



# Dacorum Borough Council and the Climate Emergency

**Melanie Parr**

**Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme Lead**

**Kings Langley Parish Council - 20 April 2022**





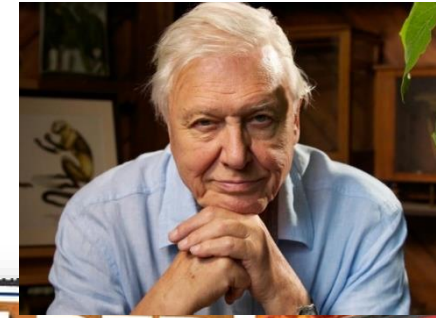
# Agenda

- Climate Emergency background
- Recent News
- Emissions
- Planning for action
- Transport
- Energy in buildings
- Biodiversity
- Sustainable Communities



# Scientific evidence and public pressure

In 2018, the **International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** warned us that we have until 2030 to keep global warming under 1.5C to avoid climate catastrophe. Since then the IPCC have issued a 'code red' for humanity.





# Recent news...

## UN warns Earth 'firmly on track toward an unlivable world'

*"Keeping temperatures down will require massive changes to energy production, industry, transport, our consumption patterns and the way we treat nature."*

## UK 'too slow' over climate crisis despite stark IPCC report

Scientists' concerns come after Jacob Rees-Mogg declared 'every last drop of oil from the North Sea' should be exploited



📷 Jacob Rees-Mogg said he supported continuing to extract North Sea oil despite government net zero targets. Photograph: Jane Barlow/PA

## Climate crisis

# IPCC report: 'now or never' if world is to stave off climate disaster

**Greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025, say climate scientists in what is in effect their final warning**

- **Analysis: IPCC spells out what's needed to avert climate disaster**

## 41 arrests after Just Stop Oil protests in Hemel Hempstead



Will Durrant



Published: 4:31 PM April 4, 2022 Updated: 12:35 PM April 5, 2022



# Recent news... April 2022

## Australia news

### **'This is an emergency': Australia's extreme weather crises spark anger at climate inaction**

Australia has experienced a troubling start to 2022...

- Record rain and devastating floods
- Record heat – **50.7 degrees!**
- Sixth mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef.

In Sydney alone 15,000 homes have been flooded.



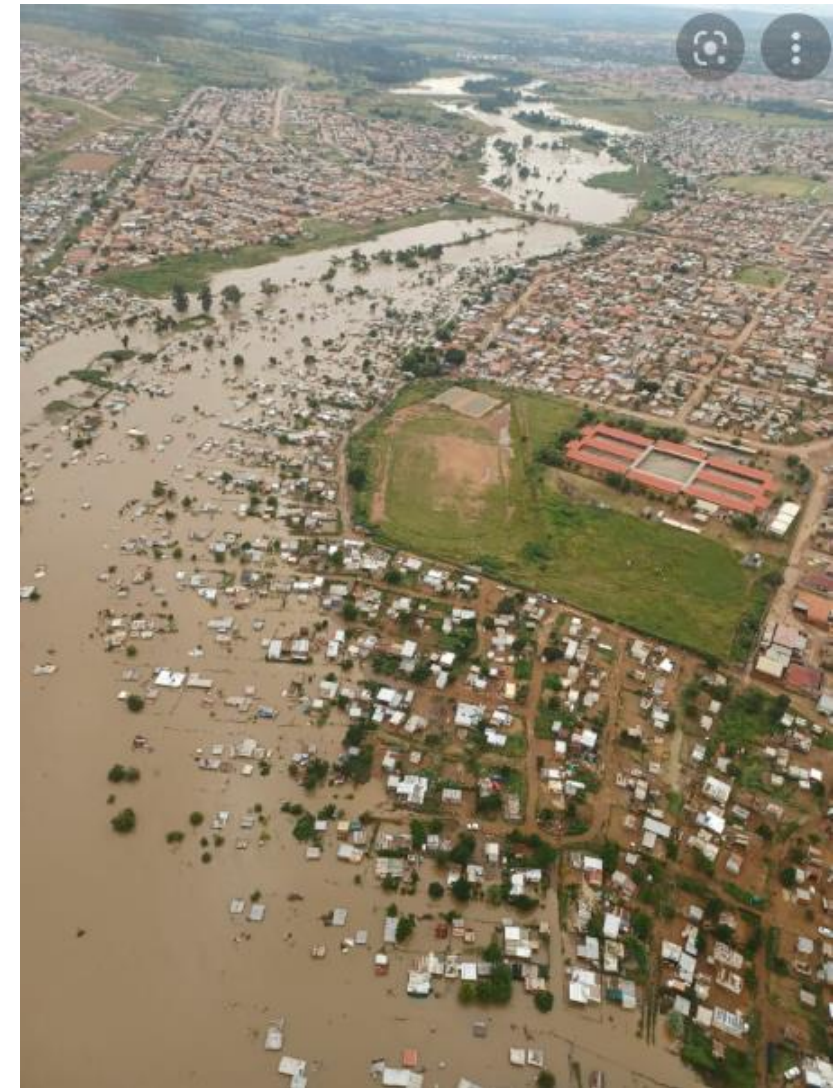


# Recent news... April 2022

South Africa floods: deadliest storm on record kills over **440** people

President Cyril Ramaphosa blames 'catastrophic' rainfall in KwaZulu-Natal on climate crisis

- 443 dead
- 63 missing
- 41,000 homeless
- 13,600 homes damaged
- 4,000 homes destroyed
- 550 schools destroyed



“The loss of life, destruction of homes, the damage to the physical infrastructure ... make this natural disaster **one of the worst ever in recorded history** of our province,” said Zikalala – Durban’s Premier.





# Global Events Driven By Climate Change

Science & Environment

## Arctic sea-ice shrinks to near record low extent

By Jonathan Amos  
BBC Science Correspondent



## Brazil's Amazon rainforest suffers worst fires in a decade

- Satellites record 61% rise in hotspots over September 2019
- Scientist warns: 'It could get worse if the drought continues'



## 22 disasters, 262 dead, \$95bn in damages: US saw record year for climate-driven catastrophes

Report shows US was battered by punishing extreme weather on both the east and west coasts in 2020



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## NewScientist

## Met Office confirms highest temperature ever recorded in the UK



ENVIRONMENT 30 July 2019

## Almost 3 billion animals affected by Australian bushfires, report shows

Exclusive: megafires 'one of the worst wildlife disasters in modern history', say scientists



## Great Barrier Reef's third mass bleaching in five years the most widespread yet







# Local Flooding Events

Hemel Hempstead shopping centre remains partly closed after flash flooding

A number of roads were also closed due to the flooding

By Holly Patel

Thursday, 13th August 2020, 10:54 am



Queensway



Pluto Rise



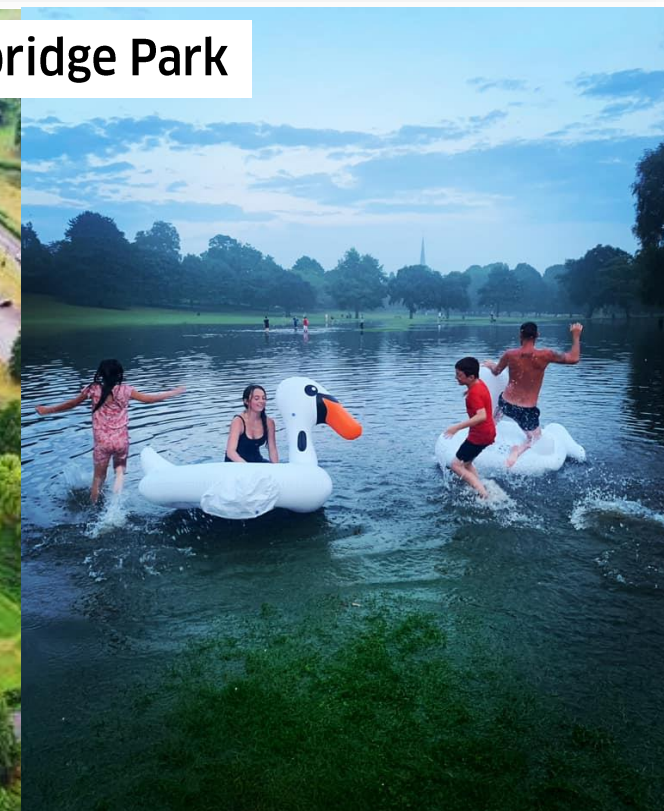
Lawn Lane



Marlowes



Gadebridge Park







# The Council & The Climate Emergency

**Dacorum Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to:**

- **Become net-zero as an organisation by 2030**
- **Work towards having a net-zero housing stock by 2050**
- **Support the borough in reaching net-zero as quickly as possible.**





