



Bracknell Forest Council Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030 Summary

Climate change is the greatest challenge that we and our future generations face. In September 2023 Bracknell Forest Council declared a climate and biodiversity emergency and committed to achieving net-zero CO₂ emissions as close to 2030 as possible. This new Climate Change Strategy reflects our ambition and commitment.

We all have an important part to play in addressing climate change and protecting our planet. Together we can rapidly reduce our emissions in a fair and responsible way, enhance the quality of life in Bracknell Forest, and show leadership in climate action.

Cllr Mary Temperton
Leader of Bracknell Forest Council



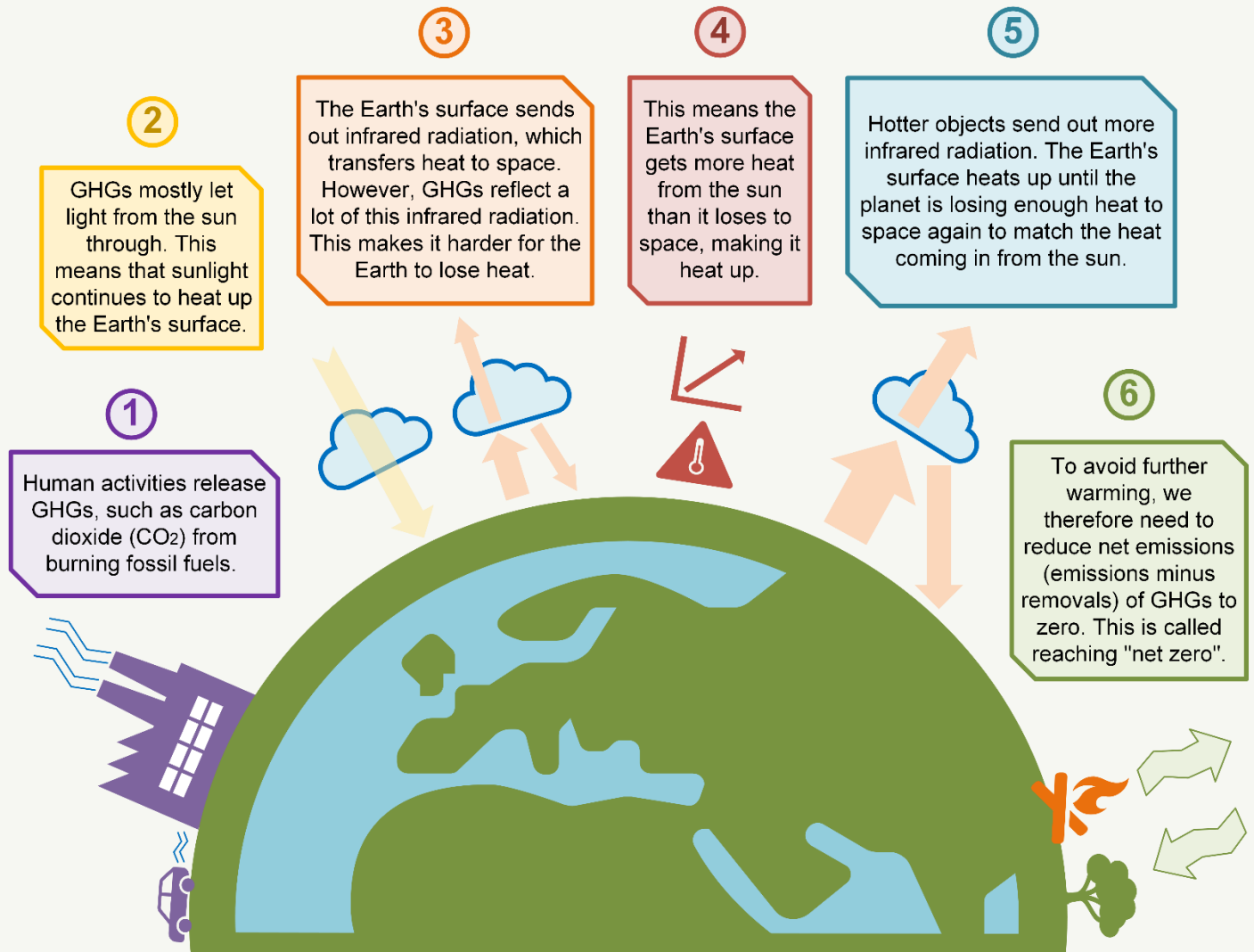
For the full strategy:



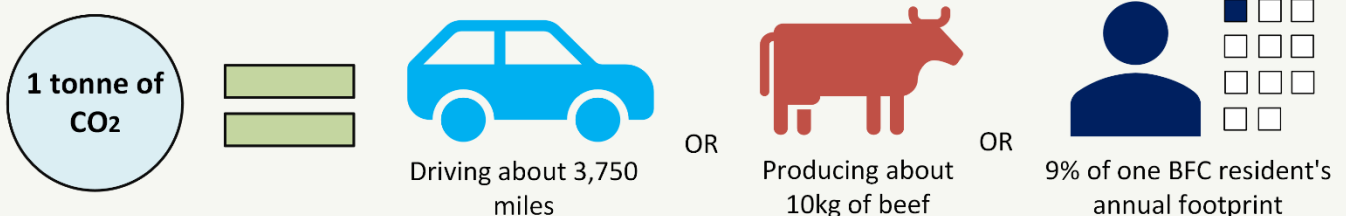
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/climate-change

Understanding climate change

Climate change refers to the ways weather patterns across the planet shift over time. A key change which has been taking place since the Industrial Revolution is a global rise in temperatures. This is often called global warming or heating. Almost all scientists agree that human activities are causing this change, mainly by releasing greenhouse gases (GHGs). This diagram shows how this works:



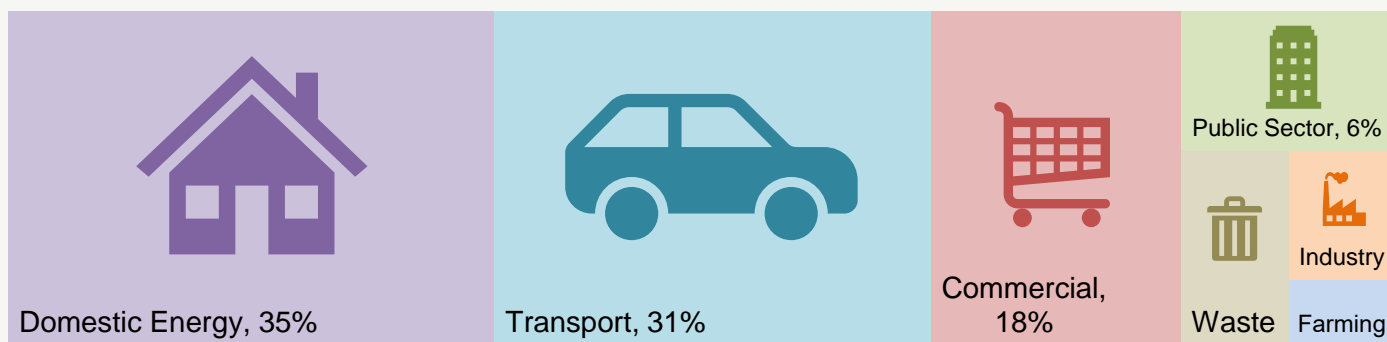
We can measure emissions of GHGs in tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂e*). This diagram shows different activities that each release 1 tCO₂e:



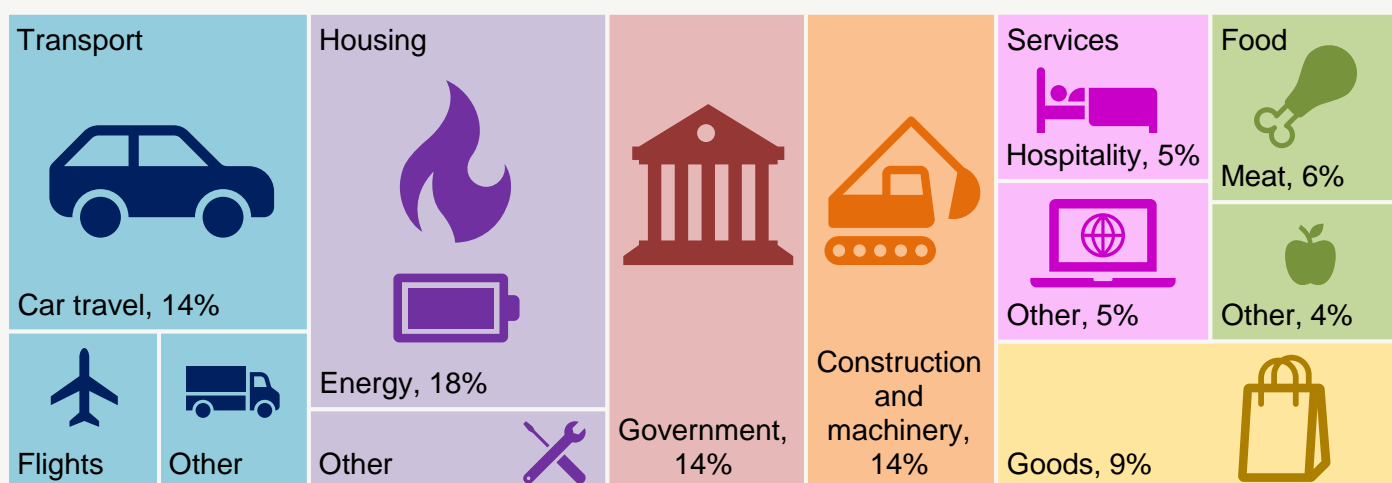
*For more information on how emissions are measured, see the full strategy.

