



**Harborough District Council  
Climate Emergency Action Plan  
2022 - 2030**

## **Introduction**

Harborough District Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019. This followed on from many years working on action plans devised as part of the Local Government Association initiative; “Climate Local”, which Harborough District Council committed to in 2013.

Climate change is a cross cutting issue, with implications across the council’s priorities. The Corporate Plan identifies the vision and priorities for council action across the district:

### **Our Vision**

Working with our communities, we will build a future for the people of Harborough district that gives them the best life chances and opportunities through:

### **Our Priorities**

- Community leadership to create a sense of pride in our place
- Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices
- Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations
- Supporting businesses and residents to deliver a prosperous local economy

Climate change impacts across these priorities and action is needed to reduce emissions, improve resilience and deal with the risks of climate change. This document highlights the future actions on climate change that the Council, through its own operations and in its working with partners can deliver to meet these priorities.

## **Harborough District**

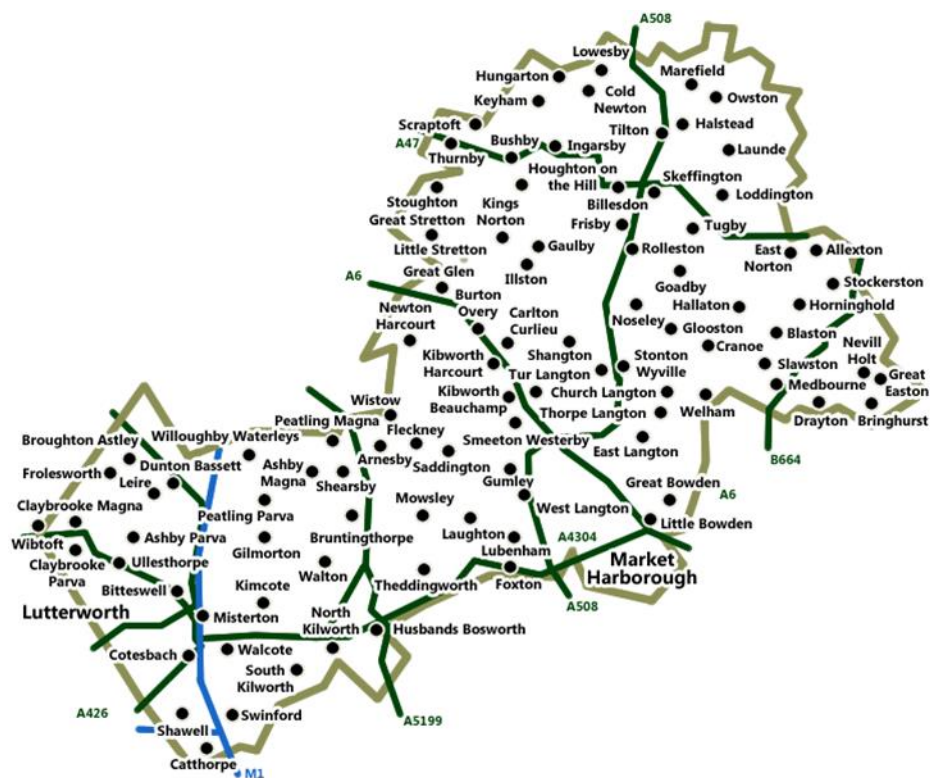
Harborough District is a mainly rural district covering an area of 238 square miles of South and East Leicestershire. It is within the East Midlands Region, bordering Warwickshire to the West, Northamptonshire to the South and Rutland to the East. The district’s population is estimated as 93,807 in 2019 mid-year population<sup>1</sup>. The population is split between the two market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth, large villages of Broughton Astley, Great Glen, Kibworth and Fleckney, and the settlements Bushby, Thurnby and Scraftoft, which part of Leicester’s Principal

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/middlesuperoutputareamidyearpopulationestimates> published October 2019

Urban Area. The remaining population live in the smaller rural settlements, many of which have a population of less than 500.



**Figure 1: Map of Harborough district showing main settlements**

The district is generally affluent, and people are generally healthier than the England average<sup>2</sup>. The district has an aging population; this trend is expected to grow over the next few years to 2030. Housing in the district is made up of a higher proportion of detached homes than the England average. Homes also tend to be larger, and many properties were built before 1900.

Most companies in the district are small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and have smaller numbers of employees. The exception to this is the logistics hub around Magna Park close to Lutterworth. Many residents in the district commute to nearby larger cities and towns for employment.

Harborough is relatively poor in biodiversity and geodiversity terms. 1.21% of the district's area is covered by Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while a further 0.42% is covered by Local Wildlife Site (LWS) designations. There are several SSSIs

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.localhealth.org.uk/#bbox=434253,314436,66088,41119&c=indicator&view=map7> published 2019

in the East of the district protecting the remains of ancient woodland which are of high nature conservation, landscape and historical importance. The district has one geological SSSI, the Tilton Railway Cutting. The total area of woodland is 2497ha or 4.21% of the district compared to 10% in England.<sup>3</sup>

## **Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Harborough District**

### **Greenhouse gases**

There are a number of gases that act as greenhouse gases. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the most abundant and as it is part of a complex carbon cycle it can remain in the atmosphere for many hundreds of years. In recent years the concentration in the atmosphere has risen from around 300 parts per million(ppm) in the 1950s to over 400ppm now.

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is an important naturally occurring greenhouse gas, produced by waste decomposition. It is present in the atmosphere at much lower concentrations than CO<sub>2</sub>, currently around 1800 parts per billion (ppb), an increase from around 700ppb in pre-industrial times. Methane is, however, a more potent greenhouse gas and is around 25 time stronger than CO<sub>2</sub>. Methane remains in the atmosphere for a shorter time, with a lifespan of around 12 years.

Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is a by-product of combustion and is also an important greenhouse gas. It remains in the atmosphere for 100s of years and is about 300 times as potent as CO<sub>2</sub>. Atmospheric concentrations, however, are low at around 324ppb and are increasing more slowly than CO<sub>2</sub> or methane.

Fluorinated gases are man-made gases for industrial processes. They exist in the atmosphere in very low concentrations but have high greenhouse gas potential and remain in the atmosphere for 1000s of years. Local data for sources and concentrations is not available for fluorinated gases.

### **Carbon Emissions**

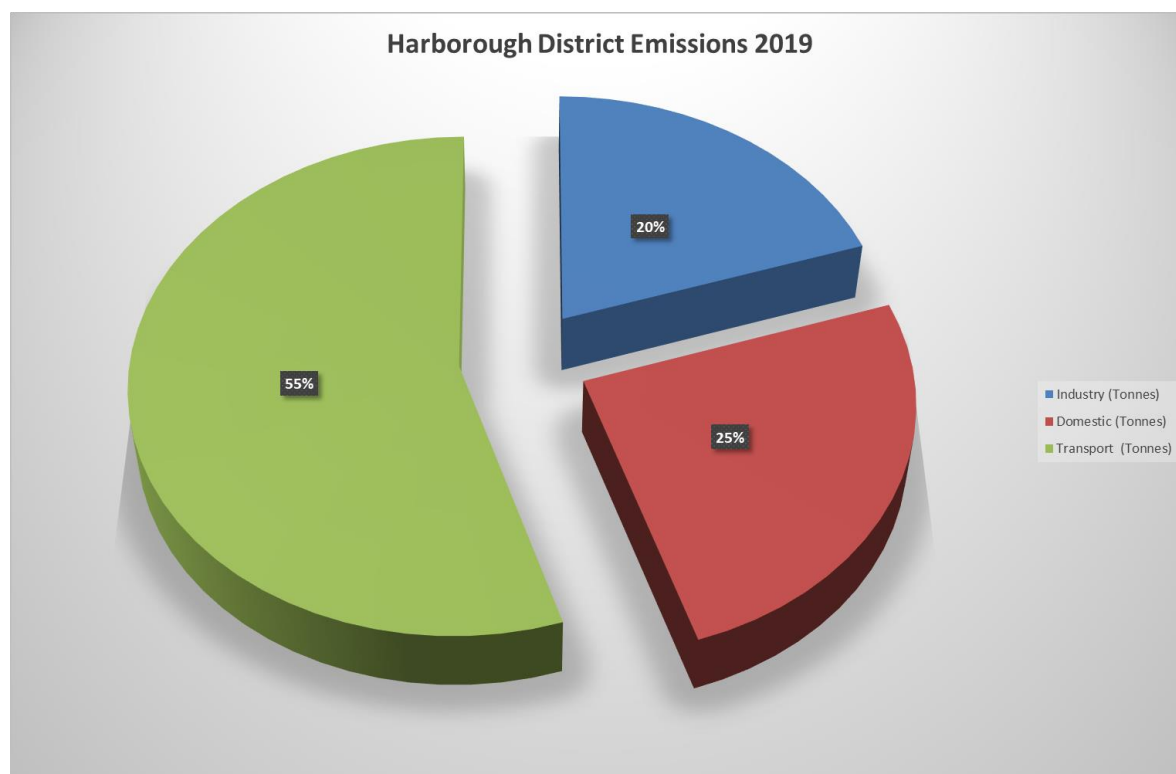
The emissions data for Harborough District from 2019 is the most recent data available for monitoring emissions<sup>4</sup>. This data includes all emissions from the area. Road

