

Kent County Council Energy Efficiency Plan

Introduction

KCC have monitored emissions from our estate and operations since 2005.

In 2019, KCC set a Net Zero by 2030 target and developed an associated Net Zero Plan.

Between 2020 and 2025, KCC's 2030 Net Zero Plan for our estate and operations:

- Attracted over £24million of external funding to upgrade and update our estate
- Generated cumulative savings of close to £9m for the Council on fuel and utility bills
- Generated more than £1million revenue for the Council annually, through our two solar farms, and continues to do so.

Over the last five years, emissions from KCC's estate and operations reduced by 55%.

Year	KCC emissions (t CO2e)
2019-20	23,089
2024-25	10,252

Emissions are calculated from monitored energy usage as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e).

All work achieved under the banner of Net Zero has been grounded in common sense and aligned with wider Kent and Medway Economic Framework objectives. Projects have been progressed with economic viability and business resilience in mind, have supported sustainable growth alongside other strategies and policies to deliver numerous co-benefits for both the Council and residents of Kent.

Why we need a new approach

Whilst excellent progress has been made to date, the availability of government funding to invest in the projects has reduced significantly and there are serious economic and technological constraints to delivery against the 2030 timeline and achieving the additional 45% reduction in emissions (to reach Net Zero).

Moreover, Local Government Reorganisation will change what, how, and where KCC operates. This fundamental change to business needs to be considered.

We need a new approach that:

- Is consistent with KCC's new draft Strategic Statement, reforming Kent (2025-2028).

- Replaces KCC's Net Zero Plan for our estate and operations with a pragmatic approach focused on financial returns and opportunities to create additional revenue streams for the Council
- Will continue to reduce emissions where we can from our estate and operations and explore the benefits of potential savings from our service delivery and supply chain.

Key principles of the Plan

Financially focused

- Focused on financial returns and best value for money
- Investigates opportunities to create additional revenue streams
- Gives due consideration to supporting Kent businesses

Pragmatic

- Grounded in outcomes which deliver efficiency, health improvement and resilience
- Focused on what is achievable and beneficial within current economic and technological constraints
- Flexible with regular review to enable the plan to evolve with changing circumstances

Efficient

- Prioritises cost-effective measures that reduce inefficiency and improve performance
- Aligns with operational savings, productivity and public value
- Demonstrates sound and transparent business cases which encourage private sector investment and local economic growth

Solutions-led

- Deploys 'best fit' technologies for specific use cases
- Focuses on proven, scalable user-centric technologies which deliver positive outcomes to users
- Monitors performance to track progress and quantify impact

What will we do?

- ✓ Develop an annual action plan and report progress on savings (see appendix)
- ✓ Contribute to financial savings through energy efficiency and low carbon solutions as part of blended business cases
- ✓ Investigate opportunities to create additional revenue streams from our estates and assets
- ✓ Improve KCC's energy security by exploring and assessing the economic viability of energy generation projects for our estate and EV charge points for our fleet
- ✓ Work towards improved efficiency of our service delivery and supply chain

- ✓ Assess and apply for external funding opportunities (public and private sector)
- ✓ Continue to monitor and report on our energy consumption and emissions.
- ✓ Collaborate with Districts and Boroughs on place-based projects.

Reporting

Reporting will include both financial and emissions.

Emissions remain a [Key Performance Indicator](#) for the Council, and a key principle underpinning our [Asset Strategy](#) alongside objectives such as value for money and efficiency.

Why report on emissions?

KCC has reported carbon dioxide emissions equivalent (tCO₂e) from our estate and operations since 2005. Continued tracking of our emissions allows KCC to:

- Identify hotspots requiring operational efficiency improvement using a consistent metric which is unaffected by price volatility and inflation
- Attract funding and investment for estate and operational upgrades
- Understand our environmental impact, encourage our suppliers to do the same
- Prepare for and meet any regulatory requirements
- Maintain our ISO14001 accreditation

We will continue to report:

- Emissions from heating our buildings and fuelling our fleet (Scope 1)
- Emissions from electricity we purchase (Scope 2)

Anything else?

- KCC's service delivery and supply chain (Scope 3) represent a much larger proportion of emissions (and spend) than Scopes 1 and 2. This includes emissions arising from all KCC activities including, but not limited to commissioned contracts, maintained schools, highways, and transfer and disposal of the county's waste. To date, we have only considered business miles and waste from our estate and operations within our Scope 3 reporting. Given the complexity of Scope 3, we will report on this separately.

Appendix

All projects progressed in line with key principles of this energy efficiency plan:

- Financially focused
- Pragmatic
- Efficient
- Solutions-led

2026 Action Plan

Fleet

Fleet optimisation

Funded through existing budgets spend money differently

- Explore and develop business needs to maintain a future ready fleet whilst optimising costs, which will likely involve a mix of technologies.
- Develop business case that sets out options to optimise the fleet.
- Improve fleet mileage visibility and reporting across KCC.

Grey fleet (Business miles)

Funded through existing budgets spend money differently

- Evaluate potential ways to enable staff to transition to more fuel-efficient vehicles which are suited to specific service requirements.
- Develop a policy to reduce reliance on personal vehicles for work purposes.
- Monitor mileage and emissions from grey fleet usage.

Assess KCC estate for EV charge point potential for revenue generation and to support valid operational need

Invest to save

- Assess KCC estate for EV charge point potential.
- Collect fleet data from strategic sites to understand any requirements for replacement.
- Assess kVA capacity and grid constraints at priority locations.
- Develop business cases for charge point infrastructure.
- Develop business case for charging-as-a-service.
- Explore smart charging and vehicle-to-grid technologies.

Estate

Solar rooftop PV

Existing funding

- Develop a KCC Solar policy
- Deliver Solar rooftop PV on KCC buildings.
- Continue to develop the Solar PV pipeline, identifying additional buildings with high solar potential.

LED lighting upgrade

BAU

- Deliver LED replacement in sites that are running old, non-efficient lighting.
- Continue to develop an LED pipeline identifying additional buildings with inefficient lighting.

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| Heat decarbonisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop building-by-building plans based on existing Heat Decarbonisation Plans. |
| <i>External funding to be sought</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop business cases to be 'investor ready'. |

Funding & finance

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| Funding opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate opportunities to create additional revenue streams. • Apply for relevant funding. |
| Green finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the development of KCC's Green Finance Strategy. • Develop business cases for energy efficiency projects. |

Governance and monitoring

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| Data and reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update data reporting and potentially redefine our 'operational boundary'. • Implement an improved emissions reporting process. |
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