

August 2024



# Wiltshire

CLIMATE UPDATE  
REPORT

**v3 for Cabinet Meeting  
17 September 2024**

**Wiltshire Council**

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# Introduction

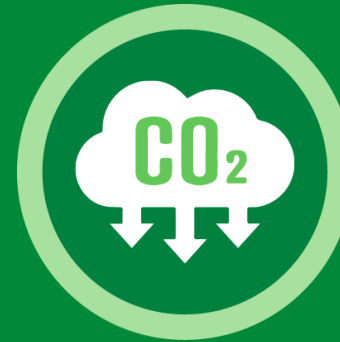
## What are the council's commitments on Climate Change?

Wiltshire Council as a Local Authority, has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, focusing on cutting emissions from our own operations (Scope 1 and 2). We are also tackling Scope 3 emissions from our outsourced services and purchases. For the full breakdown of council emissions, see our annual [Greenhouse Gas Report 2024](#).

Wiltshire Council has also committed to seeking to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral. While our own emissions are just 0.2% of Wiltshire's total, the council can influence the emissions of the wider county. The council's [Business Plan](#) incorporates the climate ambitions, which also include the need to help our communities adapt to the impacts of climate change

This annual report highlights progress towards our climate goals, guided by the [Climate Strategy 2022-27](#). The strategy outlines essential actions for making Wiltshire carbon neutral. Our [delivery plans](#) detail the council's role in achieving these objectives. This document shows how our efforts contribute to the strategy's key focus areas. Blue pages refer to the council's operations; Green refers to Wiltshire-wide activity.

To follow the council's climate action between the annual reports, please see the council's [climate webpages](#) and our [Facebook](#) and [X](#) social media feeds.



**2030**

Be a carbon neutral council

**2030**

Wiltshire to be carbon neutral

**2°C**

Be resilient to the impacts of climate change

### In this report you will find:

- A theme and performance overview: How Wiltshire Council is doing, in its response to the climate emergency. What are Wiltshire-wide indicators showing?
- Examples of activity happening in each of the Climate Strategy themes.
- A flavour of 'What's next?' for each theme. Giving a preview of some of the activity planned in our 2025 Delivery Plans, which will be presented to cabinet in December.

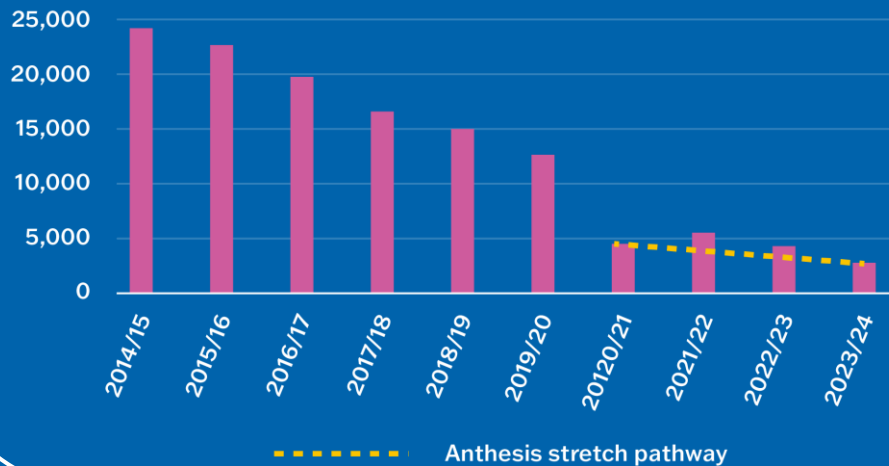
# Carbon neutral council

The [Climate Strategy](#) for this theme is for Wiltshire Council to become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030 and to provide leadership locally and nationally.

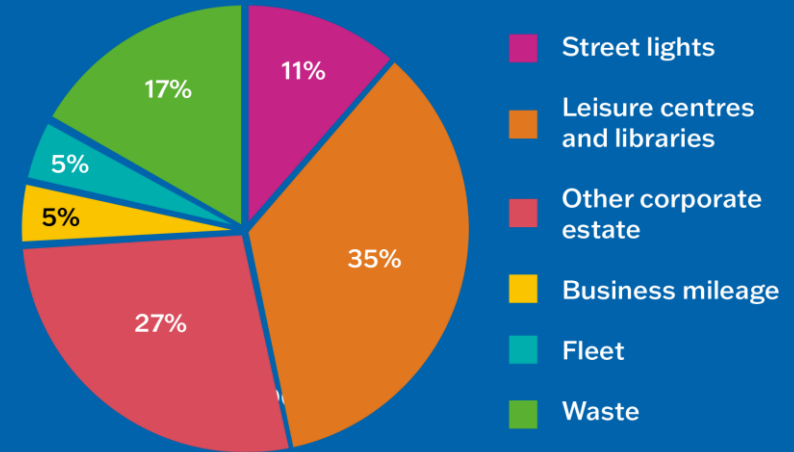
Due to activity set out in the [Carbon Neutral Council Plan 2022-24](#) emissions continue to decrease. In 2023/24 the council's direct emissions (Scope 1 and 2) were 2,767 tCO<sub>2</sub>e which means we have met the target set by out by [Anthesis pathways report](#) of being below 3,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Next year the target is 2,598 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and there are projects in the pipeline that will enable the council to meet the target, with planned projects to continue decarbonising buildings which is the council's largest source of emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions - total scopes 1&2, (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

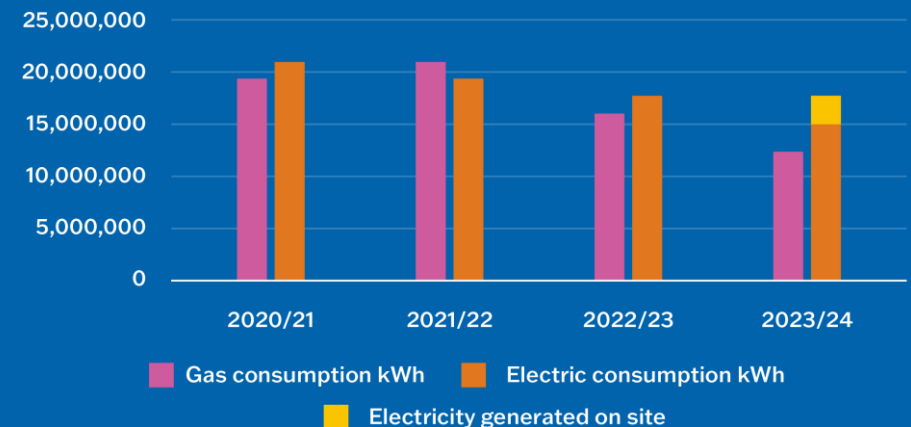


Leisure was the highest emitting sector of Wiltshire Council emissions in 2023/24 - before application of the green tariff (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)



Gas usage is decreasing with the drive to electrify heating of council buildings, whereby low carbon electricity from renewable energy can be used.

Gas and electric consumption



# Reducing emissions from buildings

Area of focus: **Property/Assets, continue to decarbonise heating, improve energy efficiency and expand renewable energy generation.**

## Renewable Generation

- Completion of the council's rooftop solar programme. The total installed solar panel capacity by the end of last year was 3,313 kWp and the total electricity generated in 2023/24 was 2,639,271 kWh.
- Installation of the council's first solar car park canopy at Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre will generate an estimated 220,000 kWh per year, all used directly at the site.



The avoided costs for the council of using self-generated electricity from solar PV installations was nearly £650,000 in 2023/24.

## Property decarbonisation

- The council is using a green tariff for electricity, cutting carbon emissions from properties by 2,440 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e last year.
- Heat decarbonisation at three sites saved 200 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022/23. Additionally, projects at Westbury resource storage, Bradford on Avon Library, and Durrington Swimming Pool reduced emissions by a further 60 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023/24
- A successful pilot project for new switch motors in air handling equipment showed energy savings of 30-60% per motor, with payback in under three years.
- The second phase of Porton Science Park is EPC A rated, with the largest occupier fit-out commissioned to achieve A+ Net Zero

## What's next for property decarbonisation?

- Our asset management strategy will clarify asset roles, enhancing planning for net zero and resilient properties.
- We are focusing on understanding energy usage data for better carbon reduction.
- Rolling out further upgrades at high-energy sites.
- Decarbonising heating at five additional sites.
- Developing an offsetting strategy.
- Installing a second solar car park canopy at Springfield Community Campus.

# Leisure, Culture and Communities

With 20 leisure centres and 30 libraries we recognise that these buildings are high energy users. Leisure, Culture and Communities, Climate and Energy teams meet regularly to collaborate and share best practice.

[Wiltshire Cultural Strategy](#) development has incorporated priorities relating to climate mitigation and resilience.

Some examples of actions taken:



Energy demand in **leisure centres** has been reduced through Swimming Pool Support Funds for more efficient showers and new pool covers to keep heat in.

All pools are operating more efficiently in relation to water usage, pool & air temperatures. Closely monitoring utility usage and more accurate reading of meters helps our 'good housekeeping' representatives on site to recognise any areas for further attention.

