

COUNCIL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REPORT

Cotswold District Council

Reporting Year 2022-2023



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Introduction

Cotswold District Council (CDC) has set a target of making its activities net-zero as soon as possible, aiming for an 80% reduction against a 1990 baseline by 2030 and a 100% reduction by 2045.

Each year, CDC will publish details of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to report on progress against that target.

This report relates to emissions during the reporting period April 2022 to March 2023 inclusive (a full 12-month period), which is in line with the financial reporting year which runs April to March.

Emissions methodology

This section explains the scope of emissions included in the Cotswold District Council carbon footprint and the methodology employed.

Methodology

Emissions have been calculated in accordance with the principles of the GHG Protocol aka the *Greenhouse Gas Protocol for a Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard*¹. This ensures the Council carbon footprint is:

- 1) Relevant
- 2) Complete
- 3) Consistent
- 4) Transparent
- 5) Accurate

To ensure completeness and accuracy, the Council's carbon footprint was also externally validated by Aether in 2020. This included:

- A review of the Council's carbon baseline calculations
- A review of the scope of emissions within the baseline
- Revisions and additions to the carbon calculation templates

The Council has collated data from the key operations and services that are the major sources of emissions. The Council will review the carbon footprint annually to assess the opportunity for improvement e.g. data collection improvement methods, opportunities to improve data quality, and opportunities to expand the scope of emissions included in it.

Timeframe

Emissions in 2022-2023 financial year, cover GHG emissions from April 2022 to March 2023.

Chosen approach

The Council takes a financial control approach to reporting emissions, in accordance with the GHG Protocol (an explanation of this can be found in Appendix: Methodology notes). A description of the Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission sources that fall under our control are outlined in Table 1 below.

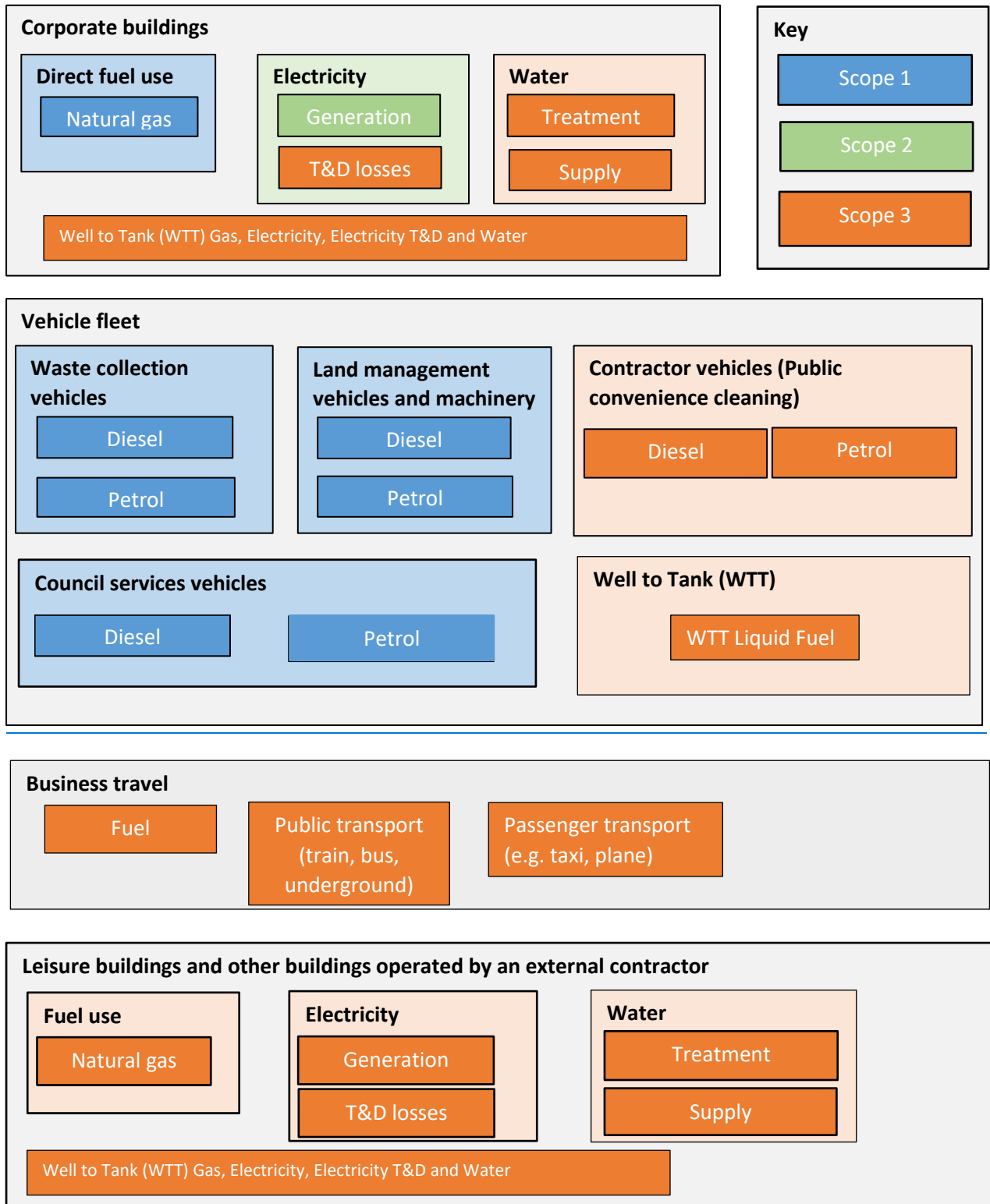
¹ See <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard> for further information and the Protocol in full

