

SCOPE 1, 2, and 3 CARBON EMISSIONS

Report produced in July 2026

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i. Methodological Note

i.i. Carbon Conversion Factors

For the 2025/26 Carbon Dashboard, Three Rivers Council has adopted the revised electricity conversion factor methodology published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) in June 2026.

Previous Carbon Dashboard reports used the DESNZ conversion factors published during the reporting year. As these factors were based on the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory, they reflected data from two years prior. While this delay has had little impact on emissions from natural gas, fuels and most Scope 3 activities, it has become increasingly significant for electricity emissions due to the rapid [decarbonisation](#) of the UK's electricity grid.

The updated DESNZ methodology reduces this lag, with electricity conversion factors now reflecting the previous year's electricity generation mix rather than data from two years prior. As a result, Three Rivers District Council will use the latest DESNZ conversion factors available at the time of reporting, ensuring that electricity emissions are reported using the most representative data available.

In order to offer comparability with previous Carbon Dashboard reports and increase the accuracy of the council's previous carbon emissions, all previous years electricity emissions have been updated in accordance with the revised electricity conversion factor methodology within this report.

For further information on the methodology used by DESNZ please see: [2026 Government greenhouse gas conversion factors for company reporting: Methodology paper](#)

i.ii. Previous Year Corrections

With each iteration of this annual report, the data collection methodology and quality of data improve, allowing for greater accuracy within the reporting year. This year's iteration is no different, with data accuracy greatly increasing from last year with misreportings from previous years identifying.

In this year's report, this data accuracy has gone one step further, in correcting previous years misreportings. As such, previous years carbon emissions have been amended to show a greater reflection of the true emissions within council operations.

It is important to note, that despite the below alterations, previous years reporting continue to contain suspected misreportings. As such, future reports will continue to improve the data collection accuracy for the reporting year and strive to amend previous years when misreportings have become apparent.

A list of previous years corrections can be found below:

i) **Aquadrome Electricity Recharge**

Electricity consumption from The Aquadrome is rebilled to the Café in the Park and Bury Lake Young Mariners, and as such removed from council operational emissions. This has caused a 22% - 37% reduction in reported emissions at the site.

ii) **Batchworth Depot Electricity**

Since 2022, electricity consumption at the Batchworth Depot has been consolidated into one energy account, with additional meters alongside the main meter. These additional meters have not been accounted for in reports since 2022/23. This has caused between 108% - 187% increase in reported emissions at the site.

iii) **Council Fleet 2022/23**

In the reporting year 2022/23, fuel consumption of the fleet was underreported by 29%. This has subsequently been corrected upon receiving the correct data.

iv) **Water Usage 2022/23**

In 2022/23 reporting, only 3 sites were accounted for. Water usage at the remaining sites was retrospectively provided in 2024 but were not incorporated into subsequent reports. This has been amended.

v) **Electricity Well-to-Tank**

Previous years reporting, electricity consumption well-to-tank (WTT) emissions have been solely based on WTT for the generation of electricity. Corrections have been made to also incorporate WTT emissions from the transmission and distribution of electricity, in all previous years.

i.iii. Difference from Previous Years

All amendments in the data from previous years (i.i and i.ii) emissions can be seen in the table below:

Table 1 - Difference in operational emissions in previous years, following updated and retrospective methodology implementation

Scope	Dataset	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Scope 1	Original Emissions	994	989	972	970	823	938	944
	Amended Emissions	994	979	952	943	1084	938	944
Scope 2	Original Emissions	340	273	184	207	214	203	212
	Amended Emissions	258	211	143	186	216	168	153
Scope 3	Original Emissions	894	1,128	997	936	1,063	1018	756
	Amended Emissions	894	1268	997	936	1063	1018	888
Total	Original Emissions	2,227	2,390	2,153	2,113	2,100	2,159	2,044
	Amended Emissions	2107	2271	2061	2046	2447	2100	1939

1. Introduction

This report provides an update of the carbon footprint for Three Rivers District Council and services provided by the council, which should be used to monitor performance for emitting carbon in the council's own operations. This report compares the financial years of 2018/19 to 2025/26.

The carbon footprint provided has been coordinated in accordance with best practice guidance by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol standards¹ and calculated using emissions conversion factors, provided annual by the Department for Net Zero and Energy Security.²

The carbon footprint is categorised into scopes, which cover:

- Scope 1 (direct) emissions are from activities owned or controlled by the council. Examples of Scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in council owned or controlled boilers, furnaces and vehicles.
- Scope 2 (indirect) emissions are associated with purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These indirect emissions are a consequence of the council's energy use but occur at sources that the council do not own or control. Examples include grid supplied electricity and heat provided through a [heat network](#).
- Scope 3 (other indirect) emissions are a consequence of the council's actions that occur at sources the council do not own or control and are not classed as Scope 2 emissions. Examples of Scope 3 emissions include business travel by means not owned or controlled by the council (grey fleet), disposing of the council's own waste, purchased goods in the supply chain and operational energy for non-controlled but required services (leisure centres).

¹ [Standards | GHG Protocol](#)

² [Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

2. Carbon Footprint

2.1. Carbon Reporting Boundaries

The structural boundaries set out below determine how council operation emissions are classed. This is based on how the emitting asset is operated, and what organisational structure owns, operates and exerts financial and executive control over the asset.