**Libraries** provide information and resources to the community on how we can mitigate, reduce and overcome the effects of climate change, with the environmentally themed book display continuing to rotate around the county libraries.



Establishment of the [Rooted Community market garden](#) at the **History Centre** encourages home growing, reducing food miles and waste.

The History Centre is advancing a 'green lab' for conservation services and has worked with Wessex Water's Community Connectors pilot in Chippenham, aiming to cut pharmaceuticals in the water system and promote water conservation.



**Young Gallery in Salisbury:** Successfully completed carbon literacy training and have been experimenting with different printing methods for temporary exhibitions, using bespoke recycling schemes.

## What's next?

- 'Leisure, Culture and Communities' teams will continue to focus on understanding energy management and reducing buildings usage.
- Energy Team continue to switch sites to renewables, such as air source heat pumps and biomass, including Malmesbury Activity Zone and Devizes Library.

## Fleet and staff travel

Area of focus: **The council's Fleet Strategy sets out plans to move to electric vehicles and identify alternative solutions for larger vehicles, becoming fully carbon neutral by 2030.**

Initial telematics and driver awareness has already resulted in reduced carbon emissions and there is significant potential for further cost and carbon reduction. To realise these savings, we have been awarded £25,000 from the South West Net Zero Fund to analyse telematics data and work with managers to reduce travel across services and inform further EV transition and purchasing.



Replacement of 87 fossil fuel vehicles with electric, from the baseline of 247 fleet vehicles, means we are ahead of the Fleet Strategy target to replace 25% by March 2024. There are now 117 workplace charge points and 60 public charge points on council property.



### Staff travel

Wiltshire Council's salary sacrifice **Tusker car benefit scheme** for employees has so far seen 28 ultra-low emissions cars purchased and 14 people have taken up the **cycle to work scheme**.

One member of staff has travelled 2,000 miles in the six months since purchasing an electric bike through the scheme, equating to approximately 755 kg fewer CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in comparison to travelling by petrol. At a cost of £600 and saving approximately £8 per 20-mile commute, the bike paid for itself within a few months.



Carbon emissions from fleet decreased by **126 t**  
from 557 t in 2022/23 to 431 t in 2023/24

### What's next?

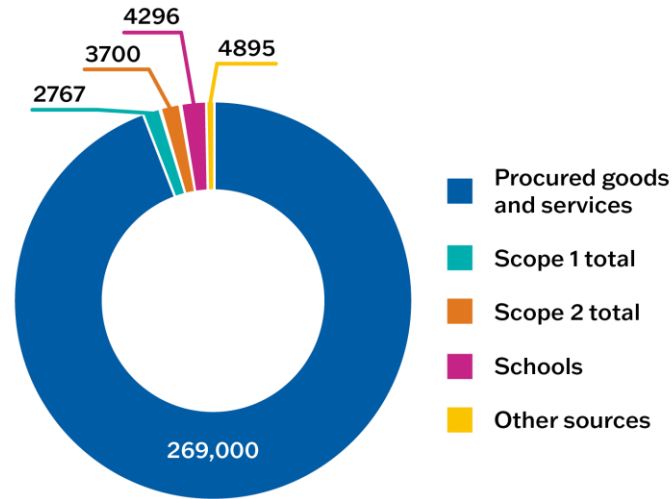
- An additional 70 charge points will be installed across council sites, to enable further decarbonisation of fleet.
- 50 further vehicles will follow once the charge points have been installed.
- The depot renewal project will look at how EV charging at depots can support fleet decarbonisation.
- The Staff Travel Plan is being updated to support staff to take sustainable ways to travel to work. County Hall is the first step, to join up with plans for the new leisure centre at Trowbridge.

# Influencing Scope 3 emissions

Area of Focus: **Continue to monitor and reduce direct emissions, while working to understand and reduce Scope 3 emissions (supply chain and outsourced operations) for wider impact.**

The council is engaging with the top ten emitting suppliers, which include highways and waste contracts. The emissions data is estimated ([Pathways to Carbon Neutral report](#)), so by working with suppliers we can understand actual data, and the potential for it to be reduced.

In November 2023 Wiltshire Council held a sustainability event with highways suppliers to share knowledge and showcase best practice.



**Comparison of scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.**  
The pie chart shows that the council’s scope 1 and 2 emissions are dwarfed by our Scope 3 emissions, which are estimated based on spend.

## Procurement and Commissioning

Area of Focus: **Incorporating climate considerations into tendering and contracts is an important part of our delivery plan.** Within the last year Procurement and Climate teams have been working together to develop methods to ensure that there is focus on social value – which includes climate areas. Two examples are the Community Care contract, and Highways Maintenance contract (see case study on the following page).

New specifications for commissioned care services have included the council's aims for carbon neutrality as part of the tender process, with questions designed to ask how a provider will support these aims.

One way we have identified to reduce direct emissions, is to build children's care provision in county which will reduce social worker travel to see our young people. This approach has been supported through carbon literacy training for commissioning services.

Scope 3 emissions  
**269,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

County territorial  
**3,000,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

### What's next?

Use estimated Scope 3 data, and work on obtaining further actual data to inform target areas for carbon reduction, through:

- Engaging with the top 10 council suppliers
- Working with care providers through the Care Provider Forum
- Continuing to introduce social value (incorporating climate) into all contracts.



## Working with suppliers: Milestone Case Study

Area of focus: **Work with the council's supply community, to help achieve economic, environmental and social benefits for the public good and the people of Wiltshire (including reduced carbon emissions) when the council buys goods or services.**

The most significant contributor to Wiltshire Council's Scope 3 emissions is procurement spend (>269,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e). Within procurement, waste and highways contracts are the largest emissions sources, making up 45% of the total (25% and 20%, respectively). The top ten contracts account for 70% of estimated emissions but only about 50% of expenditure.

**Aim:** To decarbonise the council's supply chain and ensure contractors contribute to the council's climate commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030



### Wiltshire Council and Milestone collaboration

MILESTONE  
INFRASTRUCTURE

A part of MGroupServices

As a result of requirements through the tender and contract process, Wiltshire Highways was the first of Milestone's highways maintenance contracts to produce a Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP). Milestone has pledged to achieve net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions and reduce Scope 3 carbon intensity to 19.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/£100k spend by 2030. In total, carbon emissions came to 5,605 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023/24 (carbon intensity of 56 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/£100k spend) with a carbon saving made of 400 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (~7% reduction). Further commitments include:

- Quarterly carbon reporting, sharing data and innovations on reducing carbon emissions. Carbon reporting for specific projects.
- Rollout of Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) to replace diesel as an interim solution. Step towards decarbonising fleet (>300 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saving); EV forklifts (50 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saving); EV charge point installation.
- Electric hotbox in the depot to keep asphalt warm. Electricity has lower emissions than gas. (5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saving over three months);
- Use of a [dragon patcher](#) for pothole repairs (113 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saving);
- Use of recycled materials and aggregates (20 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saving).

Based on these achievements and collaboration, Milestone and Wiltshire Council have been shortlisted for the Edie Net Zero Awards in the category 'Supply Chain Decarbonisation Project of the Year'.

### What's next for Milestone?

- Exploring feasibility of renewables on depots.
- Conducting detailed carbon assessments on individual schemes to support carbon reduction measures.
- Wiltshire Highways is sharing its learnings with other Milestone contracts and clients through webinars, hubs and working group forums.

# Embedding climate into council culture

Area of focus: **Embed carbon reduction and climate resilience into council working culture, through staff training, values and reward frameworks**

**Carbon Literacy:** Our goal is to train 820 staff for the Silver award, and we're currently at 20% accredited, and nearly all Directors have participated, including our new Chief Executive, Lucy Townsend

## Carbon Literacy Project



- The council's new Chief Executive has pledged to work to understand actual carbon emissions from care contracts, building on the spend based estimates.
- Director of Commissioning, Alison Elliot has pledged to make sure that commissioned contracts incorporate climate considerations.
- Directors David Redfern and James Barrah are working towards more accessible and visual data showing energy and carbon emissions in property and leisure centres.

Accredited  
**181**

Staff trained  
so far: **253**

**506**  
pledges  
made

**2** climate  
team  
facilitators

Carbon Literacy can cut energy and transport costs and can also boost employee morale, satisfaction, and productivity.

Area of focus: **Integrate carbon reduction and climate resilience into decision-making and strategic planning**

A new Environment category has been added to the Risk Management Policy, complete with examples of risk impact and risk appetite for all environmental aspects.

The Corporate Risk Register has been updated to highlight where existing risks may be influenced by a changing climate. Risk assessments are being carried out at a service-level to determine where functions and objectives are vulnerable to climate impacts.

The cabinet report template now reflects the new Environment Policy, ensuring decision-making includes relevant impacts and opportunities.



## What's next for embedding climate into council culture?

- Carbon Literacy for communities and councillors
- Make sure carbon assessment is part of any project (e.g. on council land or external projects), procurement and decisions.

