Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Carbon Audit
2025/2026

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1. Summary

1.1 The following report sets out the carbon footprint relating to the estate emissions of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN). This is reported annually to set out the direction of travel against the council's commitment to be Net Zero on its estate emissions profile by no later than 2035.

1.2 This 2025/2026 carbon audit highlights that emissions reduced by 3.5% from 2024/2025 levels, emitting 2,519.72 tCO_2e.

It continues to represent a 65% reduction from the original baseline year 2009/2010.

1.3 The carbon audit has been carried out in accordance with The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) guidelines. Official DESNZ greenhouse gas reporting conversion factors have been used to convert the BCKLWN's usage data into standardised figures for estimated tonnes of carbon dioxide.

2. Scope emissions

2.1 The table below sets out what is captured in each scope.

Scope	***Activity***	***Description***	***Data Source***
Scope 1	Gas Consumption	Used to heat our buildings and sites.	Data obtained from council utility bills
	Oil Consumption	Used to heat our buildings and sites.	Data obtained from council utility bills
	Vehicle Fleet	The council's operational vehicle fleet.	Data obtained from council fuel invoices
Scope 2	Purchased electricity	Electricity purchased from the national grid to power the council's buildings and sites.	Data obtained from council utility bills
Scope 3	Transmission and Distribution Losses	These are indirect emissions from the transmission and distribution of our purchased electricity. It is considered best practise to include these in Scope 3 emissions.	Data obtained from council utility bills
	Water Supply	The supply of water to our buildings and sites.	Data obtained from council utility bills

	Water Treatment	The water we return to the system (90% return to sewer rate).	Data obtained from council utility bills
	Business Travel	Staff and member travel in their own vehicles on business grounds.	Obtained using employee mileage claims
	Contractor Travel	Travel by contractors to carry out work commissioned by the council, e.g., waste collection.	Obtained through contractor fuel records

2.2 The table below sets out the related emissions for each of the Scopes for previous years.

BCKLWN tCO_2e Emissions							
Year	**2009/2010**	**2020/2021**	**2021/2022**	**2022/2023**	**2023/2024**	**2024/2025**	**2025/2026**
Scope 1	2,109.2	1,595.0	1,685.00	1449.0	1,436.9	1,529.80	**1344.15**
Scope 2	3,235.4	829.5	843.50	885.1	965.2	962.49	**818.68**
Scope 2 renewable tariffs	-	-671.3	-843.50	-885.1	-965.2	-962.49	**-818.68**
Scope 3	2021.5	1,243.8	1,146.41	1,239.4	1,184.0	1,166.67	**1,261.28**
Scope 3 Transmission Losses renewable tariff	-	-	-6.95	-80.9	-83.5	-85.07	**-85.71**
Total gross emissions	7,366.1	3,668.3	3,674.91	3,573.6	3,586.0	3,658.96	**3,424.11**
Total net emissions	7,366.1	2,997.0	2,824.45	2,607.5	2,537.4	2,611.40	**2,519.72**

