

Date 19/09/22	Classification Public	Committee Place Scrutiny Committee
From Cabinet Member for Environment and Civic Pride		Title Of Report Climate Change Annual Report
THIS REPORT IS OF INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS		

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Redbridge Council's Climate Change Action Plan sets out the organisation's ambitions in becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050. The document contains 114 commitments that key services across the Council aim to deliver over the next 3 years. The commitments focus on actions that aim to have the most significant impact on reducing emissions that are within the organisation's direct control whilst also outlining the Council's ambition in becoming a community leader on climate change and influencing borough wide emission reductions.
- 1.2. When publishing the plan, the Council committed to providing an annual report to the Place Scrutiny Committee which provides details on the organisation's progress for each of the commitments in the action plan and provides analysis of the latest data on the organisation's carbon emissions estimates.
- 1.3. The report and appendix provide a comprehensive overview of the Council's performance in the first year of the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to: -

- 2.1. Discuss the annual report and the attached appendix, which outline the progress made on the Climate Change Action Plan 2021-24 in the first year of delivery.
- 2.2. Review the full performance report summarised in section 5.

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3. CLIMATE CHANGE IN REDBRIDGE:

- 3.1. We are in the midst of a climate emergency – as evidenced by the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and rising global temperatures. The scientific evidence is incontrovertible, and we cannot afford not to act.
- 3.2. Public sector organisations across the country have identified the strong correlation between addressing the impacts of climate change and improving the lives of the most deprived. Historic racial, gender and economic inequalities have resulted in poor and marginalised groups being disproportionately affected by adverse weather events and shifting weather patterns.
- 3.3. Redbridge Council understands the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change locally and unanimously passed a climate emergency declaration at a meeting of the Full Council in June 2019.
- 3.4. Following the emergency declaration, the organisation kicked off an extensive development process including a cross party corporate panel which made recommendations to coproduce a Climate Change Action Plan. The plan, launched in July 2021, contains 114 commitments that key services across the Council aim to deliver over the next 3 years. The action plan marks the start of the organisation's journey in becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050. The commitments focus on actions that will have the most significant impact on reducing emissions that are within the organisation's direct control whilst also outlining the Council's ambition to be a community leader on climate change and influencing borough wide emission reductions. A summary of the Council's performance in delivering against the action plan is provided in section 4.
- 3.5. The Council has taken steps to embed the climate change agenda into the values and principles of the organisation by ensuring that the new Corporate Strategy features a significant programme of work to address this area. Underpinning the Corporate Strategy, the Council has developed and implemented several other key policies and strategies which complement the work of the Climate Change Action Plan and further promote the protection of the environment, including:
 - The Corporate Strategy (2022-26)
 - Our Streets Strategy (2017-22)
 - Green Urban Landscape Policy (GULP) (2021-24)
 - The Redbridge Local Plan (2015-2030)
 - Waste Reduction Strategy (2020)
 - Redbridge Housing Strategy (2017-2022)
 - The Growth Commission (2021)
 - Sustainable Transport Strategy (*Under Development*)
 - Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) (*Under Development*)

4. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR:

- 4.1. The Council has made considerable progress over the past year in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan and the collective efforts of service areas across the organisation have resulted in a total carbon saving of 6,692 tCO₂e. The following

paragraphs highlight some of the key actions achieved under each category in the Climate Change Action Plan.

- 4.2. Full details of the reported progress for all of the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan, are available in **Appendix A**.

Property and Energy

Procurement of Green Energy:

- 4.3. All buildings in the Corporate Estate, Vision Estate, and controlled elements of the HRA Housing Stock have been switched over to a green electricity tariff.
- 4.4. This utility program means that the majority of the energy that the organisation uses will have been generated from a verified renewable energy source through energy programmes such as wind farms and hydroelectric power stations.
- 4.5. The Council entered into an agreement with the energy procurement partner LASER Energy who have extensive experience in supporting public sector organisations in green energy procurement.
- 4.6. This action is significant and has the potential to produce future carbon savings of up to 3,728 tCO₂e annually which will support the Council on its journey to carbon neutrality.

Launching the Redbridge Go Green Grants Programme:

- 4.7. The Council's Community Protection & Licensing team launched the Redbridge Go Green Grants programme in March 2021 to support low-income households to retrofit their properties with energy efficiency measures to improve the EPC rating of approximately 250 buildings to EPC C.
- 4.8. A total of £1.7m of funding was secured through a successful application to the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) Green Homes Grants scheme. The scheme is also part funded by the government's local authority delivery element, LAD Delivery Phase 1B.
- 4.9. The Redbridge Go Green Grant scheme has recently been extended to the end of August 2022 and the Council has received 315 applications which have been assessed and referred to the organisation's delivery partner.
- 4.10. The work of the Redbridge Go Green Grants team has been cited as best practice and recently the team were nominated for an award at the Sustainable City Awards under the category of Organisational Changemaker of the Year.