Properties within emission Scope 1 and 2 within this report are categorised as those where energy is purchased directly by the council, regardless of whether consumption is done so directly by the council. The vehicles categorised under Scope 1 and 2 are those that the council owns, leases and operates exclusively for its own operations, and of which the fuel or electricity required for the vehicle is purchased directly by the council.

Scope 3 emissions are classified under 15 different categories, as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol³. As Scope 3 emissions are under the council's influence, but not its direct control, obtaining the necessary data to calculate carbon emissions from some Scope 3 sources can be difficult. One of the larger contributors to carbon emissions is purchased goods and services. Goods and services purchased by the council, are not currently included within this report. Energy emissions from leisure centre assets owned by the council but not paid or operated by the council are listed under Scope 3.

Table 2 shows all of the sources that make up the reporting boundary for the council in this report.

There are missing sources, with the largest likely to be from purchased goods and services, which are generally very difficult to gather data for and calculate emissions from. This category includes all upstream (i.e., cradle-to-gate) emissions from the production of products purchased or acquired by the council in the reporting year. Products include both goods (tangible products) and services (intangible products). Cradle-to-gate emissions include all emissions that occur in the life cycle of purchased products up to the point of receipt by the Council. Relevant purchases may include capital goods such as office supplies, furniture, computers, telephones, travel services, IT support, outsourced administrative functions, consulting services, janitorial and landscaping services, and maintenance, repairs, and operations. Furthermore, the council does not currently report on emissions generated from home working.

³ [Scope3 Calculation Guidance 0.pdf](#)

The council should and will continue establish procedures to record all emission sources related to its operations for future reporting, and it is likely that overall emissions will increase as data quality improves.

2.2. Carbon Emissions

The below data shows a summary of emissions from the most recent and previous fiscal years (April – March).

2.2.1. Emissions for 2025/26

Table 2 - Carbon emissions by source for 2025/26

Emission Source	Scope	% Split	<u>Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)</u>
Council Gas Consumption	1	4.46%	80
Fleet Fuel Consumption	1	46.23%	827
Council Electricity Consumption	2	7.08%	127
Fleet Electric Consumption (off-site)	2	< 0.01%	< 0.01
Council Electricity Consumption T&D	3	0.70%	13
Council Electricity Consumption WTT	3	2.19%	39
Council Gas Consumption WTT	3	0.74%	13
Employee Business Travel	3	0.40%	7
Fleet Fuel Consumption WTT	3	10.95%	196
Leased Electricity Consumption	3	7.10%	127
Leased Gas Consumption	3	19.49%	349
Water Supply	3	0.35%	6
Water Treatment	3	0.31%	6
Total:			1790

2.2.2. Comparison of emissions from 2018/19 to 2025/26

Table 3 - Difference in carbon emissions by year

Tonnes of CO ₂ e								
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Scope 1 - Direct Emissions	994	979	952	943	1084	938	944	907
Natural Gas	136	131	110	92	190	91	91	80
Council Owned Vehicles	858	847	842	852	894	848	854	827
Scope 2 – Electricity Emissions	258	211	143	186	216	168	153	127
Electricity	258	211	143	186	216	168	153	127
Council Owned Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	< 0.01
Total Scope 1 & 2 Emissions	1251	1190	1095	1129	1300	1107	1097	1034
Scope 3 – Indirect Emissions	856	1081	966	917	1147	994	842	756
Gas – Well to tank emissions	19	17	14	16	32	15	15	13
Council Owned Vehicles – Well to tank emission	202	202	202	207	213	206	208	196
Electricity – Distribution and transmission emissions	22	19	13	16	19	18	15	13
Electricity – Well to tank emissions	50	39	26	54	52	48	48	39
Water Supply	0	2	3	4	3	3	3	6
Water Treatment	0	5	6	8	5	3	4	6
Employee Vehicle emissions	21	8	6	9	8	7	7	7
Leased Assets	569	827	720	609	799	724	587	476

Three Rivers District Council Carbon Dashboard

(Leisure centres / Golf club)								
Total Gross Emissions	2107	2271	2061	2046	2447	2100	1939	1790
Carbon offset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Net Emissions	2107	2271	2061	2046	2447	2100	1939	1790
Further Information – Solar PV								
Solar PV Generated (kWh)	15,098	16,981	23,362	15,995	14,206	16,398	44,276	215,807
Solar PV Exported	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,506.0	29,237
Further Information – Total Consumption								
Total electricity (incl. leased) (MWh)	1,746	1,958	1,434	2,197	2,332	2,005	1,976	1,939
Total gas (incl. leased) (MWh)	2,989	3,980	3,684	2,409	4,287	1,517	2,602	2,346

