

Annual Organisational Emissions 2024/25

Summary

1. This report presents the latest data on Rother District Council's annual organisational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the period 1st April 2024 to 30th March 2025, in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO₂e).
2. In 2024/25, the council's gross direct emissions were 116.17 TCO₂e, which is similar to the previous year (115.78 TCO₂e). The largest source of direct emissions was electricity (48.87 TCO₂e), followed by gas heating (39.73 TCO₂e), and, lastly, diesel used by fleet vehicles and plant machinery (27.57 TCO₂e).
3. After deductions were applied from the supply of 100% renewable electricity and the export of solar energy, net direct emissions were 36.84 TCO₂e. This is an increase of 75% compared to the previous year (21 TCO₂e).
4. From the baseline year of 2019/20, the council's net direct emissions have dropped by 81.25%, largely due to reduced electricity emissions arising from reduced usage, adopting a 100% renewable energy contract, and the ongoing decarbonisation of the grid. Despite this significant progress, net direct emissions exceeded the 2024/25 net zero pathway KPI target by 30.7 TCO₂e.
5. Including indirect emissions, the council's total emissions were 1,372.04 TCO₂e, with the waste contract continuing to be the largest contributor, making up 56% of the total (770.39 TCO₂e). The next greatest source of emissions was leisure centres (27%), followed by staff commuting (7%). Net direct emissions made up 3% of the council's total emissions.
6. Total emissions showed an increase of 2% (+27.71 TCO₂e) compared to the previous year, with a reduction of 17% (-273.58 TCO₂e) since the baseline year.

Introduction

7. In 2019, Rother District Council declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to do all that was within its powers to become carbon neutral in council operations and as a district by 2030. The council's current [Climate Strategy](#) further sets out the ambition to achieve net zero emissions for Rother by 2030, with progress measured against an emissions baseline of 2019/20.
8. Internal, organisational emissions are calculated by measuring various operational activities and applying [Government conversion factors](#) to express greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO₂e)¹. The baseline year for all activities is 2019/20, however, if data for 2019/20 is unavailable, the earliest existing dataset for an activity is used as a baseline. Annual totals may have been extrapolated from partial data where full data is missing.
9. Organisational emissions are classified into three scopes. Scopes one and two are considered to be direct emissions from the burning of fossil fuels or purchased energy. In this report, the council's gross direct emissions are offset by electricity purchased from 100% renewable sources across the estate, and solar energy exported to the grid. Once these deductions have been applied to the gross direct emissions, they are reported as net direct emissions.

1. TCO₂e is a metric used to express the impact of different GHGs in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide that would produce the same global warming effect. This allows for a uniform method of quantifying and communicating GHG emissions.

10. All other activities contribute indirect emissions and fall into scope three (for example, commuting & business travel and contracted services). Only activities for which at least partial data is available are currently reported as indirect emissions, though as monitoring procedures advance, the range of scope three activities included may expand.
11. To maintain comparability, historic data is recalculated annually to account for methodological changes, updated data, or to correct errors. Figures relating to previous years may not, therefore, be as formerly reported.

Direct emissions in 2024/25

12. In 2024/25, the council’s gross direct emissions (scopes 1 and 2) were 116.17 TCO₂e, made up mostly of electricity (42%), followed by gas (34%) and lastly fuel for fleet vehicles and plant machinery (16%).
13. 48 operational sites contributed to the council’s direct electricity emissions, including administrative buildings, public toilets and parks. Only three of these, however, were heated by gas and contribute to operational gas emissions, namely the Town Hall, Amherst Road offices (1st floor only) and the Print Room. The council’s fleet was made up of seven diesel vehicles (five vans utilised by the maintenance team, one van used by environmental health, and a 4x4 used by the coastal team).



Figure 1: Rother District Council direct GHG emissions 2024/25 by activity

14. Some gas and electricity consumption data were taken from estimated, rather than actual, meter readings. Gas emissions in particular are likely to have been overestimated, as the Print Room was closed last year, yet the estimated gas usage at the time of reporting (4.28 TCO₂e) was comparable to 2023/24, due to a lack of recent actual meter reads.
15. Deductions for renewable electricity (-78.25 TCO₂e) and the export of solar energy from the Amherst Road office solar array (-1.07 TCO₂e), leave net direct emissions of 36.84 TCO₂e (Figure 1).