## Cross-cutting action

### Area of focus: **Continue to implement, review and update the Wiltshire Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan**

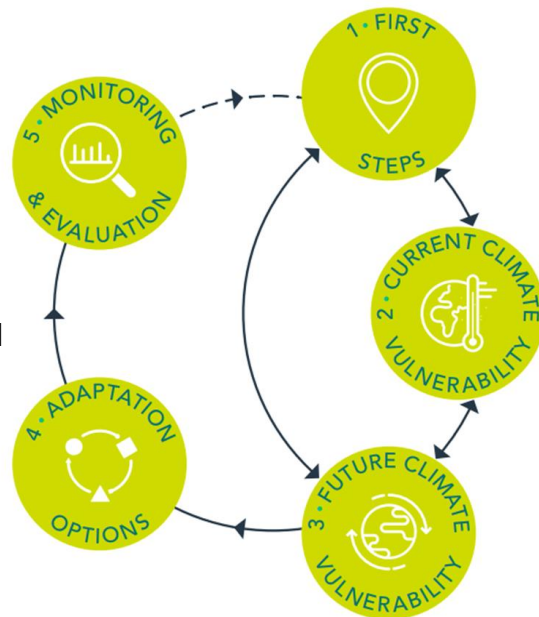
Climate Team has been engaging service areas to raise awareness of climate change impacts and assess risks to council business. Senior management participated in adaptation workshops which started in October 2023.

We know that Wiltshire will experience hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters, and that extreme weather will become more frequent. We are already experiencing the effects of storms, heatwaves, flooding, drought and wildfire.

Our approach uses the Local Partnerships Adaptation Toolkit (see diagram), assessing current climate vulnerabilities, planning for long-term impacts, and ensuring ongoing action, monitoring, and review.

Selected services are conducting Climate Change Risk Assessments to identify key actions that will enhance knowledge, data, and resilience.

Social workers are assessing the impact on vulnerable people. Highways services, already tackling flooding, melting roads, and storm damage, are planning for more frequent incidents.



### Area of focus: **Support the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee's responsible investment policy, climate strategy and action plan.**



Wiltshire Pension Fund has released their new [Climate and Nature Report](#), detailing efforts to manage climate risk and track decarbonisation progress. While the fund is slightly behind its 2024 target, its carbon footprint reduced by 31% from 2019 to 2024. To keep this momentum, the fund will scrutinise high-carbon holdings to ensure they contribute to the net zero pathway.

#### **Actions to date include:**

- [£10m investment into Climate tech with World Fund - Wiltshire Pension Fund](#)
- [A focus on high emitting sectors such as cement.](#)
- Over 10% of the entire fund is allocated to renewable infrastructure and climate solutions
- 28.7% of the fund's long-term strategic allocation is to "green" assets – on track to meet a target of 30% by 2025.
- A commitment to divest from all fossil fuel companies by 2030 and ensure all remaining holdings can transition to the zero-carbon economy.

#### **What's next?**

- Wiltshire Council Climate Adaptation Plan to be produced by March 2025
- Continue to work with service areas across the council to identify risks to their service and customers due to the impacts of climate change, understand the adaptation actions needed, and timeframe for delivery.

## Adaptation and resilience

### Case Study: Marlborough pilot to develop 'rapid adaption pathway'

Marlborough was severely impacted by flooding in January 2024 and so has been selected to pilot a Rapid Adaptation Pathway Assessment (RAPA) toolkit developed by ADEPT (Association of Directors for Environment, Planning and Transport).

A changing climate will bring increasing mean winter rainfall and increasing peak rainfall intensity to Wiltshire, increasing the risk of flooding to communities and residents.

A one-day event in Marlborough in collaboration with Marlborough Town Council will focus on how current and future flood risk could be managed within a changing climate.

A variety of stakeholders will be invited to the event to explore the risks and opportunities from climate change and build consensus around a desired long-term strategy to manage flood risk to Marlborough and its community.



**ADEPT**  
Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport



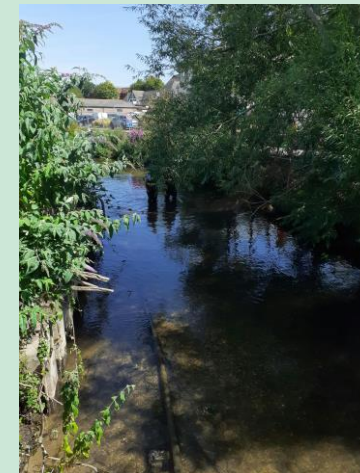
### Case study: Salisbury River Park.

The reopening of the River Avon channel in the Central Car Park area marks a major milestone for the [Salisbury River Park](#) project.

Since summer 2022, the river channel and adjoining floodplain have been widened to boost capacity and cut flood risks. A new control weir replaced the sluice gate between Millstream and the River Avon, with rock weirs added for water level control and fish passage. The previous gate blocked fish migration upstream, but the new channel enhances habitat connectivity and biodiversity.

Construction of the pedestrian bridge to the coach park began in March 2024 and is now substantially complete.

The project is almost complete, offering significant flood risk mitigation and climate benefits, including carbon reduction, new parkland, tree planting, and increased active travel options.

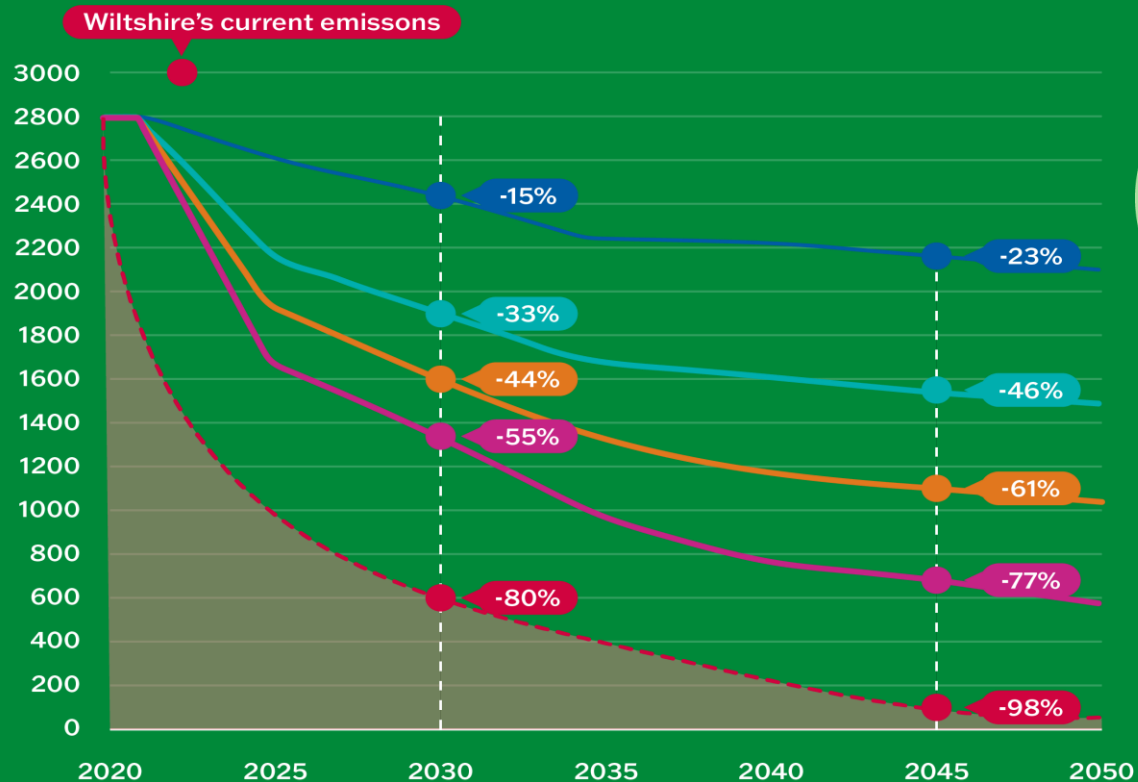


### What's next?

- Continue to build adaptation and resilience into projects and service delivery, and identify specific need and opportunities to work in partnership to improve resilience in Wiltshire communities.
- Continuing to deliver environmental mitigation projects, and quantify the climate benefits as much as possible.

