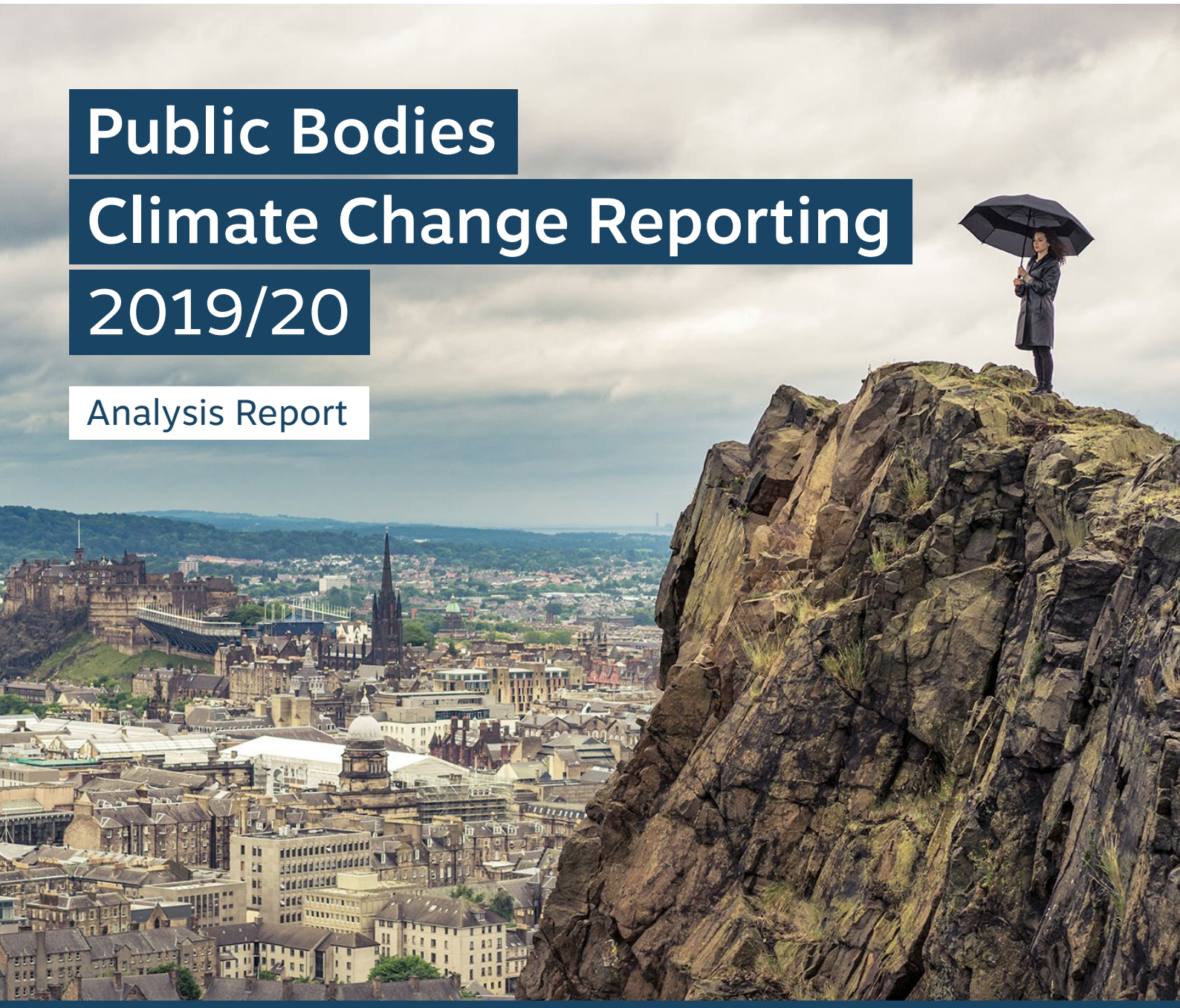
Sustainable Scotland Network

Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting 2019/20

Analysis Report



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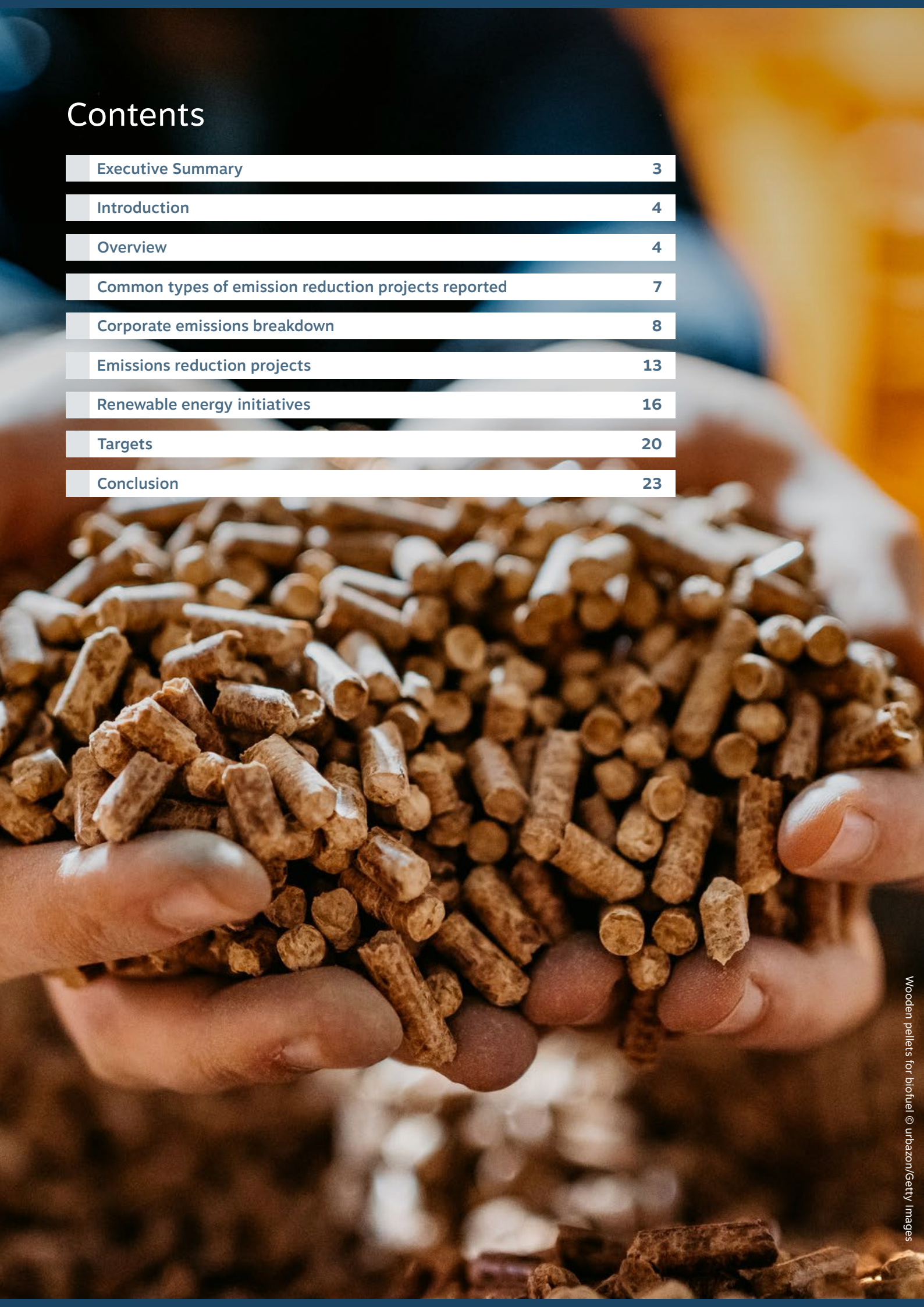


Wooden pellets for biofuel © urbazon/Getty Images

Executive Summary

Scotland's world-leading climate change legislation sets a target date for net zero emissions for all greenhouse gases by 2045. Public sector bodies play a key role in meeting this ambitious target and have a statutory duty to cut greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for the impacts of climate change, act sustainably and report annually on their climate actions.