Changes in direct emissions since the previous year

16. Compared to the previous year, net direct emissions rose 75%, from 21 TCO₂e to 36.84 TCO₂e (Table 1).

17. Gas emissions rose by 9.4 TCO₂e, due to the reopening of the Town Hall’s ‘villas’, however, this was largely countered by the reduction in electricity emissions by 8.95 TCO₂e. The site that saw the greatest reduction in electricity emissions was Egerton Park (-3.82 TCO₂e), because Bexhill Museum took over responsibility for its electricity supply, removing it from the remit of the council’s GHG reporting. The remainder of the difference arose from small reductions in electricity use over multiple sites.

	Baseline 2019/20	Previous year 2023/24	2024/25
Scope 1 (gas & fuel)	69.03	57.96	67.30
Scope 2 (electricity)	131.55	57.82	48.87
Gross direct emissions	200.58	115.78	116.17
Deductions	-4.08	-94.78	-79.32
Net direct emissions	196.50	21.00	36.84

Table 1: Rother District Council direct GHG emissions (TCO₂e)

18. Fleet fuel emissions were stable at 23.01 TCO₂e, compared to 23.08 TCO₂e in 2023/24, despite the maintenance team adding a vehicle to their fleet at the start of 2024/25.
19. The administrative change at the museum, mentioned above, also resulted in their solar export being removed from the council’s deductions in 2024/25, having accounted for 1.86 TCO₂e of deductions in 2023/24. The remainder of the decrease in deductions was due to overall less (~17%) electricity being used across the whole estate, thereby reducing the renewable electricity deductions that applied.

Changes in direct emissions since the baseline year

20. Net direct emissions were 159.66 TCO₂e lower (-81%) than the baseline year (Table 1). This was driven by the council’s use and procurement of electricity; Since 2019/20, electricity use has reduced by over 50%, which, along with the decarbonisation of the grid, has delivered emissions savings of 82.68 TCO₂e (-63%). Additionally, deductions were 75.25 TCO₂e greater in 2024/25 than in the baseline year, due to the council adopting a 100% renewable energy contract in November 2022 (Figure 2).