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<sup>3</sup> Harborough Local Plan 2011 -2031 [Adopted Local Plan | Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 | Harborough District Council](#)

<sup>4</sup> [UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published June 2020.

transport remains the largest source of emissions, accounting for 55% of the overall emissions from the district, as shown in Figure 1. Transport has shown a steadily increasing proportion of the total emissions, but has begun to reduce overall, falling to 322.8kT this year. The industry and domestic sectors have also continued to fall. The emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) have become negative, i.e. more carbon is stored than emitted (-12.3kT). Overall emissions have decreased from 815.9kT in 2005 to 575.2kT in 2019.



**Figure 2: Harborough District Emissions by Sector 2019<sup>5</sup>**

Harborough's per capita emissions, of 6.1 tonnes, has decreased by 39.5% since 2005. This is a greater percentage drop than Leicestershire or the East Midlands but less than UK. Harborough's per capita emissions are higher than Leicestershire (5.9), East Midlands (6.0), England (4.9) and UK (5.2). The table below shows the emissions per capita for each of the sectors, from 2005 to 2019 (the latest date for which figures are available).

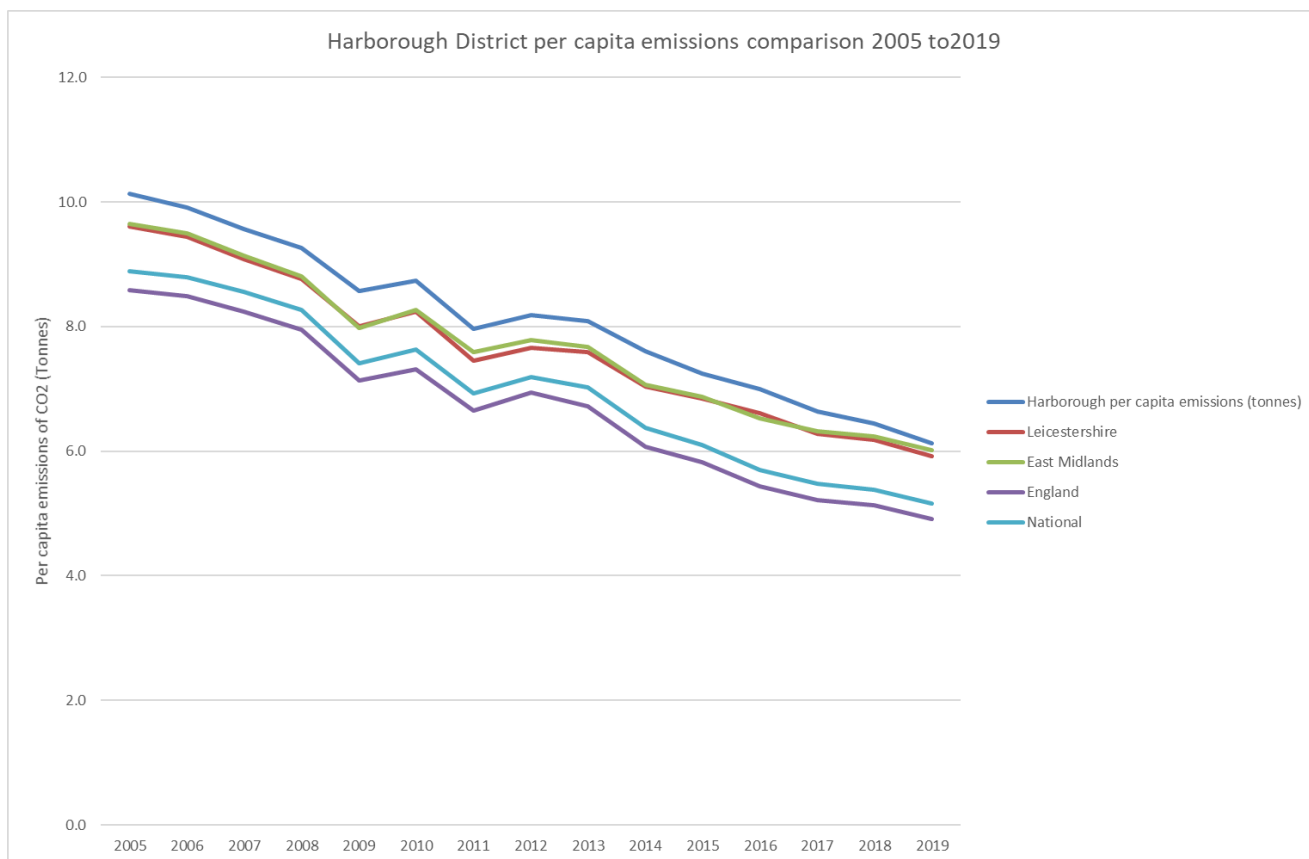
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<sup>5</sup> LULUCF means Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry

Date	Industry (Tonnes)	Domestic (Tonnes)	Transport (Tonnes)	LULUCF (Tonnes)	Total (Tonnes)
2005	2.7	2.7	4.7	0.0	<b>10.1</b>
2006	2.6	2.7	4.6	0.0	<b>9.9</b>
2007	2.4	2.6	4.5	0.0	<b>9.6</b>
2008	2.5	2.6	4.2	0.0	<b>9.3</b>
2009	2.2	2.4	4.0	0.0	<b>8.6</b>
2010	2.3	2.5	3.9	-0.1	<b>8.7</b>
2011	2.0	2.2	3.8	-0.1	<b>8.0</b>
2012	2.2	2.3	3.7	-0.1	<b>8.2</b>
2013	2.1	2.3	3.8	-0.1	<b>8.1</b>
2014	1.9	1.9	3.9	-0.1	<b>7.6</b>
2015	1.7	1.8	3.8	-0.1	<b>7.2</b>
2016	1.5	1.8	3.8	-0.1	<b>7.0</b>
2017	1.4	1.6	3.8	-0.1	<b>6.6</b>
2018	1.3	1.6	3.6	-0.1	<b>6.4</b>
2019	1.2	1.6	3.4	-0.1	<b>6.1</b>

**Table 1: Harborough District CO<sub>2</sub> emission per capita by sector 2005 to 2019<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>6</sup> : <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>



