

**South Lakeland District Council  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Friday, 23 April 2021**

**Implementation of the Council's Climate Change  
Policy - Annual update**

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<b>Portfolio:</b>	Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio Holder
<b>Report from:</b>	Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources
<b>Report Author:</b>	Simon Blyth/Hannah Girvan – Strategy Specialists
<b>Wards:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not applicable

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**1.0 Expected Outcome**

- 1.1 This report outlines the development of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan over the last 12 months. It explains the data behind the council's carbon emissions, how the action plan is managed and what actions are being taken to reduce emissions towards a carbon neutral position for the Council by 2030 and the District by 2037.

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny:-**

**(1) Note the progress on the Climate Change Action Plan; and**

**(2) Engage with the Plan's development and promote outcomes limiting carbon emissions and supporting residents to play their part.**

**3.0 Background and Proposals**

- 3.1 South Lakeland District Council has been a leader in the response to climate change in Cumbria and the Bay area. The Council is a key member of the Zero Cumbria Carbon Partnership, has worked with the Lake District National Park Authority and other Districts across the Bay and Cumbria and with stakeholders and communities to raise awareness of and respond to the climate emergency. It was an early adopter and champion of the 2037 Zero Carbon target for Cumbria which has now been adopted by Cumbria Districts, and latterly the County Council. It supported the pioneering Kendal Citizens Jury which is now being rolled out across the County. The Climate emergency has become a key influence on Government and stakeholder decisions across the County and the strong leadership by South Lakeland on this issue has helped to drive this. A key element of this is showing the way by reducing our own emissions. In June 2020 South Lakeland District Council publically launched its Climate Change Action Plan, which set out the Council's commitment to address climate change. We have set ourselves the ambitious target of becoming a carbon neutral council by 2030. 3.2 This update shows our progress with our own council emissions and other work done in 2020/21.

- 3.3 Our total scope 1 emissions (all direct emissions from the activities of SLDC or under our control, including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles), and

scope 2 emissions (indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by SLDC - created during the production of the energy) for the financial year 2019/20 were 2475.5 tonnes of CO2 equivalent. This was a slight fall of 67 tonnes from the previous year.

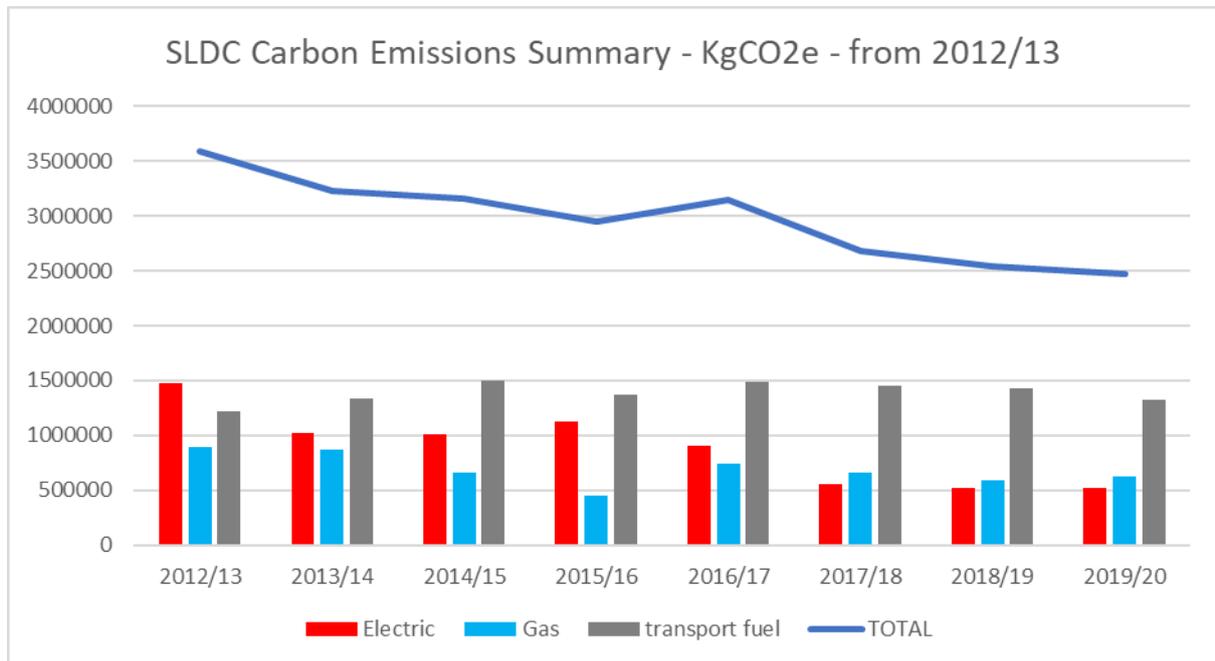


Figure 1 shows how SLDC emissions have fallen year on year since our baseline year of 2012/13.

