

CABINET

DATE	1 st April 2026
REPORT OF	Councillor Henry Hudson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom, Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Our Green Future Annual Report 2025
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 04/26/02

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

This report provides an annual update on North East Lincolnshire Council's strategic environmental plans which are focused in three key areas:

- Waste Management Strategy
- Carbon Roadmap
- Natural Assets Plan

The Waste Management Strategy aligns with our strategic Greener Future: Our waste and recycling priority where our waste and recycling services are resilient and customer friendly. The Carbon Roadmap supports our strategic Greener Future: Our Green Ambition where we want North East Lincolnshire to benefit from a green economy and high-quality environment. The Natural Assets Plan supports our strategic Greener Future: Our Natural Assets and Coastline where we, including our partners can improve the area's unique natural environment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Environment Board meets quarterly to monitor our achievements and progress throughout the year. This annual report provides a strategic update on our workstream priorities for the 2025 calendar year in relation to the three strategic strategies, as well as an carbon accounting estimate for our 2024/25 carbon emissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Receives and notes the annual updates for each plan as outlined in Appendices 1 to 3 and its contribution towards delivering net zero by 2030.

REASONS FOR DECISION

This report focuses on the three environmental strategies which alongside the

Economic Strategy, make up ‘Our Green Future’, as set out in the Council’s Environmental Vision Statement. This update will support our aspirations for North East Lincolnshire to be:

- A thriving low carbon economy powered by sustainable energy.
- A circular economy, where businesses and residents reject the throw-away society, reducing, re-using and recycling.
- A place where residents live in energy efficient, healthy homes and where it is enjoyable, accessible, and affordable for everyone to travel sustainably every day.
- A nature rich place, where wildlife abounds, and everyone has access to clean air and inspiring green and open spaces to protect health and enhance lives.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 On the 12th February 2020, Cabinet approved and adopted North East Lincolnshire Council’s Waste Management Strategy 2020 to 2035. The Strategy included a commitment to improve recycling to reach government targets of 55% recycling by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The strategy also sets out the Council’s ambition to move towards a circular economy, with increase in re-use, reduction in waste disposal and reduction in waste to landfill.
- 1.2 In 2019 a climate emergency was declared where North East Lincolnshire Council confirmed its ambition to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, while also bringing new jobs to the local area. This has now been revised to 2030.
- 1.3 On the 1st December 2021, Cabinet approved and adopted the following:
- North East Lincolnshire Council’s Carbon Roadmap and action plan;
 - North East Lincolnshire Council’s Natural Assets Plan.
- 1.4 All three Cabinet decisions included a requirement to produce an annual report including updates for consideration by Cabinet and the appendices to this report provide that update.
- 1.5 The actions within the strategies have been prioritised as short, medium, and long term and as such, we are now focusing on delivering medium and long-term actions and some actions have not yet commenced.

Waste Management Strategy

- 1.6 The North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) Waste Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2020 and will run from 2020 to 2035 with the aim to rank this Council amongst the best in the country for using our resources sustainably, making changes that support local contractors, manufacturers, retailers and residents to produce less waste and recycle more.
- 1.7 The aspirations in the Strategy are as follows:

- **Resilient:** We will ensure efficient and reliable collections of waste and recycling from all households, which are responsive to future changes in legislation and local needs.
- **Customer friendly:** We will provide a waste collection method, which is easy for households to use and encourages residents to recycle more.
- **Environmentally responsible:** We will ensure our arrangements for collection and disposal of waste are designed and operated in a way that reduce our environmental impact as far as practicable. We will aim to achieve reduction in emissions from disposal, treatment, and transport, but also from the production of the materials long before those materials are discarded as waste via waste reduction.
- **Education focused:** We will help and encourage learning about sustainable waste management by developing stronger relationships with schools and the community.
- **Collaborative:** We will work with neighbouring authorities and our business partners to explore better service delivery and contract management for waste disposal.
- **Responsible commissioners and effective contract managers:** We will maximise the use of and value from our current contract and plan for effective commissioning for the future.

Progress

- 1.8 Recycling rates in 2025 have remained consistent with 2024 levels, and there has been an overall reduction in residual waste and an increase in recycling rates within the borough since 2020. This reduction is in line with the national strategy to minimise household waste and to create a circular economy and has been influenced by the council's new recycling offer.
- 1.9 We are continuing to work with NELC's Insights team to identify barriers that are preventing individuals from recycling and the areas where there are opportunities to increase education and awareness. The future introduction of food waste collections across the borough is expected to have a positive impact on our recycling rates, diverting an estimated 4000-5000 tonnes of waste from disposal to recycling. We will also be recruiting two waste and recycling officers who will engage with residents to help make further progress in this area.
- 1.10 We continue to keep our waste to landfill rates below the 10% national average. In 2025 we achieved six months of no waste to landfill and our lowest annual figure on record, representing just 0.01% of total waste generated during the period. Our continued work to increase the percentage of waste recycled, converting it to energy when it is not feasible and reducing our waste to landfill shows our long-term commitment to achieving a circular economy across the borough.
- 1.11 In our 2020 Waste Management Strategy, it was anticipated that government would introduce legislation to mandate local authorities to provide a food waste collection to residents. In preparation the council introduced a food

waste collection pilot in 5 locations. Feedback on the pilot scheme was positive, with a reduction rate of waste in residual bins participating in the trial of 50 tonnes a month as a result. There have been challenges nationally for local authorities around the rollout of food waste collections, however we are continuing to progress work on our planned food waste collections across the borough to meet the legislative requirements of 'Simpler Recycling'. This will involve the procurement of new waste collection vehicles fitted with food waste pods enabling food waste to be collected alongside usual rounds, minimising change for residents.

- 1.12 A detailed report on progress can be found in Appendix 1 to this report under the header NELC Council Waste Management Strategy Update.

Carbon Roadmap

- 1.13 In December 2022 it was resolved at Full Council to commit to:
- Achieve net zero carbon impact by the Council and our assets by 2030.
 - Reaffirm the commitment to engage with partners, businesses and communities to achieve net zero carbon, across the borough as proximate as practically possible to the Council's own accelerated 2030 aspiration.
 - Embark on an ambitious property rationalisation programme to deliver efficiency savings, reduce the carbon footprint, support new ways of working, drive footfall in Grimsby Town Centre and generate capital receipts which can be applied to support the wider transformation programme.
- 1.14 The Council, with support from our regeneration partner at the time, previously carried out an in-depth review of current policies, procedures, and activities which identified our current carbon impact and wider emissions in the Borough. It set out an approach to identify opportunities to reduce our own carbon emissions as well as contribute to mitigation work and reduction of carbon emissions across North East Lincolnshire.
- 1.15 The Carbon Roadmap outlines the work areas required to reduce carbon emissions from our own activities and areas where we can enable and inspire others to reduce their own carbon emissions. The focus is on the following workstreams:
- Low carbon estate (our buildings)
 - Low carbon fleet (our vehicles)
 - Low carbon street lighting
 - Climate conscious decision making
 - Climate conscious purchasing (goods and services)
 - Climate conscious behaviours (of our staff and those who work for us)

The following six additional workstreams drive change and encourage stakeholders:

- Climate conscious community: by facilitating and encouraging community engagement and sustainability actions
- Low carbon commercial buildings: working as an enabler to ensure

sufficient support is in place for businesses to increase sustainability

- Low carbon transport: through policy change, network investment and partnership working we want to enable a local transition to more sustainable travel.
- Low carbon industry: by supporting our partners and industry in achieving industrial decarbonisation, including carbon capture and hydrogen economy.
- Enable low carbon new homes-through our role as a policy maker and planning authority.
- Climate-conscious improvements to older homes, by supporting our partners and residents to improve their homes to become more sustainable.

1.16 Carbon accounting has taken place for the Council’s 2024/25 emissions. This is an estimation of the greenhouse gas emissions emitted from the operations of the Council. Our carbon emissions are split into three categories: scope 1 – direct emissions we own or control, scope 2 – indirect emissions caused by the use, purchase and generation of electricity, scope 3 – indirect emissions created from our value chain.

	Estimated emissions in 2019 – our baseline (tCO₂e)	Estimated emissions in 2024/25 (tCO₂e)
Scope 1	2638	3341
Scope 2	2610	0
Scope 3	1263	2025
Total	6511	5366

Figure 1: North East Lincolnshire Council estimated greenhouse gas emissions for the baseline and 2024/25 (tCO₂e)

1.17 There has been an increase in our Scope 1 emissions due to the integration of our former regeneration partners, Equans, back into the Council as well as changes to methodologies over time meaning some assets were excluded from our baseline carbon accounting which are now being included in our 2024/25 estimated annual emissions.

1.18 Progress has been made on the workstreams associated with Scope 1 to reduce their emissions. This includes the ongoing delivery of phase 3c of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to decarbonise our estate, and following on from our Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) technical assessments, a successful application for PSDS phase 4. We have also made progress on our fleet decarbonisation, where we are rationalising and electrifying, in 2024/25 we had 33 electric vehicles and there is continuous work for this number to increase.

1.19 There has been a decrease in our Scope 2 emissions due to an increase in LEDs used for street lighting, as well as 100% of our electricity being purchased from a renewable source or using electricity generated from solar panels installed on our buildings.

1.20 There has been an increase in our Scope 3 emissions due to a change in

methodologies. There is no set guideline as to inclusion and exclusions of scope 3 emissions, sector guidance and best practice is being followed, however it is expected that our reported estimate for Scope 3 emissions will continue to rise as further data collection and analysis takes place.

- 1.21 Progress has been made on the six workstreams that facilitate, encourage, and support others to reduce their carbon emissions. This has included: the continued delivery of our UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding to support, alongside E-Factor, local businesses with energy-saving and decarbonisation advice; a successful LEVI capital bid for the rollout of approximately 400 electric vehicle charge points, which is currently at tender stage; the recruitment of a new 'Active Travel Officer'; and, the continued delivery of grant funding to deliver home improvements and boost the energy efficiency of residential properties through ECO4, our Emergency and Health grants, and now the Warm Homes: Local Grant.
- 1.22 A detailed report on progress for each of these workstreams can be found in appendix 2 to this report titled North East Lincolnshire Council Carbon Roadmap.

