Lewisham Council

Corporate Carbon Reporting 2024/25

1 Introduction

1.1 Lewisham's Climate Action Plan was published in 2020[1] and updated in 2024[2]. 'Leading by Example' is one of 5 themes within the Action Plan, underlining the importance of the Council's commitment to climate action through decarbonising its own operations.

1.2 This report is part of the evidenced-based approach that will be essential in focussing the resources needed to deliver on the Council's ambition to decarbonise.

1.3 The carbon emissions presented in this report are from electricity and gas consumption across the Council's corporate buildings, schools, leisure centres, as well as fuel consumption associated with the Council's fleet.

1.4 The methodology for calculating emissions has been based on the Local Partnerships Greenhouse Gas reporting tool[3] in line with good practice on carbon reporting established by London Councils in 2021. Further information about the methodology and recommendations for future development are set out in section 3 below and Annex 1.

1.5 This report for 2024/25 also includes for the first time details of emissions across the Council's supply chain of goods and services, see below section 5.

1.6 All carbon data is presented as tCO_2e, tonnes of carbon dioxide 'equivalent', based on the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) conversion factors.

1.7 The data presented in this report covers the period 2018/19 to 2024/25.

2 Analysis

2.1 The Council's corporate carbon emissions have fallen significantly over the last decade. In 2014/15[4] the Council reported 45,383 tCO_2e from corporate buildings, schools and fleet. The latest total in 2024/25 is 12,103 tCO_2e. Changes in reporting methodology mean caution is needed in making detailed comparisons between datasets, but it is clear there has been a large overall reduction.

2.2 Since 2018/19 the Council's carbon emissions have reduced by nearly a third. Factors driving that reduction include decarbonisation of the national electricity grid, changes to working patterns post-COVID, local improvements to buildings, equipment and fleet,

[1] https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s81350/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf
[2] https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/climate-emergency/our-commitment/our-climate-emergency-declaration
[3] https://localpartnerships.org.uk/greenhouse-gas-accounting-tool/
[4] https://tinyurl.com/vu7ehmwa

a decrease in the size of the Council's staffing and rationalisation of the Council's portfolio of buildings. More information on improvements to corporate buildings and schools can be found in Annex 1.

Table 1: Corporate carbon emissions 2018/19-2024/25

Carbon emissions by source (tCO_2e)	2018/19	2023/24	2024/25	% Annual Change	% Change since baseline
Catford complex	1,662	1,165	986	-15%	-41%
- Gas	651	711	576	-19%	-11%
- Electricity	1,012	454	410	-10%	-60%
Other operational buildings	2,032	1463	1,331	-9%	-34%
- Gas	1,266	1028	946	-8%	-25%
- Electricity	766	435	385	-11%	-50%
Schools	6,207	5,083	4,977	-2%	-20%
- Gas	3,513	3,205	3,051	-5%	-13%
- Electricity	2,694	1,878	1,926	+3%	-29%
Leisure Centres	3,538	2,077	1,838	-11%	-48%
- Gas	1,963	1,444	1,313	-9%	-33%
- Electricity	1,575	633	525	-17%	-67%
Streetlights	1,266	939	869	-7%	-31%
Fleet fuel consumption	2,349	1,988	2,102	+6%	-11%
Total	**17,054**	**12,715**	**12,103**	**-5%**	**-29%**

2.3 In 2024/25 the Council's emissions fell by 5% compared to the previous year. Large reductions in emissions in the Catford Complex and other operational buildings as well as at leisure centres were offset by a smaller reduction overall across schools, the biggest source of emissions, and an increase in fuel consumption, the second biggest source.

2.4 The largest absolute reductions in emissions were

- schools' gas consumption down 154 tCO_2e
- Catford Complex gas consumption down 134 tCO_2e
- Leisure centres gas consumption down 130 tCO_2e
- Leisure centres electricity consumption down 108 tCO_2e.

2.5 The reductions across these sites accounts for 86% of the overall change.

2.6 Gas consumption in the Catford Complex has fluctuated since the baseline and is currently under investigation by the Corporate Energy Team. There has not been gas

data for Broadway Theatre since 2023/24, and there is also significant missing data for the Civic Suite. Consequently, estimates based on previous years have been used where data is lacking. Given that a new boiler and meter were installed into the refurbished Broadway Theatre, it is likely that gas consumption has decreased there, but this will be confirmed following investigations.

2.7 Electricity use decreased across other operational sites by 50 tCO_2e in 2024/25, with Lewisham Library accounting for 42 tCO_2e of this due to its closure for refurbishment in September 2025. Wearside also reduced its use by 8 tonnes although the cause of this is currently under investigation.

2.8 2024/25 saw a decrease in gas consumption in other operational sites of 82 tCO_2e. This was driven by Holbeach Probation Services where there was a reduction of 101 tCO_2e as a result of the operational use of the building ending. Brockley Rise Centre CEL and Bellingham Gateway Youth and Community Centre also reduced gas consumption by over 15 tCO_2e each. Brockley Rise Centre had a ground source heat pump installed in late 2022 as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme which is consistent with its reduction. The cause of Bellingham Gateway's reduction in currently under investigation.

2.9 Gas consumption in schools, which accounts for the largest proportion of the Council's emissions at a quarter, reduced by 154 tCO_2e since 2023/24. Driving the decrease was Downderry Primary School with a reduction of 57 tCO_2e, followed by Sandhurst Junior School of 37 tCO_2e and Addey and Stanhope secondary school of 36 tCO_2e. Downderry Primary School had a heat pump installed in summer of 2024. Sandhurst Junior's gas boiler broke down between April and September 2024 and Addey and Stanhope also got a heat pump installed. These explanations are consistent with the reductions in the data. There is also an overall trend of reduction, as 41 schools – out of 72 - showed decreases and 16 of them were of over 10 tCO_2e less consumption than the previous year.

2.10 Electricity consumption in schools increased by 48 tCO_2e in 2024/25. There are two sites with significant increases; John Ball Primary School by 11 tCO_2e due to use of old air conditioning units that have subsequently been decommissioned and Stillness Juniors by 6 tCO_2e, the cause of which is unconfirmed. Furthermore, there does seem to be an overall trend as there are 16 schools – out of a total of 75 - with over 2 tCO_2e increases in 2024/25 alone.

2.11 Emissions for leisure centres reduced by 239 tCO_2e in 2024/25. This was driven mostly by a decrease in gas consumption, which reduced by 130 tCO_2e. This was due to reductions at Glass Mill leisure centre of 173 tCO_2e, although this was counteracted by increases at Forest Hill Pools.

2.12 Electricity reduction at leisure centres was led by Forest Hill Pools which reduced by 90 tCO_2e and then by Glass Mill which reduced by 85 tCO_2e. This decrease could have been a continuation of energy efficiency measures from last year although despite this, one meter shows increased consumption.

2.13 Emissions associated with the Council's fleet have reduced to 6% below baseline levels. This decrease below pre-COVID levels is because of improvements to vehicle efficiency resulting from the replacement policy upgrading standards, and in some cases switching away from petrol/diesel to electric. The Council's new Fleet Strategy is expected to result in an additional 12% reduction. However in the most recent year emissions associated with fuel consumption have increased by 113 tCO_2e. This is most likely due to extra vehicles being deployed to tackle fly tipping during 2024/25.

2.14 96% of reported fleet emissions are a result of diesel vehicles and the remaining 4% petrol. No data is available for electric vehicles operated by the Council. 55% of all reported fleet emissions are from the Waste and Recycling service, 18% from Housing, 11% from Social Care, 11% from Environmental Services and 5% from Others.

2.15 Streetlighting saw a decrease in electricity consumption of 70 tCO_2e in 2024/25, most likely to be a result of changes to the number of lights on the inventory.

Table 2: Council energy consumption by source

Consumption by source	2018/19	2023/24	2024/25	% Annual Change	% Change since baseline
Catford complex electricity (kWh)	3,574,007	2,192,353	1,978,932	-10%	-45%
Catford complex gas (kWh)	3,535,881	3,884,886	3,150,949	-19%	-11%
Other operational buildings electricity (kWh)	2,705,242	2,099,948	1,858,788	-11%	-31%
Other operational buildings gas (kWh)	6,878,717	5,621,375	5,171,309	-8%	-25%
Schools electricity (kWh)	9,515,109	9,067,960	9,302,025	3%	-2%
Schools gas (kWh)	19,092,667	17,521,536	16,681,109	-5%	-13%
Streetlights (kWh)	4,472,480	4,535,847	4,197,206	-7%	-6%
Fleet fuel consumption (litres)	899,169	795,170	841,562	+6%	-6%
Leisure Centres electricity (kWh)	5,563,629	3,058,052	2,534,802	-17%	-54%
Leisure Centres gas (kWh)	10,668,773	7,892,376	7,180,890	-9%	-33%

Table 3: Corporate sources carbon emissions in 2024/25 in order of highest emitter

Rank	Source (% of total)	tCO_2e	% Annual Change	% Change since baseline
1	Schools gas (25%)	3,051	-5%	-13%
2	Fleet (17%)	2,102	+6%	-11%
3	Schools electricity (16%)	1,926	+3%	-29%
4	Leisure Centres gas (11%)	1,313	-9%	-33%
5	Other operational gas (8%)	946	-8%	-25%
6	Street lighting (7%)	869	-7%	-31%
7	Catford complex gas (5%)	576	-19%	-11%
8	Leisure Centres electricity (4%)	525	-17%	-67%
9	Catford complex electricity (3%)	410	-10%	-60%
10	Other operational electricity (3%)	385	-11%	-50%

