

St Albans District Council

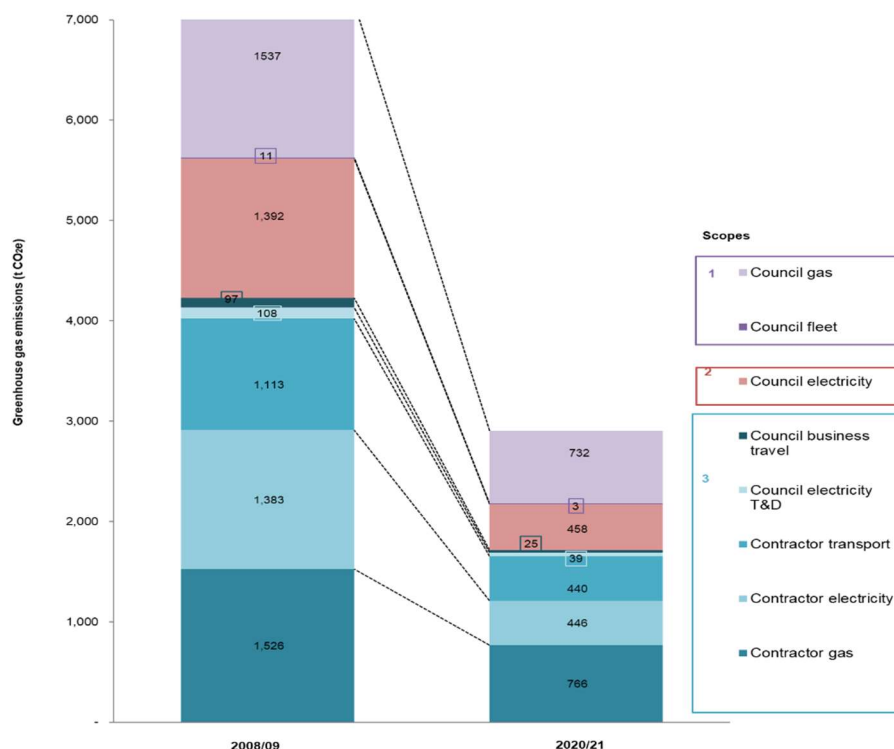
Corporate Emissions Summary 2021

St Albans City and District Council greenhouse gas emissions are calculated on an annual basis to evaluate progress towards our climate change mitigation goals. For more information on how these are calculated please see Appendix 1.

A summary of the annual emissions is given in Appendix 2.

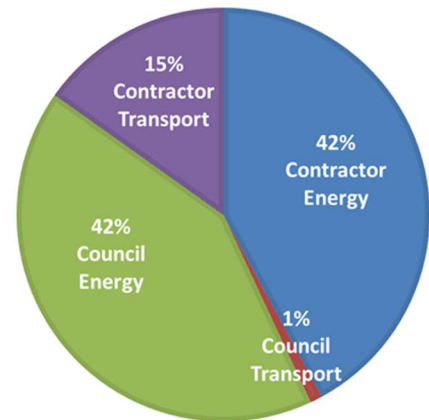
St Albans District Council's CO₂e emissions for 2020/21 were 2,679 tonnes

- This is a reduction of **63%** since 2008/09
- We have reduced emissions by **40%** since 2019/20
- Steady reductions have been seen across all emission sources since 2019/20.
- Last year we set a target to reduce our emissions by **348 tonnes per year**.
- In 2020/21 we reduced emissions by **1,823 tonnes**. This is more than **5 times better** than our desired emissions reduction!
- These reductions are largely due to the pandemic which led to the closure of buildings and reduced services. Can we maintain these reductions in the long-term?
- Purchasing 100% green electricity from Ecotricity has cut our net emissions by **~230 tonnes** in 2020.



Our 2020/21 emissions are mostly created through energy use at Council and contractor buildings.

