

# Sefton Climate

## Emergency Plan

What Sefton Council

are doing about

Climate Change

2024-2025

Annual Report





## Foreword from Councillor Doyle

*2024 was a significant year for the Climate as global temperatures reached 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels and it was confirmed as the warmest on record globally. Although we are getting closer to the globally agreed 1.5°C limit set in Paris in 2015, every fraction of a degree matters.*

*Climate anxiety is an increasing concern for people everywhere. In a recent study of 10,000 young people between ages 16 and 25, a staggering 60% say they're very worried about climate change. Almost half say this*

*anxiety affects their day-to-day life. With decades of bad news stories, young people are rightfully worried about their future.*

*However, there's plenty of good news about climate change to celebrate, too.*

*In 2024, the UK made significant strides in its green energy transition, becoming the first major economy to phase out coal power. Emissions fell dramatically, with renewable energy sources surpassing 50% of electricity consumption for the first time. The UK is also investing heavily in green infrastructure, like the low-carbon electricity "superhighway" connecting Scottish wind farms to England. This shift highlights the country's ongoing commitment to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint, contributing to global efforts against climate change.*

*Within Sefton, we are making progress with a 43% reduction in emissions since 2019. There is ongoing work to install low carbon heat pumps in many of our buildings, the completion of work to install thousands of low carbon street lights, the installation of solar panels, and plans to install EV charging points.*

*This report highlights progress made at a local level by Sefton Council. There is also a lot of great activity undertaken by our local businesses, schools, communities, and families that is also making a difference.*

*We know there are challenges ahead, but we can all make a difference, big and small, and by taking action, we can provide hope for the next generation.*

*Thank you.*

**Cllr Maire Doyle**

Cabinet Member - Public Health and Wellbeing

# Executive Summary

This climate annual report highlights the progress made and key projects completed during 2024-25, in-line with the climate emergency strategy and action plan.

The report focuses on the following areas:

- Overview of net zero targets for the UK, Liverpool City Region (LCR) and Sefton Council
- Evaluation of Sefton Council's carbon footprint for 2024-25
- Progress on key priorities in 2024-25
- Summary of other Council projects and LCR wide initiatives
- Outline of the upcoming challenges
- Key actions to prioritise over the next 12 months
- Findings from the report



# Introduction

In July 2019, Sefton Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the urgent need for action to combat climate change and its impacts on the environment.

This climate annual report serves as an important resource for highlighting the sources of carbon emissions linked to the Council's estate and operations. It also reflects on the Council's ongoing commitment to addressing this crisis and details the progress that has been made.

The overarching goal is for the Council to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. This report provides an overview of the climate commitments and the key actions taken to meet this ambitious target. It also highlights the Liverpool City Region (LCR) net zero target and wider LCR projects.

All activities included in the report relate to the period from April 2024 to March 2025, representing phase 2, year 2 of the action plan.

While the Council celebrates its successes, it is also important to recognise the challenges encountered over the year and to concentrate on the key priorities for next year, ensuring that it remains focused and proactive.

# Net Zero Targets

## UK – 2050 Target

The UK government has committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, a legally binding target established under the Climate Change Act 2008.

To reach net zero, significant changes will be necessary across various sectors, including a transition to renewable energy sources that will require substantial investment.

Interim targets have been set to guide progress, including a commitment to reduce emissions by at least 68% by 2030, and by 81% by 2035, compared to 1990 levels.

In its most recent update, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) evaluated the UK's progress towards achieving net zero by 2050. The report highlighted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions but emphasised that there is a need for continued investment in renewable energy and low-carbon technologies. It also addressed challenges such as funding shortfalls and the need for more public engagement. Furthermore, the CCC stressed the importance of implementing adaptation strategies to tackle the ongoing impacts of climate change.

While significant progress has been made towards the UK net zero target, there is still a considerable amount of work to be done and numerous challenges to overcome.





## Liverpool City Region – 2035 Target

The Liverpool City Region (LCR) has set an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2035.

The six authorities in the LCR are:

- Halton
- St Helens
- Knowsley
- Liverpool
- Sefton
- Wirral

All authorities have declared a climate emergency and are working together to create and implement strategies focused on reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainability.

Emissions for the UK are estimated by the government and made publicly available online. Due to a two-year delay in the release of this information, only data up to 2022 is currently accessible. Over the past three years, the overall emissions in the LCR have decreased by 14%, while the borough of Sefton has seen a reduction of 7%.

In 2024-25 Sefton Council worked with the LCR Combined Authority on a number of key projects including:

- External funding opportunities e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (phase 3c and 4), Low Carbon Skills Fund and Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund.
- Biodiversity initiatives e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Solar Together Project, designed to help homeowners install solar energy systems at a reduced cost.

This work is on-going and will continue in 2025-26.

## Sefton Council – 2030 Target

In July 2019, Sefton Council declared a climate emergency and set a target to reach net zero emissions by 2030, focusing on carbon emissions relating to its estate and operations.





# Carbon Footprint of Sefton Council for 2024-25

Carbon emissions are categorised into three scopes each representing different sources of emissions associated with the local authority:

**Scope 1** - Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by a local authority, for example, emissions from petrol/diesel vehicles in the authority's fleet and gas/oil heating systems in public buildings.