Green Requirements for Developers:

- 4.11. The Council's Planning Service are continuing to work with developers to ensure that major building developments within the borough have desired green requirements written into the Heads of Terms of S106 agreements/planning conditions.
- 4.12. For example, the Planning Service are requiring developers to include the provision of solar panels, provision of renewable heat energy heat sources, carbon offset payments, "Be Seen" monitoring requirements, circular economy statements,

whole life cycle carbon assessments and climate impact assessments in all new major development proposals.

Cleaner Journeys

Expanding the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ):

- 4.13. The Council worked closely with the Transport for London (TfL) to support the expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to create a single, larger zone up to the North Circular (A406) and South Circular Road (A205).
- 4.14. The expanded zone came into force on Monday 25th October 2021 and covers western areas of the borough including South Woodford, Snaresbrook, Wanstead and Aldersbrook.
- 4.15. The introduction of the ULEZ has had a positive impact on the health of our residents as the air quality in the local area has already improved as fewer cars have passed through areas that fall within the protected zone.

Increasing the Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points:

- 4.16. The Council has continued to increase the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) in Redbridge and currently there are around 60 sites at various locations across the borough and a charging hub has also been implemented in South Woodford.
- 4.17. The Council will continue to expand this provision over the coming months and has received two significant sources of external funding that are expected to significantly increase the total number of EV charging points in the borough to around 600 by the end of 2022/23.

Improving the Local Cycling Offer:

- 4.18. The Council has achieved significant progress in improving the local cycling provision as the organisation has recently completed four new segregated cycle lanes. This work programme will introduce over 9km of segregated cycling in the borough.
- 4.19. In addition, the Council has improved access to cycle parking for our residents as the organisation has implemented over 20 on street cycle hangers and over 100 cycle racks in various locations.

Introducing more 'School Streets':

- 4.20. The Council has been rolling out the school streets programme to schools across the borough. In September 2021, the Council successfully implemented a further 4 school street schemes which increased the total number of schools participating in the programme to 7 schools.
- 4.21. The Council has received a further £195,000 from the local government body, Transport for London (TfL), in order to expand this programme.
- 4.22. The Council plan to carry out consultation exercises for an additional 5 schools in the borough in June/July for possible implementation later in the year, with a further consultation phase planned for 22/23.

Waste

Rolling out the wheelie-bin and red bag schemes:

- 4.23. The Council expanded the wheelie-bin scheme across the borough and containerisation was introduced to roughly 85,000 properties between March - May 2021.

Increasing the Recycling Offer in the Borough:

- 4.24. In September 2021 plastic food pots, tubs, and trays (PTT) were added to the range of recyclable materials collected in the borough, and this provision will be explored further during the procurement process for the Council's new contract.
- 4.25. There is an unlimited allowance of recycling boxes for households and the Council are already seeing a significant percentage increase in recycling rates and reduction in overall volumes of waste collected – both developments which are positive for the environment and climate.

Developing a Recycling Improvement Plan for the Borough:

- 4.26. The Council developed a recycling improvement plan for the borough in 2021. The document will be a live and ever evolving document that is amended as and when updates filter through from the relevant governing bodies such as Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and WRAP etc.

Procurement and Investments

Greening the Council's Procurement Strategy:

- 4.27. The Council's Resources Directorate have embedded the climate change agenda and sustainable purchasing within the Council's updated Procurement Strategy. This action was approved by members in July 2021.

Refocusing the Investment Strategy of the Pension Fund Committee:

- 4.28. The Council's Pension Fund Committee have implemented a strategy that switched 50% of the investments in index-tracking units into Low Carbon Equity units. Also, another change within the strategy is to invest in Infrastructure which has invested in green projects such as solar energy.
- 4.29. The Fund's investment advisers have calculated that the changes in the investment strategy have reduced the Pension Fund's overall carbon footprint by 31% in just over eighteen months to March 2021.
- 4.30. The investment advisers have agreed to provide periodic updates on the fund's overall carbon footprint as the investment strategy develops.

Promoting the Climate Change Agenda at the Strategic Commissioning Board:

- 4.31. The Council carried out a scoping exercise to determine the appropriate approach in encouraging the consideration of the climate crisis at the Strategic Commissioning Board (SCB).
- 4.32. Now where relevant, the impact on tackling climate change is discussed for procurement projects at SCB and Procurement staff are now using the Local Government Authority's (LGA) sustainable procurement toolkit. Also, the SCB report now contains questions around sustainability and attention to the climate crisis and a specific question that is currently being used focuses on environmental sustainability.

- 4.33. SCB will use the findings from the Council's Climate Change Action Plan and any additional information produced to provide further direction and focus in this area.