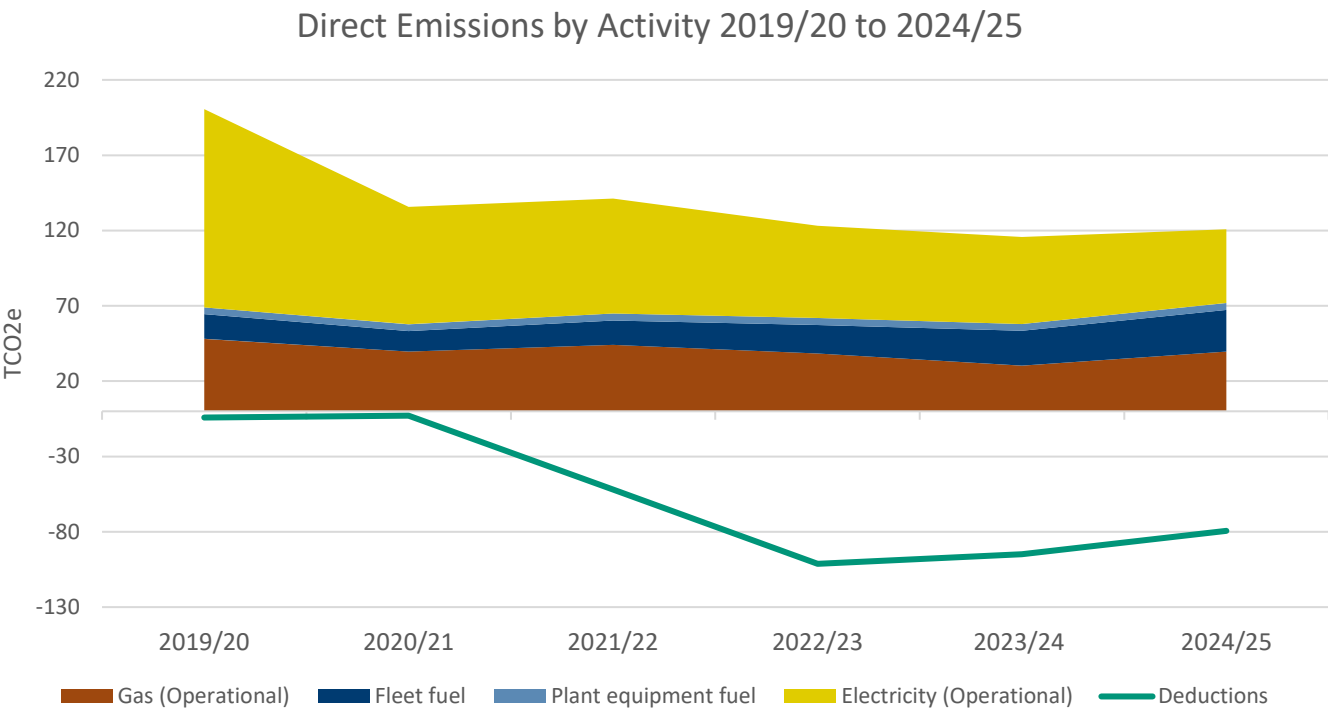


Figure 2: Rother District Council’s direct GHG emissions by activity since 2019/20

21. After a dip in 2020/21, to 13.65 TCO₂e, emissions from fleet vehicles have gradually increased over the years, and were 6.57 TCO₂e higher (+40%) in 2024/25 than the baseline level (16.44 TCO₂e).
22. 2024/25 was the first year that fuel used for plant equipment could be measured, so the figure of 4.56 TCO₂e sets the baseline for this activity and has been applied to all previous years.
23. Gas emissions were 8.3 TCO₂e lower (-17%) compared to 2019/20, with reduced usage seen at both the Town Hall and Amherst Road offices. The boilers in these buildings were replaced in 2023, which is likely a contributing factor, although external temperatures, occupancy and human behaviour also play a large part in annual fluctuations. (As mentioned at 15 above, the 2024/25 figures do not reflect the closing of the Print Room, and may have been overestimated by around 10%.)

The net direct emissions pathway to net zero by 2030

24. Net direct emissions are reported annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with a key performance indicator (KPI) to reduce these by 50% year on year. This ambitious KPI sets a pathway that minimises the council's emissions in the process of striving for net zero (<1% of baseline emissions) by 2030/31.
25. The 2024/25 KPI target was 6.14 TCO₂e, with actual net direct emissions exceeding this by 30.7 TCO₂e (Figure 3).