Natural Assets Plan

- 1.23 North East Lincolnshire is a place of rich, unique nature and heritage. As the global climate change crisis becomes more real to us, there is a recognition that the pressures that humans are putting on our natural environment exceeds the limits it can cope with. Significant change is required in how we live our lives and manage our business to ensure North East Lincolnshire remains a nature-rich place, where wildlife abounds, and to ensure everyone has access to clean air and inspiring green and open spaces to protect health and enhance lives, with evidence of sustainable ecology, environment, and food systems.
- 1.24 Our Natural Assets Plan sets out the council's aspiration and strategic action plan for the next five years to protect and enhance our natural assets, drive local change, and encourage all stakeholders in the Borough to work together in achieving the government's target of biodiversity net gain, flood prevention, improved air and water quality and increased tree canopy cover.
- 1.25 Improvements to protect and enhance our environment are outlined in the following 8 workstreams:
 1. Planning our future land use.
 2. Managing our open spaces.
 3. Biodiversity and special sites.
 4. Trees and woodlands.
 5. Water management.
 6. Improving air quality.
 7. Protecting health and wellbeing.
 8. Education, involvement, and enjoyment.

Progress

- 1.26 Progress has been made on our short to medium term goals for all eight workstreams. This has included the ongoing successful delivery of our Dynamic Understanding of the Natural Environment (DUNE) project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and the recruitment of our new Coastal Ranger and a Research and Engagement Officer. The project has seen several community engagement and education events carried out focussing on increasing awareness and responsible use of our unique coastline and saltmarsh. The 'Greening Up Our Place' tree planting projects have been successfully delivered, with a further 311 standard trees planted across the borough in the 2024/25 planting season with the support of local people and school children. North East Lincolnshire has also become a 'Marmot Place' recognising the interdependence between environmental sustainability and health equity, and highlighting the public health benefits our Natural Asset Plan workstreams.
- 1.27 A detailed report on the progress for each of the above workstreams can be found in Appendix 3 to this report under the header NELC Natural Assets Plan update.
- 1.28 NELC's Natural Assets Plan is to be reviewed in 2027, with an updated strategy presented for approval in 2028.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Environment Act 2021 placed new statutory requirements on local authorities to protect and enhance their local environment. Greener Future and our Environmental Vision sets out the strategic direction to fulfil these requirements and aligns climate action with our other strategic aims such as our Economic Strategy, Air Quality Strategy and Waste Management Strategy, to ensure consistency across all services.
- 2.2 There is a strategic risk of not meeting our targets, which will be controlled and managed through the corporate risk register.
- 2.3 The approach and progress towards net zero is influenced by a number of external factors. In delivering services we must ensure that our operational needs are considered against the available low carbon technological solutions and that any capital and revenue investment delivers an appropriate return on investment. The Council continues to identify innovative solutions and funding but cannot guarantee the future availability of external funding.
- 2.4 Our Equalities Impact Assessment has highlighted that we need to ensure information about climate change and carbon reduction is suitable for a wide range of audiences. We also need to be mindful that climate change is likely to impact unequally across our population. Issues relating to deprivation will be important to consider when assessing adaptations to climate change and introducing lower carbon solutions.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The option for the Council to not be carbon neutral by 2030 has been considered, however this would unnecessarily delay improvements to the environment for the benefit of our residents.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The ongoing delivery of each of these strategies will support the Council's relationship with individuals, communities and partner organisations and demonstrate our commitment to work together to meet our shared aims of a sustainable future.
- 4.2. Public consultation on the strategic aims and delivery focus has been completed and returned an overwhelming support for local climate and environmental action.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1. Approval of the strategy supports the Council's Financial Strategy by aligning resources to local priorities.
- 5.2. There will be capital and revenue implications associated with delivering this strategy with implementation requiring changes in working practices across the Council. The financial impact will be considered in detail for each decision taken.
- 5.3. By setting out our strategic aspiration for environmental action, we will enhance our opportunities to secure grant assistance or other external funding to assist with environmental improvements, nature recovery, flood prevention, flood mitigation and biodiversity net gain.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

Our environmental strategies aim to improve the environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Children and young people are especially concerned about our environment, and it is essential to engage with them on environmental matters. Our various workstreams will create opportunities to engage with children and young people.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The three strategies directly contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan's priority for a 'Greener Future', supporting the goals of waste minimisation and increased recycling rates within our waste management; maintaining our parks and open spaces to be inclusive and accessible whilst increasing biodiversity and encouraging connection with nature; balancing management of our coastline to preserve and enhance the unique natural habitat whilst

supporting the tourism economy of the Resort; and, identifying the pathways to reducing our carbon footprint and meet our decarbonisation goals.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

Our Green Future aligns closely with public health and Marmot ambitions, there is an interdependence between health equity and environmental sustainability, this is reflected in one of the eight Marmot principles. Activities and projects taking place to support our Carbon Roadmap delivery such as Greening our Borough and active travel investments have positive implications for public health.

9. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The report was received and noted by the Community Scrutiny panel at the meeting on the 26th February 2026.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation to receive and note annual updates. However, as detailed within the financial considerations there will be financial implications arising from the delivery of the strategy. Financial implications will be considered as part of business case development and subject to the Council's usual decision-making framework.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no such implications immediately arising, the report being a vehicle for Cabinet to receive and note certain updates across various initiatives.

12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no HR implications

13. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All Wards

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[NELC Waste Management Strategy](#)
[NELC Net Zero Carbon Roadmap](#)
[NELC Natural Assets Plan](#)

15. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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Dee Hitter, Head of Environmental Regulation and Sustainability

Councillor Henry Hudson
Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero

CABINET

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RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom, Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
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APPENDICES 1 -3

Appendix 1

Appendix 1 - North East Lincolnshire Council Waste Strategy Update

National and Regional Data Note:

To better understand the overall picture of how waste is being managed in North East Lincolnshire, data from LG Inform has been used to show waste management trends both nationally and locally.

As North East Lincolnshire Council is a unitary authority, average data from all English unitary authorities has been used to show the national picture. LG Inform places the local authority within a regional grouping – Yorkshire and Humberside – which includes 15 local authorities (Leeds, North Yorkshire, Bradford, Sheffield, Kirklees, East Riding of Yorkshire, Wakefield, Kingston Upon Hull, Doncaster, York, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Rotherham, and Barnsley). Data from our geographical neighbours, North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire, has also been considered.

Whilst we provide updated data to LG Inform on an annual basis, waste data is typically published on a two-year delay. Therefore, the most recent data available from LG Inform is for 2023/24.

Regional and national data is included for the following waste areas:

- Residual waste,
- Recycling rate,
- Waste to landfill,
- Energy from waste.

Residual Waste

Residual waste is the waste that residents do not segregate for recycling. In NEL it is used to produce energy.

Our residual waste during the calendar year 2025 was 41,950.99 tonnes, 977.57 tonnes less than in 2024. An overall reduction in residual waste collected is in-line with the national strategy to minimise waste produced by households and create a circular economy in England. This continues to show NELC's progress, in line with the national waste strategy, in reducing the overall volume of waste we collect and helping to move the borough towards a circular economy. Consistent communications since the publishing of the waste strategy have helped residents reduce their waste and manage it in an environmentally responsible way, and the council is committed to continuing this work, to reduce and minimise domestic waste across the borough wherever practicable and feasible to do so. Furthermore, the council has continued to ensure that all of our municipal waste is disposed of and managed within the U.K.

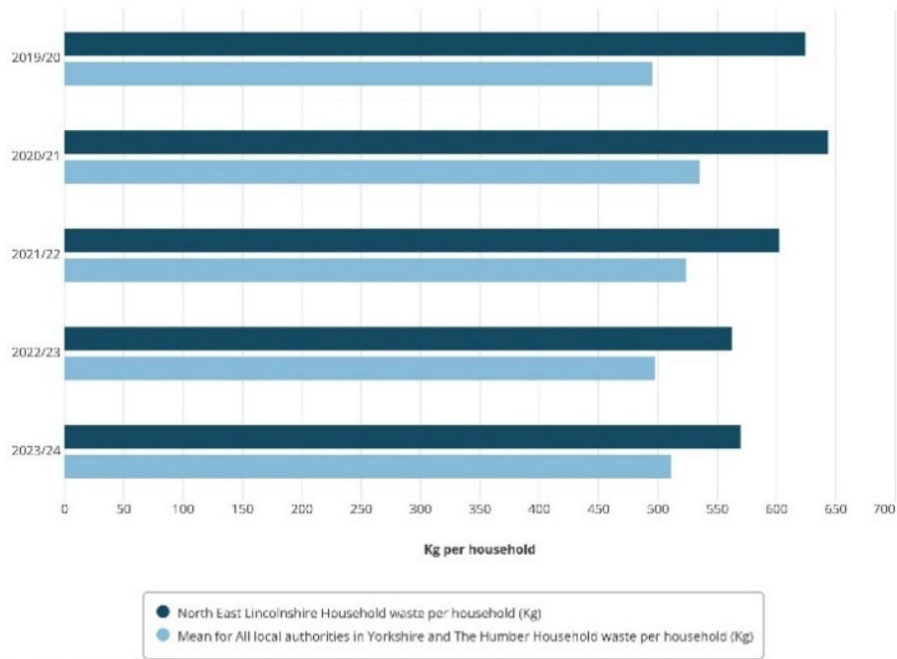
While there is a limit on what can be done to reduce the waste that people produce locally, we will continue to try and help residents reduce the amount of waste they produce where possible.

National and Regional Comparison (Residual Waste)

LG Inform collate data for residual waste on a per household (annual kg) basis, with the most recent published data for North East Lincolnshire showing an average of 570.20kg per household in 2023/24. This reflects a decrease over the available preceding five year period from an average household weight of 624.70kg in 2019/20 – an overall reduction of 54.5kg per household – demonstrating our focus on moving toward a circular economy.

NEL's residual waste per household is slightly higher than the mean weight across all English unitary authorities, which was 519.04kg in 2023/24, although NEL has seen a sharper decline in household residual waste weights over the five year period (a decrease of 8.7% compared to a national decrease of 3.1%). The regional picture is similar for Yorkshire and Humberside which had an average residual waste per household of 511.21kg in 2023/24, although this was an increase from the 2019/20 figure of 495.36kg. NEL's residual waste is also closely in line with that of our nearest geographical neighbours which was 571kg for Lincolnshire and 514.9kg for North Lincolnshire in 2023/24 respectively.

