

# Shropshire Council Climate Strategy

## Carbon Monitoring 2025 - Q&A's

**FINAL-REVIEW**

Compiled by Strategy and Organisational Development, supported by;



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero



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What is the latest corporate carbon footprint?	(p6-report)	3
How has this changed since the baseline year 2019?	(p6-report)	3
How has this changed from that reported in 2024?	(p6-report)	3
What has caused the NET-decrease?	(p6-report)	3
What other initiatives have made savings?	(p7,8-report)	3
Is the Council 'on track' for NET-zero by 2030?	(p8-report)	3
So, what's the positive news?!		4
How is the Council tackling its supply chain?	(p19-report)	4
Environmental and Social Governance	(p18,19-report)	4
What are the economic benefits for the Council?	(p21-report)	5
What are the economic risks for the Council?	(p21-report)	5
Shropshire Countywide – economic benefits summary		5
What are the economic benefits for Shropshire?		6
What are the economic risks for Shropshire?		7
What is the responsibility for the whole County?	(p16-report)	7
Who are Shropshire's NET-zero stakeholders?	(p16-report)	7

## References

These Questions and Answers reference the Councils Climate Strategy and Annual Carbon Monitoring Report (2025). The page number in brackets at the end of each question-heading in the contents above refers to the section in the full report. Please see the latest report for the summary tables and charts and project register:-

- [Carbon monitoring | Shropshire Council](#)
- [Climate Action | Shropshire Council](#)

**Environmental disclosure and data analytics supported by:**  
Shropshire Council Business Improvement: Data, Analysis and Intelligence.



## What is the latest corporate carbon footprint? (p6-report)

Financial year 2025 NET emissions = 39,839 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (or 40ktCO<sub>2</sub>e).

## How has this changed since the baseline year 2019? (p6-report)

There has been a NET reduction of -35% (-22 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e) over seven years.

## How has this changed from that reported in 2024? (p6-report)

There has been a NET decrease of -20% (-10 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e).

## What has caused the NET-decrease? (p6-report)

The reduction in NET emissions is primarily due to a decrease in Scope 3 (-20% compared to FY24) and a spend reduction (where estimate based on spend):

- Health & social care (adult's and children's services).
- Rationalisation of schools (LA maintained) – due to academisation.
- Improvements in STAR housing stock and social housing.
- Some corrections and improvements in methodology and data.

## What other initiatives have made savings? (p7,8-report)

- Greater awareness across service areas has improved staff engagement.
- Improved heating and electrical systems and smart meters in buildings.
- Property Sustainability Strategy and Carbon Reduction Programme.
- Flexible working arrangements, optimised use of buildings and office space.
- Improved recycling rates (domestic and commercial), and re-use initiatives.
- 102,000 trees have been planted since declaring a climate emergency.

## Is the Council 'on track' for NET-zero by 2030? (p8-report)

Even though the Council has reduced its net emissions by 35% over the past seven years (that's 21,883 fewer tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent), it's unlikely to reach the goal of net-zero emissions by 2030. To stay on track, the Council would need to cut emissions by 16% every year for the next five years, which is a much faster pace than before.

Reaching the target will depend a lot on how many negative emissions—or offsets—the Council can achieve by 2030. This could include natural ways of capturing carbon on Council land, using carbon capture and storage technologies, and making the most of recycling contracts such as the one with Veolia. There may be other carbon-reducing projects to consider as well. However, the main priority should still be to lower gross emissions, especially those coming from the Council's supply chain (known as Scope 3 emissions).

It's also important to remember that the way the Council tracks carbon emissions has been affected by the Covid pandemic, which led to some temporary reductions in emissions—as has happened in other local government organizations across the UK.



## So, what's the positive news?!

Over the past seven years, the Council has cut its overall corporate emissions by a third! New projects planned to shrink our carbon footprint further:-

- With improved data, carbon monitoring progress can be more accurately recorded.
- Supply chain emissions have been more accurately quantified.
- Innovation and developments in buildings and transport and renewable energy.
- Carbon-capture: two cutting-edge Pyrolysis plants are now up and running, turning waste into energy and creating biochar, which has a wide range of uses.
- In 2026, a 2MW solar farm in Oswestry will be generating clean energy, helping to meet the County's renewable energy targets, making smart use of previously unused land.

## How is the Council tackling its supply chain? (p19-report)

Given the current capacity constraint, there is a (limited) continuation of in-house training, community and business, commissioning and procurement engagement:

Carbon literacy has been rolled out to the previous administration (2021-2025) elected cabinet members and executive management team. Further to this all staff are invited as "Climate Champions" and especially commissioning officers from all service areas. Staff training and methods of engagement are outlined in the Council's NET-Zero training strategy. A climate e-learning module has been launched in addition to web content including several improvements to the [Climate Dashboard](#).

## Environmental and Social Governance (p18,19-report)

The climate and carbon support officer is working with and supporting commissioning and procurement to develop Environmental and Social Governance that is fully in line with the commercial efficiency savings the organisation needs to make corporately.