**Scope 2** - Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity to power facilities, for example, electricity used for street lighting and public buildings.

**Scope 3** - Other indirect emissions that arise from the local authority's operations, for example, officers using their own petrol/diesel vehicles for commuting and business travel.

Data from the activities outlined below were used to measure the Council's carbon footprint:

- **Scope 1** – Council Buildings (Gas)
- **Scope 1** – Operational Fleet (Diesel)
- **Scope 2** – Council Buildings (\*Electricity)
- **Scope 2** – Street Lighting (\*Electricity)
- **Scope 3** – Home Working
- **Scope 3** – Staff Commute
- **Scope 3** – Business Travel

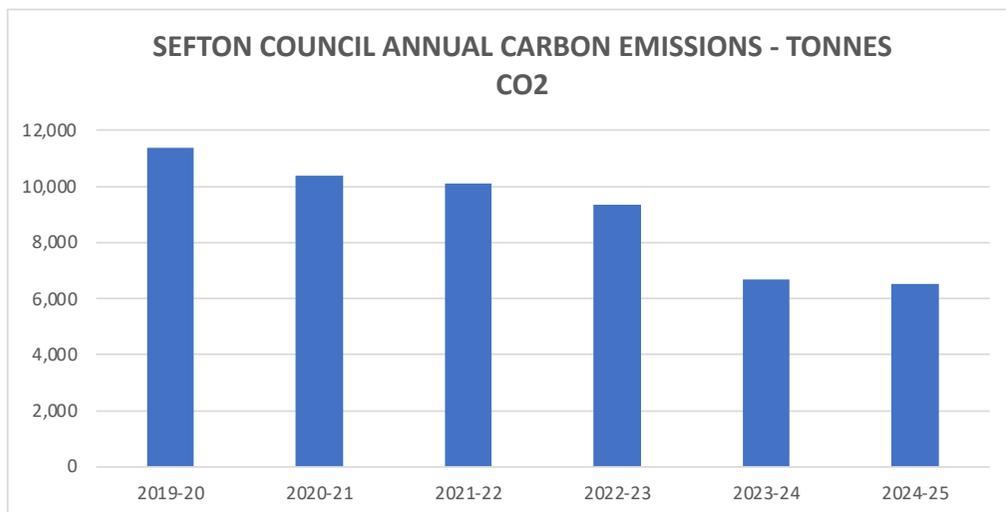
\*As of 1 April 2023, Sefton Council transitioned to a 100% clean electricity tariff supported by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) certification.



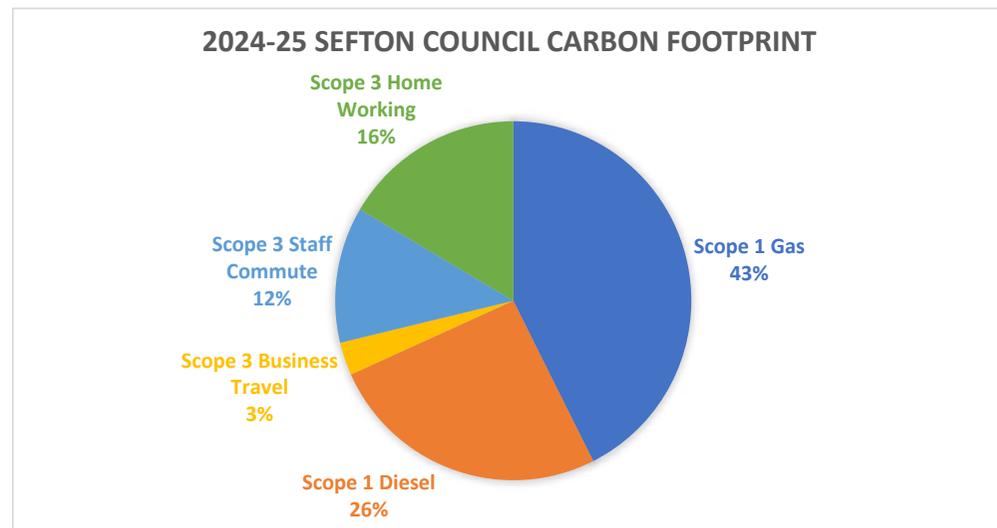
Sefton Council began monitoring its emissions in 2019-20. Over the past five years, the Council has achieved a total reduction of 4,838 tCO<sub>2</sub>, which equates to a 43% decrease.

The graph below shows the annual breakdown of emissions, highlighting a steady reduction each year. However, in 2024-25, there was a smaller reduction of 2% (187 tCO<sub>2</sub>), mainly because an expected decrease in carbon emissions from successful funding applications was not immediate and will only be realised in the coming years.

## Sefton Council – 2030 Target



The pie chart below shows the distribution of the Council’s operational carbon footprint for 2024-25.



A significant portion of emissions came from gas usage in Council buildings, making up 43% of the total. The second largest source of emissions came from the operational fleet, which accounted for 26%. This was followed by home working (16%), staff commuting (12%) and business travel (3%).

## Electricity and Gas (Scope 1 and 2)

Emissions are calculated using consumption data obtained from utility bills and meter readings.

Electricity consumption has consistently decreased since 2019-20 in corporate buildings and street lighting. In the past year alone, there has been a reduction of 1,690,579 kWh.

The decline in consumption has been attributed to the borough-wide LED street lighting project, changes to building use and the installation of energy efficiency measures.

As of April 2023, the Council has moved all its electricity purchases for energy supply to a clean source backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO). This important measure is vital for achieving net zero and enables the Council to report its electricity emissions as 'zero' under scope 2 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

Overall gas emissions have declined by 12% since 2019-20, although it remains the Council's primary source of emissions.

In 2024-25, a reduction of 795,733 kWh was achieved, leading to a 5% decrease in carbon emissions, which is a positive development.

## Operational Fleet (Scope 1)

Emissions are calculated using the fuel consumption data provided by the Fleet Management team. This information shows that transport is the second largest source of emissions, accounting for 26%.

Overall carbon emissions related to this area have increased by 12% since 2019-20, although there was a 5% reduction during 2024-25.

The Council plans to develop a fleet decarbonisation strategy in 2025-26 as part of its goal to transition to a low carbon fleet by 2030, which aligns with phase 3 of the climate emergency action plan.

## Staff Travel (Commute and Business) and Home Working (Scope 3)

In 2024-25, emissions from staff commuting increased by 22% compared to the previous year, and business travel saw an 8% rise. Emissions from home working fell by 5%. These figures reflect the continued change in work patterns that many sectors and organisations, including the Council, are experiencing.

The Council's continued focus on collaboration between departments and employees will consider the environmental impact of any related travel, with emphasis on a green travel plan that highlights public transport, carpooling, cycling, and walking.



# Climate Change Action Plan – Key Projects and Initiatives

## We said, We did

In last year's annual report, the Council outlined several key priorities for 2024-25. Progress has been made in all areas, as detailed below.

### Communication and Engagement Initiatives

Climate engagement at Sefton Council has progressed over the past year, building on a consultation held in the summer of 2022. An engagement plan was developed, and progress has been made on the following key initiatives:

- A climate e-newsletter is now sent out quarterly.
- Continued promotion of the climate 'stamp' logo featured on the front page, along with the brand identity that includes the climate stripes – visual representations of temperature changes over time.
- Regular updates to the newly established climate microsite, which addresses a variety of topics related to the borough as well as national and global climate initiatives.
- Raised awareness of important climate events such as World Environment Day, COP29 and Plastic Free July via social media platforms and internal Council channels.

Work is in progress to develop a comprehensive communications plan that is set to be implemented in 2025-26, focusing on community engagement and raising awareness of climate issues through other channels.





### Low Carbon Transport Strategy

The Strategic Transport Planning and Investment (STPI) team is leading the development of a Low Carbon Transport Strategy (LCTS) to ensure effective focus, prioritisation, and resource allocation for decarbonising transport.

Progress has been made in key areas, particularly in relation to Electric Vehicle (EV) charging and initiatives aimed to encourage walking and cycling.

An Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy is being developed, which will include community charging hubs and on-street charging points funded by the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, with installations expected to begin in late 2025.

The STPI team have also been working with schools and communities on various initiatives to promote active travel, improve road safety and reduce congestion and pollution around school areas.

Looking ahead, while waiting for the completion of key regional and national strategies, the STPI team plan to publish a Position Statement that details actions at reducing transport-related carbon emissions across the borough by 2030.

Furthermore, the team will engage on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) in the summer of 2025 to improve active transport routes over the next decade.



Sean Aidan Calderbank / Shutterstock.com

### Funding Opportunities

In 2024-25, the Council secured funding from several successful applications including:

#### Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) coordinated a joint application for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding, resulting in Sefton Council receiving funding to decarbonise two buildings, Bootle Library and Netherton Activity Centre.

The project is ongoing and will involve replacing the existing heating systems with low carbon alternatives and enhancing overall energy efficiency by implementing measures such as LED lighting, solar panels, and insulation improvements.

All work is expected to be completed by March 2026.

#### Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 4

In March 2025, it was announced that the LCRCA successfully secured a joint bid for PSDS funding totalling £30.5 million. The funding will be used to decarbonise and upgrade 30 buildings throughout the LCR, with Sefton receiving more than £5 million to upgrade several key buildings.

The work will focus on improving the building fabric, including insulation and glazing, as well as installing low carbon heating systems.

Procurement is set to begin in summer 2025, with work expected to commence in early 2026.

This funding will help the Council reduce its carbon emissions as it strives to reach net zero by 2030.



### Offsetting and Insetting Carbon Options

Offsetting carbon emissions involves Sefton Council compensating for its own emissions by investing in external projects that reduce or eliminate an equivalent amount of carbon from the atmosphere.

There are opportunities to engage in various offsetting schemes, including reforestation, renewable energy projects, and community-based schemes, available at regional, national, and international levels.

Insetting, on the other hand, involves the Council directly lowering its carbon footprint through initiatives within its own operations.

The following options have been considered so far:

- Tree Planting Initiatives – could take place in urban areas such as parks, streets, and open spaces, as well as woodland creation projects on underutilised land in rural areas to capture significant amounts of carbon.
- Wetland and Saltmarsh Restoration – coastal areas could be enhanced with wetland restoration to absorb carbon and create wildlife habitats, while salt marshes will naturally store carbon in the soil and help protect the coastline.
- Sustainable Land Management – transition to more biodiversity-friendly practices to enhance carbon sequestration.

Both offsetting and insetting must be considered if the Council intends to achieve net zero. Ongoing discussions will continue in 2025-26, and a decision will need to be made before the 2030 deadline.

### Climate Training

In 2021, the Energy and Environmental Management team developed a Climate Emergency eLearning training module, which was successfully rolled out to over three thousand officers.

In 2024-25, a new training package was created, and all members of staff are required to complete it as the training is mandatory.

The module is comprehensive and will equip officers with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively tackle climate change and support the Council's sustainability goals.

The training will continue to be delivered in 2025-26.





**C**arbon Reduction  
**L**eadership  
**I**nnovation  
**M**obilisation  
**A**daptation  
**T**ransformation  
**E**ngagement and Education

## Other Projects

In addition to the successes outlined above, there are other projects in 2024-25 that supported the objectives of the strategy and action plan, as well as the wider LCR target.

The strategy and action plan are built around seven key principles that collectively represent the C.L.I.M.A.T.E. acronym.

### Carbon Reduction

#### LED Street Lighting Project

In 2020, Sefton Council approved a £12.75 million invest to save initiative for the implementation of energy-efficient LED street lighting throughout the borough. The project is currently on-going, with a projected completion date of January 2026.

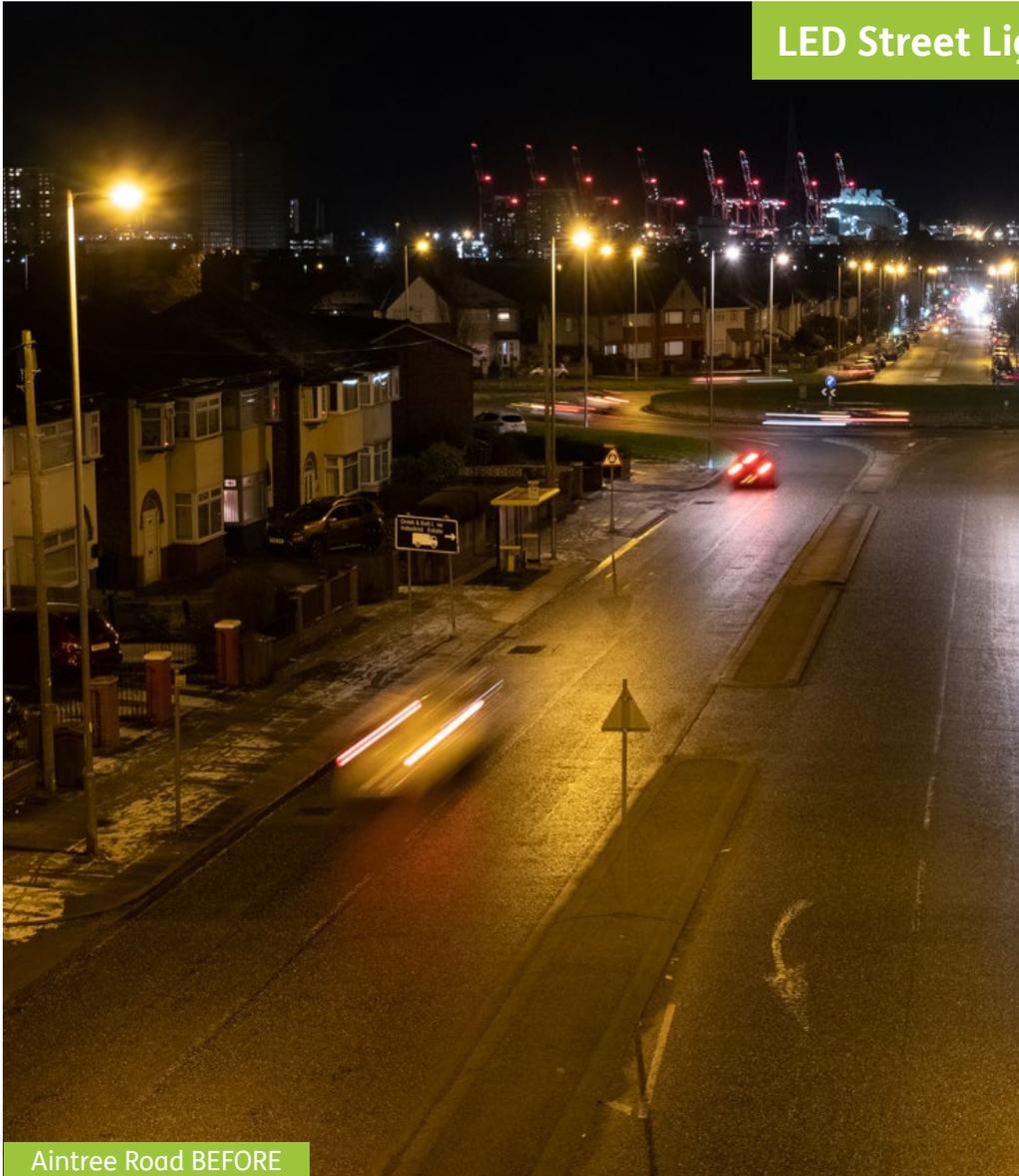
To date, 24,728 lanterns and 4,745 full lighting columns have been replaced, resulting in total savings of over 17 million kWh and more than 3,700 tonnes of carbon emissions since 2021.

This initiative not only improves energy efficiency but also plays a vital role in helping the Council achieve its goal of reaching net zero by 2030.

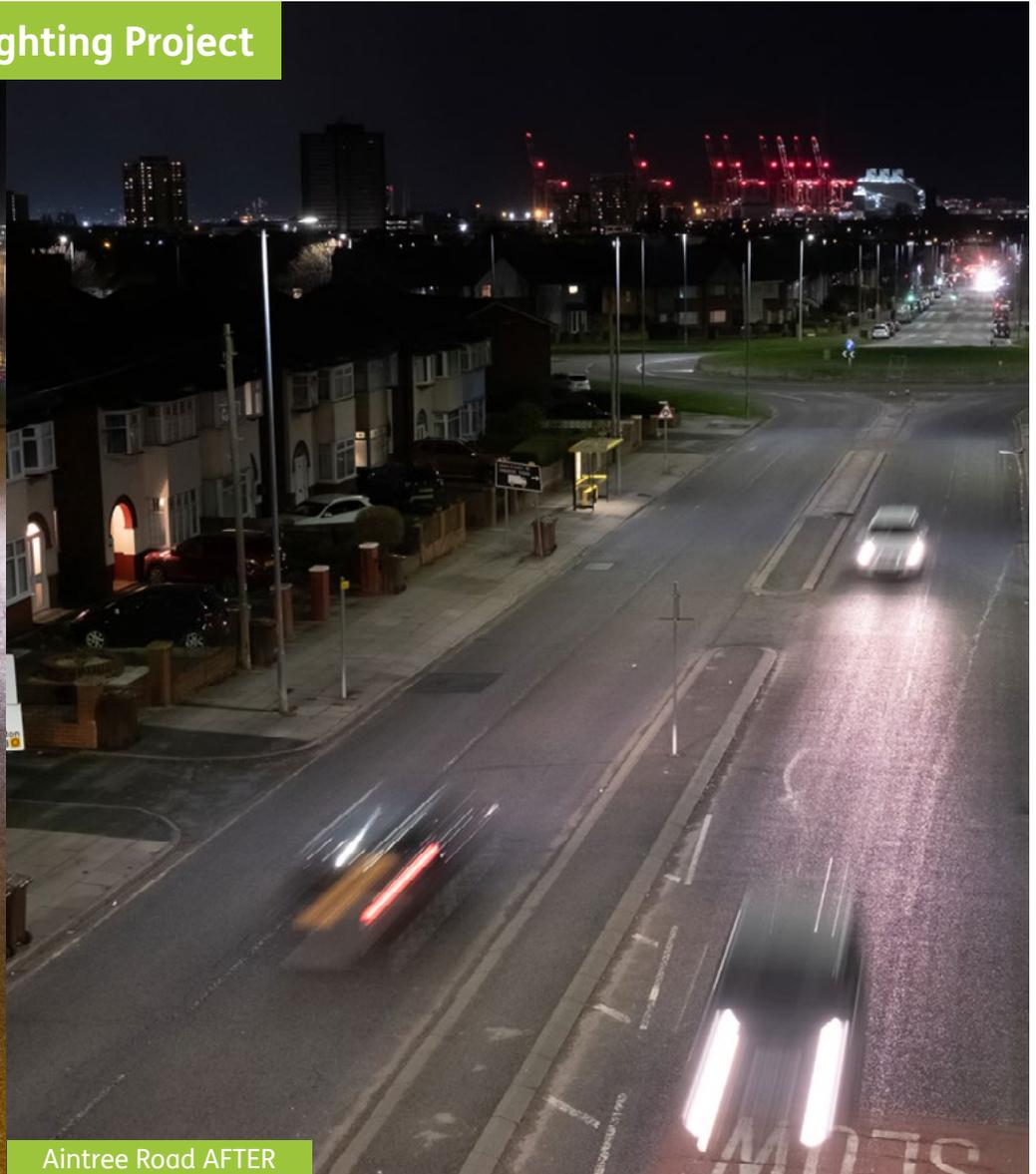
#### Solar Together LCR Project

The Solar Together project, coordinated by the LCRCAs, enables residents to obtain competitive quotes for the supply and installation of solar panels and battery storage for the generated solar power at competitive prices. In round 3, which took place in 2024-25, 53 homes in Sefton benefited from solar panel installations, along with 7 battery installations.

LED Street Lighting Project



Aintree Road BEFORE



Aintree Road AFTER

### **Meadows Leisure Centre**

Since March 2025, the Meadows Leisure Centre in Maghull has been equipped with a 130 kW solar array generating renewable electricity on site. The project included:

- The installation of a new 80 kW solar array, funded by Sports England.
- Remedial work on the existing 50 kW array.

Projected carbon savings are expected to exceed 17 tonnes per year.

### **Leadership**

#### **Climate Emergency Training for Report Authors**

All cabinet and Council decision papers incorporate an evaluation of potential climate change impacts. A training package has been developed to provide officers with the information required to complete the 'Climate Implications' section of the report template.

To date, 134 officers have successfully completed the training.

#### **Sandway Homes**

Sandway Homes, the housing development company of Sefton Council, is setting a new standard for other developers in the area.

Each new home features energy-efficient boilers, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, and photovoltaic rooftop panels that capture solar energy and convert it into electricity.

These features reflect Sandway Homes' commitment to be more environmentally conscious while also catering for budget conscious homeowners by offering potential savings on energy bills.



### LCR Community Environment Fund

The LCR Community Environment Fund, seeks to promote long-term change by enhancing the city region’s environment and protecting its green spaces.

To date, there have been three rounds of funding, with the most recent funding round supporting a total of 18 projects. This includes one in Sefton and two projects that span multiple authorities across the LCR.

The project in Sefton focuses on creating pathways, picnic areas and meditation spots within restored habitats for wildlife and plants.

The LCR-wide projects, consist of one initiative that supports over 6,000 young people in designing, presenting, and implementing innovative ideas to combat climate change. The other project focuses on collecting coffee ground waste from independent cafes, which is processed and distributed to community gardens, allotments, and farms throughout the region to be used as fertiliser.





## Innovation

### Community Gardens

Three libraries in Sefton (Bootle, Crosby, and Formby) have transformed adjacent underutilised ground into community gardens. These gardens are maintained by local volunteers, with planting focused on providing vegetables for community meals and cultivating plants that attract insects and birds or absorb carbon.

Formby Library was the first public library in the country to install beehives in its garden, which also features a wildflower meadow, sensory planting, vegetable planters and the library's own fruit press for community use.

Each of the gardens allows the library to create activities centred around climate change awareness, while also offering ideas that garden owners can adopt.

### Other Funding Opportunities

The Council was recently informed that their SPARK (Supporting Projects, Accelerating Readiness & Knowledge) fund application via the Northwest Net Zero Hub was successful, securing £20,000. This funding will be used to develop four plans to reduce carbon emissions to zero through better insulation, low carbon heating and low carbon electricity generation e.g. solar PV.

During 2024-25, internal loan funding supported the replacement of stage lighting at The Atkinson, as well as the replacement of pool covers at Bootle Leisure Centre and Dunes Splash World.

All initiatives have generated financial savings, of around £18,000 annually and a reduction in carbon emissions of more than 36 tonnes each year.



## Salt and Tar

Salt and Tar is a multi-use outdoor event venue located alongside Bootle's canal. By hosting events that celebrate culture, music, and art, it aims to be a central driver in the town's wider regeneration.

Over the past year, Salt and Tar has concentrated on integrating sustainable practices throughout its operations including:

- Implementing an onsite compost system to naturally nourish the urban planters.
- Creating bunting decorations hand-stitched by volunteers using second hand materials.
- Prioritising social value as a key consideration when selecting contractors to ensure that all staff are local and make use of public transport whenever possible.
- Supporting the local supply chain by engaging local food and drink vendors, as well as market traders.
- Highlighting the excellent public transport options available for visitors.



## Water Saving Initiative

In 2024-25, United Utilities completed work in several Council buildings, schools and care homes across the borough aimed at reducing water consumption.

A total of 36 sites were visited, resulting in daily water savings of 14,005 litres.



## Mobilisation

### Healthy Green Homes

The Healthy Green Homes team (previously called the Affordable Warmth team) work with vulnerable Sefton residents to lower energy bills and create warmer homes to reduce fuel poverty. This work also contributes to net zero targets by transitioning homes to more energy-efficient heating systems, improving insulation and promoting changes in behaviour. Some key achievements over the last year are:

- The team securing £174,000 funding to support the service and enabled help to 150 Sefton residents with heating system repair or replacement.
- Processed 110 ECO4 Flex applications - enabling residents to access grants for insulation, heating, and renewable technologies.
- Attended and hosted several events throughout the year to promote energy efficiency, retrofit and fuel poverty issues. For example, the team hosted four Keep Warm Keep Well events in collaboration with Sefton Opera and Sefton Carers Centre this winter reaching nearly 300 residents and providing Winter Warm Packs.

This year the team also worked on a successful bid to the National Lottery Community Fund, which will begin in 2025-26.

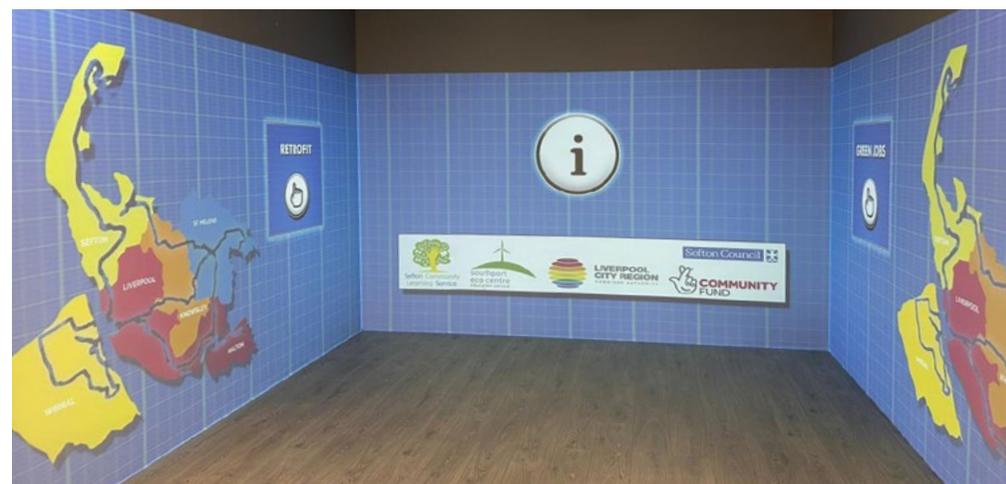
Thanks to National Lottery players, Sefton Climate & Retrofit Action Project (SCRAP) has received £866,548 over five years from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest community funder in the UK. This comes from the Climate Action Fund, a £100 million commitment over 10 years from The National Lottery Community Fund to support communities across the UK to take action on climate change and involve more people in climate action. This forms part of one of the funder's four key missions in its 2030 strategy, 'It starts with community' - supporting communities to be environmentally sustainable.

The money will be used to support a five-year programme to promote climate action with a range of community groups and the general public in Sefton.

There will be a big focus on:

- Fuel poverty
- Energy saving
- Domestic retrofit
- Green jobs
- Green transport

There will be lots of community events, creation of an 'Immersive Experience' and Community Energy Groups will be established.



## Environmental Support for Businesses in Sefton

InvestSefton commissioned Groundwork to deliver dedicated sustainability support to accommodation providers (around a third of total), cafes/restaurants (around a quarter of total) and businesses in the hospitality sector located in Southport, Bootle, Crosby and Maghull.

The work was completed in 2024-25, leading to 71 businesses receiving support and the development of 60 detailed low carbon assessments and action plans.

A sustainability workshop was also held in February 2025, hosted by Groundwork. The event offered support to SMEs by providing energy-saving tips, insights on how sustainable businesses can attract new customers and guidance on developing a sustainable business strategy.



## Adaptation

### Green Sefton

The natural environment is a crucial component of Sefton's decarbonisation efforts. Natural landscapes have the ability to absorb and store carbon which not only help mitigate climate change but also contributes to improved air quality and reduced flood risk which is important for a coastal borough.

Additionally, preserving and enhancing these ecosystems can promote biodiversity, support sustainable land use practices, and provide recreational spaces for communities.

During 2024-25, Green Sefton made progress in several key areas:

- Reviewing the new national surface water flood maps and supporting their release to improve awareness of future flood risks, which will enable more effective planning and adaptation.
- Conducted an engagement exercise in Formby to gauge the community's awareness of climate change and its effects on the coast.
- Planted 705 standard trees (a total of 7,583 since 2019-20).

### Climate Adaptation Risk Registers

Climate adaptation risk registers, highlight the importance of adapting to a changing climate (such as the rise in more extreme weather events), have been integrated into the departmental risk assessment process, guided by the Strategic Leadership Team.

In 2024-25, a template was established, along with supporting documents, to assist service managers. Work is ongoing to continue to identify risks and where possible, take mitigating action.



## Transformation

### Retrofit

Domestic retrofit schemes offer an opportunity to enhance energy efficiency in some of the borough's least insulated homes. The installed measures may include energy efficiency improvement like insulation, low carbon heating technologies (such as air source heat pumps), and the generation of electricity through solar panels.

The most recent domestic retrofit scheme was the second round of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2). Delivered by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA), it aimed to improve the energy performance of properties off the gas network. The energy performance of 71 domestic properties in Sefton benefited through this round of funding, with all work fully funded. Measures included installation of solid, cavity, and loft insulation, high retention storage heaters, air source heat pumps, and solar photovoltaic (PV). The HUG2 scheme was completed in March 2025.

The latest scheme Warm Homes: Local Grant (WH:LG) will commence in 2025 and will help improve the energy efficiency of approximately 350 homes at risk of fuel poverty over the next three years.



## Engagement and Education

### School Engagement

In 2024-25, schools received the following support through the Council's Eco Saver programme:

- Bespoke support was offered to schools that requested an energy and water reduction audit, along with additional resources relating to climate.
- Awareness raising through presentations and workshops for pupils.
- Regular updates provided on electricity and gas consumption, along with advice for reducing usage.
- Promotion of Switch Off Fortnight, connected to the Autumn Utility Reduction campaign, aimed at both Council and school sites.
- New posters promoting energy and water savings were produced and distributed to schools (displayed on this page).
- Support was provided to schools interested in applying for external funding.
- Between October 2024 and February 2025, 22 schools received support through free water audits in partnership with United Utilities, resulting in daily savings of 9,474 litres of water.
- Support was provided for small energy-saving measures, such as the installation of radiator reflector foil.
- Two free birdboxes were supplied to schools.



**BE BRIGHT  
AND  
TURN OFF  
THE LIGHTS**



**A small building  
could save over  
£1,000 each  
year by turning  
the lights off  
overnight**

For information & support contact [energy@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:energy@sefton.gov.uk)

Take Action On  
CLIMATE CHANGE 

Sefton Council 

[WWW.SEFTON.GOV.UK/CLIMATE](http://WWW.SEFTON.GOV.UK/CLIMATE)



## Eco Centre

The Eco Centre is an award-winning educational facility that provides learning opportunities for young people in the Liverpool City Region.

