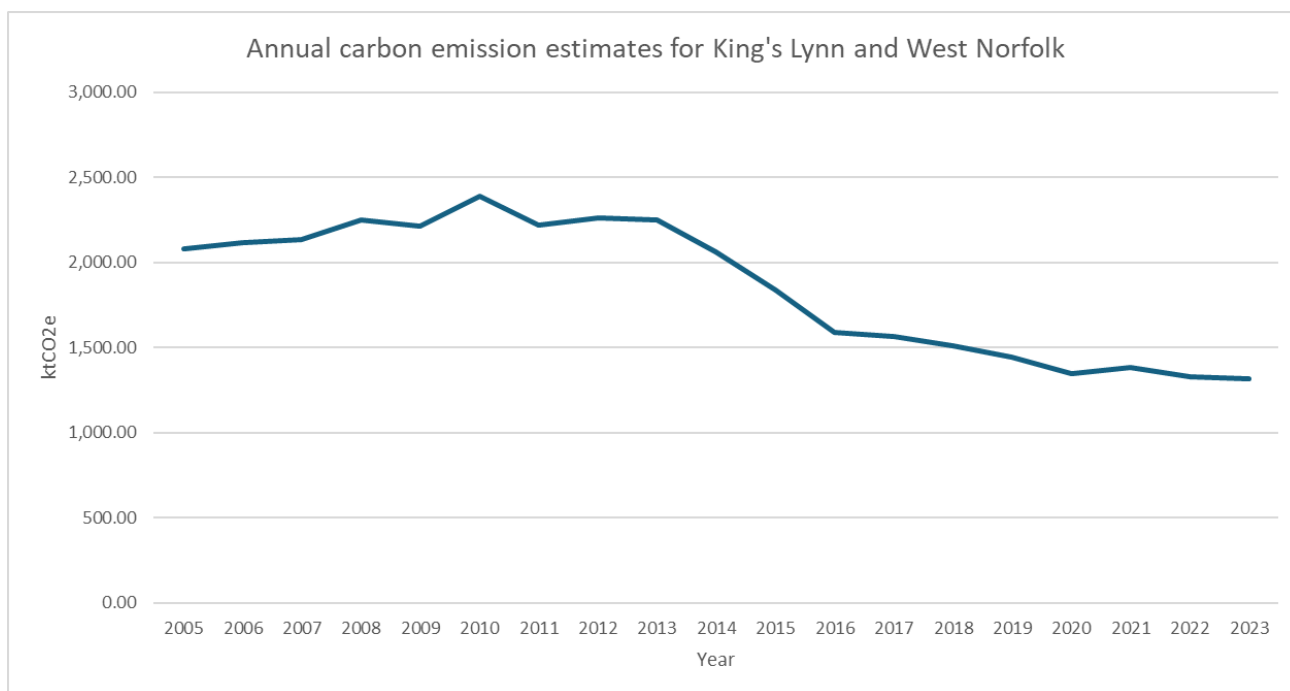
Scope	Activity	Description
Scope 1	Gas Consumption	Used to heat our buildings and sites
	Oil Consumption	Used to heat our buildings and sites
	Vehicle Fleet	The Council's operational vehicle fleet
Scope 2	Purchased electricity	Electricity purchased from the national grid to power the Council's buildings and sites
Scope 3	Transmission and Distribution Losses	These are indirect emissions from the transmission and distribution of our purchased electricity. It is considered best practise to include these in Scope 3 emissions
	Water Supply	The supply of water to our buildings and sites
	Water Treatment	The water we return to the system (90% return to sewer rate)
	Business Travel	Staff and member travel in their own vehicles on business grounds
	Contractor Travel	Travel by contractors to carry out work commissioned by the Council, e.g., waste collection

Our reductions in carbon emissions are summarised in the chart overleaf:



7. Carbon emissions for the geographic borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

The Government publish annual greenhouse gas emissions at local authority level. There is a two year time lag on publication. Emissions for 2005-2023 for King's Lynn and West Norfolk are illustrated below:



Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Further data is available in Appendix B for the following emission categories, and their respective trends are listed in the table below:

Emission category	Trend
Industry	Reducing but slight increase since 2020
Commercial	Reducing but rate of change reduced since 2021
Public sector	Reducing but rate of change reducing since 2021
Domestic	Ongoing reduction
Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry	Plateaued since 2009
Agriculture	Small reduction since 2009
Waste Management	Small value but plateaued since 2009
Transport	Reduced then plateaued since 2016

8. Adaptation to climate change

The Government's third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) highlights how our climate is changing. In 2022, the UK recorded the warmest year on record with temperatures reaching over 40°C. The last three years have all been in the UK's top five warmest years.

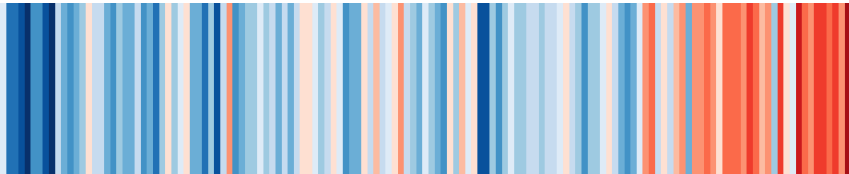
The frequency of hotter summers and droughts is forecast to increase in the future along with winters becoming wetter, making flooding more likely. Sea level rise is accelerating with the last three years the highest on record for annual mean sea level. Air and ground frosts have reduced by around a quarter since the 1980s.

To understand more about the risks facing the borough the following publications provide forecasts and scenarios on climate change adaptation:

- Tyndall Centre Research project [OpenCLIM](#) assessment of [Norfolk](#), 2024

- Fens 2100+ commissioned [UK Fens Climate Change Risk Assessment](#), Dec 2024
- Director of [Public Health Annual Report 2024/25](#), Health and climate change, Norfolk County Council, July 2024
- [State of the UK Climate 2024](#), Met Office, 14 July 2025
- [King's Lynn and West Norfolk Climate Explorer](#), Met Office

The chart below illustrates how temperatures in King's Lynn and West Norfolk have increased over the period 1884-2023, with many of the hottest years occurring in the last few decades:



Source data: HadUK-Grid, Concept: Ed Hawkins

The Met Office suggest that the negative impacts of climate change may include:



The Paris Agreement states that global warming must be limited to well below 2°C, whilst aiming for 1.5°C. Current emission reduction pledges, made as part of nationally determined contributions, are likely to lead to warming above 2°C.

Independent guidance, adopted by the UK government for the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and 3rd National Adaptation Plan (NAP3), is to prepare for a 2°C rise in global temperature, whilst assessing the risks for 4°C.

The Met Office projections are summarised in Appendix C.

We will use the [Local Partnership's](#) Adaptation Toolkit to undertake an assessment of our climate adaptation risks.

9. Implementation

Our climate change strategy will support the Council to deliver on its Corporate Strategy 2023-27 and its corporate priority to "Protect our environment" and "To create a cleaner,

greener, and better protected West Norfolk by considering environmental issues in all we do and by encouraging residents and businesses to do the same.”

Actions to implement the strategy and deliver the targets for carbon emissions reductions are set out in Appendix D. Progress on these actions will be monitored by the Cabinet. An annual carbon footprint will also be published on our website for the Council's direct emissions and for the geographic borough.

10. Homes

There are approximately 67,500 households in King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Providing heating and power for them results in nearly 183.3 kt of CO₂ per annum (2023). That is approximately 14% of the borough's carbon footprint.