3.4 We continue to see a fall in emissions year on year, but need to accelerate this progress to achieve our aim of carbon neutrality by 2030.

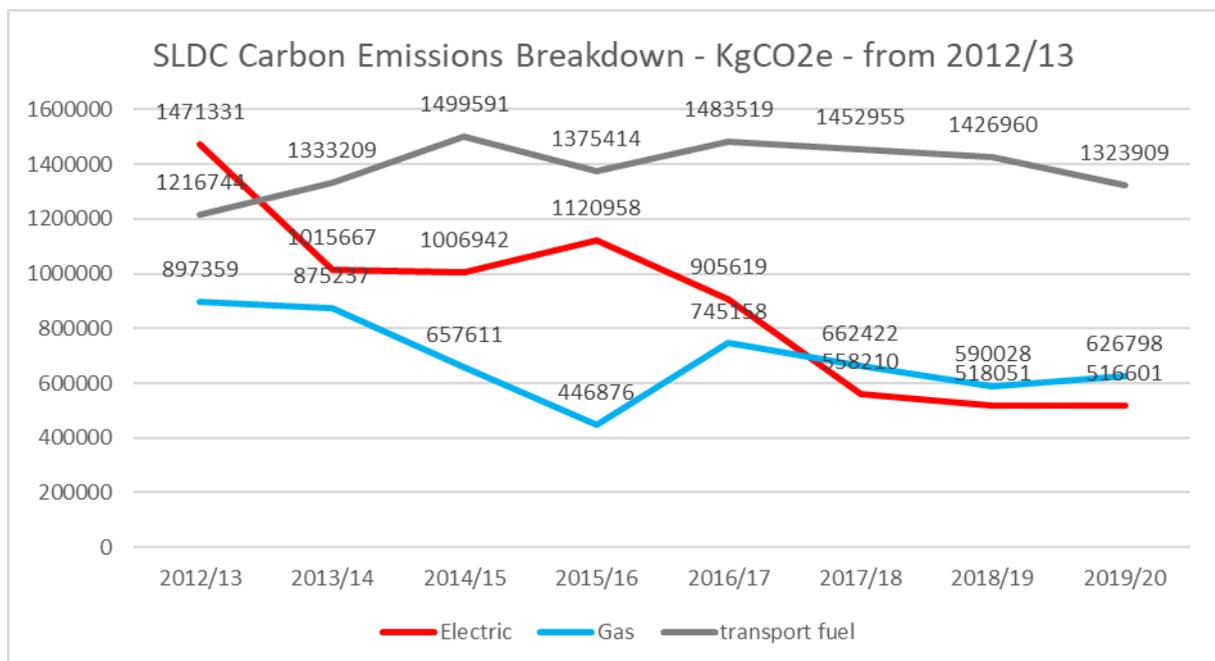


Figure 1 shows how these emissions are broken down by the main sectors of electricity, gas, and transport

3.5 Figure 2 shows our electricity emissions have fallen – however this is largely due to the decarbonisation of the grid across the UK. Notwithstanding this our electricity has fallen from the highest carbon emitting factor to the lowest within 8 years. SLDC’s gas emissions have fallen slightly, but our transport remains high.

