NORWICH City Council

A fair and thriving city, full of ambition

CEEEP

Climate Action Report – Key Highlights

10th February 2026

Citywide Climate Action – Highlights

- **Climate Responsive Norwich Programme 2026-2035 adopted by Cabinet** on 14th January 2026 – reaffirming council commitment to pursue net-zero targets
- **Net Zero Pathway Plan for Norwich** – technical modelling completed, draft finalisation, public consultation to commence late March 2026
- **Air Quality Action Plan** – draft undergoing public consultation from Feb 2026
- **Citywide Low Carbon Heat Network** – detailed proposal received from specialist consultants to progress £150k Detailed Project Development work, creating a detailed business case and investor prospectus
- **Solar Together rebranding – 'Switch Together Solar'** from 2026 onwards

NORWICH City Council

Council Operations Climate Action – Highlights

- **Heat Decarbonisation Planning –** surveys completed for all operational buildings and community centres. Study outputs expected by end March 2026. Will confirm estimated cost of decarbonising heating in our buildings.
- **Community Centre Retrofit Programme** – asbestos surveys and borescope studies being completed, insulation specs being finalised. Insulation improvements expected in 2026/27 FY
- **Norman Centre** – M&E consultant appointed, commencing detailed design process for new low carbon heating system to replacing existing aged gas boiler
- **Staff training** – internal briefing scheduled 25th Feb 2026; dedicated online learning module in development; corporate induction sessions input.

NORWICH City Council

Council Housing Climate Action – Highlights

- **Capital Works contractors announced –** Mulalley & Co Ltd and CLC Contractors Ltd announced as new capital works contractors, following tender. Will deliver essential maintenance and housing upgrades over next 5 years – including Solar PV and Heat Pumps to council homes
- **HRA Business Plan approved** in Dec 2025 – £325m allocated to energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects
- **UK Power Networks 'Flex Direct' project funding win** – £4.5m collaborative bid was successful. Will study actual energy efficiency savings of retrofit works to inform UKPN investment models.
- **Social Housing retrofit programmes progressing well** – 322 installs completed under SHDF 2.2; 33 installs completed under WH:SHF 3 so far

NORWICH City Council

Biodiversity Activity – Highlights

- **Heartsease Recreation Ground improvements –** works completed late Jan 2026. 370 metres mixed native hedgerow; 8 new trees; 6000 m2 wildflower meadows.
- **Nature Conference planning –** event set to take place 18th June 2026 at The Halls, as part of ‘Nature City Norwich’ project. Key speakers, networking opportunities, local case studies, workshops with key stakeholders.
- **Biodiversity Duty Reporting –** report to be completed by all local authorities by end March 2026. Due to go to Cabinet on 11th March 2026.

