

London Borough of Camden's Carbon Footprint report for 2023/24

Preface

The council's Carbon Footprint report covers Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from its estate and operations.

The report does not consider emissions from council owned housing assets and other commercial buildings that are leased by the council. The council uses the [UK Government Greenhouse Gas conversion factors for company reporting](#) to calculate emissions in Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions from its estate and operations. In 2023 there was a 7% increase in emission factor for UK grid electricity due to increased gas and reduced renewable generation on the UK electricity grid.

The council's approach to reducing emissions from its estate and operations is defined by its Carbon Management Plan. The Carbon Management Plan sets out the council's approach to measuring, managing, and reducing emissions from the council's estate and operations.

Carbon emissions and energy use for 2023/24

The council has continued to reduce its emissions from its estate and operations in 2023/24, with Figure 1 showing that carbon emissions now stand at 11,873 t/CO₂e. This represents a 64.5% reduction in emissions since 2009/10 and a 3.9% reduction when compared to carbon emissions in the previous reporting year of 2022/23. Emission reductions were constrained due to a 7% increase in the Carbon Factor for grid electricity in 2023.

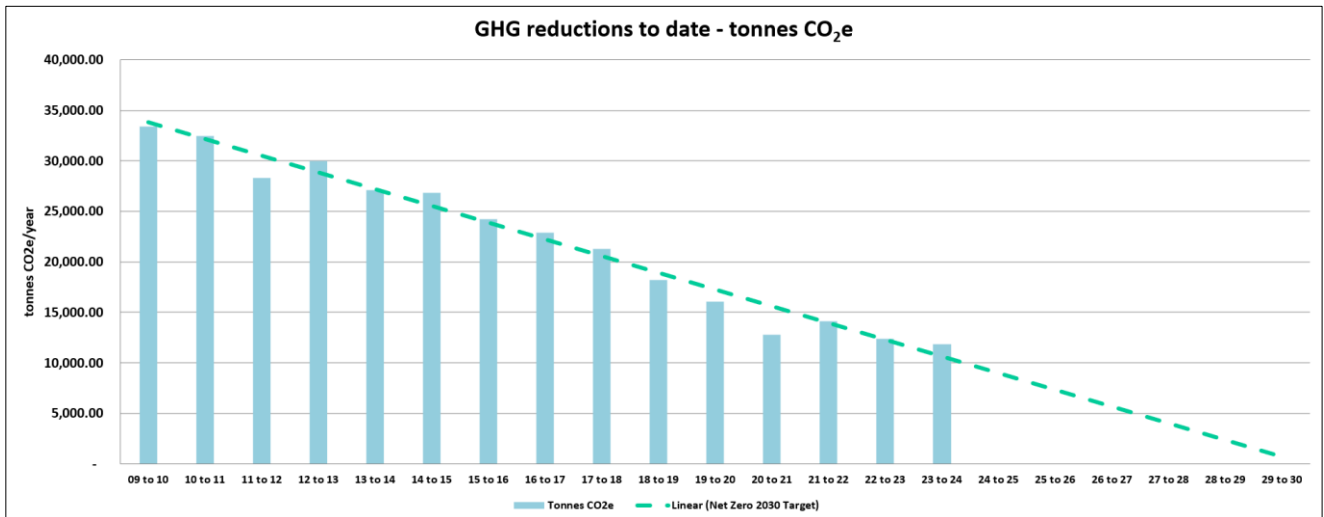


Figure 1 : GHG reductions to date

Figure 2 shows carbon emissions profiled across all sectors that contribute towards the council's emission footprint. The largest reduction in carbon emissions was associated with Corporate Property which has fallen by 17% and Leisure Centres which have fallen by 2%. There were increases in emissions from Miscellaneous, Hostel and Estate Amenities and Street Scene of 17%, 8% and 7% respectively.