Enabling Others

Adopting a Child-friendly Approach for the Climate Emergency:

- 4.34. The Council's UNICEF Child Friendly Action Plan covers the next three years and includes a focus on Place, which includes the climate crisis. This will ensure that the voice of children and young people is at the heart of the borough's response in tackling the climate emergency.
- 4.35. The following child-friendly activities are now underway:
- Highways are working with Unicef UK to plan the engagement with children and young people around the School Streets programme for the next school year.
 - The Planning service are working with young people including the Child Friendly Redbridge Ambassadors to co-design what new developments will look like. A recurring theme from young people has been around the sustainability of sites and the inclusion of greenery and green spaces.

Incorporating the Climate Change Agenda in the Council's Corporate Strategy:

- 4.36. The Council has taken steps to embed the climate change agenda into the values and principles of the organisation by ensuring that the new Corporate Strategy features a significant programme of work to address this area.
- 4.37. The new strategy was agreed by Cabinet in July 2022 and the document outlines the key priorities for the Council in the next four years.

Launching a Climate Change Hub:

- 4.38. The Council has created a Climate Change Hub on the organisation's external website which will be regularly reviewed by the Council's Policy, Equalities and Communities team.
- 4.39. This online offer will enable residents and local groups to access up to date information and materials on topics such as: information on green grants, lifestyle changes, understanding carbon emissions and local community activities they can get involved in.

5. EXCEPTIONS REPORT:

End of year summary

- 5.1. The Council formed the Climate Crisis Monitoring Network which is an operational group that meets on a quarterly basis to scrutinise and monitor the performance of each service area that shares accountability in the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan.
- 5.2. The network requests updates and RAG ratings from key officers in service areas which are directly responsible for the delivery of commitments in the action plan. The Policy team produce quarterly reports using the submitted responses to provide a comprehensive overview of the Council's progress in delivering the action plan. Senior managers are sighted on the responses and gradings provided to ensure that the progress reports are accurate and fair.

5.3. The following table provides a summary on the progress of all of the commitments by Directorate:

Directorate	Red	Amber	Green	Blue	N/A	Total
Regeneration and Culture	-	7	33	3	-	43
Communities	3	9	23	16	-	51
Strategy	-	-	6	2	-	8
Resources	-	4	3	1	3	11
People	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	3	20	66	22	3	114

5.4. The following RAG rating system is used by all of the different service areas:

- **Blue** – all actions relating to the commitment have been completed.
- **Green** – actions to deliver the commitment are progressing on schedule.
- **Amber** – the service area is experiencing minor challenges in delivering the commitment and may not meet the agreed deadline.
- **Red** – the service area is experiencing major challenges in delivering the commitment and the agreed deadline will need to be adjusted and further mitigations planned.
- **Grey** - the commitment cannot be graded as the actions are long-term ambitions and have an inter-dependency on other commitments to be completed first.

5.5. Services have experienced an increased demand whilst supporting residents through the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and current cost of living crisis which has seen increased inflationary pressures. However, the Council is on track to deliver a further 66 commitments (57.9%) in line with the agreed deadlines of the action plan despite the added pressures of the current financial climate.

5.6. The organisation has delivered on 22 commitments in the first year of the Climate Change Action Plan which amounts to 19.3% of all commitments made.

5.7. The organisation has achieved progress on key projects that have significantly contributed towards the Council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.

5.8. There are 3 commitments in the action plan which face major challenges in their delivery and the progress report for each of these commitments are provided in the table below.

5.9. There are a further 20 commitments which face minor challenges in their delivery and may require deadlines to be adjusted. Full details of the reported progress for all commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan are available in **Appendix A**.

Commitments which face major challenges:

5.10. The following table provides the latest progress reports and planned mitigations for the 3 commitments which are facing major challenges in their delivery.

Commitment No. 16	<i>Improve the energy efficiency of the HRA stock through improved roof insulation and cavity filling</i>
Timescale	June 2021
Progress Update	<p>The Council understands the importance of improving the energy efficiency of the HRA stock through simple measures such as improving the level of roof insulation and cavity filling. A major investment will be required to fulfil this commitment and so colleagues in Housing have been researching grant funding opportunities that may provide valuable financial support to the organisation.</p> <p>The Housing Service have provided stock data to several companies following the signing of an NDA. One company is reviewing the submitted stock with the Retrofit assessor team. Once this assessment has been carried out, LBR will be provided with a report showing recommended measures, funding we can obtain for the retrofit work and the overall cost for the Council.</p> <p>The current target date needs to be adjusted and a further data exercise will need to be carried out in order to fulfil this commitment.</p>
Commitment No. 22	<i>Undertake a stock condition survey to understand the EPC rating of the Council's housing.</i>
Timescale	December 2021
Progress Update	Redbridge Council completed a general stock condition survey in 2021, however the survey did not specifically cover EPC ratings. The Council have recently appointed an Asset Management Consultant to provide further data on this however the current target date will need to be adjusted and a further exploration carried out.
Commitment No. 23	<i>Through retrofit projects, bring a further 5% of housing stock up to EPC C each year.</i>
Timescale	March 2022
Progress Update	The Council understands the importance of improving the energy efficiency of the organisation's housing stock through retrofit projects. The Council has carried out research to evaluate case studies and organise the required financial modelling against the 9 popular retrofit measures. This work programme will require a significant investment of between £3-£25k per unit provided that the organisation's retrofit action is restricted to 3 measures over the next 2 years. The current target date will need to be adjusted and a further exploration carried out.

