

HAVERING CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2024-2027

PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2024-25



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FOREWORD



Every day we see and hear the impact climate change is having on the world around us and on our personal lives. We see this with extreme weather events and have already suffered the effects of climate change in our borough. 2024 was recorded as the warmest year since 1850, according to figures released by the Met Office and the University of East Anglia. 2024 was also the eleventh year in succession that the global temperature equalled or exceeded 1.0°C above the pre-industrial period (1850-1900).

It is clear that we need to do more to reduce carbon emissions. To show our commitment, Havering Council declared a climate emergency in March 2023 and has an ambition to become carbon neutral by 2040.

This revised Havering Climate Change Action Plan (HCCAP) is a fundamental tool in tackling climate change and builds on the foundations of the previous action plan which is structured around nine work-streams. The plan continues to be dynamic and innovative, and will be reviewed annually to ensure emerging strategies are captured, work-streams, related projects and actions remain up to date, and performance is optimised.

It is important that we show leadership in the borough by working with, and challenging our partners, businesses and residents to ensure the wider borough reduces emissions in line with the UK national commitments.

Let's make sure we make a better future for those who come after us, by doing all we can now.

Councillor Natasha Summers
Lead Member for Climate Change

This annual review of the progress of the HCCAP highlights our achievements for 2024-25 and outlines the actions the Council is taking to become carbon neutral by 2040 or sooner.

The report details the work we have undertaken and the progress made over the past financial year in addressing the climate emergency. It celebrates key projects, actions achieved, and the partners we have collaborated with. Notably, 30% of the actions in the HCCAP were completed in 2024-25. A further 48% of in-year actions are on track.

The latest figures show that in 2022, Havering's greenhouse gas emissions were the lowest since 2005. However, the borough still ranked 14th highest in London, with the 7th highest per capita emissions. Transport (46%) and domestic energy use (37%) were the main contributors.

The Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions have also decreased over the last two financial years, thanks to improvements and upgrades to the Council fleet.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HAVERING COUNCIL EMISSIONS

BOROUGH DATA

Officers have developed the Council monitoring framework with an aim of identifying as early as possible where changes are needed to stay on track to meet the Havering Council and the United Kingdom's emissions targets.

Many aspects of the transition are inherently uncertain. It is recognised that progress may be faster in some sectors, and slower in others. This is realistic and acceptable, so long as the overall targets are met.

There are two elements to the data monitoring: the first relates to the Council's emissions from the operation of its services which are broadly controllable, subject to financial constraints and Government support.

The second aspect of the data collection relates to Borough emissions where the Council only has an influencing and/or leadership role.

Data for borough emissions are published annually by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)¹. In 2022, Havering's greenhouse gas emissions were the lowest since reporting began, and have been steadily decreasing year on year since 2012.

On average, 3.5 tonnes greenhouse gas² (CO₂e) were emitted per Havering resident in 2022.