Reducing carbon emissions from housing is a major challenge. In our largely rural district, 38,000 houses are off the gas grid, and we have fewer flats and more large and detached homes. Many homes in the district have relatively low energy efficiency standards and have hard-to-insulate solid walls. There are approximately 900 Grade 1 listed buildings in King's Lynn and West Norfolk and over 200 buildings on a list maintained by the King's Lynn Civic Society many of which are particularly challenging to make energy efficient. Decarbonising homes will mean replacing coal, gas and oil heating systems with low carbon alternatives. In many cases these will be heat pumps powered by electricity which increasingly comes from renewable energy and other low carbon sources. It will also be necessary to minimise the need for heating by improving the fabric of buildings.

We know many more homes will be built over the coming years. We need to ensure these are designed to be as low carbon and energy efficient as possible in operation, and that carbon emissions associated with their construction are as low as possible. We also need to consider how to make the most of the opportunity to lock carbon into new buildings in the construction materials used, especially timber and to minimise water consumption. The costs of keeping warm in poorly insulated homes can be significant for vulnerable and low income households. We recognise this and will focus on using Government grants to help make the homes of these households more energy efficient, in both the owned and rented sectors.

Becoming an exemplar

Through our wholly-owned housing company, West Norfolk Housing Company, we own a range of properties. Although we do not directly control energy use, and hence emissions, from these properties, we have an opportunity to reduce their emissions through improvements to their energy performance.

We have been building these homes to make them cheaper and easier to heat – with benefits for the health and wellbeing of our tenants.

Use our direct influence

Planning Policy

Climate Change has been embedded into our Local Plan (adopted in March 2025) through a suite of policies. This includes Policies LP06 Climate Change and LP18 Design and Sustainable Development. The Local Plan will help guide decisions on planning matters for years to come. The Local Plan is available to view via the following link: [Local Plan 2021-](#)

Private Rented Sector

In 2021, approximately 18.8% of households in King's Lynn and West Norfolk were in the private rented sector (approximately 10,750 properties). New Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) legislation means that from April 2020 properties with EPC F and G must not be rented out unless a valid exemption has been registered. We will support private landlords with advice and guidance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Most private landlords take a responsible approach; where this is not the case we will take appropriate enforcement action.

Investments

West Norfolk Housing Company (WNHC) is our wholly-owned housing company set up by the Council to generate income to protect and provide services to residents. The properties are managed on behalf of WNHC by Broadland Housing Association. At October 2025, WNHC owned 47 affordable homes.

WNHC is due to acquire 58 affordable homes in 2026.

West Norfolk Property Limited (WNPL) holds and manages properties to rent on a commercial basis which are currently leased from the Council. As at October 2025, the portfolio totals 78 properties, with future units expected from the Council's new housing development schemes. The properties are managed on behalf of WNPL by a property management company, Touchstone Property Management.

Make the most of our wider influence

The Council owns fewer than 0.2% of homes in the borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Significant work and investment is needed to reduce carbon emissions from homes owned privately and by housing associations. This includes improving insulation and building materials to reduce the need for energy for heating and replacing coal, oil and gas heating systems with low carbon alternatives such as heat pumps.

We will continue to work with partners including our neighbouring local authorities through the Norfolk Warm Homes Partnership to find ways of supporting and encouraging this work such as exploring options for funding and delivering energy efficiency projects for our residents.

We will focus especially on vulnerable and low-income households who struggle to afford adequate heating. Our work here will include working with partners to provide home surveys, advice and free insulation and other measures for households in fuel poverty. We will continue with our programme of "Beat your Bills" roadshows to improve awareness of opportunities to make improvements.

11. Workplaces

There are approximately 5,645 businesses in King's Lynn and West Norfolk that employ people in a diverse range of organisations including farming, retail, tourism, health, manufacturing and the public sector.

Many businesses are small; 4,900 are micro-businesses employing under 10 employees. Only 10 businesses are large with over 250 employees on their payroll. Providing heat and

power for these enterprises generates 177.1 kt of CO₂ (2023). That is approximately 13% of the borough's carbon emissions.

Since we have relatively little heavy industry in our district, it is likely that most of the emissions from workplaces come from buildings. This means that many of the considerations for decarbonising this sector are the same as for domestic properties.

Businesses often operate from properties they lease. As with the private rented homes sector, this can complicate decisions to invest in energy-efficiency measures, as landlords do not automatically benefit from savings to utility bills.

Becoming an exemplar

Our estate

We publish an annual report of our greenhouse gas emissions. In 2023/24, our gross Scope 1 and 2 emissions (direct emissions and indirect emissions from energy) totalled 2,401 tonnes of CO₂. These include emissions for our main premises; King's Court, St George's Guildhall, King's Lynn Town Hall, Corn Exchange, St James swimming pool and leisure centres at Lynnsport, Downham Market and the Oasis – Hunstanton.

We are redeveloping St George's Guildhall and aim to develop a low carbon exemplar arts and cultural destination.

Our portfolio of leisure centres includes a range of low carbon technologies such as heat pumps, LED lighting and building management systems. We are investigating options to make further improvements including further renewable energy, new facilities and energy efficiency technology.

Streetlights

We have been upgrading the columns and lighting to reduce our energy consumption.

Investments and disposals

We have a portfolio of investment properties and will investigate options for making improvements to the energy performance of these buildings and future investments.

Use our direct influence

Planning policy

See identical section on page 10.

Procurement

We procure goods and services providing us with an opportunity to influence businesses to reduce their climate impact.

Make the most of our wider influence

Advice for businesses and voluntary and community organisations

Whilst many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) recognise they can and should do more to reduce their carbon emissions, they often struggle to find the time and money to invest in energy savings and postpone taking action because they do not know where to start.

Through two business expos, we have helped raise awareness amongst local businesses of the financial, reputational and well-being benefits of reducing their environmental impact.

In addition, we have promoted a group purchasing scheme for solar panels, battery storage and EV chargers to householders and businesses.

We have provided capital funding through a Rural Business Capital Grant for SMEs to develop new products and facilities. These projects could also help to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions.

Since 2021, we have sponsored the environmental champion category of the Mayor's Business Awards to help encourage and showcase notable practice with climate change.

12. Transport

Transport generates approximately 26% of the borough's carbon emissions, around 338 kt CO₂ per year (2023).

The shift to home working, improvements in engine technology, active travel and rising use of battery electric vehicles are helping to reduce emissions.

Becoming an exemplar

The Council have installed 56 electric vehicle chargers and switched some of its vehicle fleet to battery electric. We are investigating options for further improvements to our fleet.

Our group buying scheme includes an option for householders and businesses to install EV chargers.

We have also supported the improvement of local cycling and walking infrastructure, provided secure cycle storage and promoted Cycling Development.

Working with the King's Lynn Neighbourhood Board, we are investigating options to further improve active travel within King's Lynn including two active travel centres at King's Lynn Enterprise Park and Baker Lane car park in King's Lynn town centre.

We already promote the Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme, provide secure cycle storage and changing facilities for staff. We have an internal staff group looking at ways to further encourage active travel amongst staff and will seek accreditation by Cycling UK as a Cycle Friendly Employer.

We will continue to help raise business awareness of ways to reduce carbon impact through a further expo in 2027.

