

# Bristol City Council Corporate Environmental Performance Summary 2021/22

At Bristol City Council we aim to inspire others by continually improving the environmental performance of our operations. This report shows the breadth of our environmental performance across the organisation in 2021/22. It does not include information on the wider action we take to reduce the environmental footprint of the city of Bristol. If you would like to know more about our citywide action on the climate and ecological emergencies, you can find our city level action on climate change in our **Climate Emergency Action Plan** and our ecological emergency action at city level can be found in our **Ecological Emergency Action Plan**.

## 2021/22 at a glance

Our environmental ambitions were reflected throughout our new corporate strategy 2022-27

We calculated our scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions for the year – a total of 9,145 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

The City Leap Energy Partnership was awarded – it will reduce emissions across our estate and bring energy efficiency and renewable energy measures to our social housing and corporate estate

£17 million of capital funding is allocated to help reduce emissions from our fleet and buildings and £85 million to reduce emissions from our social housing



## 2021/22 In more detail

Bristol City Council has declared a climate and ecological emergency. In 2019, we set an ambitious target within the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan for Bristol City Council to be carbon neutral for the emissions directly under our control by 2025. This means we will reduce as much as possible the emissions that occur as a direct consequence of our operations. This report includes our carbon performance this year in relation to this ambition. This year, for the first time, we have calculated the scope 1 and 2 emissions from the assets that are directly under our control. In previous years, we gave a total for all the emissions that we were able to record which covered the emissions from the assets directly under our control but also included some which were out of our direct control. We have also set a target to reduce our pesticide use by 50% by 2030 and for 30% of council land to be managed for nature by 2030. These ambitions are all reflected in our **new corporate strategy**.

A significant step this year was to complete the procurement and award of the **City Leap Energy Partnership**. Following a procurement process, we selected Ameresco Limited as our strategic partner to form the City Leap Energy Partnership. This partnership will initially deliver £424 million investment and avoid around 140,000 tonnes of carbon emissions across the city over the first five years of the twenty-year partnership. It will bring £1 billion of investment into the city to help create a zero-carbon, smart city and will deliver, amongst other things, energy efficiency measures, renewables and decarbonisation projects to the council's corporate estate reducing our emissions and delivering energy efficiency and renewable energy measures to the council's social housing.

In terms of the council's emissions, it will deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy measures to the council's estate helping us to achieve carbon neutrality.

**BRISTOL**  
city leap



Highways electricity carbon emissions are down by **12%** since last year

The council budget set in early 2022 set aside **£19 million** (later revised to **£17 million**) in capital funding to help reduce emissions from our fleet and buildings

## Emissions reduction performance

We aim to be carbon neutral for the emissions directly under our control by 2025. Our carbon footprint as an organisation is the sum of all the emissions we emit when delivering our services. This includes emissions from heating buildings, driving vehicles and buying things.

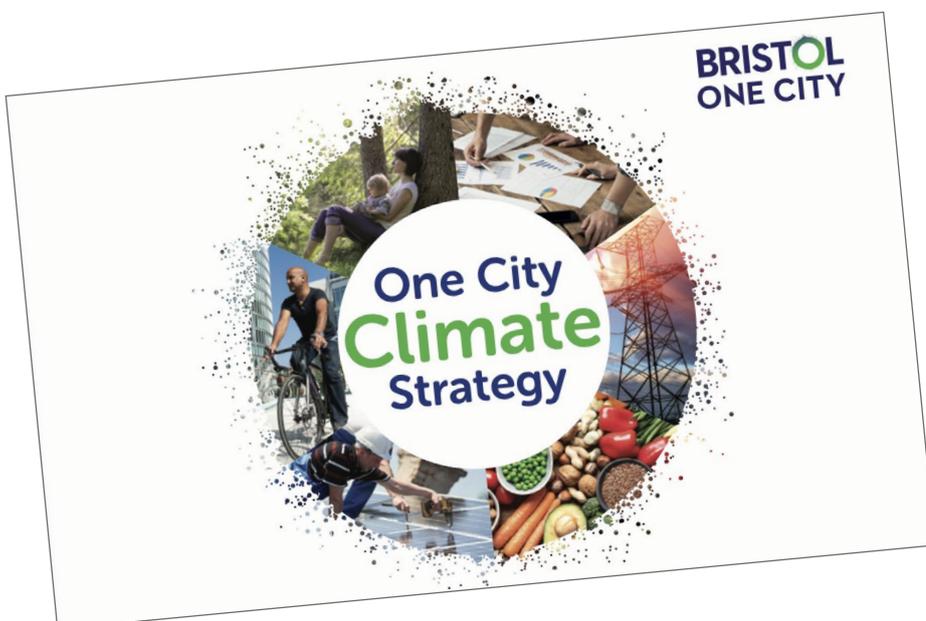
Emissions can be put into 3 categories – scope 1, 2 and 3. We are working towards classifying our emissions in this way and quantifying our scope 3 emissions.