3 Lewisham emissions in context

3.1 In June 2025 the Government published the latest annual local authority area-wide carbon emission data[5] covering the period from 2005 to 2023. Emissions in the borough of Lewisham have fallen 53% on this measure since the baseline to 643,082 tCO_2e [6]. Lewisham's corporate carbon emissions in 2024/5 represent approximately 2% of this total[7]. Care is needed in comparing different datasets and this comparison is made to give a sense of the scale of Council data in a borough-wide context.

3.2 Emissions from the Council's housing stock are outside the scope of this report. Most tenants manage their own utility contracts and this data is not available to the Council. The emissions associated with the Council's housing stock have been estimated at 45,411 tCO_2e [8]. The Council's combined corporate and housing emissions are approximately 9% of the Government's reported emissions for the borough. As indicated above this information is a general indication of scale comparing two separate datasets.

3.3 In 2025 officers commissioned an assessment of the carbon emissions associated with the Council's purchase of goods and services, which has estimated the total annual emissions from the Council's supply chain at 172,748 tCO_2e [9]. This figure is fourteen times the direct emissions reported in this document. Further work is now planned to prioritise and engage with suppliers to encourage reporting and target setting to reduce emissions associated with Council contracts. Further detail on the assessment of emissions from the Council's supply chain is set out below.

4 Recommendations for future reporting

4.1 Fully understanding the Council's environmental impact requires investment to expand the scope of data collection and data quality. In 2026 we commissioned The Carbon Trust to produce an evaluation of our Corporate Carbon Reporting methodology. Below are the recommendations related to this report:

- Formally align the operational control boundary with the GHG Protocol definition which will affect some of the sites within the existing reporting based on ownership and operational control.
- Improve traceability and visibility in the council's energy management software, SystemsLink, as well as related datasets. This includes further internal staff training, implementing unique reference numbers for sites across teams and departments, and adding supply start and end dates to help track data changes over time.
- Enhancing the data quality and data completeness by installing sub-metering or virtual-metering where necessary and using alternative datasets such as proxy data to infill missing data.

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[5] Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2024 - GOV.UK

[6] This figure is from the Greenhouse Gas dataset from the above UK government data, as opposed to the CO2 dataset, as was the case in previous iterations of this report. This is due to a renewed understanding that the GHG dataset more closely represents our emissions profile than the CO2 dataset. The 53% reduction is calculated by dividing the latest emissions (2023), 643.1 $ktCO_2e$, by the 2005 emissions, 1,374.9 k tCO_2e, and subtracting one.

[7] This is calculated by dividing the 2024/25 figure for Lewisham corporate emissions, 12,103 tCO_2e, by the latest figure for whole borough emissions (2023), 643,083 tCO_2e.

[8] This figure is estimated using modelled data calculated through the Parity Project Portfolio software.

[9] In the 2023/24 this figure was reported as 248,449 tCO_2e. This figure has been revised following further analysis of financial transactions and removed instances of double counting.

4.2 In addition other steps that will improve the quality and consistency of data and fully measure Council emissions include:

- Expand reporting on fleet emissions to include consumption from electric vehicles in the Council's fleet
- Expand the current supply chain emissions analysis to include all scope 3 emissions such as waste and recycling and staff travel.

5 Supply chain emissions

5.1 The Council has made an assessment of the emissions associated with the procurement of goods and services. These emissions relate to the activities of the organisations that form the Council's supply chain, so are not part of the Council's direct operations covered above. In the terminology of the greenhouse gas protocol which sets the basis for reporting on carbon emissions they are considered to be part of the Council's scope 3 emissions, indirect greenhouse gas emissions from sources the Council does not directly own or control (see below Methodology table 4).

5.2 The Council's assessment uses a spend-based methodology across 3,188 suppliers to create a baseline figure of 172,748 tCO2e for 2024/25, with proxy figures based on DEFRA emission factors. Combined with the data on direct emissions those from purchased goods and services accounts for the vast majority of emissions associated with Council activity, estimated at over 93%.

5.3 Across the 3,188 suppliers a small number has a bigger significance, with approximately 2% of suppliers responsible for around 36% of emissions, highlighting the importance of targeted engagement. Further work is progressing in 2026/27 to engage with the teams commissioning these contracts to replace estimates with actual data direct from suppliers and encourage reporting and target setting in line with the Council's ambitions.

5.4 Other Scope 3 emission sources include staff travel, water, waste and recycling and financial goods and services are currently excluded due to data limitations but will be incorporated in future reporting as methodologies and data availability improve.