NORWICH City Council

NORWICH City Council

A fair and thriving city, full of ambition

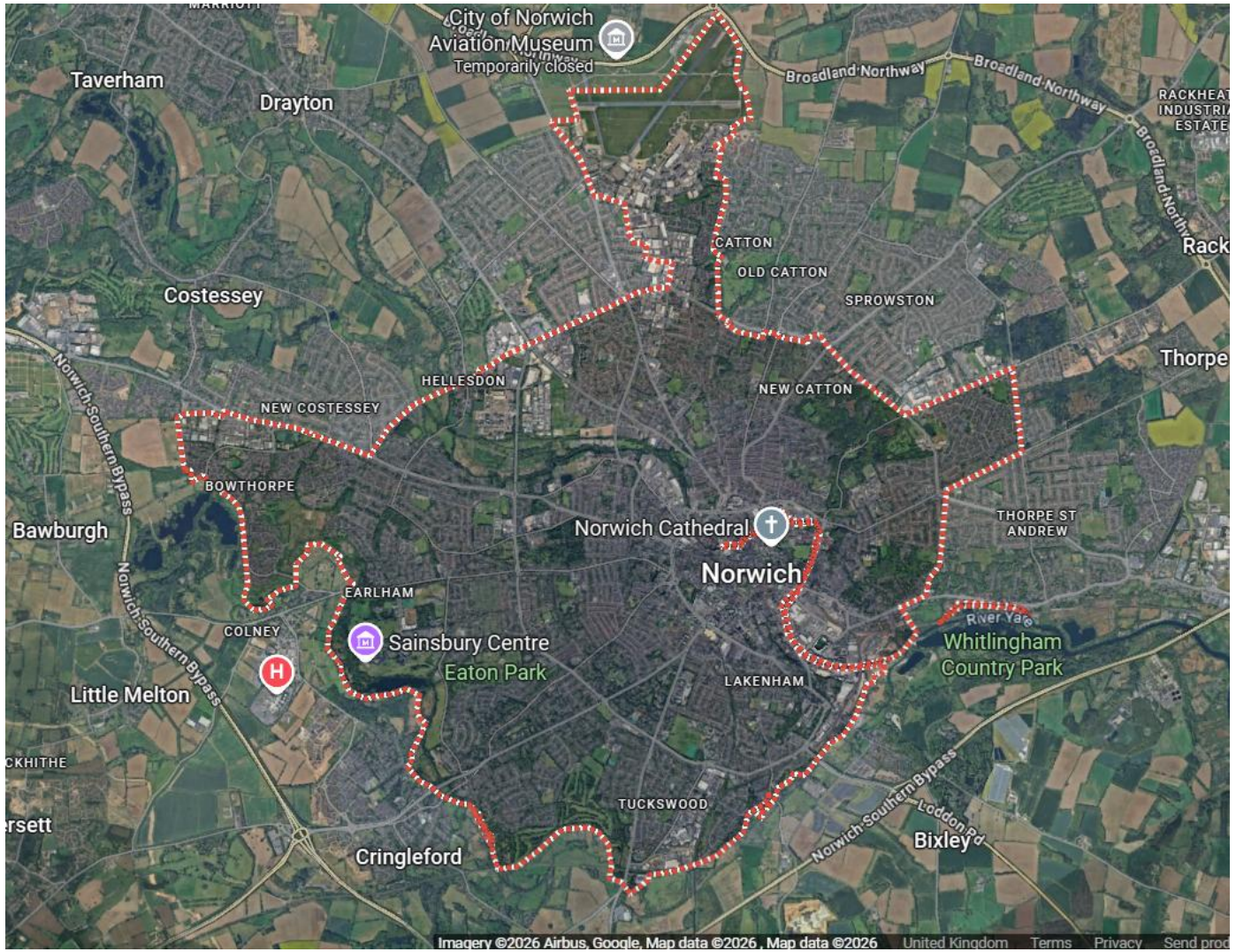
Towards a

Net Zero Pathway for Norwich

Climate & Environment Emergency Executive Panel

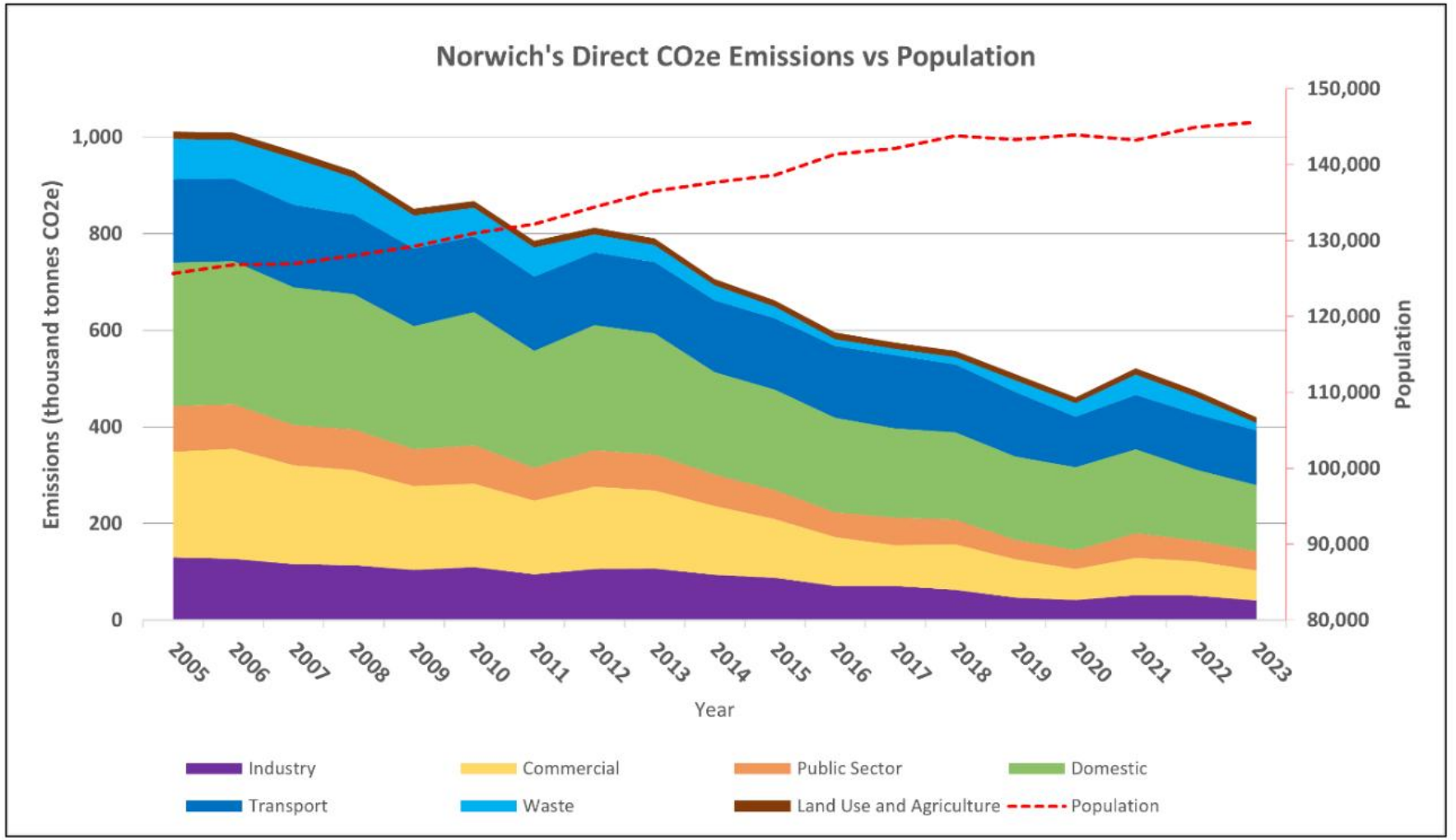
10th February 2026

Norwich City Council's Geographical Area



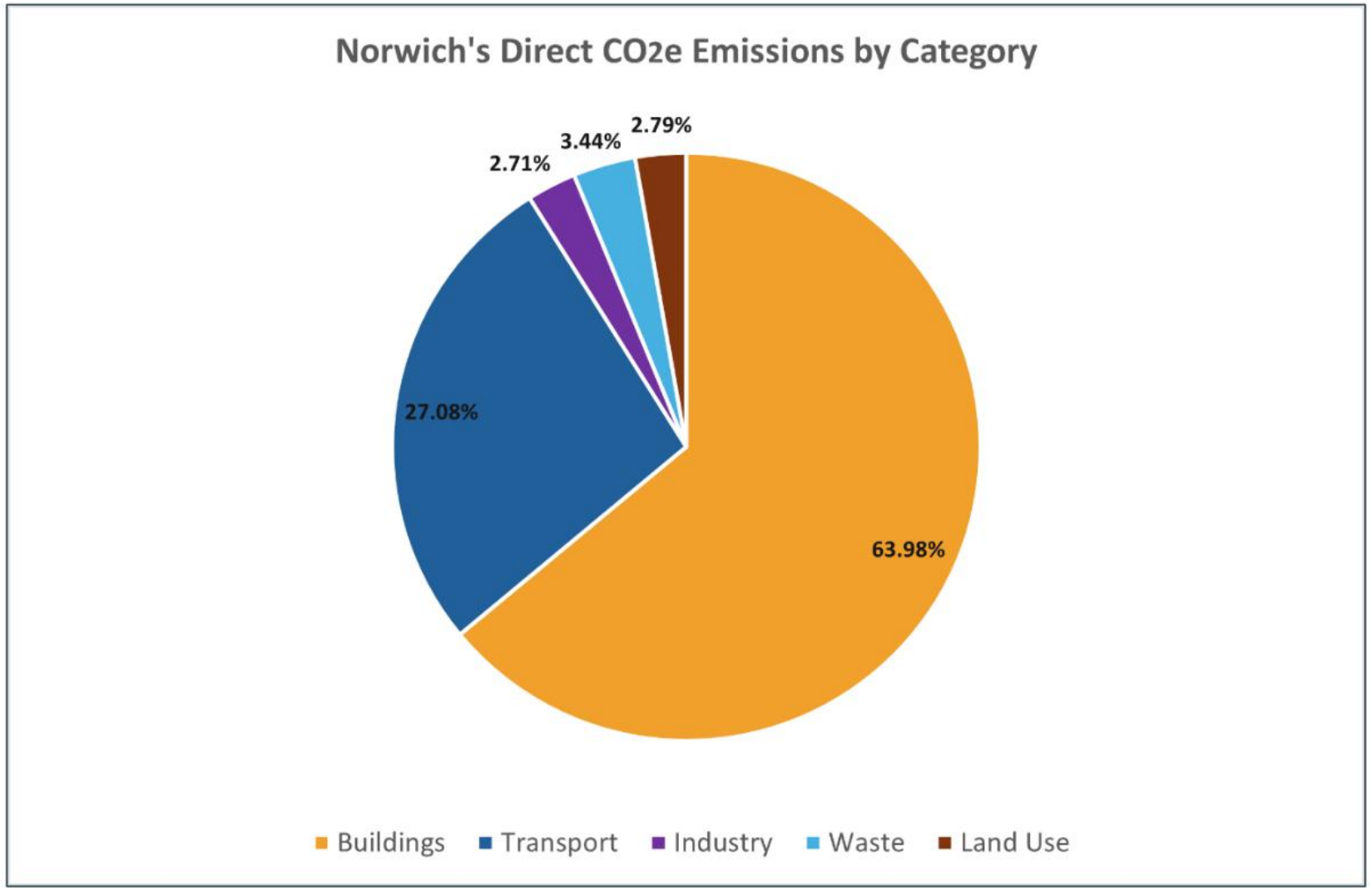
NORWICH City Council

Context – Norwich's direct (territorial) emissions



NORWICH City Council

Context – Norwich's direct (territorial) emissions



NORWICH City Council

Ambition for the pathway plan

1. Create a *quantitative* plan to decarbonise (100%) of Norwich's direct (territorial) emissions, enabling coordinated action amongst stakeholders with annual targets for interventions
2. Use the SCATTER methodology to calculate a finite carbon budget to limit our warming contribution to ≤ 2°C
3. Compatibility with UKPN's strategic investment processes so electrical infrastructure strengthening aligns with/enables the city's planned rate of decarbonisation
4. Create *qualitative* actions and advice to reduce consumption emissions