Use our direct influence

Planning Policy

Our Local Plan includes policies that seek to guide new development to sustainable locations which also make the most use of sustainable and active modes of travel. It also seeks to ensure that sustainable measures are incorporated in the design of new development. This approach should be carried forward into the next local plan where appropriate and possible.

Make the most of our wider influence

We will continue to explore ways to reduce the carbon footprint from staff commuting. For example, we operate a salary sacrifice cycle purchase scheme allowing staff to save money and spread the cost of a new bike and accessories.

We will continue to work alongside partners at Norfolk County Council and Transport East to deliver projects that will enhance sustainable transport in the borough including rail and cycling provision.

13. Recycling and waste

Emissions from waste account for 0.01% of all emissions in 2023 (0.1 kt CO₂) in the borough.

Waste across North Norfolk District Council, Breckland District Council and the borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk is collected as part of a contractual relationship. Within the borough waste is collected from approximately 67,500 households and commercial customers. Approximately one third of all households in the borough have a garden waste bin.

In 2023/2024, approximately 42.4% of waste in King's Lynn and West Norfolk was recycled. The recycling rate has improved each year since 2021/2022.

Carbon dioxide is the major focus of the climate change strategy as that is the most common greenhouse gas released when fossil fuels are burned to provide energy. We are also concerned with methane, which is released from landfill, and because it is a more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

Most of the methane is captured at landfill sites and converted into CO₂. Schemes that encourage home composting or garden waste collection help reduce waste going into landfill. This is especially the case with collection of organic material such as food waste.

WRAP ([Waste and Resources Action Programme](#)) estimate that the UK wastes approximately 10.2 million tonnes of food every year (using data for 2021 and 2022). This total is enough to feed upwards of 30 million people a year, yet an estimated 8.4 million live in food poverty in the UK. The value of food wasted by UK households in 2022 is estimated to be around £17 billion. On average, this is around £1,000 per year for a household of four people. We introduced a food waste service in April 2013. We estimated that as much as one third of the weight of each household's black bin waste was made up of food waste.

Becoming an exemplar

Our facilities

We will work towards minimising waste in our own operations. We have reduced single-use plastics and minimised paper use through improved IT and back office systems which eliminate the use for printed paperwork. We have also improved recycling facilities in our offices including collection of food waste.

Use our direct influence

- **Dry recyclables**
 - We will continue to encourage recycling through our recycling and waste collection policies.
 - We will continue to encourage recycling of small batteries and electrical items through our free weekly kerbside collections.
- **Food and garden waste**
 - We will continue to collect food waste on a weekly basis.
 - We will continue to collect garden waste from our customers.
- **Textiles**
 - We will continue to encourage recycling of textiles through the network of Salvation Army “Bring banks”.
- **Bedding**
 - We will continue to encourage recycling of bedding via the network of animal rehoming charities.
- **Business waste and recycling**
 - We will continue to encourage our business customers to recycle as much waste as possible.
- **Formal notices**
 - We will use our enforcement powers to protect the environment, enforce illegal waste disposal and take action against breaches of planning control.

Make the most of our wider influence

Our campaigns

We will continue to work with partners to influence waste and recycling behaviour. Through Norfolk Waste Partnership we will continue to run a number of campaigns to get people to think more about what they are buying and what will happen to it once they have finished with it.

The Norfolk Waste Partnership has four strategic objectives:

- Reduce the amount of waste generated per household
- Increase the availability of waste reduction, reuse, repair and recycling activities
- Ensure residents and businesses understand the importance of waste as a resource and the range of opportunities for waste reduction, repair, reuse and recycling
- Reduce the overall system cost of dealing with Norfolk’s household waste

Example campaigns include “Everything but the food” to increase recycling of material packaging, “Mission Food Savvy” to reduce food waste and “Refill” which encourages reuse of water bottles at over 500 filling stations across Norfolk.

14. Land use

Plants naturally capture carbon from the atmosphere. It is stored in leaves, stems and roots and eventually accumulates in the soil. However, agriculture can cause it to be released from the soil at a faster rate than it is replaced.

Approximately 46% of emissions in 2023 (613 kt CO₂) across the borough relate to Land Use, Land Use Change, Forestry and Agriculture.

Afforestation and other land-management practices including peatland restoration are ways of increasing the amount of CO₂ captured from the atmosphere and locking it in the land over the long-term.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk has some of the most productive farmland in the country, but relatively few trees. If we are to address climate change more trees and hedgerows will be needed and we will need to look at restoring peatland. As well as storing carbon, these can provide other valuable benefits such as improved open spaces and habitats.

We have our own nursery which uses peat-free compost and no chemicals. In March 2025, we planted a variety of sites including:

- a community orchard in South Lynn
- a living art installation called Beuys Oaks in South Lynn
- Mintlyn crematorium
- Housing sites
- King's Lynn town centre

The Council held its first borough-wide garden wildlife competition in 2025.

Becoming an exemplar

Our land

We will continue to plant trees, shrubs and hedgerows on Council owned land.

Use our direct influence

Planning policy

See identical section on page 10.

Make the most of our wider influence

Tree, shrub and hedgerow planting

We will continue to encourage landowners to plant trees, shrubs and hedgerows to improve biodiversity and help store carbon.

We will continue to hold an annual garden wildlife competition.

15. Energy

Transitioning to Zero Carbon will require a fundamental change in how we generate and consume energy in all aspects of our lives. The Committee on Climate Change reports that the supply of low-carbon electricity will need to quadruple by 2050 in order to meet the needs of the switch to electric vehicles, the move to electric heating and further growth.

The energy infrastructure in the UK is already changing to accommodate more localised renewable energy sources including solar and wind. This section focuses on opportunities from the generation, storage and supply of renewable energy.

Becoming an exemplar

Our buildings

We will continue to improve the energy performance of the buildings we own and manage. This includes provision for solar panels, building management systems, LED lighting and, where appropriate, battery storage.

We will continue to buy our electricity from a net zero source.

The modernisation of the 14th Century St George's Guildhall into a thriving creative and cultural centre provides an opportunity to replace gas boilers and old lighting systems with modern low carbon systems. The site will become an exemplar heritage attraction.

St James swimming pool, opened in 1975, is coming to the end of its economic life and is increasingly expensive to run with high energy costs and carbon emissions due to its age and inefficient design. The Council is considering options to build new sustainable health, swimming, fitness and community facilities to promote active lifestyles.

Generating renewable energy

We will continue to explore opportunities for local solar generation and supply to ensure our buildings and operations reach zero carbon by 2035. For example, we will explore options to use more of the solar power we generate for our usage rather than export to the grid. That will enable us to charge our future battery electric vehicles from our own generated electricity and save money in the long term.

Use our direct influence

Planning Policy

See identical section on page 10.

Make the most of our wider influence

Working with communities

Community energy refers to the delivery of community led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through partnership with commercial or public sector partners.

We will continue to promote group-buying schemes for renewable energy.

Through Norfolk Climate Change Partnership and the Norfolk/Suffolk Energy Plan we will support the development of community energy projects in Norfolk.

16. Resourcing our strategy

In 2021, the Council established a climate change reserve fund of £1.25 million to help fund a wide range of initiatives to realise the Council's net zero 2035 target and help achieve net zero by 2050 for the borough.

Opportunities for grant funding are limited but where available will be actively pursued for investment in our estate, climate change mitigation measures and community support. To date we have been successful in approximately £4 million worth of grant applications to support our climate change work. That funding has supported the decarbonisation of our buildings, installation of public EV chargers and improvements to the charging facilities for our own vehicle fleet.