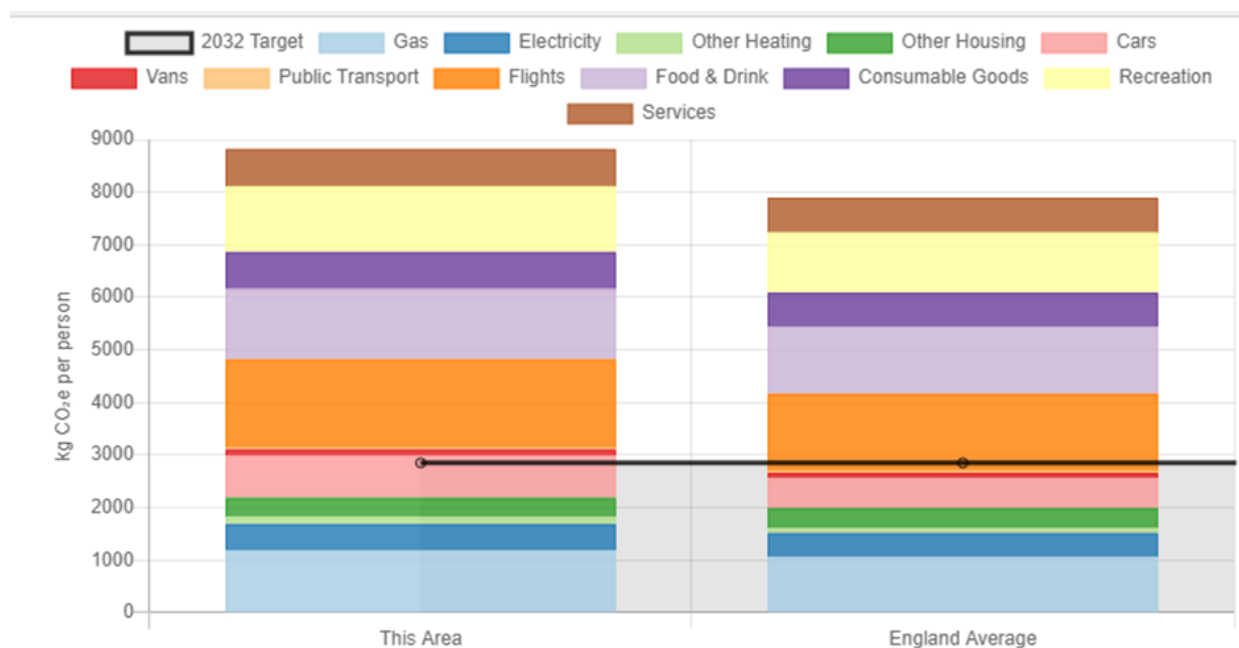
**Figure 3: Harborough District Per Capita total emissions 2005 to 2019**<sup>7</sup>

Data is also available for emissions from a local area that the local area is responsible for. This data removes the contribution from very large industry, motorways, rail travel and land use. The emissions in Harborough district are then reduced. Industrial emissions are reduced slightly from 117.2kT to 110.1kT. Domestic emissions remain the same. Transport emissions are reduced by almost half at 165.9kT compared to 322.8kT. The per capita emissions are then 4.8T, which is lower than Leicestershire (5.1) and much closer to the national (4.2). However, transport emissions on minor roads are still increasing and are now comparable with emissions for A roads. Local transport is a serious issue for progress on district emissions.

A new tool Carbon Place Based Calculator [PBCC \(carbon.place\)](https://carbon.place) illustrates how Harborough District compares to England using 2018 data, see figure 4. The tool

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics> )

shows which activities contribute most to emissions.<sup>8</sup> It also highlights the point we need to reach by 2032 to meet the Committee on Climate Change sixth carbon budget<sup>9</sup>, highlighting the scale of the task.



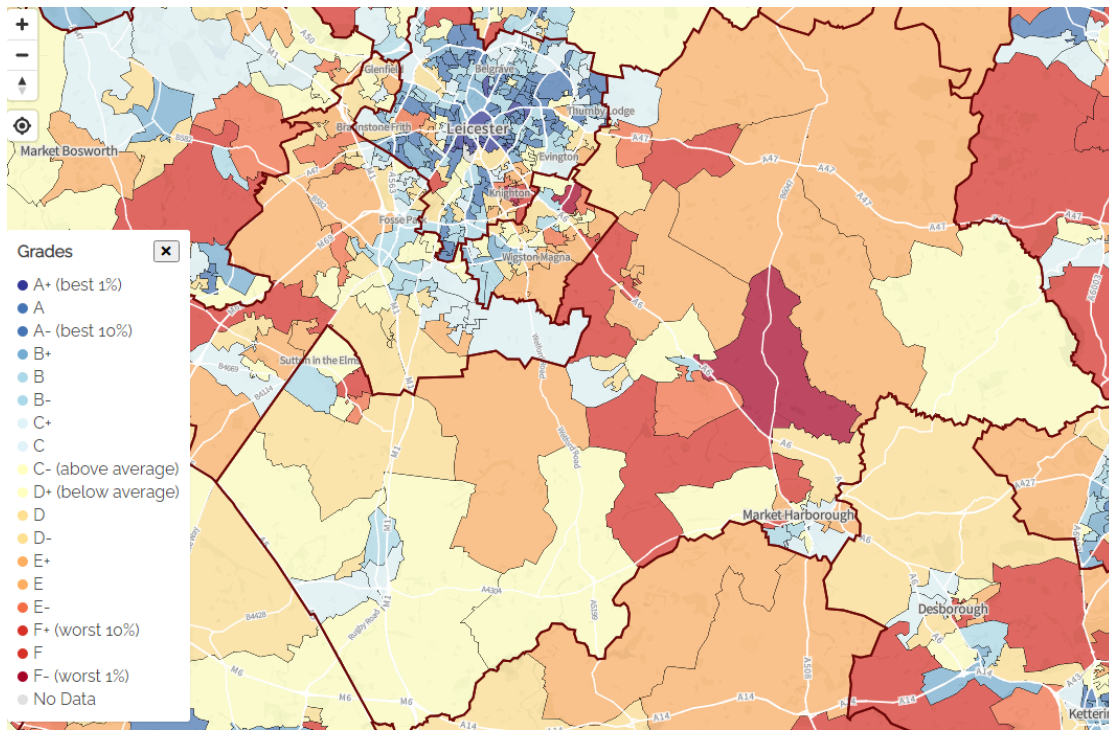
**Figure 4 Harborough District Emissions by sector compared to England 2018 Carbon Place data**

The tool also shows how emission per head vary across Harborough District. Some parts of Harborough district have very high per capita emissions as shown in Figure 5. The tool allows further information to be gleaned for the different areas of the district.

<sup>8</sup> Morgan, Malcolm, Anable, Jillian, & Lucas, Karen. (2021). A place-based carbon calculator for England. Presented at the 29th Annual GIS Research UK Conference (GISRUK), Cardiff, Wales, UK (Online): Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4665852>

<sup>9</sup> [Sixth Carbon Budget - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk) published December 2020.



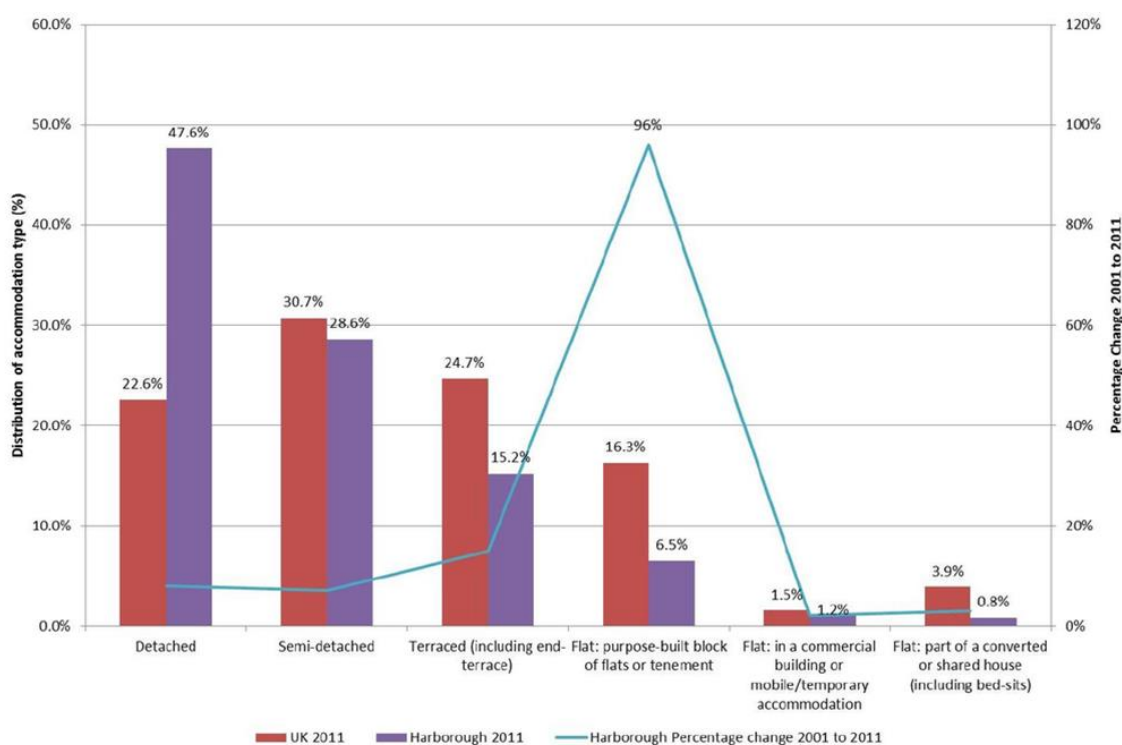


**Figure 5: Harborough district per capita emissions 2018 for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) – Carbon Place Data**