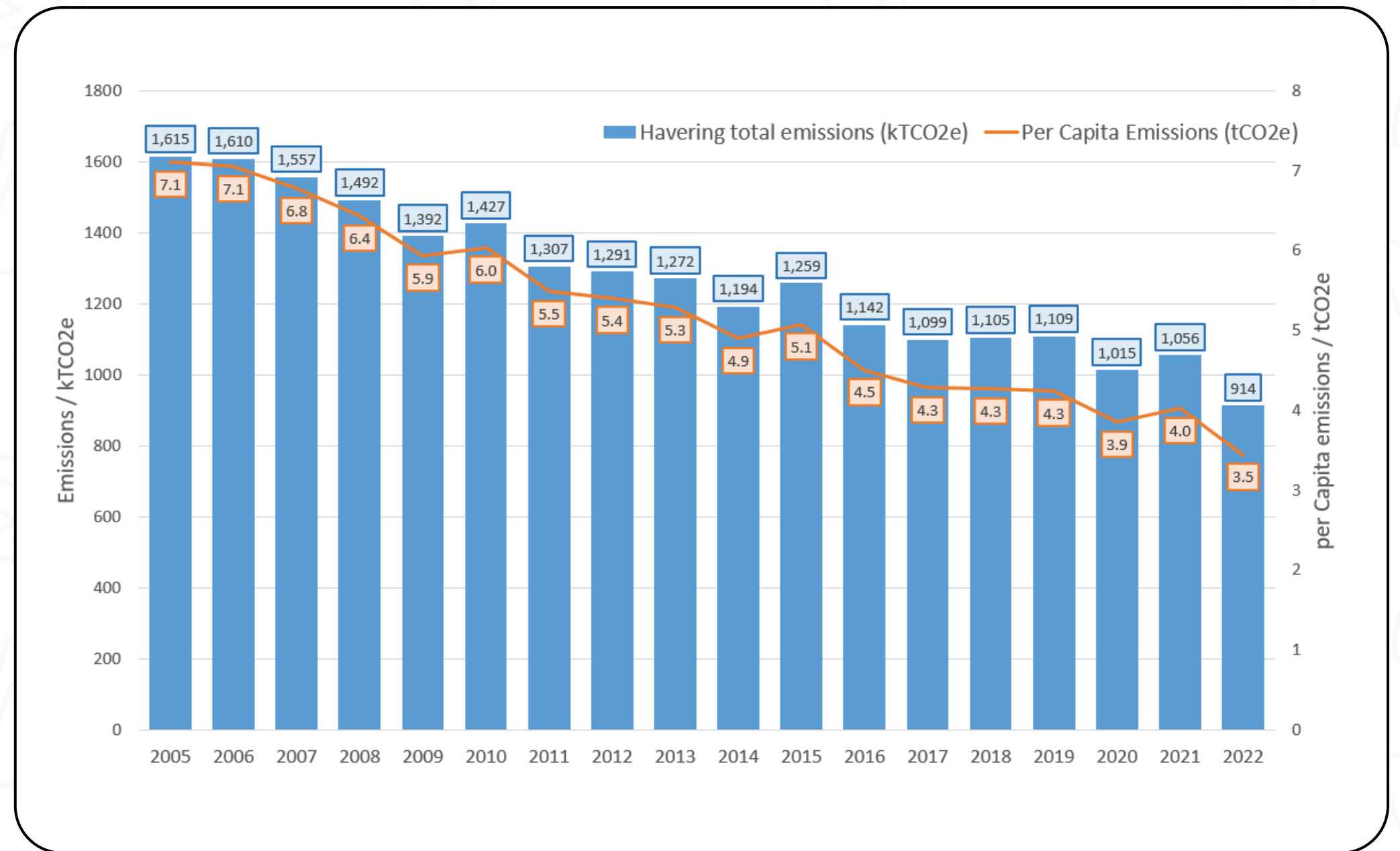


Chart 1 London Borough of Havering Greenhouse Gas emissions over time, total and per capita.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics#full-publication-update-history>.

[2] Greenhouse Gases included in the data are: Carbon Dioxide CO₂; Nitrous Oxide N₂O; Methane CH₄. These are shown as "CO₂e" which means "Carbon Dioxide Equivalent".

HAVERING COUNCIL EMISSIONS BOROUGH DATA

Chart 2 shows which sectors emit the most greenhouse gas in Havering.

In 2022, the biggest contributors to Havering’s greenhouse gas emissions were transport (46%) and domestic energy use (37%).