We have also helped to direct £14 million towards improvements to the borough's housing stock and helped make residents' homes warmer and more efficient to heat.

We will use the Community Infrastructure Levy and relevant regeneration funding to support our and the community's transition to lower carbon emissions.

Climate change and adaptation are also impacted by a wide range of Council activities and our collective resources will help drive change in areas such as housing, waste, air quality, development, estate management, leisure, corporate services and regeneration.

We will work with partnerships such as the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership, Norfolk Waste Partnership, Norfolk Warm Homes Partnership, Climate East and Transport East to address issues that affect the borough and seek to access opportunities and projects that help with decarbonisation.

At the time of publication of this climate change strategy, details of the Government's Warm Homes Plan are awaited.

Local Government Review is anticipated to introduce new rules on spending over £100,000 that may affect strategic investments in the Council's estate and vehicle fleet.

17. Oversight

The Council's political lead for carbon reduction is the portfolio holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Reports and briefings are provided to Cabinet, overview and scrutiny panels and senior managers.

Progress with the climate change strategy is reported annually to the Environment and Community overview and scrutiny panel and thematic issues are considered by the panel's Climate Change Informal Working Group.

A set of performance indicators are reported quarterly to the Corporate Performance Panel. The panel also receive an annual report from the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.

An annual Council carbon footprint and analysis of emissions across the geographical borough is published on the Council's website. We will seek to widen the measurement scope of our carbon emissions and improve reporting processes.

The Council's corporate risk register includes an entry relating to climate change and updates are provided to Audit Committee and Corporate Leadership Team.

18. Related strategies and plans

There are a number of related areas of council work that are covered by separate plans and strategies. These include Biodiversity, Air Quality, Transport and Flood and Coastal Management.

19. Biodiversity

Biodiversity and climate change are deeply interconnected, with climate change driving biodiversity loss and, conversely, a healthy environment is crucial for combating climate change.

Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened biodiversity obligation that the Environment Act 2021 introduced.

The Council is one of few in the East of England to have appointed an Ecologist. A Biodiversity Task Group was established in March 2022 and its work led to the appointment of a Biodiversity Ranger, creation of a Pollinator Action Plan and establishing a garden wildlife competition.

The Pollinator Action Plan was adopted in October 2025 and sets out a clear roadmap to protect and enhance the region's pollinating insects. Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and beetles play a crucial role in sustaining ecosystems and agriculture.

The Local Plan was adopted in March 2025 and introduced new policy (LP18) relating to biodiversity which requires built-in nesting boxes and/or safe road crossing methods to be incorporated into qualifying new development wherever possible.

Many of the issues associated with biodiversity and safeguarding our environment need to be managed with the help of other organisations and groups. The Council is represented on a number of partnership groups and by working collaboratively more can be achieved ensuring that we are all fulfilling our role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Some of the groups the Council works with to deliver its environmental obligations are as follows: Natural England, The Norfolk Wildlife Trust, The Environment Agency, The Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory

Group, Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, Council for the Protection of Rural England, RSPB, The National Trust and the Forestry Commission.

Other groups which the Council is represented on are:

- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Group
- The Wash Estuary Strategy Group
- The Norfolk Coast Partnership
- Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership

20. Wider collaboration

Everyone living and working in the borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has a role to play in the transition to a low carbon society.

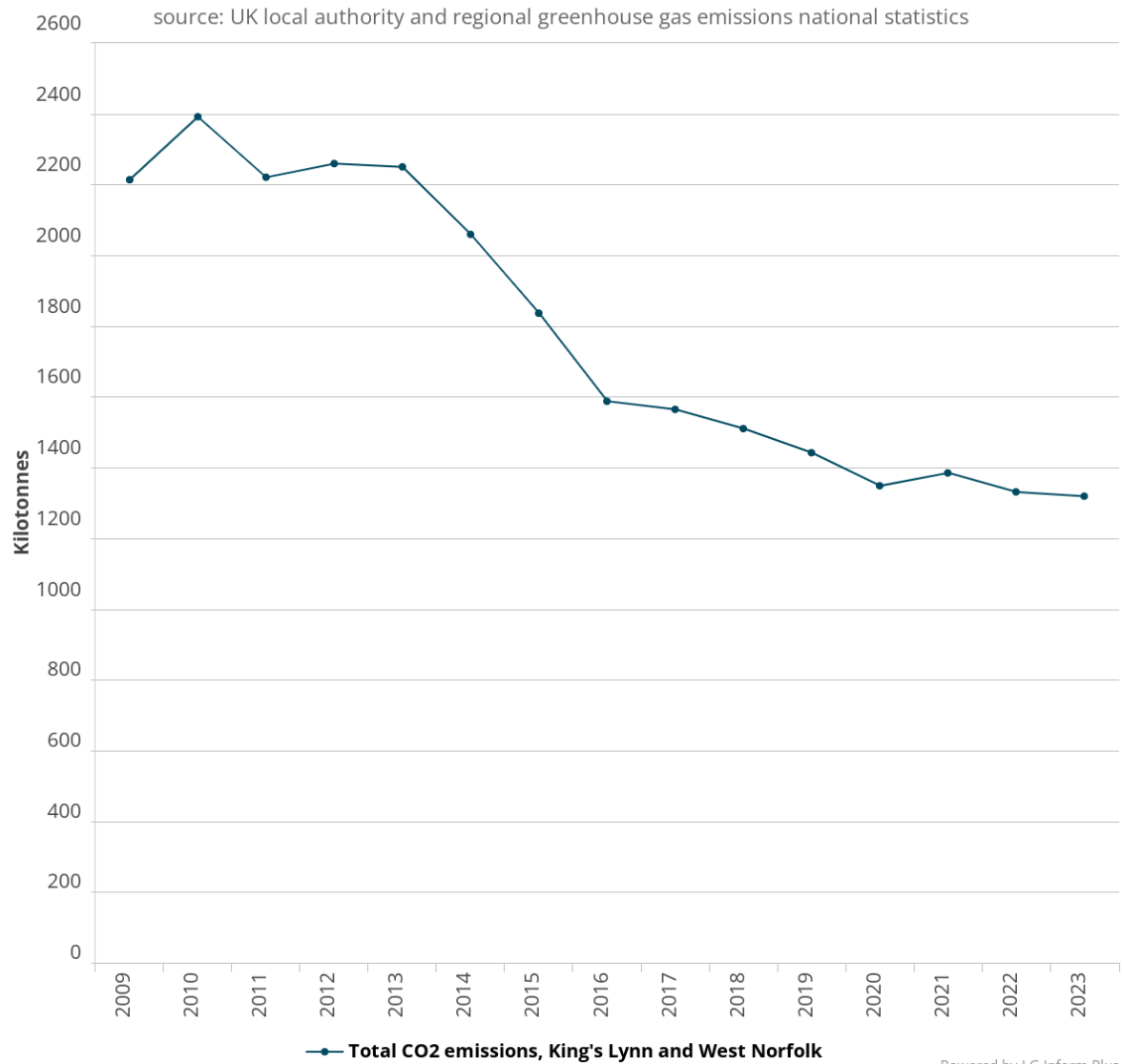
We can work together on this. Get in touch and tell us what else you are doing - climatechange@West-Norfolk.gov.uk

Appendix A – Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk net carbon emissions 2023/24

