

# **CARBON NEUTRAL 2028**

**ACTION PLAN REVIEW SUMMARY**

**2020-21**



# FOREWORD

2020 to 2021 has been one of the most challenging periods we've faced in living memory. The coronavirus pandemic continues to affect every aspect of our lives, and financial pressures have put a strain on our city. Against all this, we have been working hard to reduce Nottingham's carbon emissions as we strive to become the UK's first carbon neutral city by 2028.

We have achieved a lot in the first year of delivering the Carbon Neutral 2028 (CN28) Action Plan, and city-wide carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions per person have fallen by over 50% in the last 15 years.

Our council vehicle fleet is increasingly being converted to ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs), we are installing more electric vehicle charging points, and half of the city's bus fleet is now low emission biogas or electric. The city hospital is replacing its old coal-fired boilers in a multimillion-pound scheme to save 800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

There have been positive achievements across all the key themes of the action plan, and I'm delighted to share the first annual review summary. This will give you a taste of what we've been up to so far and what is coming next. We also have an accompanying report that goes into greater depth.

We need to do more and cannot reach our goal alone, so we're asking everyone to do as much as they can to help make Nottingham the first city in the UK to reach carbon neutrality.

**Councillor Sally Longford, City Council Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment, and Waste Services**



# INTRODUCTION

To say 2020-21 has been a difficult period would be a huge understatement. Not only was the world hit by coronavirus, but it also was the second warmest year on record. We saw incredibly high temperatures in Canada, wildfires in Europe and Asia, flooding across the globe, devastating hurricanes and typhoons, and the continuing loss of habitats and threats to our wildlife. All these are a result of climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels releasing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other pollutants into the atmosphere.

In January 2019, Nottingham City Council made one of its top priorities to make Nottingham the first city in the UK to reach carbon neutrality by 2028.

The scale of our challenge is significant. As a city, we need to reduce our emissions by just over one million tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO<sub>2</sub>) by 2028, which will mean a 22% decrease or more each year between now and 2028. Currently, our CO<sub>2</sub> levels are decreasing at an average rate of nearly 4% per year across the city.

To reach our ambition, an action plan was published, and work began on delivering this in July 2020.

The plan focuses on:

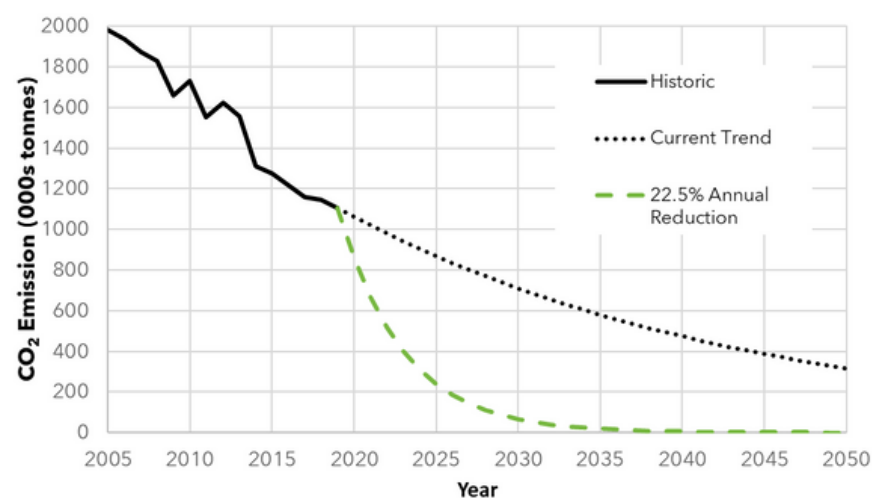
- Reducing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced as far as possible across key themes such as transport and the built environment
- Capturing carbon and offsetting residual emissions that cannot be removed through means such as tree planting
- Ensuring the city is resilient and adapted to the effects of climate change both physically and socially
- Making sure that nature, biodiversity, and our green spaces are protected, maintained, and enhanced
- Changing the ways 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 for all.



# SUMMARY OF 2020-21

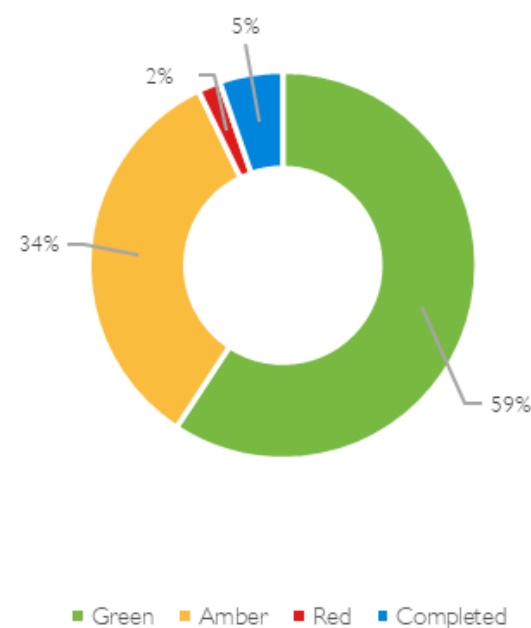
The latest Government figures published in late 2021, show that Nottingham produced 1.105m tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2019. The city has reduced its overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 44.2% since 2005 and reduced per capita emissions by 52.3%, the highest reduction of any UK core city.