5.5 Roadmap and next steps:

- 2025/26 – Initial analysis
- 2026/27 – Supplier engagement
- 2027/28 – Data improvement and target setting
- 2028/29 – Monitoring and embedding into new procurement processes

Annex 1 Methodology

1. The report presents data from the seven financial years from 2018/19 to 2024/25. Consumption data (kWh) is converted to tonnes of CO_2e or 'tCO_2e' using the latest UK government department DESNEZ conversion factors. The 'e' refers to 'equivalent', which refers to other greenhouse gases with an equivalent greenhouse effect to carbon.
2. The 'Majority' approach - as defined by DESNZ – is used, in which the conversion factors from the calendar year that covers the largest portion of the reporting period are used. Therefore, the conversion factors for 2024 are used in this instance, because 2024 has the highest proportion of months in 2024/25.
3. The report is based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol[10] definition of emission scopes and used the carbon conversion factors published by DESNEZ in 2024, in line with an agreement on good practice for carbon reporting established through the London Council led Emission Accounting Working Group in 2021. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol scope definitions are set out below in Table 4:

Table 4: Greenhouse gas emission inventory definitions

Scope	Definition
Scope 1	GHG emissions from sources located within the city boundary
Scope 2	GHG emissions occurring as a consequence of the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the city boundary
Scope 3	All other GHG emissions that occur outside the city boundary as a result of activities taking place within the city boundary

4. Water-related emissions are no longer included in this report, despite having been included in previous iterations. This data falls under the definition of scope 3, however the associated dataset contains significant gaps, limiting its robustness.
5. When new data has become available, it has been integrated into the whole dataset including for previous years, to allow year on year comparison. For example, data on the fleet at Wearside was initially supplied in miles and then converted to tCO_2e. In the last two years this data has also included litres of fuel purchased. As the data went back to 2018 it has been used in this report for all years accounting for differences to previously published data.
6. This analysis has identified significant data gaps for a number of the meters within the portfolio. The planned further investment in smart metering will improve financial as well as environmental monitoring. Where gaps in data have been identified, data has been duplicated using the most complete year available to avoid any under reporting of consumption.
7. Data has been used from the following sources
   - Electricity, and gas data for corporate sites and schools are all sourced from the Council's energy management software, SystemsLink.
   - Street light data from electricity invoices
   - Fleet data fuel consumption data for petrol and diesel vehicles
   - Leisure Centre estate data provided by GLL (Greenwich Leisure Ltd.)

Data Cleansing

[10] https://ghgprotocol.org/

8. The data cleansing described above aims to present the most accurate calculation of emissions. As new data comes to light this has meant adjustments in some cases to previous years. Causes of amended figures include: removal of duplicated data due to information on site closures and corrections where data is missing.

9. Other data cleansing that has been done includes removal of individual meters or sites where the operation of the building is by a third party and the data is not part of the Council's corporate contracts. Small sites with highly erratic data have also been removed.

10. Deptford Lounge and Tidemill School share a single boiler and have combined water and electricity meters. Ideally this data would be separated out into Other Operational Sites and Schools but this has not been possible and instead has been allocated to Schools.

11. For a list of the corporate and school sites used here, please see the past report in which tables are included at the end of the document: https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/services/environment/lewisham-council-corporate-carbon-emissions-report-2022-23.pdf Since this report was published the only sites removed from the dataset are Amersham Children's Centre, which is no longer run by the Council and Deptford Lounge; see notes above.

Actions to reduce corporate emissions

12. The Corporate Estate Maintenance Programme (CEMP) has invested £3.5m between 2021 and 2024 for measures such as LED replacements, roof refurbishments, solar PV systems, and new windows across 35 buildings in the corporate estate. The 2024-2026 programme has a further £1.9m allocated.

13. £175k funding was awarded to Lewisham Council in 2021 from the Government's Low Carbon Skills Fund to assess and develop detailed proposals for zero carbon retrofit work on 10 corporate sites and five schools.

14. £2.9m was subsequently awarded to Lewisham Council from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and invested in energy efficiency and zero carbon retrofit work in seven corporate buildings and one school.

15. Funded by the Mayor of London's Greener Schools Programme, the Council installed solar PV on three primary schools in 2025/26.

16. Five schools were fitted with measures such as heat pumps, insulation, new windows and ventilation as part of the Zero Carbon Schools programme, between 2019 and 2022.

17. In the final round of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Lewisham Council secured £1.1m to electrify heating in four schools. These works are expected to complete in summer 2026.

18. Plans to upgrade Lewisham's street lighting to LED have been approved and a £5m programme of works is planned for late 2026. Once delivered this work is expected to cut the carbon intensity of street lighting by two-thirds.