Emission sources

Scope	Source	Description
One	Gas	Gas used to heat offices, property and sites that are either owned by the Council or over which the Council has direct control.
	Liquid fuel	Diesel and petrol used to power all vehicles and machinery which are either owned by the Council, or over which the Council has control. This includes diesel and petrol use in vehicles and machinery operated by Company Ubico, a company that is owned by several councils including Cotswold District Council, to deliver services on behalf of Cotswold District Council. Services include waste collection and landscaping.
Two	Electricity	Electricity used to power offices, property and sites that are either owned by the Council or over which the Council has direct control.
Three	Business travel	Travel undertaken by staff and Members for business purposes including bus, car, taxi, rail, London Underground and aeroplane.
	Leisure centres and other buildings where an external contractor retains operational control	Fuel and electricity use arising from buildings and two Leisure centres operated by an external contractor on behalf of the Council. The contractor operator has control over how the building is operated on a day-to-day basis however the Council owns and maintains the buildings. The Council retains a degree of control over the energy infrastructure and has the opportunity to make improvements in this area, hence why these buildings have been included in the Council's carbon footprint.
	Water	Water consumed in offices, property and sites either owned by the Council or over which the Council has control.
	Fuel used by contractors	Fuel used by contractors to deliver the public conveniences cleaning contract.