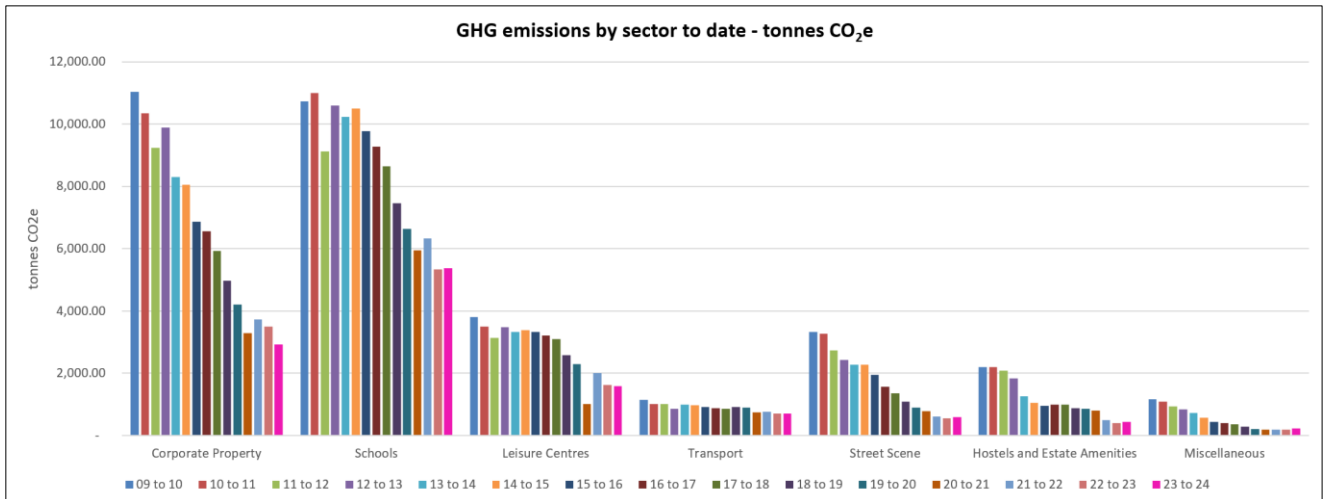


Figure 2 : GHG emissions by sector to date

For Corporate Property, emission reductions were primarily linked to improved efficiency of the Kings Cross Heat Network which serves Camden's Head Office at 5 Pancras Square, disposal of 3-5 Cressy Road in July 2023 which is now leased to the NHS, decreased energy usage within the Crowndale Centre which is currently partially occupied and completion of the low energy retrofit at Swiss Cottage Library. For Leisure Centres there has been a 6.7% reduction in electricity consumption and a 3.3% reduction in gas usage. This has led to a 2% reduction in Leisure Centre emissions driven by increased renewable energy from the solar array completed at Talacre Community Sports Centre and continued uptake of LED lighting, pool covers and BMS optimisation by GLL to conserve energy.

Increased emissions categorised as Miscellaneous are due to underestimated billing at Charlie Ratchford Court in 2022/23, an extra care scheme which resulted in increased consumption being billed in 2023/24 carried over from the previous year. Increased emissions from Street Scene and Hostels and Estate Amenities reflect the fact that the emission factor for electricity has increased and gas usage in Camden Hostels has increased by 4%.

There was an overall reduction in electricity consumption of 4.7% in Camden Schools and Gas consumption remained steady, however due to the increased emission factor for grid electricity this led to a 0.5% increase in emissions from schools. On Transport, consumption of Diesel, Petrol and Biomethane CNG remained steady leading to a 0.6% reduction in emissions.

The pie chart in Figure 3 shows that 83% of carbon emissions are linked to operational energy use across three sectors that include Schools, Corporate Property, and Leisure Centres. The dominance of these sectors within the emission profile remains like 2022/23, with only small changes to percentages in sectors to report.

