

North Devon Council

Report Date: Monday, 8 January 2024

Topic: 2022 2023 Carbon Footprint Report

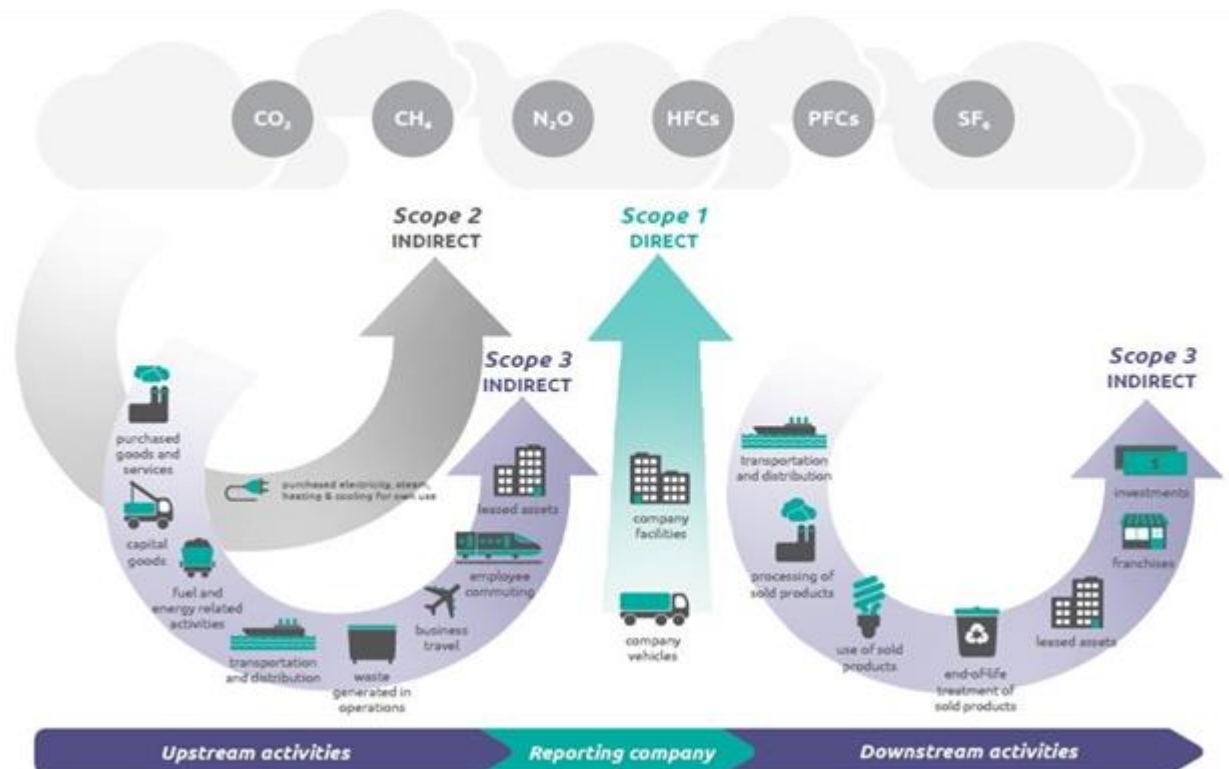
Report by: Donna Sibley, Sustainability and Climate Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. North Devon Council's Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan contains a commitment to carry out a full review and update to our carbon footprint using HM Government – Environmental Reporting Guidelines (updated March 2019) in order to provide a sound basis to plotting our route to being net zero carbon by 2030. This approach is consistent with the UN Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

1.2. The attached North Devon Council Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2022/2023 details the Council's carbon footprint (see Appendix A).

1.3. Our carbon footprint includes Scope 1, 2 and some Scope 3 emissions:



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.4. That the results of the carbon audit be noted.
- 1.5. That the options for reducing these emissions be noted.
- 1.6. That this report provides a basis for discussion for members on our way forward.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. To enable members to ensure North Devon Council reduces its carbon emissions in line with its Climate Emergency Declaration.