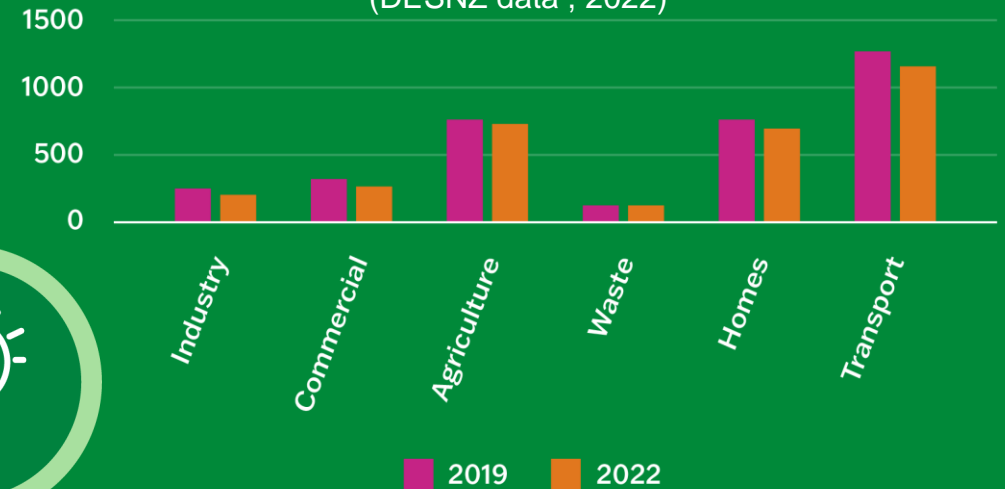
# Wiltshire county climate action

The latest data (published by DESNZ, June 2024) for Wiltshire emissions until end of 2022 shows a decrease from previous year (2021) in line with national average. The national and local emissions are now starting to reduce, since the initial bounce back following the pandemic. However, the county is still not on track as modelled by our [Wiltshire Carbon Emissions Baselines and Reduction Pathways](#) study (2022).



Transport, domestic properties, and industry all saw a drop in emissions from 2021 to 2022. The decrease in emissions from domestic properties was likely due in part to warmer weather and the cost-of-living crisis reducing fuel consumption.

Wiltshire comparison of emissions by source 2019-2022 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e (DESNZ data, 2022)



The graph to the left shows the possible future emissions pathways for Wiltshire as modelled by Anthesis, for differing levels of ambition. The high Ambition pathway in pink shows the maximum feasible climate action - but even this leaves a lot of emissions to be offset, if Wiltshire is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, or even 2050. Aiming for the High Ambition pathway predicts emissions for 2022 of 2400 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e. The red dot indicates the actual emissions. The red dashed line indicates the trajectory aligned with the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global temperature change below 1.5°C.

**6.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** emissions per person, per year, in Wiltshire

**3,000 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e** emissions in Wiltshire in 2022

# Climate Strategy theme: Transport

The [Climate Strategy](#) for Transport aims to decarbonise the transport system and provide opportunities for people to use more sustainable modes of transport. The council's contribution is to invest in infrastructure for more cycling, walking, shared and public transport and use of alternative fuels, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure. In addition, we can support people to drive less by locating and designing new developments and services to minimise the distances travelled and enable those journeys to be made by sustainable modes of transport.

Increased active travel can help to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution, improved health and wellbeing, reduce fuel costs and may increase economic growth and vibrancy.

Our indicators show progress in these areas. Overall, the greenhouse gas emissions from Wiltshire's transport are reducing slightly. The [Local Transport Plan 4](#) will help to show the specific measures needed to achieve the carbon neutral ambition for the county.

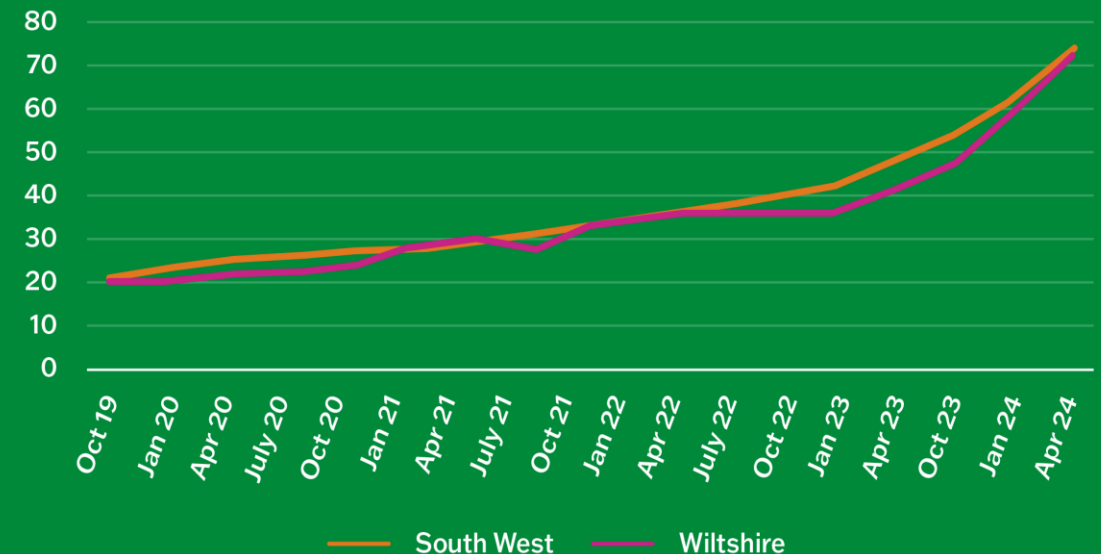


**372** publicly available charge points in Wiltshire (Apr 2024)

Wiltshire, with 73 charge points per 100,000 population, is slightly behind the South West benchmark of 75 per 100,000.

The council's EV Charging Infrastructure Plan has resulted in an additional 60 public charge points in 2023/24.

Electric vehicle charge points per 100,000 population.



**38%**

of greenhouse gas emissions in Wiltshire come from Transport

**8,430,089**

Passenger trips on buses in 23/24. Increased 15% from 22/23

# Active Travel

Area of focus: **Produce Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for Wiltshire and the major settlements to unlock further Government funding for measures**

**7** plans have now been produced, including Chippenham, Trowbridge, and Devizes LCWIPs which are now approved by the Cabinet Member. Calne and Melksham LCWIPs have completed the first stage of engagement, with draft plans in preparation for further consultation.

For more information see the council's [active travel](#) and [LCWIP](#) webpages.



**0**  
times air pollution (NO<sub>2</sub>)  
was over the limit in Air  
Quality Management  
Areas in 2023/24

There are over  
**70,000** pupils  
in Wiltshire schools

Areas of Focus: **Using our influence and partnerships we will encourage schools to develop nationally accredited green travel plans through Modeshift STARS scheme. Work with schools to support safe walking and cycling.**

**Bikeability:** In the 2023-24 school year we have delivered over 3,300 Level 2 training places, over 70 Level 3 places and supported 38 Year 6 pupils to learn to ride.

**Walksafe:** 8,784 children have completed pedestrian training, across years 1,3 and 6 in primary schools. **Scootability:** 819 primary pupils have taken part in scooter skills sessions.

[Bikeability](#) is funded by a grant from Active Travel England. £167,135 in 2023/24, for instructor costs, training resources, and award materials.

A focus on road safety empowers young people and their families to choose active travel for short journeys, which contributes to better health and air quality as well as reducing carbon emissions.

## What's next:

Continue developing LCWIPs for all of our towns and produce a pipeline of active travel schemes that will be delivered when funding becomes available.

- Bikeability, WalkSafe and Scootability will continue, with a £229,573 grant for 2024/25.
- Continued focus on [air quality](#): Carbon reduction and air quality objectives go hand in hand and better air quality makes active travel more inviting.

## Low carbon travel

Area of focus: **Explore how the council can best support infrastructure to encourage the uptake of all types of zero carbon vehicles by Wiltshire residents and businesses, through Wiltshire Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan and other future plans**

**£480,000** from the Department for Transport (DfT) to dedicate to expanding the county's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI).

The grant supports an **EV Team**, who are developing an EV Strategy and installing on-street, residential chargers across Wiltshire.



**60** Public charge points installed in 2023/24 as part of existing EV Charging Infrastructure Plan 2022-24.

Area of focus: **Build upon the existing rural transport network, including through more Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) type operations**

The council's [Wiltshire Connect on-demand bus service](#) in the Pewsey Vale has seen more than 4,500 passengers, and 55,000 journeys in the first year. Two additional vehicles will begin in October 2024, covering the rural area to the east of Marlborough to Hungerford. Carbon emissions will be reduced where those journeys have replaced individual car journeys, and the service has benefits for accessibility, social inclusion and mental health.

Area of Focus: **Using our influence and partnerships: Through [Wiltshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan \(BSIP\)](#) we will seek to unlock grant funding for public transport in the government's National Bus Strategy and deliver a high quality, lower fare, higher frequency, and greener public transport network.**

Wiltshire Council and Salisbury Reds have secured funding from the Department for Transport's (DfT) ZEBRA (Zero Emission Bus Regional Area) scheme to purchase 23 new electric buses, plus the charging infrastructure. The buses will come into service in 2026.



In partnership with local bus operators, The council has introduced two new bus services, the X34 service between Chippenham and Trowbridge now operates on a Sunday; and the D1x, which is a new, more direct service between Trowbridge and Bath.



### What's next?

- Recruiting three new members of the EV team
- Planning for more public chargepoints



# Homes and the built environment

The [Climate Strategy](#) for Homes and the Built Environment is to aim for new building, including homes, to be net zero and resilient to climate change. The main way the council can do this is through the Local Plan policy.