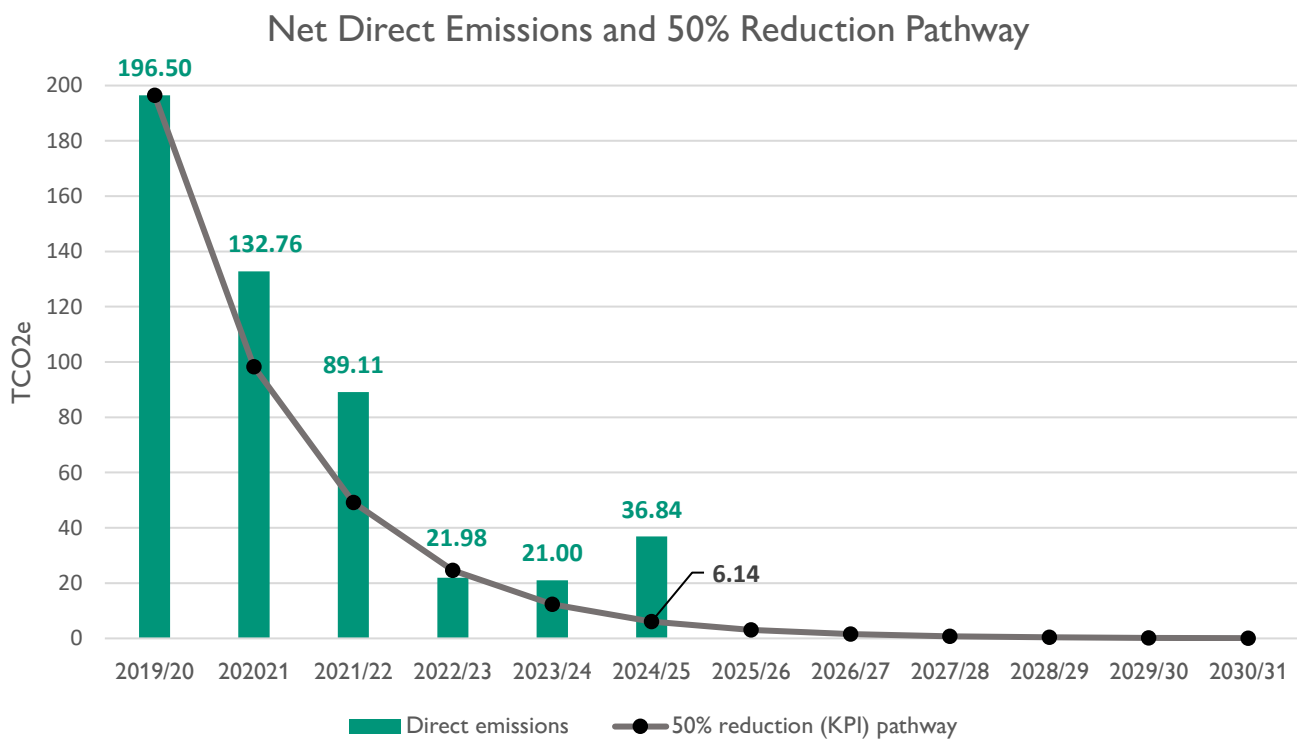


Figure 3: Rother District Council's net direct emissions against the 50% annual reduction KPI pathway

Total GHG emissions in 2024/25

26. Including indirect emissions, the council's total GHG emissions were 1,372.04 TCO₂e (Table 2), with net direct emissions making up 3% (36.84 TCO₂e), and indirect emissions (scope 3), 97% (1,335.2 TCO₂e).
27. Two contracted services provided emissions data, and they made up the vast proportion of the council's total emissions. The waste contract fleet was by far the greatest contributor, responsible for 56% (770.39 TCO₂e) of total emissions, with leisure centres making up a further 27% (365.39 TCO₂e) (Figure 4).
28. Journeys made by staff for commuting and business travel made up 10% of total emissions (136.43 TCO₂e).

Rother District Council GHG emissions 2024/25 (TCO2e)

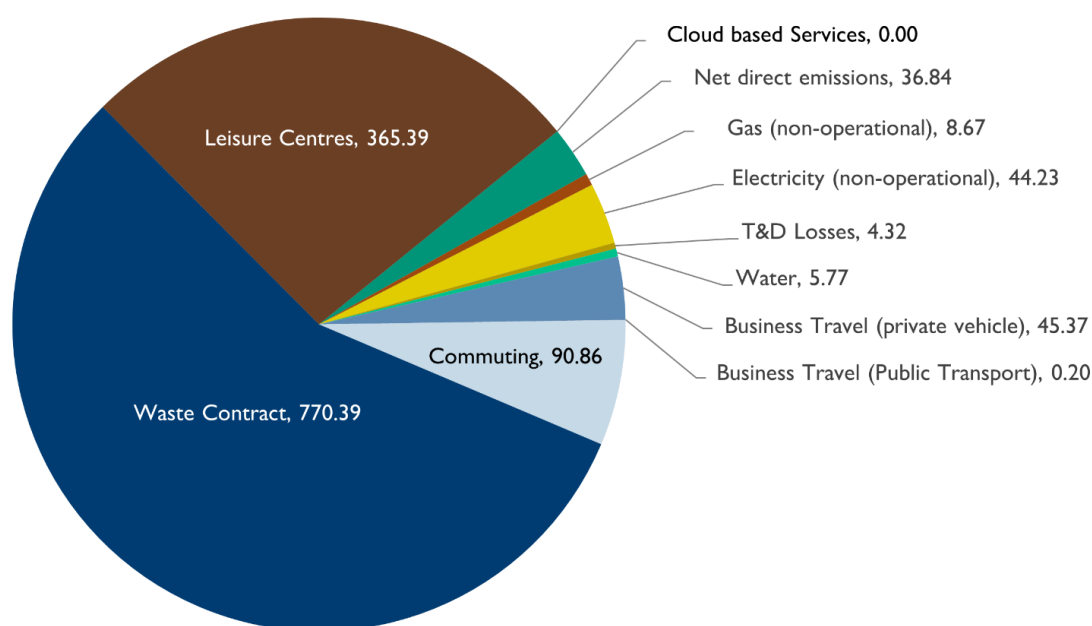


Figure 4: Rother District Council's total GHG emissions 2024/25 by activity

29. Non-operational gas and electricity emissions arise from commercial lets owned by the council. These are only in scope where the council holds the utility account, either because utilities are included in lease agreements, or the council was responsible for them between tenants. 17 sites contributed to non-operational electricity emissions in this period (totalling 44.23 TCO2e). The majority of these are not supplied by 100% renewable energy tariffs, as the council cannot control which providers and tariffs are used by tenants. Only one building, the Amherst Road offices (ground and top floors), contributed to non-operational gas emissions (8.67 TCO2e).