Residual household waste per household (annual) (from 2019/20 to 2023/24) for North East Lincolnshire

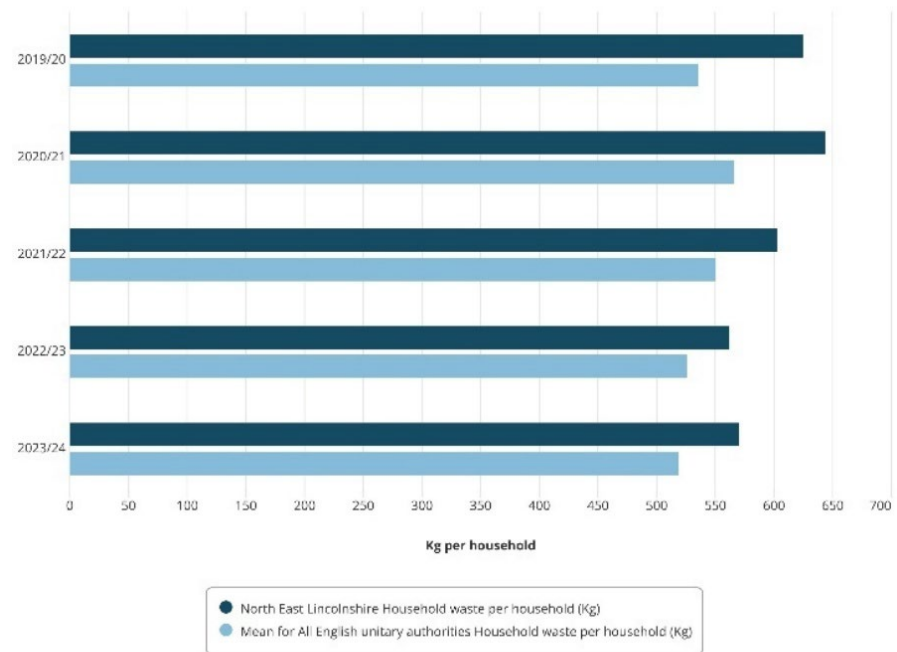


Powered by LG Inform

Source:
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Figure 1: Residual waste per household (annual) for North East Lincolnshire compared to the Yorkshire and Humberside region over the five year period.

Residual household waste per household (annual) (from 2019/20 to 2023/24) for North East Lincolnshire



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Source:
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Figure 2: Residual waste per household (annual) for North East Lincolnshire compared to English unitary authorities over the five year period.

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Recycling Rate

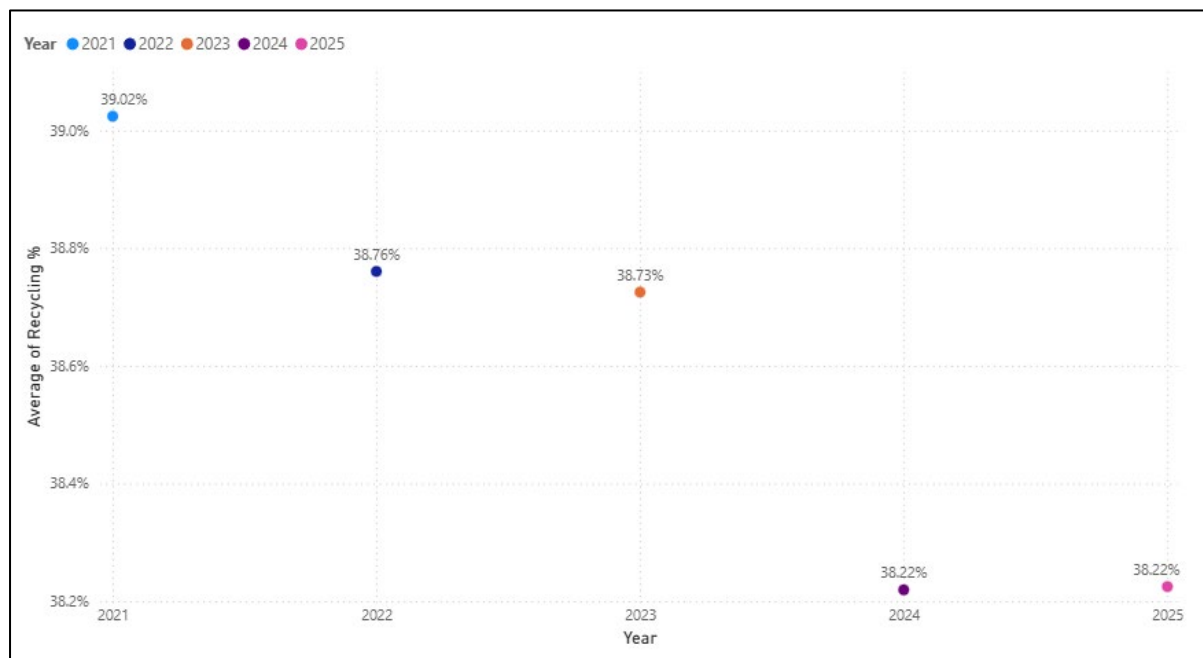


Figure 3: Recycling rate in North East Lincolnshire

Since the adoption of the NELC waste management strategy (2020-2035), the council has made significant progress towards meeting key national targets. One of our key national targets is to achieve a recycling rate of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. In 2025, the Council has maintained a recycling rate of 38.22%, paralleling last year's figure, which was down by 0.51% from 2023. Whilst this is not a direct improvement from last year, within the 5-year reporting period, this raises our average recycling rate from 37.87% to 38.59%, an increase of 0.72%. It remains to be seen if the national data shows a similar trend; however, England's figures have been stagnant since their peak in 2019, and we would expect this theme to continue.

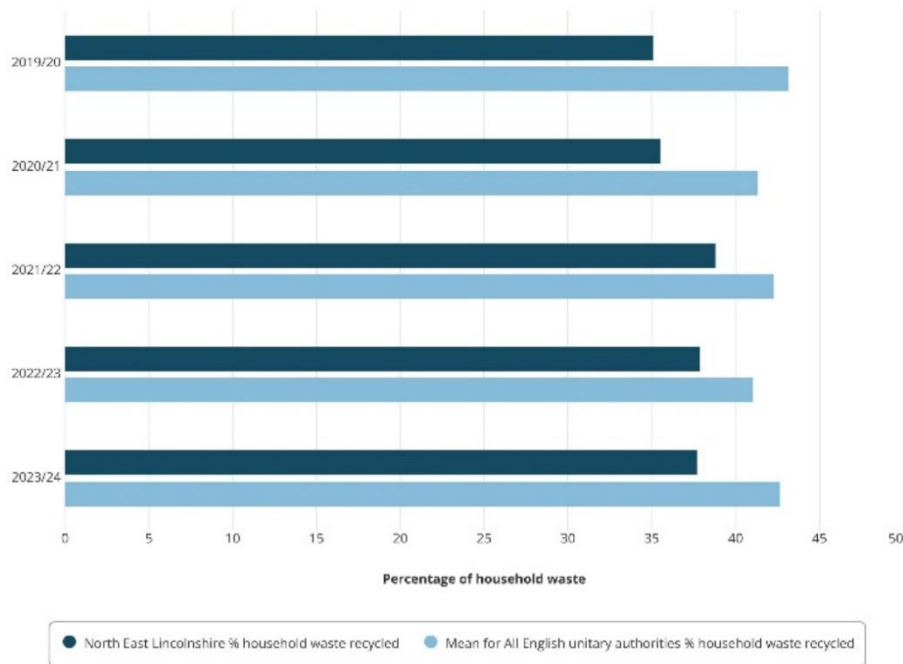
Following the adoption of NELC's 2020 waste strategy, the NELC's waste team are continuing to work with the NEL insights team, identifying barriers that are preventing individuals from recycling more. The insights team are looking into what impact national challenges are having on our recycling rate as well as looking at where local issues are preventing people from recycling. As we enter 2026, we will see the introduction of food waste collections and how these will impact to our recycling rates. Furthermore, we see the introduction of a national deposit return scheme in 2027.

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National and Regional Comparison (Recycling Rate)

North East Lincolnshire’s recycling rate is in line with what is being seen nationally. The most recent data (2023/24) shows the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting across all English unitary authorities to be 42.68% with North East Lincolnshire at 37.7%. The 23/24 national average therefore remains fractionally higher than our current rate of 38.22%. Notably, between 2019/20 and 2023/24, the mean recycling rate across all authorities has remained relatively stagnant fluctuating between a low of 41.03% and a high of 43.16%. Our nearest neighbours, across both the Humberside and Yorkshire region and the Lincolnshire region, are experiencing similar trends in their recycling rates. The challenges locally in increasing our recycling rate are therefore reflected within the national picture and highlight the importance of our focus on identifying areas where there are opportunities to boost the recycling rate through education and raising awareness.

Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting (annual) (from 2019/20 to 2023/24) for North East Lincolnshire

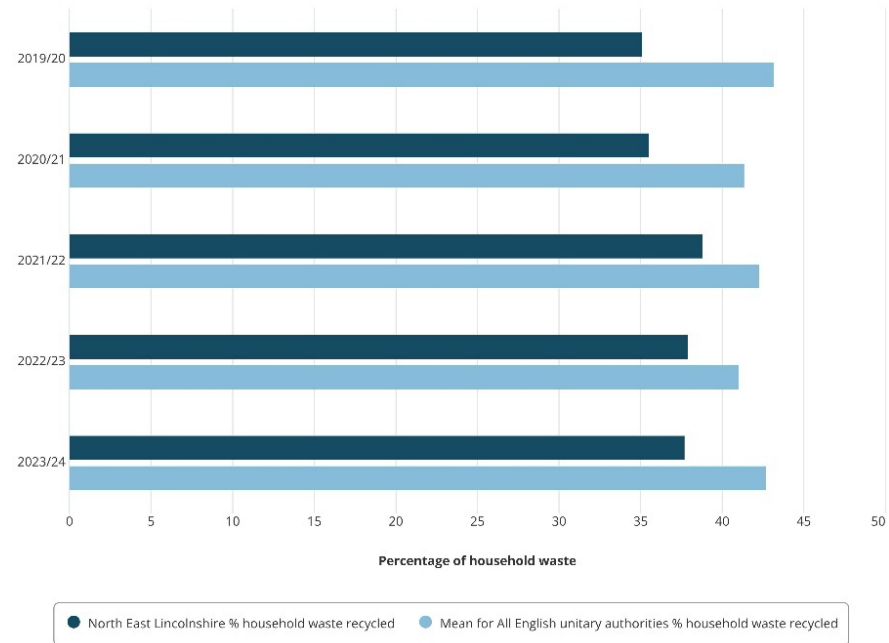


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Source:
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Figure 4: Recycling rate (%) in North East Lincolnshire compared to English unitary authorities over the five year period.

Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting (annual) (from 2019/20 to 2023/24) for North East Lincolnshire



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Source:
Figure 5: Recycling rate (%) in North East Lincolnshire compared to the Yorkshire and Humberside region over the five year period.