Figure 1 - Difference in Scope 1, 2 and 3 Emissions by year

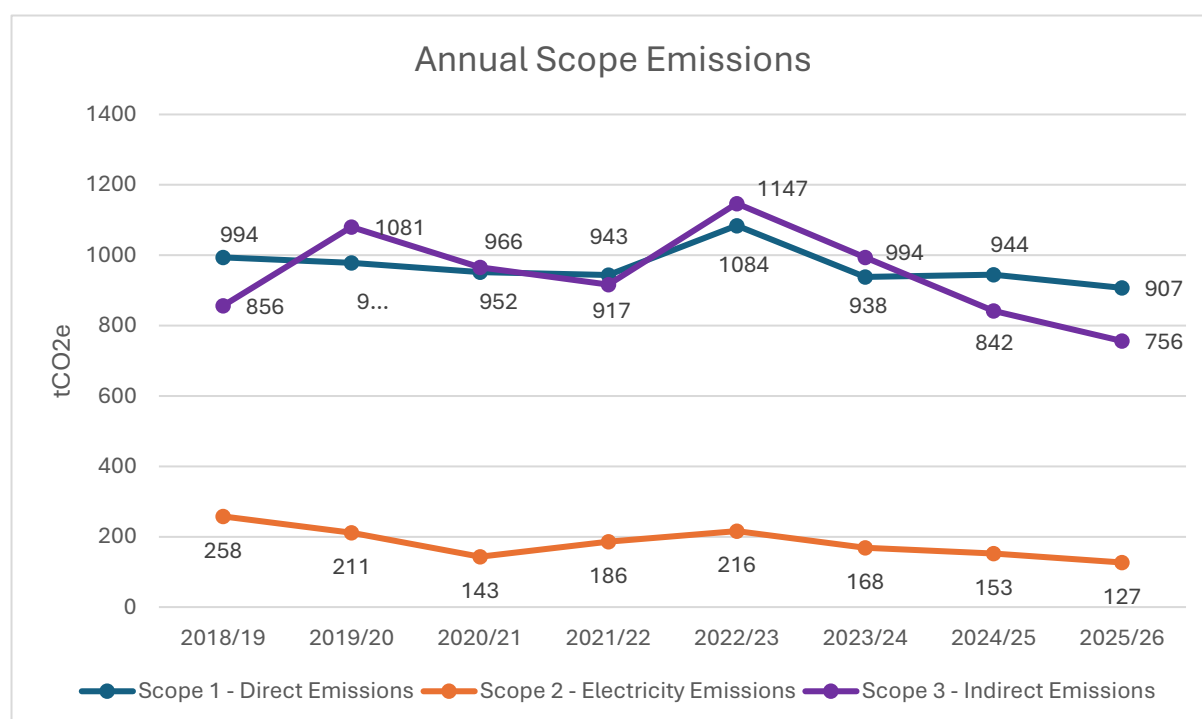
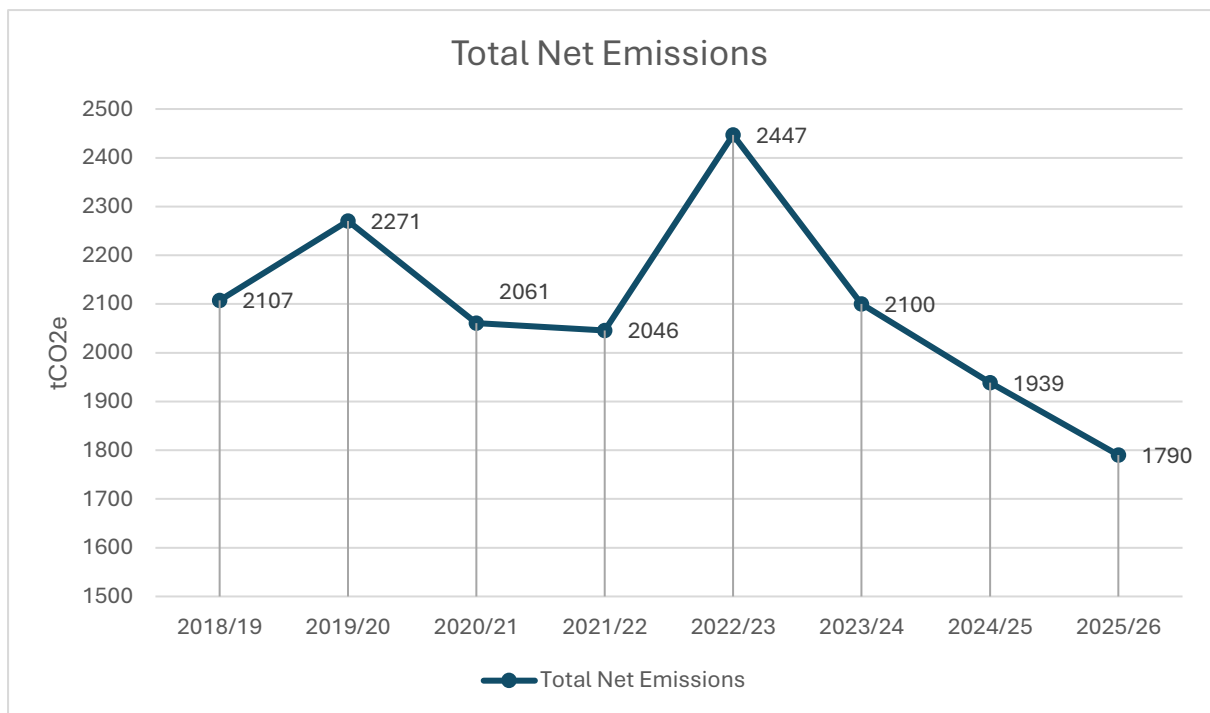


Figure 2 - Total net emissions by year



3. Notes and Observations

3.1. Overview

The carbon emissions for the fiscal year 2025/26 **demonstrates a reduction of 8% since last year, and a reduction of 15% since the baseline year or 2018/19.**

The reports of the last two years have provided an increased level of accuracy in the data that has been supplied and collected, which has been continued through this year's reporting. As such, unlike previous years, there are fewer implications of mass underreporting or overreporting within the data collected. However, it is important to note, that instances of overreporting from previous years were detected within these years reporting, which have been corrected (see [Methodology Notes](#)).