30. Emissions data from the council's cloud based IT services were available for the first time in 2024/25. Due to the provider relying on 100% renewable electricity, these amounted to only 1.5kg CO2e.

Changes in total emissions since the previous year

	Baseline 2019/20	Previous year 2023/24	2024/25
Net direct emissions	196.50	21.00	36.84
Gas (non-operational)	8.85	10.33	8.67
Electricity (non-operational)	57.55	57.90	44.23
T&D Losses	11.17	5.00	4.32
Water	15.16	6.70	5.77
Business Travel	74.12	49.27	45.57
Commuting	95.61	90.20	90.86
Waste Contract	699.87	783.57	770.39
Leisure Centres	486.80	320.36	365.39
Cloud based Services	0	0	0
Total emissions	1645.62	1344.33	1372.04

Table 2: Rother District Council's total GHG emissions (TCO2e)

31. Total emissions increased slightly compared to the previous year, by 2%, from 1,344.33 TCO₂e to 1,372.04 TCO₂e (Table 2).
32. The majority of scope three activities saw slight reductions compared to 2023/24, with the greatest changes seen in non-operational electricity, which dropped 13.67 TCO₂e (-24%) and the waste contract fleet, which fell by 13.18 TCO₂e (-1.68%).
33. The only activity with significantly increased emissions was leisure centres, rising by 45.03 TCO₂e (14%), predominantly due to increased gas use. Commuting also saw a very slight increase, but by <1% (0.66 TCO₂e).

Changes in total emissions since the baseline year

34. Total emissions were 273.58 TCO₂e lower (-17%) than the baseline year (Table 2 & Figure 5), with reductions seen in all activities except the waste fleet. The greatest reductions were in net direct emissions, which, as detailed above, have decreased by 159.66 TCO₂e (-81%), and leisure centre emissions, which have decreased by 121.41 TCO₂e (-24.94%). As with net direct emissions, the reduction in leisure centre emissions has been largely due to electricity, with consumption reduced by 27%, along with the decarbonisation of the grid, resulting in a 41% decrease in emissions. (Leisure centre gas use and emissions also reduced by around 14% since 2019/20.)