3.6 If we break this down further we can see where SLDC’s main emissions are from:

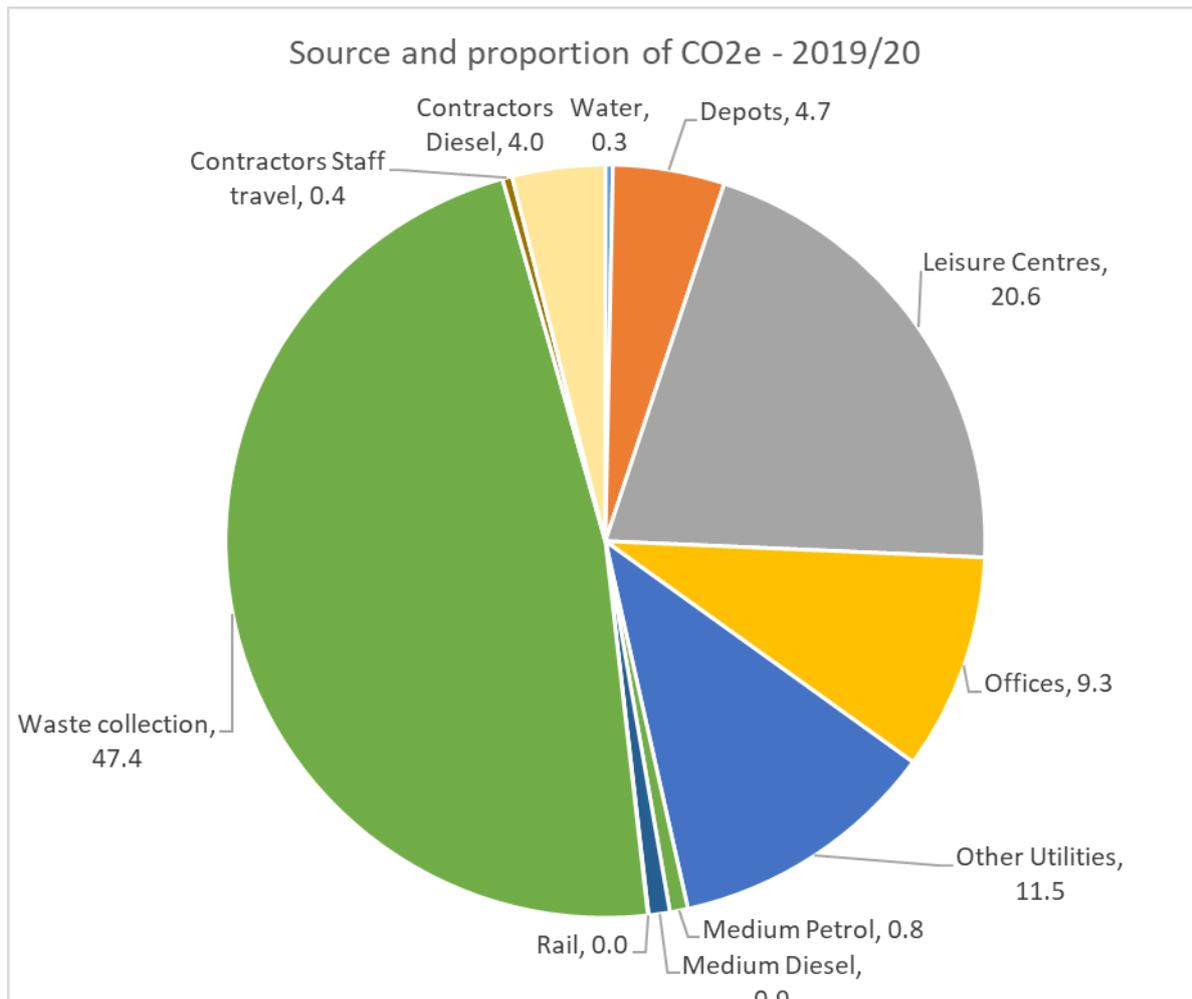


Figure 2 shows our energy usage broken down by sector as a percentage of the total emissions.

- 3.7 This chart shows our waste collection wagons remain the biggest emitters of carbon, with nearly half of our emissions. Leisure Centres are the next largest, with our offices and other buildings following closely. It is important to remember that this data is from April 2019 until March 2020, so the impact of Covid 19 will be minimal. This means next year's data will see far more changes.
- 3.8 SLDC is committed to delivering our climate change action plan and climate change is one of our 4 council priorities in our new Council Plan. Although we are in the early stages of work towards our ambitious carbon reduction target, we have seen a lot of movement already with our Climate Change Action Plan.
- 3.9 Our 40 point Climate Change Action Plan will take us to the target dates of Carbon Neutrality by 2030 (within our own operations) and for the district by 2037. 20 officers are responsible for these actions, and the Plan is updated each quarter for the Board.
- 3.10 The Climate Change Board meet quarterly with members including the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holders for Climate Emergency, Housing, Customer and Commercial Services and People. Officers include the Chief Executive, Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources and Strategy Specialists.
- 3.11 SLDC has a Climate Change Project Team of officers with a range of specialisms, who meet fortnightly to discuss and work on aspects of the Action Plan. There is capacity to enlist and involve other officers as and when appropriate.

