



Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report

2025-2026

Introduction

Climate Change is the greatest environment challenge facing the world today. Braintree District Council is committed to a cleaner and greener environment, by reducing its carbon footprint and supporting residents and local businesses to do as much as possible at a local level to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Approach

This report details the emissions arising from the activities of Braintree District Council in 2025-2026 and follows the guidance set out by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

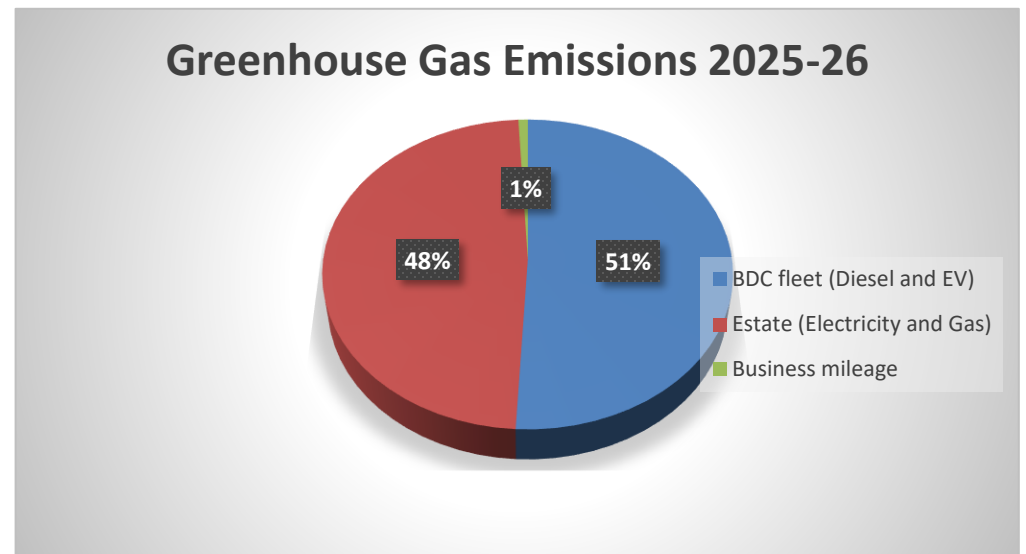


Emissions Summary including Baseline Year (Tonnes CO₂e)

	2025/ 2026	2024/ 2025	2023/ 2024	2022/ 2023	2021/ 2022	2020/ 2021	2019/ 2020	2018/ 2019	2017/ 2018	2016/ 2017	2015/ 2016	2014/ 2015	2012/ 2013	Baseline Year 2005/ 2006
Scope 1	2473.2	2344.7	2347	2466	2606	2168	2637	2576	2537	2594	2,650	1,603	1,979	4,108
Scope 2	240.1	430.9	423	441	441	268	615	673	696	1002	1,189	1,820	1,433	1,448
Scope 3	22.2	5	18	20	19	20	29	41	69	79	50	11	24	899
TOTAL ANNUAL NET EMISSIONS	2736	2781	2789	2927	3066	2456	3281	3290	3302	3675	3,889	3,434	3,436	6,455

Operational Scopes Included in Reporting:

- **Scope 1**
 - Heating fuel for buildings
 - Owned transport (diesel) fleet
- **Scope 2**
 - Grid electricity used in buildings and for street lighting
 - Electricity used through owned transport (EV) fleet
 - Solar offset from solar pv on estate buildings
- **Scope 3**
 - Staff business travel