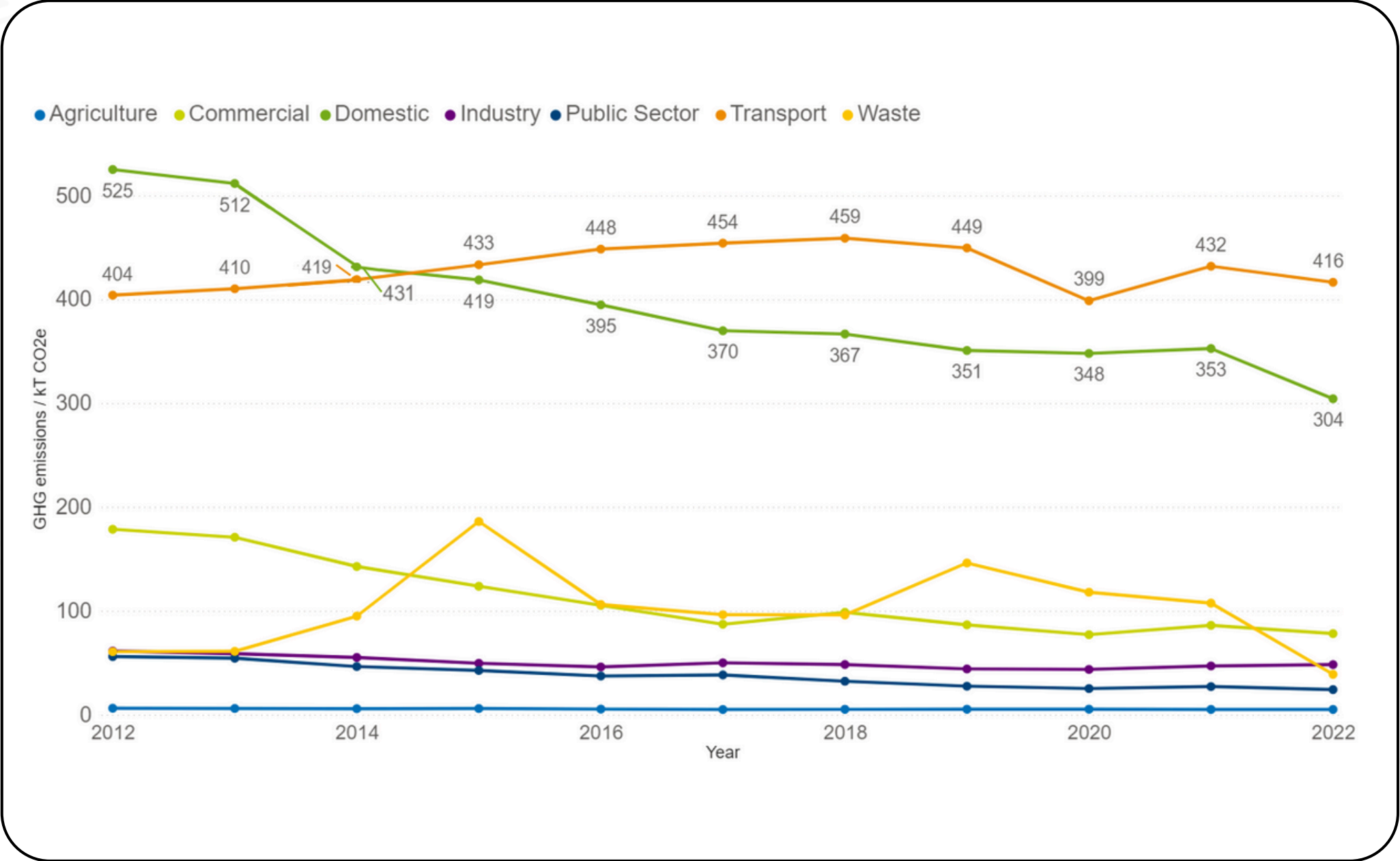


Chart 2 Sources of greenhouse gas emissions from the London Borough of Havering over time

HAVERING COUNCIL EMISSIONS

COUNCIL DATA

Chart 3 shows the Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from Havering Council’s operational activity over the past four years. Scope 1 emissions are those we are directly responsible for, and to some extent have control over, such as fuel burned on a car journey, or gas used in a boiler. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions associated with the purchase of electricity – the emissions physically occur at the power station where the electricity is generated but we are still responsible for them.

The biggest contributors to operational greenhouse gas emissions over the past four years have been the use of fleet fuel and natural gas.