This is the fifth year of mandatory reporting by public bodies and this report presents a summary of the key findings from the corporate emissions submitted for the 2019/20 reporting period. Despite the disruption and challenges of COVID-19 and changes to the reporting process, a healthy majority of reports (156 out of 180) were received and to an acceptable standard, specifically in terms of data on emissions generation and savings from projects and renewables, which is the subject of this report. The full effects of COVID-19 lockdowns and homeworking on reported emissions are not expected to be fully realised until data becomes available for the 2020/21 reporting period, however, emissions for the education sector do signal some impact, principally on transport and travel, as expected.

Reported emissions from the public sector continue to decrease, with Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions down 28.5% since mandatory reporting began in 2015/16. Emissions arising from energy use in buildings and from transport dropped by 3.5% on the previous period 2018/19, due in large part to further decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid with more renewable generation coming on-line.

Emissions savings as a result of projects, ranging from energy efficiency measures to waste reduction and diversion from landfill, increased by 2% compared to project savings for 2018/19. Waste projects were responsible for nearly half of those savings, exceeding savings from electricity projects for the first time.

Renewable energy generation increased 9% compared to 2018/19 (314 GWh) roughly a third being renewable electricity and the balance as renewable heat, particularly from new biomass plants becoming operational. Over 70,000 tonnes of emissions were displaced representing 31% savings compared with last year.

Some 75% of public bodies have one or more emission targets, ranging from an overall corporate emissions target to a specific activity or emission source. Over 20 bodies have already set a net zero target that aligns with or is more ambitious than the 2045 national target, representing around half of all public bodies emissions reported for the 2019/20 period. This is encouraging, however a lot more effort is needed to support the transformative net zero pathways required to continue delivering vital services and exercising critical functions of the public sector as Scotland emerges from the pandemic and grasps the opportunities and challenges of a green recovery.

1. Introduction

The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 requires the 180 public bodies classified as major players to prepare an annual "Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties" (Schedule 2).

The annual report provides information on what actions the public body is taking, in the exercise of its functions, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate and act sustainably. Reports include information on:

- Profile of the public body
- Governance, management and strategy
- Corporate emissions
- Adaptation
- Procurement
- Validation

It is recommended that public bodies also voluntarily report their 'wider influence' on climate change and other notable activity relating to sustainable development.

This report presents high-level analysis of quantitative data (corporate emissions) provided in annual reports for the reporting period 2019/20.

2. Overview

In 2019/20, 156 public bodies submitted climate change reports by the 30 November deadline. Fifteen Integrated Joint Boards, seven 'Other' bodies[1] and two educational institutions failed to submit a report and are therefore non-compliant. All annual reports submitted since the pilot period 2014/15 are available on the Sustainable Scotland Network website.

The scope of this analysis comprises quantitative data provided under Part 3: Emissions, Targets and Projects in compliance reports received from 141 out of a full complement of 150 bodies[2].

Emissions data is quality assured prior to analysis to:

- Correct mis-allocation of emission scopes.
- Add obvious omissions (for example, emissions reported under electricity generation have corresponding emissions associated with grid transmission and distribution losses).
- Identify obvious errors of scale.

[1] For the purposes of reporting, the term "Other" includes non-departmental public bodies, certain non-ministerial offices, the Scottish Parliament and the police. See Schedule 1 "Listed Bodies".

[2] IJB reports do not inform this analysis. Emissions data relating to integrated health and social care services is captured and reported within the corresponding NHS and one or more local authority reports.

Key facts and figures

Number of reports
156
(87% return rate)

Staff (FTE)
456,377

Total emissions (tCO_2e)[3]

Reduction in reported Scope 1 and Scope 2[4] emissions compared to 2018/19
3.5%

tCO_2e saved due to carbon reduction projects
77,777

Renewable energy generated
314 GWh

Number of reports by sector

Sector	2019/20	
	Number of reports submitted	Number of bodies in sector
Local Authorities	32	32
National Health Service	19	19
Educational Institutions	42	44
Transport Partnerships	7	7
Others*	41	48
Integration Joint Boards	15	30
Total	156	180

* National and regional public bodies

[3] CO_2e, or carbon dioxide equivalent, is a standard unit for measuring carbon footprints and includes the different greenhouse gases in one unit. tCO_2e refers to tonnes CO_2e.

[4] See Chapter 4.

Insights

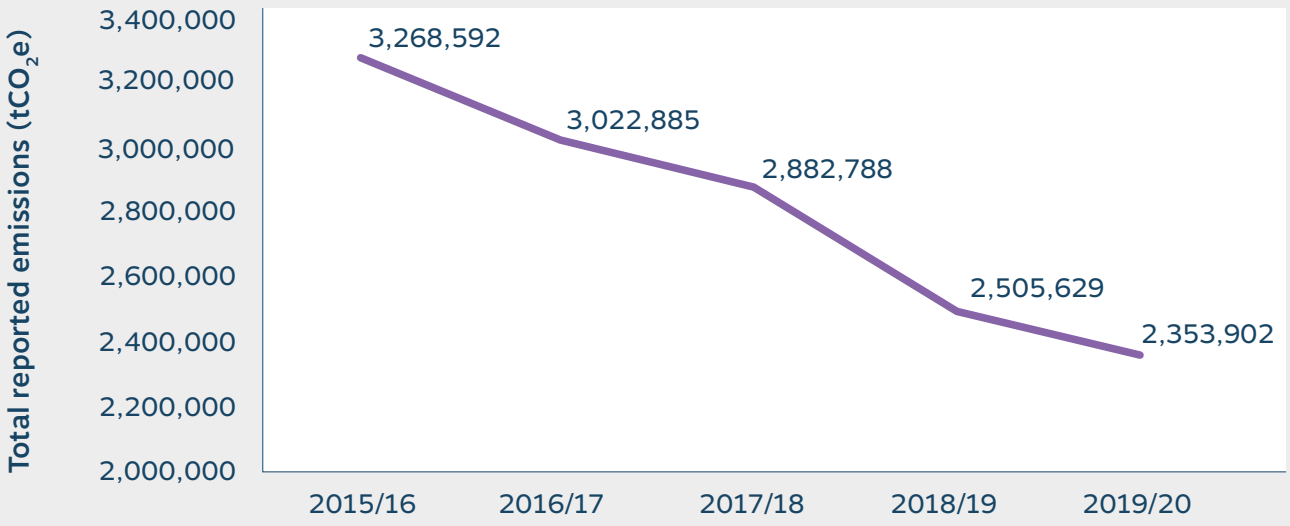
94% of reports were submitted by the deadline for all sectors other than IJBs. Given the constraints and challenges of new working practices under COVID-19 restrictions, this is a remarkable achievement.

Total reported emissions (Scopes 1, 2 and 3) reduced by 6% from 2018/19. Some 1% – 1.5% is due to action by public bodies, including projects to reduce emissions and from changes to public estate and staff numbers. The remaining 4.5%-5% reduction is due to a range of variables including two substantive factors beyond public bodies' control:

- generation of electricity being less carbon intensive[5] (the UK grid is now 'cleaner' due to increased renewable electricity generation);
- impacts of COVID-19 lockdown periods in 2020 have affected emissions, mainly for the Education sector which reports on an academic year i.e. September 2019 to August 2020. Greater emission impacts will be evident for the majority of bodies in reports due November 2021 for the 2020/21 reporting period. However, the extent of the reported impact will depend on agreement as to how bodies should take account of emissions arising from homeworking.

