

Climate

Matters 2022

Climate change and carbon reduction annual statement



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our carbon footprint

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SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Foreword



recorded by the Met Office of 40.3C was seen in Coningsby, Lincolnshire. The exceptional hot temperatures in July and sustained drought conditions throughout the summer have put an immense amount of pressure on our communities and on wildlife, demonstrating some of the impacts of climate change which are already being felt in our district.

council is providing this scheme to help residents save money whilst keeping warm. I do not underestimate the task ahead of us and we know we have a considerable way to go as do so many of other authorities in Local Government, but we must continue to reduce our emissions and protect our planet for future generations.

Our third Climate Matters report marks three years since South Kesteven District Council declared a climate emergency, marking our commitment to reduce the council's carbon emissions and embed the issue at the centre of our approach as a local authority.

It is clear the impacts of climate change are being felt both further abroad and close to home. On 19th July 2022, the UK's hottest temperature

As we look ahead in the coming months, we know that the spiralling cost of energy will have a big impact on our residents. In the last year we have leveraged funding to upgrade over 150 council properties with new low-carbon heating, and we are currently running the Home Energy Upgrade Scheme for South Kesteven residents to receive energy efficiency upgrades to homes. With energy bills at an all-time high, the

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(2021/22), we have seen an overall carbon reduction of 14.23%. Reductions in energy use in our leisure centres and from electricity use across our corporate estate have contributed towards this decrease.

districts. With energy bills at an all-time high, the scheme will help residents save money whilst keeping warm, and will reduce the carbon footprint of properties.

There is much to be achieved in the year ahead, and as Cabinet Member for Waste and Climate Change I look forward to leading council initiatives on energy efficiency, carbon reduction and engaging our residents with our work.

Across the country, councils are taking urgent action in their local areas to combat the negative impacts of climate change and to deliver net zero carbon by 2050. South Kesteven District Council added our voice to this call in 2019 and I am pleased to share this report tracking some of our major achievements in the last year.

In our last reporting year

Alongside other English councils, South Kesteven District Council has received a tranche of funding from central government to deliver energy efficiency upgrades to homes in our district which are at greatest risk of fuel poverty. We are working in collaboration with three other Lincolnshire councils to deliver the Home Energy Upgrade Scheme in our area, and we are now seeing properties come forward for energy assessments and receive recommended upgrades. There is capacity to improve more than 500 households across the four