3.12 There is also an internal network of officers who meet every two months to share ideas, ask questions and hear speakers (internal and external) around the climate agenda. They have created a [SharePoint Page](#) full of inspiration and ideas.

**3.13 Updates for our 2030 Target:**

3.14 SLDC are using an energy and transport data management system called Pilio, which provides up to date information and monitors carbon emissions. This software enables us to produce graphs showing the energy usage in our buildings and transport and monitor performance over time.

3.15 The Energy Saving Trust carried out an analysis of our grey (business travel) and our operational fleet (bin lorries and vans) to see if there are opportunities for saving carbon. Based on the data supplied, the SLDC fleet as a whole produced 1,232 tonnes of CO2e emissions. The report concludes that SLDC has an opportunity to reduce annual CO2e emissions by 48.22 tonnes and costs by over £8,776, through the following actions:

- Purchase a battery electric vehicle (BEV) pool car to replace 10,000 grey fleet miles and reduce the carbon emissions from grey fleet travel by 1.22t CO2e/year (see section 6.2).
- Introduce fuel management and driver performance indicators saving up to £4,932 and 11.7t CO2e/year
- Introduce ten small and medium van battery electric vehicles (BEV), subject to verification of maximum daily mileage and opportunity for recharging. This would save £2,820 per year in total and 32.9t CO2e/year

3.16 There is work currently ongoing to produce a daily speeding report for the operational fleet and a training programme for drivers was completed earlier this year. The council are developing a new green travel protocol based on reducing personal car use for business travel and instead using electric pool cars or public transport, walking or cycling, sharing lifts or holding meetings online.

3.17 We have solar panels installed now on 3 of our sites – and another 3 are to follow. We are carrying out a full assessment of our buildings to create a road map to zero emissions.

3.18 We have provided 4 full day training sessions on Carbon Literacy and climate change for officers and members and we are currently providing 10 shorter bitesize courses of 1.5 hours per session.

**3.19 Updates for the 2037 District Wide Targets:**

3.20 The Council ran a Climate Community Fund in Autumn 2020: This proved to be very popular, with 19 applications bidding for a share of the £20,000 pot. The 10 successful projects were:

Amount Given	Organisation	Project Name
£ 4,000.00	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve – a habitat that locks away carbon and South Lakeland’s best weapon against climate change.
£ 1,500.00	The Friends of Nobles Rest	Town View Fields: Natural Flood Management Project Phase 2. Public amenity, aesthetic and biodiversity.
£ 2,000.00	Kendal Town Council	Kendal's Climate Change Citizens Jury - Delivering the recommendations

£	940.00	Gill Banks Action Group - Parish Council	Rewilding Gill Banks in 2021
£	1,800.00	Burneside Community energy	Connecting carbon in Burneside
£	1,507.00	Ambleside Action for a Future	Warmer Homes for Ambleside
£	4,000.00	South Cumbria Rivers Trust	Cool Rivers
£	1,750.00	Kendal Cycle Club	Adult Cycle training
£	1,500.00	GCAN (Light Up Lives CIC)	Seedlings   Nurturing a peninsula of home grown food
£	816.00	Coniston Parish Council	Replacement LED Streetlights

3.21 The Council commissions Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) to work with communities in South Lakeland to reduce their carbon emissions:

Action since 2019:

- Ambleside to Zero project – Carbon footprinting and carbon reduction support for residents and businesses, a community renewable energy scheme (including a ground-breaking whole town solar PV assessment), Community engagement/behaviour/influence with hard to reach sectors
- Expanding an informative online resource: the CAfS low carbon knowledge hub
- Online webinars for residents and businesses throughout 2020 and through 2021 exploring low carbon homes, business events and sharing lessons learned.
- CAfS facilitate the Zero carbon Cumbrian Partnership and won a £2.5 million National Lottery award: <https://cafs.org.uk/our-projects/zero-carbon-cumbria-programme> to help finance this work.