The chart below shows the progress public sector bodies have made in reducing reported emissions since mandatory reporting took full effect. There is a clear year-on-year decreasing trend achieving a reduction of 28% in total emissions since 2015/16 and 6% reduction on 2018/19 total reported emissions.

Total reported emissions across mandatory reporting years



[5] The grid electricity factor is an average 9% lower than it was during the 2018/19 reporting cycle, taking account of the higher education sector reporting on an academic year while the majority of other organisations report on a financial year.

3. Common types of emission reduction projects

The following table details common types of emission reduction projects per emissions source reported in 2019/20.

Emission Source		Examples
	**Electricity**	• Combined heat and power installations • Lighting – internal, external and street lighting • Photovoltaic panels • Behaviour change campaigns and interventions
	**Heating fuels**	• Insulation improvements • Building management system upgrades • Boiler upgrades or replacements (e.g. oil to gas or biomass)
	**Fleet transport**	• Expansion of EV networks • Fleet replacement, including hydrogen and electric vehicles
	**Business travel**	• Sustainable business travel policies • Video conferencing
	**Waste**	• Diversion of waste from landfill, increased recycling and reuse initiatives • Energy from waste plants • Paper reduction • Removal of single use plastic • Installation of food bins/composting • Replacement of personal bins with central bin stations
	**Water and sewerage**	• Water efficiency measures • Water leakage reductions

Solar panels © Roger Utting Photography/Getty Images; Thermal insulation © elgol/Getty Images; Electric car © 3alexd/Getty Images; Video conference © VioletaStoimenova/Getty Images; Food waste © Chris Price/Getty Images; Rainwater recuperator © pixinoo/Getty Images

4. Corporate Emissions Breakdown

All sectors have reported a decrease in emissions compared to 2018/19.

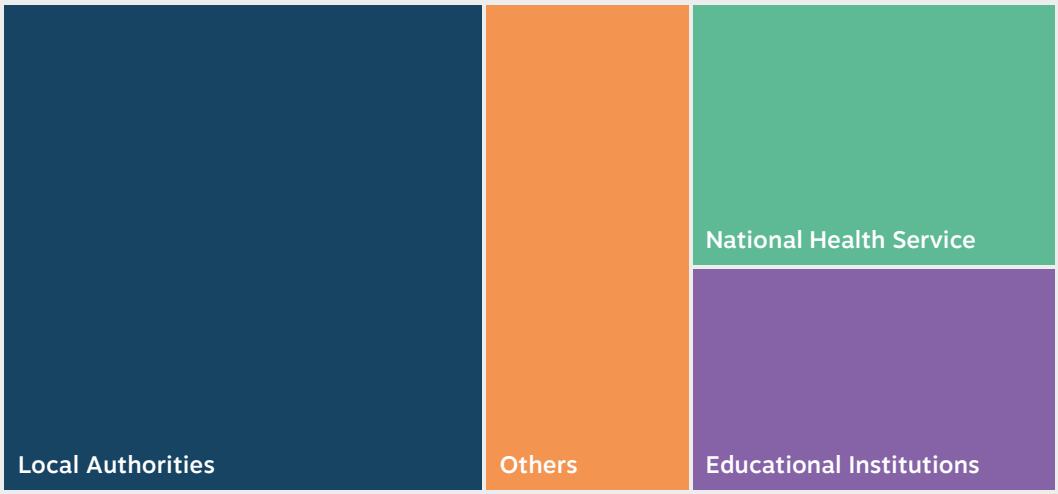
Public bodies report corporate direct and indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions[6] which includes emissions from operation and management of the organisation's estate, owned assets and service delivery.

A public body determines what to include in its reporting boundary. While there is some variability, the majority of bodies include emissions from gas, fuel-use, water and electricity consumption (Scopes 1 & 2). Reporting of emissions from other activities such as waste, non-fleet business travel, and procurement (Scope 3) varies across the sector.

i. Emissions reported by sector

Sector	Emissions (tCO_2e)			% change from 2018/19
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20[7]	
Local Authorities	1,436,627	1,218,438	1,087,513	-10.7%
National Health Service	509,551	444,052	442,735	-0.3%
Educational Institutions	410,138	381,801	375,635	-1.6%
Transport Partnerships	6,571	5,537	5,036	-9.1%
Others	519,902	455,801	442,982	-2.8%
Total	2,882,788	2,505,629	2,353,902	-6.1%

2019/20 emissions share



[6] Reported as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, tCO_2e.

[7] Although seven fewer reports were analysed compared with 2018/19 these are negligible in terms of overall emissions contributions and analysis.

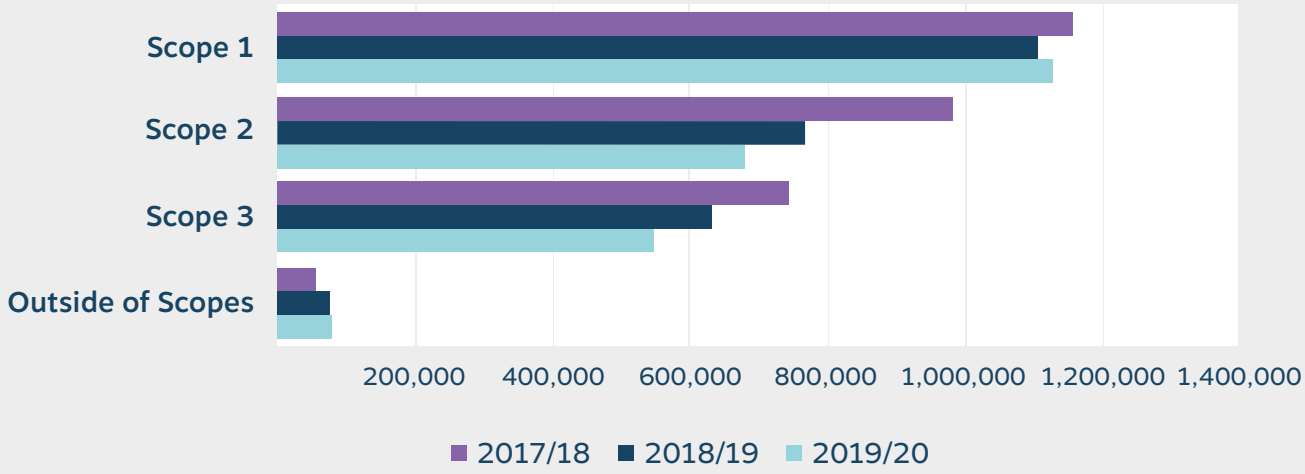
Insights

- Local Authorities represent the largest share of total emissions but this has decreased from 49% to 46% since 2018/19.

