



CARBON NEUTRAL 2028

ACTION PLAN REVIEW SUMMARY

2021-22

FOREWORD

Nottingham and the City Council responded to the climate and environmental crisis by setting an ambition to become the first carbon neutral city in the UK by 2028.

Work on the Carbon Neutral Action Plan began in 2020. We are now two years into our programme, and we are seeing positive results. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the city have fallen year on year, and Nottingham continues to set the pace with the highest reduction per person for any core city in the UK.

Over the past year, we have delivered impressive achievements. We continued to develop our transport network with more cycling and walking routes, carried out numerous improvements to housing through the Greener Housing schemes, planted thousands of trees, and more.

The climate crisis remains one of the most important and complex challenges our society has ever faced, which is why the City Council has placed this as one of its highest priorities. We are working even closer with Nottingham Green Partnership members and organisations across Nottingham to provide a response that supports everyone to take action.

However, we know that we all need to do even more.

Increasing numbers of extreme weather events are happening at home and around the world, so we are far

from complacent. We are finding innovative ways of reducing emissions through projects such as the wireless taxi charging trial, and we will deliver more and more projects to reduce emissions in the coming years.

While we can celebrate the successes that Nottingham has had to date, we know there are difficult times ahead.

Together, the City Council, our partners, and citizens of Nottingham can meet the challenge of the most important issue of our times.

- Cllr Sally Longford, Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Waste Services



INTRODUCTION

2021 proved to be another exceptionally challenging year for our planet. It was the seventh warmest on record with a range of devastating extreme weather events around the world. The scale of change needed to limit global heating to under 1.5°C remains a significant challenge for all.

2021-22 represents the second year of implementing our action plan to deliver to make Nottingham the first city in the UK to be carbon neutral by 2028.

The plan focuses on:

- Reducing the amount of CO₂ produced as far as possible across key themes, such as Transport and Consumption
- Capturing carbon and offsetting residual emissions that cannot be removed through means such as tree planting
- Making the city resilient to the effects of climate change both physically and socially
- Ensuring nature, biodiversity, and our green spaces are protected, maintained, and enhanced
- Changing how we behave so everyone who lives in, works in, and visits the city is reducing their carbon footprint as much as possible
- Ensuring the city becomes a better place to live, with more opportunities for citizens to lead healthier lives with improved economic, social, and cultural benefits.



SUMMARY OF 2021-22

Nottingham's Carbon Emissions

The latest 2020 carbon dioxide emissions dataset produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), shows that Nottingham produced 1.041m tonnes of CO₂e in 2020.

Since 2005, the city has reduced its overall CO₂ emissions by 49.96% and reduced its per person emissions by 57.7%, the highest of any of the core cities.

Nottingham's is in the top 10% of all UK local authorities for the percentage of emissions reductions achieved between 2005 and 2020.

The city showed a 9.4% decrease from 2019 to 2020, just above the national average reduction of 9.2% and significantly higher than the city's previous average annual reduction rate of 4.16%.

As a city, Nottingham needs to reduce carbon emissions by just over one million tonnes of CO₂e to meet the 2028 ambition, equating to a 23.7% or more decrease each year.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the challenges of dealing with aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic the overall pressure on the City Council's finances, notable achievements have been made to help continue the downward trend of CO₂ emissions.

This year's key achievements include:

- Nottingham was considered as one of the top 100 world cities for climate action (CDP)
- Over 50% of the City Council's vehicle fleet is now ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles) which includes eight e-RCVs (Refuse Collection Vehicles). The e-RCVs alone will save over 200 tonnes of CO₂ e per year
- 30% of buses operating in the city are biogas or electric
- Several traffic calming and road closure schemes are now in place to encourage more walking and cycling, particularly close to schools
- 46% of black cabs and 69% of private hire taxis are now ULEV, and work began on installing a wireless vehicle charging facility on Trent Street
- A city-wide streetlight replacement programme started in April 2022 which is estimated to save 850 tonnes of CO₂ per year when completed

- 9,000 new trees were planted in last 12 months, and over 24,000 have been planted since 2019/20
- Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and University of Nottingham are ranked as in the top five universities in the world for sustainability
- Nottingham Universities Hospital NHS Trust launched their NHS Green Plan to become net zero by 2040 in April 2022



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Achieving carbon neutrality by 2028 is something that cannot be achieved by one organisation alone. The City Council is responsible for approximately 2% of Nottingham's CO₂ emissions, so it is imperative that all business, organisations, workers, residents, and visitors play their part.