Cllr Mark Whittington
Cabinet Member for Waste and Climate Change

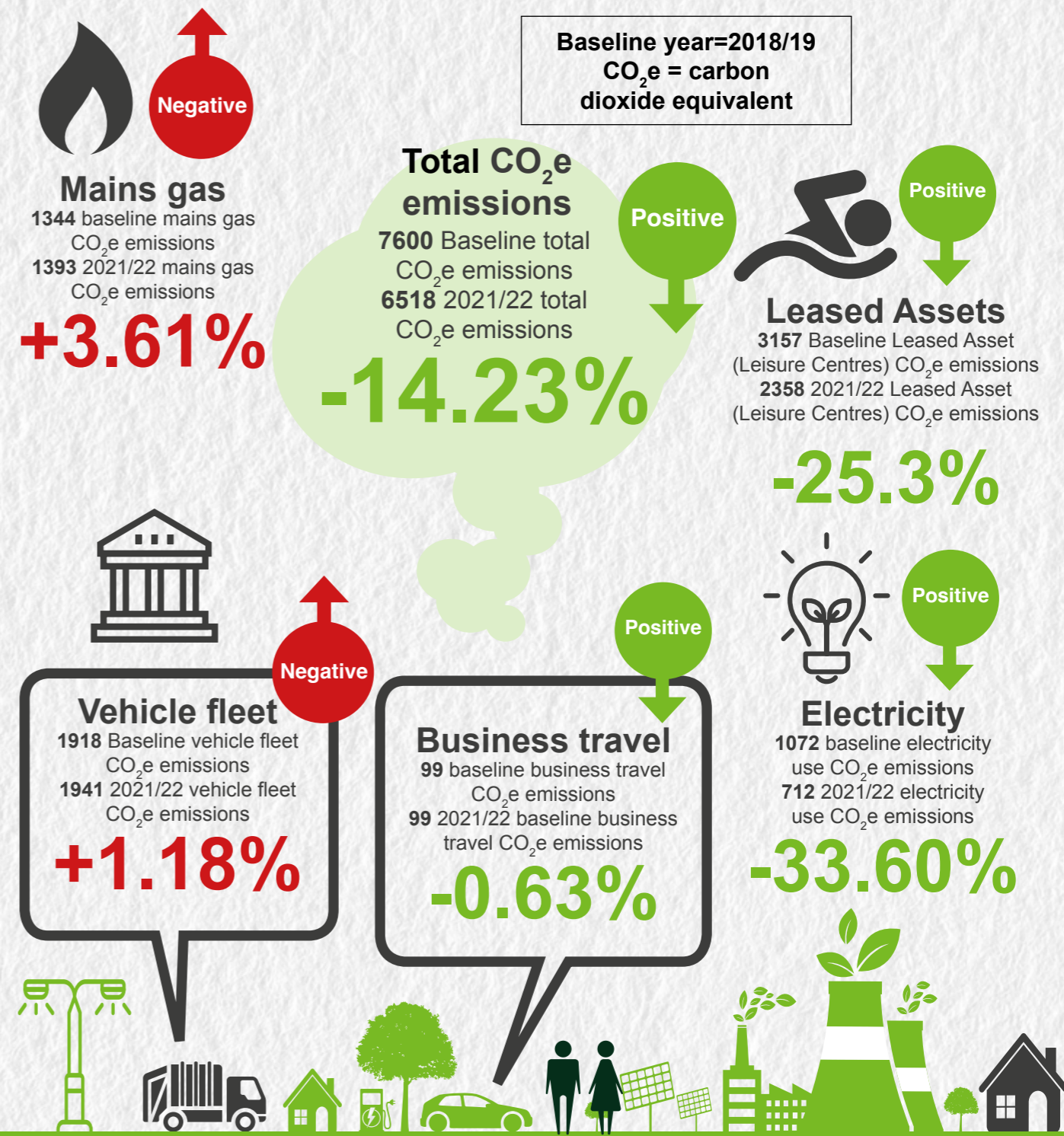
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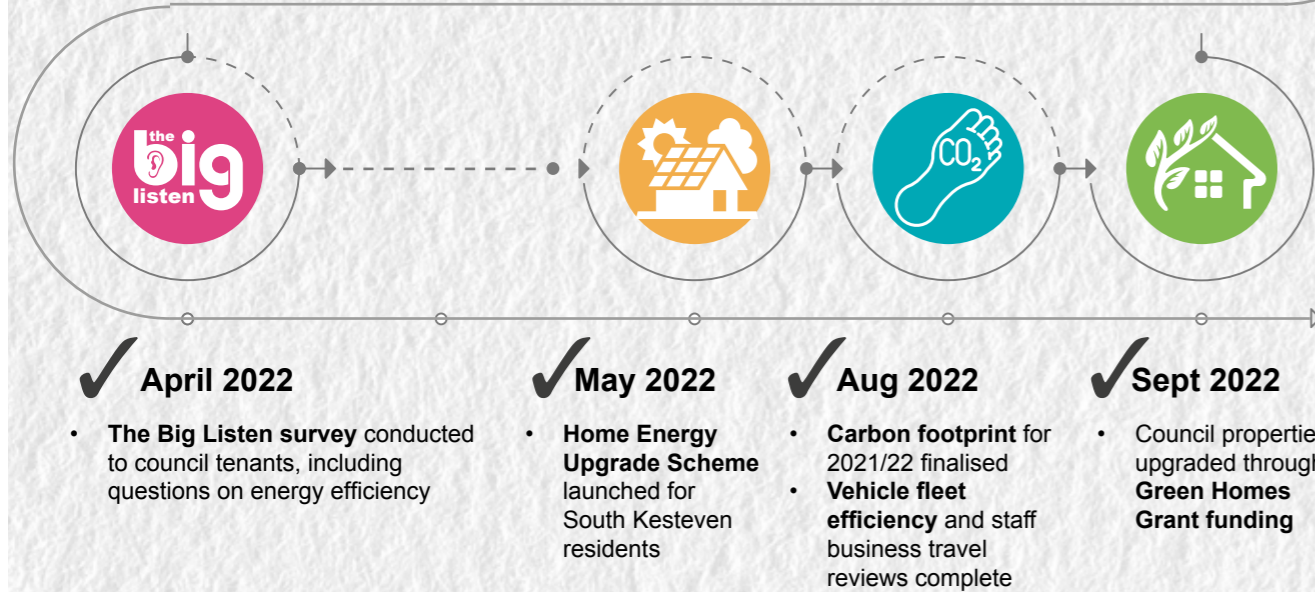
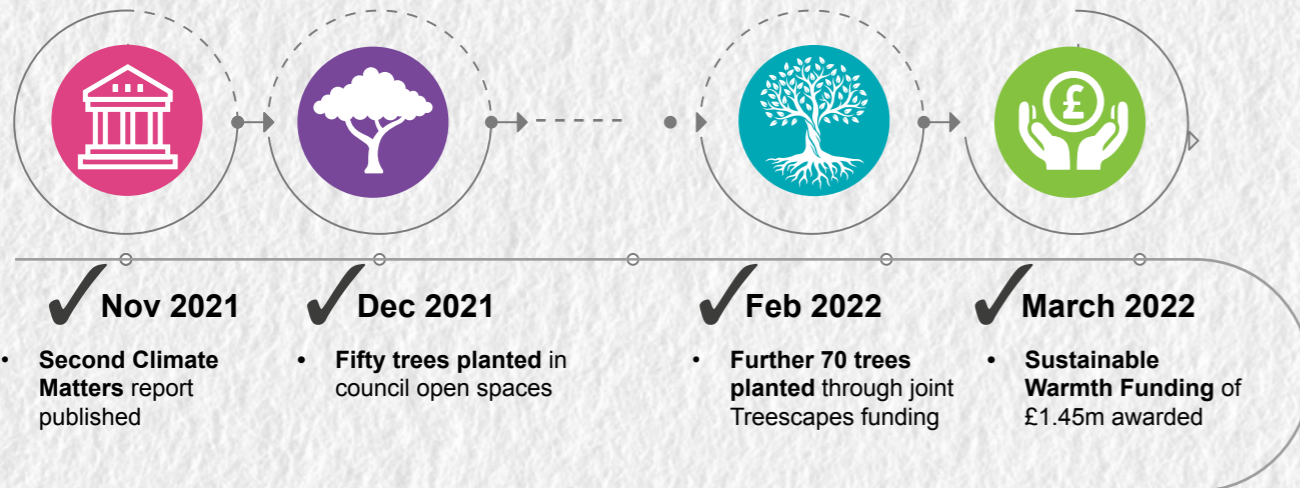
Introduction