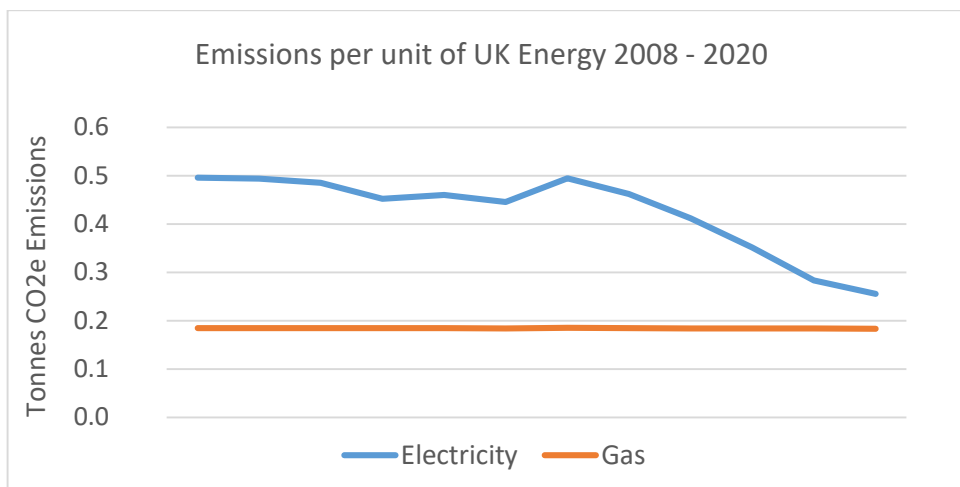
- 1,222 tonnes – Council energy
- 1,212 tonnes – Contractor energy
- 440 tonnes – Contractor transport
- 27 tonnes – Council transport



Our top 10 Council energy users are:

	Council Building	Tonnes CO ₂ e from energy use in 2020/21
1	District Offices	291
2	St Albans Museum and Gallery	103
3	Sandridge Gate Business Park (SADC use only)	90
4	Cyril Dumbleton House	75
5	St Michael's Dressing Rooms	55
5	42a Gorham Drive (Boiler house)	52
6	Breadcroft sheltered housing	48
7	Gertrude Peak Place	39
8	Verulamium Museum	33
9	Pemberton Alm Houses	29
10	34 Grosvenor Road	27

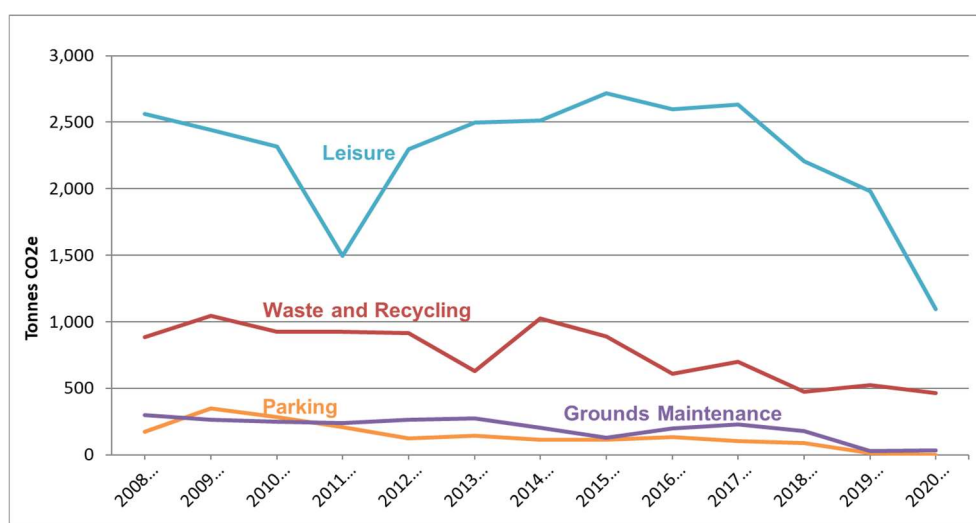
- We have reduced electricity consumption from corporate buildings by 30% since the baseline year. Some of this is due to energy efficiency and a large part is due to a reduction of our portfolio.
- Overall *emissions* from corporate electricity use are down by 67% since 2008/09. The emissions factor for electricity has reduced over time as a result of the addition of renewables into the national fuel mix.