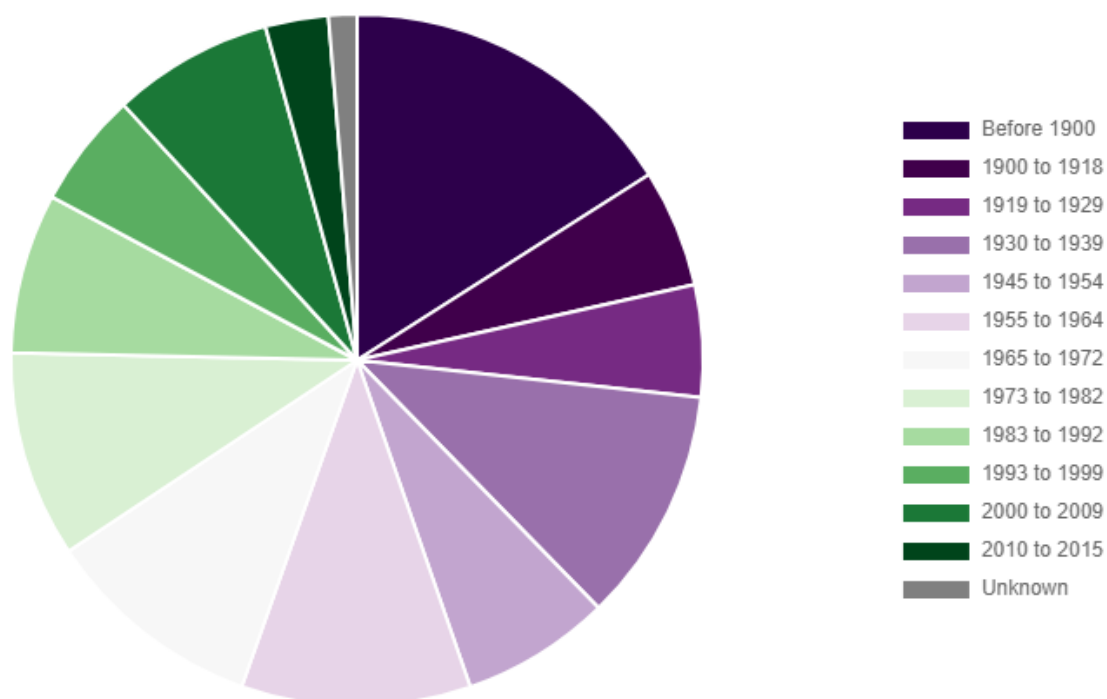
## Local trends impacting emissions from each sector.

### Domestic

There are a large number of rural detached properties in Harborough District. There is a much higher proportion of detached properties than nationally and far fewer flats. In addition, a large proportion of properties were built before 1900. There are currently approximately 37,500 dwellings in the district, with a growth rate of over 550 per year new dwellings anticipated in the Local Plan.



**Figure 6: Distribution of housing types across Harborough District compared to UK 2011 (Source Census 2011).**

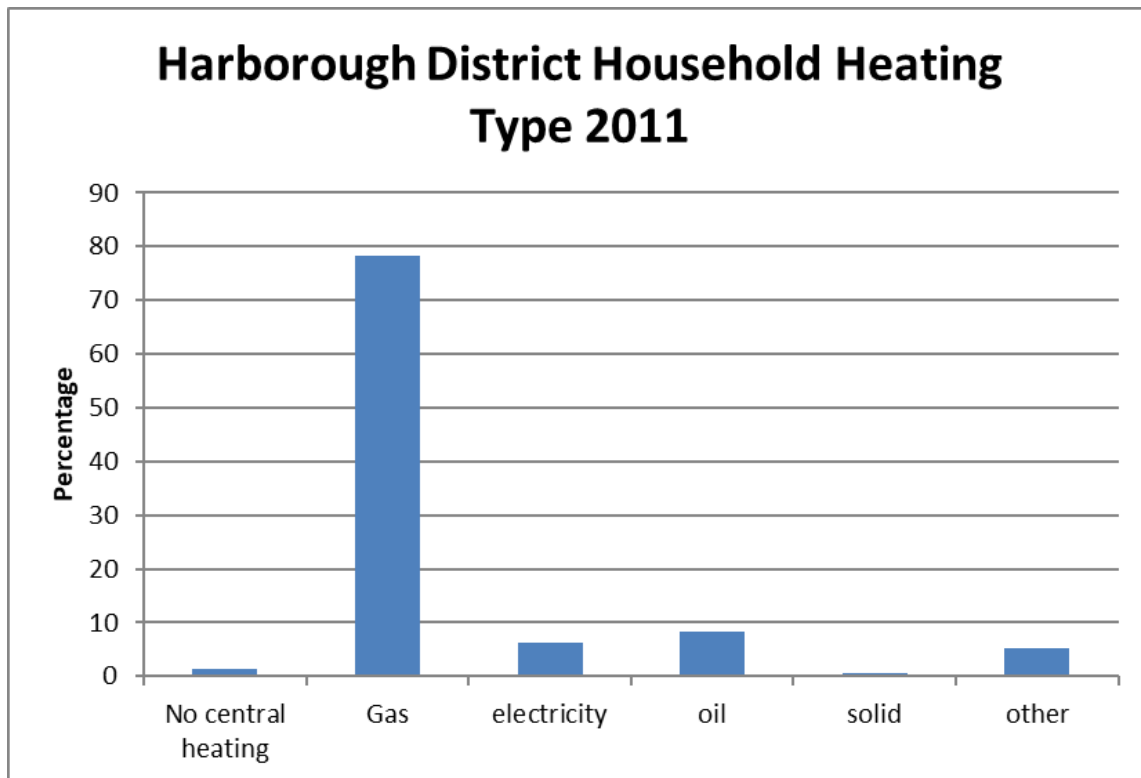


**Figure 7: Build period of domestic properties in Harborough District – source**  
[LA Reports | PBCC \(carbon.place\)](#)

Electricity and gas consumption are close to the national average and gas is the main heating fuel. However, there are a large number of homes that rely on oil or electricity for their heating needs. This is due to the rural nature of the district, with some villages having little or no access to the national gas grid. Government statistics indicate that over 5,000 homes (or 13%) in the district, were not connected to the gas network in 2018.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>Households not connected to the gas network

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-national-estimates-of-households-not-connected-to-the-gas-network> ).



**Figure 8: Harborough District household heating type (source: Census 2011)**

Based on Government data the average domestic energy consumption across the district has reduced year on year. This trend is shown both for electricity consumption and gas consumption. This is related to increasing energy efficiency of homes.