6. CARBON EMISSIONS PROGRESS

- 6.1. The Council is committed to reporting on the organisation's carbon emissions to the Place Scrutiny Committee following the end of each year in the delivery phase of the Climate Change Action Plan.
- 6.2. The Council commissioned Eunomia to carry out a green audit of the organisation so that the Council was provided with an understanding of the scale and source of the organisation's greenhouse gas emissions. Eunomia worked closely with officers across the Council to provide an accurate assessment of the organisation's baseline emissions in 2019 and the Council also received a carefully calibrated

monitoring tool that would enable officers to calculate carbon emissions estimates in future years.

6.3. The monitoring tool provides estimates for the Council's carbon emission estimates in three main areas:

- **Scope 1** - Emissions generated directly via Redbridge's owned and operated assets. This includes fuel used by the Redbridge vehicle fleet (petrol and diesel), and fuel used to heat the Corporate Estate and Vision Estate buildings.
- **Scope 2** – Electricity consumed in the Corporate Estate, Vision estate, communal areas of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) buildings, and street lighting.
- **Scope 3** – Other indirect carbon emissions associated with Redbridge's operations such as the emissions associated with the organisation's procurement activities.

Following the end of the first year in the Delivery Phase of the Climate Change Action Plan, the Council has already experienced reductions in the organisation's overall emissions and the following charts highlight some of the progress achieved.

Full breakdown of emissions by scope

6.4. The charts below provide a full breakdown of the Council's 2019 baseline emissions and the Council's emissions estimates for the 2021 calendar year.

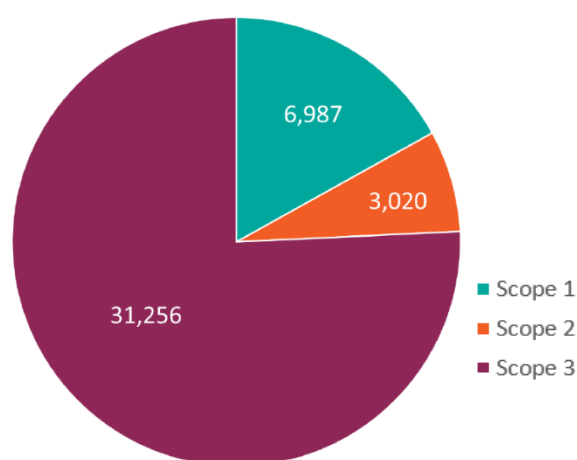


Figure 1: London Borough of Redbridge Council 2019 baseline emissions by scope - tonnes CO2e

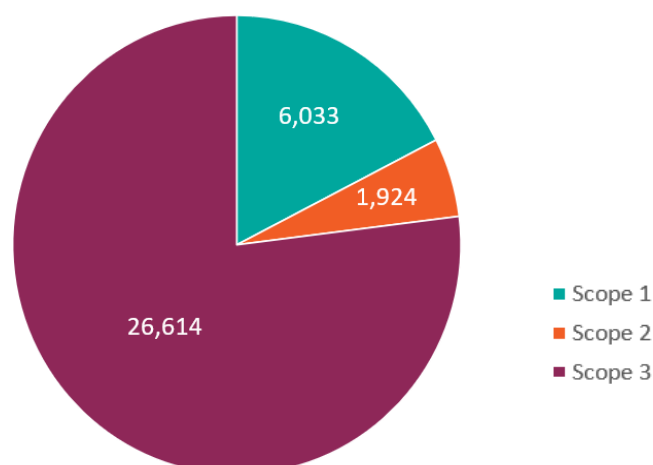


Figure 2: London Borough of Redbridge Council 2021 emissions by scope - tonnes CO2e