NORWICH City Council

Calculating the city's carbon budget

- Worked with Small World Consulting to establish Norwich city's remaining "carbon budget"
- Budget of 2,716 ktCO2e
- Based on 67% chance of staying within 2°C temperature rise

Norwich budgets, kt CO2		% chance of limiting warming to temperature				
		17	33	50	67	83
Post-industrial warming	1.5	1704	692	84	-321	-726
	1.6	2919	1501	692	287	-321
	1.7	3931	2311	1501	894	287
	1.8	5146	3121	2109	1501	692
	1.9	6158	3931	2919	2109	1299
	2	7373	4943	3526	2716	1704
	2.1	8385	5753	4134	3121	2311
	2.2	9600	6563	4943	3729	2716
	2.3	10613	7373	5551	4336	3121
	2.4	11625	8183	6361	4943	3729

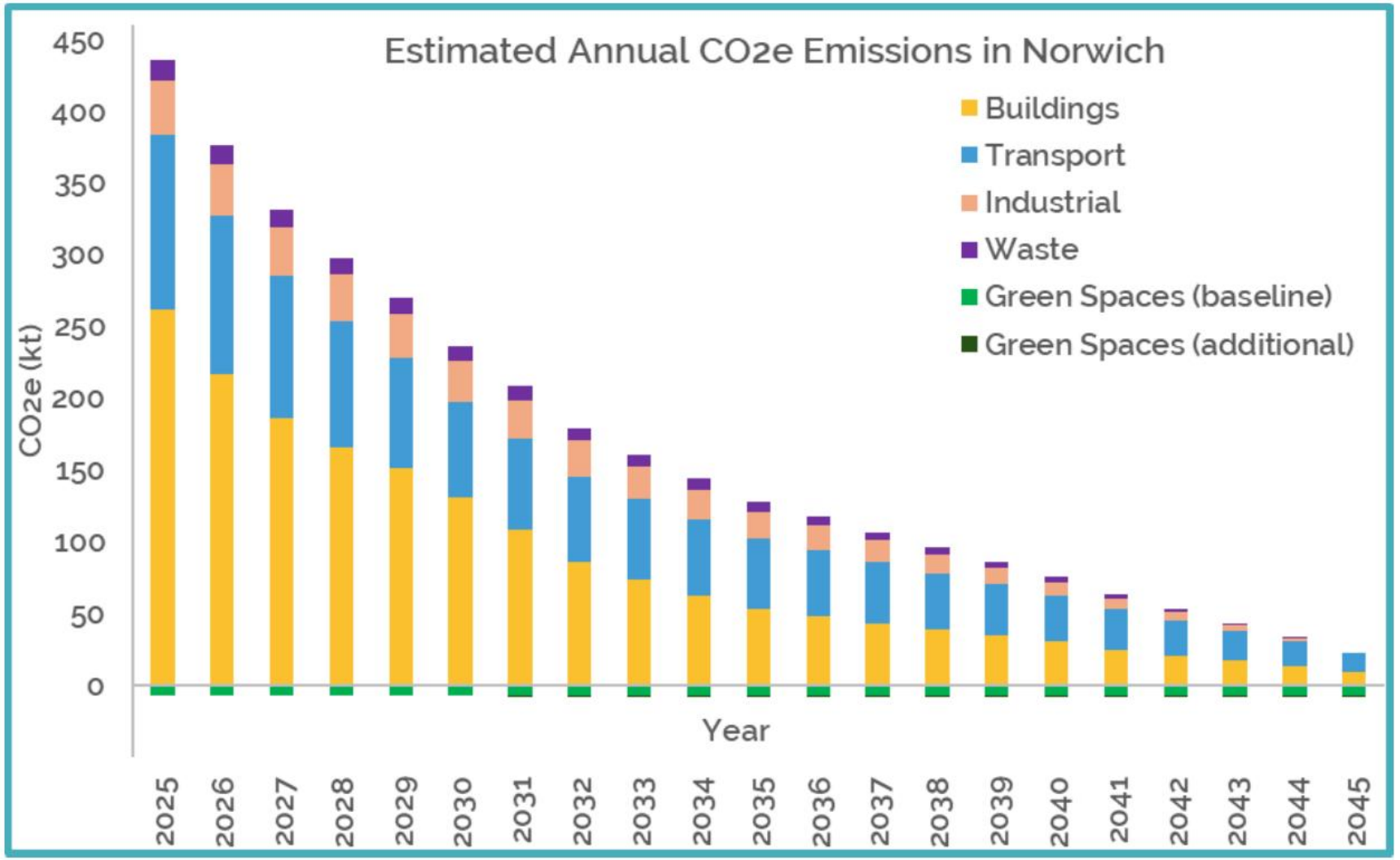
NORWICH City Council