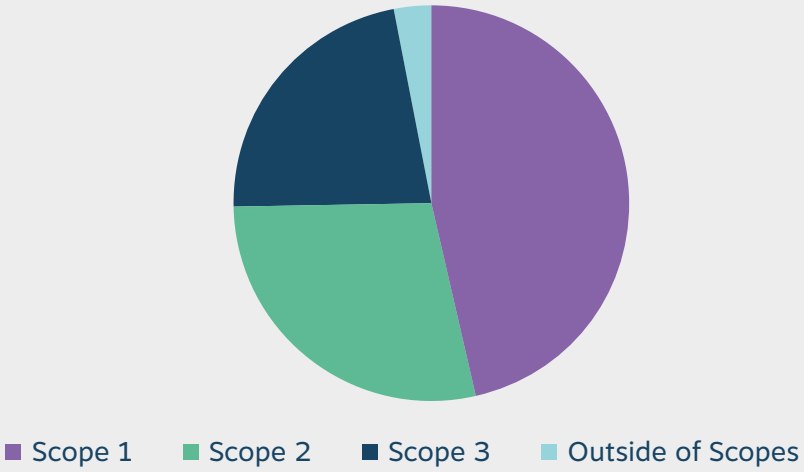
ii. Emissions reported by scope[8]

Sector	Emissions (tCO_2e)			% change from 2018/19
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20[7]	
Scope 1	1,156,837	1,107,785	1,130,112	2.0%
Scope 2	981,931	765,992	678,082	-11.5%
Scope 3	744,020	631,852	545,708	-13.6%
Outside of Scope (OOS)[9]	55,096	75,133	78,393	4.3%
Total (Not including OOS emissions)	**2,882,788**	**2,505,629**	**2,353,902**	**-6.1%**

Total emissions by scope (tCO_2e)



2019/20 emissions reported by scope



[8] For more information on emission scopes, see Chapter 4, GHG Protocol Corporate Standard, Revised Edition, The World Business Council for Sustainable Development and World Resources Institute.

[9] Out of scope emissions are "direct CO_2 emissions from biologically sequestered carbon (e.g. from burning biomass/biofuels), reported separately from the scopes." GHG Protocol Corporate Standard, as above.

Insights

- Scope 1 emissions have increased slightly. Winter 2019/20 was much colder than 2018/19 thereby increasing the demand for gas and heating fuels. Natural gas consumption increased by almost 3%, however, taking account of degree days[10], consumption has remained largely flat for the past four years.
- Scope 2 (purchased electricity) exhibits the biggest change compared to 2018/19. This is largely due to a drop in the national grid factor averaging 9%[11] but there has also been a 2.5% reduction in electricity consumption.
- Scope 3 emissions have decreased by nearly 14%. While a substantive share of this is a result of the lower emission factor associated with power losses across the grid, increased tonnages of waste are being diverted from landfill to produce energy from waste and refuse-derived fuels. In addition, 46 bodies reported an increase in kerbside recycling rates and improved sorting facilities.

SPOTLIGHT Police Scotland

Small Action, Big Impact

A 2018 review of progress on Police Scotland's carbon management plan recognised savings of > 17,000 tCO_2e per annum from the 2014/15 baseline. This prompted development of the "Small Action, Big Impact" behaviour change programme to engage staff in energy and water efficiency actions through a series of approaches including:

- Digital messaging to remind staff of efficient behaviours e.g. switch off protocols for PCs and lighting.
- Posters and pop-up banners positioned in prominent places including building entrances to capture staff and visitors' attention.
- Campaign roadshow which toured main divisional sites running drop-in sessions, quizzes and offering prizes to engage staff on a range of environmental and sustainability issues.
- Tailored events including, e-bike demonstrations, cycle repair sessions and staff visits to partner organisations such as waste processing sites.

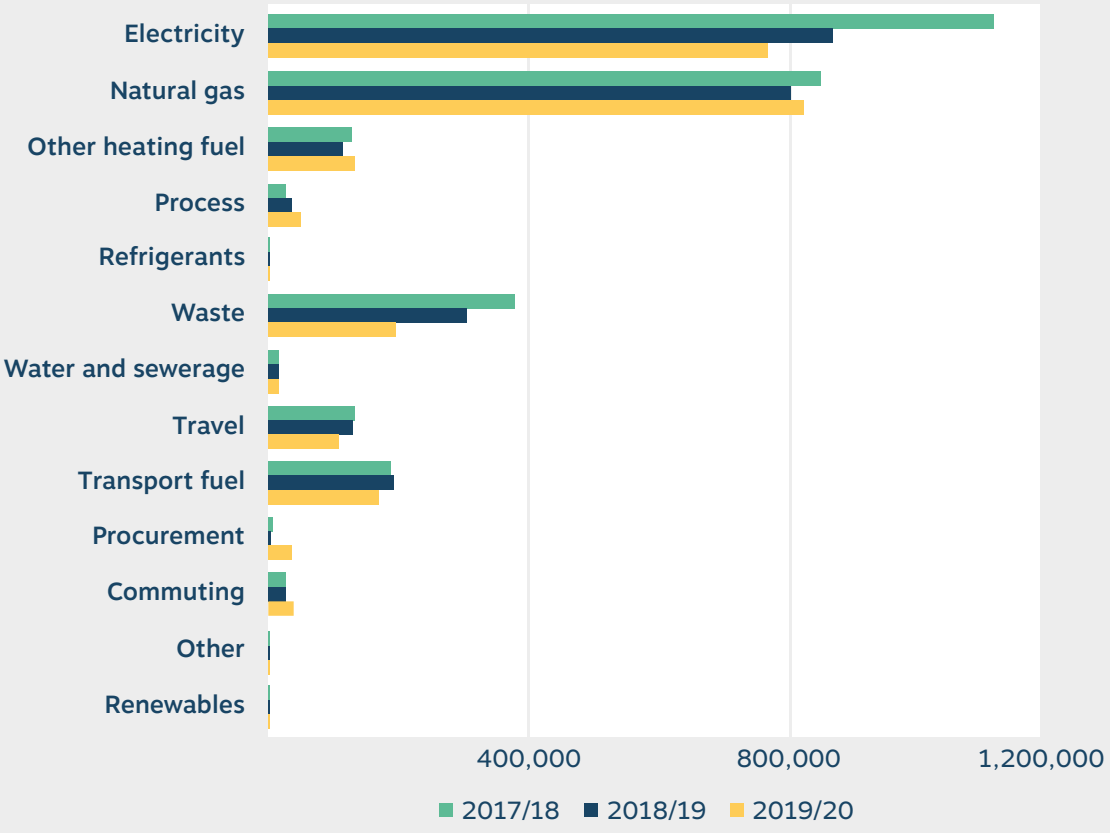
The Deputy Chief Officer launched the campaign via video broadcast seeking cooperation and support from all staff. Noted impacts include continued emissions reductions associated with behavioural change; staff highlighting issues and taking action to reduce consumption, waste generation and increase recycling; promotion and recognition of health and wellbeing benefits of active travel. Staff feedback on the campaign is helping inform a new environmental strategy to be published Spring 2021.

[11] The UK electricity factor fluctuates from year to year as the fuel mix consumed in UK power stations and the proportion of net imported electricity changes. The decrease in the factor is due to a decrease in coal-powered generation and an increase in renewable generation.

iii. Emissions reported by source

Sector	Emissions (tCO_2e)			% share of 2019/20 emissions
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	
Natural gas	851,158	804,041	827,319	35%
Electricity	1,119,642	869,585	769,855	33%
Waste	381,315	306,879	195,301	8%
Transport fuel	190,002	191,250	169,855	7%
Other heating fuel	129,744	116,046	133,744	6%
Travel[12]	132,091	130,801	109,248	5%
Processes[13]	28,025	36,717	49,854	2%
Commuting	27,286	27,785	40,665	2%
Procurement[14]	5,000	-	35,649	1%
Water and sewerage	15,540	17,392	16,565	<1%
Renewables	1,750	3,073	3,632	<1%
Refrigerants	1,056	1,921	1,511	<1%
Other	178	141	705	<1%
Total	2,882,788	2,505,629	2,353,902	

Total emissions by source (tCO_2e)