The council has continued to make significant improvements and investments in carbon reduction projects across council owned assets. Of particular note, is that of the installation of solar panels at Willam Penn Leisure Centre in October 2024, with this reporting year the first full year of operation. Furthermore, cavity wall insulation has been installed at Watersmeet Theatre in early 2026, and additional solar panel systems installed at Three Rivers House and Batchworth Depot Offices early in the 2026/27 fiscal year. These latter projects, including that installed at Watersmeet Theatre, will not be prevalent in reporting until next year (2026/27). Atop of this the [air source heat pumps](#) installed at Three Rivers House have continued to exponentially reduce the council's emissions, as the electricity grid has continued to rapidly decarbonised.

This year has seen a continued reduction in council emissions, with the council reaping the rewards from previous year electrification projects, as the electricity grid [decarbonisation](#) rapidly advances towards 2035. With the enhanced levels of accuracy provided in recent years reports, there can be a high level of confidence within this reduction; further providing evidence of the sustained success of Three Rivers District Council carbon reduction.

3.2. Scopes 1 and 2

3.2.1. Natural Gas

The council's natural gas emissions have decreased by **12% since last year, representing 7% of the total emission reduction since last year.** This maintains the general trend of natural gas consumption by the council since 2023. This follows the installation of an [air source heat pumps](#) at Three Rivers House, which up until 2023 natural gas consumption at Three Rivers House was the second highest singular source of Scope 1 emission within the council's operations.

Focusing on the 12% reduction present from 2024/25 to 2025/26, it should be noted that during last year's reporting period the [air source heat pump](#) responsible for heating Three Rivers House was out of action for 3 weeks over the winter period and was thus responsible for the emission of 5tCO₂e whilst the building utilised back-up gas boilers. This reporting year, the [air source heat pumps](#) installed has remained active throughout, and thus no emissions from natural gas usage were recorded for Three Rivers House. **This alone accounts for 47% of the reductions in gas emissions witnessed.**

The remaining reduction is not attributable to a single site but rather split across multiple sites. It is hypothesised that this reduction is **most likely attributed to a warmer winter (November – March) in comparison to the previous year.** The best example of this is shown at Watersmeet Theatre, in which a 27% reduction in usage was visible across this period, whilst simultaneously seeing the average mean daily temperature rise by 1°C.⁴

However, it should also be noted that the **cavity wall insulation installed at Watersmeet Theatre during January 2026**, impacted the reduction in gas usage over February and March 2026. With every 1-degree increase of mean outside temperature, gas usage for heating drops by approximately 7%⁵. Under these assumptions, the cavity wall installation at Watersmeet **saved 2tCO₂e** over these two months.

3.2.2. Council Owned Vehicles

The council fleet remains the largest single asset emission source for the council, accounting for 46% of total emissions. This year fleet emissions decreased [27tCO₂e](#) comparative from last year, equating for 10% of total council emission reductions.

However, this amount only accounts for a 3% reduction in fleet emissions since last year and is likely explained by the means in which fleet emissions are reported. Fleet emissions are currently reported based on the litreage of fuel purchased by the council within the reporting year, with these purchases made in regular intervals. The reduction is thus explained that during this reporting year one less purchase of fuel was made comparative to last year, with next year's figures likely to see an increase in fuel consumption as a result.

3.2.3. Electricity Emissions

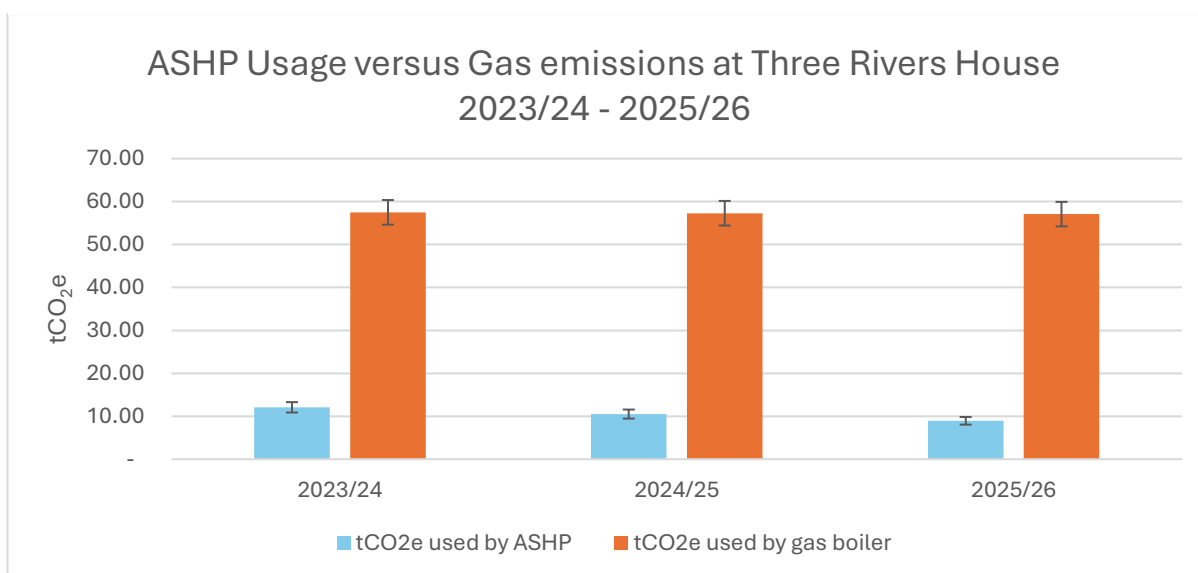
The council's **reported Scope 2 emissions from the consumption of electricity have dropped by 17% since last year.** This is despite electricity usage remaining stagnant since last year (exhibiting a 1% increase). As such, this reduction electricity emission **can be attributed to the [decarbonisation](#) of the grid.**