The "Zero Ask" survey and toolkit is designed for contract managers and suppliers to help reduce their carbon footprint and provide tailored service area or sector-guidance. Each directorate will be provided with a carbon summary report:

• Commissioning	23,434 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	(40%)
• Care & Wellbeing	20,178 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	(35%)
• Children & young people	13,610 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	(23%)
• Communities & customer	10,083 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	(17%,)
• Enabling	8,920 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	(15%)
• Infrastructure	3,718 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	(6%)

Each report will include a concise overview of the directorate's emissions, their contribution to overall countywide emissions, and a breakdown of emissions by the top ten service categories and suppliers. Additional analysis and customized guidance for services may be provided.



## What are the economic benefits for the Council? (p21-report)

Right now, the Councils climate related projects bring in about £1.3 million a year, however planned/pipeline projects could yield up to £15 million every year (income plus savings). As part of this, by investing in buildings, improved systems and acting on smart data, the Council can save around £2 million annually. £1 million can be saved by working smarter and engaging staff to share responsibility and help address three key themes: energy, travel and equipment.

Using just 1% of our property, the Council could earn £5 million annually and cover all its own energy needs using a mix of renewable energy technologies. Plus, the money invested would be paid back in just five years—showing a great return and real progress toward sustainability.

The potential benefits from 10MW renewable energy mix (solar, wind and bioenergy):

Annual value (£ p.a.)	£5m
Carbon Saving (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	4,000
Capital cost	£15m
Operating cost (£ p.a.)	£0.3m
Payback period (yrs.)	5

## What are the economic risks for the Council? (p21-report)

If the Council does not improve or innovate, it misses out on the advantages of switching to renewable energy and making its buildings more energy efficient. Right now, dealing with the effects of climate change—like repairs from floods and storms—already costs the Council about £10 million each year. If nothing changes, those costs are expected to rise sharply and could reach £170 million by 2090, as Shropshire faces hotter temperatures and more frequent extreme weather. By acting now, the Council can help protect communities from the worst impacts of climate change and stay financially strong well into the future.

## Shropshire Countywide – economic benefits summary

- £360 million – saving by reducing adaptation costs (2090)
- £150 million – potential savings on energy and fuel costs
- £1.1 billion – income and savings from renewable energy
- £1.3 billion – Low Carbon Goods and Services (LCGS) value (2030)
- An estimated 5,000 additional green-economy jobs

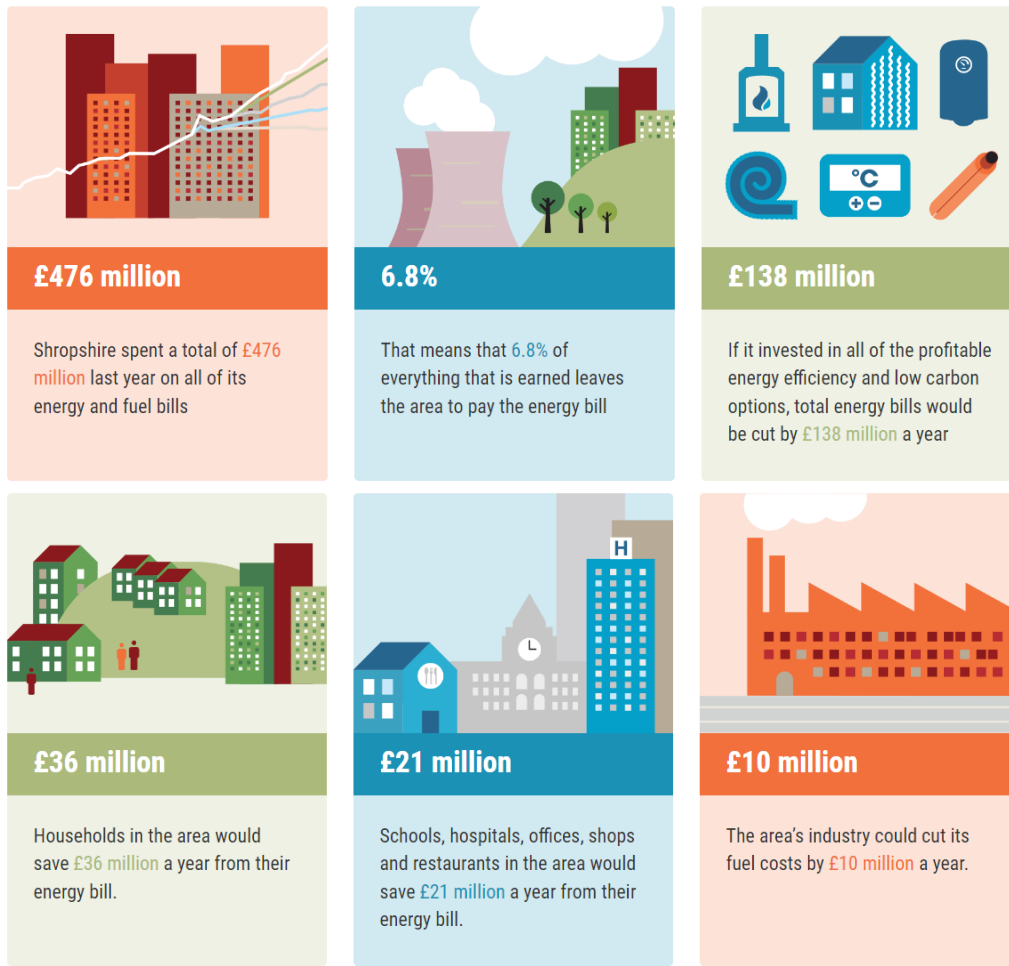
**TOTAL Value at Stake = £2.9 billion per annum**

This is an estimate from multiple sources which does not account for complex potentially irreversible “global tipping points” that impact the Council by proxy.