Existing buildings make up a much larger proportion of buildings and need to be made more energy efficient and switch to renewable energy. Whilst the council does not have control over performance of buildings across the county, this page presents the data showing that there are gradual improvements to energy efficiency in homes.

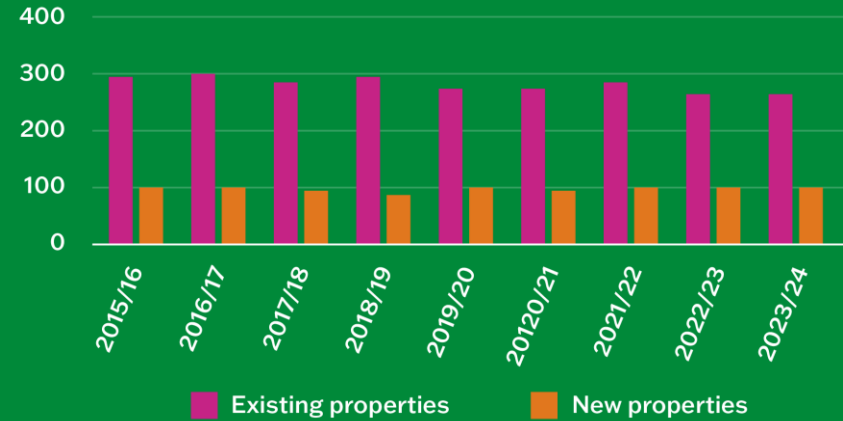
Examples of work in this area are provided on the following pages. As well as the Local Plan, the main focus is on encouraging and enabling retrofit of residential and commercial properties.



Comparison of three year rolling % of EPC A-C



Space heating demand (average kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per dwelling, pa)



New properties need significantly less energy to heat them than existing properties.

While the draft [Local Plan](#) includes policies to require new development to be net zero carbon in operation, there is still a huge challenge to tackle the emissions from existing properties.

Draft Local Plan policy requires space heating demand <30 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/annum

We use a three-year rolling average to show a longer-term trend, as Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings can fluctuate over the shorter term. The increasing percentage of EPCs rated A, B & C show the trend that energy efficiency is increasing. The target is for EPCs at levels A-C to increase over time in line with the South West benchmark. This year the South West is at 48%.

There are over **200,000** homes in Wiltshire

**22.8%** of Wiltshire's greenhouse gas emissions come from domestic sources

## Retrofit

Area of focus: **Work in partnership to raise standards in both housing and the wider built environment, such as business and schools.**

The climate team provides planning consultations to support sustainable construction, future-proof projects for retrofits, and facilitate renewable energy generation. From August 2023 to July 2024, we completed over 230 consultations.

Through engagement between developers and the Climate Team, a 120-home development was upgraded from basic compliance to include exemplary measures: maximizing solar orientation, meeting Future Homes Standard ahead of its official introduction, with air source heat pumps and solar panels for every home.

An estimated 90 tCO<sub>2</sub>/year will be saved and these homes won't need to be retrofitted in future. Residents will have low energy bills and thermal comfort.



Partnerships with Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), Wiltshire College and Wiltshire Climate Alliance have included:

- The council supported Wiltshire College's grant bid to transform a solid-wall house into a training rig for students to learn skills associated with retrofitting existing houses to improving energy efficiency
- The council supports CSE's Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD project), offering in-person energy advice. CSE has created an online [Retrofit Directory](#) to connect residents with local installers
- The council and CSE supported WCA's [Green Open Homes](#) event, showcasing real-life retrofits to inspire the community to start their retrofit journeys.

Area of Focus: **Using our influence and partnership we will: Provide information and encourage and support residents to understand and engage in retrofitting their homes**

[The Home Upgrade Grant Scheme](#) has commenced, offering fully funded energy efficiency improvements to owner-occupied and privately rented low-income households that are off the gas grid. Wiltshire Council is working with EDF Energy to retrofit up to 86 homes in the county. Registrations are open and surveys have commenced, works to homes are due to start in Autumn 2024.

The council is now seeking applications from eligible households. Households can check if they meet the criteria and register their interest at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/hug>.

# Retrofit

Area of focus: **Continue to implement the ten-year programme to retrofit all council homes to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) B standard.**

£2.2m has been spent on 700 retrofit measures, delivered to over 200 council owned homes in the last year, through the [Home Energy Efficiency Programme](#) (HEEP). These include insulation, windows, heating and hot water systems, and solar PV.

Verified carbon credits are sold via [HACT](#). The credits are based on the carbon savings from energy efficiency measures (not the electricity generated by solar panels) and social value generated. It is a UK based scheme, with buyers ranging from housing developers to banks. Selling credits generates income that can be put back into the council's HEEP programme.



These programmes save money for residents and make their homes more comfortable, healthy and warm. They reduce carbon emissions.

Area of focus: **Continue to help fuel poor households improve the efficiency of their homes by targeted support.**

The Warm and Safe advice service for Wiltshire continues to offer advice and assistance to low-income households.

To date there have been 3,136 households that have contacted the service. The top energy improvements discussed were loft insulation, boiler upgrade, cavity wall insulation, solar PV and draught proofing.



Area of focus: **Work in partnership to bid for retrofit funding. Working to scale up delivery of energy efficiency improvements for Wiltshire homes and businesses.**

The council's Retrofit Team continues to bid for grant funding to deliver energy efficiency improvements to Wiltshire homes and businesses, to work with local supply chains, businesses, colleges, installers and the finance community to drive retrofit at scale and to provide a centralised resource for retrofit support and advice for Wiltshire residents and businesses.

## What's next?

- Install energy efficiency measures at all 5,300 of our properties, where feasible, over the next eight to nine years through the HEEP programme.
- Supporting residential retrofit through advice, and targeted projects such as Solar Together and HUG.
- Developing a retrofit strategy for Wiltshire: building on existing activities, reviewing data and using the Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA) tool (see page 24) to inform our approach.

## New build

Area of focus: **Aspire for net zero carbon development by the council where viable and possible.**

**Net zero new council homes:** The first MMC (Modern Methods of Construction) home was completed in April 2024 in Durrington. The bungalow was custom built off site then swung into location by crane.

These modular homes are zero carbon in use thanks to air source heat pumps, smart controls, and solar panels - complete with an EV charging point. New zero carbon homes are also being purchased by the council. The developments are part of our programme to provide 1,000 affordable homes over the next decade.



The council's **new schools** are aiming to be net zero in operation, for example the new Melksham Primary School (planning stage), The Grove Primary School new classroom block (starting soon) and the build project at Silverwood School in Rowde.

Silverwood School build project is aiming for net zero in operation, and this is being achieved through a large PV array on the roof of the new classroom block along with a smaller array on the new Energy Centre and one on an existing building.

The solar PV installation is being delivered in partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy via Willmott Dixon's Community PV Scheme, supported by Communities for Renewables.



communitiesfor  
renewables

WILLMOTT DIXON

The school and council do not pay for the initial installation, and the school will benefit from clean energy at a discounted rate. Exporting surplus power to the grid, will bring an estimated £5,000 per annum back to support biodiversity and environmental education initiatives in partnership with the school.

### What's next?

- Modern methods of construction - further sites underway at Corsley Heath and Rowde.
- Climate Team continue to input to the Local Plan Review including future monitoring framework
- Early engagement with developers and businesses to establish net zero and industry best practice in new developments which adapt and are resilient to a changing climate.

# Natural environment, food and farming

The [Climate Strategy](#) for this theme is aligned to the council's [Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy](#), which establishes shared goals for climate, biodiversity and health and wellbeing. Tackling climate change must go hand in hand with reversing biodiversity loss, as natural systems, and well-managed land help to absorb carbon, and a strong ecosystem is vital for the planet to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

A key area of activity is to encourage tree planting in Wiltshire, and to work with farmers and landowners to improve soil health, water quality, biodiversity, flood risk management. The following pages provide some examples of the work we are doing for climate and nature.

Performance is measured against national Government tree planting targets, 30K Ha / annum. This equates to approximately 444 Ha / annum for Wiltshire, which we are working towards through our own interim targets (111 ha for 2023/24, and 222 ha for 2024/25).



**22.8%**

of Wiltshire's greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture

**-175.1 kt**

is the net amount of greenhouse gas emissions from Land Use in Wiltshire (includes forestry, soils, cropland, urbanised areas)

Tree planting in Wiltshire 2023/24 is on track:

**7,062**  
m  
Hedgerow

**1,471**  
Individual trees

**267**  
hectares  
Woodland

The council hosts the [North Wessex Downs](#) and the [Cranborne Chase](#) National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), and together with the council's Climate and Environment service covering ecology, landscape, historic environment, urban design and climate, and wider partnerships with organisations such as Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and river catchment partnerships, there is a strong foundation to deliver outcomes for climate and nature. A key priority currently is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy that will focus nature recovery to areas that will have the greatest benefit by improving connectivity across the landscape.