3.22 Kendal Town Council successfully managed to organise the UK's first fully online Citizen's Jury on Climate Change. Asking the question to the Jury "What should Kendal do about climate change?" resulted in 27 recommendations which are being incorporated into the different local government tier plans and among businesses and residents within Kendal. SLDC has written a response to the recommendations for the actions that we will incorporate into our action plan where possible - <https://www.kendalclimatejury.org/>

3.23 SLDC have identified an existing toolkit called the Greening Campaign which enables Town and Parish Councils to plan and start their own actions within their closer communities. A friendly, fun based approach towards carbon reduction and self-governed action. An online meeting for all town and parish councils was held on 16th March by SLDC to go over the basics of the campaign and answer questions. So far Ulverston Town Council, the Cartmel Peninsula under Grange TC and being led by PEAT (Peninsula Environmental Action Together), Staveley and Ings and Duddon Parish Council have signed up to participate in this campaign and we are supporting them and staying in touch with their progress. Regular updates have been included in the new locality newsletters to all town and parish councils. We will look to put on another online meeting later this year to encourage further take up.

- 3.24 SLDC in association with the University of Manchester held a month long schools competition to create a motivating and inspiring poster to help people act on climate change – there were over 100 entrants and the winning posters will be displayed on our bin wagons.
- 3.25 The council have commissioned a company called Ricardo to look into our offsetting potential ( to absorb carbon via land use, land use change and forestry) for improved land management on council owned land, as well as district wide. Offsetting is required to support our carbon neutral target.
- 3.26 SLDC continues to support small businesses through part funding Green Audits with the Green Small Business Scheme. We have also had the first round of Future Fixers – supporting new starter businesses with climate and efficiency friendly support.
- 3.27 The Council have signed up to a social value portal which will enable officers simply and effectively to score potential contractors on their carbon cutting credentials as well as monitor emissions as they progress through the contract. This will help cut emissions in the council's supply chain and is a big step forward.

#### **4.0 Consultation**

- 4.1 There is a quarterly Board meeting to discuss and assess progress and an annual report to Overview and Scrutiny. There have been three rounds of climate conversation meetings around the District. Consultation with Cumbria Action For Sustainability, other local partners and District councils has taken place and a variety of stakeholders are represented on the Climate Change group.

#### **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The Council could choose not to adopt a climate change target, or to adopt a later date to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 or 2045.

Clearly there is a grave global risk in failing to address the challenges of Climate Change in increased severe weather events and flooding, increased refugee flows, competition for water resources, impacts on food production and many others. The actions South Lakeland takes must be seen in the context of global solutions to a global problem. However the global issue will only be addressed if local communities, local authorities, County and sub-regional bodies and national Governments take ownership of it. South Lakeland's actions, whilst they may have limited impacts in themselves, help to build resolve and influence others. Non-adoption of a target or adoption of later targets would reduce the impetus for action locally.

#### **6.0 Links to Council Priorities**

- 6.1 SLDC's Council Plan adopted in December 2021 sets a strategic priority of meeting the challenge of Climate Change under the theme: Addressing the climate emergency – a carbon neutral South Lakeland.

#### **7.0 Implications**

##### **Financial, Resources and Procurement**

- 7.1 Achievement of these targets will require major changes to many different areas of Council activities to be progressively phased in over the next 10-17 years, it is not possible to give accurate costing's at this stage. Future financial and budget planning in most areas of Council activities will have to take into account the cost of reducing carbon emissions.

##### **Human Resources**

- 7.2 A full-time member of staff has been employed to coordinate carbon reduction and steer implementation of the climate action plan. All staff to engage and take responsibility to enable change to a low carbon organisation.

## Legal

- 7.3 The UK Government has committed to making the UK Net Carbon Zero by 2050 through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019). The Government has also introduced the Environment Bill 2020 to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment.

## Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No
- 7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: This is a summary briefing report – there are no new actions.
- 7.6 Summary of health, social, economic and environmental impacts: N/A

## Equality and Diversity

- 7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: This is a summary briefing report – there are no new actions.
- 7.9 Summary of equality and diversity impacts: N/A

## Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Failing to address climate change will result in grave global impacts	Including: increased severe weather events and flooding, increased refugee flows, competition for water resources, impacts on food production and many others	Implement an action plan to reduce the council and districts greenhouse gas emissions.

## Contact Officers

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## Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Climate Change Action Plan document

## Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	26/3/21	06/04/2021
Section 151 Officer	26/3/21	06/04/2021
Monitoring Officer	26/3/21	06/04/2021
CMT	26/3/21	08/04/2021

<b>Circulated to</b>	<b>Date sent</b>
Lead Specialist	26/3/21
Human Resources Lead Specialist	26/3/21
Communications Team	26/3/21
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A