# Our Climate Emergency Statement of Intent

**“A Borough that takes robust action to tackle the local and worldwide threat of climate change, both internally and in partnership with local organisations and residents, and to minimise its environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution”**

Dacorum Borough Council is determined to play its part in helping to tackle the Climate Emergency. We have committed to ensuring that the operations, activities, and impact of our built assets will be net carbon neutral by 2030. This will be achieved through a combination of specific new projects, use of our policy making and regulatory powers and incorporating climate change and sustainability as part of business as usual. In doing so, we will adhere to the highest standards of quality in our efforts to provide services that add value to our residents, partners, and employees - and to protect the earths' vital resources for the future.

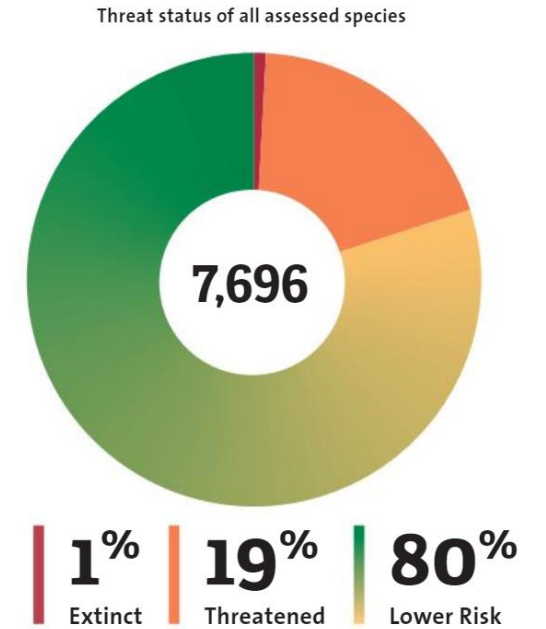
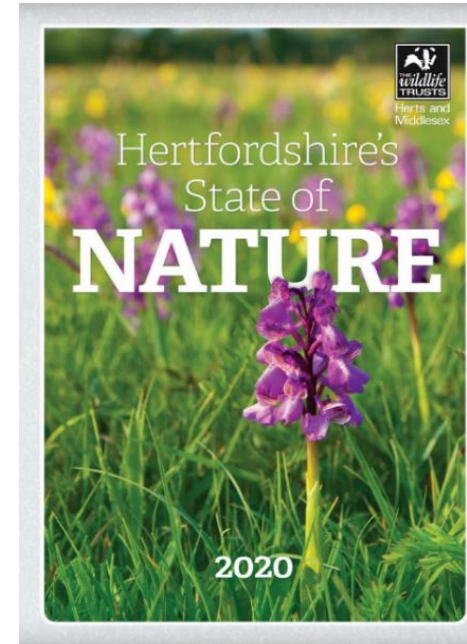
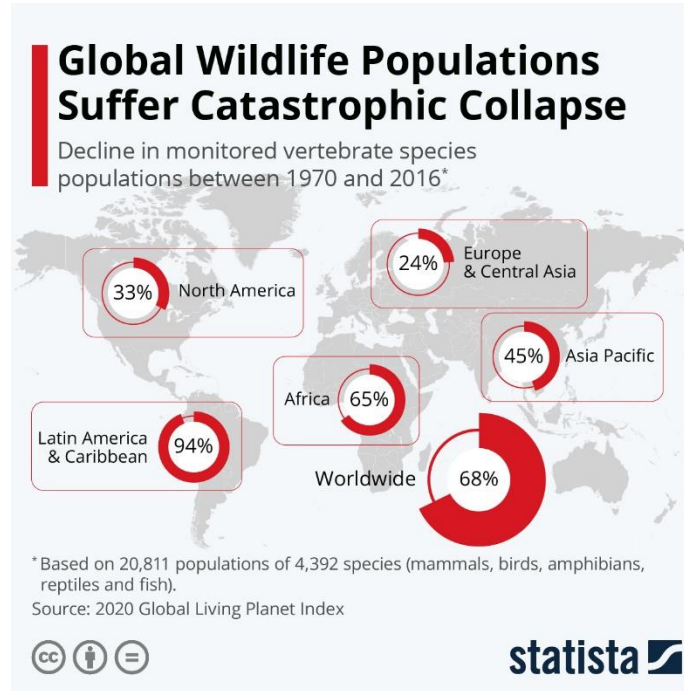
**We will demonstrate leadership through ensuring that Dacorum Borough Council, its operations and activities will be net carbon neutral by 2030 and promise to:**

- Lead by example in reducing carbon emissions year on year
- Use our powers, such as Town Planning, to require all new development to be as low carbon as is possible
- Work with government, business, community groups and other partners to maximize our impact on decarbonisation
- Encourage and support residents, community groups and businesses to reduce their emissions across the borough
- Prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change and their mitigation in our own services together with residents, community groups, businesses and partners.
- Keep residents and businesses as fully informed as possible about what action can be taken



# Ecological Emergency

**In the past 50 years, global wildlife populations have decreased by 68%**



Relative breakdown (%) of population changes of Hertfordshire Species of Conservation Concern requiring each type of habitat. Species counts are given in the table below the chart.

- Support the borough in improving biodiversity
- Support the borough in creating more sustainable communities.





# The Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy

**We are working to decarbonise our organisation as quickly as possible.**

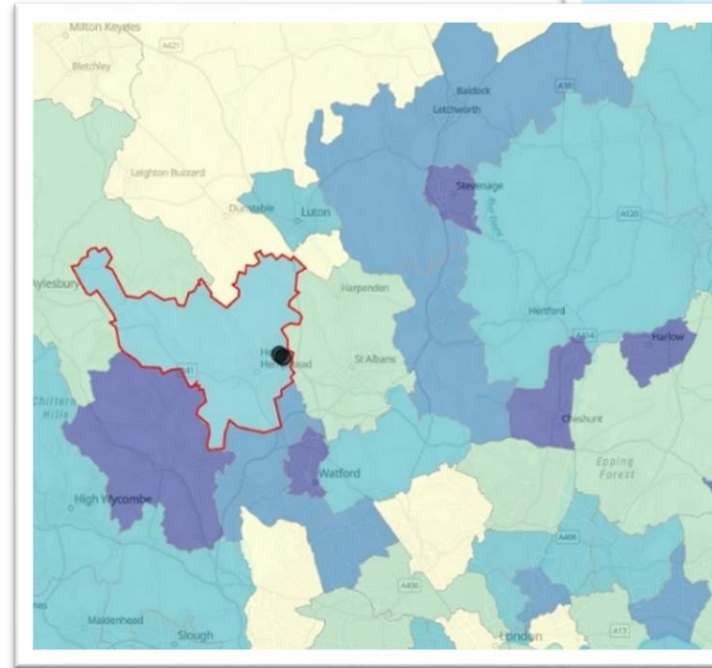
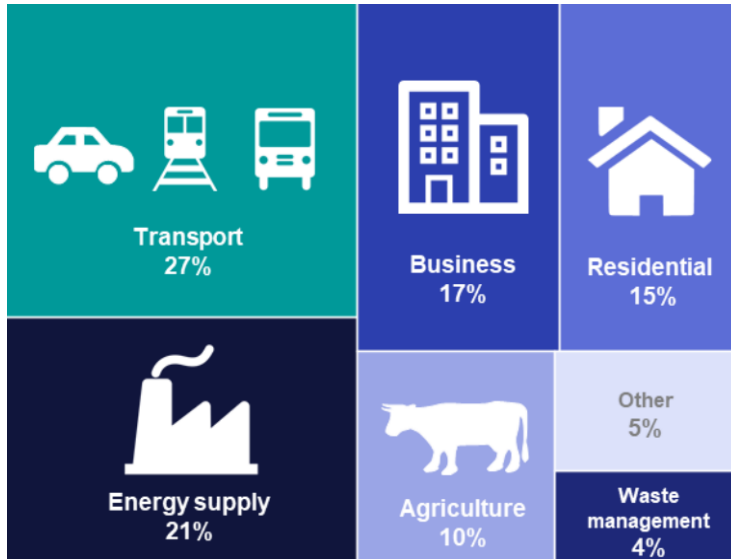
**So far we have:**