This is the third Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Annual Statement to highlight the activities, achievements, and challenges for climate change and carbon reduction since South Kesteven District Council's declaration of Climate Emergency in September 2019.

Main sources of South Kesteven District Council's carbon emissions in 2021/22

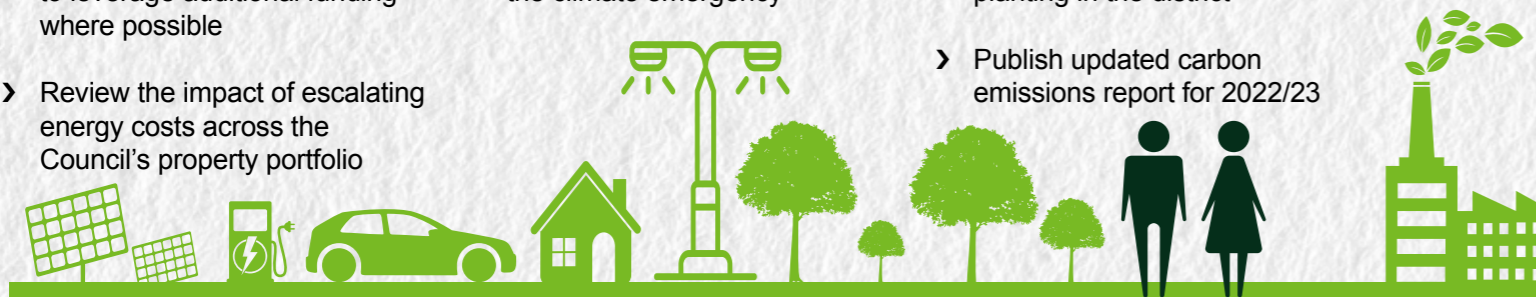


What has happened in the last year



Over the next 12 months we plan to:

- › Develop and deliver a Climate Action Plan to set out main areas of action for South Kesteven
- › Provide energy efficiency upgrades to homes in the district through the Home Energy Upgrade Scheme and seek to leverage additional funding where possible
- › Review the impact of escalating energy costs across the Council's property portfolio
- › Embed carbon reduction and integrate sustainability into the refreshed Housing Revenue Account Business Plan
- › Deliver targeted staff training sessions around carbon reduction and South Kesteven District Council's commitment to the climate emergency
- › Continue to work at a Lincolnshire-wide level to better engage residents, businesses, and visitors to the region around climate change
- › Consider how to maximise opportunities for partnership working for tree and hedge planting in the district
- › Publish updated carbon emissions report for 2022/23