This year, rather than give one figure for our total emissions, we have separated out and quantified our total scope 1 and 2 emissions. Our total scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2021/22 were 9,145 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). As this is a different calculation to last year, it cannot be compared to previous reports. We calculated this figure using emissions data from sites we have direct operational control over. This includes buildings such as offices, crematoria, mortuary, museums, libraries, social care settings and more. It does not include schools as these are outside of our operational control.

We want to play our part in the **One City Climate Strategy**.

**Scope 1** - carbon that is emitted directly from the council's vehicle fleet and gas usage, including in heating our buildings.

**Scope 2** - carbon that is emitted from electricity usage including streetlighting and lighting our buildings.



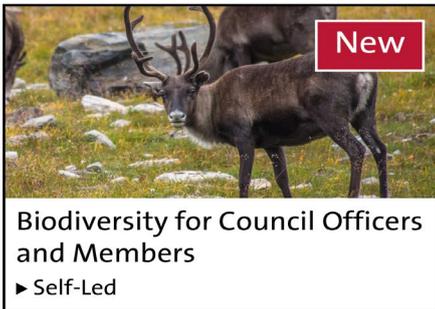
3,168 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e electricity was generated through our renewable energy generation assets which include solar arrays and a wind turbine.



We made an initial assessment of our scope 3 emissions and continue to work on how best to calculate and reduce these emissions

## Increasing staff training

There are a suite of climate and sustainability e-learning modules accessible to all staff on our online training platform. During this reporting period, we added new learning modules covering ecological emergency, carbon across the built environment, buying sustainably and biodiversity net gain. The existing climate change awareness course has already been completed by hundreds of our staff. In addition, live workshops were offered to staff and councillors – including courses on carbon literacy and leading sustainably for managers – and workshops were held to help support sustainability work across our services as they planned for the year ahead. A leadership forum session on inclusive climate action had over 80 attendees. To support the implementation of the new environmental sustainability building block of our corporate strategy, we held open sessions focused on sustainability. These were attended by over 100 staff.



**80 staff** in leadership roles attended a forum on inclusive climate action. Over **100 staff** attended sessions on the new sustainability building block in our corporate strategy.

## Communicating alongside COP26

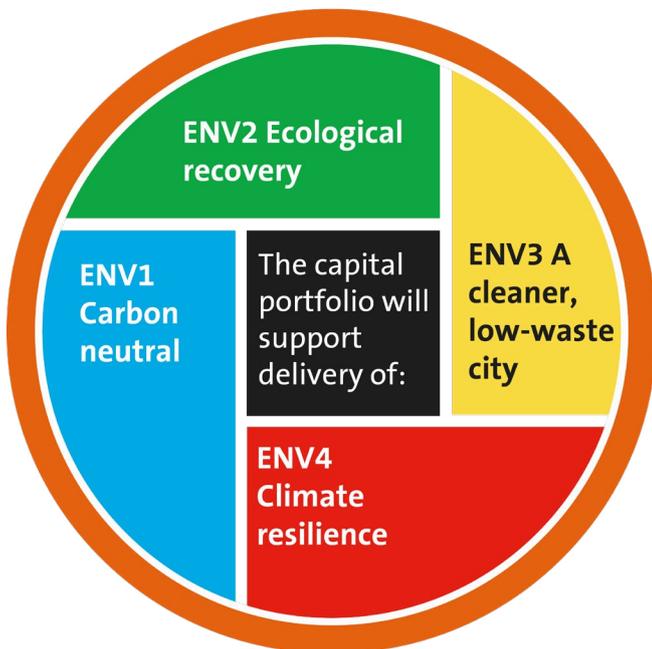
2021 saw the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Convention (COP26) held in Glasgow. The Mayor and the Cabinet Member responsible for Climate, Ecology, Energy and Waste were involved in conference events and closer to home we ran an internal communication campaign alongside events in the city to highlight the work our teams are taking on climate change.