3. Emissions Breakdown

BCKLWN Carbon Audit: 2025/2026				
Emissions Sources	**Consumption**		**Emissions Data**	
Scope 1	**Activity Data**	**Unit**	**t CO_2e**	**kg CO_2e**
Gas Consumption	5,634,398.00	*kWh*	1,030.87	1,030,869.458
LPG Consumption	1.00	*tonnes*	2.94	2,939.361
Oil Consumption	-	*litres*	-	-
Council Vehicle Fleet	-	-		
Petrol Vehicle	14,487.25	*litres*	29.98	29,976.438
Diesel Vehicle	109,056.08	*litres*	280.36	280,363.552
Red Diesel	-	*litres*	-	-
Total Scope 1	-	-	**1,344.15**	**1,344,148.809**
Scope 2	**Activity Data**	**Unit**	**t CO_2e**	**kg CO_2e**
Electricty Consumption	4,625,297.00	*kWh*	818.68	818,677.569
Total Scope 2	-	-	**818.68**	**818,677.569**
Scope 3	**Activity Data**	**Unit**	**t CO_2e**	**kg CO_2e**
Transmission & Distribution Losses	4,625,297.00	*kWh*	85.71	85,706.753
T&D: EV & Plug-in Hybrid	15,222.49	*miles*	0.90	897.214
Water Supply	74,936.00	m^3	14.34	14,335.257
Water Treatment	50,122.00	m^3	8.56	8,564.847
Business Travel	-	-		
Electric Car	15,222.49	*miles*	0.90	897.214
Small Petrol Car	48,333.51	*miles*	11.13	11,129.757
Medium Petrol Car	33,295.03	*miles*	9.36	9,362.895
Large Petrol Car	6,283.27	*miles*	2.71	2,712.802
Small Diesel Car	42,321.95	*miles*	9.77	9,767.060
Medium Diesel Car	52,963.40	*miles*	14.64	14,638.554
Large Diesel Car	9,060.83	*miles*	3.06	3,063.285
Bus	4.83	*passenger km*	0.00	0.502
Taxi	20.28	*passenger km*	0.00	3.014
Underground	115.87	*passenger km*	0.00	3.221
Rail	32,240.07	*passenger km*	1.14	1,139.124
Ferry	-	*passenger km*	-	-
Plane	-	*passenger km*	-	-
Contractor Travel	-	-		
Refuse Collection Vehicles	427,513.58	*litres*	1,099.06	1,099,060.462
Total Scope 3	n/a	-	**1,261.28**	**1,261,281.961**
BCKLWN Gross Emissions Total	n/a	-	**3,424.11**	**3,424,108.339**
Carbon Offsets / Renewable Tariffs	**Activity Data**	**Unit**	**t CO_2e**	**kg CO_2e**
Renewable Electricity Tariff	- 4,625,297.00	*kWh*	- 818.68	- 818,677.569
Transmission & Distribution Losses	- 4,625,297.00	*kWh*	- 85.71	- 85,706.753
Total	n/a	-	**- 904.38**	**- 904,384.322**
BCKLWN Net Emissions Total	n/a	-	**2,519.72**	**2,519,724.016**

4. Changes to emissions

4.1. The trend

There has been a 3.5% decrease in the council's net emissions compared to the 2024/2025 audit. Overall CO_2e emissions decreased from 2,611.40 tCO_2e in 2024/2025 to 2,519.72 tCO_2e, this is a decrease of 91.68 tCO_2e.

4.2 Scope 1

Scope 1 emissions account for 52% of the organisation's total emission profile and totalled 1,344.15 tCO_2e, compared to 57% and 1,529.80 tCO_2e in 2024/2025. This is a decrease of 185.65 tCO_2e.

Variances explained are explained below.

4.2.1 Gas consumption

Gas usage across the council's estate contributed to 1,030.87 tCO_2e to the 2025/2026 emissions profile. This is a decrease of 165.84 tCO_2e of gas usage in comparison to 2024/2025 when it was responsible for 1,196.71 tCO_2e.

4.2.2 In the reporting period we saw significant reductions at the Arts Centre/Guildhall, Fermoy Gallery, Hunstanton Oasis Leisure Centre, King's Court, Lynnsport and Leisure Park. Notable increases in gas usage were from buildings such as Hunstanton Valentine Road Office and 29 King Street Offices (Ground and first floor offices).

4.2.3 Council Fleet Fuel consumption

The council has seen a reduction of 919.27 litres in its petrol consumption related emissions. This may be attributed to new efficient petrol hybrid vehicles in the fleet.
The council also has a decrease of 9,553.82 litres of diesel compared to 2024/2025 figures. This decrease may be partly attributed to timings of fuel purchases and increasing use of electric vehicles.

In January 2025, the council commissioned a decarbonisation review of its fleet. At that time the council had four electric small vans. A further electric van used by the caretaking service has been acquired.

4.2.4 Please note that this section does not refer to the council's outsourced waste contract as their emissions are counted in the Scope 3 emissions profile.

4.3 Scope 2

The council's Scope 2 emissions profile is reported at zero. This is due to the council's electricity contract with EDF being provided from confirmed and certified zero carbon sources. However, there was a decrease of 143.81 tCO_2e compared to 2024/2025 figures. This is due to a decrease of usage to 4,625,297 kWh compared to 4,648,611 kWh as well as emission factor changes.