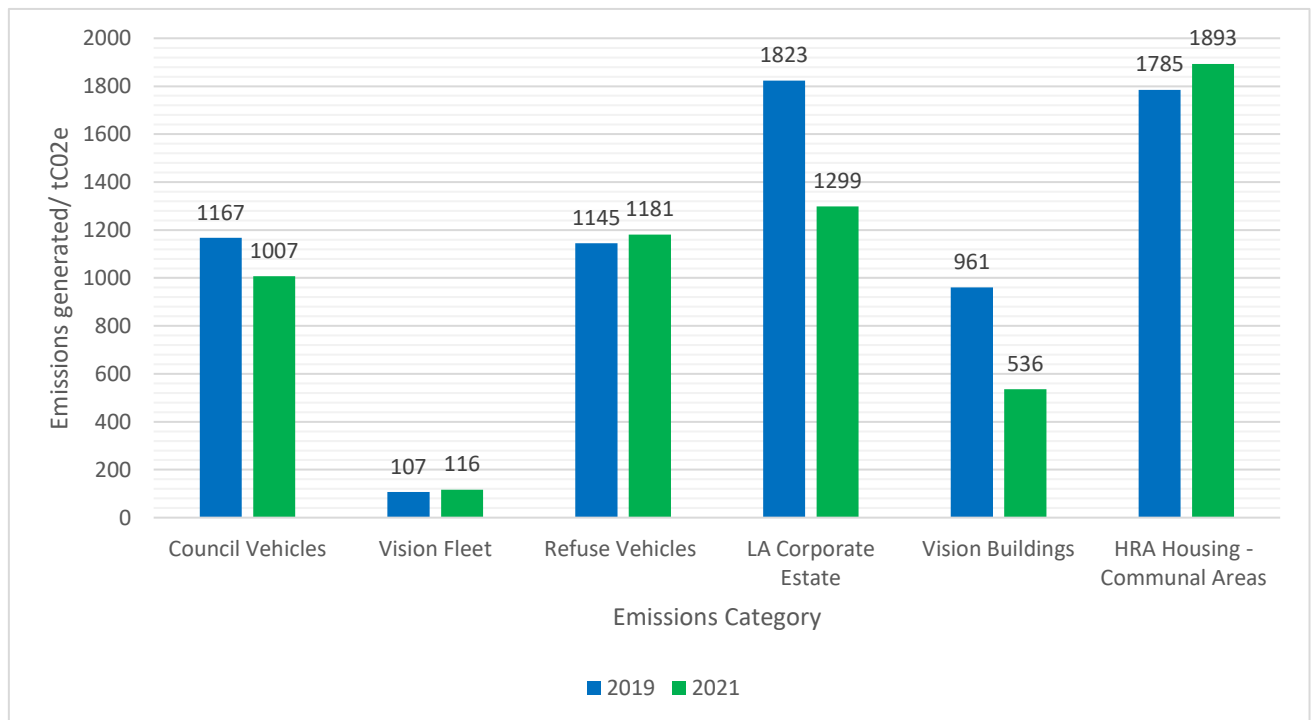
6.5. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions estimate for all 3 scopes totalled 41,263 tCO2e and the organisation's direct scope 1 and 2 emissions totalled 10,007 tCO2e.

6.6. Figure 2 shows that the emissions estimate for the 2021 calendar year for all 3 scopes totalled 34,571 tCO2e which is an overall reduction of 6,692 tCO2e that is the equivalent of 16.2%. In addition, the Council's direct scope 1 and 2 emissions estimates for the 2021 calendar year totalled 7,957 tCO2e which is an overall reduction of 2,050 tCO2e which represents a significant reduction of 20.5%.

6.7. Overall, when compared to the baseline emissions data, the Council has seen reductions in carbon emissions in all three scopes as scope 1 emissions have reduced by 13.7% (-954 tCO₂e), scope 2 emissions have reduced by 36.3% (-1,096 tCO₂e) and scope 3 emissions have reduced by 14.9% (-4,642 tCO₂e).

Breakdown of emissions generated by council vehicles and buildings

6.8. The following charts provide a full breakdown of the emissions generated by Council vehicles and buildings, with figure 3 displaying the Council's scope 1 emissions estimates and figure 4 showing the Council's scope 2 emissions estimates.