The trajectory of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the city is demonstrated on the following graph, along with the reduction needed to be carbon neutral by 2028:



## Delivering the Action Plan in 2020-21

The 2020-21 plan contains 251 actions. Of these, 157 (59%) are expected to achieve their planned outcomes and targets (green). There is some concern that 89 actions (34%) will not meet their expectations without further resources or intervention (amber), while only 5 (2%) are predicted to miss their targets completely (red). 14 actions have already been completed.



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the challenges due to the pandemic and the overall pressure on the council's finances, significant achievements have been made to help continue the downward trend of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the city. These include:

- 30% of the council's vehicle fleet are now Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV), and the council became the first local authority in the world to use electric-powered Refuse Collection Vehicles
- In 2020-21, 130 public electric vehicle charging points were installed across the city with 81 installed in the new Broad Marsh Car Park, the most for a single site in the UK so far
- 39% of Nottingham City Transport's public bus fleet runs on low carbon bio-gas
- Nottinghamshire University Hospitals NHS Trust began work on a £25m scheme to replace its coal-fired boilers at the City Hospital. This is estimated to save 800 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year
- In 2020-21, the council secured over £13m funding for domestic energy efficiency retrofits with over 1,200 homes set to benefit from the programme. Since 2012, over 7,000 social and private hard-to-treat homes have been insulated, with over 4,000 social housing properties benefitting from solar panels
- Several traffic calming and road closure schemes are now in place to encourage more walking and cycling, especially around schools
- 46% of Hackney carriage (black cab) taxis in the city are now ULEV
- The council planted over 14,500 new trees across the city
- The Accelerating Reduction in Carbon (ARC) project is underway to support Nottingham's Small and Medium Enterprises to reduce their carbon footprints
- Our city schools have been transforming school meals menus to include more vegetable-based dishes. For example, the 'Swap It' campaign encourages pupils to swap meat dishes for vegetarian alternatives.





# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Achieving carbon neutrality by 2028 is something that cannot be achieved by one organisation alone. The council is directly responsible for approximately 2% of the city's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, so it is imperative that all businesses, organisations, workers, residents, and visitors to the city play their part.

The council works with key partners through the well-established Nottingham Green Partnership which will be 30 years old in 2022. The partnership, chaired by one of the partners at Browne Jacobsen Solicitors, works across the city to develop, share, and encourage organisations to work together to deliver carbon reduction strategies.

This year, we started the 'We Support CN28' campaign for businesses. This allows any Nottingham-based organisation to show its support for the CN28 ambition by signing up to the pledges outlined in the city's Carbon Neutral Charter. The We Support partners are provided with logos to use on any promotional material, for example vehicle livery and email signatures.

The council then works with them on an ongoing basis to explore ways in which they could reduce their carbon footprint and visibly promote them as a supporter of CN28 in council's marketing.

As of October 2021, 45 organisations were signed up, including Boots, the Canal & River Trust, Left Lion, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham University Hospitals, Tramlink, and the University of Nottingham.

As a city, we know we need to do more. We will intensify our efforts to work with many more organisations, while sharing their work to demonstrate the combined effort across the whole city.



# ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

During 2020-21, we found lots of ways to engage with residents of Nottingham despite restrictions on in-person events throughout the year.



We launched the [Green Rewards App](#), a county-wide collaboration where residents are encouraged to make sustainable choices in their everyday lives. To incentivise taking steps to reduce their carbon footprints, users are awarded points for every action they complete. At the end of the month, those with the highest points totals win prizes.

We also set up [Green Light in the City](#) – a pop-up space in the city centre – with a range of arts, media, and education organisations. Green Light in the City provides a free space for people to explore and understand climate change through creativity and interaction.

Nottingham BID have set up new areas on their websites to offer valuable advice to both [citizens](#) and [businesses](#) in their carbon reduction journeys. The site has lots of resources for Nottingham's residents, including easy tips for reducing carbon footprints, green events, and information on national campaigns.

We are planning lots of new initiatives for 2022 to help Nottingham's citizens understand what they can do to reduce the impact of climate change starting with a new competition with some great prizes in the New Year. Watch this space!

If you want to keep up to date with all the latest, you can follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and [sign up for our email newsletter](#) to have updates sent straight to your inbox.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

We have reviewed the plan, and the key issue that arose was the need for quantifying the scale of changes more accurately. This remains a huge challenge as some of the actions require a significant shift in social norms. This is especially true of how we travel around the city where large reductions in car journeys and increases in public transport use, walking, and cycling are needed.

Actions planned to be delivered in 2021-22 include:

- Working with schools and employers to encourage more walking and cycling where possible
- Investigating the potential for extra-urban freight consolidation centres – transferring to electric freight vehicles into the city
- Investigating expanding waste collection services, e.g. food collections
- Promoting schemes to allow homeowners and organisations to access trees and seeds for gardens and premises
- Implementing bee friendly projects across Nottingham's parks and open spaces, including rewilding, shrub, tree, and bulb planting, and seeding
- Developing a new city-wide website as a key resource for citizens and businesses to find information on climate change actions in the city.





# FIND OUT MORE

Read the full report on the Carbon Neutral 2028 Action Plan progress made in 2020-21 and find out more about CN28 by visiting [bit.ly/CN28](https://bit.ly/CN28).

Get in touch by emailing [climatechange@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@nottinghamcity.gov.uk).



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City Council