

Carbon Emissions Report 2023/24

Introduction

Sevenoaks District Council reports annually on our carbon emissions, as one of several actions we are taking to help combat climate change.

We use the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ, formerly the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) reporting guidance, which categorises emissions under Scope 1, 2 and 3, as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Protocol.

Scope 1

Scope 1 emissions are those released from petrol and diesel fuel used in Council owned vehicles to deliver services such the collection of refuse and recycling. It also includes the use of gas to heat our buildings.

Scope 2

Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions released from the Council's consumption of purchased electricity at Argyle Road offices, the Council's depot at Dunbrik, and the three leisure centres in Sevenoaks, Edenbridge and White Oak. The emissions occur at sources the Council does not own or control.

Scope 3

Scope 3 emissions are the indirect emissions released from the use of water in Council buildings and emissions generated from staff business travel by car. The emissions occur at sources the Council does not own or control. Scope 3 also includes transmission and distribution losses.

Emissions for 2023/24 (figures for 2022/23 in brackets)

- **District emissions** **811,300 tCO₂*** (714,600 tCO₂)
- **Council emissions** **2,410 tCO₂** (2,612 tCO₂)

Council emissions account for 0.32% of the District's emissions.

(*source: [GOV website](#))

During the past year, the Council's emissions have reduced. This is due to a more efficient energy supply at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre and to the impact of a round review for our fleet last year, which has resulted in a reduction in the use of diesel.

Although not as many residents are working from home full time now, we are still collecting the same volume of waste and recycling as in the previous two years.

Summary of emissions by Scope (Argyle Road offices, leisure centres in Edenbridge, Swanley and Sevenoaks, the depot at Dunbrik and the Council's fleet)

	tCO ₂	% of emissions
Scope 1 - Heating	783.19	32.5%
Scope 1 - Vehicle fleet	1,062.43	44.1%
Scope 1 - TOTAL	(1,845.62)	(76.6%)
Scope 2 - Electricity	502.46	20.9%
Scope 3 - Water and staff travel for business purposes	61.65	2.5%
Total emissions	2,409.73	100%

Note:

Different emissions factors are applied according to the size of the vehicle engine. The difference in how emissions are calculated and what measure is used is determined by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. A small diesel car, for example, has its emissions calculated according to the number of miles travelled, whereas cars with larger engines have theirs calculated by the number of litres of diesel used.

100 miles travelled in a large engine diesel car creates more emissions than 100 miles in a small engine diesel car. The leisure centres do not have their own vehicle fleets, so there is no data to include in Scope 1 for vehicle emissions.