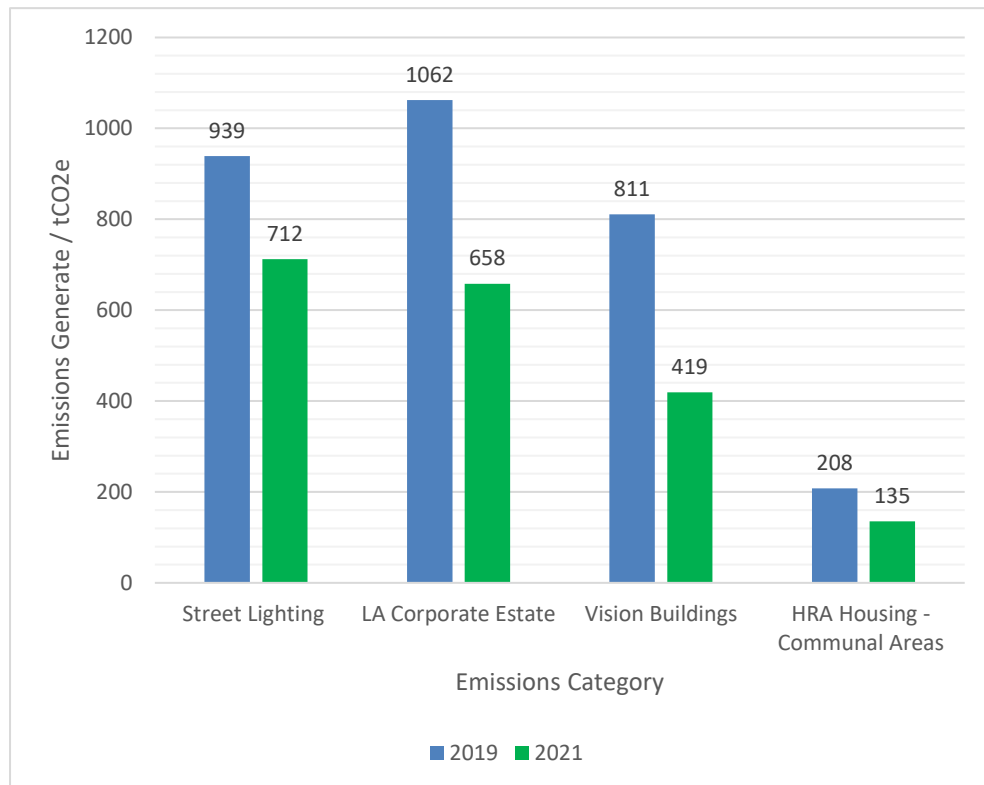


Figure 4: London Borough of Redbridge scope 2 emissions estimates for the 2019 baseline assessment and the 2021 calendar year emissions estimates - tonnes CO₂e

- 6.9. As illustrated in the charts above, the Council has already achieved significant reductions in both scope 1 and 2 emissions which are a direct result of the organisation's actions.
- 6.10. The emissions category which displayed the largest reduction in the total volume of tonnes of CO₂ produced by the Council were the emissions produced by the Corporate Estate. The 2019 baseline emission estimates for this emissions category were estimated to be 1,823 tCO₂e for scope 1 emissions and 1,062 tCO₂e for scope 2 emissions which totalled 2,885 tCO₂e. However, in the latest 2021 calculations, scope 1 emissions decreased to 1,299 tCO₂e which is a reduction of 524 tCO₂e (-28.7%), scope 2 emissions were estimated to be 658 tCO₂e which is a reduction of 404 tCO₂e (-38.0%), and the total scope 1 and 2 emissions for this subcategory measured in at 1,957 tCO₂e which is an overall reduction of 928 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 32.3%.
- 6.11. The emissions category which experienced the largest proportional reduction after the first year of the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan related to the emissions produced by the Vision Estate. The 2019 baseline emission estimates for this emissions category were estimated to be 961 tCO₂e for scope 1 emissions and 811 tCO₂e for scope 2 emissions which totalled 1,772 tCO₂e. However, in the latest 2021 calculations, scope 1 emissions decreased to 536 tCO₂e which is a reduction of 425 tCO₂e (-44.2%), scope 2 emissions were estimated to be 419 tCO₂e which is a reduction of 392 tCO₂e (-48.3%), and the total scope 1 and 2 emissions for this subcategory measured in at 955 tCO₂e which is an overall reduction of 817 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 46.1%.

- 6.12. Several other subcategories of emissions experienced reductions in their carbon estimates for the latest calendar year when compared to their baseline figures. For example, the carbon estimates for the Street Lighting programmes which the Council provided reduced by 24.2% (-227 tCO₂e) and the emission produced directly by Council vehicles reduced by 13.7% (160tCO₂e).
- 6.13. The Council did see a slight increase in scope 1 emissions produced by the 'Refuse vehicles' and the 'Vision fleet' sub-categories, however officers have confirmed that the cause of this increase is a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to protect frontline staff, social distancing measures were implemented which meant that services used an increased number of vehicles to perform their duties with fewer staff in each vehicle, and this measure subsequently resulted in a greater amount of fuel being consumed by the two fleets.
- 6.14. The Council did also note an increase in the scope 1 emissions for the 'HRA Housing – Communal Areas' sub-category and this change can also be attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic. The properties covered in the consumption data include a wide range of properties such as sheltered housing units, hostels, and flat blocks. Covid-19 restrictions and overall changes in lifestyles resulted in residents staying indoors in their properties more often which subsequently increased the level of gas consumption used to heat these buildings.

7. FUTURE PLANS AND AMBITIONS:

- 7.1. The Council recognises that innovative and creative solutions will be needed to ensure that the organisation can effectively meet the challenge of the climate emergency.
- 7.2. The Climate Crisis Monitoring Network regularly share details of any ambitious and ground-breaking green projects and initiatives that officers may already be involved with or may have discovered through service specific networks in a bid to promote collaboration amongst the network and enable the organisation to access additional funding opportunities.
- 7.3. The following paragraphs contain details of some of the projects which are currently being explored by the Council.

7.4. Solar Powered Vehicle Trial:

- The Council have partnered with the UK based company Trailar (subsidiary of DHL) to install solar panels on 25 vehicles in the organisation's fleet.
- The vehicles included in the trial will cover a diverse range of vehicle types such as: mechanical brooms, dustcarts, minibuses, and small ridged lorries.
- Trailar have pioneered the fitment of solar panels to vehicles either from new or as retrospective refits, and the technology has been fitted to buses operated by Go-Ahead and Stagecoach, as well as vehicles operated by Currys and the Royal Mail.
- The product works by installing 3mm thick solar panels on the roof of the vehicle which depending on the size of the vehicle dictates the number of panels which can be fitted.