Starting assumptions for the modelling process

1. UK grid will become net zero by *2050 (aligned to CCC opinion)*
2. Low carbon generation and electrical infrastructure won't meet electrification of buildings and transport without some *reduction.*
3. Energy reduction *is* necessary to meet the carbon budget
4. Started with an 20/80 rule of thumb i.e. reduce energy consumption by 20% and electrify the remaining 80%, but this created high budget overshoot
5. Remodelled at 30/70 and included a net reduction of space heating of 10% to 2045 (enabled by a net warming to 2045).

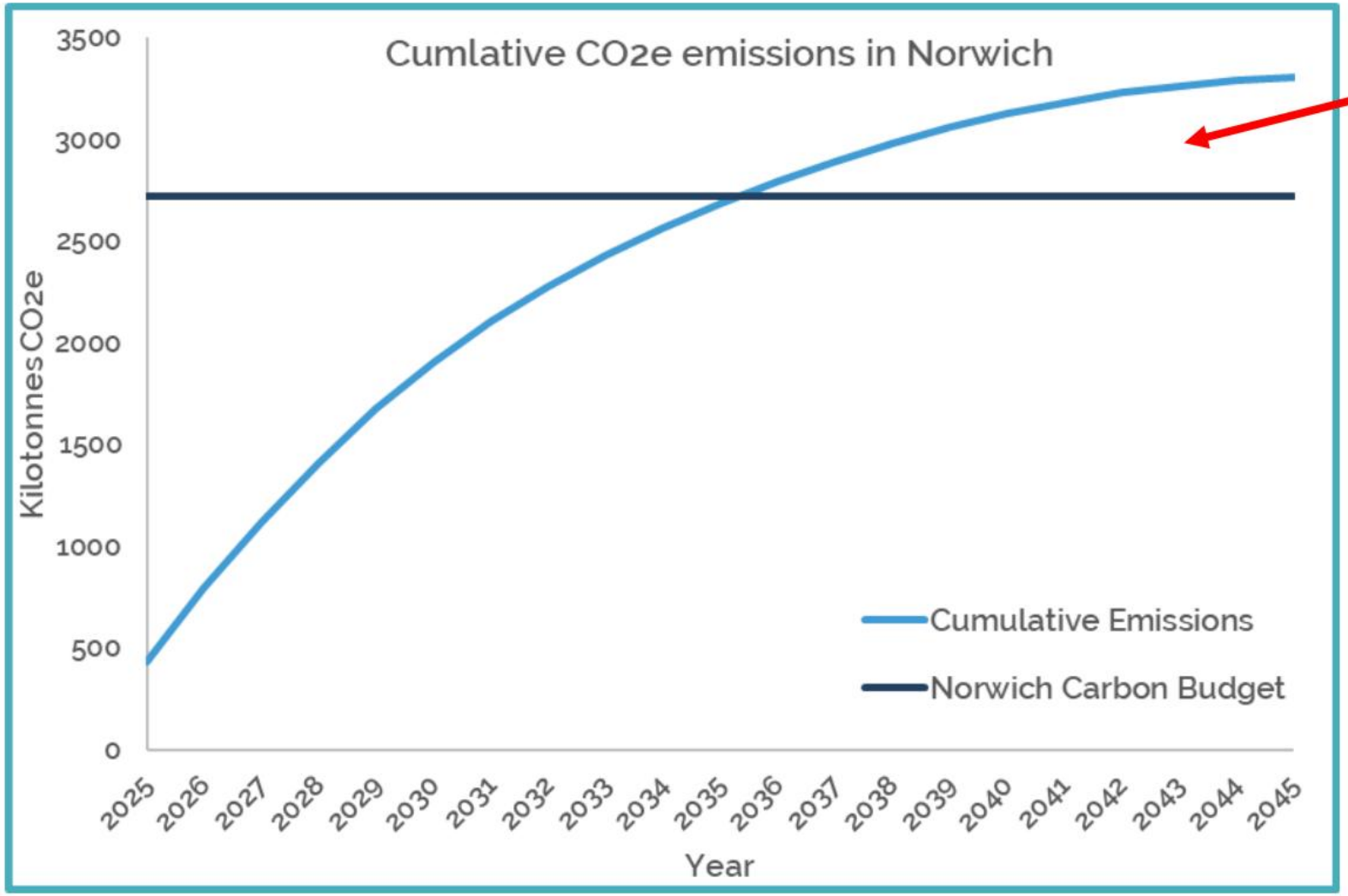
NORWICH City Council

Sector decarbonisation targets (ambitious, deliverable)