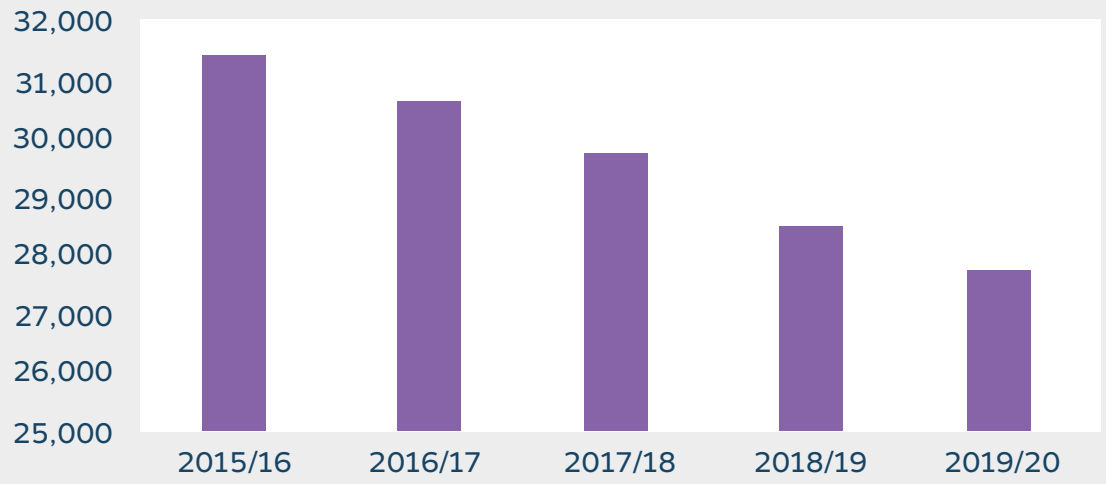


Electricity consumption has decreased by almost 12% since 2015/16 when reporting was formally established.

[12]Travel is business travel in private vehicles; transport fuel is consumption by fleet vehicles.

[13]E.g. from sewage sludge treatment and from the use of medical gases.

[14]No sources were reported in 2018/19.



Insights

- Electricity and gas contribute almost 70% of total reported emissions.
- Reductions in electricity emissions are predominantly due to a cleaner grid and a 2.5% drop in electricity consumption.
- Natural gas emissions correspond to an almost 3% increase in consumption when compared to reports submitted in 2018/19. This may in part relate to 2018/19 being a colder year, taking account of degree-day adjustment. Accounting for degree days this shows that the natural gas consumption versus 2018/19 is essentially flat.
- Waste tonnage sent to landfill decreased by 37% due to the commissioning of more energy from waste facilities and improved sorting and recycling facilities.
- Newly reported procurement emissions are attributable to one body including procurement and construction activity and a handful of bodies reporting emissions associated with accommodation as part of business travel. If all bodies were to follow this lead procurement emissions would be significantly higher therefore the reported emissions are not representative for the sector as a whole.

SPOTLIGHT Scottish Government

Supporting active and sustainable travel

The Scottish Government is committed to promoting sustainable travel to employees by offering access to a Cycle to Work Scheme, public transport season ticket loan schemes and regular engagement events to support a shift toward active travel and public transport as part of a commuting and business travel routine.

Following bike parking surveys in 2019-20, the Scottish Government increased cycle parking spaces at four sites to accommodate a rise in cycling commuters. Over 200 new bike parking spaces were installed at four sites within the estate, including 162 new single and double height parking facilities at Victoria Quay, Leith.

Offering over 850 bike parking spaces throughout the estate helps to encourage more staff to cycle to work and to secure the continued growth of sustainable travel within the organisation by aiming to reduce single occupancy car commuting and enabling staff to enjoy active travel benefits for health and wellbeing.

5. Emission Reduction Projects

Emission reduction projects implemented in 2019/20 reported carbon savings of c.78 $ktCO_2e$. This is an increase of 2% compared to 2018/19 but lower than the 83$ktCO_2e$ savings reported in 2017/18, meaning that project savings have decreased by 6.6% over the last two reporting periods.

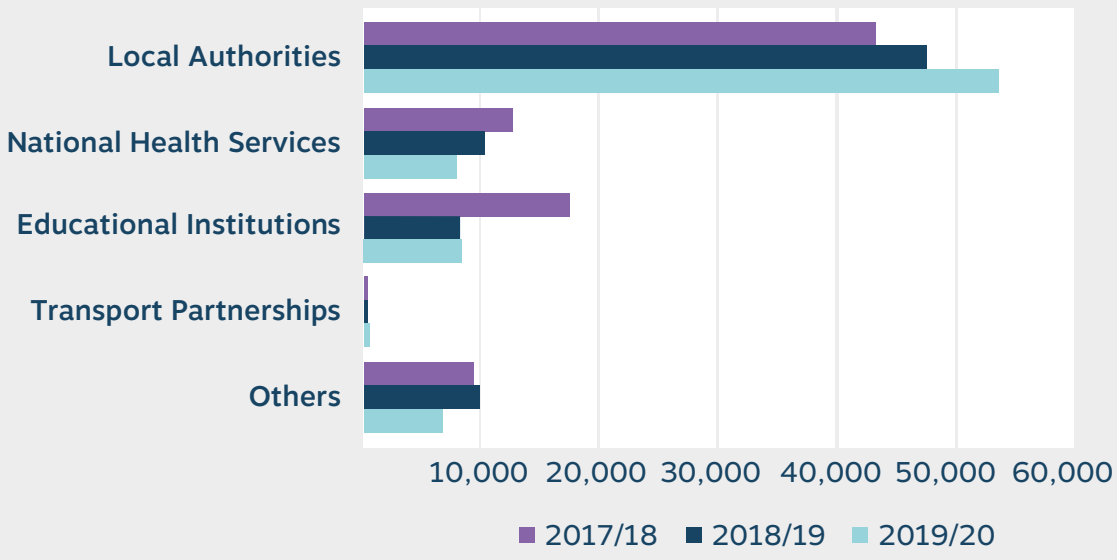
Waste projects have realised more emissions savings than electricity projects for the first time.

Emission reduction projects are planned activities intended to reduce emissions within the annual reporting period. Projects include measures to reduce energy demand (e.g. energy efficiency projects) and to reduce emissions from the supply of energy (e.g. renewable energy projects).

i. Project savings by sector

Sector	2017/18 Emissions saved (tCO_2e)	% of total sector emissions	2018/19 Emissions saved (tCO_2e)	% of total sector emissions	2019/20 Emissions saved (tCO_2e)	% of total sector emissions
Local Authorities	43,714	3.04%	47,885	3.93%	54,083	4.97%
National Health Service	12,667	2.49%	10,317	2.32%	7,986	1.80%
Educational Institutions	17,457	4.26%	8,251	2.16%	8,612	2.29%
Transport Partnerships	158	2.40%	2	0.04%	472	9.36%
Others	9,235	1.78%	9,776	2.14%	6,625	1.49%
Total	**83,230**		**76,231**		**77,777**	

Project savings by sector (tCO_2e)

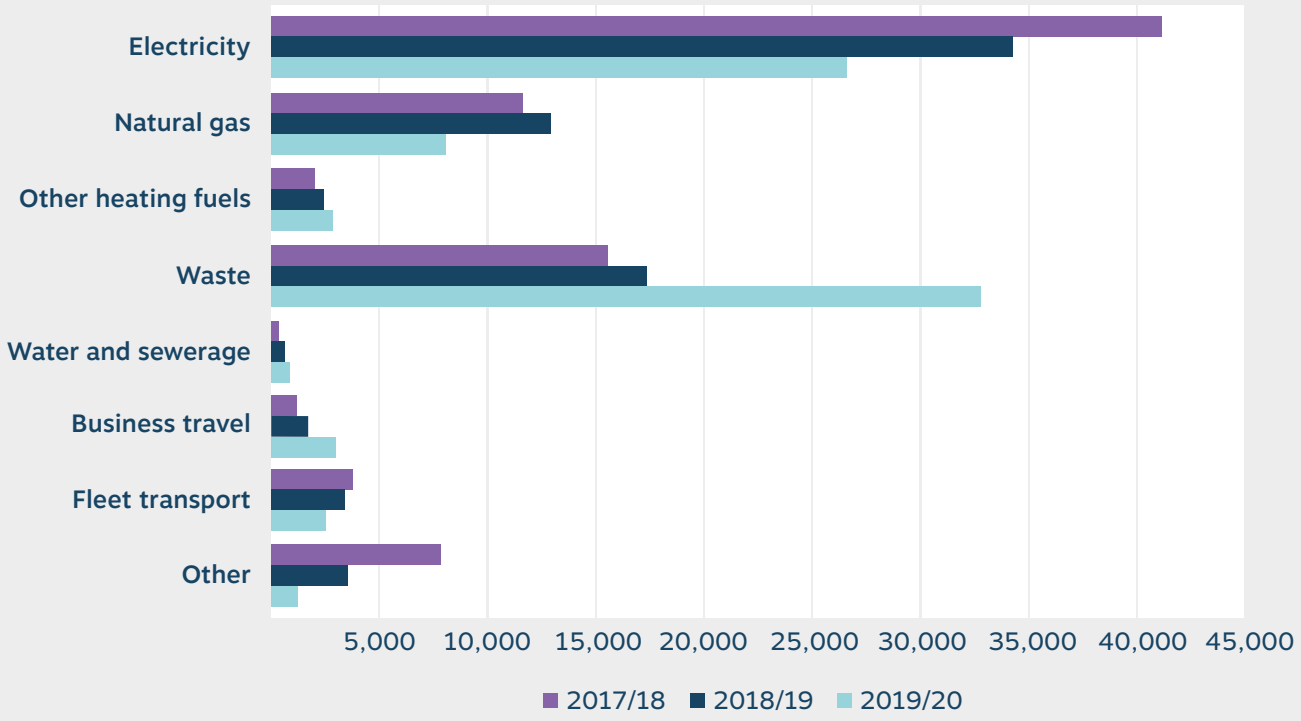


ii. Project savings by source

The reported emission reduction projects had an impact on a range of emission sources.

Emissions Source	Emissions saved (tCO_2e)		
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Electricity	40,970	34,215	26,441
Natural gas	11,532	12,901	8,075
Other heating fuels	2,023	2,412	2,958
Waste	15,533	17,366	32,619
Water and sewerage	423	674	889
Business travel	1,208	1,713	3,018
Fleet transport	3,675	3,394	2,543
Other	7,867	3,554	1,235
Total	83,230	76,231	77,777

Project savings by source (tCO_2e)



SPOTLIGHT Fife Council

Light Fife Green

Light Fife Green was a Council funded initiative to replace low pressure sodium streetlamps with energy efficient lanterns. Commencing in 2013, over 45,000 lanterns have been replaced, saving 14 million kWh of electricity representing over 10 thousand tonnes of CO_2e. The project completed in 2019/20 replacing a final 4500 lanterns. The whole project reduced the street infrastructure contribution to Fife Council's carbon footprint from 10% in 2009 to 4% in 2020.

Insights

- Waste projects achieved a 42% share of total project savings, beating savings from electricity projects for the first time, which had a 34% share of total emissions savings.
- The substantive waste emissions savings arise mainly from energy from waste projects and improvements in waste recycling and sorting.
- Local Authorities reported the largest savings (54,000 tCO_2e) as expected, given their waste service functions and services.
- Emissions saved from gas and electricity projects decreased compared to 2018/19. This is an apparent trend emerging over the last three years and may be due to “early wins” having already been achieved (e.g. upgrades to more efficient LED lighting systems and boilers).
- Project savings related to business travel almost doubled but represent <3% of total business travel emissions.
- Savings from transport projects dropped slightly again in 2019/20 indicating the possible need for transformational progress requiring greater innovation longer-term to achieve the necessary emission reductions.

SPOTLIGHT NHS Orkney

Balfour Hospital

Balfour Hospital is unique, operating as an all-electric acute services healthcare facility. Heating and hot water needs are provided by twin air source heat pumps with a high efficiency oil-fired boiler plant for emergency backup and to ease operational spikes. Other measures include an array of solar photovoltaic cells, low energy LED lighting and high frequency low loss fluorescent sources for clinical areas. Lighting control software manages demand according to occupancy levels. The building fabric and components all contribute to reduced energy demand due to insulation properties, high construction standards and thermal efficiencies.

LED surgical lamps © bojanstory/Getty Images

6. Renewable Energy Initiatives

31%
in one year

Renewable energy generation increased emissions savings by 31% compared to 2018/19.

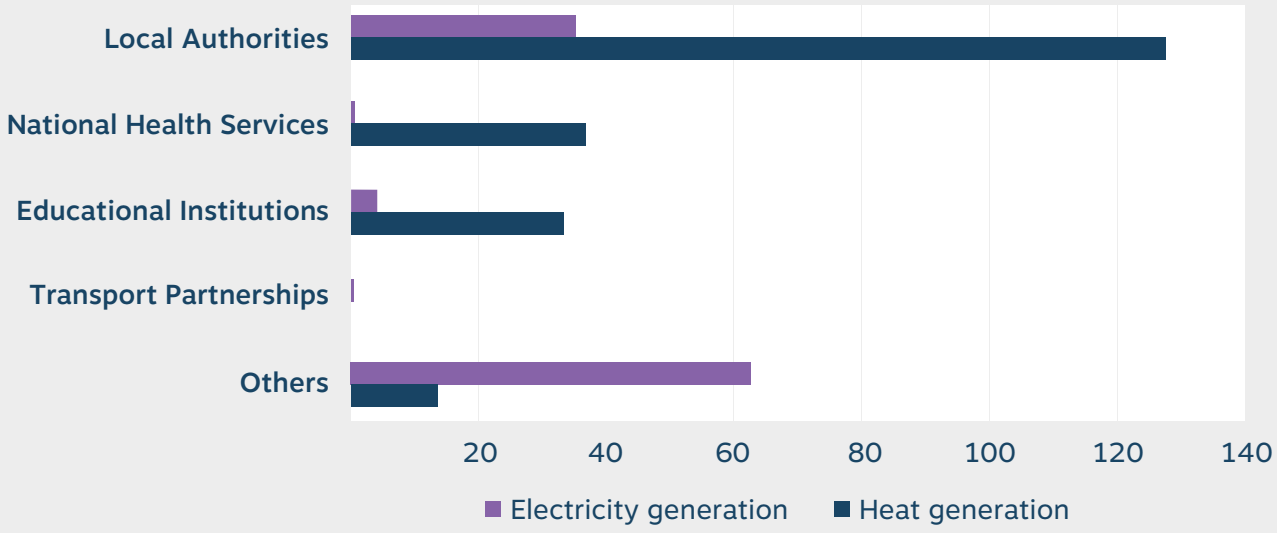
Renewable energy initiatives are an effective means of reducing emissions. Over half of public sector bodies (56%) reported renewables generation (broadly comparable with last year). Nearly all Local Authorities have at least one renewable energy source as do three quarters of educational institutions and almost half of NHS Boards.