Year	Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh)	Mean domestic gas consumption (kWh)
2005	5223	21,513
2006	5087	20,524
2007	5029	19,866
2008	4804	19,170
2009	4707	17,590
2010	4716	17,468
2011	4660	16,447
2012	4612	16,425
2013	4495	16,001
2014	4472	15,561
2015	4400	15,379
2016	4316	15,292
2017	4283	15,470
2018	4138	15,169
2019	4085	15,094

**Table 2: Harborough District Domestic Electricity and Gas Consumption<sup>11</sup>**

The Fuel Poverty Strategy for England has included a new fuel poverty indicator - Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) to replace the previous Low Income High Costs (LIHC) that had been used to 2019. This means that 2019 data is not completely comparable to the earlier data. The number in fuel poverty in 2019 has increased to

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority>

9.7%, or around 3,625 homes. However, Harborough district is lower than the England average (13.4%). Harborough District figures have reduced from above the England average to considerably below, with the gap even more marked for the new indicator. Harborough is lower than the Leicestershire average (11.2%) and the East Midlands average (13.9%).

Harborough District has been proactive in promoting ECO energy efficiency improvements across the district, with around 1000 homes receiving loft or cavity wall insulation. This activity seems to have made a positive impact on fuel poverty numbers in the district.

Year	Estimated number of Households	Number of Households in Fuel Poverty	Harborough %	England %	Indicator
2011	35,280	4,046	11.5	11.1	LIHC
2012	35,646	3,794	10.6	10.7	LIHC
2013	35,616	2,799	7.9	10.5	LIHC
2014	35,756	2,993	8.4	10.5	LIHC
2015	35,804	3,546	9.9	11.0	LIHC
2016	35,919	3,176	8.8	11.1	LIHC
2017	36,677	2,517	6.9	10.9	LIHC
2018	37,075	3,285	8.9	10.3	LIHC
2019	<b>37,494</b>	<b>3,625</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>LILEE</b>

**Table 3: Numbers of Households in Fuel Poverty<sup>12</sup>**

<sup>12</sup> [Fuel poverty sub-regional statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics) published June 2021

## Industry

Harborough District has no large industrial installations and emissions are spread between, gas, electric, other fuels and agriculture. Emissions from electricity use have shown the greatest reduction. Agriculture emissions (from energy use, not land based emissions) have remained fairly steady.

Data indicates that Harborough District has significant employment in transport and storage, including the large logistics development at Magna Park, near Lutterworth. Other significant employment types are wholesale and retail, agriculture, chemical manufacture, administration, and mining and quarrying.

## Renewable Energy

There are a number of renewable energy installations across Harborough District. There are two commercial wind farms, Low Spinney 8MW and Swinford at 22MW. In addition, there are a number of smaller on farm turbines that contribute to a total of 32.4MW of installed capacity. There are 1,558 solar photovoltaic installations; including a number of large (>1MW) field-based solar installations, giving a total capacity of 16.2MW<sup>13</sup>. There is one anaerobic digestion (499 kW) and two landfill gas sites with capacity of 5.6MW. There is 14.9MW installed capacity of plant biomass. Harborough has no hydropower capacity due to a lack of resource.

	PV	Wind	AD	Landfill Gas	Biomass
<b>2014</b>	5.6	31.9	0.5	5.6	0.0
<b>2015</b>	7.4	32.2	0.5	5.6	0.0
<b>2016</b>	10	32.2	0.5	5.6	0.0
<b>2017</b>	14.4	32.2	0.5	5.6	4.5
<b>2018</b>	17.1	32.4	0.5	5.6	14.9
<b>2019</b>	16.2	32.4	0.5	5.6	14.9

**Table 4 Installed Capacity of Renewable Energy MW**

From April 2014 to October 2020, 51 accredited non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) projects have been deployed. This has delivered an increased capacity to 9MW. Harborough has the third highest installed capacity in Leicestershire, behind Melton and Hinckley and Bosworth. Harborough has 285 accredited domestic RHI

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics> Renewable electricity by local authority 2015 updated September 2018

installations<sup>14</sup>an increase of 19 and the second highest number in Leicestershire behind Northwest Leicestershire. RHI is due to end in March 2022.

## Transport

There are an estimated 382 plug in electric vehicles in Harborough district at the end of 2020<sup>15</sup>. This has doubled since the end of 2019. Electric Vehicle ownership is due to increase rapidly over the next few years, with a projection of round 3,000 in service in the district by 2025.

In 2019/20 Harborough District Council installed 6 charging points in various public car parks across the district (3 in Market Harborough, 1 in Lutterworth, 1 in Broughton Astley and 1 in Kibworth). In 2020/21, in spite of lockdown, the use of the chargers increased significantly, with an increase of 60% of carbon savings.

All Chargers	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Carbon saving kg	3935.72	2481.36	491.85
Energy Consumption kWh	7068.90	4430.70	878.30
Cost £	£978.63	£616.25	£117.80
Number of charges	887	908	181

**Table 5 Harborough public EV charging summary data**

In addition, there are a further 6 charging points at the new Harborough Grow on Centre, office accommodation owned by Harborough District Council. This compliments the 3 charging points which were installed at Harborough Innovation Centre. In total, Harborough District Council has 15 accessible charging points. There are a total of 32 publicly accessible charging points, across the district, of which 3 are rapid devices. Harborough District has the second most charge points of any district in Leicestershire (April 2021<sup>16</sup>) and the highest number of chargers per 100,000 head of population in the county (34.1).

People cycling and walking<sup>17</sup> for travel or leisure, in Harborough district, is similar to the England average. Data from 2018/19 indicate that over 70% of people walk at least

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rhi-monthly-deployment-data-october-2018> data for RHI deployment updated October 2018

<sup>15</sup> [All vehicles \(VEH01\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/all-vehicles-veh01)

<sup>16</sup> [Electric vehicle charging device statistics: April 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-april-2021)

<sup>17</sup> [Walking and Cycling Statistics \(https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/walking-and-cycling-statistics\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/walking-and-cycling-statistics)



once a week. More people walk for leisure, with almost 60% walking once a week for leisure but only around 30% walking once a week for travel. There are fewer people cycling, with around 10% cycling for travel or leisure, which is a little lower than the England average. Again, more people cycle for leisure, with almost 9% cycling once a week for leisure, but only 3.5% cycling for travel once a week.