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Waste to Landfill

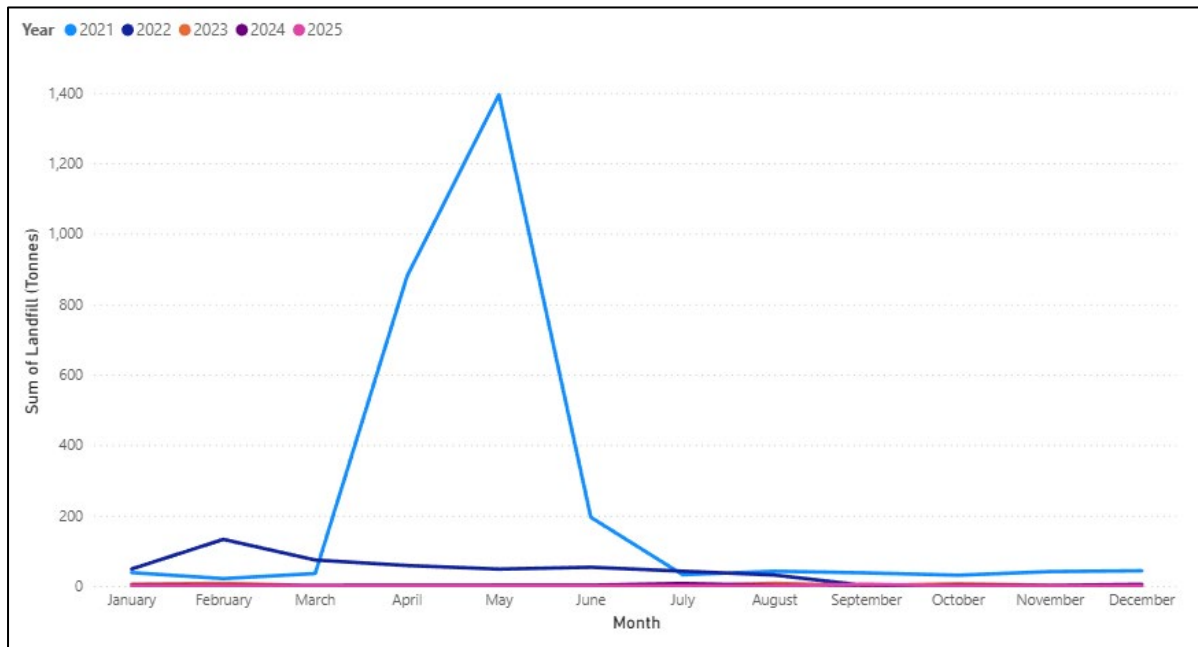


Figure 6: Waste to landfill in North East Lincolnshire

The National target for waste to landfill is 10% of all waste produced by 2030, and the council continues to build on the record-low levels of landfill waste each year. Since eliminating the need to send waste to landfill during the energy waste plant shutdown from 2021 onwards, the council has continued to make progress on waste, year on year.

In 2025, NELC sent only 8.23 tonnes of waste to landfill, the lowest annual figure on record, surpassing the previous year's record total of 35.36 tonnes. This represents 0.01% of total waste generated during the period, with six months having recorded zero landfill waste.

National and Regional Comparison (Waste to Landfill)

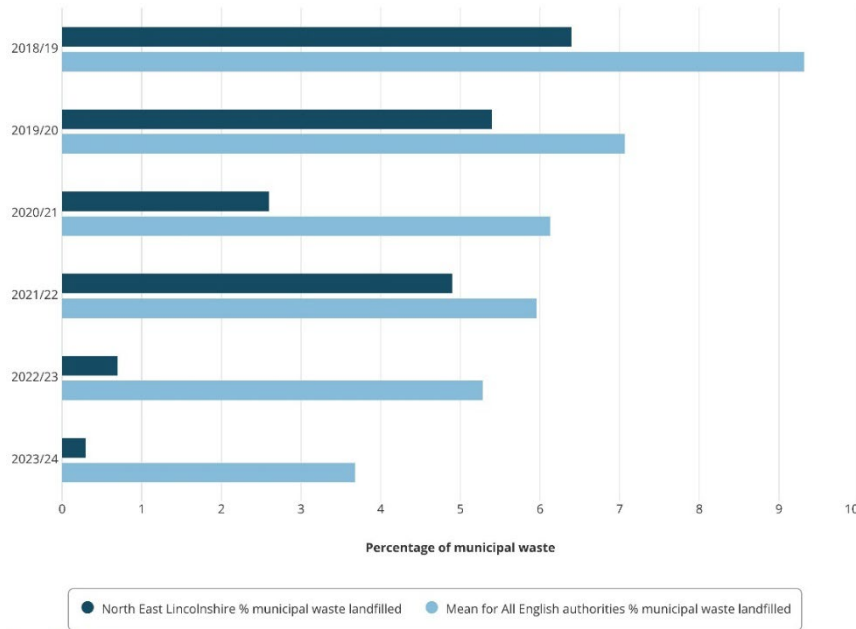
The percentage of municipal waste landfilled in North East Lincolnshire is consistently lower than the mean for English unitary authorities over the most recent five year data period held by LG Inform (2019/20-2023/2024) and we have continued to reduce the total waste sent to landfill to our lowest recorded level so far in 2025. Both

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within North East Lincolnshire and across England, the falling landfill rates show the positive impact of our efforts to increase our recycling rates and where this is not possible diverting waste to sites like our Energy from Waste plant.

Across the Yorkshire and Humberside region, North East Lincolnshire sent one of the lowest proportions of municipal waste to landfill in 2023/24.

Percentage of municipal waste landfilled (annual) (from 2018/19 to 2023/24) for North East Lincolnshire

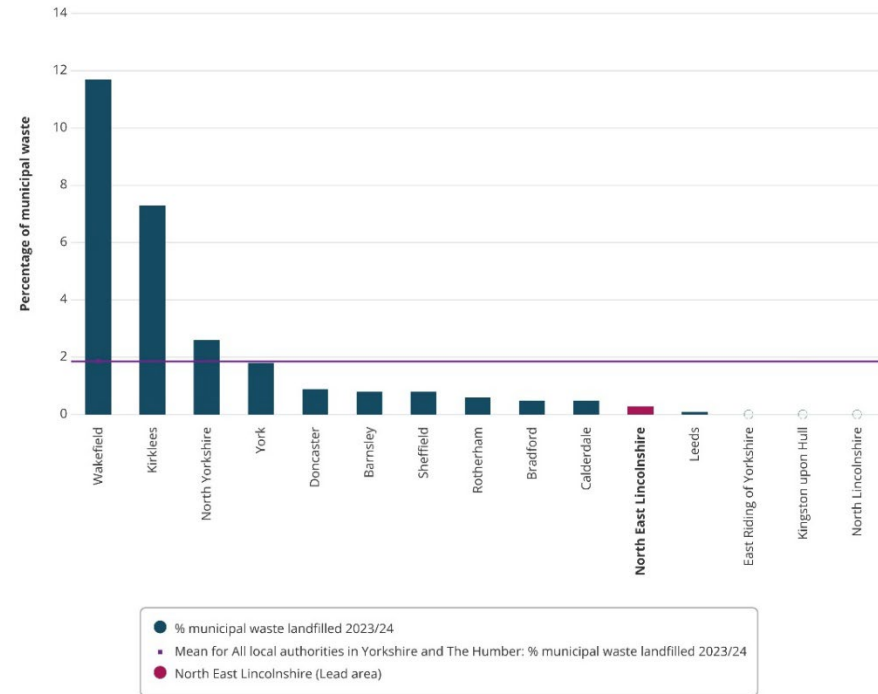


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Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Figure 7: Waste to landfill (%) for North East Lincolnshire compared to all English unitary authorities over the five year period.

Percentage of municipal waste landfilled (annual) (2023/24) for All local authorities in Yorkshire and The Humber



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Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Figure 8: Waste to landfill across the Yorkshire and Humber region in 2023/24

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Energy from Waste

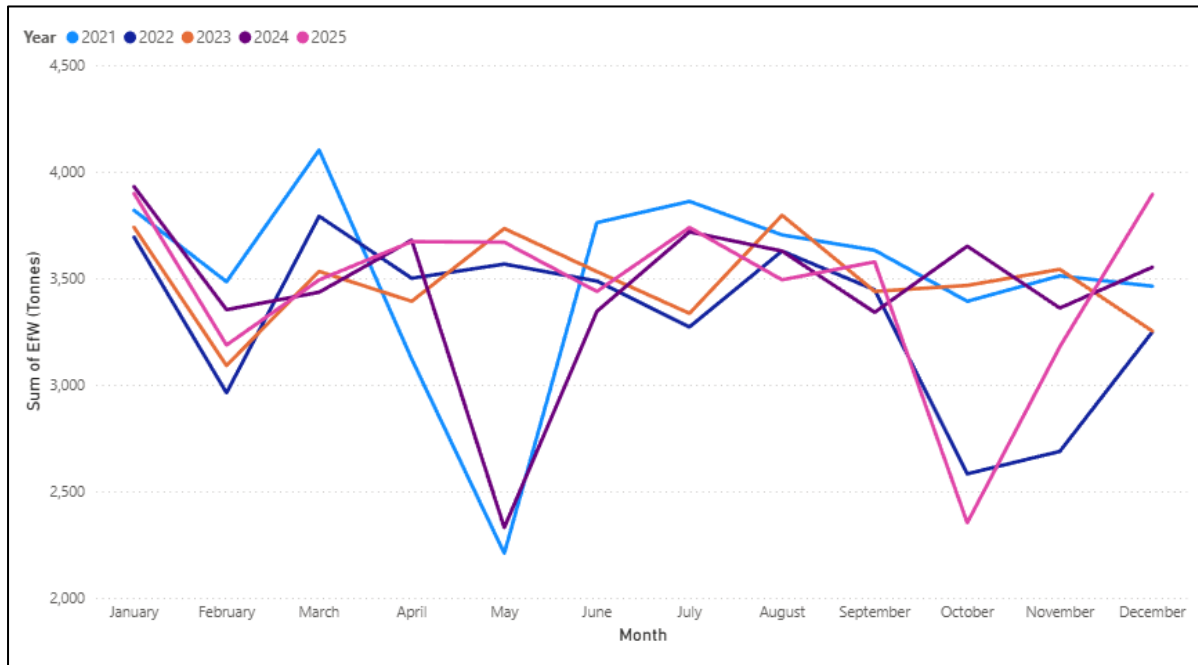


Figure 9: Total tonnage sent to Energy from Waste in North East Lincolnshire

In 2025, we saw our yearly total of EfW (41594 Tonnes) remain similar to that of 2024, despite a reduction in residual waste of 2.61%. Alongside our recycling rate remaining stable across the past two years, this shows that our overall EfW rate has increased slightly, since the end of 2024.

With NELC continuing to make strides towards a circular waste economy, with landfill use going down, and recycling rates remaining stable, the EfW rate increasing is another positive sign that shows when recycling is not possible, we are converting as much of our residual waste as possible into energy. In future, the EfW rate may still be negatively impacted as the council move towards meeting the national recycling target by 2035.

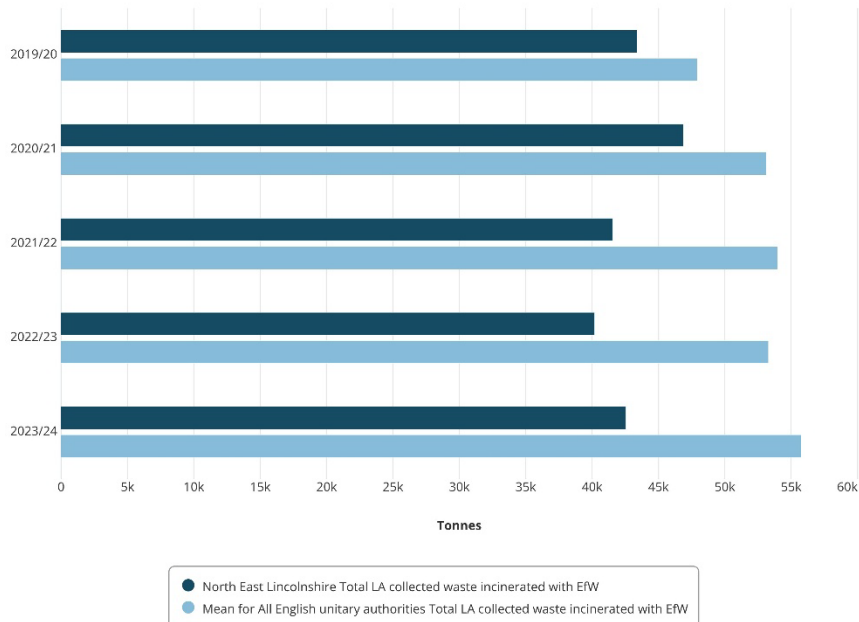
National and Regional Comparison (Energy from Waste)

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The total tonnage of local authority collected waste incinerated with energy from waste for North East Lincolnshire council (42,565 tonnes) was lower than the mean total across all English unitary authorities (55,760 tonnes) and the Yorkshire and Humberside region in the most recent published data (2023/24), although it was broadly in line with the total incinerated by North Lincolnshire (43,378 tonnes).

Over the most recent published five year data period, total tonnages incinerated with EfW have remained relatively stable both within North East Lincolnshire and across all English unitary authorities.

Total local authority collected waste incinerated with energy from waste (annual) (from 2019/20 to 2023/24) for North East Lincolnshire

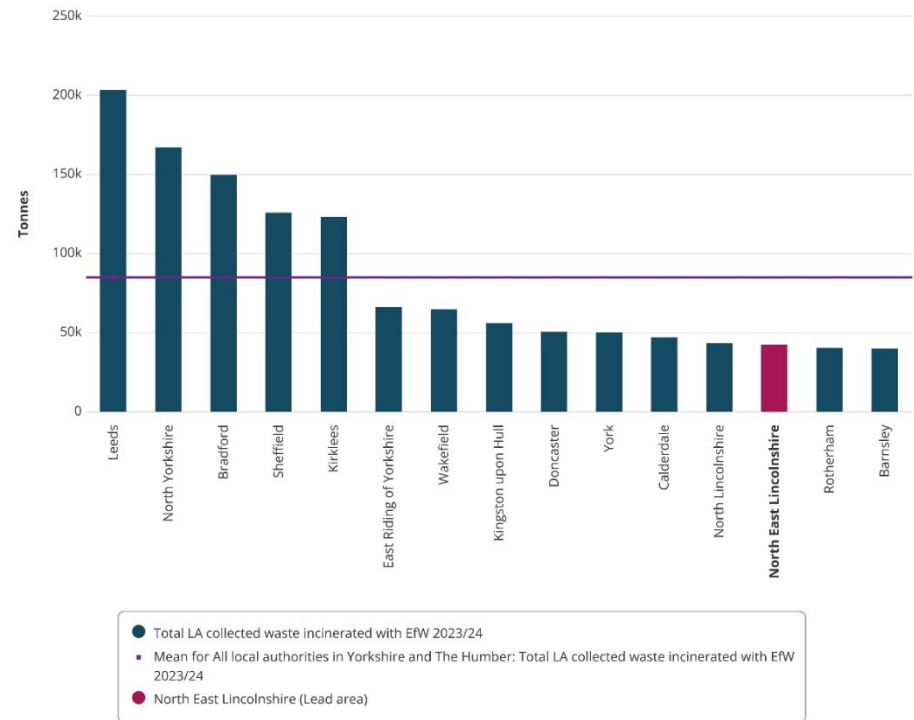


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Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Figure 10: Tonnage incinerated with EfW in North East Lincolnshire compared to all English unitary authorities across the five year period

Total local authority collected waste incinerated with energy from waste (annual) (2023/24) for All local authorities in Yorkshire and The Humber



Powered by LG Inform

Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Figure 11: Tonnage incinerated with EfW across all Yorkshire and Humberside authorities in 2023/24

Community Recycling Centres (CRCs)

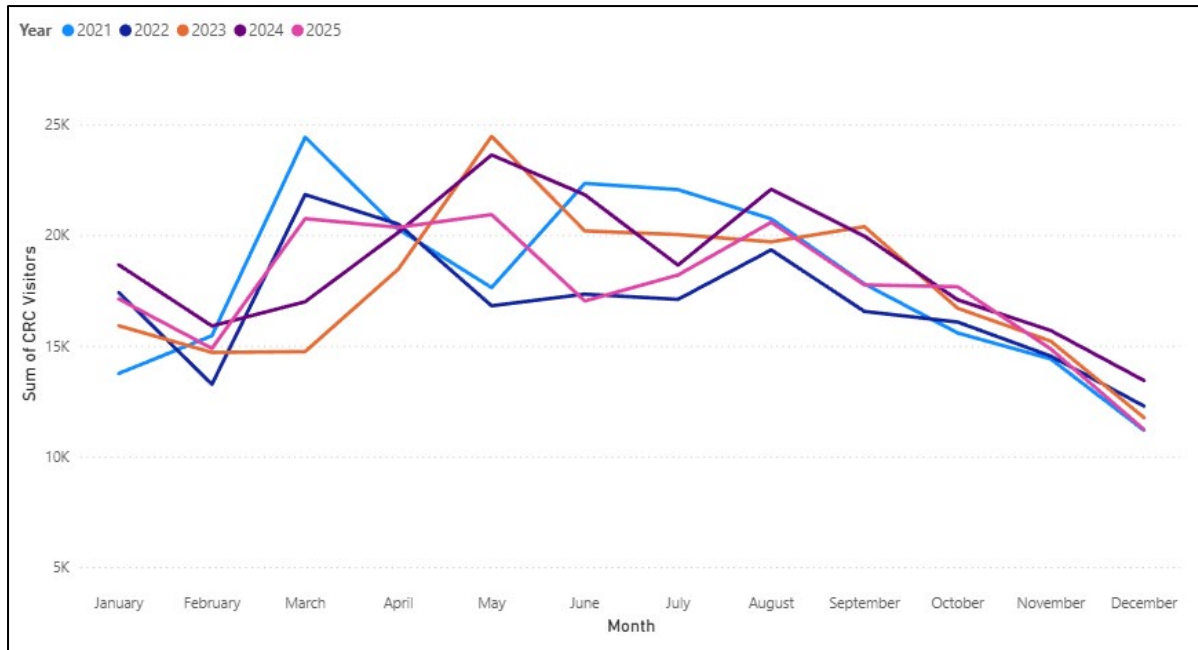


Figure 12: CRC visitors in North East Lincolnshire

2025 saw a small decline in the number of people visiting our Community Recycling Centre sites, when compared with data from 2024. CRC visits decreased 12,675 to 211,306 total visits across our CRC sites. Despite this small drop in visits, the site still provides an essential service for residents managing occasional increases in waste and recycling, or disposing of items unsuitable for wheeled bin collection.

Appendix 2**North East Lincolnshire Council – Carbon Roadmap****1. Low Carbon Estate (Our Buildings)**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, historic energy and water data was gathered for each building and used to calculate our baseline carbon emissions. This baseline was used to determine where we need to focus our efforts. Our buildings were identified as having potential for energy efficiency savings and as well as green power and thermal energy solutions. Our progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <p>A successful application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) phase 3c and 4 for grant funding to decarbonise council buildings.</p> <p>A successful completion of the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) Phase 5 grant scheme through Salix. The scheme focuses on identifying renewable technology</p>	<p>Our emission baseline and energy dashboards enable us to identify projects ready for future funding opportunities.</p> <p>Rationalising our estate allows for decarbonisation works and whole building improvements to fewer buildings, reducing the cost of decarbonising our whole estate.</p> <p>As regeneration projects come to fruition there will be further opportunities to explore low carbon technology within our buildings.</p>	<p>We do not currently have the funding to make all the energy improvements to our estate, and grant opportunities are oversubscribed.</p> <p>There are often high levels of technical information needed for these projects which we need to have prepared prior to future funding opportunities being identified.</p>	<p>Continue delivery of Phase 3c of PSDS project.</p> <p>Continue delivery of Phase 4 of PSDS project.</p> <p>Identify eligible buildings for future capital funding programmes.</p> <p>Explore capital opportunities for the heat network.</p>

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<p>opportunities. Technical assessments for eight of our buildings have been carried out as part of the grant and the decarbonisation plans created.</p> <p>We're currently in the process of executing our property rationalisation programme, which will reduce our overall carbon emissions. Further progress to be made in 2026.</p>			
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2. Low Carbon Fleet (Our Vehicles)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, our fleet and recorded business mileage accounted for 28.7% of our total emissions, with 26.6% of our emissions from fleet alone. Our progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>We have 33 fully electric vehicles in total.</p> <p>Continue to implement an amended fleet capital programme, which will see gradual transition to electric at all end of life fleet purchases, depended on market viability and availability.</p>	<p>Remodelling the central depot provides opportunities for solar PV vehicle charging bays as well as opportunities for increased use of pooled vehicles from a central location.</p> <p>Modelling data provides evidence that the increased cost to purchase EVs can mostly be offset by future savings on maintenance and fuel.</p>	<p>The challenge of finding suitable and affordable EV alternatives for specialist types of vehicles that are available on the market in line with our end-of-life fleet purchases in our amended fleet capital programme will delay the EV rollout.</p> <p>Availability from suppliers for EVs is another challenge, timeframes for production of EVs are increasing, which may lead to delays to our fleet capital programme.</p>	<p>Explore steps for a vehicle rationalisation project in which we can capitalise on the benefits of rationalising our estate by identifying opportunities to share fleet across the organisation, reducing the overall numbers in operation and the cost of replacement.</p> <p>Feasibility study for potential future electric bicycle use.</p> <p>Explore the potential for a feasibility study for Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel.</p>

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3. Low Carbon Street Lighting

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, electrical consumption from street lighting, seasonal lighting and other electrical supplies and equipment made up 20.8% of our carbon footprint with 40.9% of electricity kWh used. The position in 2021 was that 94% of our street lighting was LED, with the electricity for street lighting coming from a renewable source.</p> <p>Our progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p>	<p>The switch to LED lighting for most of our street lighting has been successful, with further opportunity to explore whether we can seek external funding to modernise remaining lights to reduce the overall fuel consumption even further.</p> <p>There are opportunities for LED lamps in old fittings to be upgraded to new LED, this would further decrease emissions.</p>	<p>Some of the remaining non-LED lighting is on leased land and therefore cannot be switched over to LED without leaseholder agreement.</p>	<p>Continue engagement with private leaseholders on opportunities to switch to LED lighting.</p> <p>Continue trials in more rural locations and on bus routes across the borough for solar LED lighting.</p>

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<p>Trialled Central managed system (CMS) for lights on the sea front illuminations.</p> <p>Explored potential invest to save opportunity for conversion to SON lighting where LED is not suitable.</p> <p>Began trials of Solar LED lighting along Bus routes and more rural locations.</p>			
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4. Climate Conscious Decision Making

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>The need to consider the climate and environmental impact of decision making is important however we recognise that it is often difficult to quality and imagine. We need to use the growing expertise amongst staff to support with this process. This includes the creation of a decision-making toolkit to support decision makers.</p> <p>Progress on this workstream includes: -</p> <p>Embedded climate conscious decision making into our existing practices, i.e. inductions, existing e-learning, future training and e-</p>	<p>The impact of our green agenda can be widened by considering the environmental impact of all decisions.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to build in mitigation measures when concerns and unidentified consequences of some decisions are raised.</p>	<p>Achieving the balance between financial security and environmental sustainability can be challenging. We need to encourage and support people to consider the whole life cost in decision making and ensure those decisions are being made at the early onset of any project, not solely at the approval stage.</p>	<p>Identify further opportunities for training and guidance across the organisation to ensure environmental considerations are firmly embedded in key decision making across the organisation.</p> <p>Integrate learnings from training and learning opportunities into the Council’s existing practises.</p>

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<p>learning programmes and in our governance process. Sustainability is now a consideration for cases submitted to Business Development Group (BDG). Nature recovery now a consideration for Cabinet Reports.</p> <p>A review of the Environmental Sustainability Team, increasing skills, knowledge and capacity needed to drive the green agenda, has led to further training opportunities being identified.</p>			
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5. Climate Conscious Purchasing (Goods and Services)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>The need to consider the climate and environmental impact of goods and services we purchase is identified as a key milestone to achieving our net zero targets. Our progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Launching a new Procurement e-learning package, which includes sustainability considerations.</p> <p>Procurement templates updated to include guidance on</p>	<p>Procurement can be used as an instrument for our environmental and carbon ambitions, as a route to our supply chain. We have procurement networks where we can share ideas to help us develop low carbon procurement strategies.</p>	<p>We need to ensure that the advocacy for low carbon goods supports the fundamental procurement principles of transparency, equality of treatment and proportionality.</p> <p>We need to increase knowledge and understanding of all staff making procurement decision on how to assess environmental impact of goods and services.</p>	<p>Listen for feedback from the procurement e-learning package and if required implement further guidance on sustainability considerations.</p>

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<p>considering the impacts on the environment of the goods, service and works being procured.</p>			
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6. Climate Conscious Behaviours (to our staff and those that work for us)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>To help us drive reductions, it was acknowledged that a wide range of actions from many people are required. Improving the workforces understanding of carbon emissions through building management, travel and use of equipment is vital. Our progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <p>Designed campaigns for Climate Champions to share, including a green commute challenge and climate quizzes.</p> <p>Lockscreens used to encourage reduction in energy use, and reduction in printing and posting.</p>	<p>We can use our work on improving the climate conscious behaviours of employees as a trial to expand out to communities to help reach our wider community workstream of Climate Conscious Communities.</p> <p>There are also opportunities to embed climate conscious working behaviours into regular routines during our property rationalisation programme.</p>	<p>There is a challenge to ensuring we are educating staff on why we are encouraging climate conscious behaviours; an awareness of climate change and our Environmental Vision may encourage more behaviour change.</p> <p>We need to understand some of the barriers experienced with more sustainable options, i.e. infrastructure, feasibility, cost and awareness and find ways in which to overcome these.</p>	<p>Continue to explore opportunities for Green Champions across the council, who are passionate about our climate ambitions and keen to engage with the teams they work within about climate change and carbon emissions.</p> <p>Develop a mechanism in which to monitor and track our scope 3 carbon emissions across the organisation. These are indirect emissions that occur in the upstream and downstream activities of the organisations, i.e commuting to work.</p>

7. Climate Conscious Community and Education, Involvement, Enjoyment

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Community engagement is a key to our success, with some community groups and leaders already providing leadership and taking positive steps to reduce their carbon emissions. We recognise the value that joint initiatives and community engagement has in climate resilience planning for the area.</p> <p>Continued ward based communication and engagement on stage two of the tree planting projects, involving schools and community organisations in planting events.</p> <p>Continued delivery of the DUNE project, including the recruitment of a Coastal Ranger and a Research and Engagement advisor. This has included the delivery of a range of community events supporting education opportunities and involvement in nature, specifically the saltmarsh.</p> <p>Continued to revise and make improvements to the council website to enhance user access</p>	<p>We have supportive local networks and partners. We can use the work we have done within climate conscious behaviours and expand it for the community.</p>	<p>We still need to explore ways in which to measure the effectiveness of community engagement and education as a driver for behaviour change.</p>	<p>Explore with Public Health a joint strategy for engagement and communication with children and young people on climate change.</p> <p>Use community feedback and insights from engagement and education events to support the development of the second phase of the DUNE project and continue to provide opportunities for local people to engage with and build awareness of our local environment.</p> <p>Further engagement with community groups interested in tree planting across the borough.</p> <p>Continue to identify opportunities to work in collaboration with others on community led projects.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to work with partners to support local schools and education establishments with climate adaptation.</p>

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<p>and experience when looking for trusted information, support and how to get involved in improving our environment.</p>			
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8. Low Carbon Commercial Buildings

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We recognise that there are ways in which we can provide support to businesses and public business owners to reduce their own carbon emissions. Our progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <p>In 2022, we secured UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding to enable our support to continue for local businesses, led by E-Factor, providing energy saving advice, workshops, events and audits with access to capital grants to support decarbonisation projects. Monthly newsletters are circulated, and we monitor the number of businesses that have engaged with us or E-Factor through this process. Records are also made on how beneficial the support has been to the business and whether any further guidance</p>	<p>Providing local support, led by E-Factor, allows for more localised approach to giving advice for businesses.</p> <p>Potential opportunities with the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Country Authority.</p>	<p>External funding opportunities have short application timescales therefore can prove a challenge for businesses to meet these deadlines, especially if there is uncertainty around the costs and savings. We can explore ways in which we can support and signpost businesses to ensure they know where to access information.</p> <p>Availability of funding for decarbonisation projects.</p> <p>We don't have information for all businesses in NEL</p> <p>Capacity to go out and speak to businesses so reliant on businesses to reach out and speak to us.</p>	<p>Supporting E-Factor and Team Lincolnshire with their planned Net Zero Events for businesses.</p> <p>Continue to offer support to SMEs and large businesses with carbon reduction projects via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p>

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<p>is needed. We have contracted the projects in North East Lincolnshire for the final year of the UKSPF funding.</p> <p>National Net Zero Training Centre has been established at CATCH. This aims to address the impending engineering construction skill shortage in the Humber and across the UK.</p> <p>Finalised the business engagement plan. Communication and engagement includes regular meetings with E-Factor, host 'meet the team' events, supported E Factor and Team Lincolnshire with planned net zero events and sharing information on available grants through monthly newsletters.</p> <p>Work has been ongoing as part of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA) to progress business cases for submission to the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund pipeline.</p>			
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9. Low Carbon Transport

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Our Local Transport Plan (LTP) contains a series of local transport challenges including “ensuring transport contributes to environmental excellence, improved air quality, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions”. This also includes behavioural change initiatives and events that support cycling, walking and promotes the use of public transport. Progress in the fourth year of implementation of the Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Successful LEVI Capital Bid for the rollout of approximately 400 chargepoints on-street and in NELC owned/managed car parks for electric vehicle (EV) charging. We are currently at the tender stage of the project to identify a delivery partner.</p> <p>Successful replacement of EV charging units at St Peters Ave and Cartergate which are now available for use.</p> <p>New ‘Active Travel Officer’ in post and working on progressing new</p>	<p>There are many funding opportunities available including the Department for Transport for EVs and Active Travel which provides opportunity to bid for significant amounts of funding for highways and transport projects which could help facilitate major improvements to local transport networks including the delivery of low carbon transport projects.</p>	<p>The Governments recent consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will provide new guidance for the development of the Local Plan. This will inform potential changes to the Local Transport Plan strategies.</p> <p>Development of the new Local Transport Plan and the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan is temporarily on hold to allow them to tie in with the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority transport strategy which is expected to be delivered in mid 2026.</p>	<p>Continued development of feasibility plan and preliminary design Active Travel projects looking ahead to future ATE funding opportunities.</p> <p>Developing active travel schemes as the basis for future Department for Transport funding rounds.</p> <p>Evaluation of LEVI tender and identification of preferred bidder to progress with delivery of EV charging units across the borough.</p> <p>Continued work on developing capital infrastructure schemes to submit to Active Travel England for consideration for future funding.</p> <p>Continued work to deliver the New Cartergate active travel project.</p>

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<p>capital infrastructure schemes for submission to Active Travel England.</p> <p>Contract awarded for the delivery of the New Cartergate active travel project.</p> <p>Completion of Dr Bike Cycle Maintenance events with 30+ events attended by over 500 people who received support with cycle maintenance and safety advice, helping build confidence around and encourage greater uptake of active travel.</p>			
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10. Low Carbon Industry

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Our economic strategy cements our drive for carbon net zero, with one of the four cornerstones being a green economy. This milestone focuses on how we can work with industry to maximising low carbon and healthy initiatives in industry and our place. Our progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<p>We already have many low carbon businesses locating to the borough and expansion of the wind industry continues.</p> <p>The Humber Freeport Innovation Group along with sector specific industry specialists are working together to raise awareness and opportunities for new technology.</p>		<p>Continue working with industry on the delivery of the Skills Action Plan, which references supporting the decarbonisation and renewable sectors and project.</p> <p>Continue supporting the Humber Leadership Group with the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan's next phase.</p> <p>Continue ongoing support for Freeport seed capital CATCH expansion to include industrial decarbonisation centre.</p>

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<p>Continued delivery of UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which continues to provide decarbonisation grants.</p> <p>Projekt Renewable is established and supported by industry.</p> <p>Town Centre Skills Facility business case completed and presented to Cabinet.</p> <p>Attendance at events and meetings such as Innovation Zero with Future Humber to demonstrate the area’s ambitions and growing influence in the net-zero space.</p> <p>Supported work on the ongoing Local Plan review. The Draft Plan recognises the opportunities within the Humber region for a transition to a low-carbon economy and supporting environmentally responsive local economic growth.</p>			<p>Explore options for potential projects focussed on Green Skills activities in Grimsby Town Centre.</p>
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11. Low Carbon New Homes

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
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<p>We have identified the role that we have in promoting the benefits of low carbon features in new homes. We can use our Local Plan and national guidance as a mechanism for this. Our progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Energy Efficiency requirements for new homes and non-domestic buildings are set by Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Power) and Part 6 of the Building Regulations 2010.</p> <p>Work is continuing on the Local Plan Review which is now in its third stage – a consultation on the Draft Local Plan: Preferred Housing and Employment Site Options. The draft local plan includes consideration of net-zero targets and the low carbon living, including energy efficiency and low carbon technology.</p> <p>Housing Economic Development Needs Assessment updated to reflect changes in the National Planning Policy Framework.</p>	<p>There have been major changes to the Building Regulations which are mainly centred around energy efficiency.</p> <p>The Alexandra Dock Road Map sets out our ambition for ultra-low carbon housing in Grimsby Town Centre.</p>	<p>Low carbon features for new homes are generally not required by government and both developers and the public see them as risky, expensive, and untried.</p> <p>There is more work to do on getting buyers to value low carbon homes. Currently, there is no premium on homes that are low carbon, which makes them less financially viable to deliver. We have viability challenges in the borough, which means we are limited in what we can ask for developments.</p> <p>Some developers are putting in EV charging points, but this is not currently a policy ask.</p> <p>All changes to legislation and policy are discussed at Housing Developer Forum.</p>	<p>Continue to progress with the Local Plan Review, revising the Draft Local Plan following the consultation phase in preparation for the Submission Draft Plan.</p>
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<p>Work is ongoing to deliver sustainable urban drainage programmes across the borough. Where there are groundwater issues, the drainage team are working with residents to inform them and address the issues. SUD's are now a requirement on all developments.</p>			
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12. Climate Conscious Older Homes

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In the same way in which we look at our council buildings, we have identified that many homes across the borough would benefit from energy efficiency improvements to become more sustainable.</p> <p>Progress in the fourth year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Local Authority Delivery Phase 3 (LAD3) scheme has now finished. It is being continued with the Warm Homes: Local Grant which has been approved by BDG. Measures include: insulation, solar panels, air source heat</p>	<p>There is now a minimum EPC rating for let properties and social housing landlords now have finance available through social housing decarbonisation fund.</p> <p>We have developed plans for Housing retrofit schemes in some areas of poorest energy performance and are now reviewing national funding options to progress.</p> <p>We work with the community and third sector housing providers to ensure eligible households have access to and are aware of opportunities available. These schemes are</p>	<p>We have a high quantity of older, poor quality housing stock owned and/or occupied by lower income households for whom fuel poverty is a reality. Bulk of our E and F rated properties are in private ownership. Whilst we promote energy efficiency schemes, people have a choice as to whether they want to carry out energy efficiency improvements.</p> <p>Funding aimed at the private rented sector often require match funding or a landlord contribution. Landlords are often reluctant to contribute as they don't directly realise the benefits of reduced energy bills.</p>	<p>Continue to deliver ECO 4 funding scheme.</p> <p>Deliver Warm Homes: Local Grant funding scheme.</p> <p>Continue engagement with the local community and publicise schemes available through social media.</p> <p>Condensation/mould awareness campaign.</p>

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<p>pumps, and energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>Continued successful delivery Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) funding used to improve energy efficiency of housing.</p> <p>Continued delivery by the Housing Grants Team of Emergency Grants and Health Grants to assist vulnerable residents with heating, windows, roof replacements and damp.</p> <p>Chooser Able to Pay Scheme for Solar Panels marketed to North East Lincolnshire residents.</p>	<p>widely promoted across the borough.</p> <p>Social housing providers are working with us to improve the standard of social housing. Examples include a recent external wall programme in Immingham and parts of Grimsby.</p>	<p>Social housing providers may dispose of housing stock which is deemed to be difficult to decarbonise. This places additional challenges on the availability of social housing.</p>	
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Appendix 3**North East Lincolnshire Council – Natural Assets Plan****1. Planning Our Future Land Use**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We continue to plan for the legislative changes around Planning, Environment and Housing provision, including opportunities to increase biodiversity.</p> <p>The Draft Local Plan – Preferred Options consultation began in December 2025 as Stage Three of the Local Plan Review process, reflecting the revised National Policy Planning Framework and new homes requirements.</p> <p>The authority is now receiving applications that are required to meet new biodiversity requirements. We continue to work with colleagues across the organisation to support effective delivery.</p>	<p>The Local Plan provides an opportunity to update our policies to meet the emerging priorities for carbon reduction and increased environmental protection and enhancement.</p> <p>The Scoping and Issues Paper as part of Local Plan Review, flagged addressing climate change as one key issue to address.</p> <p>The Draft Local Plan: Preferred Housing and Employment Site Options includes consideration of climate change and the natural environment.</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a way of creating and improving natural habitats. BNG makes sure development has a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared</p>	<p>We continue to engage with developers to understand the challenges faced in meeting biodiversity net gain requirements. These include the lack of local BNG opportunities.</p> <p>The governments revised National Policy Planning Framework presents a significant increase in the housing allocation for the borough. We continue to respond to planning announcements from governments to ensure the opportunities and challenges for the borough are accurately presented.</p>	<p>Continue to progress with the Local Plan Review, revising the Draft Local Plan following the consultation phase in preparation for the Submission Draft Plan.</p> <p>Continue work across the authority, with our partner agencies and developers on the BNG process, finding ways to support effective delivery.</p>

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	<p>to what was there before development. Developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This means a development will result in more or better-quality natural habitat than there was before development.</p>		
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2. Managing Our Open Spaces

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Whilst we have statutory duties in relation to managing some aspects of our open spaces (trees, road verges and parks), there are opportunities for our open spaces and highways to contribute to nature recovery.</p> <p>Progress to date includes: -</p> <p>The Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan was approved by Cabinet. Work is progressing on a second management plan.</p> <p>A Weed Management Paper was taken to Cabinet with a view to trials commencing in 2026, focussing on reducing and phasing out glyphosate.</p> <p>Completed remedial works at Cleethorpes Boating Lake,</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to manage sites in a different way, contributing to nature recovery.</p> <p>Build on the community and partnership work in other workstreams to explore ways to involve and include our local community groups in managing our open spaces.</p>	<p>Some of the new play equipment installed has already been vandalised.</p> <p>The decision to phase out the use of glyphosate and allow some areas to receive alternative solutions may at times look unmanaged. We need to carefully assess the balance between reduced Glyphosate and community perception.</p>	<p>Support community led projects to identify opportunities to improve our open spaces.</p> <p>Be aware of funding opportunities to support our work and bid when the time is right.</p> <p>Continue our efforts to produce and update management plans for our destination parks.</p> <p>Provide update to Scrutiny on plans for reviewing weed management, in 2026.</p> <p>Identify possible areas suitable for wildflower planting trials.</p>

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including the installation of new pumping system to help maintain water levels during the summer.			
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3. Biodiversity and Special Sites

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>As a landowner and a competent authority, we have a duty to uphold the ecological and environmental designations of sites with special designations for nature. We also have a duty to promote, protect and enhance priority habitats, species and secure measurable net gain for biodiversity.</p> <p>The nature of this work is ongoing, however efforts to enhance our environment and engage and empower the community include:</p> <p>Phase 1 of the DUNE project is ongoing, with the successful recruitment of a Coastal Ranger and a Research and Engagement Advisor. As part of the project, a range of community events have been carried out at the Resort including guided walks and</p>	<p>As a Competent Authority, NELC have a statutory duty to protect our natural environment, increase biodiversity and protect, enhance and maintain our designated sites. Through our work with Heritage Lottery and our newly announced status as a Heritage Place, there are many opportunities to align our continued efforts with the environmental ambitions of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and connect our communities to nature.</p> <p>The new legislation provides an opportunity to increase biodiversity across the borough, with developers having to provide a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity, with the net gains being monitored over 30 years.</p>	<p>Balancing the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a tourism destination, while protecting the designations of the Cleethorpes coastline remains a challenge. A partnership approach to effective engagement, communication and education can alleviate some of the recreational pressures to the designated sites by ensuring people enjoy the Cleethorpes coastline responsibly.</p> <p>Support developers to navigate the challenges they are experiencing with delivering biodiversity net gain requirements.</p>	<p>Finalise the 2027-2032 Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan for presentation to Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>Continue to deliver the DUNE project, building on the findings from the public survey and feedback provided during community events and activities. Progress with an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Phase 2 of the DUNE project.</p> <p>Fulfil our role of completing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for our area.</p> <p>Continue to support developers with the new biodiversity net gain requirements through effective communication, stakeholder sessions and guidance. This includes Identifying and mapping local BNG opportunities across the borough.</p> <p>Continue to explore funding opportunities to protect and enhance our natural environment.</p>

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<p>activities for the community. Five public events were also carried out during national Love Parks week, encouraging celebration of our local green spaces.</p> <p>Work is progressing on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), a statutory requirement under the Environment Act 2021. We are working closely with colleagues in Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, Natural England and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership to develop the Strategy. Public surveys, stakeholder engagement and landowner / manager workshops have taken place as part of this process.</p> <p>Facilitated visits to the mitigation sites for partner organisations and ward councillors to showcase the sites.</p>	<p>As part of the DUNE project, a public survey was carried out to gauge awareness of the nature reserve and to better understand local people's views and experiences of our coastline. The feedback from this will be used to identify challenges and opportunities moving forward with the project.</p>		<p>Identify opportunities to showcase the mitigation sites, which includes live stream cameras and educational visits.</p>
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4. Trees and Woodland