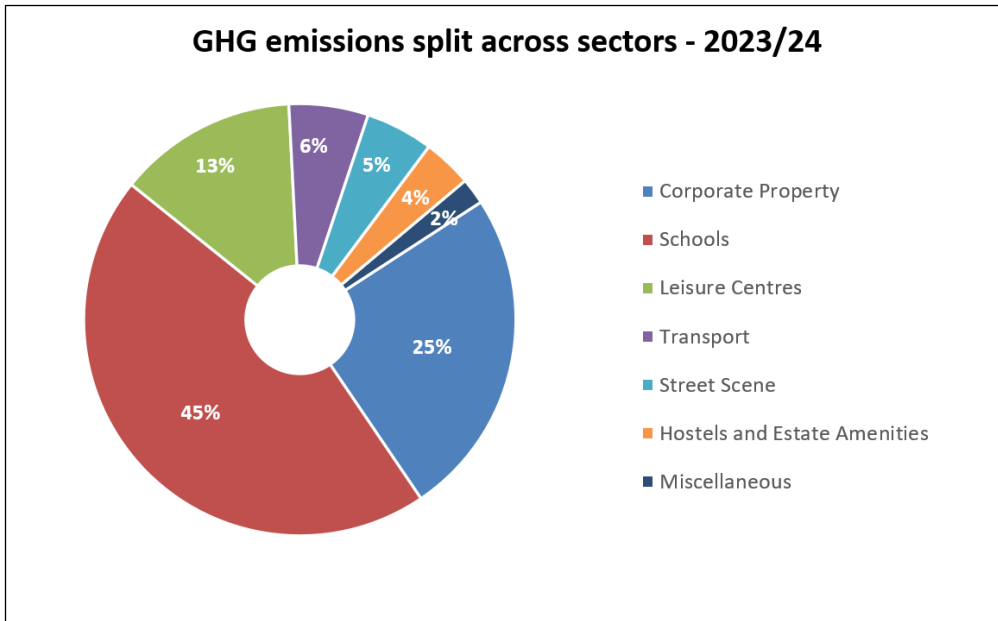


Figure 3 : GHG emissions split across sectors 2023/24

Figure 4 displays energy consumption in kilowatt hours (kWhrs) across the council's estate and operations (excluding Transport) and considers the contribution of each fuel source towards the council's energy mix. In 2023/24 there was a 6.8% decrease in electricity use, whilst gas use decreased by 1.4%. Overall, energy use has fallen by 45% based on 2009/10 levels. When compared against 2022/23, the reduction in energy use in 2023/24 was 4.2%.