Total Emissions by Activity 2019/20 to 2024/25

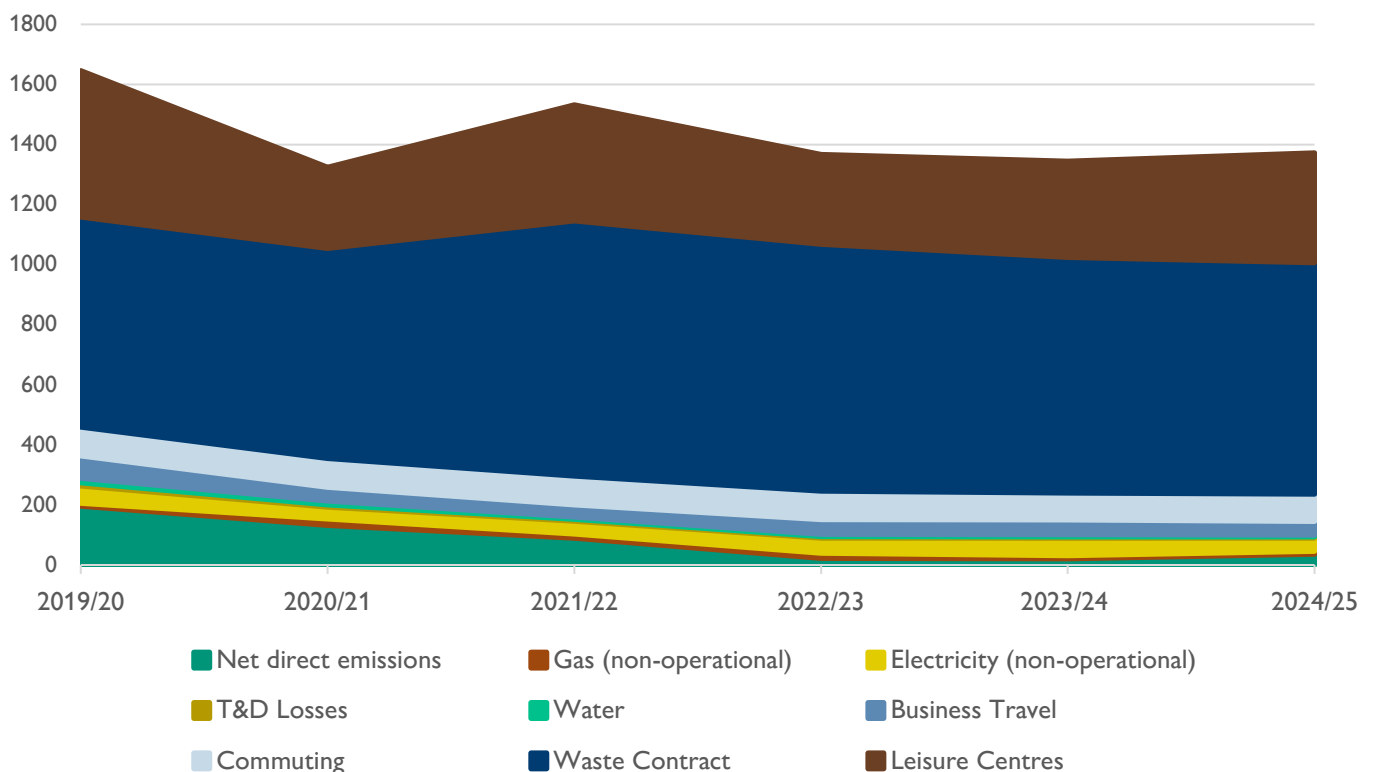


Figure 5: Rother District Council's total GHG emissions since 2019/20 by activity

35. Emissions from non-operational electricity have decreased by 13.31 TCO₂e (-23.13%), following slight reductions in usage compared to 2019/20 (-5%) but largely from grid decarbonisation. Scope three T&D losses refer to transmission and distribution losses arising from the transportation of scope 2 electricity; therefore, as scope 2 electricity use has decreased, so too have T&D losses, by 6.85 TCO₂e (-61.33%).
36. Emissions from the supply and treatment of water reduced by 62% (-9.38 TCO₂e); however, this is solely due to significant decarbonisation within the water industry, as the volume of water supplied to operational sites (which includes public conveniences), and water treated, has increased by around 3,500 cubic metres (11%).

37. Emissions from business travel have reduced by 28.55 TCO₂e (-39%), remaining relatively constant since the significant dip seen during the pandemic. Commuter emissions were first estimated in 2022/23, and have reduced only slightly since then, by 4.76 TCO₂e (-4.98%).
38. Non-operational gas emissions (8.67 TCO₂e) returned to a similar level of 2019/20 (8.85 TCO₂e) following increased levels in recent years, with a high in 2020/21 of 20.94 TCO₂e. As the Amherst Road office building is the only asset that contributes to this figure, it has fluctuated year on year in line with the percentage of the building leased to other organisations (with remaining emissions being counted as operational gas emissions in scope one).
39. Waste contract fleet emissions were the only activity to see an increase, rising by 10% to 770.39 TCO₂e compared to the baseline of 699.87 TCO₂e. However, emissions have been decreasing year on year since a high in 2021/22 of 849.64 TCO₂e.

The total emissions pathway to net zero by 2030.

40. Whilst the council has no KPI target to reduce total emissions, Figure 5 shows what a 50% reduction pathway towards net zero by 2030/31 looks like when applied to the council's total emissions. Target emissions for 2024/25 would be 51.43 TCO₂e, with the council's actual emissions exceeding this by 1,320.61 TCO₂e.