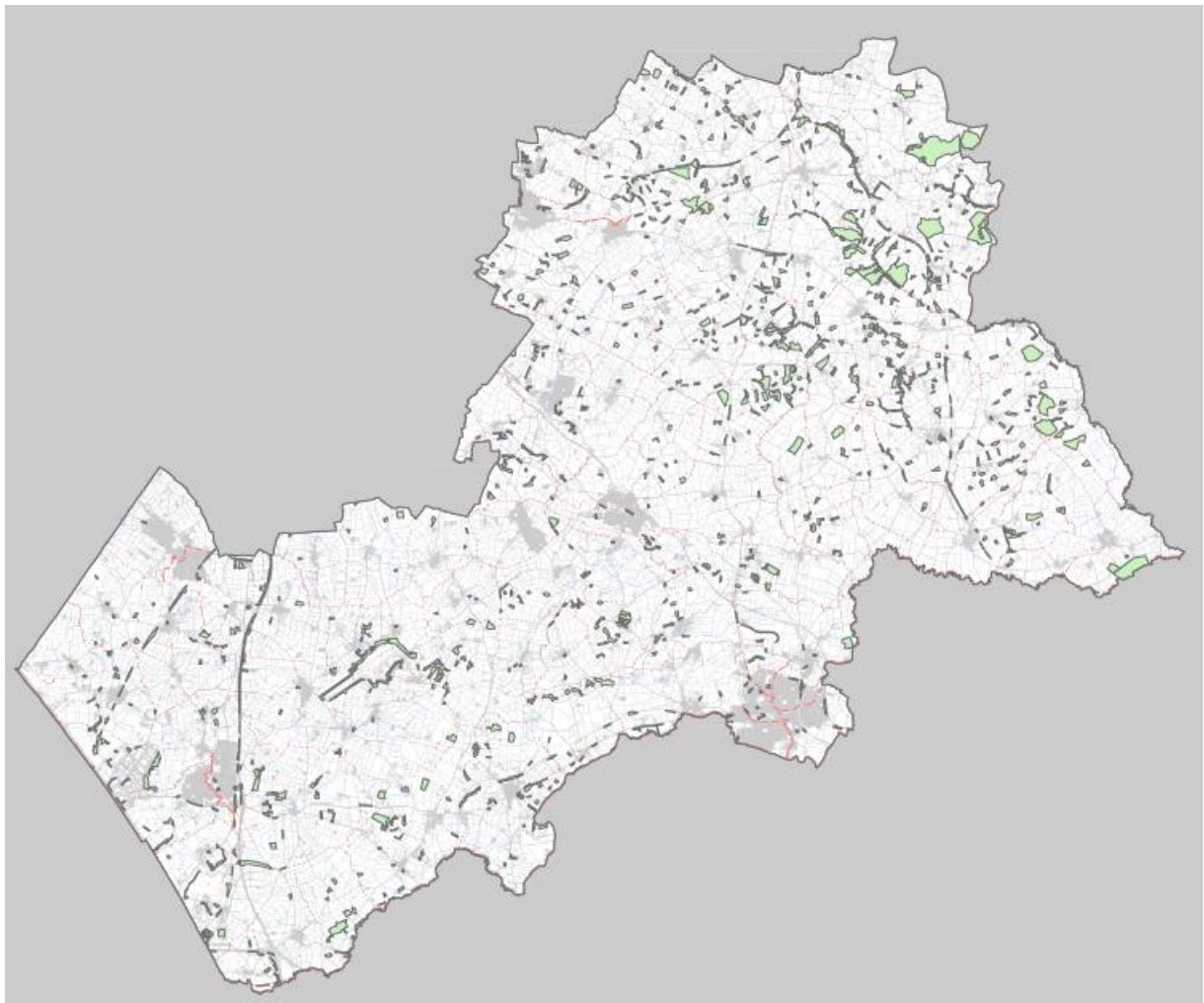
### **Waste**

In 2020/21 Harborough District generated 39,936.7 Tonnes of household waste, which equates to 425.73kg per household. In all, 21,287.3 Tonnes of residual waste was not composted, reused or recycled and was mainly sent to landfill. A total of 18,787.3 Tonnes or 46.9% was recycled reused or composted. Of this 25.94% was recycled and 20.63% was composted or anaerobically digested.

### **Land-use and environment**

Harborough District is an agricultural area, with mixed farming, including dairy, beef and arable. Harborough is relatively poor in biodiversity and geodiversity terms. 1.21% of the district's area is covered by Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while a further 0.42% is covered by Local Wildlife Site (LWS) designations. There are several SSSIs in the east of the district protecting the remains of ancient woodland which are of high nature conservation, landscape and historical importance. The district has one geological SSSI, the Tilton Railway Cutting. The total area of woodland is around 2497ha or 4.21% of the district compared to 10% in England.

In the main the SSSIs and woodland is concentrated in the area known as High Leicestershire, to the north and east of the district. Here are the remnants of Leighfield forest, an ancient hunting forest.



**Figure 9 Woodland in Harborough District**

## **Progress on Climate change mitigation and adaptation since 2015 to date**

### **Low Carbon Pathways**

Since 2015 the Council has reported regularly both on district wide emissions and also on the emissions from the Council's own estate. Harborough Districts Gas and electricity usage is now recorded quarterly, and emissions reported annually.

The Council's green travel plan has been reviewed and new more challenging actions identified. Encouraging a move from car transport is difficult in a dispersed rural area, but there are events to promote cycling and walking, as well as a cycle purchase scheme, secure cycle parking and showers.

The installation of photovoltaics on the Market Hall roof has led to a reduction in electricity usage in the Market Hall. The electricity usage is around 25% less than the electricity usage for the financial year 2014/15 prior to the installation of the PV (July 2015) and LEDs (October 15). In total, since installation the PV generated around 35,000kWh of electricity per year. The PV on the Market Hall has saved around £41,000 and 73 tonnes of carbon since it was installed. Both waste and leisure contracted services have delivered significant savings on electricity, gas and fuel consumption.

Publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points have been installed in Market Harborough, Broughton Astley, Lutterworth and Kibworth. Further installations are planned in car parks close to residential areas in Market Harborough. Ten additional chargers will be in place by end of 2021/22.

The Council, with partners has delivered excellent domestic energy efficiency programmes. The Council has entered into a partnership agreement to signpost residents to ECO funded energy efficiency measures. The Council have adopted the flexible eligibility offered as part of the Government ECO scheme, this has enabled residents at risk of fuel poverty and vulnerable to cold to be able to access ECO funding more easily. Since 2016, 1,148 homes have benefited from energy efficiency installations, saving some 39,000tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the life-time of the measures.

The Council are also working in partnership with iChoosr on a Collective Energy Switching programme. The Big Community Switch delivers renewable electricity, as well as helping people save money. Since starting the collective switching 825 people have switched, many for the first time, with average savings of around £200 and over 2000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> saved per year. The council is now working on Solar Together to encourage household to install solar panels through a collective purchase scheme.

The Sustainable Harborough Challenge Project, which ran from 2013 and completed in December 2017 ran several energy efficiency awareness events with householders, including a green homes event, with local householders showcasing their green homes. This included a refurbished housing association property that was a showcase

for possible action. They also ran a very useful business energy breakfast meeting, which has been incorporated into other local business network events on completion of the project. Businesses have also been signposted to the GreenBelle project (funded via LLEP) for support and grants towards energy efficiency improvements.

The Sustainable Harborough Challenge Project focussed on local food production. It supported the setting up of community growing projects and championed the commercial side of local food. The first local food map showed the diversity of local food producers. An active local food network is now up and running under the badge Taste Harborough. The continued success of local food is supported via the local tourism promotion, with various events and taste tours set up. The community growing projects are supported via Master Gardeners.

Sustainable Harborough Challenge Project also championed community energy. A local community energy company, Harborough Energy, was set up. They have worked hard to deliver a first community owned renewable project (which is in fact one large and 2 smaller roof mounted PV installations). The second offer, a field PV system went live in September 2018.

Since 2019 the Council have worked with community groups to promote a pledge to reduce plastics. The Council have reviewed their own use of single use plastics and have acted to remove plastic cups at drinking fountains, which was the only outstanding use of single use plastic. The council has also supported the community groups to promote this pledge locally.

## **Ensuring our Communities and Places are Resilient to the Possible Impacts of Climate Change**

Harborough District Council has worked to establish robust emergency procedures, for example in relation to flooding. There is a resilience forum that includes emergency services and other partners in the area. The resilience forum has worked well as evidenced in the response to various incidences of flooding particularly in Market Harborough.

Harborough District Council has an excellent working relationship with the parish councils. There is a regular annual meeting, with opportunities for Parish Councils to engage with many different aspects of operations. Parishes have been encouraged and supported in the development of emergency plans. Eighteen parishes have prepared plans and another eight are in preparation. These emergency plans ensure that key people in the parish are aware of locations of emergency kit, procedures and can identify vulnerable people in their parish.

Parishes are also encouraged to engage with Neighbourhood Planning, which allows local communities to shape the future growth of their local area. There are 25 “made” plans, with a further 11 in progress. Many of the neighbourhood plans have identified issues around low carbon design, biodiversity and renewable energy.

Harborough District Council has good working partnerships with both the Welland River Trust and Soar Catchment Partnership, as well as the partnership for the Grand Union Canal. The re-naturalisation of the River Welland through Market Harborough has been completed in 2015. This project re-configured the channel of the Welland through the town and included additional wildflower planting to improve the habitat for different species. The Project has been a great success, with an increase in wildlife (including otters) and plant species. The Welland River Trust are also working with farmers in the upper Welland catchment to reduce the run-off from agricultural land. The Soar Catchment partnership has worked on improving water quality in the Willow brook Catchment near Thurnby and Bushby. This has included citizen science, with local groups engaging in monitoring parts of the brook and arranging litter picks etc.