BCKLWN Carbon Audit: 2023/2024				
Emissions Sources	Consumption		Emissions Data	
Scope 1	Activity Data	Unit	t CO ₂ e	kg CO ₂ e
Gas Consumption	6239216.00	kWh	1123.06	1123058.88
LPG Consumption	1.00	tonnes	2.94	2939.29
Oil Consumption	0.00	litres	0.00	0.00
Council Vehicle Fleet	-	-		
Petrol Vehicle	23026.42	litres	49.78	49779.67
Diesel Vehicle	102106.12	litres	261.17	261171.12
Red Diesel	0.00	litres	0.00	0.00
Total Scope 1	-	-	1436.95	1436948.95
Scope 2	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e	kg CO₂e
Electricity Consumption	4660919.00	kWh	965.16	965155.14
Total Scope 2	-	-	965.16	965155.14
Scope 3	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e	kg CO₂e
Transmission & Distribution Losses	4660919.00	kWh	83.52	83523.67
T&D: EV & Plug-in Hybrid	5889.44	miles	0.48	477.99
Water Supply	76499.00	m ³	13.54	13540.32
Water Treatment	54041.00	m ³	10.86	10862.24
Business Travel	-	-		
Small Petrol Car	4562.64	miles	1.03	1033.88
Medium Petrol Car	22269.47	miles	6.39	6385.93
Large Petrol Car	2962.68	miles	1.30	1298.00
Small Diesel Car	42447.01	miles	9.52	9516.45
Medium Diesel Car	46036.14	miles	12.38	12384.46
Large Diesel Car	12531.70	miles	4.21	4206.84
Bus	3637.12	passenger km	0.37	371.53
Taxi	63.09	passenger km	0.01	9.38
Rail	30461.66	passenger km	10.80	10796.83
Ferry	0.00	passenger km	0.00	0.00
Plane	0.00	passenger km	0.00	0.00
Contractor Travel	-	-		
Refuse Collection Vehicles	410199.40	litres	1029.60	1029600.49
Total Scope 3	-	-	1184.01	1183530.02
BCKLWN Gross Emissions Total	-	-	3586.11	3585634.12
Carbon Offsets / Renewable Tariffs	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e	kg CO₂e
Renewable Electricity Tariff	4660919.00	kWh	-965.16	-965155.14
Transmission & Distribution Losses	4660919.00	kWh	-83.52	-80965.89
Total	-	-	-1048.68	-1046121.03
BCKLWN Net Emissions Total	-	-	2537.44	2539513.09

Appendix B – Territorial carbon emissions for King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, 2009-2023

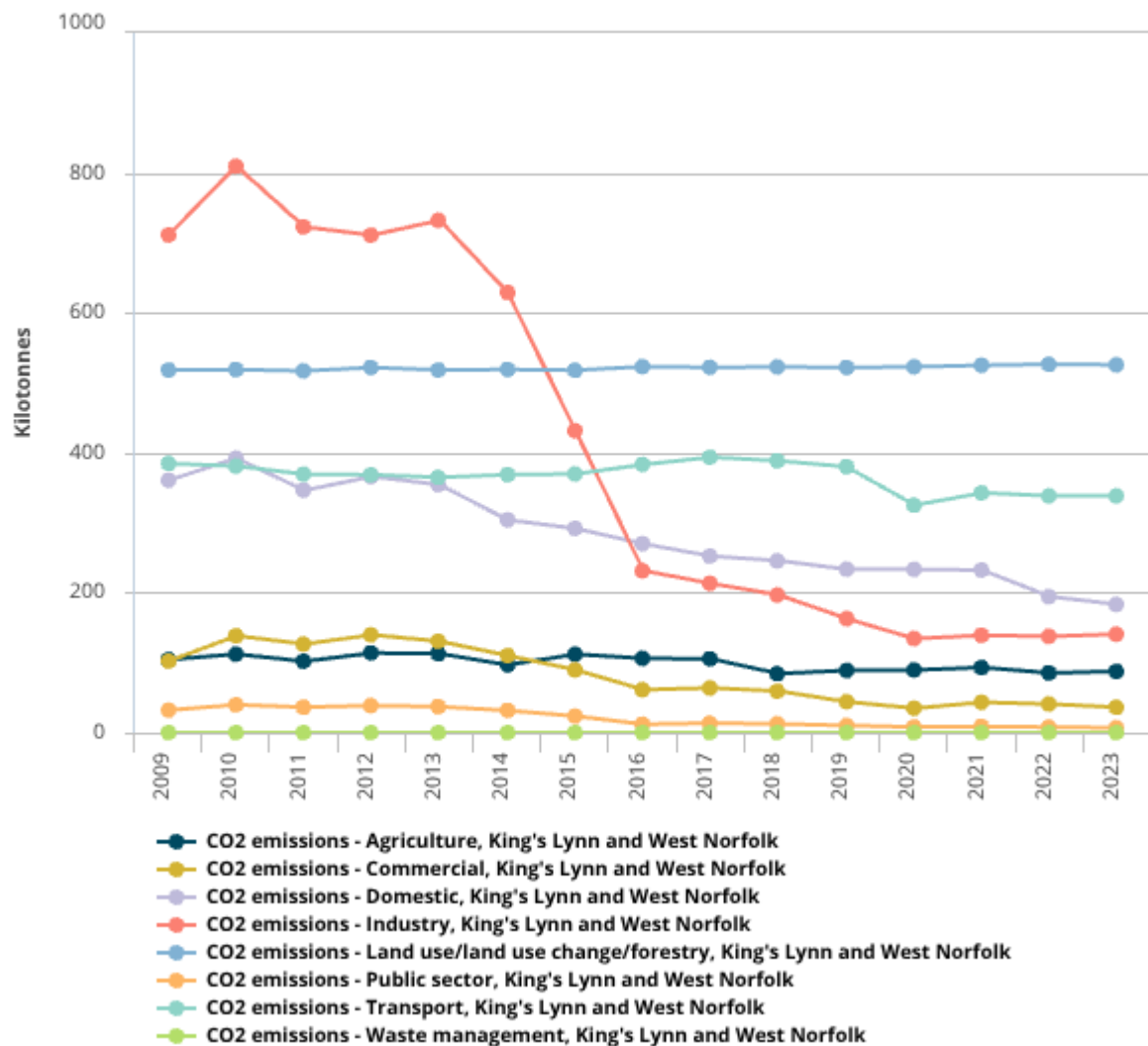
CO2 emissions estimates - Total (kilotonnes) (from 2009 to 2023) for King's Lynn and West Norfolk



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CO2 emissions broken down by sector (kilotonnes) (Kilo tonnes) (from 2009 to 2023) for King's Lynn and West Norfolk

source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics



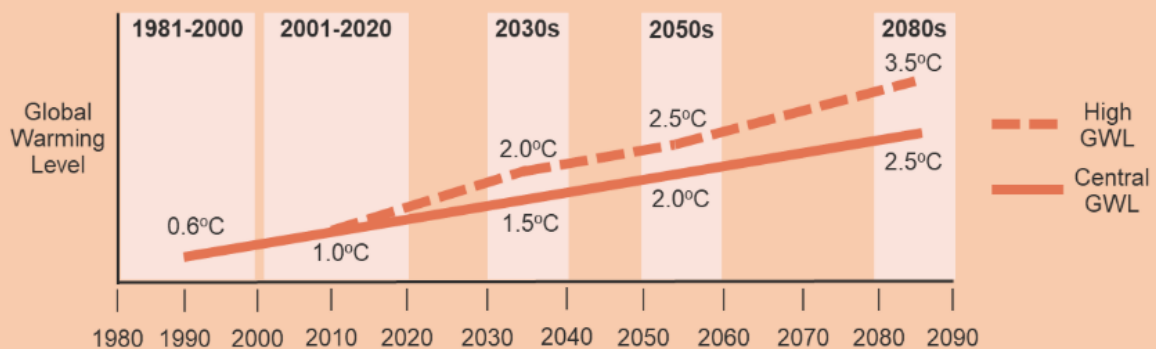
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Appendix C – Met Office climate change projections for King’s Lynn and West Norfolk