NORWICH City Council

Resulting emissions vs carbon budget



587 kt CO2e overshoot to be sequestered/ removed = 30 kt pa from 2026-2045

NORWICH City Council

Domestic Buildings Emissions Modelling

- Analysed domestic buildings by type (Bungalow, Flat, House, Maisonette), age, and Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)
- Identified number of Fossil-fuelled vs Electric as existing
- **68,590 dwellings in the city**; 62,169 fossil-fuelled, 6,421 have electric heating
- Of 68,590 dwellings; 35,783 (52%) have EPC bandings of below C. The pathway requires these dwellings to be improved to EPC C.
- **2,766 buildings per year** – annual target for transition to electrified heating systems, to deliver net-zero 2045

NORWICH City Council

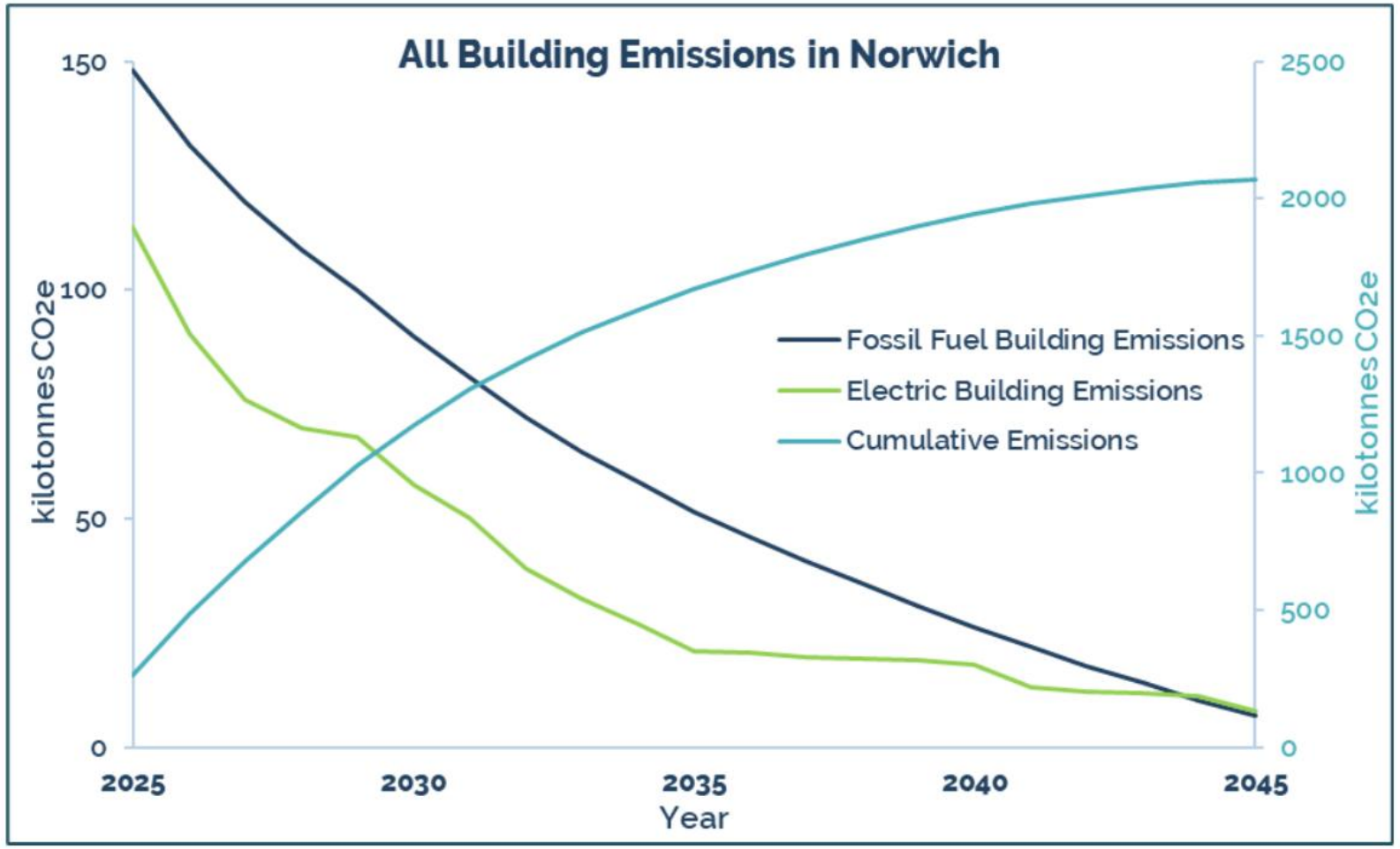
Non-Domestic Buildings Emissions Modelling

- Commercial and Public buildings – high proportion already have electric heating systems
- **45 buildings per year** – target for electrified heating systems

Building Category	Total	Fossil Buildings	Electric Buildings	% Electric	ktCO2e	CO2 / Building	Buildings per Year
Commercial	6713	671	6042	90.0%	112.9	17.1	39
Public	107	99	8	7.5%	17.6	164.5	6

NORWICH City Council

All Buildings Emissions Modelling



NORWICH City Council

Transport – Emissions Baseline

The total distance for A & B (Major) and Minor & Local (Minor) roads were analysed alongside the total vehicle counts for the most recent year available. This helped produce the table below which shows the estimated total kilotonnes of CO2e for each road type and vehicle type within Norwich.