Table 1: Cotswold District Council emission sources split out by scope

Emission sources visual representation

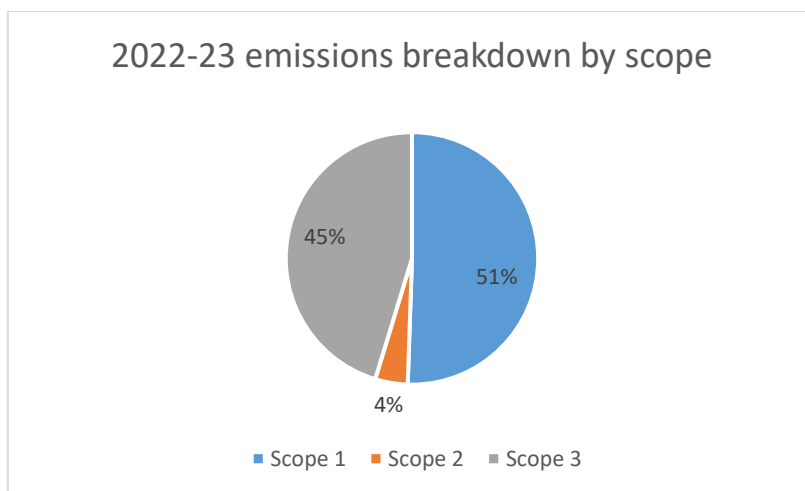


2022-2023 Emissions

Breakdown of emissions by scope

	kgCO ₂ e	% of total
Scope 1	1,396,755	51%
Scope 2	115,097	4%
Scope 3	1,251,951	45%
Total	2,763,803	100%

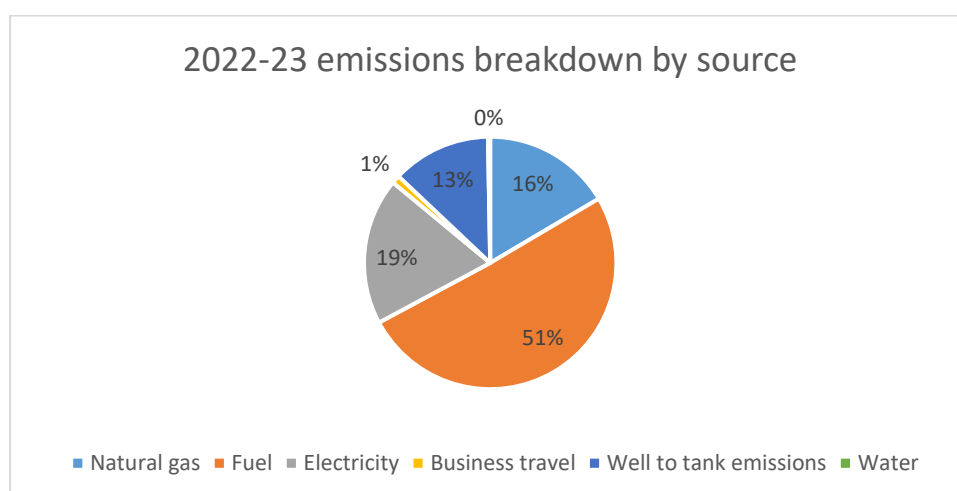
Table 2: Cotswold District Council emissions split out by scope



Breakdown of emissions by source

	kgCO ₂ e	% of total
Fuel	1,400,472	51%
Electricity	520,459	19%
Natural gas	455,952	16%
Well to tank emissions	350,006	13%
Business travel	29,015	1%
Water	7,900	<1%
Total	2,763,803	100%

Table 3: Cotswold District Council emissions split out by source



Emission changes since the climate strategy was published (2019/20)

		kgCO ₂ e 2019/20	kgCO ₂ e 2022/23	% change between 19/20 and 22/23
Scope 1	Natural gas	229,976	205,310	-12%
	Fuel	1,036,984	1,191,445	13%
Scope 2	Purchased electricity (generation)	182,177	115,097	-58%
Scope 3	WTT Natural gas	29,909	34,979	14%
	WTT Fuel	246,823	284,982	13%
	Business travel	91,371	29,015	-215%
	WTT Business travel	-	-	
	Electricity T&D	15,467	10,529	-47%
	WTT electricity	25,409	27,527	8%
	WTT electricity T&D	2,160	2,518	14%
	Natural gas in buildings managed by an external contractor	428,465	250,641	-71%
	Electricity in buildings managed by an external contractor	406,377	394,833	-3%
	Water consumption in buildings managed by an external contractor	19,522	226	-8522%
	Water consumption in buildings fully owned and controlled by Cotswold District Council	8,025	7,674	-5%
	Fuel used by external contractors	209,027	209,027	0%
Total		2,931,692	2,763,803	-6%

Table 4: Cotswold District Council emissions in 2022/23 and 2019/20

Effect of source emission changes on overall change (between 2019/20 and 2022/23)