The City Council works with key partners through the well-established Nottingham Green Partnership which was 30 years old this year. The partnership is chaired by Richard Barlow, a senior partner at Browne Jacobson Solicitors, and consists of over 20 organisations and businesses. Nottingham's Green Partnership works to develop strategies, share best practices, and encourage businesses and organisations to work together to deliver carbon reduction schemes.

In 2020, the City Council started the 'We Support CN28' campaign for businesses. This allows any Nottingham-based business or organisation to show its support for the CN28 ambition by signing up to the pledges outlines in the City's Carbon Neutral Charter. The City Council then work with them on an ongoing basis to help explore ways in which they could reduce their carbon footprint and promotes them as a supporter of CN28.

Awareness & Information

To raise awareness of the CN28 target and the work being done to achieve it, a monthly newsletter is circulated and posts are regularly shared on the CN28 Twitter and Facebook channels.

The City Council's Carbon Neutral Policy Team also regularly attend events in the city to speak to residents about what they can do to support the ambition.



WHAT'S NEXT?

To achieve the necessary energy consumption and subsequent emissions reductions, modelling suggests a need to significantly increase the rollout of solar panels on both commercial and domestic properties. In addition, further renewable generation will be needed, potentially outside the city boundary. Reducing energy consumption is also a key part of our strategy.

Usage of public transport is still a concern with levels still down on pre-pandemic times. This means we need to redouble efforts to encourage people back on buses, trams, and trains as well as adopting more active travel choices of walking, cycling, and e-scooter.

The worsening cost of living crisis, spiralling energy prices, and the continued threat of Covid-19 will make 2022-23 another challenging year to keep our climate ambitions on track.

Key to our ambition, will be the increasing involvement of the wider city and its organisations and recognising the contributions from across Nottingham. The City Council will therefore work with our Nottingham Green Partnership and its 'We Support CN28' partners to achieve this.

The coming year will also see the significant development of the new combined authority with Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and the City Councils of both Derby and Nottingham (MCCA). This could have lasting and beneficial impacts on how climate change is tackled right across the region.



KEY ACTIONS FOR 2022-23

Key actions planned to be delivered in 2022-23 include:

- Developing a new city partner reporting process to showcase carbon reduction work right across the city
- Improving cycling through the Active Travel Fund, Capability Fund, and Transforming Cities programme
- Providing grants for employers to implement sustainable transport measures through a Workplace Travel Grant scheme
- Investigating a suite of measures to mitigate the carbon impact of freight and last mile delivery
- Further deployment of vehicle charging infrastructure in City Council-operated car parks
- Continuing to convert the City Council's fleet and taxi fleet to ULEV
- Developing a strategy for greener economic development in the city
- Holding energy advice clinics for those struggling with bills
- Installing domestic energy efficiency measures through the Greener Housing schemes
- Drafting a Carbon Neutral 'Supplementary Planning Document' (SPD) for new building development
- Creating a new City Council procurement strategy
- Developing a new primary substation for the city
- Implementing a new Waste Strategy



GET INVOLVED

We would like to encourage everyone in Nottingham to take action to reduce their carbon footprint.

Get involved at home

There are lots of ways you can support Nottingham to become a carbon neutral city at home. Here are some suggestions to get started:

1. Work out your carbon footprint online
2. Make your home more energy efficient by draught-proofing, insulating your loft and installing renewable technologies
3. Travel by bike or walking or take our public transport for more of your journeys
4. Eat more plant-based meals
5. Reduce how much you buy and shop second-hand where you can
6. Save water at home by taking a shorter shower and turning the tap off when you brush your teeth
7. Grow pollinator friendly plants in your garden
8. Join Nottingham Green Guardians to plant trees in the city
9. Have conversations about climate change with your family and friends
10. Learn about what you can recycle in the city

Get involved at work

Businesses and organisations in Nottingham account for 32% of the city's carbon emissions, so it's important that they contribute to our CN28 ambition.

We are asking Nottingham organisations and businesses to pledge to our We Support campaign to show their commitment to doing what they can to help reach the city's carbon neutral target.

Any business, organisation or group can join – small or large and from any sector. All you need to do is let us know what you are doing to cut your carbon emissions. It doesn't matter if you are at the start of your carbon reduction journey or well on your way.



Green Rewards

The Notts Green Rewards app has loads of ideas to help you reduce your environmental impact. Sign up to be in with the chance to win prizes each month.



FIND OUT MORE

Read the full report on the Carbon Neutral 2028 Action Plan progress made in 2021-22 and find out more about CN28 by visiting bit.ly/CN2028.

Get in touch by emailing climatechange@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Follow the team on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to keep up to date with all the latest progress and [sign up for the CN28 monthly newsletter](#) to have updates sent straight to your inbox.