It is worth noting that if the council did not receive its electricity from this tariff it would have a further 818.68 tCO_2e on its Scope 2 emissions profile and additional emissions relating to transmission and distribution through the power grid (see Section 4.4 for further details).

Moving forward, due to the electrification of more heating systems throughout the estate and the further uptake of electric vehicles, it is anticipated that electricity consumption will further increase. Future investments in rooftop solar generation on council buildings is being planned to offset additional consumption.

Energy efficient LED lighting has been installed at several sites and further installations and efficiency measures are also being explored.

4.4 Scope 3

Scope 3 emissions totalled at 1,261,28 tCO_2e compared to 1,166.67 tCO_2e in 2024/2025. This is an increase of 94.61 tCO_2e which equates to an 8.1% increase in Scope 3 emissions compared to the previous year.

Business travel emissions are included in Scope 3. There was a total of 227,646.22 business miles undertaken for the year 2025/2026. This is a decrease of 0.2% as staff business miles undertaken for the 2024/2025 year was 228,010.73 miles.

Only 20,153.06 of these miles were from public transport, this is 8.9% of staff business travel. The remaining 91.1% is made up of private vehicle journeys. Electric miles totalled 15,222.49 miles in 2025/2026, (7.3% of vehicle journeys) which was an increase compared to 13,168.1 miles in 2024/2025, (6.6% of private journeys). Electric miles increased by 15.6% from 2024/2025 to 2025/2026.

Variances are explained below.

4.4.1 Business Travel

The council has seen a small increase related to business travel in cars. The 2025/2026 figures show that business travel in cars was responsible for 51.57 tCO_2e compared to 49.65 tCO_2e in 2024/2025. This can be attributed to a small shift from diesel to petrol vehicle-related mileage. Due to the rural nature of the borough there are limitations related to public transport access.

There has been an increase in the use of fully electric vehicles being used for business related travel. The increase in electric miles is due to electric vehicles now being owned by members of staff and used for business travel.

4.4.2 Waste contract

The council's outsourced waste contract has seen an emissions increase compared to the previous year. Refuse fuel consumption has increased to 427,513.58 litres in 2025/2026 from 401,436.02 litres in 2024/2025.

This increase of 26,077.56 litres may be attributed to fuel ordering timings and an increase in distance/weight due to housing growth. Ongoing route optimisation will seek to minimise fuel consumption.

4.4.3 Water supply and treatment

The amount of water used by, or sent to be treated, from council assets has increased by 1,711.17 m^3 compared to 2024/2025. This 1.4% increase is due to a small rise in usage at office facilities and leisure centres. The total water supply and treatment for 2025/2026 totalled 125,058.00m^3 whereas in 2024/2025 it totalled 123,346.83m^3.

4.4.4 Electric Transmission/Distribution Losses

Similar to everyone who receives their electricity supply through the national grid infrastructure, the council is subject to transmission/distribution losses of the electricity moving through the grid from where it is generated to the building where it is used. This means more electricity needs to be generated than is actually consumed by the end user. These transmission losses generate emissions and are reported under Scope 3.

As already highlighted due to the council purchasing zero carbon electricity, all electricity consumption-related emissions are reported as zero. This can also be applied to the transmission/distribution losses, so for the purpose of this audit they are reported as zero.

5. Electricity generation

The BCKLWN has solar photo voltaic (PV) arrays installed on a number of its assets. Over 2025/26, these systems generated 432,793 kWh of clean energy (2024/2025, 488,227kWh) (data supplied by BCKLWN Property Services). The decrease of 55,434 kWh can be explained by the weather and operational faults which have now been repaired. The bulk of this energy will have been consumed on site, reducing the council's electricity consumption and potential costs with surplus generation exported to the grid.

The sites that have had solar PV arrays installed are the Oldmedow Road depot, the Lynnsport complex, Alive St James swimming pool, Downham Market Leisure Centre, Hunstanton Oasis Leisure Centre, South Lynn Community Centre and King's Court. Additional sites that may be suitable for solar PV arrays are being explored and include the Corn Exchange and King's Lynn Innovation Centre.