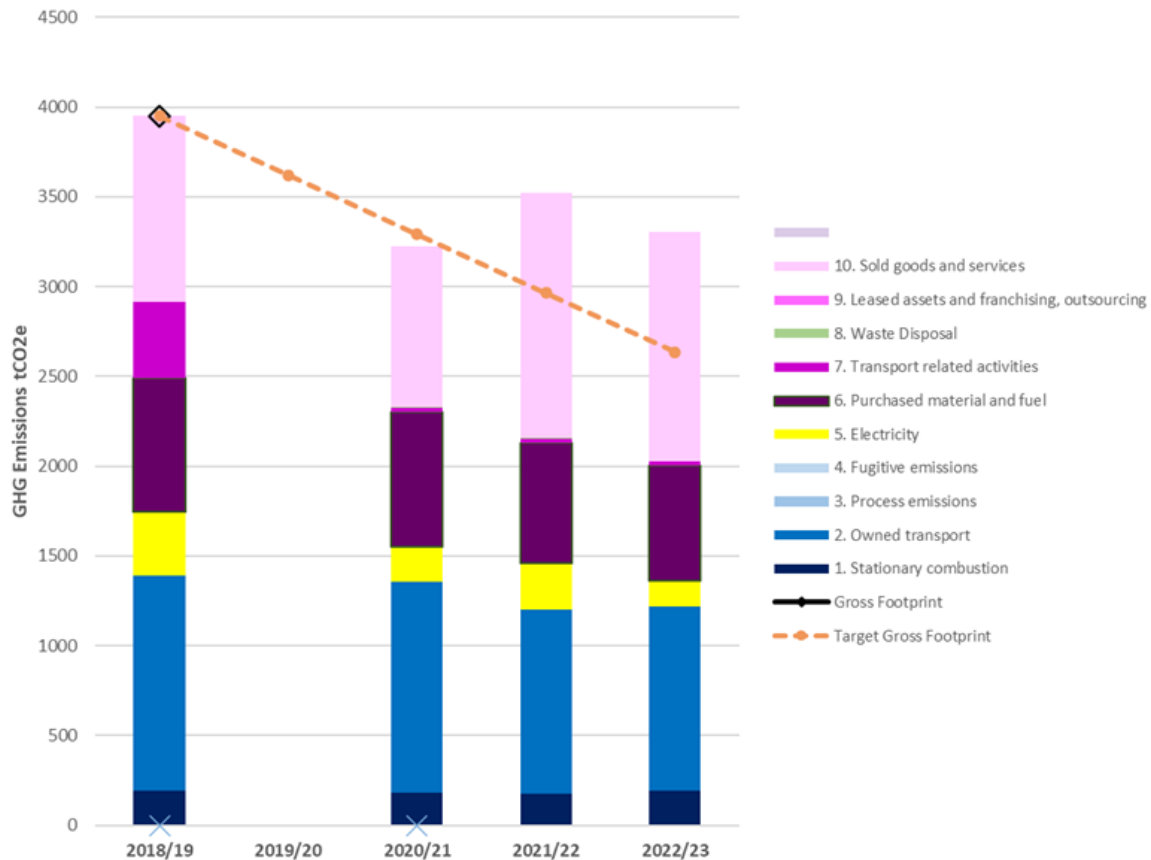
3. REPORT

- 3.1. The Council has a total footprint of 3303 tCO₂e for the period 1st April 2022-31st March 2023. This is a decrease of 649 tCO₂e or 16% on our baseline year of 2018/19.

No. Category	2018/2019	2022/23
SCOPE 1: Direct GHG emissions and removals	1393	1217
1. Stationary combustion	191	192
2. Owned transport	1202	1025
3. Process emissions	N/A	N/A
4. Fugitive emissions	0	0
SCOPE 2: Energy GHG indirect emissions	351	145
5. Electricity	351	145
SCOPE 3: Other indirect GHG emissions	2208	1941
6. Purchased material and fuel	748	641
7. Transport related activities	426	23
8. Waste disposal	0	0
9. Leased assets and franchising, outsourcing	0	0
10. Sold Goods and Services	1034	1277
TOTAL GROSS FOOTPRINT (SCOPES 1, 2 and 3)	3952	3303
11. Offset Emissions	0	0
TOTAL NET FOOTPRINT (SCOPES 1, 2 and 3 and Offsets)	3952	3303

Annual GHG Emissions by Category

(Scope 1 = blue, Scope 2 = yellow, Scope 3 = purple)



3.2. Carbon emissions relating to our properties

3.2.1. Our carbon footprint should include data for all our owned/occupied and owned/leased assets. In practice data for owned/leased assets can be difficult to obtain if we are relying on a third party to supply this information.

3.2.2. Actions being taken to reduce emissions associated with our properties include:

- Lighting replacement project at a number of sites;
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Phase 3c bid of £809,160 for Ilfracombe Pool and of £347,090 for the Landmark Theatre.
- Sport England bid of £432,000 for energy efficiency/decarbonisation work at Ilfracombe Pool.