⁴ metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/stationdata/heathrowdata.txt

⁵ [Temperature correction of energy statistics](#)

This **highlights how the council's early decisions to electrify heating systems** has saved, and will continue to save, carbon emission as the grid decarbonises. **In 2025 renewable generation accounted for 44% of UK electricity generation**, with only 27% of electricity generated directly from fossil fuel burning.⁶ Since 2018/19 Three Rivers Council has undertaken several electrification projects, most notably that of the [air source heat pumps](#) at Three Rivers House, that are now benefitting from the acceleration of grid [decarbonisation](#). Since the installation of the [air source heat pumps](#) at Three Rivers House in 2023, approximately 135 tonnes of carbon have been saved (55tCO₂e per year), utilising an increasingly decarbonised electricity grid, whilst natural gas remains emission intensive.

Figure 3 -Air source heat pump versus hypothetical gas boiler emissions from Three Rivers House in years since air source heat pump installation. Values have been calculated from average difference before and after installation.



3.3. Scope 3

3.3.1. Water

Emissions produced by water supply and treatment within the council's operations are very limited, accounting for less than 1% of total emission in 2025/26. With that said, water usage has seen a notable increase across the council's operations, notably at the leased Leisure Centres and Golf Club. Despite this increase in consumption, water emissions remain stagnant since first reported in 2019/20.

⁶ [Britain's Energy Explained: 2025 Review | National Energy System Operator](#)

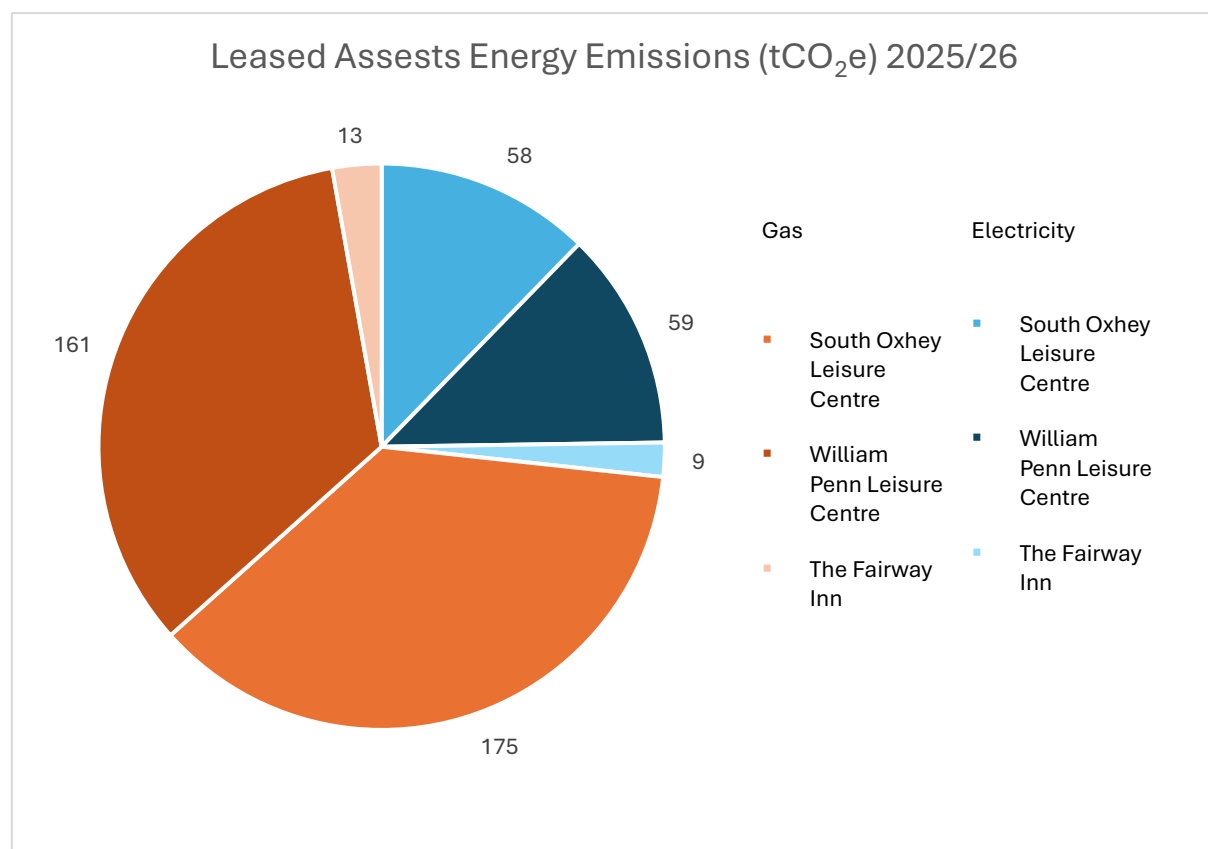
3.3.2. Employee Vehicle Emissions

Employee vehicle emissions strictly account for miles claimed by staff for business mileage (not their personal commutes to work). Total mileage claims have remained within 0.5% since last year, but emissions produced through staff travel have decreased by 3% over the same period. This is largely attributed to more employees utilising hybrid electric and plug-in electric cars for business travel, with these categories accounting for 12% of all miles claimed and 9% of all vehicles claimed. This is up from 9% and 7% respectively in the financial year 2024/25 and is expected to continue to grow.

