

## **Zero Carbon Cambridge**

### **International and national commitments**

The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. According to scientists, this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

Meeting these commitments will require action by all the national governments that signed the Paris Agreement. The UK Government set an emissions reduction target in the [Climate Change Act 2008](#) of at least an 80% reduction in emissions from the 1990 baseline by 2050. This target has not been changed since the Paris Agreement was signed.

The UK Government has control or influence over a range of sectors which have a significant impact on climate change, including energy and power generation, aviation and shipping. It also sets the national policy and funding framework on areas such as planning, transport, domestic energy efficiency, and renewable generation which are crucial to reducing emissions.

Information on climate change and what the [UK Government](#) is doing to mitigate and adapt to climate change, is available on the [GOV.UK website](#). For further information on the UK Government's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change please view the [Committee on Climate Change's website](#).

### **Local commitments**

Cambridge City Council is committed to tackling climate change. The Council has set an aspiration in its [Climate Change Strategy](#) for Cambridge to achieve zero carbon status by 2050. This aspiration is consistent with the Paris Agreement, which estimates that if average global temperature increases are to be restricted to 1.5 degrees, global zero carbon will need to be reached by the second half of this century.

It will be challenging for Cambridge to be zero carbon by 2050. This aspiration goes beyond the current UK emissions target and is amongst the most ambitious of any local area in the UK. However, the Council recognises that if Cambridge were to be carbon neutral by a date

sooner than 2050, this would make a positive contribution to global efforts to limit temperature increases to the levels set in the Paris Agreement.

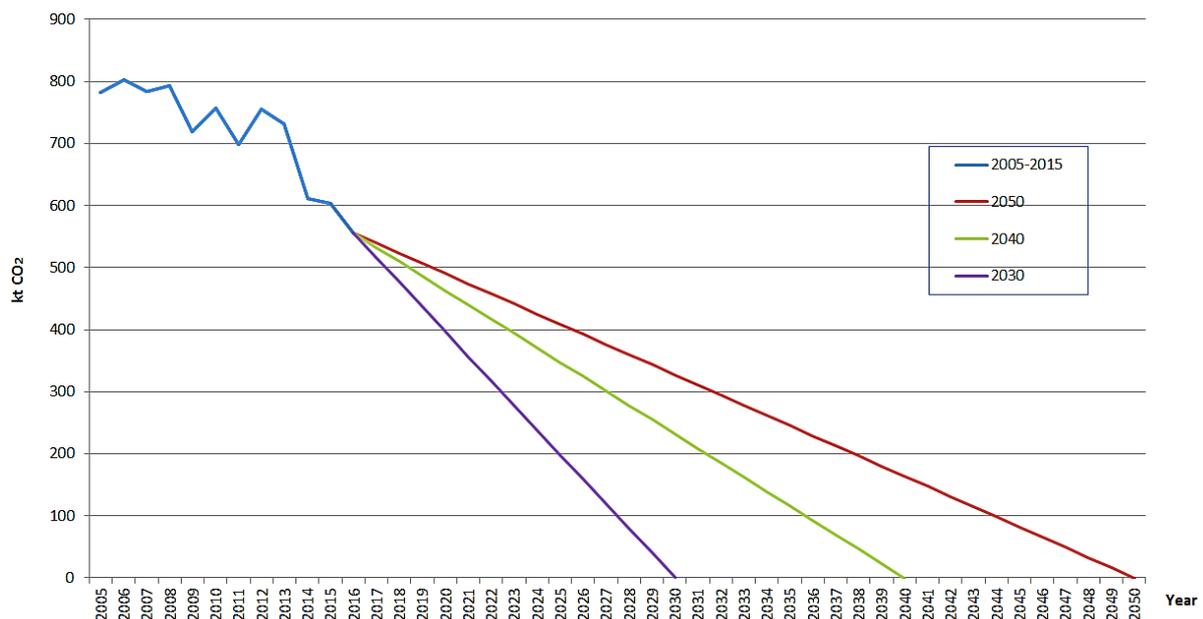
The [latest statistics](#) produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) shows total emissions in Cambridge have declined steadily over the last 11 years. From 2005-2016, total emissions from the city have reduced by almost 30% (from 781.8 ktCO<sub>2</sub> in 2005 to 556 ktCO<sub>2</sub> in 2016, a reduction of 225.8 ktCO<sub>2</sub>) or an average of 2.6% (20.5 ktCO<sub>2</sub>) per year. 75% of emissions reductions in the UK since 2012 have come from the power sector, as a result of the decarbonisation of electricity generation which is shifting progressively from fossil fuels to low carbon and renewable generation<sup>1</sup>.

As the table and the graph below show, emissions would need to continue to reduce at a similar rate for the city to be zero carbon by 2050. They would need to reduce much more rapidly to reach zero carbon by an earlier date.

**Table 1: Zero Carbon Targets**

Zero Carbon by (Year)	Length of time	Average annual percentage reduction in order to reach zero by year (%)
2050	34 years from 2015	2.9
2040	24 years from 2015	4.2
2030	14 years from 2015	7.1

**Graph 1: Carbon dioxide emissions estimates for Cambridge for 2005-2016 and the reductions required for 3 zero carbon scenarios: 2050, 2040, 2030.**



<sup>1</sup> [www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-uk-emissions-2018-progress-report-to-parliament/](http://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-uk-emissions-2018-progress-report-to-parliament/)

## Local action

The Council is taking a range of actions which will contribute to reducing emissions in Cambridge. These actions focus on the areas where the Council has direct powers, or is able to influence other actors, including: the Council's own estate; homes and commercial and industrial buildings; transport; and refuse and recycling.

Achieving zero carbon will require action by everyone in the city. To achieve the aspiration, the council is working in partnership on a range of initiatives with Cambridgeshire County Council, the Universities, local businesses and organisations, and voluntary and community groups. The council has convened a City Leaders Climate Change Group to bring together businesses and organisations in the city that have the necessary resources to identify further opportunities for collaborative action to reduce emissions from the city.

Find out more about what the Council is doing to reduce its own and the city's carbon emissions:

- by watching this [film](#), which showcases three projects recently implemented recently.
- by visiting the Council's website: [www.cambridge.gov.uk/climate-change-reduction-and-adaptation-projects](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/climate-change-reduction-and-adaptation-projects) which provides details of a range of projects
- by viewing the actions in the council's [Climate Change Strategy](#)

Information and advice on how residents and businesses can be more sustainable is available at: [www.cambridge.gov.uk/sustainability](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sustainability). Our '[Greening your Home](#)' booklet provides residents with information on how to make homes and lifestyles greener. They can be picked up a copy from the Customer Service Centre at Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge or downloaded, either the whole booklet, or specific chapters, from the council's website.