	Motorbike ktCO2/yr	Car ktCO2/yr	Bus ktCO2/yr	LGV ktCO2/yr	HGV ktCO2/yr	Total ktCO2/yr
Major Roads	1.0	48.1	No data	16.8	23.3	89.2
Minor Roads	0.4	24.5	No data	6.5	5.0	36.4
Vehicle Total	1.4	72.6	9.6*	23.3	28.3	125.6

**No data were available for bus travel distances within Norwich. An average bus emissions figure (35.1 tonnes per annum) was applied to the 304 buses registered in Norwich*

Within the city of Norwich there is an estimated total of ~**126 ktCO2e per year** for road transport emissions

NORWICH City Council

Transport Emissions Modelling

- Analysed number of existing vehicles in the city by type (Cars, buses, HGVs etc)
- **2,969 Electric Vehicles per year** – target uptake for EVs, all vehicle types

Table 1 - Estimated Transport Emissions for different vehicle categories within Norwich | "ICE" = Internal Combustion Engines | "EV" = Electric Vehicles | ktCO2e = Kilotonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent | tCO2e = tonnes Carbon Dioxide equivalent

Vehicle Category	Total	ICE	EVs	% EVs	ktCO2e	tCO2 per vehicle	Start Year	End Year	Goal % EVs	EVs introduced per year
Buses and Coaches	304	304	0	0.0	9.6	31.5	2025	2035	100%	30
Cars	54,070	53,230	840	1.6	72.6	1.4	2025	2045	90%	2433
Heavy Goods Vehicles	341	341	0	0.0	28.3	83.0	2027	2045	70%	13
Light Goods Vehicles	7,741	7,699	42	0.5	23.3	3.0	2025	2045	90%	348
Motorcycles	2,973	2,939	34	1.2	1.4	0.5	2026	2045	80%	125
Other Vehicles	744	743	1	0.1	1.0	1.4	2025	2045	50%	19
All Vehicles	**66,173**	**65,256**	**917**	**1.4**	**126.0**	**1.9**	-	-	89%	**2,969**