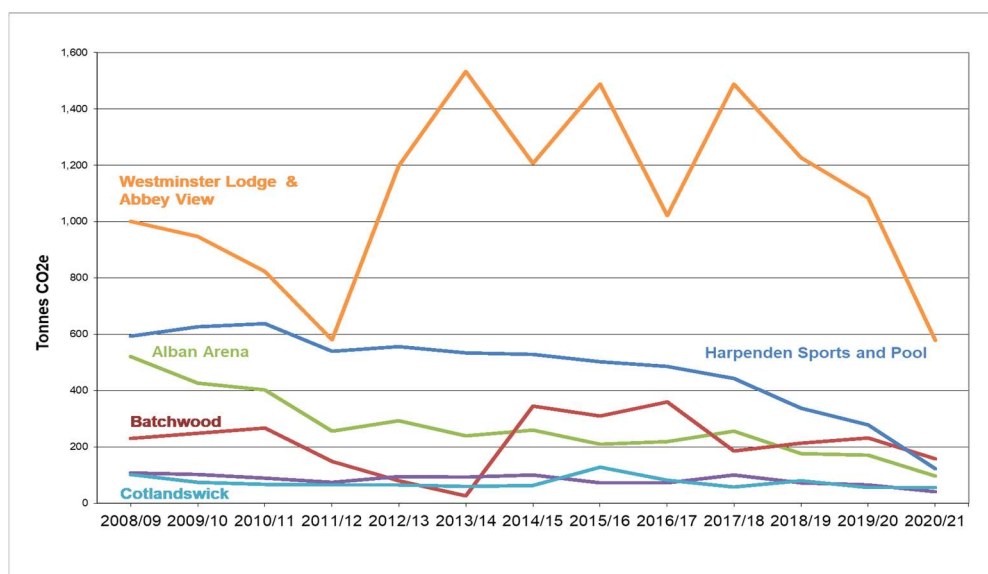
- Greenhouse gas emissions from gas remain largely unchanged since 2008/09. Corporate gas consumption has been reduced by 52% since the baseline year.
- Whilst in the main, we can see reductions in most Council buildings since 2008/09, there are some worrying increases in gas use that need to be addressed with urgency. Three Council

buildings in particular, add an extra 660,000 kwh gas more than the previous year. This equates to an additional and unnecessary **121 tonnes CO₂e**. To put this in perspective this is 34% of our total required annual reduction. Our bill management bureau are working with the energy supplier to understand why the bills were so high. In some cases, estimated billing whilst the buildings were closed due to the pandemic, may have led to high estimated bills. The sites showing unusual gas consumption and needing particular attention are:

- District Offices
 - St Albans Museum
 - St Michaels Pavilion
- Services provided by our largest contractors (waste and recycling, leisure and grounds maintenance), make up about 57% of our emissions. On average these contractors have **reduced their emissions by 67%** since reporting began in 2008/09. This excludes our parking services which were taken in-house in 2019/20



- Our Leisure centres have seen a reduction in emissions from energy use of around 57%. The pandemic led to closure of all our leisure centres on 23rd March 2020 which means they were out of use for a significant time during 2020/21.



Are we on track to meet our Corporate emissions reduction target?

