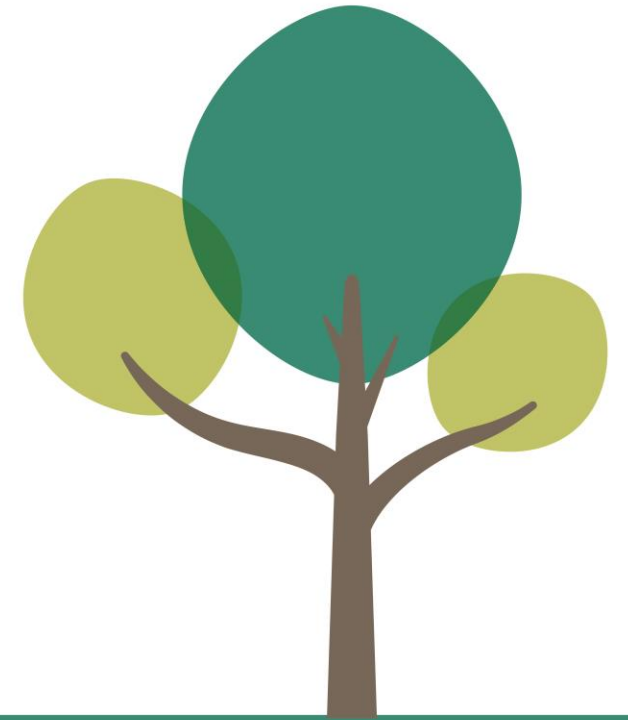
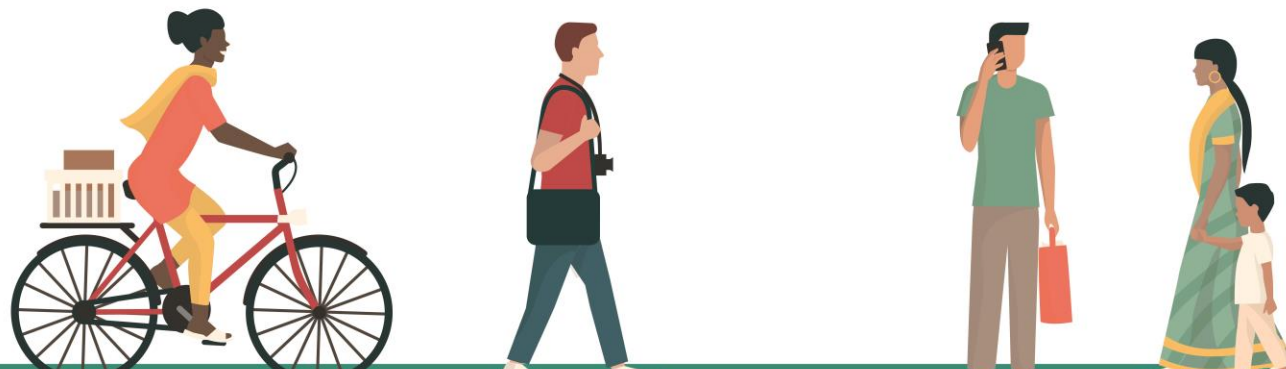


Climate Change and the ESTE Scrutiny Board



What is Climate Change?

Changes to earth's climate leading to the warming of our planet, to more extreme, volatile and destructive weather patterns.

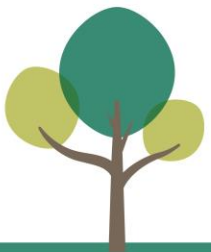
Examples of this include:

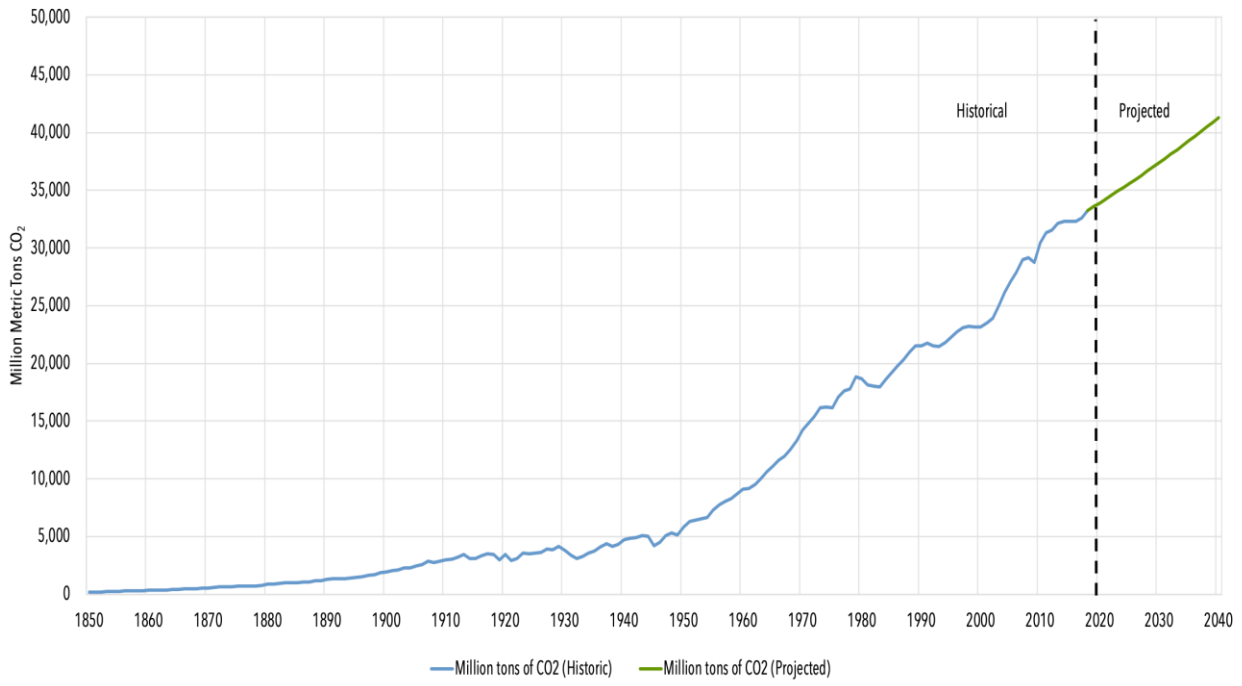
- the moorland fires in Staffordshire
- more frequent flooding e.g. of Bewdley and Ironbridge from the River Severn
- drought conditions affecting agricultural crops
- surface water flooding in urban areas due to intense rainfall
- higher summer temperatures making in harder for the sick and elderly

What's causing climate change?

Our way of life.

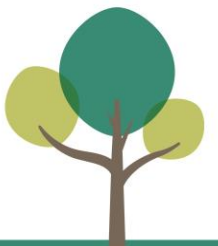
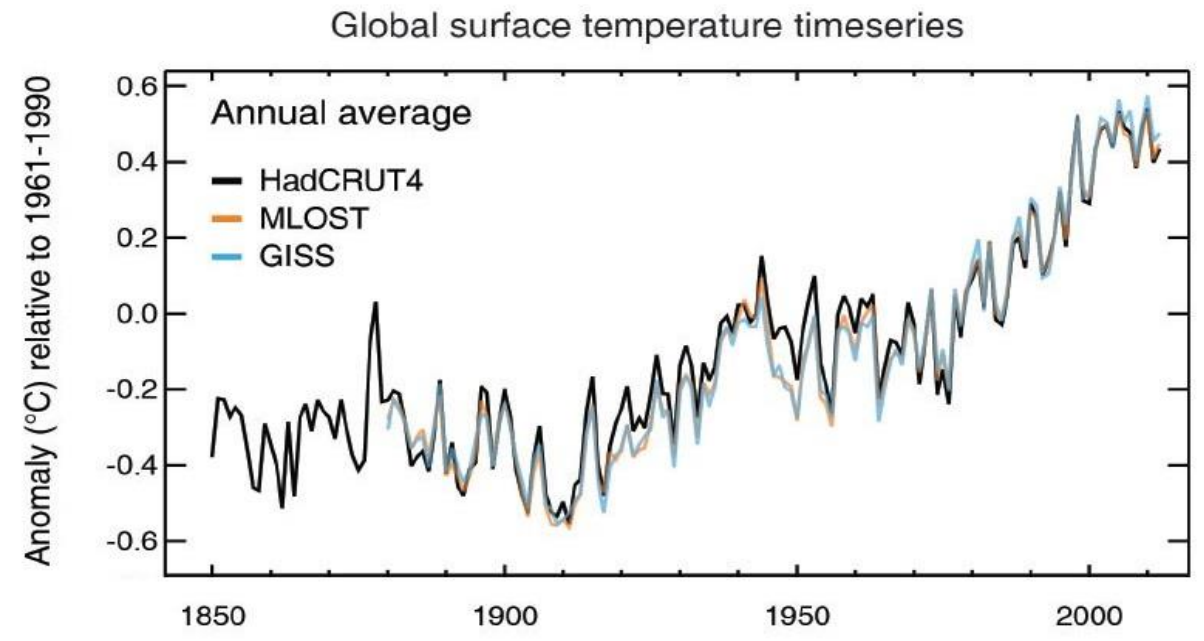
The fuel we use to power and heat/cool our buildings, for our vehicles, for our industries and for our food production, and the way we deal with waste, all produce Greenhouse Gases which trap the sun's heat.