Over the last 12 months we:

Energy and carbon

Home Energy Upgrade Scheme

South Kesteven District Council secured £1.2m of funding to deliver energy efficiency upgrades to targeted homes within the district. The core aims of the scheme are to alleviate fuel poverty alongside reducing carbon emissions associated with energy used in domestic properties. The scheme was launched to residents in May, in a collaborative effort with North Kesteven, West Lindsey and City of Lincoln councils. Eligible households could receive a range of energy improvements including improved insulation, solar panels and upgraded low-carbon heating systems. To end of September 2022, over 30 properties have been approved for upgrades with more in the pipeline for improvements.

Upgrades made to over 150 Council properties through Green Homes Grant funding

A programme of funded via the Green Homes Grant allocation to local authorities has delivered upgrades to heating systems. To date, 152 properties have received upgrades to low-carbon heating systems, which will make homes warmer and reduce energy costs for tenants. These properties, with no connection to the gas supply grid, were heated with inefficient storage heaters or solid fuel systems, and as a result are typically more expensive to run and have a higher than average carbon footprint. Upgrades will see an improvement in the property's Energy Performance Certificate.

Travel and transport

Review of council vehicle fleet

The Energy Saving Trust worked with South Kesteven District Council to conduct a detailed review of the operation of the fleet of vehicles and make targeted recommendations to improve efficiency, reduce fuel use. A parallel review was also completed on business travel conducted in staff owned vehicles. Implementing a number of recommendations from the review to reduce fuel consumption will unlock carbon emission reductions.

Housing

The Big Listen survey for Council tenants

The Big Listen survey was sent to all Council tenants and leaseholders as part of customer satisfaction consultation. The poll, sent out in late March 2022, included questions around energy efficiency and heating systems installed in Council properties. While 71% of respondents agreed their current heating system keeps the property warm, opinion was split on whether their current heating system represented good value. A majority of 78% agreed they would be interested in the Council exploring new technologies to enhance energy efficiency in their home.

Biodiversity and green space

Tree planting in Council open spaces

South Kesteven District Council has completed a number of tree planting projects throughout the winter of 2021/2022. Using an agreed climate change budget, 50 trees were planted on council managed open spaces throughout the district, with a focus on improving amenity of green spaces and boosting biodiversity. A further 70 trees were planted with the assistance of a successful bid to the Treescapes fund, co-ordinated by Lincolnshire County Council in selected open areas. Mature trees will help to store carbon as well as providing a host of other benefits to communities and wildlife.