Solar panels and biomass boilers are the most widely reported renewable technologies being adopted, in keeping with the past three years. Other common technologies include heat pumps, solar thermal and wind.

i. Renewable energy generation by sector

Sector	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
	Electricity generation (GWh)	Heat generation (GWh)	Electricity generation (GWh)	Heat generation (GWh)	Electricity generation (GWh)	Heat generation (GWh)
Local Authorities	36.77	116.35	22.97	116.50	35.48	127.43
National Health Service	0.66	37.74	0.85	37.60	0.46	36.93
Educational Institutions	0.87	14.37	4.42	25.98	4.26	33.45
Transport Partnerships	0.02	-	0.02	-	0.02	-
Others	66.94	20.25	59.62	19.25	62.79	13.44
Total	105	189	88	199	103	211

2019/20 Renewable energy generation (GWh) by sector



Insights

- Total reported renewable energy generation is 9% more than reported in 2018/19. This is due mainly to increased renewable heat generating capacity, in particular new biomass plants.
- Generation during 2019/20 of 103 GWh of renewable electricity and 211 GWh of renewable heat equates to savings of c.71,000 tCO_2e.
- Local Authorities are responsible for over half (53%) of the reported renewable energy generated in 2019/20 (163 GWh).
- More than 80% of total renewable energy generated by 'Other' bodies was in the form of electricity.
- Conversely, heat is the dominant renewable energy form for other sectors.
- Renewable heat generation has increased marginally since reporting began (2015/16) while electricity generation has remained relatively flat for the same period.

SPOTLIGHT South Lanarkshire Council

Energy from Waste

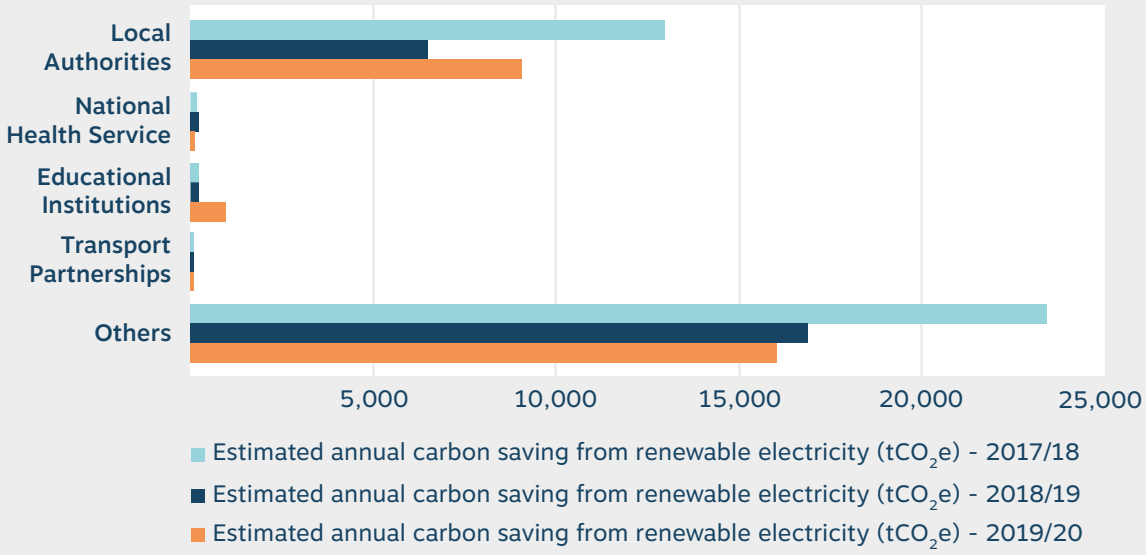
Reductions in emissions from landfill waste have been achieved by segregating South Lanarkshire's waste collections for recycling and composting of food and garden waste accordingly. Residual waste is transferred to an Energy from Waste facility where the waste is incinerated, producing steam to generate electricity. The facility feeds 30 MW of electricity into the national grid which is enough to continually power 39,000 homes representing substantial energy savings from waste matter that would previously have rotted down in landfill sites.

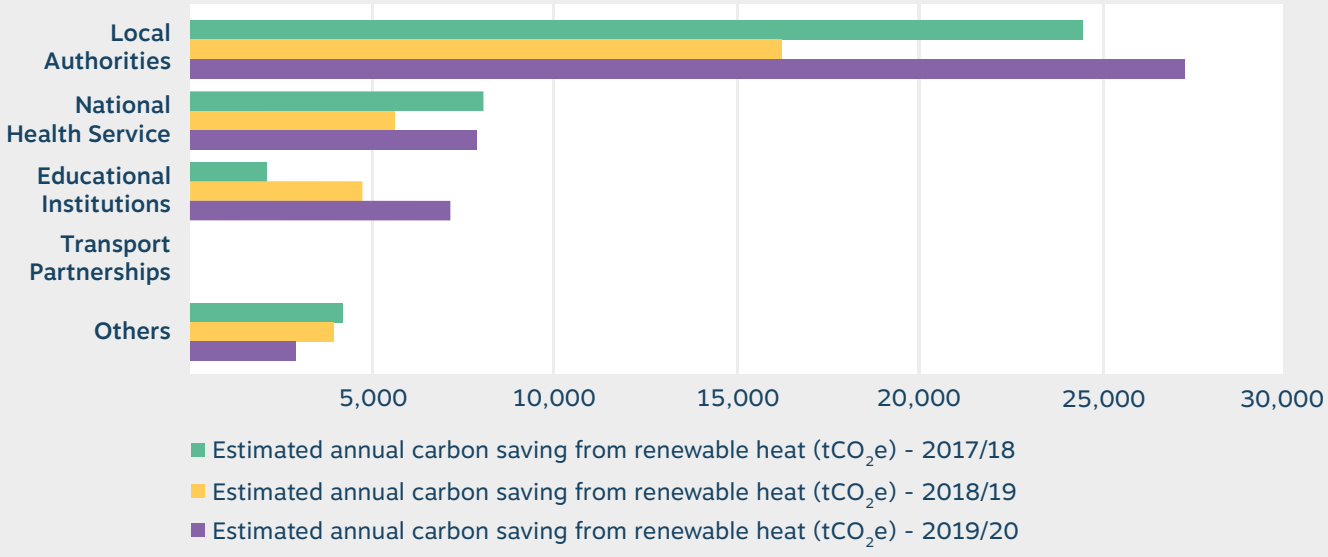
Recycling collection facility © rand22/Getty Images

ii. Emission savings from renewables by sector

Corresponding emissions savings, based on renewable energy generation data, are shown below.

Sector	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
	Electricity (tCO_2e)	Heat (tCO_2e)	Electricity (tCO_2e)	Heat (tCO_2e)	Electricity (tCO_2e)	Heat (tCO_2e)
Local Authorities	12,926	24,208	6,494	16,069	9,068	26,943
National Health Service	222	7,992	240	5,543	117	7,808
Educational Institutions	248	2,095	237	4,658	980	7,072
Transport Partnerships	6	-	5	-	4	-
Others	23,335	4,163	16,876	3,891	16,040	2,841
Total	36,737	38,458	23,853	30,162	26,210	44,664





Insights

- Emissions savings from all reported renewables generation increased by 31% on 2018/19 estimates, driven mainly by heat from biomass plants.

SPOTLIGHT Key large scale renewable projects

Scottish Water is a major renewable energy generator, supplying over 60 GWh in the form of renewable electricity from solar PV, hydro, wind and combined heat and power plants (CHP). CHP plants using gas generated at a number of sewage treatment works also generated over 10 GWh of renewable heat. Highland Council generated the most renewable heat - 35 GWh from biomass boilers and Aberdeenshire Council generated the largest single supply of renewable electricity from solar PV panels at over 1550 MWh.