Graph indicating how global CO2 emissions have risen from c.1850 and projected until 2040 (Centre for Climate and Energy Solutions)

Graph indicating the rise in global temperatures from c.1850 to present day (IPCC and Carbon Brief)

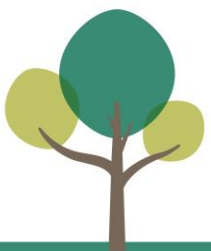


The potential impacts of climate change in Sandwell?

- Poor air quality impacting upon residents' health
- Fuel poverty from people unable to heat or cool their homes
- Flooding of homes and businesses from overwhelmed drainage systems
- Vulnerability to rises in food prices from impacts on food-growing areas
- Extreme heat making it difficult for sick and elderly people to breath and to move around

What are the solutions?

- Insulate all of our buildings
- Install low carbon heating systems
- Create heat networks
- Invest in renewable forms of energy
- Install the infrastructure to support low carbon forms of transport
- Increase use of public transport and encourage 'active travel'
- Encourage more efficient use of resources and reduce waste
- Support businesses to adapt to a low carbon economy
- Behavioural change

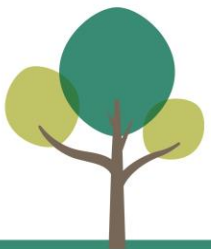


What are the benefits of tackling climate change?

- A more resilient borough able to withstand the impacts of climate change
- Reduced fuel poverty from increased home energy efficiency measures
- Opportunities for jobs and skills training from new green technologies
- Businesses able to compete in a decarbonised economy
- Improved physical and mental well-being, e.g. through 'active travel'
- Better air quality leading to increased health
- More community cohesion, e.g. from community initiatives such as food growing

Policy Context

- 2008 Climate Change Act – 80% reduction in emissions by 2050
- 2015 Paris Agreement – limit the increase in earth's temperature to 2 degrees and ideally 1.5 degrees
- 2019 UK Government commits to become 'carbon neutral' by 2050
- 2020 Sandwell MBC and the WMCA produce Climate Change Strategies
- 2021 COP26 in Glasgow – likely to be preceded by further commitments as well as result in further commitments



Sandwell's Climate Change Strategy

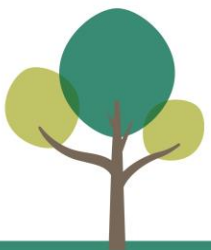
- Two key targets – 2030 and 2041
- Analysis of our current emission levels
- Series of Action Plans setting out what we need to do – these are 'high-level' actions