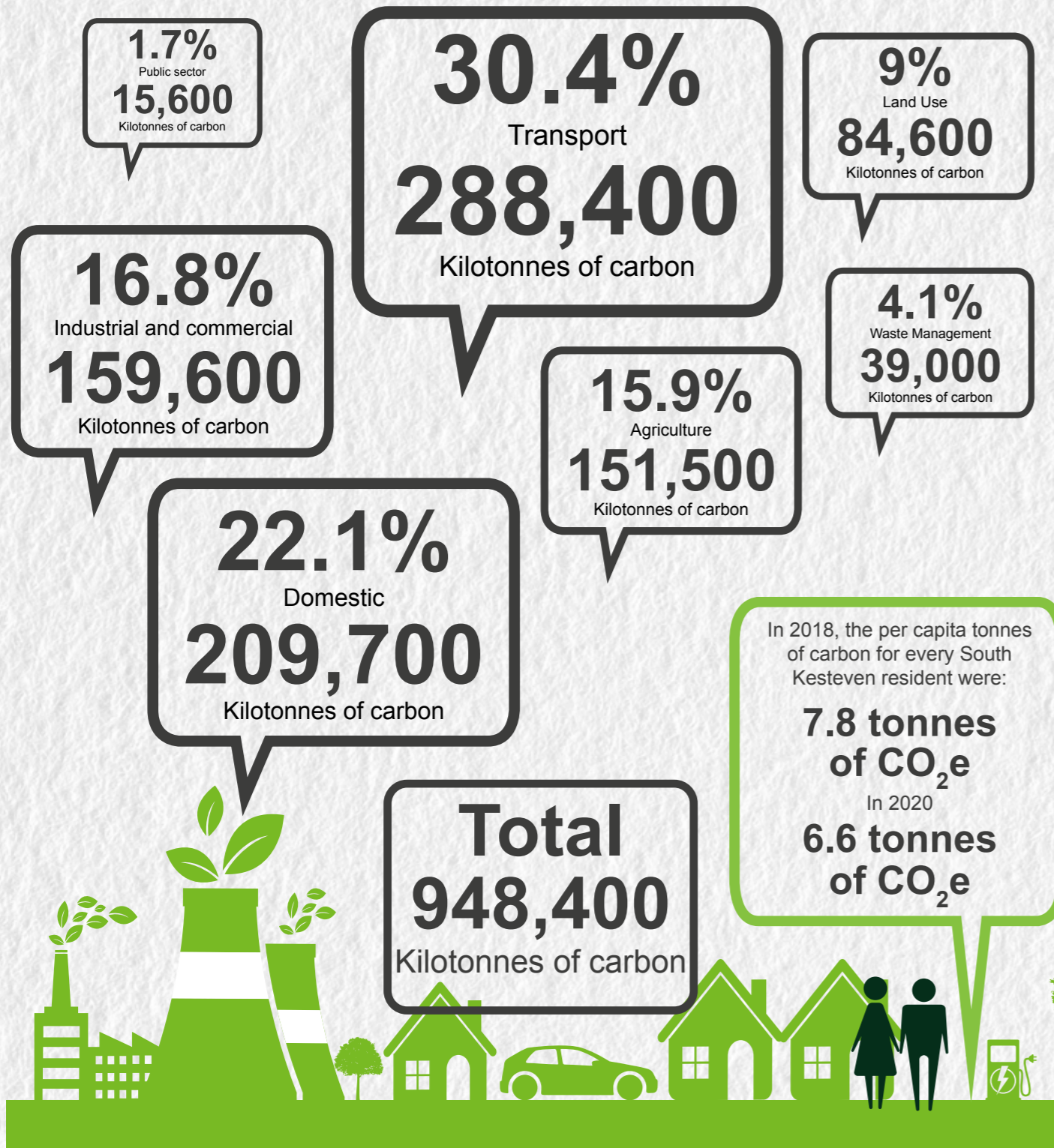


Insight into South Kesteven's district wide carbon emissions by sector

Government produces annual data showing each local authority area's greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions, expressed in kilotonnes (kt) of carbon. This gives a useful insight into both total emissions and the relative

proportion per sector throughout the district of South Kesteven, alongside historic reductions that have been achieved across the area. From this reporting year onwards, this dataset now includes the contribution from

other GHGs beyond carbon dioxide, including methane and nitrous oxide emissions. Note the change in methodology makes direct comparison with previous years problematic.



The National and Global Outlook

Climate Action is a global issue. Hence, in addition to considering the emissions of the wider district of South Kesteven, action and events at the national and global level will define, impact and shape our local

Climate Change Committee's (CCC) 2022 Progress Report to Parliament published

In June 2022, the CCC published their annual independent assessment of the UK's progress in reducing emissions. Key messages were:

- › The UK Government now has a solid Net Zero strategy in place, but tangible progress is lagging behind ambitions
- › Action to address the rising cost of living should be aligned with Net Zero.
- › Emissions rose 4% in 2021 compared with 2020 as the economy began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- › The UK hosting of the UN COP26 climate in November 2021 successfully strengthened long-term global ambition and introduced new mechanisms to support delivery.
- › Additional focus is needed on the cross-cutting enablers of the transition, moving from words to action.

Overall policy ambition has advanced substantially, now the UK must focus on delivering.

Impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

The invasion of Ukraine, in addition to the rise in energy resource demands as the global economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, has shifted global energy priorities. The sharp increase in fossil fuel prices improves the cost advantages of renewable power generation, electric cars and investment in energy efficiency. However, concerns around energy prices and security have resulted in consideration of investment in new fossil fuel production and fossil fuel infrastructure. In May 2022, G7 countries jointly committed to phasing out dependency on energy supplies from Russia, including by phasing out or banning the import of oil and working together to accelerate reduction of reliance on fossil fuels and transition to clean energy in accordance with climate objectives.

UK renewable energy generation continues to break records

The record for the highest amount of daily wind power energy generation was broken on 25th May 2022, with 19.9 gigawatt generated in the 24 hour period. The 2021 calendar year was the second highest year for overall renewables generation on record, after 2020. Zero-carbon energy generation also overtook fossil fuel consumption in 11 months of the year in 2021.