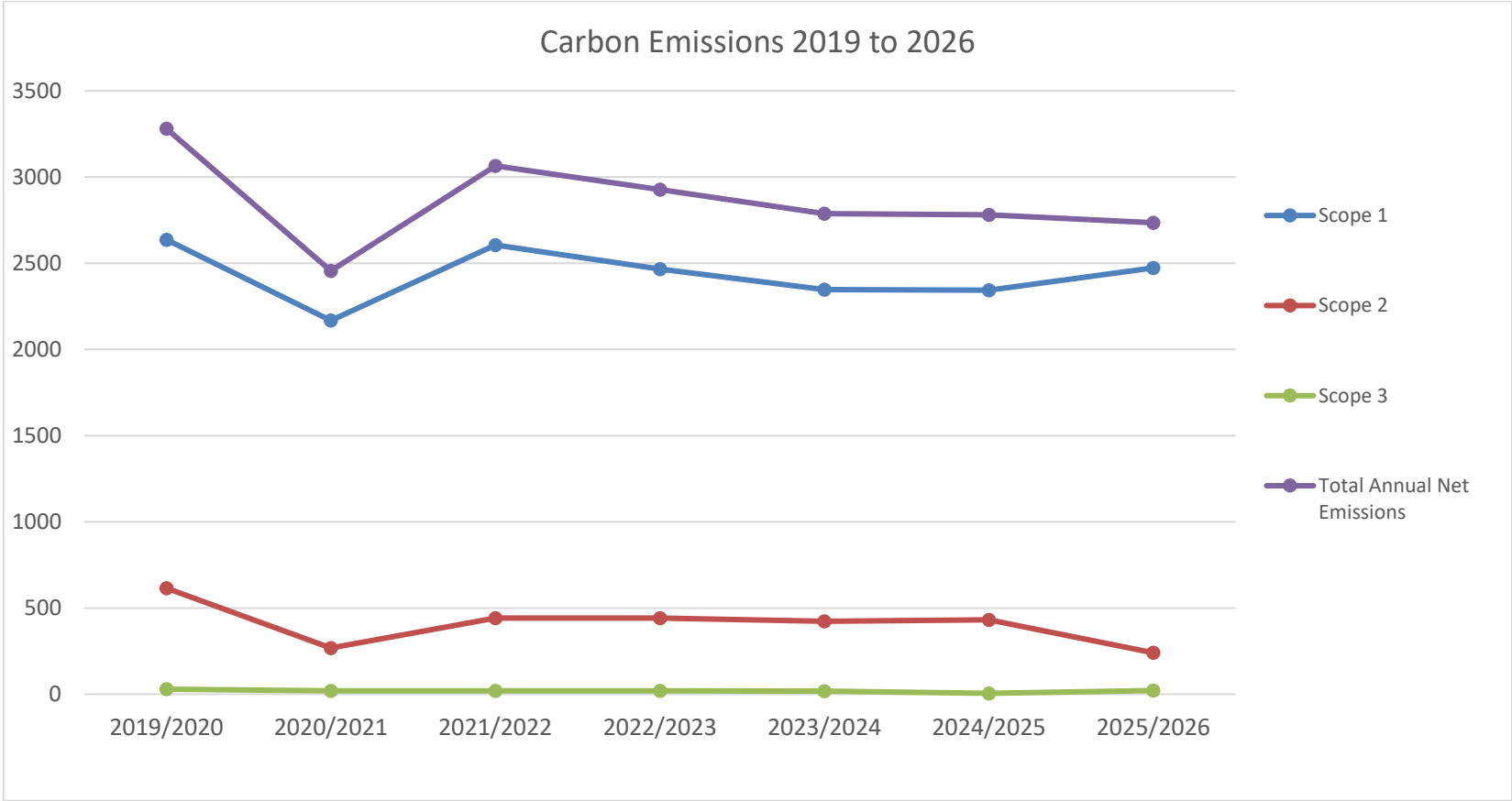
Detailed Emissions including Baseline Year (Tonnes CO₂e)

	2025/ 2026	2024/ 2025	2023/ 2024	2022/ 2023	2021/ 2022	2020/ 2021	2019/ 2020	2018/ 2019	2017/ 2018	2016/ 2017	2015/ 2016	2014/ 2015	2012/ 2013	Baseline Year 2005/ 2006
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Scope 1														
Natural Gas	1088	1045.7	1212.8	1045	1075	583	1058	1004	959	1,008	939	901	1,326	2,256
Vehicle Fleet	1385	1299	1135	1421	1531	1585	1579	1572	1578	1586	1,711	702	653	1,852
TOTAL SCOPE 1	2473	2345	2347	2466	2606	2168	2637	2576	2537	2594	2,650	1,603	1,979	4,108
Scope 2														
Purchased electricity	330	518.3	519.9	530	517	365	734	788	827	1,168	1,357	1,820	1,433	1,448
Electric vehicle fleet	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solar PV Carbon Offset	-96	-87.4	-97	-89	-76	-97	-119	-115	-131	-166	-168	-	-	-
TOTAL SCOPE 2	240	431	423	441	441	268	615	673	696	1002	1,189	1,820	1,433	1,448
Scope 3														
Business Travel	22	5*	18.41	20	19	20	29	41	69	79	50	11	24	899
TOTAL SCOPE 3	22	5*	18	20	19	20	29	41	69	79	50	11	24	899