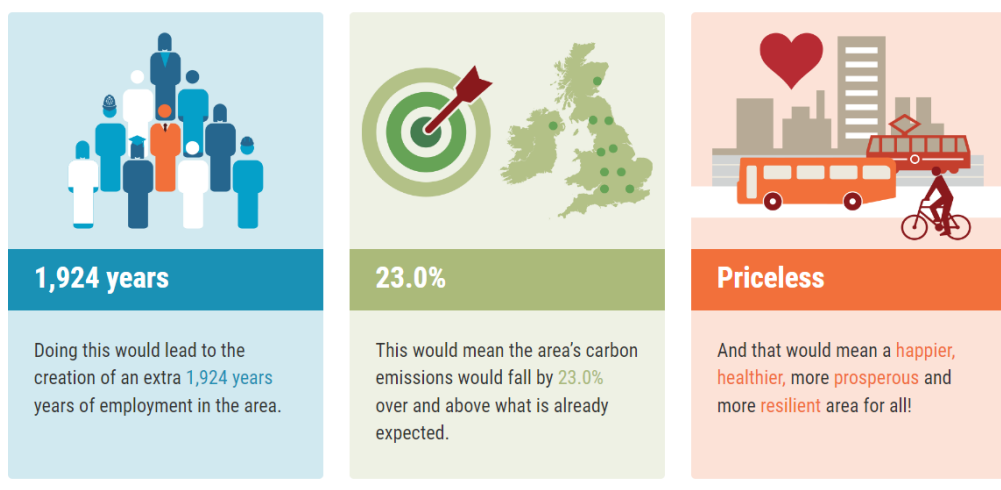


## What are the economic benefits for Shropshire?

Shropshire County spends approximately £500 million on all its energy and fuel bills. If Shropshire invested in profitable energy efficiency and low carbon energy options, total energy bills would be cut by £140 million a year.



Doing this would lead to the creation of around 5,000 jobs in Shropshire alone and £10m saving on industry energy costs. <https://www.pcancities.org.uk/find-your-place>





## What are the economic risks for Shropshire?

It is estimated that climate and weather impacts already cost Shropshire Council £5 million annually, this is predicted to rise to £170m by 2090. With wider economic costs to the whole county of **£0.6bn** per year. (Ref: [What will climate change cost the UK?](#) ).

These costs are compiled from a combination of risk factors:-

- Droughts & flooding - Losses from droughts and inland flooding.
- Agriculture and livestock - Losses from agricultural productivity changes.
- Ecosystems - Losses from biodiversity loss and forest cover change.
- Energy infrastructure - Losses from energy supply and demand changes.
- Productivity and the economy - Losses from labor productivity impacts.
- Health - Losses from heat related mortality.

### References

- [What will climate change cost the UK? Risks, impacts and mitigation for the NET-Zero transition - Grantham Research Institute on climate change](#)
- [Find your place | Place Based Climate Action Network](#)
- [The Council's 2025/26 budget | Shropshire Council](#)
- [Climate Action | Shropshire Council](#)
- [WMCA LCEGS 2024 Final v1.pdf](#)
- [Shropshire LA LCEGS 2024 Final v1.pdf](#)

## What is the responsibility for the whole County? (p16-report)

In the UK, local Councils like Shropshire Council play an important part in cutting carbon emissions in their area, thanks to their planning and regulatory roles. For Shropshire, this means the Council can help reduce about a third of the County's total carbon emissions—around 788 thousand tonnes out of the total 2.4 million tonnes estimated for the County. The rest is addressed through efforts from national government and the broader community. Working together, communities. Public and private sectors can decarbonise the local area.

## Who are Shropshire's NET-zero stakeholders? (p16-report)

In addition to engaging the sectors listed in the County emissions table, key local groups, businesses, and partners that the Council is proud to work with on its journey to Net Zero:

These include Shropshire Council's top suppliers (chosen for their efforts to reduce carbon emissions), the Shropshire Climate Action partnership, Cool Shropshire, the Affordable Warmth Team, Planning department, Marches Growth Hub, Marches Forward Partnership, Midlands Net-Zero Hub, Local Government Association, WMCA, Marches Energy Agency, and Future Ready Homes. The Council also collaborates with Nature Partnerships, property and commercial asset management experts like Resero, Leisure Energy, LGA Local Partnerships, and others. Working together with these organizations helps the Council make real progress toward a greener, more sustainable future for everyone in Shropshire.