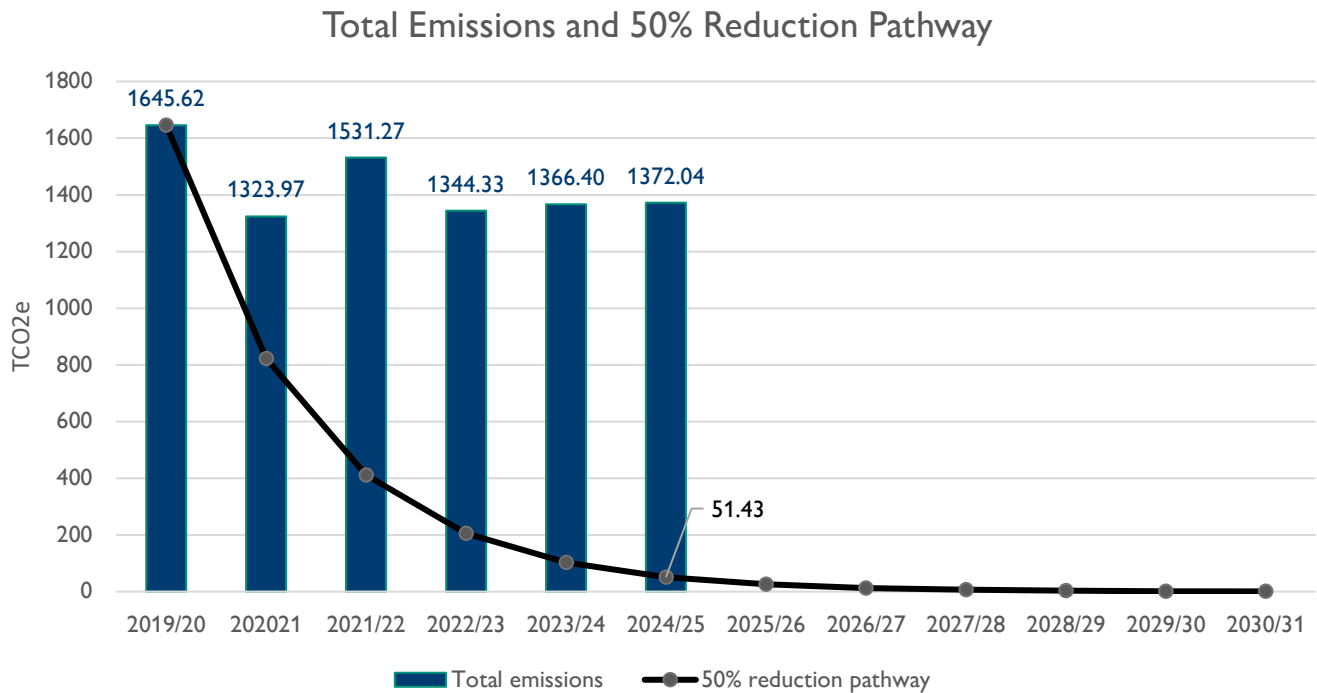


Figure 5: Rother District Council's total emissions against an annual 50% reduction pathway

Looking forward

41. The Print Room and 17 public conveniences have recently been closed or devolved, removing them from the remit of the council's emissions reporting. Most of the impact on emissions is not yet reflected in the reporting figures, as assets were either disposed of during or towards the end of the reporting period, or there is a lack of recent actual meter reads. The cumulative impact of these changes on future reports is estimated to be a reduction of ~12 TCO₂e per year.
42. The council has limited opportunity to further reduce direct emissions in the short term; The existing gas boilers at the Town Hall and Amherst Road Offices will not require replacement until at least 2033, and although the fleet is small, the availability of suitable electric vehicles (EVs), coupled with the additional lease and chargepoint installation costs, is currently prohibitive to a switch to an EV fleet.

43. Electrical improvements will continue as required, for example, replacing light fittings with energy-efficient LEDs as they come to the end of life, however, significant improvements have already been achieved across the estate, so opportunities for further savings are diminishing. Rooftop solar arrays, or adding batteries to the existing array at Amherst Road offices, would reduce electricity use, but come with significant up-front costs, and financial pay-back can be in the region of 5 to 10 years.
44. The upcoming renewal of the joint waste contract has presented an opportunity to tackle the council's greatest source of emissions, with the waste fleet expected to switch from diesel to hydro-treated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel in June 2026. This will reduce fleet emissions by up to 90%, equating to ~700 TCO₂e per year at current levels. However, statutory weekly food waste collections are also to be introduced in March 2026, which will increase waste fleet mileage and temper these savings.
45. Reductions are also expected in leisure centre emissions over the coming years. The council relinquished their lease of Rye sports centre in March 2025, which will avoid ~90 TCO₂e per year going forward. Additionally, subject to further feasibility, design and funding confirmations, the council hopes to install solar PV at Bexhill Leisure Centre and Bexhill Swimming Pool. Initial desktop surveys suggest this could reduce leisure centre emissions by ~45 TCO₂e per year.