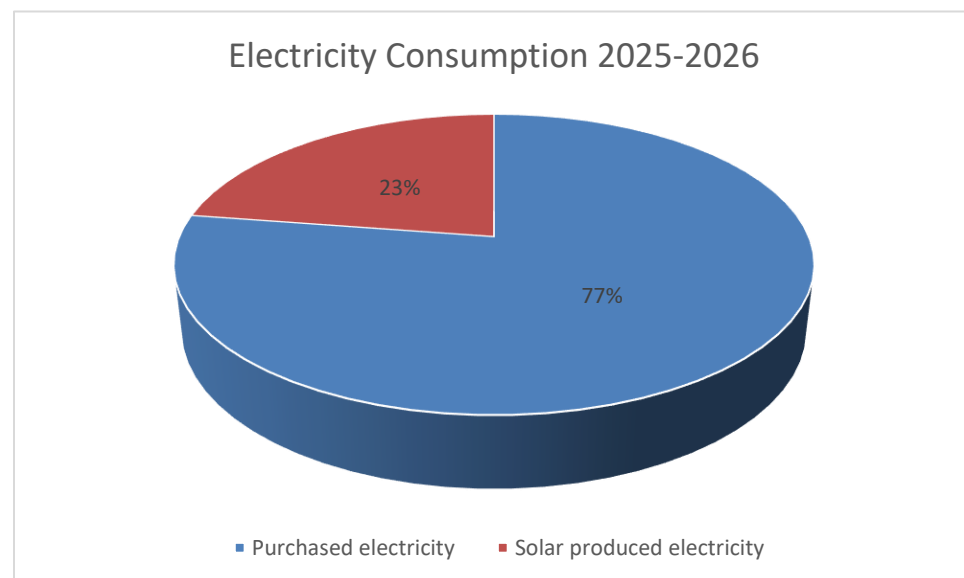
*Emissions relating to business travel 2024/2025 are abnormally low, indicating an error in the data.

Changes in Emissions



Braintree District Council's CO₂e emissions have fallen by 45 tonnes or 1.6% since 2024/2025 and by 16.6% since the Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Carbon emissions have decreased by 57.6% since the baseline year 2005-06.

Electricity-related emissions fell by 44% compared with 2024/2025 - the greatest reduction across all emission sources. This was driven by increased on-site solar generation and lower purchased electricity consumption, despite the first-time inclusion of emissions relating to the Council's electric vehicle fleet.



23% of electricity consumed across the Council's estate was derived from solar energy produced from its own photovoltaic arrays.

Gas consumption across the Council's sites remained broadly consistent, increasing by approximately 4%. Higher consumption at the leisure centres outweighed reductions elsewhere. However, it should be noted

that because the 2025/2026 data set was incomplete, due to a change of leisure centre service provider, natural gas consumption at these sites was estimated using the average consumption recorded over the previous three years. This may account for the apparent increase and not a true reflection of usage.

Summary

Overall emissions fell by 1.6% in 2025/2026, driven by a decrease in electricity consumption and increased on-site solar generation. The Witham Leisure Centre solar array, fully operational from March 2025, contributed to this reduction. Gas consumption remained broadly stable, while fleet emissions increased.

This year's focus will be on collaboration with the new leisure centre operator to strengthen carbon management across all sites. The Council will also assess the feasibility of pool covers at Braintree Swimming Centre and Halstead Leisure Centre to reduce natural gas consumption and associated emissions. The transition of the remaining lights to LED lighting across the centres will also be a focus for 2026/2027.

Solar panels and battery storage will be installed at Silver End Village Hall to reduce its electricity demand.

A second capital project in 2026/2027 will be the refurbishment of Enterprise House in Sible Hedingham which will include the installation of a roof-mounted solar array.

A new electric vehicle charge point operator was appointed in July 2026 to support the replacement of the Council's charging infrastructure across the district. This is expected to encourage electric vehicle use, including business travel and visitors to the sites.

Company Information

Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB

Reporting Period

The reporting period is 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

Geographic Breakdown

All of Braintree District Council's activities and operations fall within the UK and have therefore been included within this report, in line with the DEFRA reporting methodology.