3.3. Carbon emissions relating to our vehicles

3.3.1. The Council operates a number of fleet vehicles, most of which fall under the Environmental Enhancement service. As discussed at previous meetings, there are no viable alternatives to Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles for the majority of our fleet.

3.3.2. Actions being taken to reduce emissions associated with our vehicles include:

- Trial of an EV tipper in our Parks service as part of ongoing EV trials;
- Desktop study of current fleet to ascertain which are suitable for replacement with EVs;
- Replacement ICE fleet is more efficient.

3.4. Carbon emissions relating to our procured goods and services

3.4.1. A baseline calculation of emissions associated with our procured goods and services was undertaken in 2020/21 using a spend-based calculation.

3.4.2. Emissions associated with procured goods and services were 4537 tCO₂e out of a total footprint of 7759 tCO₂e, approximately 58%.

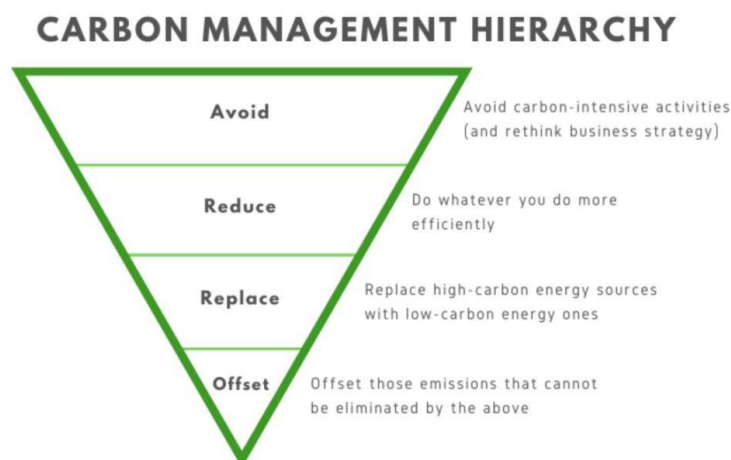
3.4.3. Actions being taken to reduce emissions associated with our procured goods and services are on hold following changes to our procurement team.

3.5. Other Scope 3 emissions

3.5.1. We sell red diesel to boat owners at Ilfracombe Harbour. Currently there are no viable alternatives to this fuel.

3.6. Offsetting

3.6.1. We will not be able to avoid/reduce/replace all our emissions and so offsetting will be required to ensure the Council meets its net zero by 2030 target, and for following years.





3.6.2. Discussions with Councillor Climate Action Teams have identified that the preferred offset type is certified nature-based solutions in Devon i.e. woodland creation or upland peat restoration as the only habitats covered by certification standards – the Woodland and Peatland Carbon Codes. Devon County Council has trialled various routes to attain these and found that carbon credits from Devon or even UK projects are unlikely to be available for 2030, see their LGA case study for more information.

3.6.3. This is reflected in our experience. We have planted a 15.5 hectare extension to their community woodland in Yeo Valley, Barnstaple which will receive carbon credits. Planting took place in winter 2022/2023 with approx. 6000 trees to be planted in winter 2023/2024.

3.6.4. Over the 100 year lifetime of the woodland, North Devon Council is projected to receive 4334 tCO₂e of woodland carbon credits. Few woodland carbon credits can be claimed at the beginning of the project. By 31st March 2027 only 16 tCO₂e of woodland carbon credits can be claimed, and by 31st March 2037 only 442 tCO₂e.

3.6.5. The Biosphere's Natural Capital Marketplace offers nature-based offsetting. The current price of an offset is £25/t CO₂.

3.6.6. Devon-based offsetting mechanisms involving renewable energy generation are in development.

3.6.7. There are a lack of appropriate offsetting mechanisms available to the Council at present.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1. No additional resource is required to calculate our carbon footprint at present.

5. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

5.1. There are no equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1. This report is neutral with respect to the environment, but it does provide the baseline data on which to act and report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6.2. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

6.2.1. The commercialisation agenda: the Council's desire to reduce its carbon footprint may affect its commercialisation decisions.



6.2.2. Improving customer focus: n/a

6.2.3. Regeneration or economic development: the Council's desire to reduce its carbon footprint may affect its regeneration or economic development decisions.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

7.1. The decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made by this Committee pursuant to delegated powers provided in Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph 1.

8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: North Devon Council Carbon, Environment & Biodiversity Plan 2023 (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Lead Member consulted 11/12/23

SMT consulted 11/12/23

Donna Sibley, Sustainability & Climate Officer