Timing of changes



The time when a particular GWL is reached will depend on future global emissions and the sensitivity of the climate system. The two futures present Central and High estimates of global warming over the 21st century. Both are consistent with current-policy global emissions reductions. They have been selected by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) for exploration for the fourth Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA4). These futures show the times when particular GWLs may be reached; 4°C may be reached by the end of the century under the High GWL future, but has a low likelihood. The uncertainty in these futures increases over the course of the 21st century.



		0.6°C GWL Baseline 1981-2000	1.0°C GWL Recent Past 2001-2020	1.5°C GWL Paris Agreement	2°C GWL Guidance: Prepare	4°C GWL Guidance: Assess risks
	TEMPERATURE	°C	°C	°C change	°C change	°C change
	Summer Maximum Temperature	29.6 29.0 to 29.7	31.8 30.5 to 33.0	+2.8 +1.4 to +3.9	+3.3 +2.2 to +5.1	+7.0 +5.8 to +8.2
	Summer Average Temperature	16.0 16.0 to 16.0	17.1 16.8 to 17.4	+1.4 +1.0 to +1.9	+2.1 +1.4 to +2.6	+4.1 +3.6 to +4.9
	Winter Average Temperature	4.1 4.1 to 4.1	4.8 4.4 to 5.3	+1.0 +0.6 to +1.4	+1.3 +0.7 to +1.6	+2.8 +1.9 to +3.3
	Winter Minimum Temperature	-7.1 -7.8 to -6.8	-5.5 -6.7 to -4.5	+2.1 +1.4 to +3.0	+2.2 +1.4 to +3.6	+4.2 +3.6 to +5.7
	Annual Average Temperature	9.8 9.8 to 9.8	10.6 10.5 to 10.8	+1.1 +1.0 to +1.3	+1.7 +1.2 to +1.9	+3.4 +2.9 to +3.9
	PRECIPITATION	mm/day	mm/day	% change	% change	% change
	Summer Precipitation Rate	1.67 1.66 to 1.68	1.68 1.48 to 1.84	0 -11 to +13	-3 -24 to +3	-25 -46 to -13
	Winter Precipitation Rate	1.58 1.56 to 1.58	1.63 1.50 to 1.86	+2 -9 to +15	+4 -1 to +12	+14 +7 to +23

Local climate indicators

The table shows projected **climate indicators** for the Local Authority area for a number of Global Warming Levels. For each these are annual totals: a central projection (the Median) and an uncertainty range (the Lower and Upper values are the 10th and 90th percentiles). See also the Scientific Detail (QR Code).



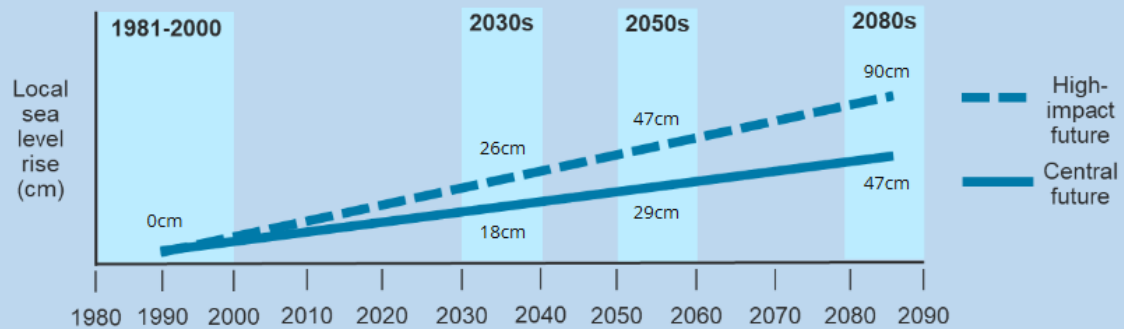
	0.6°C GWL Baseline 1981-2000	1.0°C GWL Recent Past 2001-2020	1.5°C GWL Paris Agreement	2°C GWL Guidance: Prepare	4°C GWL Guidance: Assess risks
 Summer Days* Daily maximum temperature > 25°C High daytime temperatures with health impacts for vulnerable people at risk of hospital admission or death. Transport disruption – e.g. track buckling on railways. Can also indicate periods of increased water demand.	15 14 to 15	25 22 to 31	28 25 to 35	35 28 to 43	64 58 to 77
 Hot Summer Days* Daily maximum temperature > 30°C Increased heat related illnesses, hospital admissions or death. Further transport disruption – e.g. track buckling on railways, road melt. Overhead power lines become less efficient.	1 1 to 1	3 2 to 5	4 3 to 6	6 4 to 9	19 15 to 29
 Extreme Summer Days* Daily maximum temperature > 35°C Increased heat related illnesses, hospital admissions or death affecting not just the vulnerable. Further transport disruption – e.g. track buckling on railways, road melt.	0 0 to 0	0 0 to 1	0 0 to 1	0 0 to 1	3 2 to 6
 Tropical Nights Daily minimum temperature > 20°C Health impact due to high night-time temperatures with potential for heat stress. Vulnerable people at increased risk of hospital admission or death.	0 0 to 0	0 0 to 1	0 0 to 0	0 0 to 1	3 2 to 4
 Frost Days Daily minimum temperature < 0°C Cold weather disruption due to higher than normal chance of ice and snow.	47 46 to 48	34 31 to 42	30 27 to 37	27 22 to 36	10 6 to 19
 Icing Days Daily maximum temperature < 0°C More extreme than frost days, so more severe cold weather impacts.	2 2 to 3	1 0 to 2	1 0 to 2	1 0 to 2	0 0 to 0
 Growing Degree Days* Daily mean temperature: °C > 5.5°C Energy available for plant growth over a year. This is not a measure of season length.	1,881 1,878 to 1,884	2,118 2,036 to 2,199	2,201 2,134 to 2,263	2,368 2,244 to 2,437	2,881 2,777 to 3,060
 Heating Degree Days* Daily mean temperature: °C < 15.5°C Indicator of energy demand for heating.	2,290 2,288 to 2,291	2,088 2,044 to 2,133	2,009 1,975 to 2,052	1,879 1,835 to 2,022	1,523 1,422 to 1,642
 Cooling Degree Days* Daily mean temperature: °C > 22°C Indicator of energy demand for cooling.	28 27 to 29	51 43 to 63	57 50 to 73	71 57 to 90	161 139 to 209

* Summer days above the stated temperature thresholds can occur at any time of year

+ Degree Days are not a number of days, but the number of degrees the daily average temperature exceeds the threshold, each day, added up over a year.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Sea levels in the Local Authority are expected to rise over the 21st century. Although this result shows the likely range, larger increases cannot be ruled out. Those with a very low risk tolerance to sea level rise should consult EA guidance on H++, which provides an estimate beyond the likely range but within physical plausibility. The science behind these sea level projections can be found in the Scientific Detail (QR code).