- The harvested energy from the solar panels is used to power all on board ancillary equipment reducing the requirement from the vehicle's alternator.
- Trailar anticipate that the Council will receive a return on the organisation's investment within 1 to 2 years, however this does vary by what work the vehicle does as well as the price of fuel.
- In addition, the solar panels come with a full back-office suite of telematics which can demonstrate the usage of the vehicle and the fuel savings from using the solar panels.

7.5. Eco Schools in Redbridge

- Redbridge Council will be match funding 8 schools in the borough to apply for the 'Eco Schools' programme in the next academic year.
- Eco-Schools is the largest global sustainable schools programme and provides a seven-step framework that puts young people at the centre of environmental action.
- Thousands of schools around the world are taking part in the programme and the framework enables schools to introduce, manage and complete environmental actions in their organisation and local community.
- Promoting this programme will encourage a culture of schools to apply for this scheme, celebrate schools already contributing towards the climate change agenda, galvanise good news stories and inspire the borough's young people.
- Redbridge Council recently held an information session online for interested schools and internal colleagues to find out more about the way the program is currently administered.
- Schools can register with the scheme anytime and the application process costs schools £200.

7.6. Powering the Council's fleet with renewable diesel:

- The majority of the Council's fleet is powered by fossil fuels, primarily diesel, although there are a small number of battery electric and petrol-powered vehicles in the fleet.
- The Council is exploring the possibility of powering the diesel vehicles on HVO which is a premium product that is commonly referred to as renewable diesel.
- The fuel is produced by hydro processing oils and fats to create hydro processed esters and fatty acids.
- Unlike standard biodiesel, HVO does not require mechanical modifications to be made to vehicles for them to be able to run on the fuel and HVO does not need to be mixed with regular diesel.
- In addition, for every thousand litres of diesel that is burned, 3.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide are produced, however for every thousand litres of HVO that is burned, only 195kg carbon dioxide is produced. This means that HVO produces roughly 18.5 times less carbon emissions than standard diesel which could make a huge difference in the amount of carbon emissions produced by the Council's fleet.

7.7. Developing a new Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) (2023-25)

- Redbridge's Waste Reduction Strategy was formally adopted in March 2019 and the Council joined the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) Waste Prevention Partnership when it was launched in 2020.

- The Council are currently drafting the next Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) for the GLA which will set out how the Council will work in partnership internally and externally with ELWA to:
 - Continue to provide £5 trial packs of reusable nappies to families with children under 18 months. The Council provided 35 packs in 2020/21 and new goals will be set to expand the scheme as part of the partnership.
 - Further promote community composting schemes through community 'cascade learning' about composting, promoting composting as a focus in Great Big Green Week with a promotional discount on compost bins during this period, and by providing advice on composting at all events and roadshows in the area and ensuring that communication platforms are fully utilised throughout the year.
 - Increase engagement, education, and interventions with households in order to reduce avoidable food waste.
 - To establish a 'Library of Things' in Redbridge which will be a social enterprise object lending library where residents borrow things for 'projects, home improvements and adventures' to avoid waste and give access to high quality goods to all residents.
 - The Council held two 'Repair Café's in the borough in the past year which offered electrical, textile and bike repairs but a further two events will be held in 2022 to kick start two regular repair cafes in the borough.

7.8. Developing a Sustainable Transport Strategy

- The Council is in the very early stages of developing a Sustainable Transport Strategy that will improve the movements into and through the borough from 2025 up until 2041.
- The aim is for this single document to provide a strategic overview of all transport matters in the area, utilise a robust evidence base to further improve efficiencies, address problems with congestion levels, address the environmental impacts of existing and future traffic movements, accelerate the delivery of active travel programmes, and support sustainable economic growth in Redbridge.
- The new strategy will also link transport improvements to land use and will incorporate existing strategies such as the Parking Strategy (2020-25), Asset Management Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan (2020-25) and the Our Streets (2017-22) priorities.

8. CONCLUSION:

- 8.1. Based on the data reported, the Council has already seen real progress in reducing the organisation's carbon emissions over the past year. The collective efforts of service areas across the Council have culminated in the carbon emissions produced by the organisation to be reduced by 6,692 tCO₂e which is a significant reduction of 16.2%. In real life terms the organisation's carbon emissions savings are the equivalent to an average petrol car in the UK driving 30,225,836 miles which is the same distance as flying to the moon and back 126.5 times.