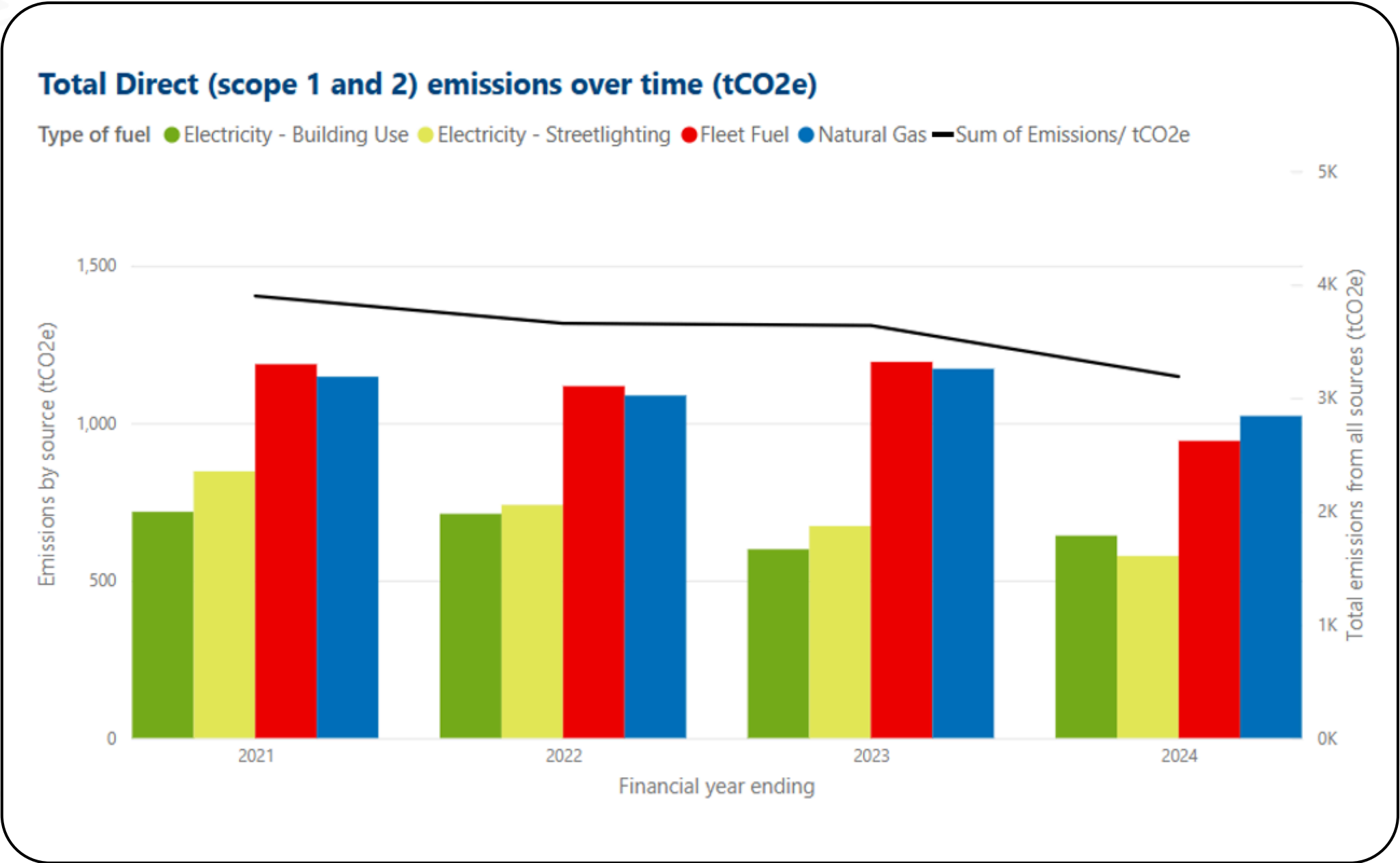


Chart 3 Total GHG emissions (tCO₂e) by Havering Council 2023-24



OUR NINE WORK STREAMS

Fighting climate change is a continuous process as we learn what works best. It's everyone's responsibility, so we are making sure the Council stays focused on climate issues. We also look for good practices in Havering, across London, and beyond to find the best actions to take.