- In 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency. A year later we published our [Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy](#) which outlined our approach to achieving net zero emissions by 2030. A series of target CO₂ emissions were created to map the journey to zero emissions in 2030. These are:
 - 51% reduction in emissions by 2020/21 (compared to 2008)
 - 74% reduction in emissions by 2024/25 (compared to 2008)
 - 80% reduction in emissions by 2026/27 (compared to 2008)
- To meet these targets, we calculated that the Council would need to reduce emissions by 348 tonnes each year from 2019/20.
- **In 2019/20 and 2020/21, this target was achieved! In fact, we reduced emissions by more than 5 times more than this!**
- This is great news and whilst there is much reason for celebration, we must also remain cautious of our emissions creeping up now restrictions have been lifted and we go back to 'normal'.
- We also need to recognise that a significant proportion of the reductions we have achieved are due to buildings being removed from our portfolio rather than deliberate energy efficiency improvements.
- We need to ensure regular monitoring is undertaken of energy use so that any anomalies can be quickly addressed. Energy efficiency measures along with regular meter reading and monitoring by asset managers, should be prioritised at the buildings highlighted in this report.
- Looking forward, we can expect to see some ongoing reductions due to the pandemic. With people now accustomed to working from home, and the resulting changes to the way many people travel, we have tremendous opportunities to reduce our energy and transport emissions in the longer-term across Council buildings. It will be important for the Council to demonstrate innovation in our working practices so as to maintain these reductions going forward.
- Over the next 2 years we have plans to install energy efficiency measures to our largest buildings; we will be introducing a package of sustainable transport benefits for staff; we will be creating sustainable developments that incorporate low carbon heating and lighting; and will continue seeking funding to decarbonise our social housing. We will place stringent requirements on our contractors to provide services that are low impact and low carbon.

Appendix 1: Greenhouse Gas Emission reporting protocol

1. Approach

Our greenhouse gas emissions calculations are produced in line with Government guidance.

The most recent (2020) Government guidance on how to report emissions is provided in the document [‘HM Government, March 2020: Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including streamlined energy and carbon reporting guidance’](#).

This method is based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, an internationally recognized standard for corporate accounting and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Greenhouse gases

The six main greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol are Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)

We use the standard practice of reporting aggregated greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂e)

3. Operational scopes

As a Local Authority, we are both directly and indirectly responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases from the activities related to our operations and services. For our greenhouse gas report we adopt the ‘operational control approach’ to determine where the boundary of our responsibility lies.

Emissions are categorised into three different scopes. These are:

- **Scope 1 (direct, controlled emissions):** emissions from activities owned or controlled by the Council which release emissions directly into the atmosphere. Scope 1 includes combustion of gas in boilers and Council-owned transport.
- **Scope 2 (indirect, controlled emissions):** emissions from activities owned or controlled by the Council, associated with our consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. In our calculations, Scope 2 consists of only electricity use.
- **Scope 3 (other indirect):** Emissions that result from our activities, but occur at sources which we do not own, control, or have full authority over, and are not classified as Scope 2. This scope includes energy use and business travel by our largest contractors, Council staff business travel and emissions associated with transmission and distribution of electricity.

4. Understand emissions scopes

Within the reporting protocols, emissions are grouped into three different scopes:

- Scope 1 (direct, controlled emissions): release emissions directly into the atmosphere. This includes
 - a) gas use (e.g., gas central heating)
 - b) Council-owned fleet (e.g., diesel for Council vans or equipment)
- Scope 2 (indirect, controlled emissions): emissions associated with our consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling.
 - a) electricity use by the Council (e.g. building power, electric vehicles)

- Scope 3 (other indirect): Emissions that result from our activities, but occur at sources which we do not own, control, or have full authority over. This scope should include:
 - a) energy use and business travel by the largest contractors (e.g. leisure centres, grounds maintenance)
 - b) staff/member business travel
 - c) emissions associated with transmission and distribution of electricity (this is just a calculation undertaken based on the total energy usage).

There are other emissions that can be optionally included within Scope 3 such as procured goods, water and waste, however focusing on the above is recommended. given the difficulty in assessing data and accurately their carbon impacts at the current time.

5. Property groups

The Council owns a wide variety of properties. For purposes of analysis, properties are categorised into these groupings:

Community use	Public conveniences, cemeteries, community centres.
Commercial	Business premises (communal areas and unoccupied sites); Sandridge Gate Business Centre
Culture and tourism	Museums, theatre, heritage buildings, market feeder pillars
Housing	Housing communal areas, sheltered housing
District Offices	District Offices
Parks and recreation	Sports pavilions and dressing rooms

6. Outsourced services

A number of core functions of the Council are outsourced to external providers. Whilst we do not have day to day control over the delivery of these services, we have some control within the initial specification of the contract. We therefore include emissions from energy and fuel use by our largest contractors within Scope 3. The included contractors provide services for waste collection and recycling, grounds maintenance, car parks and leisure facilities.

