

# Carbon Emissions Report 2024/25

## Introduction

Sevenoaks District Council monitors and reports carbon emissions annually to track progress toward its commitment to tackling the challenge of climate change across the District.

This report presents the Council's 2024 – 2025 emissions. 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 as 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.

## District and Council Emissions

Carbon emissions data for the District is prepared by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and shows a consistent reduction in emissions across the key sectors over the last few years. The data is published 2 years in arrears owing to the complexities of the data collection, validation and modelling required to produce accurate and consistent statistics. The latest data\* shows a reduction in carbon emissions from 755,700 tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2022 down to 727,700 tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2023.

(\*source: [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics](#))

For the Council's own emissions, these have reduced from 2,410 tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2023/24 to 2,198 tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2024/25. Although these emissions represent just 0.3% of the total District-wide emissions, measuring them remains important as it demonstrates leadership and commitment. It enables the Council to track progress, access funding, and influence wider change through its policies and partnerships, helping to reinforce its role in driving climate action beyond its own operations.

Our [Climate Change Action Plan](#) sets out what the Council is doing to help reduce carbon emissions, both for its own assets and fleet, and for the wider District. Over the last year, the Action Plan has seen positive momentum across all priority areas, which has contributed to the reduction in carbon emissions reported.

**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 <sub>2</sub>	% of emissions
Scope 1 - Heating	809.03	36.81%
Scope 1 - Vehicle fleet	869.21	39.55%
Scope 1 - TOTAL	<b>1,678.24</b>	<b>76.36%</b>
Scope 2 - Electricity	503.66	22.92%
Scope 3 - Water and staff travel for business purposes	15.79	0.72%
Total emissions	<b>2,197.69</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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.

## Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

The District and Council emission reductions show progress towards the Council's commitment to tackling the challenge of climate change across the District. This progress is supported and formalised by the Council's [Climate Change Strategy](#), which provides a framework for our actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions (mitigation) and adapting to the effects of climate change that are already happening (adaptation), to provide a better environment for future generations. The Strategy identifies six priorities to help achieve this:

1. Movement, travel and transport
2. Energy and buildings
3. The Council's built assets and fleet
4. Resources, consumption and waste
5. The natural environment
6. Awareness and engagement.

Following the Climate Change Strategy, Members endorsed the [Climate Change Action Plan](#), which translates these six priorities into a practical set of deliverable and measurable actions. The Action Plan sets out the Council's commitments and the projects it will deliver to tackle climate change. These actions are monitored with an annual update on their progress reported at Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee.