

Carbon budget graph

Setting a baseline of 2018/19 (from when accurate energy data is available), Burnley Borough Council has mapped its carbon budget and the annual emission reductions needed to reach net zero.

The trajectory for reaching net zero by 2050 has been set out (Figure 1). In order to stay in line with UK climate targets and achieve a reduction of at least 78% by 2035, and net zero by 2050, we would currently require an emissions reduction of around 126.86 tCO₂e per year until 2035, and 43.45 tCO₂e per year until 2050.

Urgent action will be required to achieve these targets and the Roadmap to Net Zero allows actions to be prioritised and a feasible route to achieving net zero to be set out.

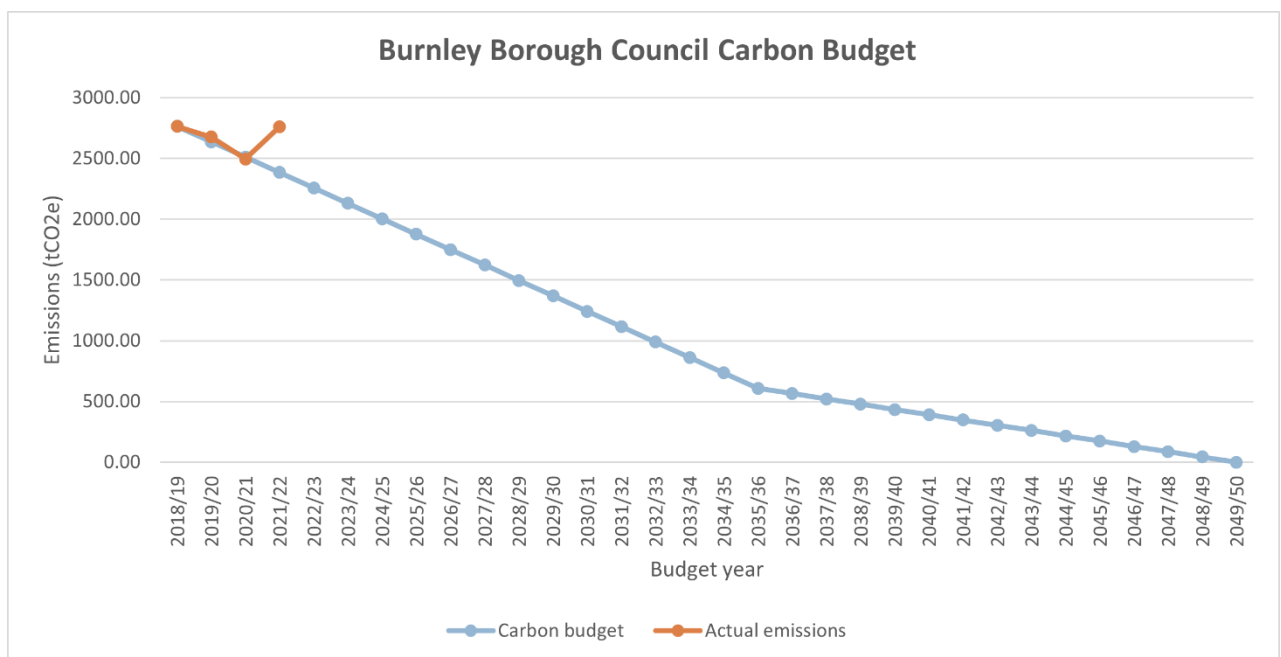


Figure 1: Trajectory to reach net zero by 2050, with a 78% reduction in emissions by 2035.

The council's baseline 2018/19 emissions were 2764.98 tCO₂e, these have reduced slightly each year up until the current reported year 2021/22 where emissions spiked to 2762.49 tCO₂e. The reason for the spike in 2021/22 emissions is mostly due to the addition of St Peter's Leisure centre electricity data, and Sandygate student accommodation gas data. Due to St Peter's being a CHP (combined heat and power) site, and complications with invoices, electricity data is included from 2021/22 onwards due to energy data availability. Similarly, due to availability of Sandygate gas data, gas emissions have been included from 2021/22 onwards (the site was acquired in 2020/21 and electricity data was available and included from that point).

Spikes in emissions are anticipated as the council takes on new buildings, for example, Charter Walk was acquired in August 2021 and data will be included for vacant units and shared areas from 2022/23 onwards. Spikes can also be expected as the Council begins to incorporate more scope 3 emissions into their carbon budget (e.g. commuting, procurement, waste). This is usual and any steep spikes or declines in emissions will be reported for full transparency. As decarbonisation works are implemented this is expected to level out.

Please refer to the Council's Carbon Budget Report for further breakdown of the Council's emissions.