Norbord Mill, Inverness, Scotland © Placebo365/Getty Images; Father teaches his daughter about green energy © tzahiV/Getty Images

7. Targets

Targets relating to overall emissions and to building energy use are the most commonly applied by public bodies.

Public bodies have a range of targets to help direct climate change action and emissions reduction. These targets can be overall emission reduction targets (percentage or absolute) as well as policy specific targets relating to emission sources or business activities.

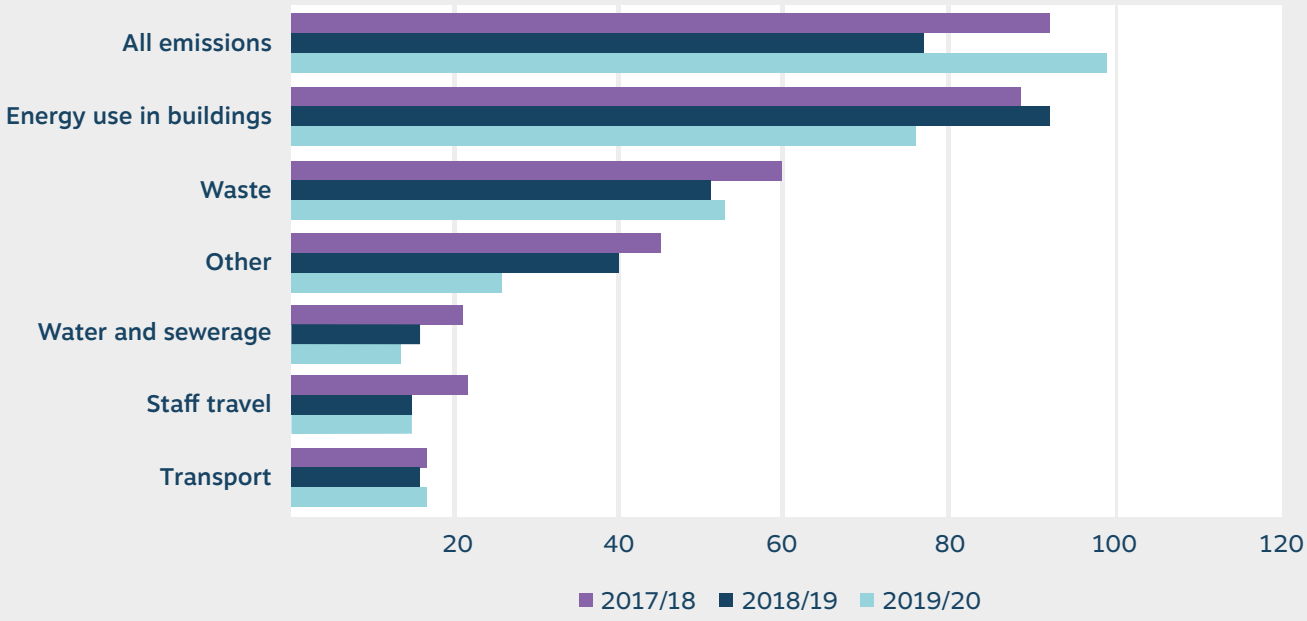
i. Emission targets reported by sector

Sector	Bodies with at least one target	% of organisations	Total targets
Local Authorities	30	94%	77
National Health Service	17	89%	45
Educational Institutions	29	66%	75
Transport Partnerships	3	43%	4
Others	33	69%	99
Total	112	75%	300

Edinburgh's tram system © versevend/Getty Images

ii. Sector targets reported by emission source or activity

Emission	Local Authorities	National Health Service	Educational Institutions	Transport Partnerships	Others	Total
All emissions	36[15]	9	28	1	25	99
Energy use in buildings	17	26	11	-	22	76
Waste	10	5	18	-	20	53
Other[16]	6	3	2	-	15	26
Water	3	1	4	-	6	14
Staff travel	-	-	9	1	5	15
Transport	5	1	3	2	6	17
Total	77	45	75	4	99	300



Insights

- Over 75% of bodies reported at least one target, a slight drop from last year (80%).
- The 22 bodies that have set a net zero emission target represent over 50% of reported emissions.
- Over half of those bodies have set net zero targets that are more ambitious than the national net zero by 2045 target.

[15] Some bodies have a 2045 target and a near-term target also.

[16] Other targets set include emissions per FTE, limits on paper use, and increasing woodland coverage.

Sector	Net zero target reported	Aligned with national target
Local Authorities	11	4
National Health Service	3	3
Educational Institutions	7	1
Other bodies	1	1

SPOTLIGHT Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

Tree Planting Grant Scheme 2019-20

The Tree Planting Grant Scheme encourages small scale tree planting in the National Park. The scheme aims to enhance tree cover to support delivery of National Park Partnership Plan priorities and improve and enhance natural capital for the benefit of people and wildlife. The scheme is open to businesses, organisations, individuals and community or voluntary groups.

In 2019 eight projects received a total of £11,000 which funded tree-planting in grazed fields, on field boundaries, in designed landscapes, along river banks and a school orchard. The projects were undertaken by a wide variety of groups from estate owners, small agricultural holdings, a Rivers Trust and a school group. Funding helped Nether Glenny Farm, near Port of Menteith, plant 100 native trees including alder, birch, oak, and Scots pine in an improved grass field. Each tree is protected from grazing sheep and browsing deer by a net cage. In addition to storing carbon, the trees will provide shelter for livestock, provide habitat for woodland invertebrates and birds, with scope for timber supply longer-term.

Replantation of trees at a felled forestry site. © georgeclerk/Getty Images

8. Conclusion

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, 87% of listed public bodies submitted a climate change report for the 2019/20 reporting period.

- **Reported emissions from the public sector continue to decrease, with Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions down 28.5% since mandatory reporting began in 2015/16. Reductions in the electricity grid factor have played a role in this but step changes in emissions reductions are needed in coming years in order to meet ambitious targets.**
- **Electricity consumption has reduced by 2.5% with a concomitant increase in natural gas consumption compared to 2018/19. The latter is mainly due to 2019/20 being a colder year and, accounting for degree days, natural gas consumption versus 2018/19 is essentially flat, as it was last year.**
- **Waste to landfill is declining steadily. Commissioning of new energy from waste plants diverted 37% of waste tonnage (reported for 2018/19) from landfill.**
- **46 bodies reported increased recycling of glass, metal, commercial and industrial waste this year.**
- **Emission savings from projects have increased by 2% compared to 2018/19. Energy efficiency, waste and other interventions, including behaviour change, are becoming increasingly important as projections for decarbonisation of the grid will be insufficient for bodies to contribute effectively to meeting national targets.**
- **Energy generation from renewable technologies has increased 9% compared to 2018/19, increasing emissions savings by 31%. Increased capacity for renewable heat, especially biomass, is a key factor.**
- **The quality of climate change reports was more variable this year, due to the impact of COVID-19 on public bodies' capacity and competing priorities. Most reports were completed to an acceptable standard in line with GHG protocol good practice standards.**

Further information

This report presents high-level analysis of quantitative data on corporate emissions provided in Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Compliance Reports for the period 2019/20. It does not consider other parts of the climate change reports – wider influence, adaptation, procurement or governance.

All submitted reports are published on the Sustainable Scotland Network website and are available to download:

https://sustainablescotlandnetwork.org/reports

SSN would like to thank everyone involved in completing and submitting 2019/20 reports.

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About the SSN

SSN is Scotland's network for public sector professionals engaged in sustainability and climate action. We showcase action taken to reduce emissions and support deeper commitment and innovation on climate change and sustainability through capacity building, training and events.

Our strategic partners are drawn from the sectors involved in Public Bodies Climate Change Duties – including NHS Scotland, EAUC Scotland, COSLA and other major players.

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