- 8.2. Redbridge Council has demonstrated its determination in tackling the climate emergency and the organisation has already started to deliver on many of the commitments outlined in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. The Council has continued efforts to explore innovative ways and new technologies that could further reduce the organisation's carbon emissions and officers are investigating a whole host of cutting-edge projects and initiatives to bring into the borough such as renewable diesel for the Council's fleet to use which could cut emissions by 90%.
- 8.3. The Council has taken steps to embed the climate change agenda into the values and principles of the organisation by ensuring that climate change features as a significant programme in the new Corporate Strategy. This action ensures that climate change will play a central role in the organisation's activities over the next 4 years and reinforces the level of priority the organisation has placed on this important area.
- 8.4. The Council has seen an increased level of engagement from residents across the borough with the climate change agenda and local community groups such as the Redbridge Climate Forum have made valuable contributions in promoting key messages and further increasing resident engagement. The Council will look to build on the foundations laid by local green groups and will continue to strive to reach a wider and wider audience each year. In the coming years the Council will look to realise its ambitions in becoming a community leader to take the climate change agenda beyond Council boundaries and influence borough wide changes.
- 8.5. The Council recognises that the organisation is only at the start of its journey in becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050. However, the Council has experienced a successful first year in delivering the organisation's Climate Change Action Plan and officers will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the Council's targets and ambitions are achieved.

9. FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 9.1. In summary, section 149 of the 2010 Act requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to:
- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act (which includes conduct prohibited under section 29).
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't share it.
 - c) Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not (which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding).
- 9.2. Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, the relevant protected characteristics are:
- a) Age
 - b) Disability
 - c) Gender Reassignment
 - d) Pregnancy & Maternity
 - e) Race
 - f) Religion
 - g) Sex

h) Sexual Orientation

- 9.3. In respect of the first aim only i.e., reducing discrimination, the protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership is also relevant.
- 9.4. Having due regard to the need to 'advance equality of opportunity' between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not includes having due regard, in particular, to the needs to:
- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
 - Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic where those needs are different from the needs of persons who do not share that characteristic.
 - Encourage those who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 9.5. Further, section 149 provides that the steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 9.6. Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others, but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited under the Act (which includes breach of an equality clause or rule, or of a non-discrimination rule).
- 9.7. Regular performance monitoring of the Climate Change Action Plan allows the Council to measure how successful it is being in achieving its aims, including those around fairness, equality, and diversity.

10. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

11. CHILD FRIENDLY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. The UNICEF Child Friendly Action Plan for the next three years includes a focus on Place, which includes the climate crisis. This will ensure that the voice of children and young people is at the heart of the borough's response in tackling the climate emergency.
- 11.2. The following activities are now underway:
- Highways are working with Unicef UK to plan the engagement with children and young people around the School Streets programme for the next school year.
 - The Planning service are working with young people including the Child Friendly Redbridge Ambassadors to co-design what new developments will look like. A recurring theme from young people has been around the sustainability of sites and the inclusion of greenery and green spaces.

- 11.3. In addition, participation from children and young people will also be encouraged as part of the Redbridge Climate Forum which is the borough's public green network.

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. There is no separate budget identified for Climate Change. To date, the initiatives set out in the Annual Report have been funded from existing revenue and capital budgets and from external grants. As initiatives develop and future specific initiatives are identified and tested for feasibility, any additional resources needed to implement these initiatives will be identified and will need to be considered and approved as part of the Council's future budget setting arrangements.

13. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. The Council understands that the organisation will need the active support, innovation, and shared ownership from all who live and work in the borough to reduce both the organisation's and borough's emissions over the coming years.
- 13.2. To address this issue, the Council carried out extensive engagement activities with residents, community groups and schools to collect a well-rounded view from all age groups and demographics in the borough on what local efforts are being made to tackle the impacts of climate change and in what ways can residents get involved and collaborate.
- 13.3. The Council will continue to engage with residents and partners on the climate agenda and will be an active member of regional green bodies to lobby and influence government policy to provide local authorities with the necessary funding and legislative framework to make accelerated progress on climate change.
- 13.4. There is no legal impediment to the recommendations contained at paragraph 2 of this report as these are in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act"). Part 1 of the 2008 Act sets the target for the reduction of climate emissions of carbon dioxide and the duty to prepare proposals and policies and budgets necessary with a view to meeting those targets.
- 13.5. The proposed action plan at Appendix A of this cabinet report complies with the provisions of section 1 of Part 1 of the 2008 Act.
- 13.6. To support the green agenda and sustainable purchasing into the Council's updated Procurement Strategy, Business cases for any new procurements or extensions to existing contracts with third parties for goods, services and works for the Council brought forward to the Council's Strategic Commissioning Board already include a section to incorporate a section to cover any implications of the Social Value Act 2012 which could be used as a platform to include the recommendations outlined in this report and in Appendix A to promote the value of sustainable purchasing, to check how smaller suppliers can assist the Council's efforts to be carbon neutral, to evaluate opportunities within existing contracts to track supply chain emissions and if necessary require suppliers to provide climate impact assessments.

- 13.7. Any action taken by the Council must conform to its requirements to protect its residents under s149 of the Equality Act 2010A whereby the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the requirements as outlined in Paragraph 9 above.