7. Excluded emissions

In line with Defra's operational-control approach, we have excluded emissions from assets leased out to other parties which we have no control of. Additional emissions excluded include fugitive emissions from air conditioning, staff commuting, water use, waste production and purchased materials. A summary of included and excluded emission sources are shown in Table 2.1

8. Data collection

Properties: Energy bills are used to determine the energy consumption of buildings the Council has operational control of. There can be some degree of inaccuracy resulting from estimated billing though this is minimized as we continue to install Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) to many of our energy supplies.

Included and excluded emissions

	Scope 1 <i>Direct</i>	Scope 2 <i>Indirect</i>	Scope 3 <i>Other indirect</i>
Included	Gas used in Council-owned and controlled buildings Fleet (Council-owned) vehicles	Electricity used in Council-owned and controlled buildings / equipment	Business travel in private vehicles and public transport Energy use and business travel of the Council's largest contractors Transmission and distribution of electricity
Excluded	<i>Fugitive emissions from refrigerants in air conditioning</i> <i>Process emissions</i>		<i>Water use</i> <i>Waste production</i> <i>Staff commuting</i> <i>Purchased materials</i> <i>Well-to-tank of fuels</i>

Transport: Data from Council-owned vehicles is obtained from fuel card information. Business miles by private vehicle are collected from expenses claim forms submitted to the Council's payroll. Business miles by public transport are collected from records made by staff for claiming reimbursement and from the e-procurement system.

Outsourced services: Energy and business mileage figures associated with the delivery of our services are provided by contractors as part of their contractual requirements.

9. Recalculation policy

The Council's baseline year is set for the 2008/09 reporting year. On occasion we recalculate previous figures in order to improve report accuracy. For instance, when:

- Improvements become available to the measurement methodology;
- Updated conversion factors are released; or
- Errors are discovered and corrected from the existing data set.

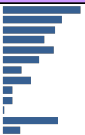













10. Conversion factors

The greenhouse gas emissions in this report are calculated using the conversion factors and guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2020>

11. Renewable Energy Tariffs and Offsetting

Emissions reductions from approved green tariffs and renewable energy can be included to the Net Emissions Total. The Gross Emissions Total (excluding these reductions) must still be shown.

Appendix 2: 2020/21 Statement of Emissions

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21		
Scope 1 - Council gas consumption and fleet vehicles	1,548	1,292	1,212	1,053	1,185	996	746	877	631	619	509	1,247	734		
Scope 2 - Council electricity consumption	1,392	1,528	1,409	1,314	1,303	1,240	1,122	1,152	976	827	671	563	458		
Scope 3 - Council business travel and contractor emissions	4,228	4,405	4,075	3,330	3,861	3,818	4,142	4,103	3,807	3,898	3,120	2,692	1,716		
Contractor emissions	4,023	4,216	3,898	3,159	3,707	3,669	3,998	3,966	3,673	3,778	3,031	2,605	1,652		
Total gross emissions	7,168	7,225	6,695	5,697	6,349	6,054	6,010	6,132	5,414	5,344	4,300	4,503	2,908		
% change from baseline year	-	1%	-7%	-21%	-11%	-16%	-16%	-14%	-24%	-25%	-40%	-37%	-59%		
Green Electricity Tariff	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	228.8		
Total Net Emissions	7,168	7,225	6,695	5,697	6,349	6,054	6,010	6,132	5,414	5,344	4,300	4,503	2,679		
% change from baseline year	-	1%	-7%	-21%	-11%	-16%	-16%	-14%	-24%	-25%	-40%	-37%	-63%		
Intensity ratio (kg CO ₂ e per resident)	53.0	52.7	49.2	40.5	44.9	41.8	41.5	42.3	37.4	36.9	29.7	31.1	18.5	