Our action plan is rightly ambitious, but we know that some areas are still challenging, even though we've made good progress in others. We need to work smarter, more efficiently, and achieve more benefits through our actions to meet our targets.

The HCCAP is split into nine work streams, covering actions the Council will take to reduce our own emissions and how we can support and encourage the borough to do the same.

PROGRESS



Built Environment

There has been significant progress in implementing sustainability practices into the planning process.

Work continues on developing green infrastructure across the borough, particularly around Romford Ring Road. The Thames Chase Community Forest was formally extended to include urban areas in the borough and is one of 12 Community Forests in England.

✓ 49%



Business Continuity

We continue the roll out of the Business Continuity work stream. Work on developing a Community Resilience Hub has started and there is an established network of Warm Spaces across the borough. Warm Spaces are heated, safe and friendly places and are free to use for anyone struggling to heat their home.

✓ 33%



Energy

Work is progressing on retrofitting the borough.

We are preparing building decarbonisation strategies and plans for retrofitting will focus on our operational buildings, our housing stock and maintained schools. PV panels are being installed to the roof of a new facility that supports children and young people with social, emotional, and mental health at Suttons Primary School. Residents and businesses can see energy efficiency measures in real life at the Low Energy Visitor Centre in Raphael Park when it opens in Spring 2025.

✓ 53%

PROGRESS

HELPING
HAVERING
BUSINESSES

GREENER FUTURES



People



A comprehensive support programme was delivered to local businesses to help them prepare for a net zero economy. This initiative focused on upskilling businesses in the fundamentals of sustainability and encouraging the adoption of greener processes in their operations.

We continue to integrate climate change mitigation into the council's decision-making, services, and projects.

✓ 64%



Procurement



With the new Procurement Act, there is an invigorated focus on the development of a strategic approach to ensure the contracts and services the council buys reduce our Scope 3 carbon emissions, including taking best practice from commercial sector when appropriate.

✓ 41%



Public Protection



We are committed to embedding sustainability practices to ensure that tenanted properties are comfortable, affordably heated, and well-adapted. Our goal is to create homes that are cost-efficient and have low energy emissions.

✓ 63%

PROGRESS



Stakeholder & Community

We continue to collaborate with our community, schools, businesses and institutions through our external partner networks and seek opportunities for collaboration and shared action and learning.

We are dedicated to preserving Havering’s green heritage and have redesigned planting schemes to include drought-tolerant species and created a community garden as part of the Waterloo and Queen Street regeneration project.

✓ 55%



Transport

We’re moving the Council’s fleet to more environmentally friendly options by switching our larger vehicles over to a HVO fuel and moving over to electric mowing equipment for our Grounds Maintenance Teams.

Additionally, we are working with schools and residents to promote active travel, to give people the confidence to walk and cycle more regularly, and reduce vehicle emissions across the borough.

✓ 47%



Waste

There has been a considerable effort to drive reductions in waste across the corporate estate and reduce the number of electronic devices not being reused.

Our waste collection provider's community engagement officer collaborates with the Council's Waste Team on food waste roadshows and engaging with local volunteers and schools. They sponsored the Romford Christmas lights switch-on and have committed to provide 40 litter pick kits per year and collaborate on tree planting.

✓ 57%

In 2024-25, we have successfully delivered significant activities through the various work streams outlined in this annual report.

Looking ahead, continuous action is essential, and it is everyone's responsibility to contribute. By implementing our action plan - reducing greenhouse gas emissions and leading the transition away from high-carbon practices in working, travelling, doing business, and living - we can achieve a carbon-neutral Havering. This effort is crucial for enhancing residents' quality of life and is a key part of the broader London-wide initiative to address the global climate emergency for the benefit of all, now and in the future.

Thank you to everyone involved in delivering climate action across the borough.

LOOKING AHEAD

**£7.5M IN EXTERNAL FUNDING
SECURED TO SUPPORT THE
HCCAP ACTIONS IN 2024-25**

For more information on how Havering Council is tackling climate change go to www.havering.gov.uk/climatechange.