6. Reducing our emissions

6.1 The council is following a twin approach to reducing emissions and addressing climate change. Our primary approach focuses on corporate emissions reporting and reduction. The annual monitoring and reporting of the council's own emissions indicate the direction of travel against our baseline of 2009/2010. Our second approach focuses on the reduction of our geographical borough's emissions through action by householders, community groups and businesses.

6.2 The BCKWLN adopted a corporate climate change policy in October 2020, setting out climate change commitments for the future. A climate change strategy and action plan was adopted in September 2021 and refreshed in April 2026. This details how the council will work towards net-zero by 2035, looking specifically at how each Scope's emissions will be reduced. This strategy and action plan is split into the council's two work phases, focusing heavily on phase one, and reaching net zero by 2035 for the council's corporate emissions. The strategy and action plan also covers geographical borough emissions and where the council is best placed to influence and lead emissions reductions. The council is working towards the national 2050 net-zero target for the geographical borough and reports annual data published by the Department for Net Zero and Energy Security.

6.3 In 2021/22, the council used a £3.8 million grant from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for heat decarbonisation on 11 high-emitting council buildings. This forms our second refit project, having previously conducted a retrofit project in 2018/2019 to improve energy efficiency across the building portfolio. Further opportunities for decarbonisation are being explored.

6.4 The council is reducing the amount of energy that streetlights use by upgrading the streetlights to more energy-efficient LED units.

6.5 The council completed its fleet review and acquired an additional electric vehicle and, following a successful bid to the Government's Depot Charging Scheme Grant, installed five charging points at Oldmedow Road Depot. Future vehicle replacements will consider electric options.

6.6 A number of council staff work in roles that allow for hybrid working thereby reducing the need to travel to work. When staff do need to travel, we encourage employees to choose sustainable travel options like walking, cycling or public transport. We currently provide employees with cycle parking, showers and changing facilities. We will be exploring and promoting further ways to encourage employees to choose sustainable travel such as a cycle to work salary sacrifice scheme to help save money on the cost of a new bike and accessories and access to ultra-low emission cars through a 'greener car' salary sacrifice scheme.

6.7 The council is open to suggestions relating to its reduction of emissions. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email climatechange@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Detailed Emissions

BCKLWN Carbon Audit: 2025/2026

Emissions Sources	Consumption		Emissions (tonnes)				Emissions (kilograms)			
Scope 1	**Activity Data**	**Unit**	**t CO_2e**	**t CO_2**	**t CH_4**	**t N_2O**	**kg CO_2e**	**kg CO_2**	**kg CH_4**	**kg N_2O**
Gas Consumption	5,634,398.00	*kWh*	1,030.87	1,028.78	1.58	0.51	1,030,869.46	1,028,784.73	1,577.63	507.10
LPG Consumption	1.00	*tonnes*	2.94	2.94	0.00	0.00	2,939.36	2,935.18	2.55	1.63
Oil Consumption	-	*litres*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Council Vehicle Fleet	-	-								
Petrol Vehicle	14,487.25	*litres*	29.98	29.77	0.12	0.09	29,976.44	29,774.63	116.77	85.04
Diesel Vehicle	109,056.08	*litres*	280.36	276.74	0.03	3.59	280,363.55	276,743.98	31.63	3,587.95
Red Diesel	-	*litres*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Scope 1	**-**	**-**	**1,344.15**	**1,338.24**	**1.73**	**4.18**	**1,344,148.81**	**1,338,238.52**	**1,728.58**	**4,181.71**
Scope 2	**Activity Data**	**Unit**	**t CO_2e**	**t CO_2**	**t CH_4**	**t N_2O**	**kg CO_2e**	**kg CO_2**	**kg CH_4**	**kg N_2O**
Electricty Consumption	4,625,297.00	*kWh*	818.68	808.92	4.16	5.64	818,677.57	808,918.19	4,162.77	5,642.86
Total Scope 2	**-**	**-**	**818.68**	**808.92**	**4.16**	**5.64**	**818,677.57**	**808,918.19**	**4,162.77**	**5,642.86**
Scope 3	**Activity Data**	**Unit**	**t CO_2e**	**t CO_2**	**t CH_4**	**t N_2O**	**kg CO_2e**	**kg CO_2**	**kg CH_4**	**kg N_2O**
Transmission & Distribution Losses	4,625,297.00	*kWh*	85.71	84.83	0.37	0.51	85,706.75	84,827.95	370.02	508.78
TD: Fully electric vehicle business travel	15,222.49	*miles*	0.90	0.89	0.01	0.01	897.21	885.04	5.18	7.00
TD: Plug-in Hybrid business travel	-	*miles*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Supply	74,936.00	m^3	14.34	n/a	n/a	n/a	14,335.26	n/a	n/a	n/a
Water Treatment	50,122.00	m^3	8.56	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,564.85	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business Travel	**-**	**-**								
Electric Car	15,222.49	*miles*	0.90	0.89	0.01	0.01	897.21	885.04	5.18	7.00
Small Petrol Car	48,333.51	*miles*	11.13	11.08	0.03	0.03	11,129.76	11,077.07	27.55	25.13
Medium Petrol Car	33,295.03	*miles*	9.36	9.33	0.02	0.02	9,362.90	9,326.60	18.98	17.31
Large Petrol Car	6,283.27	*miles*	2.71	2.71	0.00	0.00	2,712.80	2,705.95	3.58	3.27
Small Diesel Car	42,321.95	*miles*	9.77	9.65	0.00	0.11	9,767.06	9,652.37	0.47	114.02
Medium Diesel Car	52,963.40	*miles*	14.64	14.50	0.00	0.14	14,638.55	14,495.02	0.58	142.47
Large Diesel Car	9,060.83	*miles*	3.06	3.04	0.00	0.02	3,063.29	3,038.73	0.10	24.41
Bus	4.83	*passenger km*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00
Taxi	20.28	*passenger km*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.01	2.99	0.00	0.02
Underground	115.87	*passenger km*	-	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rail	32,124.20	*passenger km*	1.14	1.13	0.00	0.01	1,142.35	1,130.75	2.58	9.01
Ferry	-	*passenger km*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plane	-	*passenger km*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contractor Travel	**-**	**-**								
Refuse Collection Vehicles	427,513.58	*litres*	1,099.06	1,084.87	0.12	14.07	1,099,060.46	1,084,871.29	123.98	14,065.20
Total Scope 3	**-**	**-**	**1,261.28**	**1,222.91**	**0.55**	**48.92**	**1,261,281.96**	**1,222,899.29**	**558.19**	**14,923.64**
BCKLWN Gross Emissions Total	**-**	**-**	**3,424.11**	**3,370.07**	**6.44**	**58.74**	**3,424,108.34**	**3,370,056.01**	**6,449.54**	**24,748.21**
Carbon Offsets / Renewable Tariffs	**Activity Data**	**Unit**	**t CO_2e**	**t CO_2**	**t CH_4**	**t N_2O**	**kg CO_2e**	**kg CO_2**	**kg CH_4**	**kg N_2O**
Renewable Electricity Tariff	- 4,625,297.00	*kWh*	- 818.68	- 808.92	- 4.16	- 5.64	- 818,677.57	- 808,918.19	- 4,162.77	- 5,642.86
Transmission & Distribution Losses	- 4,625,297.00	*kWh*	- 85.71	- 84.83	- 0.37	- 0.51	- 85,706.75	- 84,827.95	- 370.02	- 508.78
Total	-	-	**- 904.38**	**- 893.75**	**- 4.53**	**- 6.15**	**- 904,384.32**	**- 893,746.14**	**- 4,532.79**	**- 6,151.65**
BCKLWN Net Emissions Total	-	-	**2,519.72**	**2,476.32**	**1.91**	**52.59**	**2,519,724.02**	**2,476,309.87**	**1,916.75**	**18,596.56**

Appendix 2: Emission Changes from Base Year 2009/10