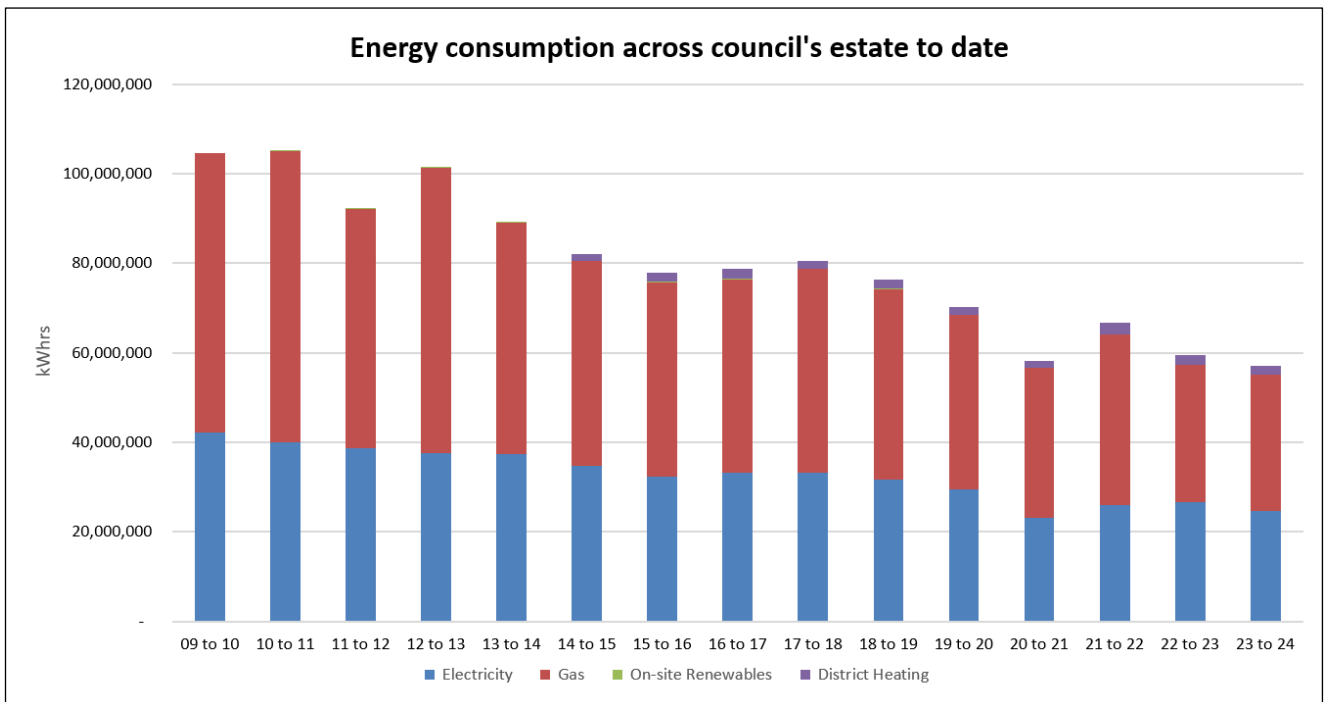


Figure 4 : Energy consumption across council's estate 2009 to date

Looking ahead to 2024/25

Building on the success of the council's previous Carbon Management Programme which achieved a 52% reduction against a 40% emission reduction target by 2020, the Council has developed an updated Carbon Management Plan which has set in place a plan for delivering carbon emission reductions across its estate and operations up to 2030, with a focus on improving energy efficiency across buildings and displacing fossil fuel use in buildings.

Projects that have been delivered and are currently in delivery to enact the plan are outlined below:

Projects completed in 2023/24

- At Talacre Community Sports Centre a Solar Array was installed in June 2023 with community partners Power Up North London. This significantly increased Camden's renewable generation and saves an estimated 12 t/CO₂e per annum.
- At Acland Burghley School and Eleanor Palmer Primary School, measures including heat pumps, LED lighting, draught proofing and building energy management systems have been installed to improve energy efficiency. The projects are expected to save 45 t/CO₂e per annum and were delivered in January 2024.

Projects delivered 2024/25 or in delivery

- Retrofit of Highgate Library was completed in November 2024. The project included insulation, glazing upgrades, ventilation improvements, Solar Panels and Air Source Heat Pump installation and is predicted to save more than 30 t/CO₂e per annum.
- Energy efficiency improvements across three further Corporate Properties including Netherwood Youth Centre, West Hampstead Library and Waterlow Park Visitor Centre are in delivery. The projects aim to replace fossil fuel use heating with heat pumps with energy efficiency measures including LED lighting, glazing upgrades, Insulation and Solar Panels also being delivered across some sites. The projects are expected to save more than 45 t/CO₂e per annum and will be delivered by March 2025.
- Solar Arrays at Regents High School and Parliament Hill School were installed in September 2024 with community partners Power Up North London. These are forecast to save over 30 t/CO₂e per annum.
- Energy efficiency improvements across Kingsgate Upper School and Hampstead School. New double-glazed windows and loft insulation will be provided at Kingsgate. At Hampstead, the scope includes air source heat pumps, loft insulation, LED lighting, double glazing, and solar PV. Hampstead is currently on site with an expected completion by May 2025, Kingsgate is currently at scoping stage. Both schools are expected to save over 200 tonnes of CO₂e annum.
- Energy efficiency improvements at Brookfield Primary School including the provision of new insulation, double glazing, mechanical ventilation improvements and solar energy. The project is expected to save 24 t/CO₂e per annum with expected completion by May 2025.
- The Camden Accessible Transport Solutions team has developed a Greening the Fleet strategy. The plan sets out a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Camden's fleet of 300+ vehicles in the years to 2030.

The 2023/24 GHG report, will be published on the Council's website, submitted to Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and included in the next annual review of Camden's Climate Action Plan <https://www.camden.gov.uk/how-are-we-tackling-the-climate-crisis-in-camden>.