The council's new Local Plan has been adopted. Policies for addressing climate change are included ensuring a low carbon and resilient design is considered in new development. In addition, the council is in the process of procuring new leisure facilities and reducing carbon emissions have become an important aspect of any contract. The Council has also built some new housing on small sites that it owns. These have been built to a high energy efficiency standard and deliberately used local businesses to reduce the impact of travelling. The new business "Harborough Grow on Centre" for local small businesses to grow has been designed to meet BREEAM excellent and was completed in 2019

### Key opportunities for the Action Plan

The following areas have been identified as having the greatest potential for action of climate change in Harborough District

- Political leadership through declaring a Climate Emergency and signing the Public Sector Carbon Pledge
- Working in partnership on the development of Establish a Local Sustainable Food Plan
- Work with the Environment Agency on a natural flood management pilot in the upper Soar.
- Procurement of new property and services
- Promoting uptake of domestic energy efficiency measures
- Increase the public availability of EV charging points across the district
- Embed consideration of carbon reduction in all Council operations and decision-making principles

# **Harborough District Council**

## **Climate emergency Action Plan**

### **2022 to 2030**

#### **Harborough District Council Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 to 2030**

Harborough District Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019, recognising that there is a need for urgent action to reduce emissions and to ensure that communities are prepared and resilient to the effects of climate change. The Council has committed to reducing its own emission to net zero, as far as practically possible, by 2030.

The Council has identified six key commitments where the Council can act:

1. The Council commits to demonstrate political and corporate leadership in acting on climate change
2. The Council commits to managing its own assets and services, with the aim of reducing carbon emission to net zero by 2030, as far as practical
3. The Council commits to working with residents and communities to support their actions in reducing emissions and help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change
4. The Council commits to working with businesses to support their actions in reducing emissions and help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change
5. The Council commits to ensuring that new development is designed to mitigate emissions and be resilient to the impacts of climate change
6. The Council commits to working in partnership to promote resilient natural systems that will help to reduce the impacts of climate change.

**Commitment 1: Demonstrate political and corporate leadership in acting on climate change.**

<b>Specific action</b>	<b>Measure and Progress to date</b>	<b>Future actions</b>
<p>Climate Change will be the specific responsibility of one lead cabinet member, but will be part of the corporate responsibility of all teams</p>	<p>The Environment Portfolio holder is the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change, although the cross-cutting nature is recognised.</p> <p>The Environment Co-ordinator is responsible for coordinating action on climate change and sits in Regulatory Services and works closely with strategic planning team, Corporate Assets and Health and Wellbeing Partnership.</p> <p>A multi-disciplinary officer working group has been established which meets regularly</p> <p>A cross party member working group was established to support the development of the action plan</p> <p>Environmental impacts are now considered in all council business.</p>	<p>The Cabinet will be delegated to lead on delivery of the Climate Action Plan. The Portfolio holder will be the lead member for reporting to Council.</p> <p>There will be an annual report to on progress.</p> <p>A detailed 1-to-3-year delivery plan will identify specific costed actions across the council. This plan will be updated annually.</p> <p>Carbon literacy on-line training will be rolled out to members and staff.</p>
<p>Communication plan will include communicating the progress of reducing carbon emission and becoming resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Climate change has specific webpages and communications across different media are being continually developed, including links to key environmental awareness days.</p>	<p>The Council will collate the emissions across the district, highlighting the areas where most action is needed and publish it on our website.</p> <p>The Council will further develop a communications plan, which will include specific actions to raise awareness of climate change and potential actions for communities and businesses and will layout the engagement with residents, parishes, local groups and businesses</p>

<p>The progress on reducing emissions will be monitored and reported annually</p>	<p>An annual Progress Report on Climate Change has been published on the website since 2015/16, as part of the commitment under Climate Local. It includes information on projects undertaken.</p> <p>An annual Inventory of emissions is published annually.</p> <p>Social media and newsletters are used for specific campaigns</p>	<p>The Council will report annually on the emissions from the Council's buildings and services and publish the information on its website.</p> <p>The Council will also report annually on progress on delivery against this action plan.</p>
<p>Leading by example</p>	<p>six electrical vehicle charging points have been introduced across the district in Council public car parks. An additional 10 units are to be installed in 2021/22.</p> <p>The Council has taken the lead on the Business Rates Pool bid to install further electrical charging hubs across the County in each district locality.</p>	<p>The Council will join initiatives such as UK100 and work in partnership with Local Government groups to promote good practice.</p> <p>The Council will continue to review its own activities and look for carbon savings and biodiversity improvements. As part of this the Council will implement agile working.</p> <p>The Council will continue to investigate potential projects and seek funding to showcase innovative approaches to reducing emissions and improving resilience to climate change.</p>
<p>Harborough District Council (HDC) as a statutory authority will lobby National Government to encourage it to tangibly adopt a low carbon agenda</p>		<p>The Council will work with Local Government Bodies to ensure that climate change and local action is recognised by national government as an important way to reduce emissions and promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Links with local MPs continue to be strengthened.</p>



**Commitment 2: Manage assets and services to reduce carbon emission to net zero by 2030, as far as practical.**

Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Future actions
<p>Ensure Council owned or managed buildings and services are continually monitored for energy and water usage and improvements are undertaken appropriately</p>	<p>All buildings are monitored quarterly and monthly, with some more detailed monitoring in specific buildings. Scope 1 and 2 emissions have reduced by over 40% since the baseline in 2008.</p> <p>Waste services have procured Euro VI vehicles and include driver training and monitoring to reduce fuel use</p>	<p>The Council will survey council assets to inform the work required to meet carbon neutrality and include the information in the Corporate Assets Strategy.</p> <p>The Council will ensure that new projects would include whole life cost assessments as part of the procurement process.</p>
<p>Encourage Staff and members use resources efficiently</p>	<p>Single use plastics have been reduced and reusable or recyclable products are used for promotions</p>	<p>The Council audit of processes will identify opportunities for reductions, including move to paperless processes, reduced staff mileage, etc.</p> <p>Green Travel Plan will encourage staff to use sustainable travel, including walking and cycling. Active travel will also reduce the risk of transmission of C19.</p>
<p>Environmental implications are embedded in all Council actions and activities</p>	<p>Climate emergency and biodiversity implications are included on all committee report templates.</p>	<p>The Council will review the Council priorities to reflect the commitments made by declaring a climate emergency.</p> <p>The Council will include an assessment of Climate Change in the review of all policies and strategies, including an assessment of cost and technology implications.</p>
<p>Procurement processes will incorporate specific requirements to ensure that any service or product will minimise emissions and environmental impacts</p>	<p>Recent HDC building projects have delivered buildings built to high environmental standards.</p> <p>The Move on Space, for example was built to BREEAM “Excellent”.</p>	<p>The Council will include whole life costs and impacts as part of the procurement review, with specific clauses to be included in tenders to reduce emissions and improve resilience. This would include, for example, recruitment, waste and leisure services, as well as construction projects.</p>

**Commitment 3: work with residents and communities to help them reduce their emissions and improve their resilience to climate change**

Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Future actions
Encourage the uptake of all schemes promoting energy efficiency to residents	Since 2018, the Council, working with Harborough Energy has helped over 1000 homes with energy efficiency measures (loft and cavity wall) saving over 31,000T of CO <sub>2</sub> over 20 years.	<p>The Council will work proactively to access funding and projects to deliver energy efficiency savings for eligible residents. This will include an up-to-date Statement of Intent on Flexible eligibility (LA Flex) for accessing ECO funding.</p> <p>The Council will continue to work with partners to access funding for whole house retrofit where available for both social and private housing accommodation.</p>
Support vulnerable people in fuel poverty.	<p>The Council has adopted a Statement of Intent on flexible eligibility (LA Flex), which has ensured that residents in need can more easily access funding for free loft and Cavity wall insulation.</p> <p>Partnership with Public health through First Contact Plus and the Npower Help to heat project has allowed vulnerable residents to access additional support or free boiler repairs and replacement .</p> <p>The Council has taken part in a collective switching project, the Big Community Switch to facilitate switching to cheaper bills for those who are reluctant to engage with the energy market. Since October 2019 over 800 people have been supported to switch energy supplier saving an average of £200 per year.</p> <p>Lightbulb provides help with heating and bills advice to people returning from hospital or requiring home mobility upgrades.</p>	<p>The Council will work with public health and other partners to support those in fuel poverty, including with advice and access to energy efficiency works.</p> <p>The Council will continue to take part in the Big Community Switch to offer residents the opportunity to access lower bills for gas and electricity, with support to switch supplier.</p>