Bracknell Forest's GHG emissions

In 2022, activities taking place in Bracknell Forest produced 410,000 tCO₂e*. These break down as follows:



In 2021, the average Bracknell Forest resident caused 10.7 tCO₂e of emissions. This includes emissions outside the area, such as from flying and from making the products they buy:



There are many actions we can take to reduce emissions in different areas of our lives and our work. Some of these are very simple while others involve more effort or have an upfront cost. Important examples include:

	Reduce heat loss e.g. insulation, draughtproofing		Use energy efficient appliances e.g. LED lights	
	Install appliances that don't burn fossil fuels e.g. heat pumps		Generate or buy renewable energy e.g. solar panels	
	Walk, cycle and use public transport		Use electric vehicles (EVs)	
	Reduce car use e.g. working from home, car-sharing		Avoid or reduce flying	
	Buy only things you need, ideally second-hand/sustainably made		Recycle or compost waste wherever possible	
	Eat less meat e.g. Meat-free Mondays		Re-use, repair, borrow and share items where possible	

*This is the total including the removal of around 19,000 tCO₂e from the atmosphere by trees and plants, not shown in the diagram.

Why tackling climate change is important

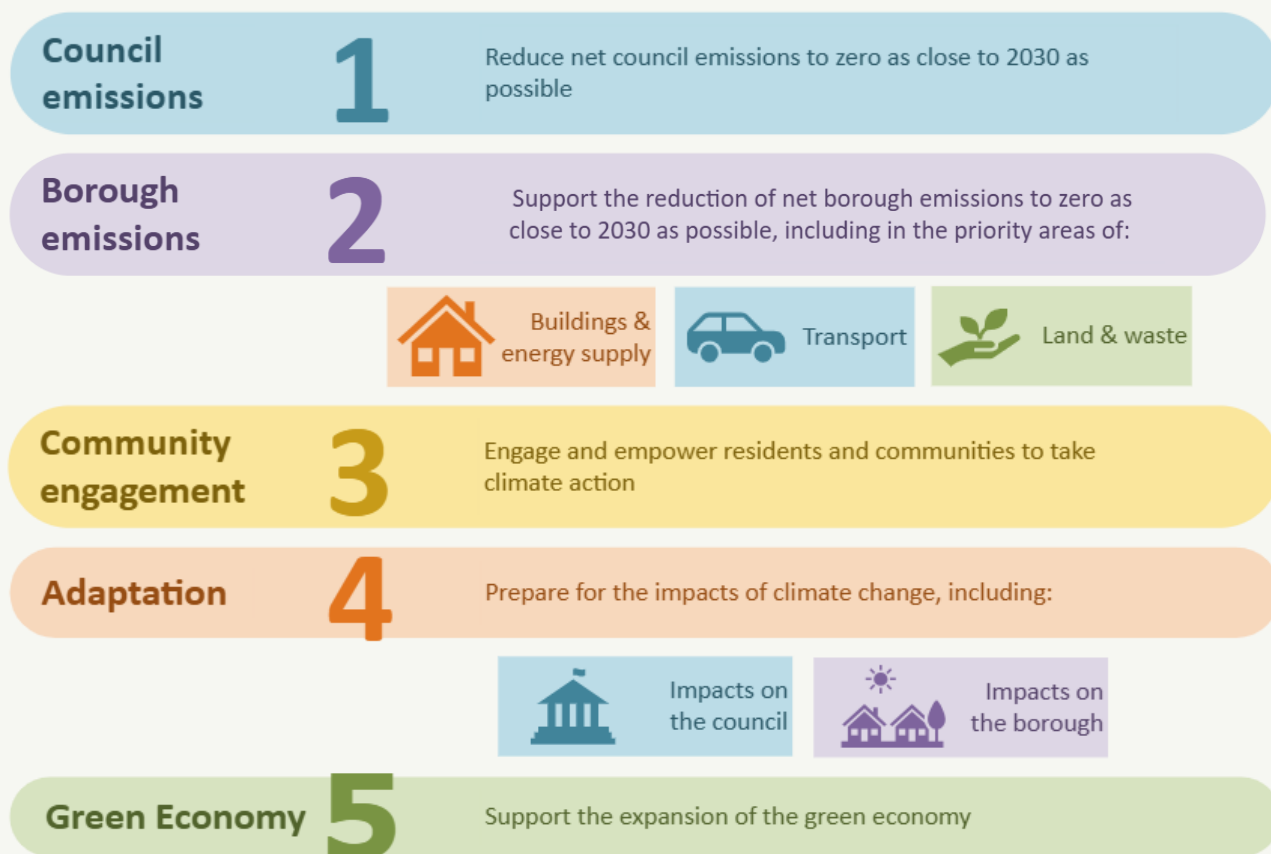
Climate change will impact Bracknell Forest directly, as well as indirectly through the impact it has elsewhere. It will threaten ecosystems, the local economy and our health through impacts such as:



As well as this, climate action will have a host of other benefits. Depending on this action, these could include:

£	Financial resilience and reduced poverty	Heart icon	Health
Hammer and pickaxe icon	Reduced use of resources	Factory icon	Air quality
Briefcase icon	Economy and employment	Swimmer icon	Water quality
Bar chart icon	Inward investment	Bin icon	Reduced waste
Globe icon	Education	Traffic lights icon	Reduced congestion
Trees icon	Biodiversity	Group of people icon	Community cohesion
Scales icon	Equity and inclusion	Leaf icon	Local food production

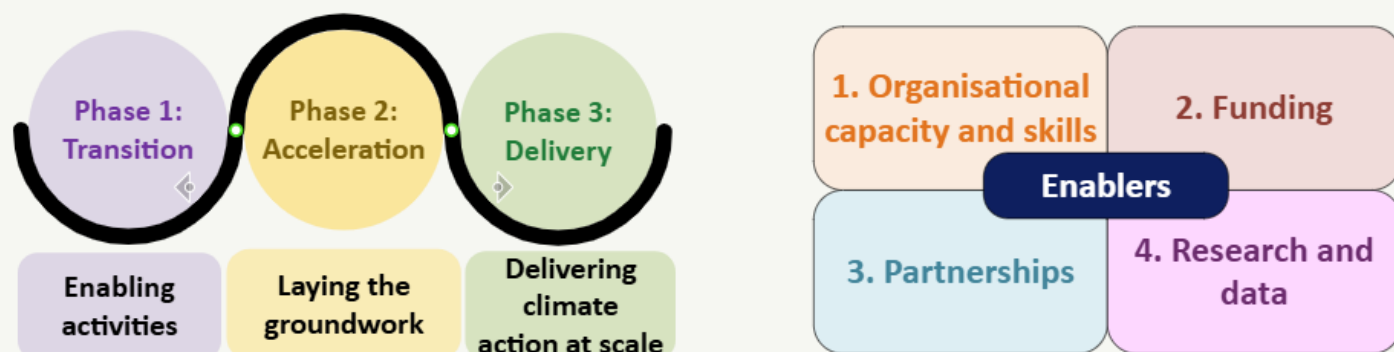
Our aims and strategic approach



In all of our work, we will follow these principles:



























We will achieve our aims by working in phases and investing in enablers:



Our activities

This page shows a selection of the most important activities the council will do to achieve our aims:

Aim	Change	
1	Reduce energy (especially fossil fuel) and water use in our buildings and vehicles	
	Support staff to walk, cycle or use public transport	
	Reduce emissions from the goods and services we buy or outsource	
2	Support local generation of renewable energy	
	Make sure new buildings meet high energy and emissions standards	
	Support emissions reduction in domestic and commercial buildings e.g. through retrofit	
	Enable a transition to low or zero emissions vehicles e.g. electric vehicles	
	Support people to use public transport and active travel	
	Plant trees and green the borough	
	Drive a reduction in waste generated locally, and increase recycling rates	
3	Enable residents to make informed choices and help to reduce emissions	
	Engage with and include all local communities in climate action	
	Raise awareness of the benefits of a balanced and sustainable diet with less meat	
	Raise awareness of the benefits of reducing travel by plane	
	Support people to reduce their energy use by changing their behaviour	
4	Minimise the risk of disruption to council services	
	Protect staff and buildings from the effects of climate change	
	Minimise harm to plants and wildlife	
	Protect residents from the effects of climate change wherever possible	
	Address the risk of wildfires and water shortages	
	Help people prepare for disruption to utilities and essential services	
	Promote local food production to reduce risk of food shortages	
5	Provide businesses with the information and tools they need to act on climate change	
	Support the development of infrastructure for climate-friendly business	
	Support the development of skills needed by climate-friendly businesses	