3.3.3. Leased Assets

The leased assets emissions accounts for those produced by the two leisure centres (William Penn and South Oxhey Leisure Centres) in the district and Rickmansworth Gold Club (the Fairway Inn). The combined energy consumption of these 3 sites accounted for the second largest production of emissions in 2025/26.

Figure 4 – Leased assets energy (gas and electricity) emissions tCO₂e emissions 2025/26



Total emissions from leased assets energy usage are down 12% since last year, with gas usage falling by 9% and grid electricity usage increasing by 19%. The decrease in gas usage is likely explained by the warmer winter (November – March) as compared with last year (see [section 3.2.1](#)). This reduction in gas usage, combined with grid [decarbonisation](#) has led to a significant decrease in emissions from leased sites, despite the increase in electricity consumption.

However, the increase in grid electricity consumption is of particular interest, considering the new solar installation present at William Penn Leisure Centre (installed October 2024). This array accounted for 27% of electricity consumption at William Penn Leisure Centre, thus the total electricity consumption (grid and solar array self-consumption) of William Penn Leisure Centre increased by 44%.

3.3.4. Well-to-Tank and Distribution and Transmission Emissions

Well-to-tank emissions from gas, fuel and electricity consumption and electricity distribution and transmission emissions account for 15% of total emission this year, in line with that of other years. Although there has been a reduction of 8% in emissions since last year.

These emissions are closely linked to Scope 1 and 2 consumption and emissions and thus their reduction is explained by the reduction in consumption of natural gas, council fleet fuel and electricity.

However, it should also be noted that as the national grid decarbonises distribution and transmission emissions also decrease. Three Rivers District Council saw a reduction of [2tCO₂e](#) from these emission sources compared to last year, and thus this is an important reminder of the success of the electrification efforts and projects made by the council over the past few years.

3.4. Carbon Offsetting

The council does not currently have any [carbon offsets](#). All [Solar PV](#) energy generated is currently used onsite to reduce the use of grid electricity or exported to the grid and thus accounts within the grid's [decarbonisation](#).

3.5. Solar Panels

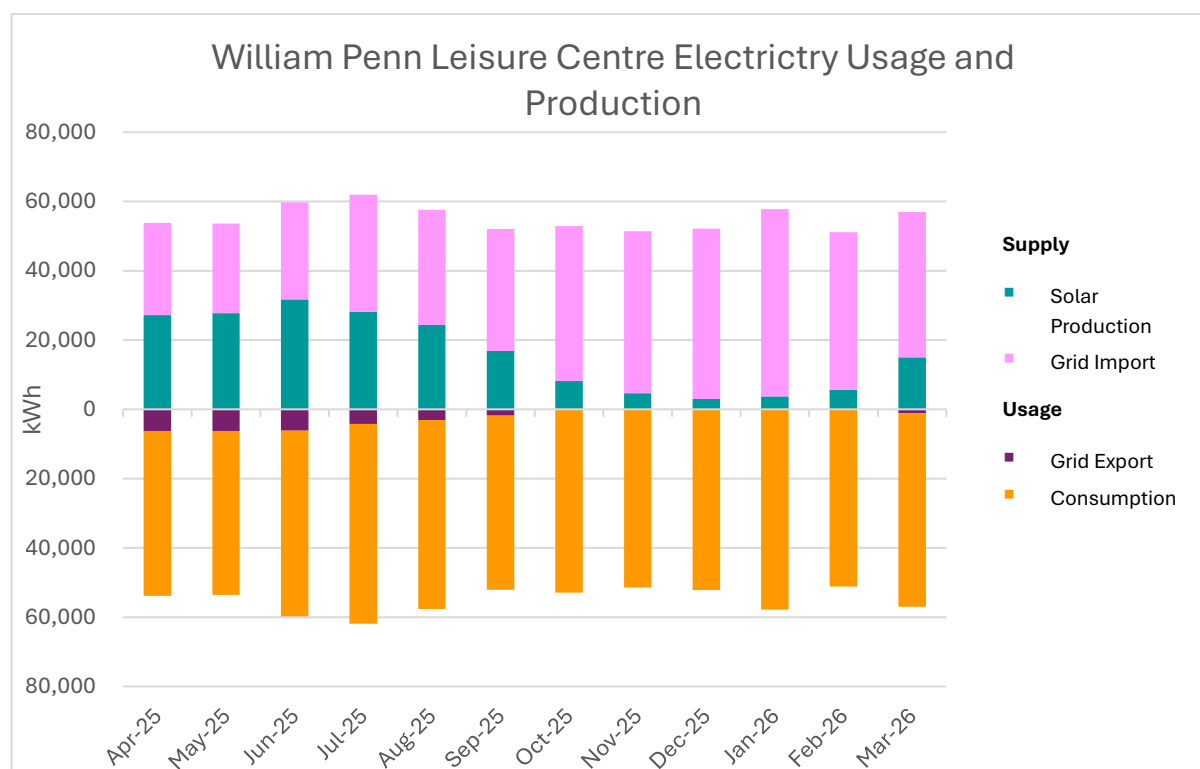
Over the last decade, the council has worked to install solar panels on the roofs of multiple of the larger buildings held within the council's portfolio. These include arrays at Three Rivers House, Watersmeet Theatre, Basing Bowls Pavillion and a new large array at William Penn Leisure Centre. The older 3 arrays are all 100% self-consuming, whilst William Penn Leisure Centre exports 15% of electricity produced.