By taking over the home page of our intranet we provided knowledge and inspiration to all teams across the organisation whilst climate change was being talked about on a global scale, discussing areas such as transport, training opportunities and events being held, running a total of 20 individual stories from around the organisation. We also made and shared films to inspire others to make changes in their personal lives, including one telling the story of a colleague who chose to eat a plant-based diet.

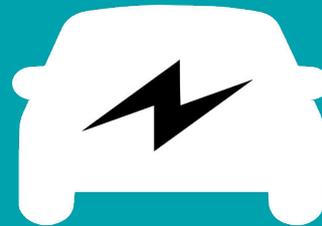
## Improving the sustainability of our capital project work

We have developed a framework for improving the environmental performance of our capital projects – these are things like building new transport infrastructure. The framework has objectives and associated metrics relating to Bristol City Council’s strategic environmental sustainability goals. These include objectives to reduce the operational and embodied carbon impacts of our projects and calculate their carbon impact, aligned with the council and city’s carbon neutral targets. The framework includes a set of sustainability activities for projects to carry out in order to support project teams in making better decisions around sustainability. The framework is going to be piloted on several projects over 2022/23.

### Environment and sustainability Corporate Strategy priorities



**20** stories of Bristol climate action were shared with our staff during an internal communications campaign to coincide with COP26



At the end of this reporting period **12%** of our fleet is fully electric and **10%** is hybrid. Fleet replacement work continues.

## Going further in sustainable procurement

Our endorsement of the One City Climate Strategy means that we aim to achieve carbon neutrality for our indirect emissions. A significant amount of our indirect emissions comes from the goods, services and works that we buy.

We made an initial assessment of these emissions in 2020. This year we released a **new healthy and sustainable procurement policy**. The policy ensures that suppliers of works, goods and services also contribute to our health and sustainability goals. The aim of the policy is to encourage and enable suppliers to contribute towards our Climate and Ecological Emergency targets by embedding environmental requirements into contracts and moving towards measuring their associated carbon emissions.

## Ecological Emergency

During this year, we published **our Ecological Emergency Action Plan** setting out how we intend to play our part in delivering the **One City Ecological Emergency Strategy** which we endorsed in 2020. We have started a full review of which pesticides we use across our estate to better inform our plans to reduce pesticide use.



## Ongoing environmental management

We run an environmental management system to drive our environmental improvement. Using this process in this reporting period we identified and delivered areas of improvement across the council including improved energy monitoring for some of our buildings, an opportunity to create a wildlife garden at a care home and improved training to ensure environmental incidents are dealt with correctly.

**51%** of workers in our two main offices (Temple Street and City Hall) used active or sustainable travel to get to work (walking, cycling or taking a bus or train).



## Looking forward to 2022/23

In the next reporting period, Bristol City Council will be working to:

- Launch the **Bristol City Leap energy partnership**
- Put in place an arrangement to power more of our office buildings with locally produced renewable electricity

**BRISTOL**  
CLIMATE HUB

**BRISTOL**  
CLIMATE ACTION



[sustainable.city@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sustainable.city@bristol.gov.uk)

# Appendix

This report covers our scope 1 and 2 emissions. We are committed to quantifying our scope 3 emissions and made an initial assessment of these in 2020.

Our scope 1 and 2 emissions are measured from emissions that come from our estate and operations over which we have direct control. These include our offices, libraries, museums, children's homes, our elderly persons home, highways street lighting, our public mortuary, our two crematoria and our fleet. Schools are excluded from this figure as we do not have direct operational control over schools.

Our reporting methodology follows Defra's environmental reporting guidelines. All figures are expressed in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) and government conversion factors are used where available. This is a different calculation to last year, it cannot be compared to previous reports.

	2021/22
Scope 1 Total CO <sub>2</sub> e	3,842 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>
Scope 2 Total CO <sub>2</sub> e	5,303 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 1 and 2 Total CO <sub>2</sub> e	9,145 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e

## Energy generation

We own and operate a wind turbine, solar farm and have installed multiple solar photovoltaic arrays on our buildings. Generation of electricity and heat from this renewable energy is shown in the table.

	2021/22
Generated Electricity Total	3,168 GwH
Generated Heat Total	293 GwH

## Proportion of energy generation 2021/22

