



Pathway to a **Net Zero Council** by 2027

Net Zero Action Plan

Annual Performance Report

Year 6 2024/25



**A fantastic place to
live and work, where
everyone can lead
healthy, safe and
independent lives**



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Executive summary

We know that Bromley is a fantastic place to live and work, where everyone can lead healthy, safe, and independent lives. We also know that the local level is where we must collectively implement the strategies and projects which allow us to meet national policy objectives.

Building on years of good work, this Net Zero Action Plan Performance Report charts the planned activities of the Council in reducing our organisational emissions to achieve our ambitious target of Net Zero by 2027. This is the sixth year of reporting and continues to reflect Bromley's ambition and sincerity in leading by example for others to transition to Net Zero. Our focus is on the Council's own organisational emissions for scope 1 and 2 emissions, which relate to the use of gas and electricity in its buildings and a small number of scope 3 emissions from staff business travel, our own fleet, the waste we generate and the water we consume in our buildings. We report on the 2024/25 progress across the seven priority areas. Since the baseline year of 2018/19 emissions have reduced; although there was a slight increase in emissions last year, due to running two civic centre's side by side whilst transitioning to the new centre. In this sixth year (2024/25) emissions have again reduced with a total of 3,259 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) emitted. This is a reduction of 13.5% from the previous year 2023/24 and a 55% reduction against the baseline year of 2018/19, with emissions measured over a financial (or fiscal) year and not calendar year.

The transition from one civic center to the other took place over two years and some of these emissions are also reflected in this 2024/25-year 6 report. With the new center 'Churchill' becoming fully operational from the end of December 2024. An assessment of energy usage at both sites indicates that emissions from the new Civic Centre site are expected to remain lower.

By focusing on emission reduction, we also continue to achieve co-benefits including:

- Financial savings
- Energy efficiency
- Improvements to our beautiful woodlands, parks and green spaces

Meeting Net Zero is a challenge we must all rise to, to avoid the worst impacts of a changing climate. We also have a responsibility to future generations for leaving the environment in a better way than when we inherited it.

This is more important now than ever. With the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Synthesis Report 2023 ^{[1][2]} stating that:



“Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with more frequent and extreme weather events affecting “every region across the globe”.

Climate change risk is already listed on our corporate risk register. With the past challenges of COVID-19 and the more recent ongoing energy price rises, effective recovery includes embedding energy efficiency, energy security and adaptation across all Council services.

Likewise, the Climate Change Committee’s statutory UK Climate Change Risk Assessment³ shows that the scale of climate impacts facing the UK after mid-century, will depend directly on how quickly emissions are reduced, with delayed action locking in higher long-term costs and disruption to public services, including buildings, infrastructure and energy systems relied on by local authorities.⁴ Reducing carbon in the Council’s own operational estate therefore remains a practical risk-management measure: it limits future exposure to rising energy costs, heat stress and system failures while aligning with national climate risk advice that acting earlier is consistently cheaper than managing worsening impacts later.

We will continue to seize opportunities such as applying for Government grant funding to support energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects and aim to continue our contribution to meeting our emissions reduction target.

Many ambitious projects are already underway and the headline figures which illustrate our progress thus far include:

^[1] CLIMATE CHANGE 2023 Synthesis Report, Summary for Policymakers – IPCC 20 March 2023

^[2] 10 big findings from the 2023 IPCC Report on Climate Change <https://www.wri.org/insights/2023-ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-findings> – World Resource Institute 20 March 2023

^[3] [Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk - Climate Change Committee](#)

^[4] [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022](#)

**55% reduction
in carbon emissions**

An overall 55% reduction in carbon emissions (3,936 tCO₂e) achieved against a 2018/19 baseline.

**63% reduction in LED
streetlighting**

63% reduction in carbon emissions (1,819 tCO₂e) achieved against a 2018/19 baseline, because of LED streetlighting upgrades.

**100% Green Tariff energy
contract**

The decision to aim to procure 100% green electricity with REGO backed certificates for electricity.

Woodlands and Trees

Woodlands and Trees projects to deliver joint carbon reduction and greenspace objectives.

About this plan

Building on years of good work, this Net Zero Action Plan Performance Report charts the planned activities of the Council in reducing our organisational emissions to achieve our ambitious target of Net Zero by 2027.

This plan is split into four distinct chapters:

Chapter 1: Emissions update

The emissions comparison between year 5 (2023 to 2024) and year 6 (2024 to 2025)

Chapter 2: Our approach

The key drivers and principles that guide this Net Zero Action Plan

Chapter 3: Our 7 priority initiatives

The seven priority actions and initiatives to reach net zero, including progress and intentions

Chapter 4: Enabling factors and implementation

The financial mechanisms, governance regimes and partnerships, and the monitoring, verification, and reporting, which will facilitate the delivery of these key actions

Emissions update

This table highlights the change in tonnes of CO₂e emitted by sources under the control of the Council.

The table also illustrates the percentage change in emissions between our year 5 progress report (2023/24) and year 6 report (2024/25).