Table 4 – Rooftop Solar PV production, usage and savings at council sites for 2025/26

Site	Electricity Consumption (kWh)	Solar PV Production (kWh)	Self-Consumption Rate (%)	Percentage of Site Usage (%)	Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
Three Rivers House	533,598	10,386	100%	2%	1.4
Watersmeet Theatre	205,576	8,910	100%	4%	1.2
Basing Bowls Pavillion	3,529	435	100%	12%	0.1
William Penn Leisure Centre	620,153	196,077	85%	27%	25.7

3.5.1. William Penn Leisure Centre

In October 2024 the council in conjunction with Sports and Leisure Management Ltd (SLM) installed a 220kWp solar array on the roof of William Penn Leisure Centre. This report covers the first year in which this solar array has been fully operational, with the array producing a total of 196,077 kWh during this fiscal year. Of this 85% was self-consumed, with the remaining 15% being exported to the grid helping to further decarbonise the electricity grid. This self-consumption saved 25.7tCO₂e and reduced total grid electricity consumption at leased sites by 17%.

Figure 5 - William Penn Leisure Centre electricity usage and production by month

4. Future Projects

4.1. Overview

The Council is continuing to develop processes for gathering and storing data to ensure carbon reporting process is streamlined and progress towards targets can be tracked.

Last year, the council ringfenced £1.5m capital funding from 3 years commencing from this year (2025/26) for feasible [net zero](#) projects, with the current project pipeline forecast to reduce emissions by a further 200tCO₂e by 2029.

4.2. Scope 1 and 2 Emissions

Scope 1 and 2 emissions refer to direct emissions from owned or controlled sources (Scope 1) and indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, or steam (Scope 2). These emissions are key areas of focus for the Council as we continue to strive towards our 2030 operational net-zero target. Addressing these emissions through improvements in energy efficiency and the [decarbonisation](#) of our buildings forms the foundation of our carbon reduction strategy.

4.2.1 Completed Projects

The council has completed two solar installation projects since the end of the 2025/26 financial year, which will greatly reduce emissions in next year's report. These are the installation of a 47.7kWp additional solar array at Three Rivers House, completed in April 2026 and a 22.3kWp additional solar array at Batchworth Depot completed in July 2026. Both of these arrays have and will be exporting electricity to the grid, with Batchworth Depot also having a battery installed to further utilise the electricity produced. Together they are forecast to save 11tCO₂e. The cavity wall insulation at Watersmeet is anticipated to save 5tCO₂/annum.

Since the installation was completed at Three Rivers House, a further 2.6tCO₂e has been saved⁷.

4.3. Scope 3 Emissions

Scope 3 emissions are divided into 15 different categories, including waste, staff travel, and the purchased goods supply chain. Within scope 3 emissions, Understanding these risks through accurate and consistent measurement, evaluation, and reporting can improve both resilience and reputation.

⁷ Up until the end of day 19/07/2026, and utilising 2025/26 (year 2025) carbon conversion factors.

4.3.1. Completed Projects

Since the end of the financial year 2025/26, the council in conjunction with Sports and Leisure Management ltd, have completed a 145kWp solar array at South Oxhey Leisure Centre. This project is projected to reduce carbon emissions by **25.7tCO₂e** per year.