<p>Encourage all residents to reduce their carbon footprint</p>	<p>The Council worked with local community groups to promote the Plastics pledge with to reduce plastic waste.</p> <p>Harborough District has achieved domestic recycling rates of 45.7%, including the well-used green waste scheme.</p> <p>Harborough District is a pilot area in promoting Sustainable Food Places, with the aim of achieving bronze status.</p> <p>Engagement in ECO question time events</p>	<p>The Council will promote lower carbon lifestyles to residents through various media as covered in the communications plan.</p> <p>This will include links to carbon calculator and best practice advice.</p> <p>The Council will work to make Harborough District a Sustainable Food Place, working with partners to promote the local food economy, community food growing and reduction of food waste</p>
<p>Promote of lower carbon transport options for personal/business journeys</p>	<p>The Council has installed six public electric vehicle charging points across the district and has added charging points to Harborough Innovation Centre and theHarborough Grow on Centre. An additional 10 EV charge points to be installed in public car parks in 21-22.</p> <p>The Council has also added new cycle parking in Welland Park.</p>	<p>The Council will work closely with Leicestershire County Council and other partners to promote active travel and look for opportunities to improve facilities and infrastructure across the district, including as part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p> <p>The Council will promote additional electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support residents switching to electric vehicles.</p> <p>The Council will work in partnership with other authorities and agencies on the strategic approach to infrastructure development for electric vehicles, including workplace charging.</p> <p>The Council will investigate opportunities for promoting low carbon transport, including with taxis, through the licensing regime.</p>

<p>Investigate the opportunities for community owned low carbon electricity and heating to be retrofitted in off gas village locations</p>	<p>Harborough Energy have two community owned PV projects in the district</p>	<p>The Council will investigate opportunities for innovative approaches to reducing high monetary and environmental costs for heating homes, especially in areas of high cost such as off gas rural areas.</p>
<p>Encourage the uptake of flood warden positions and promote the Red Cross community reserve volunteer scheme</p>	<p>The Council has worked with the Resilience Partnership and has supported 13 communities to develop community emergency plans.</p> <p>Through the Local Resilience Forum the Council continues to promote community and business resilience at every opportunity</p> <p>There are 11 trained flood wardens across the district.</p>	<p>The Council with partners will work with communities to increase the resilience of those communities to the impacts of climate change, including encouraging the uptake of neighbourhood climate emergency plans.</p>

**Commitment 4: Work with business to reduce their carbon emissions and become more resilient to climate change**

Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Future actions
Encourage Local Business to reduce its impact	<p>Harborough District Council Business Waste service offers waste and recycling to 814 businesses, 769 have a general waste service, 420 have a recycling service</p> <p>The Council has promoted Green Belle grants to businesses in the district, which led to grants of over £48,000 for LED and energy efficiency measures for Harborough businesses.</p>	The Council will promote the business waste service to all Harborough businesses and signpost to grants and support for reducing emissions from buildings and transport.
Promote Local Food economy	The Council worked with Leicestershire Public Health to develop local food actions, including, supporting local grower groups and working to promote a local food offering, including through local tastings as part of events	The Council will continue investigate and develop opportunities to support the local food economy and the links to the local tourism offer.
Lead by example in good practice in workspaces	<p>Council buildings including HIC and Move on Space all have recycling containers to reduce waste.</p> <p>The Market has been used to promote low waste options, including reusable bags. Market promoting new low waste “eco” traders.</p> <p>HIC and Move on Space developed to high environmental standards (BREEAM excellent) and include provision for cycling and electric vehicle charging.</p>	The Council will showcase good practice in council buildings and services including the HIC and Harborough Grow on Centre. This will include low carbon technologies, active and low carbon travel and recycling and waste.
Work with Businesses to ensure they are able to deal with the issues raised by climate change	Through the Local Resilience Partnership, the Council will provide support and advice to local businesses to encourage greater resilience.	The Council working with partners such as the LLEP will support businesses to access support and funding to plan for the impacts of climate change.

**Commitment 5: Ensure development is designed to be low carbon and resilient to climate change.**

Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Future actions
Monitor the effectiveness of the local plan to deliver carbon emission reductions and resilience	The Local Plan includes policies to require developers to identify where they can save carbon and respond to the challenge of climate change.	The Council will continue to report on the effectiveness of the Local Plan in promoting low carbon development.  Major development will be challenged to meet the requirements of Policy CC1 through the Development Management process.
Investigate whether some inducement can be offered to developers who deliver higher standards to reduce emissions, through Section 106 or similar process		The Council, working with partners will investigate the potential for approaches to promoting low carbon design or penalising developments that do not go beyond business as usual.
Review of the Local Plan will investigate opportunities to improve the expected performance of buildings		The review of the Local Plan will include a review of the policies required to deliver low carbon design. The appropriate evidence will be gathered to support low carbon development, including low carbon buildings, promoting active travel and resilience to climate change.
Investigate opportunities for Council and partners to deliver low carbon projects	The Council has ensured that new building projects such as theHarborough Grow on Centre are low carbon exemplary development.	The Council will ensure that projects instigated by the council are built to low carbon standards and will act as a showcase for development in the district.  Design will also include consideration of reducing the risk of C19 transmission, allowing for more public space and considering the use of materials which may reduce the transmission from surfaces
Work with partners to ensure that the Strategic Growth	The Council worked with partners including Leicestershire County Council to produce joint	The Council will work closely with partners to ensure that the case for low carbon resilient design is at the heart of strategic plans.

<p>plan has low carbon resilient design at its heart</p>	<p>evidence for example for the flood risk assessment across Leicestershire</p>	
<p>Review flood risk to built-up areas and investigate resilience measures for homes businesses and communities</p>		<p>The Council will work proactively through strategic partnerships to continually assess and understand flood risk. The Council will also take all opportunities to improve resilience, again working with partners.</p>

**Commitment 6: Develop resilient natural system that ensure that the impacts of climate change are minimised**

Specific action	Progress to date	Future actions
Promote the use of natural river processes to reduce flooding	The Council has worked with partners on Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects on the Soar and Welland tributaries to hold up water on flood plains.	The Council will work with partners including the Catchment Partnerships to identify opportunities for NFM and to access funding to bring projects forward in suitable locations.
Promote greater tree planting	<p>The Council has promoted free trees to communities and working with partners, as part of the Catchment based approach trees have been planted to help retain water on the land.</p> <p>The Open Strategy includes specific standards for natural and semi natural green space. A count of 17 development sites approved/submitted since 2019 has provided the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees: 1096 planted or approved</li> <li>• Native Shrubs: 8629 planted or approved</li> <li>• Native Aquatics: 1378 planted or approved</li> </ul>	<p>The Council will continue to enforce the requirements for natural and semi natural green space which includes tree planting, laid out in the Open Space Strategy, including collection of contribution for offsite planting, where a site is too small.</p> <p>The Council will also work with Leicestershire County Council to develop the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.</p> <p>The Council will work with partners to promote opportunities for tree planting via schemes such as ELMS and as part of river catchment approaches.</p>
Ensure sustainable drainage is well designed and delivers multiple benefits on new development sites and protects sites upstream,	The Council works closely with the Lead Local Flood Authority to ensure that appropriate drainage is delivered on development sites.	The Council with partners including the Lead Local Flood Authority will promote best practice in sustainable drainage design and link this with flood resilience and biodiversity.
Ensure local green space and urban trees offer multiple benefits of cooling, biodiversity	The Council has an active tree management programme and where trees are removed a new tree is planted. The Council also regularly	The Council will continue to manage and replant trees as part of the ongoing management. The Council will also look at opportunities for trees, hedges and wildflowers as part of an ongoing assets management approach.



<p>enhancement and storage for large rainfall events</p>	<p>assesses its own sites for tree planting and wildflower meadows.</p> <p>Local Plan policies and the Open Space Strategy direct the provision of good quality open space, with good biodiversity opportunities.</p>	<p>The Council will also enforce the requirements of the Open Space Strategy through Development Management and will use S106 contributions to improve local green space.</p>
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