NORWICH City Council

Transport Emissions Modelling

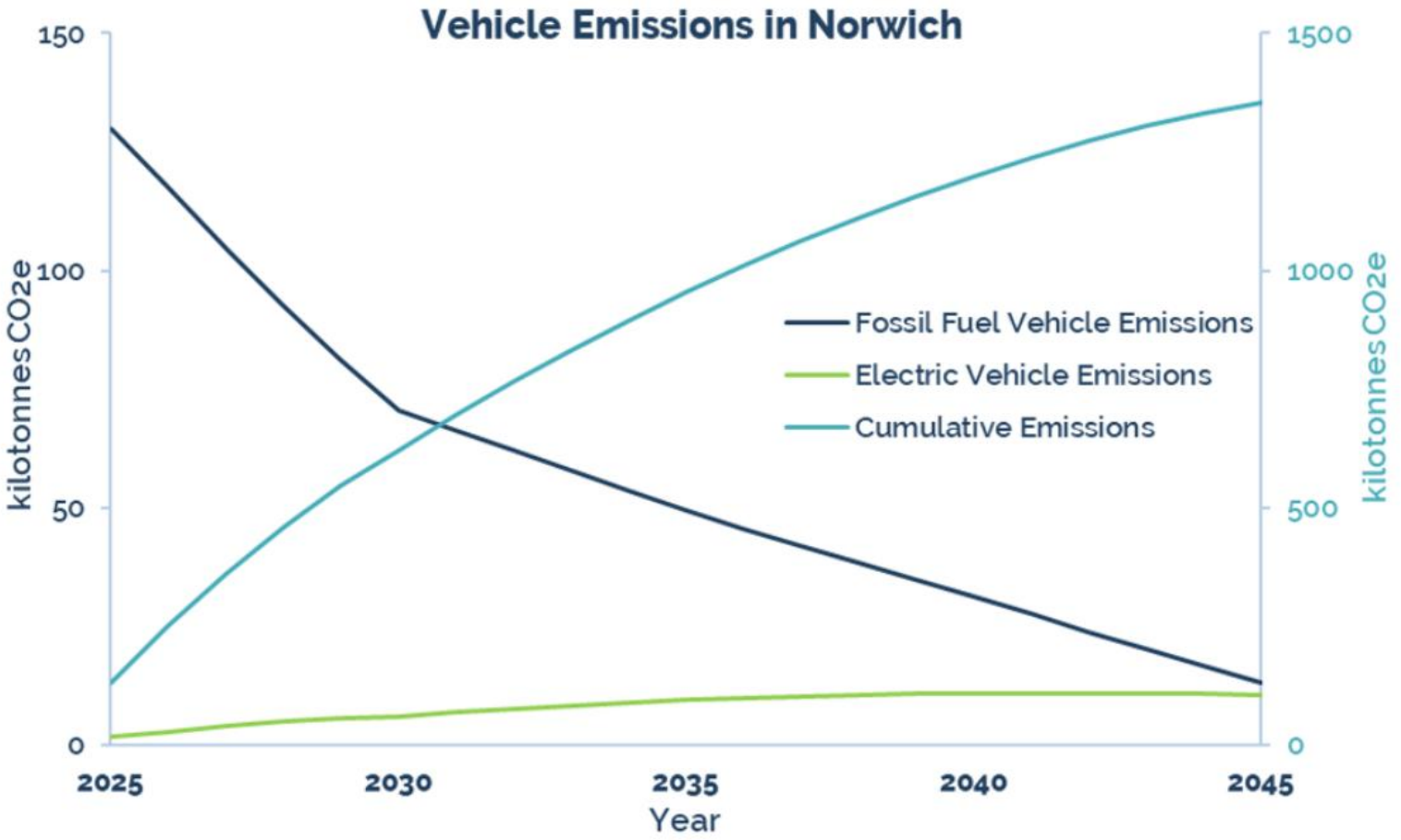


Figure 5 – Annual transport emissions out to 2045 split by electric vehicle emissions and fossil fuel emissions, shown as total emissions for each year.

NORWICH City Council

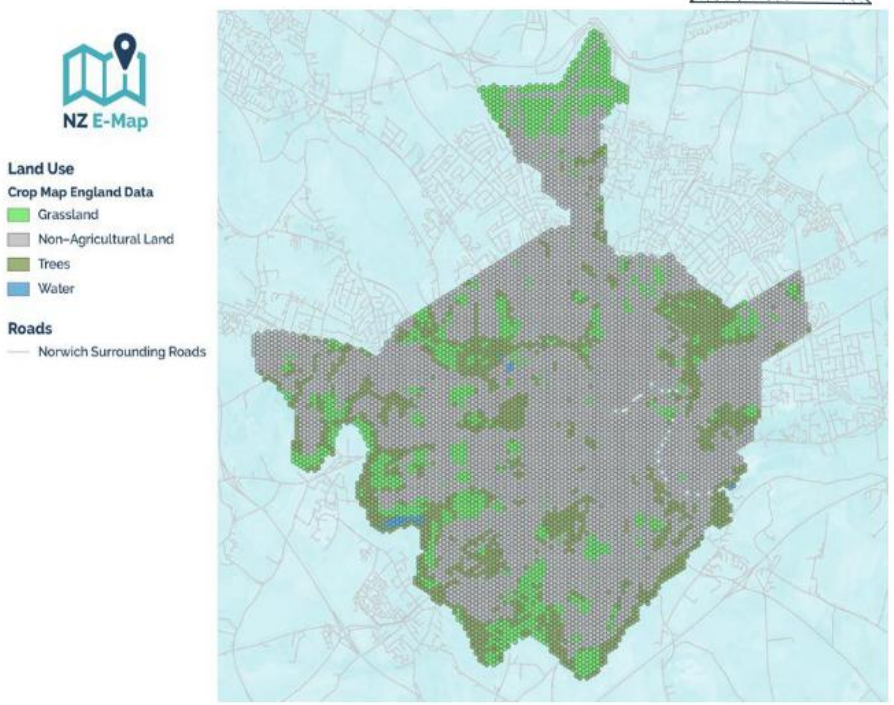
Land Use Emissions

Land Category	Hectares	Percentage Land Use	Annual CO2e emissions (kt CO2 per year)
Non–Agricultural Land	2,610	66.4%	0
Trees	754	19.2%	-6.995
Grassland	555	14.1%	-0.123
Water	10	0.3%	0
Grand Total	3,930	100%	-7.118

The total carbon emissions for Norwich City's 'land use':

-7 ktCo2e per year

The **largest proportion** of that being attributed to **Trees (-6.995 ktCO2)**



A crop map for Norwich City. The data was taken from the Crop Map of England (CROME) dataset (2023) and provides detailed information about land use and cover, including the different types of crops. As the original dataset is automatically generated via satellite imagery, this dataset was manually edited by Opergy to more accurately reflect the land use, such as the Norwich Airport Runway being wrongly identified as a body of water rather than a tarmac runway.

NORWICH City Council

Garden and Green Spaces across Norwich

Estimated total garden and green space area across the city of Norwich

~2,600 hectares across

~44,000 plots

Gardens and other vegetated areas provide opportunities for carbon sequestration, tree planting, sustainable food…

Figure - Garden and Green Space calculated for the City of Norwich

NORWICH City Council

Next steps

- January 2026 – Shared main findings with Norwich Climate Commission
- February 2026 – Share findings with CEEEP for comments and feedback
- March 2026 – Public consultation exercise to commence via Get Talking Norwich platform
- Summer 2026 – Expected final publication and adoption by the council

NORWICH City Council