# Chichester District Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2021

In 2019 Chichester District Council declared a climate emergency and set a challenging target of a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions every year until 2025 for the whole of the Chichester district. The target was chosen to reflect the emission reductions that need to be made to reduce the disastrous effects of climate change, rather than what was easily achievable.

In the first year of the target — 2020 — 8.7% reduction was reached. This figure is based on data published annually for all local authorities by the Government. Each year the Government improves its methods for estimating emissions and then uses the new methods to re-calculate previously published figure. This reduction was updated to 10.6% reduction when the Government issued the latest data in June 2023. The Government also published the figures for 2021. This is the most recent data available as there is always a two-year time lag in the information received from the Government due to the amount of data to be processed. This publication showed an increase of just under 1% in emissions between 2020 and 2021.

In 2020 and 2021 the UK went through the Covid pandemic, leading to some of the biggest changes to our way of life in living memory. The fact that emissions in the district did not reduce further, despite lockdowns, shows the scale of the challenge we face in averting climate disaster. Meeting the 10% year-on-year reduction requires action from us all. Although few emissions in the district are under the council’s direct control, we are working to help others reduce their emissions. See some examples below. We also apply the same target to our own greenhouse gas emissions, which are less than a 0.5% of the emissions of the district as a whole. You can find out about all our actions within our six-monthly updates on our Climate Emergency Action Plan and we have created a video (on the page that you downloaded this report from) explaining the many actions we have taken.

The climate emergency is a very complex problem, with impacts that are cultural, social, political and environmental and there is no single solution. However, the technology is available and many of the solutions solve multiple problems such as reducing inequality and resolving social issues, reducing household bills, creating jobs and reskilling for a future low carbon future. The co-benefits go way beyond carbon saving. By having a district wide target, the climate emergency issues can be addressed together.

Looking more closely at the district emissions, road transport is the biggest source of emissions within the district. You can see that in a graph of the area’s emissions below. The road network is the responsibility of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) except for the A27 which is the responsibility of National Highways. However, Chichester District Council works with WSCC on walking and cycling schemes and you can read about that in Section 12.3 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Households are another big source of greenhouse gas emissions. Chichester District Council has successfully applied for Government funding to improve the energy efficiency of homes and install renewable energy generation. See Section 9.1 of the plan for the latest numbers. We need householders and landlords to sign up for these schemes.

Forests and other ecosystems such as grassland can be carbon dioxide “sinks”. This means that on balance (net) they take in and store more carbon dioxide than they give out. That is why there are two negative bars in the graph below. Mindful of this, and the need to protect wildlife and biodiversity in the district, the council is taking part in a major tree planting project, funded by HM Treasury in partnership with Defra. About 25,000 trees have been planted in partnership with landowners, farmers, community groups, parish councils, schools, charities and businesses and on the council’s own land. See section 13.1 of the progress report for the details.

### Graph: Chichester District Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2019, 2020 and 2021

### Table of data used for the graph: Chichester district emissions in ktCO2e for 2019, 2020 and 2021

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Emission sources** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** |
| Road transport total | 304 | 249 | 256 |
| Domestic Total | 204 | 201 | 208 |
| Agriculture Total | 150 | 144 | 146 |
| Industry Total | 155 | 148 | 136 |
| Public Sector Total | 44 | 40 | 41 |
| Waste Management Total | 32 | 31 | 26 |
| Commercial Total | 22 | 17 | 22 |
| Net Emissions: Cropland | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Net Emissions: Settlements | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Diesel Railways | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Emissions: Grassland | -17 | -18 | -18 |
| Net Emissions: Forest land | -139 | -138 | -137 |
| **Grand total** | 781 | 698 | 705 |