In 2024-25, the dedicated teaching staff provided climate-related education to more than 3,500 children.

Over the past year, in addition to managing the popular education programme, the team has been involved in a variety of projects, including the development of the Waste Zero Hero initiative and the delivery of bespoke workshops in schools to support the transition to zero waste and a circular economy.

The Clean Air Crew resource - [www.cleanaircrew.co.uk](http://www.cleanaircrew.co.uk), a teaching toolkit that integrates air quality issues into curriculum learning objectives, has been further enhanced and has seen a rise in participation from teachers, pupils and parents.

The team has also broadened the scope of their immersive education development work, with a new facility being built in Bootle. Experiences have been designed to showcase the city region's retrofit programme and highlight pathways to employment.

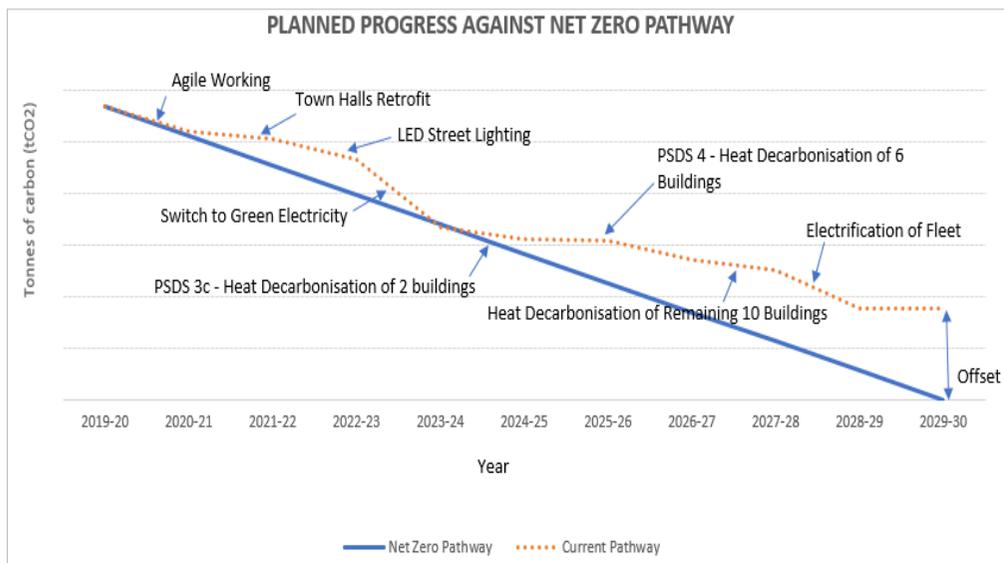
Furthermore, the team was invited to present their work focusing on the benefits of immersive education as a learning tool at a national event in February 2025, demonstrating Sefton's leadership in exploring innovative ways to engage communities.



# Challenges

Over the past five years, significant progress has been made, resulting in a 43% reduction in the Council’s carbon emissions.

The graph below illustrates the linear pathway to (net) zero carbon by 2030 (represented by the blue line) alongside the current trajectory (indicated by the red dotted line). The trajectory has been updated to reflect the most recent evidence of emissions reduction and changes to the schedule of works (based on funding awards). This visual provides an overview of the work completed to date, as well as future projects, including decarbonising the remaining buildings and transitioning to an electric/low carbon fleet. It also outlines potential offsetting emissions that may remain by 2030. To reach net zero, it is clear that a substantial amount of work and investment will be required.



Given the Council’s financial pressures and limited internal funding sources, ongoing collaboration with the LCRCA is crucial in identifying external funding opportunities, although these are often highly competitive and not guaranteed.

The Council must carefully evaluate its position in the coming years if external funding is not available to fully achieve the objectives outlined in the strategy.





# Priorities for 2025-26

Overall, significant progress is being made in the delivery of the climate emergency strategy and action plan through various activities and projects detailed in this annual report.

The main objectives for 2025-26 will be to:

- Work with the fleet management team to develop a strategy for decarbonising the fleet, prior to the Council entering phase 3 of the action plan in 2026-27.
- Oversee decarbonisation work at Bootle Library, Netherton Activity Centre and Bootle Leisure Centre and continue to apply for additional funding to decarbonise the remaining buildings.
- Continue to assess the Council's approach for offsetting while also exploring inseting opportunities.
- Expand on the ongoing engagement and educational activities that are currently taking place.
- Continue working with colleagues in property services to embed climate-friendly policies into the developing corporate landlord property management framework.



# Conclusions

The Council has made significant progress in reducing emissions over the past five years, achieving a reduction of 4,838 tCO<sub>2</sub>, which represents a 43% decrease.

This success can be largely attributed to the procurement of clean electricity and the successful rollout of the LED street lighting project. Looking forward, the funding already secured from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for phase 3c and 4 is expected to further contribute to emission reductions in the coming years.

However, it is important to note that a substantial amount of work and investment will be required to meet this target during the remaining period of the Council's action plan.



# Take Action On CLIMATE CHANGE