More information

The Local Authority Climate Service community site has more information.



The Met Office welcomes feedback on this service.



The Local Authority Climate Service team invites you to contact us at: lacs@metoffice.gov.uk. This is a Beta service.

This work has been supported by Defra as part of the commitments set out within the Third National Adaptation Programme.

Version 1.0

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Appendix D – Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Action Plan

Theme	Action	Lead	When	Measures
Corporate	Publish an annual carbon footprint for the borough Council’s emissions.	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Dec 2027	Publication of annual footprint
	Develop quarterly monitoring of emissions		Mar 2028	Quarterly emissions estimates
	Publish an annual carbon footprint for the geographic borough of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk.	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Aug 2027	Publication of annual footprint
	Prepare a climate adaptation risk assessment and strategy.	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Mar 2027	Risk assessment prepared
	Encourage sustainability awareness through an annual school-based competition.	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Jun 2027,	Annual school competition
	Development of a decision impact assessment tool.	Interim Governance Manager, Corporate Services	Mar 2026	Impact assessment tool
	Pilot impact assessment tool			
	Launch impact assessment tool	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Jun 2026	
		Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Dec 2026	
	Encourage improvement of housing in private rented sector.	Housing Standards Manager, Health, Wellbeing and Public Protection	Mar 2028	Number of households supported to improve EPC ratings.

Theme	Action	Lead	When	Measures
	Link together with Marmot environmental sustainability			
	Using external grant funding, support vulnerable households with housing retrofits.	Housing Standards Manager, Health, Wellbeing and Public Protection	Mar 2028	Grant funding secured for investment in housing retrofit work.
	Hold “Beat your Bills” events to encourage households to reduce the cost of living.	Housing Standards Manager/ Community Health and Wellbeing Manager, Health, Wellbeing and Public Protection	Mar 2028	Number of events held
Workplaces	Engage with development of new Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and car park.	Assistant Director Environment and Planning	Mar 2028	Engagement with QUH project
	Highlight business exemplars through the annual Mayor's Business Awards - Environmental champion.	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Mar 2028	Annual awards programme
	Encourage notable practice by local businesses through a business expo.	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Sept 2027	Business Expo 2027 event
	Explore options for the replacement of the St James swimming pool.	Assistant Director Leisure and Culture	Mar 2028	Development of a replacement pool
	Prepare a feasibility study for efficiencies at pool at the Oasis pool, Hunstanton.	Assistant Director Leisure and Culture	Mar 2028	Feasibility study
	Fund and construct a new renewable energy hub for St George's Guildhall and enterprise hub development.	Project Officer, Regeneration, Housing and Place	Mar 2028 [Overall site contract completion June 2028]	Construction of energy hub

Theme	Action	Lead	When	Measures
	Undertake condition surveys of BCKLWN properties Develop an Asset Management Plan to inform future upgrades to heating, lighting and building management systems.	Operations Asset Manager, Property and Projects	Dec 2026	Condition survey Asset Management Plan
Transport	Planning consent for King's Lynn Enterprise Park (KLEP) Active Travel Hub Development of Towns Fund Active Travel Hubs at Baker Lane (BL) and the Enterprise Park.	Regeneration Programmes Manager, Regeneration, Housing and Place	Apr 2026 Spring 2027	KLEP - 6 EV charging points, cycling infrastructure include secure storage, lockers and associated facilities. BL - cycling infrastructure include secure storage, lockers and associated facilities.
	Support activation of Active Travel Plans – potential sustainable transport initiatives to link with active travel hubs.	Regeneration Programmes Manager, Regeneration, Housing and Place	Mar 2027	Sustainable transport initiatives
	Contribution to the King's Lynn STARS (Sustainable Transport and Regeneration Scheme) project.	Regeneration Programmes Manager, Regeneration, Housing and Place	Mar 2028	Improved walking and cycling links between key parts of King's Lynn. Enhanced green infrastructure with new trees and planting (Baxters Plain).
	Update and review Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) schemes	Regeneration Programmes Manager, Regeneration, Housing and Place	Mar 2028	Priority list and investment plan
	Engage with Norfolk County Council on electric vehicle charging infrastructure funded by	Business Operations Manager, Operations and Commercial	Mar 2028	Number of EV charging sockets

Theme	Action	Lead	When	Measures
	the LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme).			
	Review Council Travel Plan in light of local government reorganisation and consider alignment with current approaches at affected councils.	Personnel Services Manager, Corporate Services	Mar 2028	Updated Travel Plan
	Exploring staff usage of battery electric cars through a salary sacrifice scheme.	Personnel Services Manager, Corporate Services	Mar 2028	Consideration of scheme
	Upgrade electric vehicle charging infrastructure at appropriate Council sites.	Property and Projects/Operations and Commercial	Mar 2028	Number of EV charging sockets
	Increase electrification of the Council vehicle fleet.	Waste and Recycling Manager, Operations and Commercial	Mar 2028	Number of battery electric vehicles in the fleet.
Recycling and waste	Implement a revised food waste collection service.	Waste and Recycling Manager, Operations and Commercial	Mar 2028	Tonnes collected
	Support Norfolk Waste Partnership recycling initiatives.	Waste and Recycling Manager, Operations and Commercial	Mar 2028	Campaigns supported
	Contribute towards achievement of the 287 kg residual waste per head of population interim targets .	Waste and Recycling Manager, Operations and Commercial	Mar 2028	Meet The Environment Targets (Residual Waste)(England) Regulations 2023.
Energy	Work with Norfolk County Council on the development of the Norfolk/Suffolk Energy Plan.	Assistant Directors, Environment and Planning /Regeneration, Housing and Place	Mar 2028	Publication of Energy Plan
	Engage with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects such as Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 Walpole grid upgrade.	Assistant Director Environment and Planning	Mar 2028	Project supported
	Promotion of a group buying scheme to enable households to access solar PV, battery storage and EV chargers.	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Jul 2027	Number of householder installations per annum.

Theme	Action	Lead	When	Measures
	Maintain purchase of electricity via a net zero tariff.	Assistant Director Property and Projects	Nov 2027	Net zero Tariff in place
	Increase solar PV generation across BCKLWN estate.	Energy and Environment Officer, Property and Projects	Mar 2028	Increase in kW generated
	Increase efficiency of lighting across BCKLWN estate.	Energy and Environment Officer, Property and Projects	Mar 2028	Reduction in on-prem energy use by 2028
	Ensure technology is financially, operationally and environmentally sustainable and contributes to the Council's net-zero objectives. Embed sustainability and lifecycle thinking in all technology decisions. Choose energy-efficient hosting and cloud solutions. Implement circular-economy practices: device reuse, recycling and print reduction. Continuously review total cost of ownership and supplier sustainability credentials.	Programme Director, Corporate Services	Mar 2028	25% reduction in on-prem energy use by 2028. 100% of decommissioned kit recycled or reused. Documented sustainability statement for all new procurements. Reduced print, power, and waste through digital-by-default processes.
	Complete upgrade of BCKLWN streetlighting.	Energy and Environment Officer, Property and Projects	Mar 2028	Lighting replacement complete
Land use	Secure and enhance regional and local flood infrastructure by supporting the Fens 2100 programme.	Assistant Director Environment and Planning	Mar 2028	Engagement with Fens 2100.
	Engage with Norfolk Coast National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030.	Assistant Director Environment and Planning	Mar 2028	Engage with projects.