# Green and Blue Infrastructure & environmental mitigation projects

Area of focus: **Use the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBI) for Wiltshire as our framework for partnership working to extend and improve Wiltshire's green and blue infrastructure network.**

Nature-based solutions are key to delivering on all three objectives of the GBI Strategy and projects that have a primary focus on biodiversity net gain, Nature recovery or nutrient neutrality also have benefits across the other areas.

## Adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change

The strategic review of council land concluded last year. While no sites were selected for renewable energy, several are currently earmarked for biodiversity, nutrient neutrality, and tree planting projects.

The Grant and Planting Support team is collaborating with the council's property team to enable tree planting on various sites. They're also working with landowners and farmers to enhance environmental benefits. Plans include assessing current habitats, with a consultant helping to establish carbon baselines and predict carbon capture from Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) measures.



## Halting loss and improving biodiversity

**Case Study:** Roundbarrow Farm, a council-owned former dairy farm, is being transformed into a nature reserve for environmental offsetting, while still being managed for food production. Located in the internationally protected River Test catchment area, the project will help address nutrient pollution in our waterways, particularly nitrogen, which threatens wildlife.

The repurposing of the 120 hectares will protect existing habitats, including those of hares and skylarks, and restore species-rich chalk grassland which will support wildlife, such as stone curlews, lapwings, butterflies, bumblebees, and other insects. The project will also enhance ecological connectivity with improved hedgerows and connected woodland parcels.

Partnering to enhance habitats and biodiversity achieves multiple council objectives: creating a stronger, more climate-resilient ecosystem and improving soil and land management to capture and retain more carbon dioxide.

These changes will also be accompanied by a new permissive bridleway linking the villages of Pitton and Firsdawn and has potential for a new community orchard

## What's next?

- Carbon assessment of projects, to help understand the potential for reducing emissions, increasing carbon sequestration, informing further work with farmers, landowners and partner organisations.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy adoption

# Tree planting

Area of focus: **Plant trees and create other suitable habitats on council land where appropriate.**

Following the successful bid for almost £300,000 from Government, [Wiltshire Council's Grant Application and Planting Support \(GAPS\)](#) team has facilitated planting of 36.9 Ha of Woodland / 755 individual trees / 1,322 m of hedgerow during the 2023-24 planting season. This has contributed to the achievement of 267 ha of woodland planting across the county during 2023/24, which is more than double the target.

The Tree Warden scheme has been set up to support tree planting and maintenance in communities, and the council has now recruited 56 Volunteer tree wardens.

As well as carbon sequestration, other benefits include Natural Flood Mitigation, improved air & water quality, natural cooling, biodiversity and climate adaptation.

Wiltshire Council has been successful in being awarded £50,000 for [community orchards](#) as part of a new Government tree planting initiative, which celebrates the Coronation of King Charles III. The fund will support the purchase of trees, protection measures and establishment costs and planting will take place in autumn/winter 2024/25.



## Case Study: Bradford on Avon Treescape project

In Bradford on Avon, planting took place at seventeen locations across the town, including seven play areas.

The trees were planted following the Miyawaki method. Miyawaki forests are miniature forests often planted by community groups where dense planting aims to allow trees will grow more quickly, improve biodiversity and absorb more carbon dioxide. Monitoring and maintenance is also included.

The project is estimated to increase annual carbon sequestration of around 450 tCO<sub>2</sub> once the trees have matured.

In addition, there are benefits to health and wellbeing, restoring lost habitat and improving biodiversity. Involving community groups helps raise awareness and promotes a sense of belonging and care for the natural environment.



### What's next?

- The GAPS team has identified the following for 2024-25 planting season so far: 68 Ha of Woodland / 50 individual trees / 6379 m of hedgerow
- Developing a Wiltshire Council Tree and Woodland Planting Strategy to establish targets and advice on planting the right tree in the right place

# Climate Strategy Theme: Energy

The [Climate Strategy](#) for this theme is to support decarbonisation of energy, by moving from fossil fuels to zero or low carbon alternatives. To enable the switch, it is necessary to also reduce the overall amount of energy used.

In addition to the focus on the multi-million pound programme to install renewable energy on council property and council homes, the past year has seen a strengthening of engagement with electricity network and national grid partners, to address grid capacity constraints that can slow down development of renewables. With these partners, other local authorities and support from the South West Net Zero Hub, the council is developing and piloting new ways to plan for the transition to a net zero energy system. This is part of Local Area Energy Planning, and will remain a key priority going forward.

Another growing area of potential partnership and delivery is with community energy. The council has convened a roundtable meeting of community energy groups operating in Wiltshire, and separately hosted the Wessex Community Energy Network meeting in May.



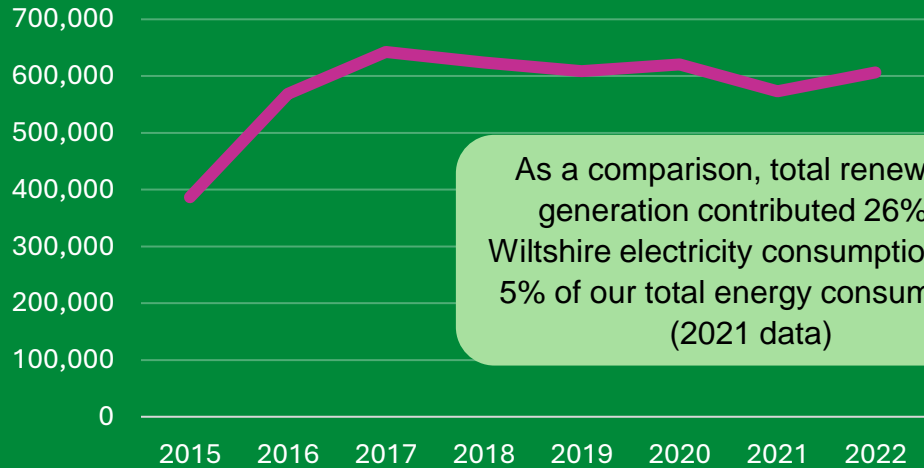
**583 MW**  
Total renewable energy installed capacity in Wiltshire

**7.54 MW**  
Installed community energy capacity

**5.9 MW**  
Rooftop solar PV capacity through Solar Together

There is 908.77 MW capacity of renewable energy projects with planning approval, and more awaiting planning decision. However, such projects take many years to achieve approval and construction.

Wiltshire's renewable energy generation (MWh)



As a comparison, total renewable generation contributed 26% of Wiltshire electricity consumption, and 5% of our total energy consumption (2021 data)



# Energy planning & community energy

Area of Focus: **Using our influence and partnerships we will: Continue to work with partners including grid operators to address grid constraints and enable alternative, new and emerging technologies.**

**Decarbonising the energy system in Wiltshire:** The council has started work to understand Wiltshire's current energy system and to identify the most cost-effective way to contribute to national and local net zero targets, including decarbonising energy sources, bringing in investment and informing grid upgrades. This project will pave the way for a formal Wiltshire Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).

**Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA):** Wiltshire Council is piloting the LENZA tool from Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) as part of its Local Area Energy Planning. LENZA will aid in baselining, data analysis, and developing the LAEP, along with planning EV infrastructure, renewables, and retrofits. It serves as a foundation for stakeholder engagement, supporting community energy efforts in Wiltshire. The council is partnering with the [South West Net Zero Hub](#) and a cohort of local authorities to collaborate and support local area energy planning.



Area of Focus: **Explore supporting community energy groups to increase local engagement in the development of renewable energy and retain economic benefits in the area**

In May 2024 Wiltshire Council hosted the Wessex Community Energy Network meeting at County Hall. The [workshop](#) heard updates from Community Energy England, SSEN, and National Grid; and explored barriers and opportunities for community energy. The council has also started convening a regular roundtable of community energy groups operating in our area.



Wiltshire Council, in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, community energy groups, and other local authorities, has submitted a bid to Ofgem's 'Redress' fund. If approved, this initiative will engage with selected community groups to assess their local energy needs and future renewable energy possibilities using the Future Energy Landscapes workshop model.

## What's next?

- The council will continue to work on early stages of Local Area Energy Plan process, and prepare the engagement and data to support a formal Wiltshire Local Area Energy Plan.

## Solar panels & micro-renewables

Area of Focus: **Using our influence and partnerships we will: Increase renewable electricity generation including microgeneration (and associated technologies such as storage) in Wiltshire by working in partnership with others.**

The council's Solar Together and HUG projects result in increasing solar panel installations and other micro-renewables such as air source heat pumps.

Solar Together, [Wiltshire Council's bulk purchasing solar panel scheme](#) in partnership with Swindon Borough Council and iChoosr, completed its second phase in March 2023. Using installers Infinity Renewables and Infinity Energy. Appendix 3 provides a full report of Scheme 2.

Participation in scheme 2 met expectations, while scheme 1 saw a surge due to the cost of living crisis, rising energy prices, and the March 2022 announcement of zero VAT on solar panels. Scheme 3 is already in motion with a fresh publicity strategy, including targeted announcements, radio campaign and direct mailing.