Overall emission change between 2019/20 and 2022/23		-6%
Scope 1	Natural gas	-1%
	Fuel	6%
Scope 2	Purchased electricity (generation)	-2%
Scope 3	WTT Natural gas	0.14%
	WTT Fuel	1.30%
	Business travel	-2%
	Electricity T&D	-0.2%
	WTT electricity	0.08%
	WTT electricity T&D	0.01%
	Natural gas in buildings managed by an external contractor	-6%
	Electricity in buildings managed by an external contractor	-0.5%
	Water consumption in buildings managed by an external contractor	-0.1%
	Water consumption in buildings fully owned and controlled by Cotswold District Council	-
	Fuel used by external contractors	0%

Table 5: Effect of source emission changes on overall change (between 2019/20 and 2022/23)

Commentary

Headline

Emissions have decreased by 6% since 2019/20.

Scope 1

- Liquid fuel use, the biggest source of emissions (43% in 2022/23), has risen by 13%. Overall this has caused emissions to increase by 6%.
- Natural gas consumption (making up 7% of total emissions in 2022/23), has decreased by 12%. Overall this has caused emissions to decrease by 1%.

Scope 2

- Emissions from electricity generation (as opposed to transmission and distribution) have decreased by 58%. Overall this has caused emissions to decrease by 2%. Over this period the grid has decarbonised 32%. This means that approximately half the emissions decreases seen here have been due to climate action undertaken by the council.

Scope 3

- WTT emissions, over which the Council has no control, amounts to 13% of the carbon footprint. WTT emissions have increased by 12% on average. Overall, this has caused emissions to increase by 1.5%.
- Business travel emissions, making up 1% of total emissions, have decreased by 215%. Overall, this has caused emissions to decrease by 2%.
- Electricity T&D making up 0.4% of total emissions, have decreased by 47%. Overall, this has caused emissions to decrease by 0.2%.

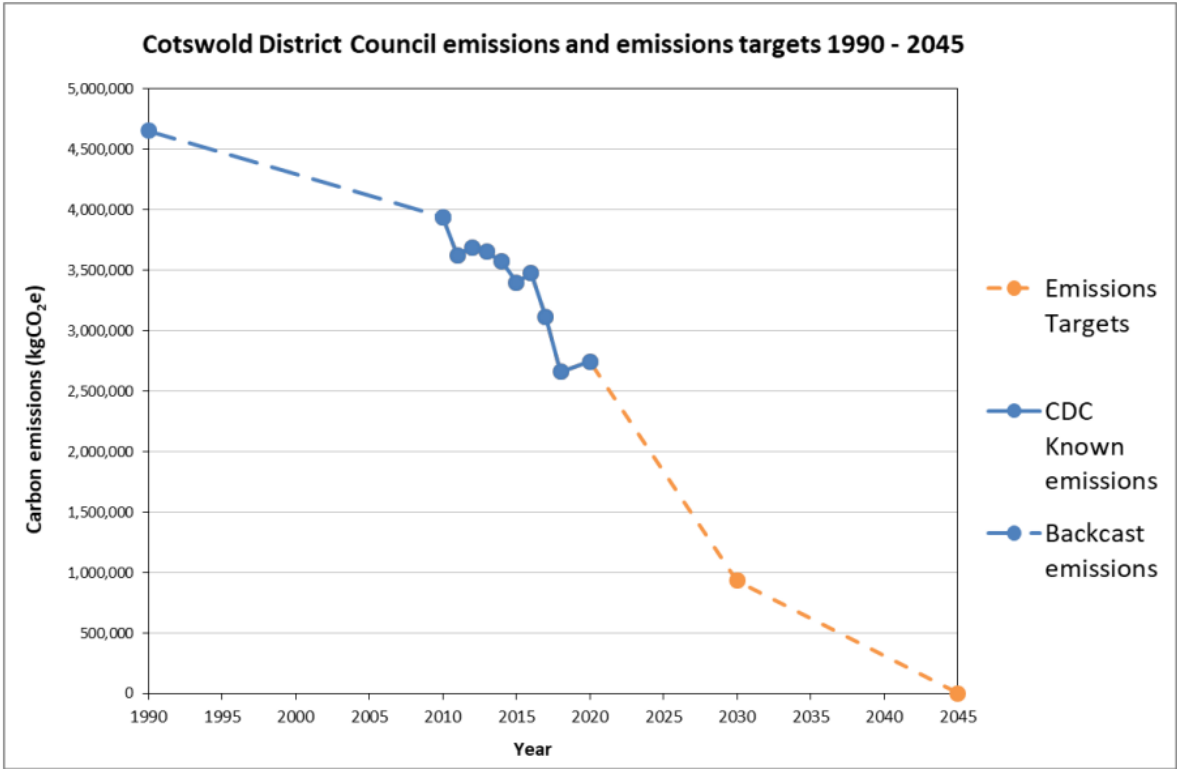
- Natural gas consumption in buildings managed by an external contractor (primarily two leisure centres), making up 9% of total emissions, have decreased by 71%. Overall, this has caused emissions to decrease by 6%.
- Electricity consumption in buildings managed by an external contractor (primarily two leisure centres), making up 14% of our carbon footprint (2nd largest source), has decreased by 3%. Overall, this has caused emissions to decrease by 0.5%.
- Water consumption in buildings managed by an external contractor making up 0.01% of total emissions, have decreased by 8522%. Overall, this has caused emissions to decrease by 0.1%. The large reported decrease highlights the need for further data interrogation to ensure data is being reported correctly.
- Water consumption in buildings fully owned and controlled by Cotswold District Council making up 0.3% of total emissions, have decreased by 5%. Overall, this has caused emissions to decrease by 0.02%.
- Liquid fuel used by external contractors making up 8% of total emissions has been included in the carbon footprint for the first time. Protocol dictates these emissions are added to previous years carbon footprints to ensure data is comparable hence the reported 0% change.

