

North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy

The North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy is a live document which outlines our **seven key principles** for how we will address the causes and consequences of climate change, with the aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Strategy is supported by the accompanying Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan and Data Dashboard. The Strategy is owned by the cross-party member Climate Emergency working group and will link in with the developing North Somerset Corporate Plan 2020-2025, our Medium Term Financial Plan, and other strategic plans including the Economic Plan and the Joint Local Transport Plan. The Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed annually to confirm our principles and to analyse our progress.

Context

- 1°C** Damaging climate impacts are already being felt today at 1° of warming
- 1.5°C** Keeping below 1.5° would help to protect ecosystems limiting impacts on vulnerable groups
- 2°C** Below 2° will limit the most damaging effects of climate change
- 3°C** We are currently on track for 3° of warming – the tipping point
- 4°C** Unchecked emissions growth could lead to severe and widespread climate change by 2100

Our commitment: North Somerset will aim to be a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030

Key principles

- Become a net zero carbon council
- An energy efficient built environment
- Renewable energy generation
- Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle
- Replenish our carbon stores
- Reduce emissions from transport
- Adapting to climate change

Our scope

North Somerset Council only has direct control over a small proportion of the total carbon emissions of the area. Analysis is ongoing to confirm this proportion but it is believed to be less than 2%. Reducing these emissions will form our work around **becoming a net zero carbon council**.

For our other **key principles**, the council will take a leadership role. Part of this role will be considering our matrix of influence to identify actions that we can help to enable, support and influence both locally and nationally.

The council will also seek to understand how our work will reduce differently scoped emissions in North Somerset. These include **scope one**: all direct emissions from activities within our area, **scope two**: all indirect emissions from energy production/ use in our area, and **scope three**: all other indirect emissions from activities within our area, occurring from sources we do not own or control.



North Somerset Council's matrix of influence



The how

For each key principle within this strategy, actions have been identified in our [Action Plan](#) that will help to either avoid carbon production (low carbon homes), reduce the amount (renewable electricity), mitigate against production (public transport) or help to store it away (tree planting).

- Avoidance
- Reduction
- Mitigation
- Storage

Governance

The Strategy is owned by the cross-party member working group, with the Action Plan owned by the officers working group. Progress is reported to Corporate Management team via officers and to Executive via the members working group.



Stakeholders

Our stakeholders are aligned to our matrix of influence, some we can directly influence through contracts, funding or support, others we can guide through policy change, and others we will need to challenge.



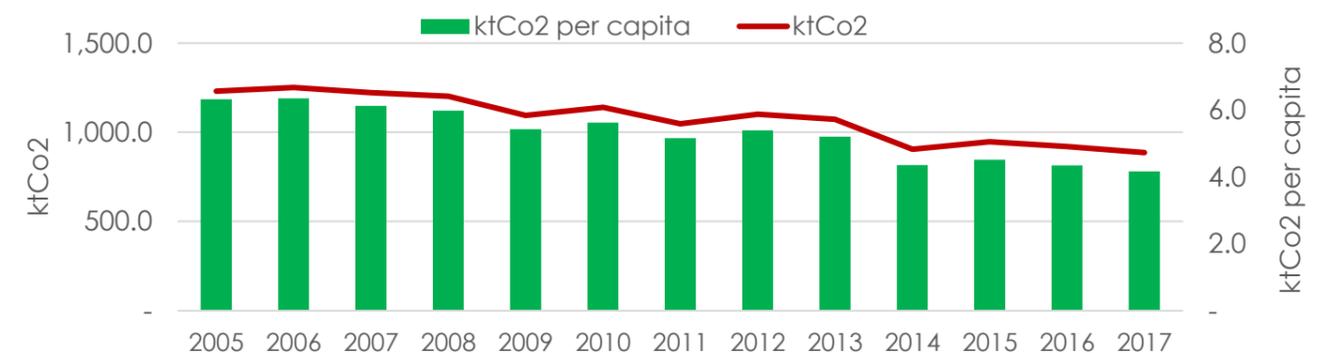
How we will measure progress

- The Climate Emergency Action Plan is aligned to the seven **key principles** of this strategy, with multiple actions for each principle all aligned to our level of influence and the scope each action will have on emissions (scope one, two or three).
- For each action we ask: **what will success look like?** These success measures form the basis of the Climate Emergency Data Dashboard. The Data Dashboard measures our progress on a quarterly basis.

Examples

Key principle	Scope	Actions	Success measures	Method
Become a net zero carbon council	Scope one and two	100% council electricity supplied by renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0% electricity from non-renewable sources 	Reduction
Replenish our carbon stores	Scope one, two, three	Identify opportunities for nature recovery networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant x trees by 2025 • Reduce amenity grass by x% by 2025 	Storage

Carbon emissions in North Somerset



Also included in the Data Dashboard is an overview of North Somerset's carbon emissions, both by tonnage and per capita. As we progress against our Action Plan we will measure the progress towards our aim of becoming a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030.