Theme	Action	Lead	When	Measures
	Encourage biodiversity through an annual garden wildlife competition.	Climate Change Manager, Environment and Planning	Jul 2027	Annual awards programme
	Develop and implement a BCKLWN tree planting strategy.	Public Open Space Manager, Operations and Commercial	Mar 2028	Strategy developed Number of trees planted
	Deliver a biodiversity corridor project within King's Lynn.	Biodiversity Ranger, Operations and Commercial	Mar 2028	Project completed
	As part of the Pride in Place programme, to regenerate a brownfield site (Devil's Alley) on King's Lynn riverfront using green landscaping measures.	Regeneration Programmes Manager, Regeneration, Housing and Place	Mar 2028	New public open space created
	To implement a greening strategy for Baxters Plain.	Regeneration Programmes Manager, Regeneration, Housing and Place	March 2028	Increase in number of trees

Appendix E – Local Plan 2021-2040 policies adopted March 2025

Policy LP06 – Climate Change

Development shall recognise and contribute to the importance of, and future-proofing against, the challenges of climate change and to support the transition towards meeting the Government target of becoming a net zero economy by 2050, through where relevant:

- Minimising and reducing carbon emissions
 - Locating new development in areas to minimise the need to travel and maximise the ability to make journeys via sustainable modes of transport, such as through public transport such as bus and rail and in accordance with policies LP01 and LP13.
 - Incorporating and encouraging blue/green infrastructure schemes, such as tree planting, to help sequester carbon from the atmosphere in accordance with LP18 and LP23.
 - Minimising and mitigating pollution during both the construction and operational phases of development to reduce potential impacts on existing pollution levels.
 - Exceeding present thermal energy and high efficiency systems set by Building Regulations to reduce domestic CO₂ emissions.
 - Maximising opportunities from solar technologies and through design to support solar orientation and enhance solar gain.
 - Retrofitting of existing buildings with measures to reduce energy and heat consumption will be encouraged and supported.
- Adapting and mitigating the impacts of climate change
 - Ensuring new development is designed and adapted to incorporate climate change and flood risk resilience (in accordance with LP15, LP16, LP22) and the latest Government guidance regarding the use of climate change allowances in flood risk assessments.
 - Minimising and mitigating air pollution so as to reduce the potential for higher temperatures which in turn leads to poorer air quality.
 - Incorporating appropriate water efficiency and water recycling measures, to help minimise the potential for drought and climatic impacts.
 - Supporting and encouraging local businesses to adapt to the need of work pattern changes, including working from home, creating sustainable transport plans, and taking advantage of technological innovations to reduce car dependency within the borough and adapt to climate change.
 - Supporting and encouraging the need and proposal of advanced, high quality and high-speed communications within development proposals and new infrastructure to complement this policy and the wider benefits for social inclusion, reducing travel and improved connectivity and accessibility to digital infrastructure.

For all developments of one hectare in size or more, we will require a sustainability and climate change statement to be submitted as part of a valid planning application. This statement will be a separate document which will answer the six key questions outlined in

the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Statement Guidance in the full Local Plan document Appendices.

This is in place to demonstrate how new development is addressing beneficial impacts which pay particular attention to LP06, other appropriate policies and our commitment to international and national law.

Policy LP18 – Design and Sustainable Development

Policy LP18 recognises the importance of good design in sustainable development. Developers will be encouraged to refer to publications and best practice on quality design in formulating development proposals. Key design principles include, but are not limited to:

- Protecting existing natural environment assets including green and blue infrastructure.
- Restoring and enhancing local and regional natural systems to increase climate resilience and carbon capture.
- Establishing a network of green and open spaces that create benefits for the whole community.

1. All new development in the borough must be of high-quality design.

2. Where relevant new development will be required to demonstrate its ability to:

a. conserve and enhance the historic and natural environment and reduce environmental risks;

b. enrich the attraction of the borough as an exceptional place to live, work and visit;

c. respond to the context and character of places in West Norfolk by ensuring that the scale, density, layout, materials and access will enhance the quality of the environment;

d. where possible, enhance the special qualities and local distinctiveness of the area (including its historical, biodiversity and cultural character), gaps between settlements, landscape setting, distinctive settlement character, landscape features and ecological networks;

e. optimise site potential, making the best use of land including the use of brownfield land;

f. enhance community wellbeing by being accessible, inclusive, locally distinctive, safe and by promoting healthy lifestyles (see Policy LP38 Community and Culture);

g. achieve high standards of sustainable design.

3. To promote and encourage opportunities to achieve high standards of sustainability and energy efficiency, development proposals will be required to demonstrate:

a. the use of construction techniques, layout, orientation, internal design and appropriate insulation maximised to improve efficiency;

b. the innovative use of re-used or recycled materials of local and traditional materials to decrease waste and maintain local character;

c. the reduction of on-site emissions by generation of cleaner energy where appropriate;

d. within larger developments of sufficient scale, the provision of green space to safeguard wildlife, provide recreation opportunities and improve the quality of life for people living in the

area and the integration of the development into the GI (Green Infrastructure) network, or the creation of linkages to it wherever possible;

e. the provision of good access links for walking and cycling;

f. the provision of built-in nesting boxes (e.g. boxes for migratory bird species, bats, or bee bricks) and/or safe road crossing methods (e.g. for hedgehogs), wherever possible;

g. the promotion of water efficiency - all new housing must meet Building Regulation requirement of 110 l/h/d. Non-domestic buildings, where relevant, should as a minimum reach 'Good' BREEAM ([Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method](#)) status;

h. the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS);

i. designs that exceed the present standards set by Building Regulations will be encouraged;

j. water reuse and recycling and rainwater and stormwater harvesting, and other suitable measures have been incorporated wherever feasible to reduce demand on mains water supply;

k. evidence that there is, or will be, sufficient wastewater infrastructure capacity to accommodate the development;

l. at the design stage, that attention has been paid to the Homes England 'Building for a Healthy Life' standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods and the Borough Council will encourage all new schemes to be assessed against the Building for a Healthy Life criteria, or successor documents as appropriate;

m. well-designed homes which provide good standard and quality internal environments for their users, promoting health and well-being, will be encouraged including those which meet the National Described Space Standards.

Density of development

4. In seeking to make the most efficient use of land, the Council will expect proposals to optimise the density of development in the light of local factors such as:

a. the setting of the development;

b. the form and character of existing development; and

c. the requirement for any onsite infrastructure including amenity space.

Flood Risk and Climate Change

5. The Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) outlines potential flood risk throughout the borough. In order to ensure future growth within the borough is sustainable: the findings of the SFRA will be used to guide planned growth and future developments away from areas of high flood risk, including the coastal area. Development in any location will be expected to manage water sustainably and reduce surface water runoff using multifunctional Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where possible.

6. Shoreline Management Plans, Marine Plans and associated documents, will also serve to highlight the future needs and changes that may affect coastal communities arising from changes in climate and will be taken into account in decision making.

Renewable Energy

7. The Council and its partners will support and encourage the generation of energy from renewable sources. These will be permitted unless there are unacceptable locational or other impacts that could not be outweighed by wider environmental, social, economic and other benefits. Commercial and agricultural buildings with a significant area of flat/low pitch roofs (over 250m²) should make provision for solar panels within their detailed design to maximise the use of the roof area (see also Policy LP24).