2022-23 emissions in context - progress against net zero target

- In 2019 the Council committed to “Make the Council’s own activities net-zero carbon as soon as possible, aiming for an 80% reduction against a 1990 baseline by 2030, and a 100% reduction by 2045”. 1990 has been used as the baseline year as it mirrors the baseline used in the Climate Change Act 2008.
- The Council has recorded its own emissions data since 2009, but back-casting using changes in national level emissions as a proxy suggests Council emissions may have been at around 4,700,000 kg CO₂e in the baseline year. This figure has therefore been used as the baseline against which to report progress towards net zero.
- To date emissions have reduced 41% against the baseline.
- To meet the 80% reduction by 2030 target, emissions are required to fall to 940,000 kgCO₂e by 2030. That means emissions need to reduce a further 66% against 2022/23 levels.

		kg CO ₂ e
Estimated baseline emissions	1990	4,700,000
CDC calculated emissions to date	2009	4,147,545
	2010	3,834,311
	2011	3,897,840
	2012	3,861,387
	2013	3,779,612
	2014	3,606,499
	2015	3,686,023
	2016	3,321,046
	2017	2,868,506
	2019	2,931,692
	2020	2,687,820
	2021	2,985,610
	2022	2,763,803
2030 target	2030	940,000
2045 target	2045	0

Table 6: Progress towards net zero target



Appendix: Methodology notes

The Council takes a financial control approach to reporting emissions, in accordance with the GHG Protocol. This means it accounts for emissions over which it has financial control. Under the financial control approach, the economic substance of the relationship between an organisation and the operation takes precedence over the legal ownership status. A financial control approach is most appropriate for Cotswold District Council as it allows the Council to report not only on emissions it has total control over, but also emissions arising from operations it has an interest in too. For example, an external contractor operates the two leisure centres owned by Cotswold District Council. The Council does not have the full authority to implement its operating policies at this operation however the council retains a significant interest in the leisure operations and can therefore report on emissions occurring here.

Scope 1 emissions relate to emissions from sources that are owned/controlled by the Council, for example, emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers and vehicles.