- Calculated our own organisational carbon footprint
- Created a strategy and action plan for reducing our emissions
  - *Climate and Ecological Emergency strategy to be released publically in May.*
- Made the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) one of our six Corporate Priorities
- Become the first borough council in the UK to achieve a Silver Carbon Literate Organisation award due to delivering climate training to over 70 members of staff and Members.



# UK's Carbon Emissions

In 2019, the UK was responsible for 455 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

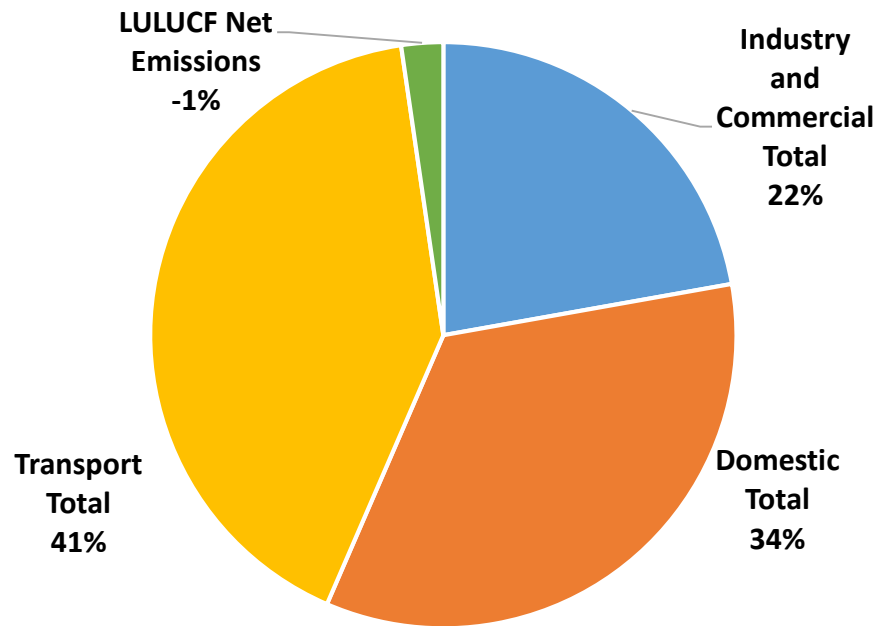






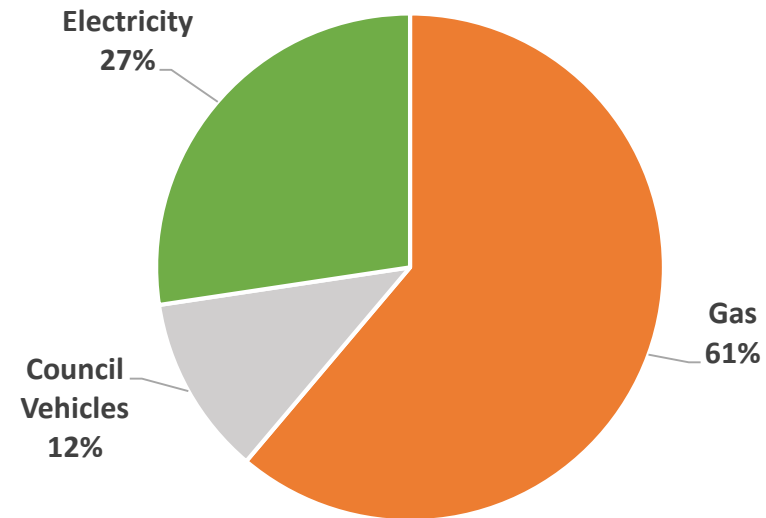
# Comparing Dacorum's geographical and organisational carbon emissions

Dacorum's Total Geographical  
CO2e Emissions – 2019  
Scopes 1-2 BEIS



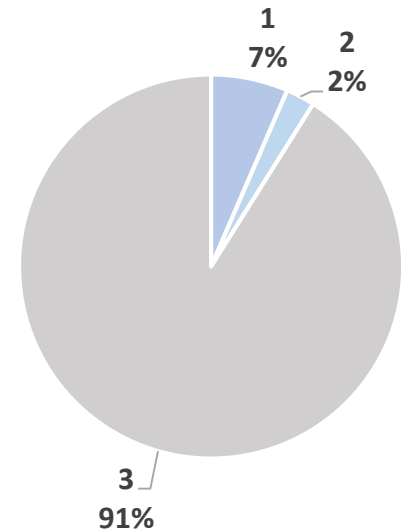
624,000 tonnes  
of CO2e in 2019

Dacorum Borough Council  
CO2e Emissions – 2019  
Scopes 1-2



3,471 tonnes  
of CO2e in 2019

Dacorum Borough  
Council - 2019 - CO2e  
Emissions  
Scope Breakdown



39,000 tonnes  
of CO2e in 2019

Dacorum Borough Council as an organisation accounts for less than 1% of the borough's emissions.



# The borough's journey to net-zero...

The UK Government set a target of being net-zero by 2050.

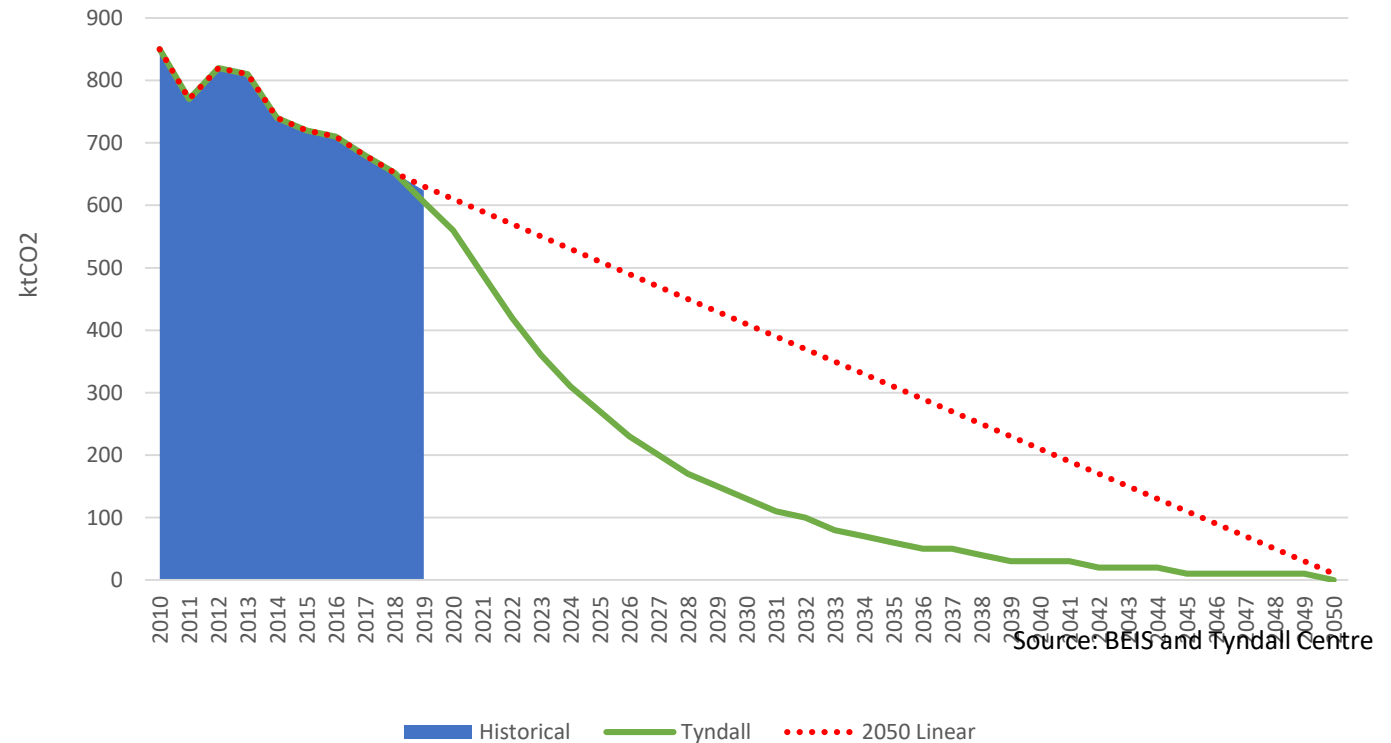
The journey for how we reach this target is crucial because of our 'carbon budgets' vs our total emissions produced.

- Red line – slow gradual decline = **9.5 million tonnes of CO2**
- Green line – recommended by climate scientists = **4.1 million tonnes of CO2.**

By not acting fast enough, we will produce more than **DOUBLE** our borough's 'carbon budget'.

Dacorum's emissions for 2019:  
624,000 tonnes of CO2

Carbon Budget and Emission Forecasts for Dacorum

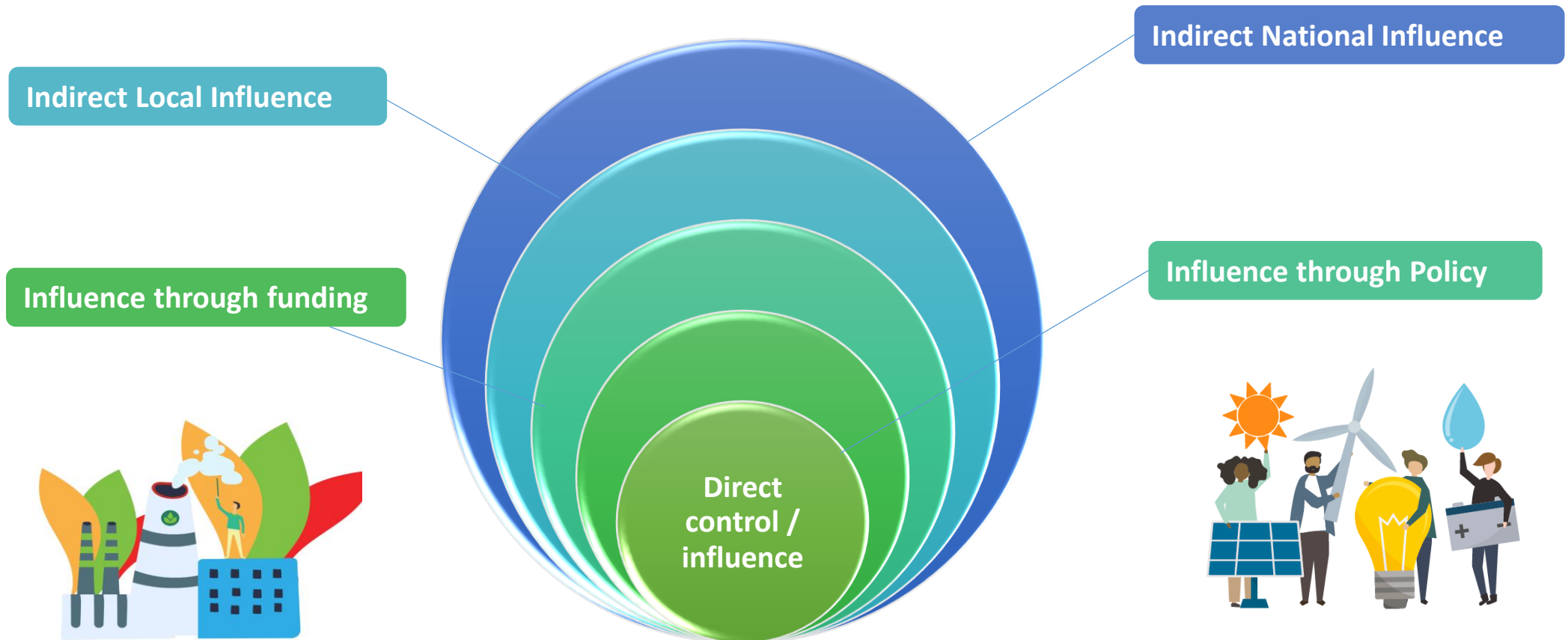


In 2020, emissions will have dropped due to the effects of COVID - it is crucial that we do not let emissions 'bounce back' to normal.



# Borough Council - Spheres of Influence

As a Local Authority we have limited control, but we do have a number of 'sphere's of influence' for how we can help to support the decarbonisation of the borough.





# Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP)

**Dacorum is part of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP).**

HCCSP was formed in 2020 and consists of all 10 districts and boroughs, Hertfordshire County Council, and the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Herts LEP).

**The partnership works collaboratively on key areas:**

- Carbon Reduction
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Water Sustainability
- Behaviour Change





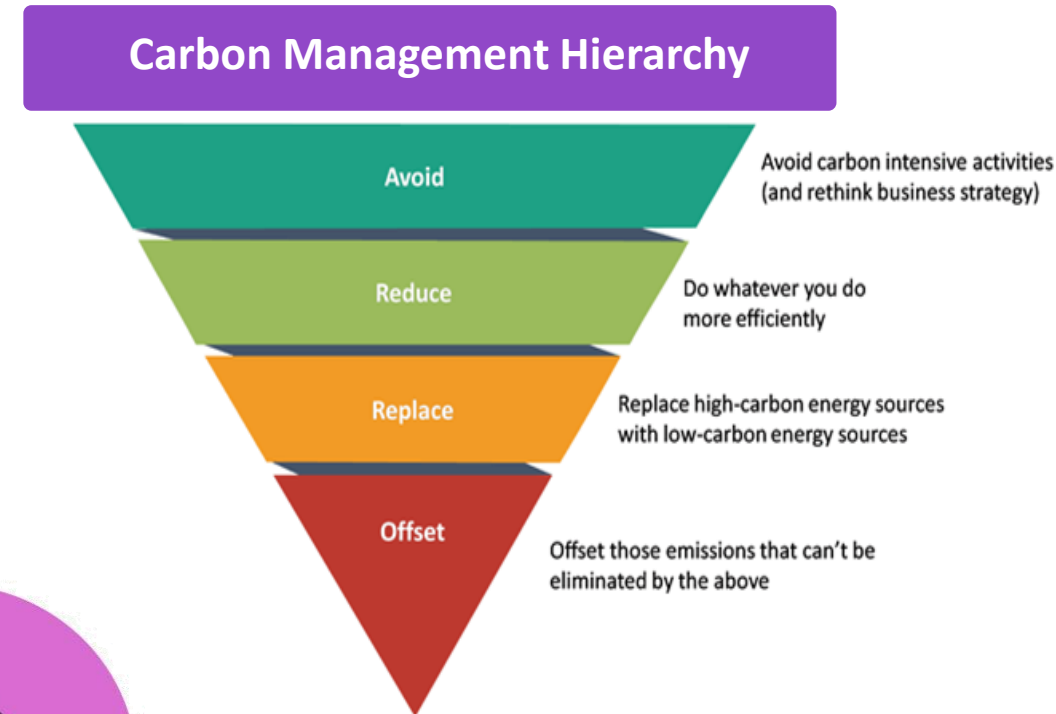
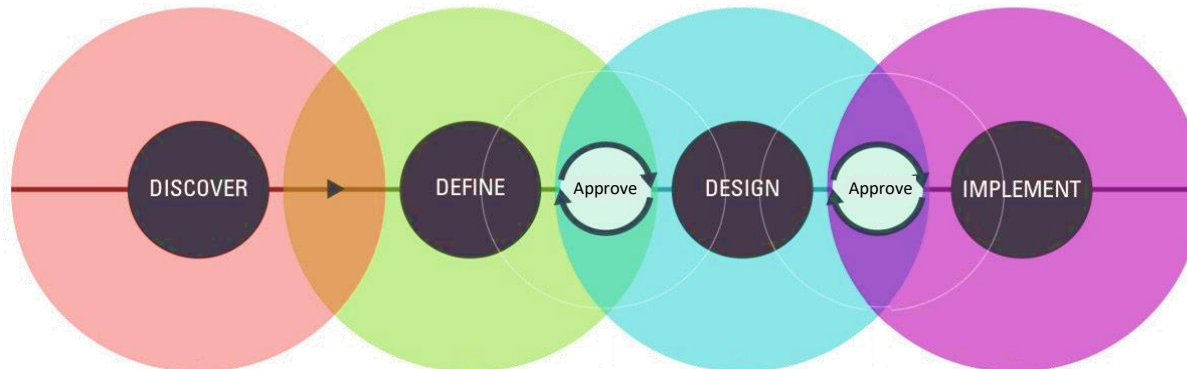


# Our Climate & Ecological Emergency Work

Our approach to the Climate & Ecological Emergency work has broadly been *“discover, define deliver”*.

Information gathered on:

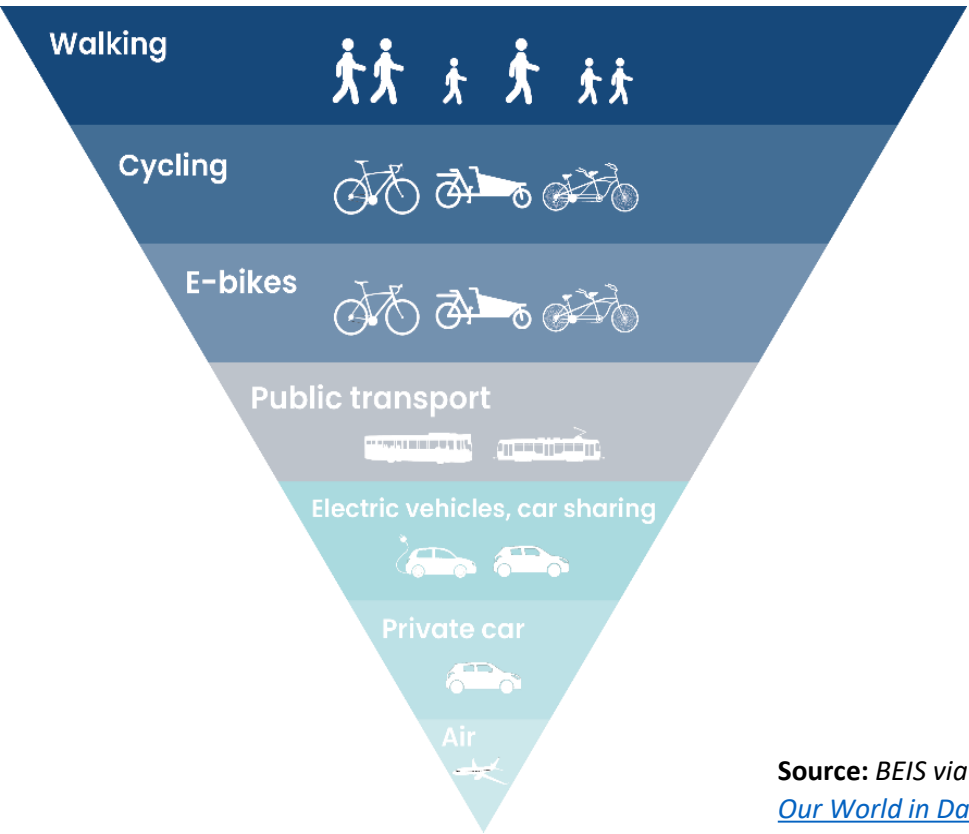
- Housing stock – energy performance ratings
- Biodiversity throughout the borough, including tree stock
- Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure forecasting
- Our own buildings and fleet





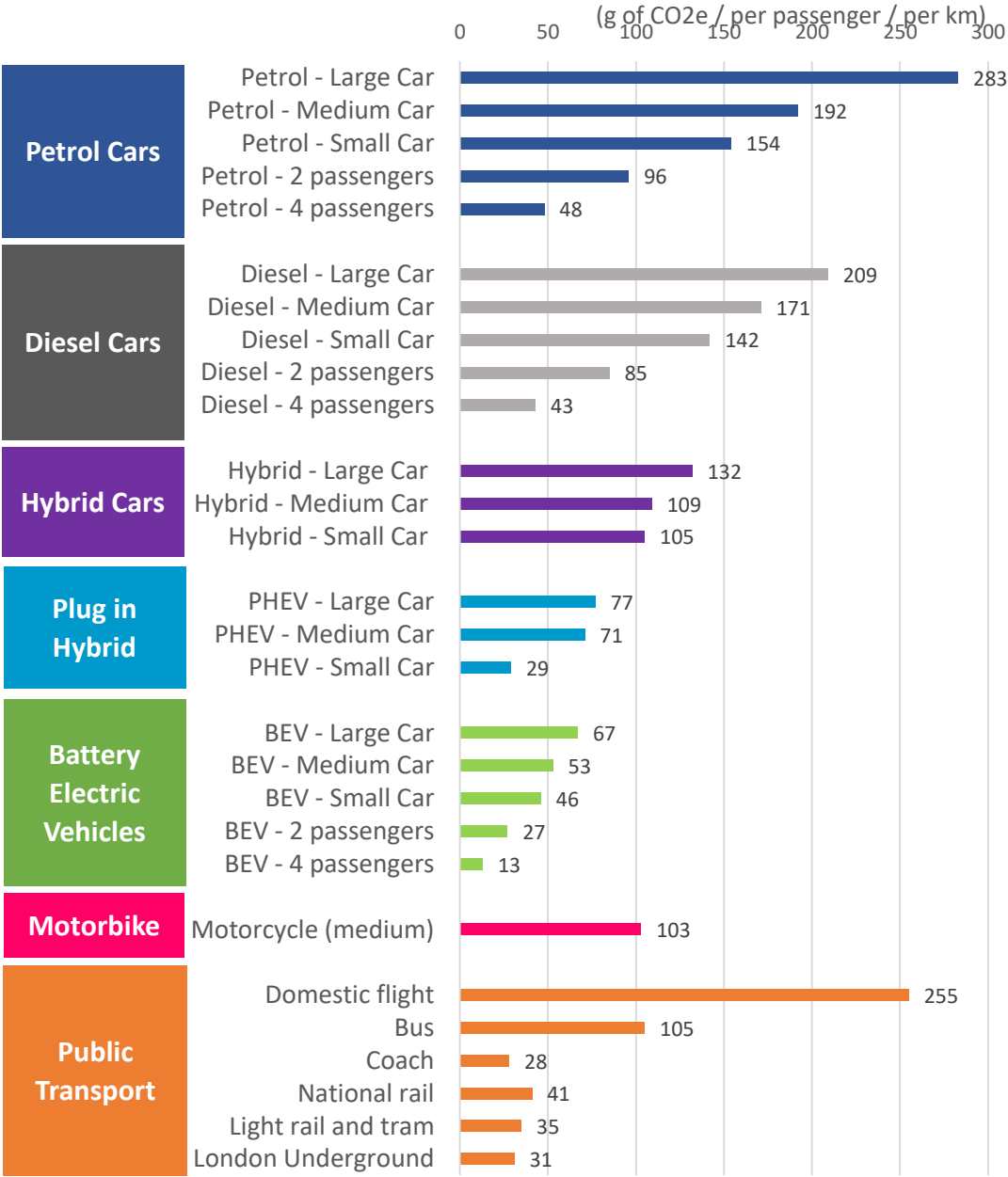
# Sustainable Transport

In Dacorum, transport is responsible for 43% of the borough's greenhouse gas emissions. Following the sustainable transport hierarchy will be crucial for reducing emissions.



Source: BEIS via [Our World in Data](#).

## Comparing Carbon Emissions of Travel Methods per passenger, per kilometer (2018)





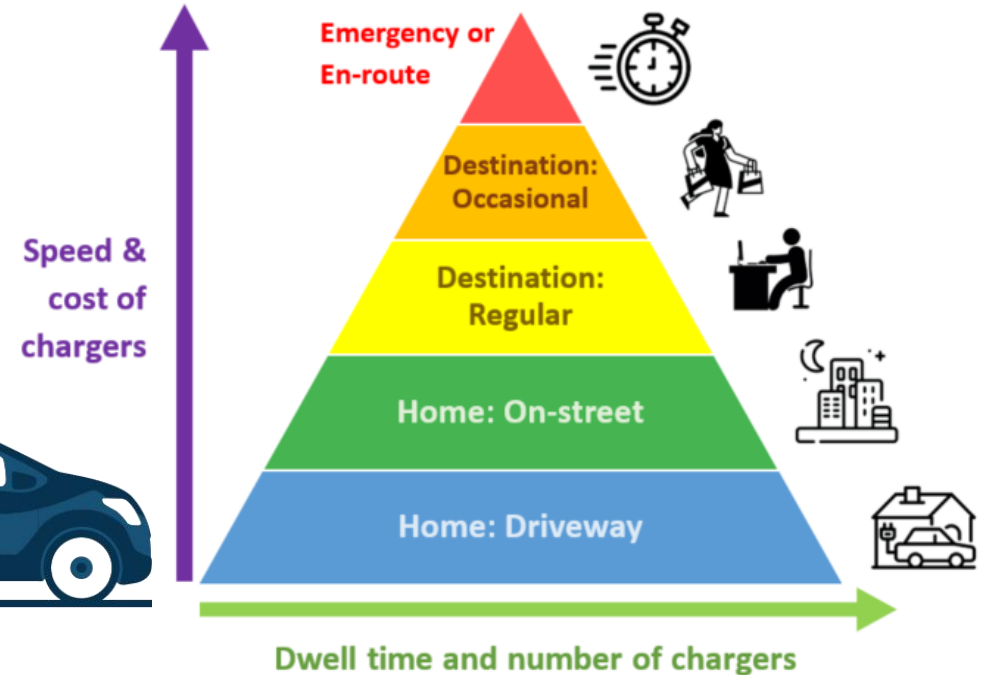
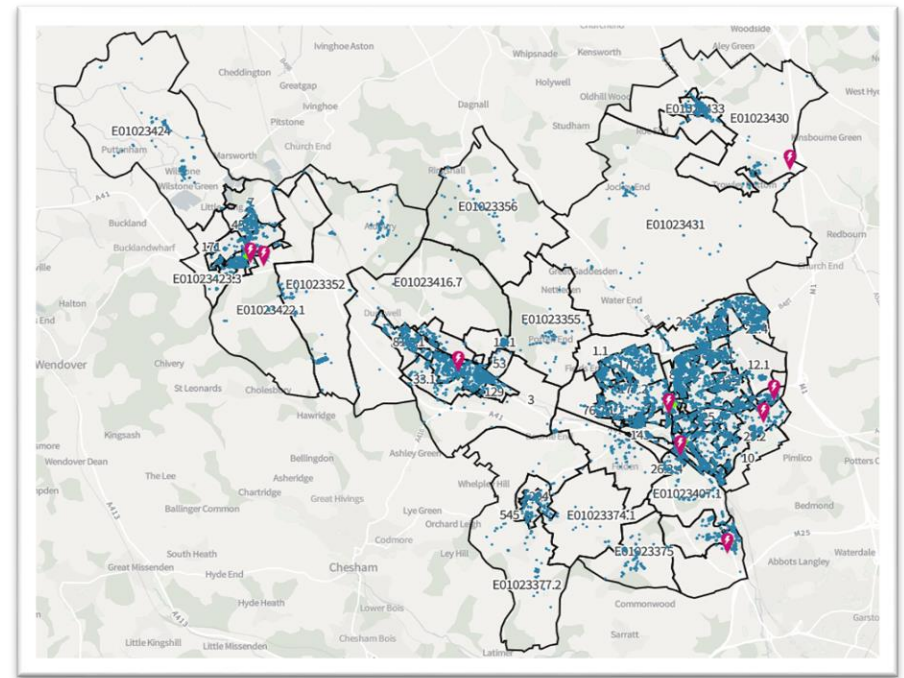
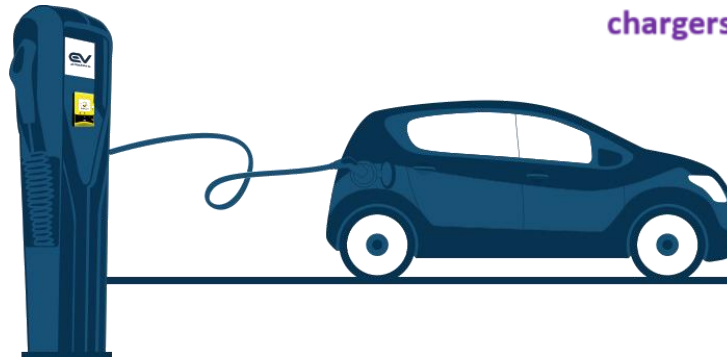


# Electric Vehicles

From 2030 the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles will be banned.

## Electric Vehicle charging in Dacorum.

- By 2030, we are forecast to have **over 30,000** electric vehicles within Dacorum – we currently have ~1000.
- Over a third of Dacorum households (**around 25,000**) do not have a driveway or garage to install home chargepoints (*blue dots on the map*)
- An Electric Vehicle strategy has been drafted and is in the process of being reviewed and submitted for approval.
- Later this year we plan to have installed a large number of fast and rapid chargepoints throughout our council-owned car parks.

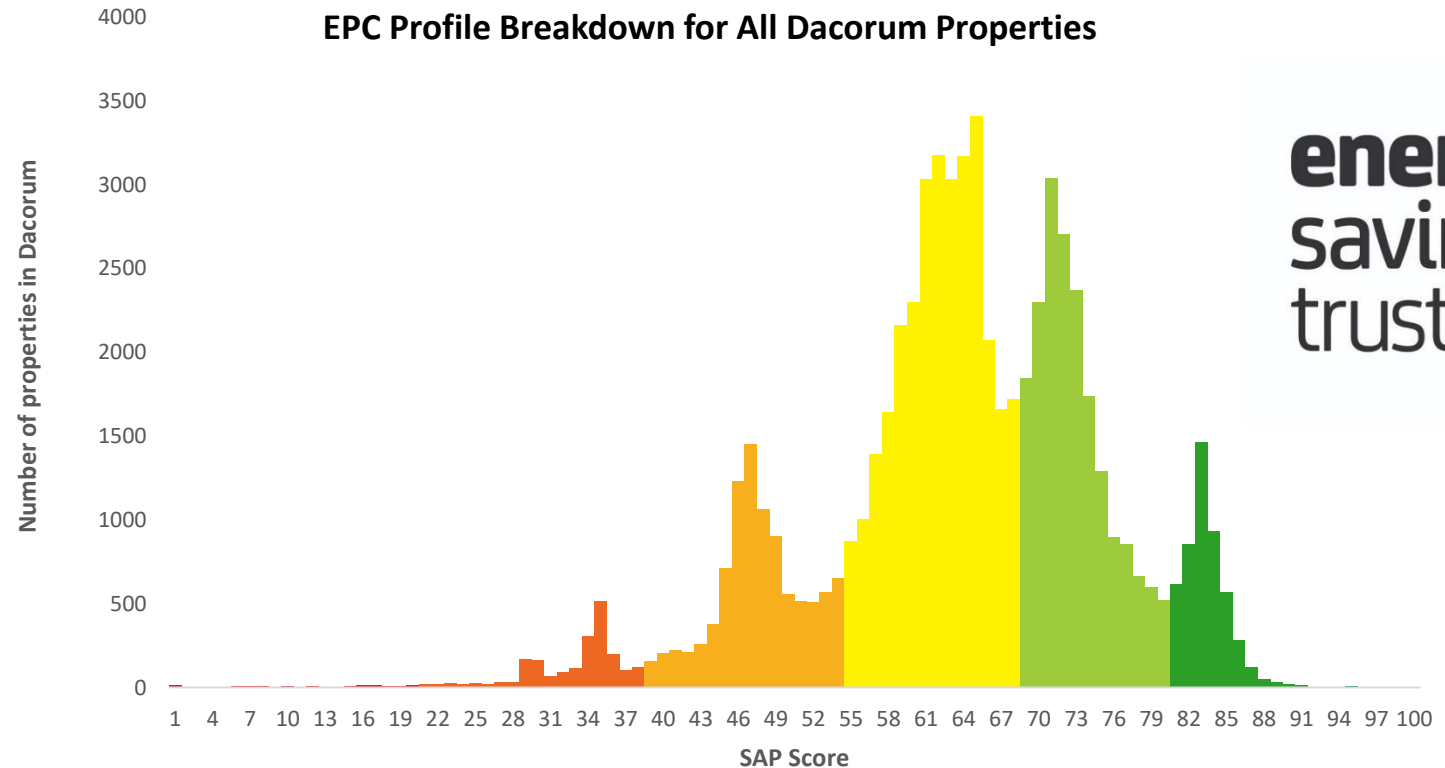
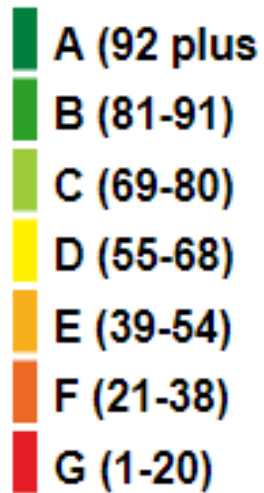




# Energy Use in Buildings

We are working on internal projects for our own council buildings within the organisation.

**Energy Saving Trust provided us with an EPC breakdown for every home in the borough.**



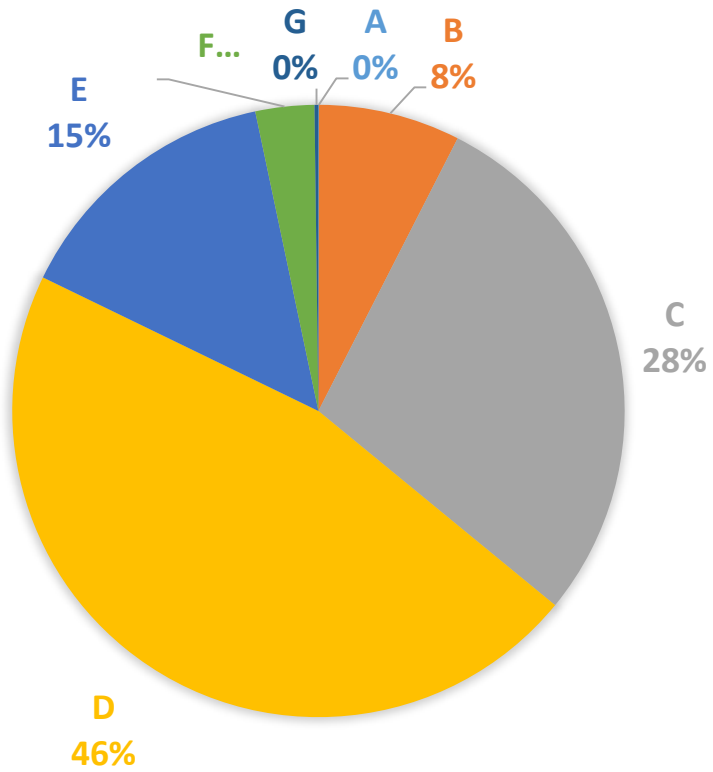




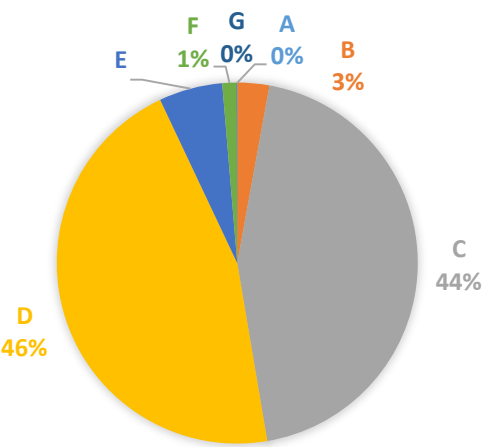
# EPC Rating by Tenure

We now know that nearly two-thirds of Dacorum's homes are EPC D or below.

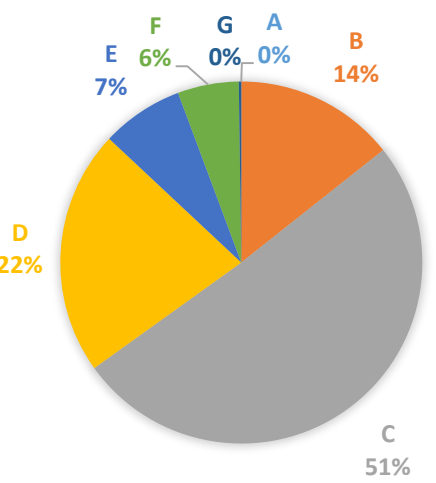
ALL HOMES IN DACORUM



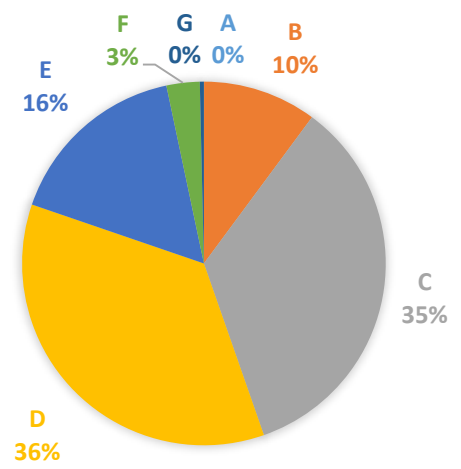
COUNCIL HOMES



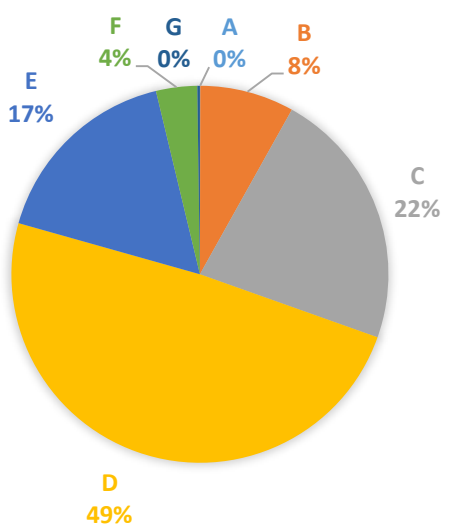
HOUSING ASSOCIATION



PRIVATE RENTED



OWNER OCCUPIED





# Funding Opportunities

We promote funding opportunities to residents on our website: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/homeenergy](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/homeenergy)

This is especially important due to the current energy crisis.

- **Green Homes Grant**

- Residents could receive energy efficiency improvements of up to £10,000 if they meet certain criteria:
  - Own a home in Dacorum that has an EPC rating of D or below
  - Total household income is less than £30,000, or are in receipt of certain benefits.

- **Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

**ECO**  
Energy Company Obligation







# New app! Hertfordshire Energy Advice Tool

Dacorum is the first local authority to partner with EST to launch an energy saving app designed to help residents save money and the planet.

The app has recently launched and is available for residents to download now – doing so could save you £75 a year!

Find out more: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/homeenergy](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/homeenergy)



**energy  
saving  
trust**







# Improving Biodiversity

- This year we have planted over **1300 trees**. We have a target of planting over 5000 in the next 5 years.
- We are increasing the number of **wildflower areas** and **bug hotels** and information signs around the borough.
- We have worked with consultants to obtain **tree stock reports**
- To celebrate Biodiversity Day 2021, we gave away over **1000 free packets of wildflower seeds to residents and primary schools** and ran a school competition to win an insect sit-and-study centre. To get your seeds for this year go to: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/biodiversity) from 16 May.







# Dacorum Climate Action Network

Dacorum Climate Action Network (Dacorum CAN) is bringing together individuals and organisations to *'think global and act local'* to help tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

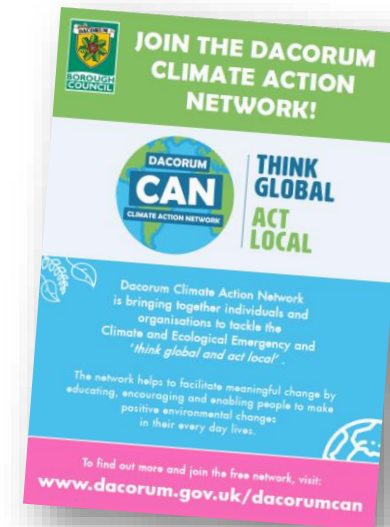
The network helps facilitate meaningful change by providing a platform to support, educate, encourage and enable people to make positive environmental changes in their every day lives.

Regular environmental information and advice via:

- Virtual resources
- Social media and Facebook group
- Online events calendar – member's are able to add their own environmental events to the calendar
- Regular e-updates
- Regular webinars and events
- Joint campaigns and initiatives
- Quarterly virtual meetings
- Annual Conference



**THINK  
GLOBAL  
ACT  
LOCAL**

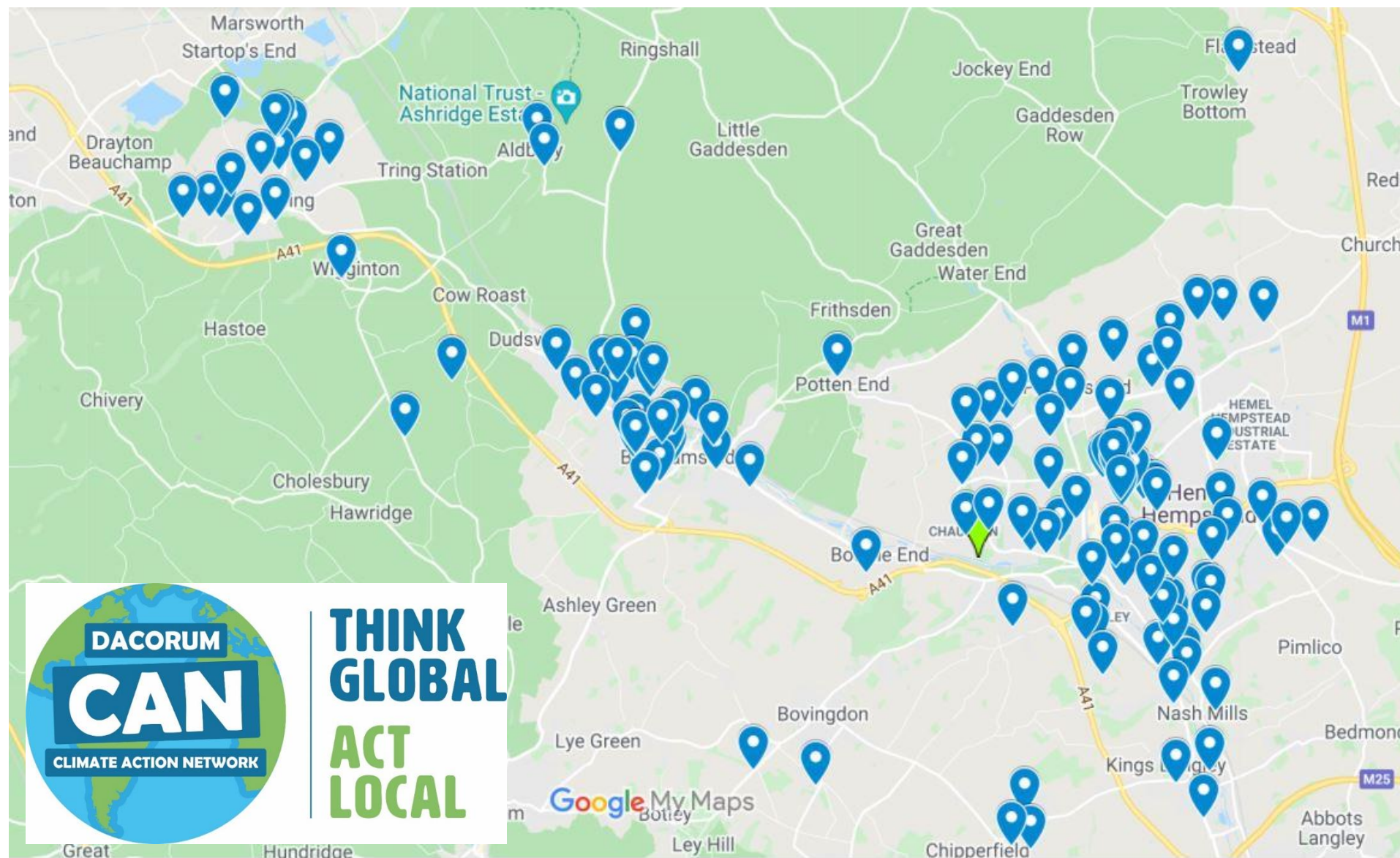


Joining the network is simple through a short online form:

[www.dacorum.gov.uk/dacorumcan](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/dacorumcan)



# Dacorum Climate Action Network - individuals







# Dacorum Climate Action Network - organisations





# 'Monsters on a Mission'

To help children across Dacorum understand the link between food waste and climate change, we have worked with all schools in the borough to roll out food waste recycling in classrooms.

The winner was 'Cadd-eye' from Yewtree School.







# Green Community Grants

**In 2020 we launched our first Green Community Grant scheme to enable local environmental action.**

Funding is specifically for projects that encourage and enable people to *'think global and act local'*.

**We have just completed our second round of funding and so far given away a total of £30,000 to 17 local projects.**

## **Projects have included:**

Community fridge, bike project, community garden, interactive local walk scheme, village gardening club, wilder allotments project, wildflower verges, meadow rejuvenation work, clothes repair and reuse, re-wilding work, tree planting, wildlife surveying equipment, community engagement projects and pond creation and maintenance.



Applications will open again in Autumn:

[www.dacorum.gov.uk/grants](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/grants)





**Thank you for listening.**

**Do you have any questions?**

**Melanie Parr**

Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme Lead  
Dacorum Borough Council