5. District Emissions

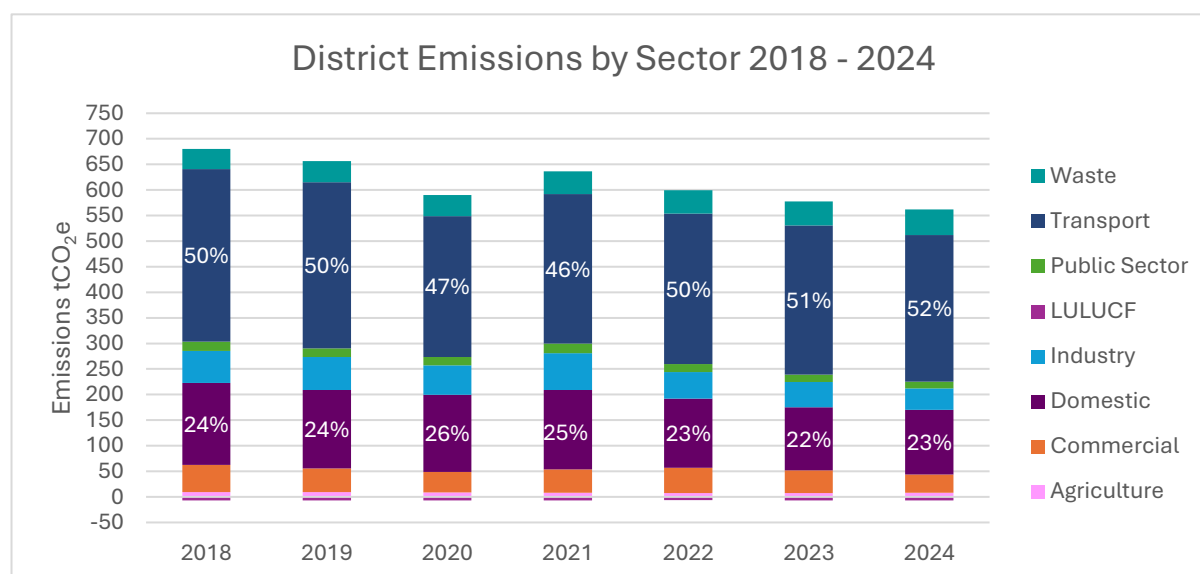
5.1. Overview

These emissions are released in accordance with the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory cycle and are thus 2 years behind, as such this section focuses on district emissions produced in 2024.⁸

District emissions are the greenhouse gas emissions generated by activities within the district, including those from businesses, homes, transport, waste management and the council's own emissions. These emissions represent a critical aspect of the council's wider sustainability objectives, as reducing them involves engaging with the community, improving infrastructure, and adopting innovative technologies that can drive significant reductions in carbon output.

Overall district emissions fell 2% between 2023 and 2024, falling 18% since 2018. As with previous years, transportation is the highest emitting sector, accounting for 52% of total emissions. Combined with domestic emissions, as the two largest emitting sectors they are responsible for three-quarters of emissions within Three Rivers.

Figure 6 – District emissions by sector from 2018 to 2024, with transport and domestic shown as percentages of total annual emissions.



5.2. Emissions Within Council Influence

District emissions are split into two categories, those within the local authority's scope of influence, and those outside. Notably this data, excludes emissions from motorway traffic in which the council has very little influence over, but accounts for the highest

⁸ [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2024)

proportion of sub-sector emissions. Since 2018, district emissions within the local authority's influence have decreased by 24%, compared to 18% when looking at all district emissions.

5.3. Future and Completed Projects

5.3.1. Car Park Electric Vehicle Chargers Project

This financial year, the council completed a project, working alongside Blink, to install electric vehicle charging points across multiple council owned car parks. In total, 8 locations have had charging points fitted across Rickmansworth, Mill End, Chorleywood, South Oxhey and Abbots Langley.⁹

5.3.2. Warmer Homes Local Grant

The council continues to deliver the Warmer Homes Local Grant to reduce emissions in qualifying households. For non-qualifying homes we have an active programme of encouraging renewable installations and home energy efficiency improvements working with our partners Grand Union Community Energy, the National Energy Foundation and through the delivery of the Hertfordshire [Retrofit](#) Strategy.

5.3.3. Your Power, Your Way

The council is currently running a campaign, encouraging residents to switch their heating systems to [air source heat pumps](#) and install solar panels, particularly in the context of volatile energy prices that have occurred since February 2026.

The campaign involves both a social media campaign and advertisements on waste collection vehicles and will run throughout the financial year.

5.3.4. Conclusion

It is interesting to note that council operational emissions are falling faster than district emissions. As Three Rivers District Council has progressed an aggressive [decarbonisation](#) and electrification agenda, whilst the district has not electrified at the same rate, and therefore the emissions decline rate seen throughout the district is flatter, than that of the council's.

⁹ [Electric vehicles and charging points | Three Rivers District Council](#)

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

This year the council has taken a huge positive step in reducing council operational emissions and striving towards the target of net-zero operational emissions by 2030. However, this report has unearthed multiple misreportings from previous years, and Scope 3 emissions remain an area in which improvements and further data can be collected. Furthermore, in the context of local government reorganisation, it is crucially important that data collection and methods are inline with that of the combining authorities. As such, the following recommendations are made:

- Continue to work on improving and verifying data collection for scope 1 and 2 emissions.
- Use carbon footprint data to continue to monitor progress towards net-zero council operations by 2030 and use as evidence for further net-zero projects.
- Work with combining authorities to establish framework for data collection, and methods in which carbon accounting will be reported in future.
- Produce documentation and data for West Herts Crematory, which currently falls under the combined jurisdiction of Three Rivers District Council, Watford Borough Council and Dacorum Borough Council.

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Appendix A – Glossary

Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)

A low-carbon heating technology that extracts heat from outside air to heat buildings and water, even in cold temperatures.

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e)

A unit used to measure the global warming potential of different greenhouse gases, expressed as the amount of CO₂ that would have the same impact. Usually represented as tCO₂e (tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent).

Decarbonisation

The process of reducing or eliminating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from activities such as transport, heating, and power generation.

Heat Network

A system for distributing heat generated in a centralised location to residential and commercial buildings through a network of insulated pipes.

Net Zero Carbon

Achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those removed or offset.

Offsetting (Carbon Offsetting)

Compensating for carbon dioxide emissions resulting from council operational activity by investing in projects that reduce or remove emissions elsewhere, such as tree planting or renewable energy production.

Retrofit (Home Energy Retrofit)

Improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings through insulation, heating system upgrades, glazing improvements, etc.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV)

A renewable energy technology that converts sunlight directly into electricity using solar panels.