Our emissions challenge

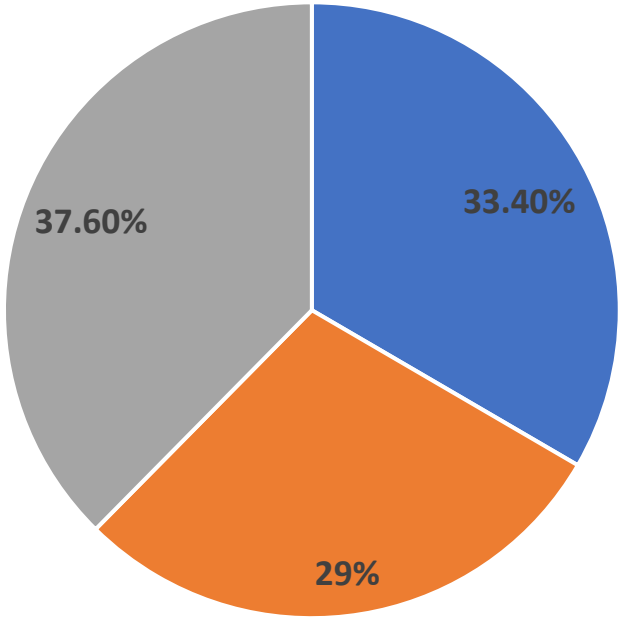
- To achieve net zero for the council by 2030
- To achieve net zero for the borough by 2041
- We have a carbon budget of 9.1million tonnes from 2020 – 2100
- We will have used this up in **c.7 years** at our current rate
- We need to reduce our emissions by 13% every year until 2100
- Emissions in 2020 fell by only around 8%
- SMBC emissions are only c.1% of the borough's

What our targets include

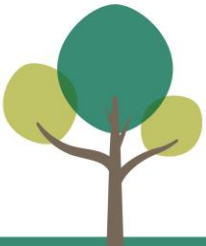
- Direct emissions from the fuel we burn to heat our buildings and power our vehicles
- In-direct emissions from fuels burned to generate power, i.e. electricity
- The goods and services we procure are NOT included as council and as residents



Sandwell's Carbon Emissions 2017



■ Industry & Commercial ■ Domestic ■ Transport

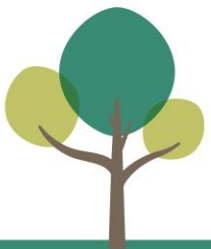
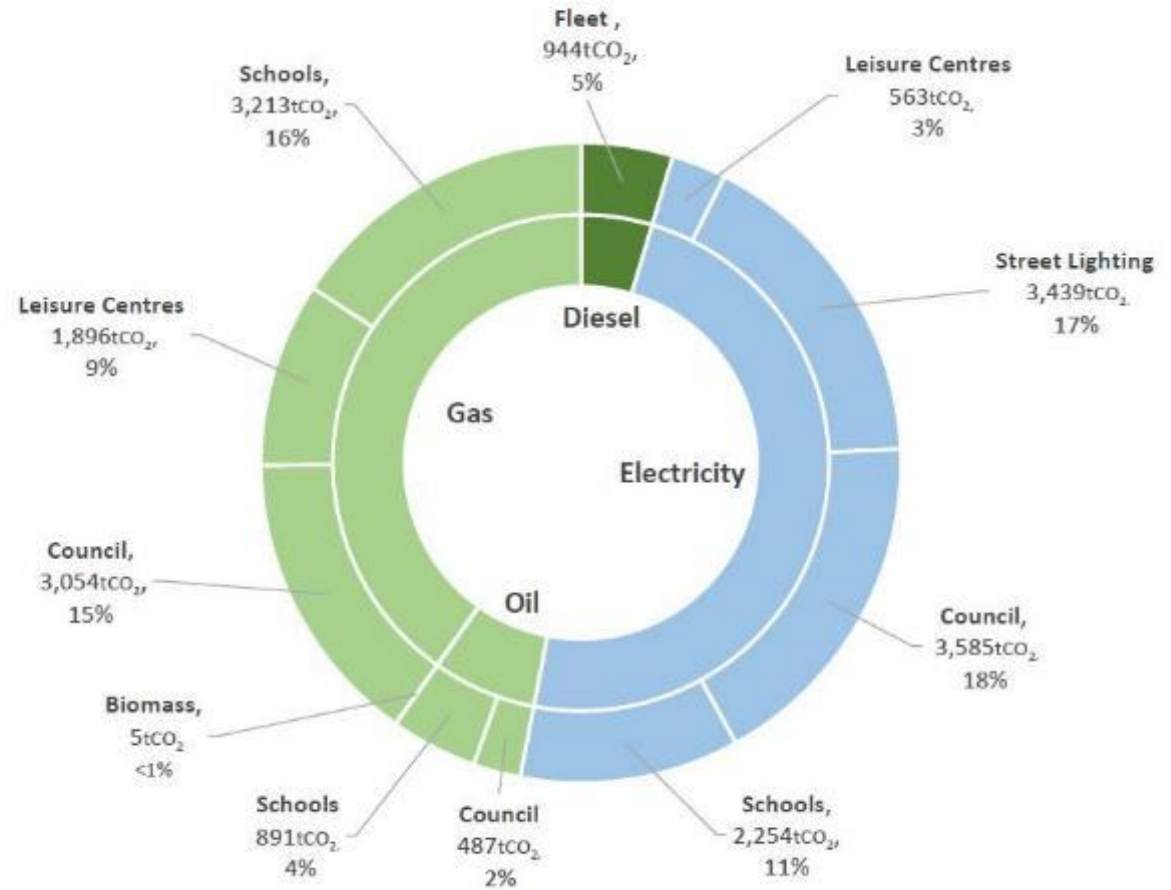


• **Sandwell MBC's Emissions**

- Council Buildings 35%
- Schools 31%
- Street Lighting 17%
- Leisure Centres 12%

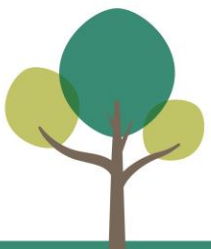
- Gas 40%
- Electricity 49%
- Oil 6%
- Diesel 5%

Sandwell Council's Carbon Footprint



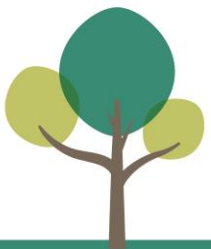
Where are we now?

- An agreed Strategy and targets for the way forward
 - A Members Steering Group chaired by a Cabinet Member
 - An Officer Working Group – authors of the Strategy
 - Agreement to establish several themed implementation groups
 - A small team to support the Climate Change Programme
-
- Membership of the WMCA's Low Carbon Officer Group
 - Access to examples of 'best practice' through membership of several networks
 - Responding to offers of funding from central government
 - Working closely with Transport for West Midlands
 - Several Sandwell businesses already demonstrating 'circular economy' principles



Next steps

- Embed climate change into corporate strategies and operational functions
- Continue to build commitment to climate change from top to bottom of the authority
- Climate change needs to be a core component for decision-making throughout the authority
- Develop a council-wide programme of Carbon Literacy
- Establish a borough-wide strategic partnership to oversee the Strategy's implementation
- Set up a partnership/network of businesses working towards the 2041 target
- Develop a portfolio of base-line data sets which will support informed decision-making around priorities
- Establish the 'implementation groups' to develop the Action Plans – Senior Lead/support
- Investigate the resources SMBC will need to access to implement the Strategy



Challenges

- To develop a strong corporate focus on climate change, despite the on-going pandemic
- The scale and speed of the emissions reductions required
- To identify the revenue and capital resources needed to deliver the Strategy
- To engage with residents, community groups, businesses, stakeholders and partner organisations to deliver the 2041 target
- To recognise and respond to the behavioural changes needed across the borough
- To make sufficient progress on our own 2030 target so that we can legitimately advocate for others to follow our lead
- To seek and be able to pro-actively respond to offers of funding from central government and ensure that Sandwell does not 'fall behind' further
- To recognise that some areas of our response will need greater level of support than is currently available



Conclusion

There are many strong reasons for why we should address the causes and impacts of climate change:

- Economics – the UK and global economies are decarbonising
- Scientific – finite resources
- Environmentally – our emissions/impacts on people/impacts on biodiversity
- Socially
- Our reputation
- Our responsibility