**379** solar PV installs:  
**1.62** MW of capacity  
In 2023/24

**23** customers installed battery storage only

**Over £3.6 million** in private investment

**8,993** t estimated CO<sub>2</sub> savings over 25 years



Schemes 1 and 2 have resulted in 1,581 installations, and 5.9 MW installed capacity of rooftop solar PV in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Both schemes combined will deliver an estimated 29,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction over the guaranteed lifetime of the systems installed (25 years).

Implementing the Solar Together scheme not only enables take up of renewables directly delivered through the scheme, but also has a knock-on effect of increasing uptake more widely through other solar installers, as evidenced by Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) data.

### What's next?

Solar Together scheme 3 opened for registration in June 2024 with over 3,000 registrations in Wiltshire by the September 2024 closing date. Installations will be complete by end of March 2025

# Climate Strategy theme: Green economy

The [Climate Strategy](#) for this theme is to support businesses to become greener by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change. In addition, the objective is to encourage growth and investment in the green economy in Wiltshire. This means increasing capacity and skills in key sectors such as renewable energy and retrofit, to meet demand.

The focus has been to stimulate demand, and work with supply chains to increase skills and capacity, through council programmes such as retrofit, working with suppliers and support for businesses. The Wiltshire Towns programme also has an indirect influence on carbon emissions and resilience, by improving the social and economic vibrancy of our towns and city, we encourage people to use their local centres, perhaps travelling by walking or cycling and choosing more sustainable, zero waste products or services.



The [Wiltshire Towns Programme](#) aims to boost local economic recovery by revitalising town centres and encouraging local spend. Through the Vibrant Wiltshire initiative, vacant units are coming back to life, and activity grants are energizing town councils to attract more locals and visitors.

## Future High Streets Fund Delivery:

Working in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to deliver ecological improvements to the River Biss corridor in Trowbridge.



Highways improvements to enhance pedestrian and cycle access in Trowbridge's town centre have been a major focus. Phase 2 on Castle Street is now complete, with work on Manvers Street and Wicker Hill underway.

Salisbury, Fisherton Gateway - Construction started at the end of July and is planned to be completed in summer 2024.

These projects aim to increase biodiversity, improve active travel routes, improve town centre high street health and keeping local spend local.

**7.2%** of Wiltshire's greenhouse gas emissions come from Industrial sources

**8.8%** of Wiltshire's greenhouse gas emissions come from Commercial sources

Since 2005 emissions for industry and commercial sources has reduced by **67%**

## Supporting businesses and suppliers

Emissions from Wiltshire Council's key suppliers is a focus in relation to encouraging businesses to become greener. The council hosted an event in November 2023 with highways contractors, where the council and suppliers showcased carbon emissions reduction activity, and how they are working to be more resilient to climate impacts.

Larger companies such as Milestone Infrastructure, Tarmac and Atkins already have net zero targets and plans in place. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are aware of the need, but less likely to have plans and targets in place, so the council is focussing support towards SMEs.

Beyond Fit For Net Zero, the council is partnering with care providers to explore carbon reduction potential and necessary support. Vulnerable people are hit hardest by climate impacts like overheating, flooding, and rising food costs. The care sector is crucial in identifying support needs and boosting resilience.



Area of Focus: **Using our influence and partnerships we will work with local networks to support small organisations, from SMEs to local charities, to become climate resilient and sustainable.**

Under the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) programme, Wiltshire Council has procured Severn Wye energy to run a business support programme called Fit For Net Zero which will support local firms on resource and energy efficiency – providing assessments, advice and linking to capital grants for decarbonisation measures. The programme runs to March 2025.

The scheme has attracted interest from 65 businesses since it launched in August 2024.



### What's next?

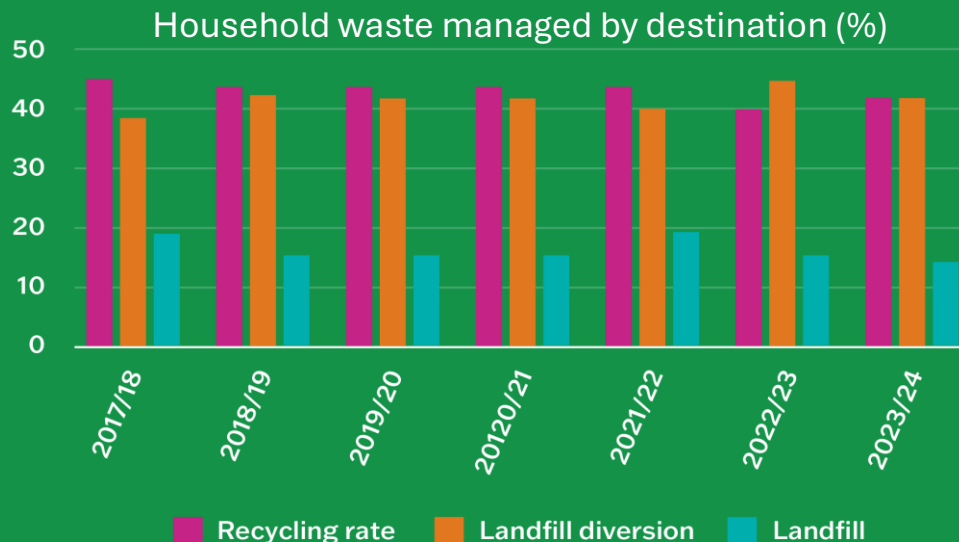
- A local food and drink brand – 'Wiltshire Marque' – is under development;
- Deliver the [Chippenham Avon Project](#)
- Continuing, through the Towns Programme, to seek out and encourage new opportunities of national funding sources to support new tree planting in our urban areas
- Green and renewables sector – focus on retrofit, and making sure this benefits local suppliers and economy where possible
- Skills – working with training providers (e.g. Lackham; Swindon Self-build centre) Wiltshire Careers Hub to improve skills required for Net Zero
- Proactive work to clarify planning requirements - with developers, businesses investing
- Broadband Programme delivery through Project Gigabit
- Trowbridge Town Hall upgrade will include thermal efficiency and other relevant measures

## Climate Strategy theme: Resources and waste

The [Climate Strategy](#) objectives for resources and waste are to work towards a circular economy, work towards zero avoidable waste, and to manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy.

The council's [Household Waste Management Strategy](#) drives these efforts, with a focus on waste prevention and reuse, and diverting waste from landfill to recycling and energy from waste.

Landfills are a significant source of greenhouse gases because they produce methane as waste decomposes. It is important to divert waste from landfill to other ways of processing, according to the waste hierarchy which helps to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The graph shows that last year 14% of household waste was sent to landfill, which has reduced from the previous year. Recycling rates having increased slightly to 43.7%.



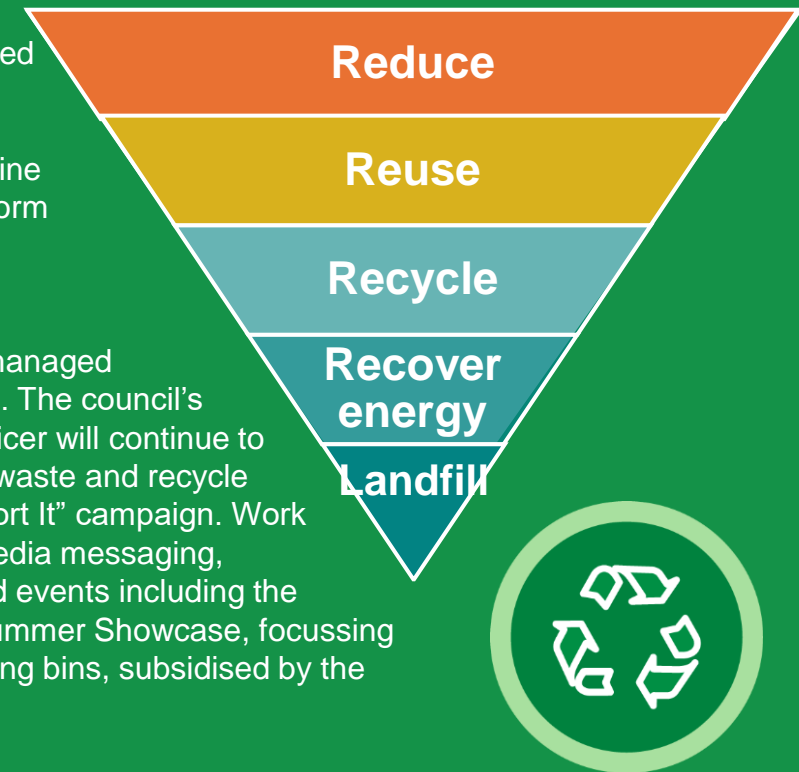
**5.7%** of Wiltshire's greenhouse gas emissions are due to waste (125kt from landfill; 47kt from 'other'. DESNZ, 2022)

**943.6** kg per household waste managed by the council in 2023/24

**47,484** tCO<sub>2</sub>e estimated greenhouse gas emissions from household waste management (Anthesis, 2022)

The council has commissioned waste charity WRAP to analyse waste services and provide information on baseline carbon emissions to help inform future options for service provision.