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have a duty to ensure that highways are safe, which includes the inspection of the highway tree stock. We've identified that planting more trees and protecting our existing tree population has many benefits including heat reduction through shading, reduce the impact of significant rainfall and carbon sequestration and storage, positively contributing to reaching our carbon net zero ambitions.</p> <p>Our progress to date includes: -</p> <p>The approval of NELC's first Tree Strategy, demonstrating our commitment to managing and protecting our existing tree stock and increasing tree canopy cover across the borough.</p> <p>Successful delivery of our two funding bids, the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF) to increase tree canopy cover through the planting of new street trees in urban or peri-urban environments and the Local Authority Treescapes Fund, the focus of</p>	<p>There is increasing public awareness on the importance of trees for not just carbon goals but also physical and mental health, as well as heat reduction and flooding management.</p> <p>There is a real opportunity to build on the partnership approach achieved for the tree planting projects for wider environmental community initiatives across the borough.</p>	<p>Challenges with identifying land in which to plant trees. We are however working with others to support tree planting on private land, demonstrating a collaborative effort to increasing the number of trees in the borough.</p> <p>We must also ensure that we get the right trees for the right location, ensuring that maintenance and management is taken into consideration.</p> <p>And achieve the full potential of the ecological function of trees and woodland by considering ground cover and understory planting in conjunction with increasing canopy cover.</p> <p>We must ensure that the planting of any new trees comes with the resource for long term maintenance, to allow us to grow trees to maturity. And ensure 'right tree, right place' to avoid future losses from tree removal due to safety and insurance risks.</p>	<p>Explore further funding streams to build on the work we've achieved so far with these bids to explore other tree and woodland planting opportunities.</p> <p>Continue to work on the woodland creation project, developing our application for funding and working with a range of teams including Highways, Public Health, Ecology, Trees and Woodlands, and Drainage to ensure the proposed woodland fulfils our aims of accessibility and environmental benefits.</p>

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<p>which is the replacement of trees lost to damage or disease. 144 LATF and 167 UTCF standard trees were planted in 2024/25 with support from local community groups, volunteers and schools and colleges. These are now being monitored for failures and vandalism.</p> <p>The creation of a new webpage dedicated to trees, in which the community can report their tree planting contributions to increasing our tree canopy covers.</p> <p>Partnership approach to tree planting projects, which includes NHS, Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (LHP), Town Councils, community groups, schools and colleagues across the organisation.</p> <p>Continued work on a new community woodland proposal, including a revised timeline to reflect funding application requirements and procurement needs.</p>		<p>Vandalism remains a constant risk, especially for new trees that are planted as part of the 'greening up our place' projects. Attempts to design out vandalism and anti-social behaviour has been a key aspect of the project design but we must remain vigilant.</p>	
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5. Water Management

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>As a local authority, we manage flood risk in urban areas. Our area is also covered by Humber 2100+ strategy, which covers flood management for the estuary. Efforts to manage and increase our resilience against flooding include: -</p> <p>Using funding from the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Fund to deliver Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) was successful across Grimsby and Immingham. Progress is underway on this 6 year project, which uses green infrastructure to control flooding. The first phase of delivery at 4 schools, Western, Wybers, Pilgram and Oasis is now complete. Further planting has been carried out in Broadway with positive feedback received from resident's around the rain garden. Construction is ongoing on the SUDs project in Immingham.</p> <p>NELC is part of the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Partnership. The</p>	<p>The change in the national approach to focus on resilience and management of flooding rather than prevention supplies vast opportunities for water management that previously would not have been favoured. There is more emphasis on natural flood adaptation measures.</p> <p>Anglian Water – future funding opportunities for natural flood defences.</p> <p>New Framework available through Environment Agency to offer grant funding on an individual property basis for flood resilience measures.</p> <p>Discussions are currently taking place to improve the rural flows into the Grimsby Sewer Network.</p>	<p>The first draft of the Humberstone Fitties erosion project has been submitted, The Environment Agency requested additional modelling and analysis to be undertaken, which included an assessment of the southern sea embankment.</p>	<p>Continue work on Stage 2 of the Humber Strategy 2100+.</p> <p>Continue to deliver the retrofit SUD projects, sharing learning from our experiences and continue to look at Natural Flood Management.</p> <p>Continue to progress Grimsby Strategic Surface Water Assessment.</p> <p>Progress with the Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project at Saltings and Kingston Gardens.</p> <p>Continue to engage our communities and voluntary organisations in SUDs with a view to involvement in future monitoring and management.</p> <p>Progress the business case for the Humberstone Fitties erosion project scheme, following engagement with the Environment Agency. The project will try and halt the erosion of the beach and provide each nourishment and improvements to critical habitats.</p>

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<p>Partnership was established to make sustainable improvements to chalk streams and blow wells across Lincolnshire, raise awareness of their importance and improve the partnerships knowledge on Lincolnshire Chalk stream and blow well habitats. Site investigation works underway for a new Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project. The Project will alleviate flooding issues on the Saltings and Kingston Gardens.</p> <p>The Humber Strategy 2100+ has progressed to the second stage. This stage will identify future flood risk and where and when this will increase.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been completed and submitted for internal review.</p> <p>An Outline Business Case has been prepared to present to the Environment Agency for the Grimsby Strategic Surface Water Assessment.</p>			<p>Continue our work with the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Partnership, identifying project opportunities in North East Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Formally approve and adopt the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.</p>
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6. Improving Air Quality

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
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<p>Our main duties come under the Environment Act 1995 and amended in the Environment Act 2021, which includes the monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) levels and small scale pollution incidents.</p> <p>Submission of the Annual Status Report to DEFRA.</p> <p>Successful distribution of comms around Clean Air Day carried out.</p> <p>Updated the Air Quality Strategy to reflect the revocation of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).</p>	<p>We've taken the opportunity to ensure that the importance of air quality is a consideration in the planning process, feeding into the Draft Local Plan. This is supported by a technical advice document.</p> <p>Recognise the importance of nature-based solutions in improving air quality. An example being the tree planting efforts in other workstreams.</p> <p>Opportunity to build on potential links within Public Health.</p>	<p>New legislative changes introduced through the Environment Act 2021, the publication of the Air Quality Strategy and Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 places additional responsibilities and expectations on Local Authorities. This will continue to be researched and reviewed and fed into our action plan.</p>	<p>Reviewing local air quality data for 2024 and continuing with quarterly ASC meetings.</p> <p>Continue to manage the operation of the AQ monitoring equipment, following a new calibration timetable.</p> <p>Continue researching PM2.5 improvement actions.</p> <p>Collate and prepare information and data to be submitted to Bureau Vertitas for inclusion in ASR 2026</p>
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7. Protecting Health and Wellbeing

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have a duty as an authority to protect and enhance the wellbeing of our area and its residents, employees and visitors. We want to promote the health and wellbeing benefits of engaging with our natural environment and address inequalities in accessing a good quality environment. Progress towards these outcomes include: -</p>	<p>Positive delivery of the capital schemes and the Active Travel England Capability Fund can lead to increased funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Current levels of funding are below what we need for large transformational schemes</p> <p>Local views and attitudes towards active travel, particularly around the safety. Current infrastructure challenges.</p> <p>Public concerns around theft and vandalism when opting to cycle to</p>	<p>Local Transport Plan Project Delivery.</p> <p>Development of new Local Transport Plan Strategy including consideration to the role active travel has on health and wellbeing following delivery of Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority transport strategy expected mid-2026.</p>

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<p>Cabinet approval of North East Lincolnshire becoming a Marmot Place, the eighth principle of which is to ‘pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together.’</p> <p>A contract has been awarded for the delivery of the New Cartergate active travel project.</p> <p>Majority of Public Rights of Way inspected and their suitability recorded on the StoryMap to show accessibility for different users. This continues work on making access to Public Rights of Way in North East Lincolnshire easier.</p> <p>All parks that have children’s play equipment in now have smoke free signage.</p>		<p>work. Appropriate levels of funding are needed to address concerns around safe and secure cycle parking.</p> <p>Development of the new Local Transport Plan and the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan is temporarily on hold to allow them to tie in with the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority transport strategy which is expected to be delivered in mid 2026.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to integrate actual travel into wider infrastructure projects and recognise the public health benefits.</p> <p>Continue work on the Rutland Street project.</p> <p>Development of LTP capital programme schemes for Active Travel.</p> <p>Continued work to deliver the New Cartergate active travel project.</p>
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8. Education, Involvement and Enjoyment

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Whilst there is no requirement to educate the community, about environmental matters, but by providing education and engagement can help to bring about behaviour change, and this</p>	<p>Successful delivery of the DUNE project can provide the evidence base for future grant funded opportunities.</p>	<p>Whilst we recognise that there are huge opportunities for eco-tourism in Cleethorpes, due to the unique position of the resort as an SSSI, which is part of the Eastern Atlantic Flyway bird migration</p>	<p>Build on the community engagement for the tree planting projects to explore other greening opportunities.</p> <p>Build on the discussions with Public Health to discuss a collective strategy for engaging and</p>

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<p>means that fewer people make mistakes and become the subject of enforcement action.</p> <p>The following outlines the progress to date on this workstream:</p> <p>Continued ward based communication and engagement on stage two of the tree planting projects, involving schools and community organisations in planting events.</p> <p>Continued delivery of the DUNE project, including the recruitment of a Coastal Ranger and a Research and Engagement advisor. This has included the delivery of a range of community events supporting education opportunities and involvement in nature, specifically the saltmarsh.</p> <p>Continued to support work on the community woodland proposal.</p> <p>Continued to revise and make improvements to the council website to enhance user access and experience when looking for trusted information, support and how to get involved in improving our environment.</p>	<p>Residents and visitors understand our environmental issues and enjoy nature without causing damage.</p> <p>Our local community act as champions for our environment.</p> <p>Cleethorpes to be recognised as an eco-tourism destination with sustainable tourism forming part of the visitor experience.</p>	<p>route, we must be careful that the pressure brought by increasing visitor numbers does not cause disturbance to the birds, as this threatens their survival and the whole population.</p>	<p>communicating with children and young people on climate change.</p> <p>Explore educational opportunities at the mitigation sites.</p> <p>Continue to support the woodland creation proposal.</p> <p>Use community feedback and insights from engagement and education events to support the development of the second phase of the DUNE project and continue to provide opportunities for local people to engage with and build awareness of our local environment.</p> <p>Continue delivery of recycling and waste reduction communications and engagement through targeted activity and wider communications via schools and social media.</p>
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Continued engagement with schools and community groups, providing community litter pick support and education package delivery.			
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