The total household waste managed by the council has increased. The council's new Waste Engagement Officer will continue to support residents to reduce waste and recycle more, as part of the "Let's Sort It" campaign. Work has so far included social media messaging, a dedicated e-newsletter and events including the Climate and Environment Summer Showcase, focussing on uptake of home composting bins, subsidised by the council.

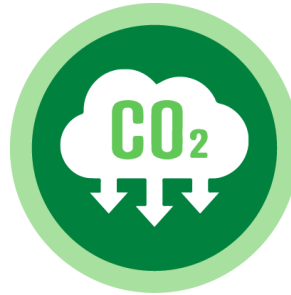


## Decreasing landfill & increasing recycling

Area of focus: **Continue to provide efficient recycling services and review the potential for expanding the range of items collected and maximising the efficiency of collections wherever possible.**

### Diverting waste from landfill

The council is working with a furniture charity and The Salvation Army Trading Company (SATCoL) on a [scheme to acquire repurposed carpet tiles for social housing tenants](#). By promoting reuse, this reduces carbon emissions from waste processing and from the manufacturer of new items.



Sorting stations at HRCs now encourage separation and recycling of black bag contents instead of throwing everything into residual waste.

An eight-week 2023 trial shredded residual waste to divert it from landfill to energy-from-waste, aligning with the waste hierarchy and reducing carbon emissions. The trial saved 641 tonnes of carbon, prompting the purchase of a permanent shredder. This is projected to save 5,965 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually



Reuse at HRCs has increased, now covering furniture, white goods, electronics, bikes, bric-a-brac, books, and paint. In 2023/24, waste reuse jumped to 43% (69 tonnes), saving 34 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

Area of focus: **To keep the Waste Strategy under review and to plan for the new requirements of the Environment Act, ensuring that carbon assessment of collection and waste management options informs decision-making.**

Separate weekly collections of food waste are due to commence in Wiltshire August 2027, at which point flexible and soft plastics will also be added to existing kerbside recycling collections. Carbon emissions and circularity are to be considered as part of current and future service design.

# Reduce, re-use and recycle

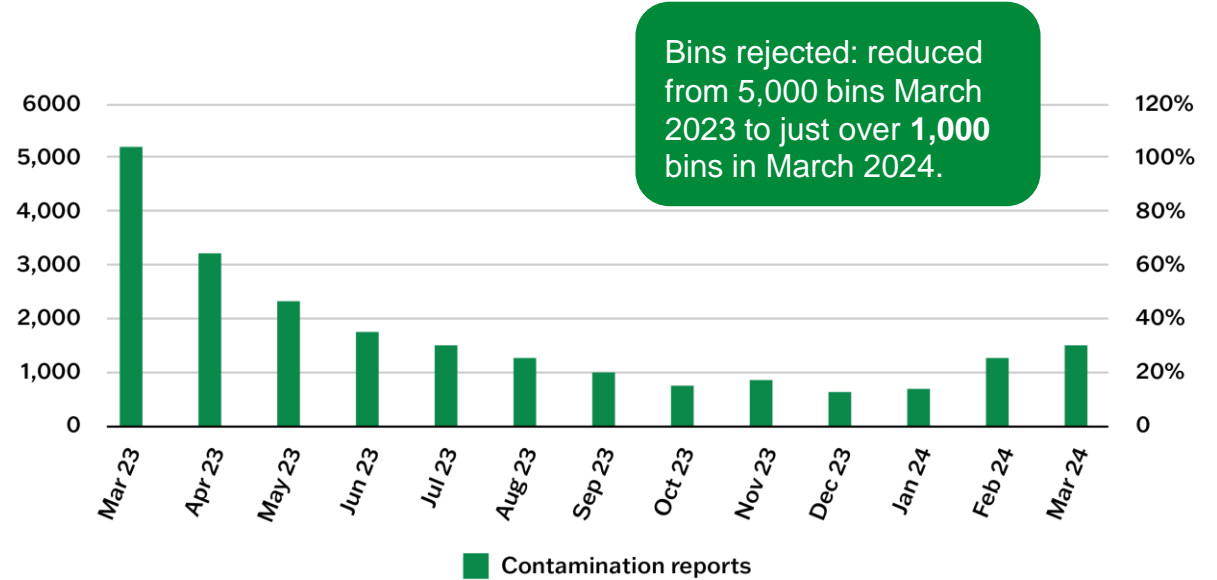
Area of focus: **Prevent waste - provide advice and information to help reduce the amount of waste generated.**

The council's "[Recycling: Let's Sort It](#)" campaign, launched in February 2023, boosted recycling rates and cut contamination. It won 'Best Communications Campaign of the Year' at the [LARAC](#) Conference on 11 October 2023.

Following the campaign, the council's waste facility saw a significant improvement in recycling rates. In December 2022, over 18% of sampled blue-lidded bin waste should not have been in there. By April 2023, this dropped to under 10%, resulting in more recycling.



Wiltshire Council receive award for "Let's Sort it!" campaign.



## What's next for resources and waste?

Focus on reuse:

- Investigate the introduction of a reuse shop to sell items recovered at HRCs.
- Trial of reuse of items collected from the councils 'large item collection service'.
- Continue the focus on diverting waste from landfill, according to the waste and carbon hierarchies.

Alternative fuels for collection vehicles:

- Purchase of one electric waste collection vehicle, to start trialling feasibility of EV for collection rounds in Wiltshire
- Assessment of further alternative fuels

# Communications and engagement

The focus of this theme is to find effective ways to engage communities and partners, driving the Climate Strategy forward. Engagement has been through established channels like local councils, Area Boards, and environmental groups via the Wiltshire Climate Alliance. Additionally, we've amplified our message through social media, press releases, and targeted campaigns to bolster specific projects.



The council actively collaborates with partners and suppliers on projects like the Home Upgrade Grant and supporting Wiltshire Climate Alliance in hosting Green Open Homes events. We also lead a public sector climate working group and participate in national and regional boards to share insights and expertise.

## Website and social media engagement in response to climate campaigns:

**1912** total  
click-throughs on  
climate-related  
posts

**177k** Reach  
(reflects times a  
post is read)

**1.5%**  
Engagement rate  
(Post reactions vs.  
views)

The Wiltshire Council Climate and Environment Summer Showcase was held at County Hall Atrium in August. It was very well attended by the public as well as staff and councillors. It helped raise awareness of the various green projects which the council is delivering in partnership with other organisations.

Council teams provided information on climate actions, composting and recycling, tree planting and sustainable transport, including Bikeability and electric vehicles. The event was delivered in partnership with over 10 organisations



The 5th [Climate & Environment Forum](#) meeting was held on the 17 July and led by the Climate Team, with a focus on Wiltshire Council's ongoing Retrofit work. Also discussed was the progress of current projects such as the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) and Solar Together where participants helped identify potential barriers or challenges to retrofit homes in the community and considered how these barriers could be overcome.



# Area Board climate activity

Area of focus: **Explore effective ways of engaging partners and stakeholders and look for ways to support delivery of the Climate Strategy through local initiatives.**

All 18 community area boards had an environmental or climate priority as part of their action plans in 2023/24. Some examples are included here:

**Calne:** Funded 'experiences with nature' – a collaboration between Avon Needs Trees and Calne's Older People's and Carers Champion.

**Corsham:** Organised site visits to West Mill Wind Farm, Mallaby Digester, and sewage treatment works in Lacock and Chippenham, bringing together parish and Wiltshire councillors, local residents, and Wiltshire Climate Alliance members.

**Melksham:** Worked with the Wiltshire Council Woodland Officers to identify sites where additional tree and hedge planting could take place.

**Malmsbury:** Provided funding to Sherston Magna Cricket Club to install new, Solar PV power to the pavilion.

**Chippenham:** Produced a survey for town/parishes to highlight local activity to reduce carbon emissions and share best practice.

**Pewsey:** Collaborating with Green Bedwyn, funding secured a thermal camera for a trained volunteer to survey local homes.

**£60,000**  
area board  
funding spent  
on climate-  
related projects

Allocated funds supported Solar PV and storage at **Yatton Keynell Village Hall** and improved paths at Ivy Lane Garden. Also, the **Chippenham Youth Council** led an environment-focused workshop during the Local Youth Network's Teen Takeover weekend.

## **Salisbury:** The [Salisbury Green Business](#)

Accreditation Scheme keeps driving climate-friendly practices, with two more businesses earning awards in 2024 already



**Westbury Leigh** Community Hall were supported with funding towards more efficient heating and energy usage through new efficient boilers and thermostat.

## **What's next**

- A 'menu' of project ideas has been created for Area Boards, and in Autumn a meeting for Area Board Environment Leads will discuss the potential for multiple areas to collaborate and be supported on these projects.
- Carbon Literacy is being offered to Wiltshire Councillors in Autumn initially for up to 20 people.

To follow the council's climate action between the annual reports, please see the council's [climate webpages](#) and [Facebook](#) and [X](#) social media feeds.

Contact [climate@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:climate@wiltshire.gov.uk)



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