	Year 5* (tCO ₂ e/yr)	Year 6* (tCO ₂ e/yr)	Percentage change	
Buildings	2,462	2,020	-18%	↓
Street Lighting	1,143	1,069	-6%	↓
Council fleet	5.3	7.4	+41%	↑
Waste	1.9	0.9	-50%	↓
Water	4.1	4.0	-2%	↓
Paper	11.8	9.1	-23%	↓
Business Travel	138	149	+7%	↑
Total	3767	3,259	-13.5%	↓

Year 1

8.5% reduction

In year 1 (2019/20) the net zero profile emissions totalled 6,584 tCO₂e, equivalent to an 8.5% reduction against 2018/19 baseline emissions (7,196 tCO₂e).

Year 2

39.5% reduction

In year 2 (2020/21) the net zero profile emissions totalled 3,985 tCO₂e, equivalent to a 45% reduction against the 2018/19 baseline and a reduction of 39.5% on year 1 (2019/20).

Year 3

9% reduction

In year 3 (2021/22) the net zero profile emissions totalled 3,646 tCO₂e, equivalent to a 49% reduction against the 2018/19 baseline and a reduction of 9% on year 2 (2020/21).

Year 4

14% reduction

In year 4 (2022/23) the net zero profile emissions totalled 3,133 tCO₂e, equivalent to a 56% reduction against the 2018/19 baseline and a reduction of 14% on year 3 (2021/22).

Year 5

20% increase

In year 5 (2023/24) the net zero profile emission totalled 3,767 tCO₂e, equivalent to a 48% reduction against the 2018/29 baseline and an increase of 20% on year 4 (2022/23).

Year 6

13.5% reduction

In year 6 (2024/25) the net zero profile emission totalled 3,259 tCO₂e, equivalent to a 55% reduction against the 2018/29 baseline and a reduction of 13.5% on year 5 (2023/24).

Overall

55% reduction

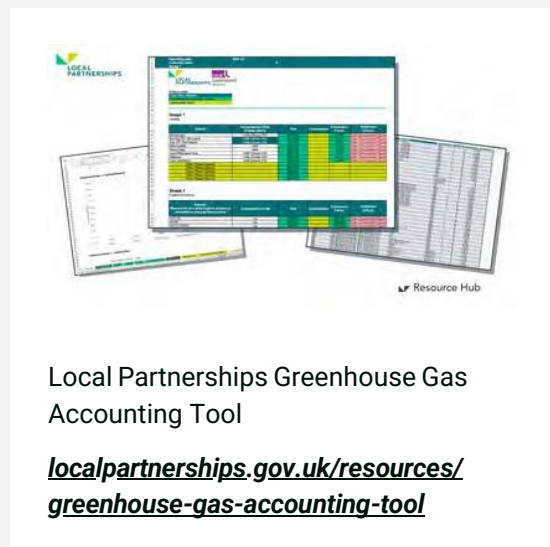
Year-on-year emission reductions continue to be achieved. The large reduction in emissions achieved in year 2 (2020/21) from previous years was predominately because of COVID-19 impacts. A rebound in emissions post-pandemic did not occur, and emissions are lower than the base year.

Greenhouse Gas Assessment

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Accounting Tool developed by Local Partnerships, working with the Local Government Association, is used to calculate the Council's emissions. This tool provides a straightforward and consistent approach to calculating carbon emissions. The tool produces summary tables and charts to enable us to understand our most significant sources of emissions, which can then be used to prioritise actions to reduce carbon emissions.

The same methodology in applying assumptions to year 1 (2020/21) data through to calculating each year's emissions have been used to estimate the reduced water, waste, paper use and business travel.

The tool continues to be updated by 'Local Partnerships' and improved accuracy of reporting will be progressed where possible.



Local Partnerships Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool

localpartnerships.gov.uk/resources/greenhouse-gas-accounting-tool

Working practices

Emissions related to building use (electricity, gas, waste, water, paper etc.) have not increased to pre-COVID times. There has been an annual decrease in overall emissions of 13.5% from the previous year.

Hybrid working arrangements continue, with staff working at home for some of their working week, and spending as a minimum two days in the office.

Overall emissions have reduced by 55% from the baseline year. However, during 2023/24 and for part of 2024/25, until December 2024, the Council was operating two Civic Centres at Stockwell Close and Churchill Court side by side, whilst in transition and moving its operations from one site to the other. Hence emissions for buildings and water usage have been higher as reflected in last year's data, although it will have also impacted on this year's data this would be much smaller and is not discernible from the results of the greenhouse gas assessment.

Most 'streetlight LED' upgrades were completed in 2022/23 and therefore likewise as for the previous year only a small decrease in emissions was shown for 2024/25. Overall, this upgrade programme has been very successful in reducing electricity usage.

In terms of 'gas usage' from heating Council owned buildings, despite two Civic Centre sites in operation for part of the year there was a 15% reduction in emissions.

In terms of 'waste', only waste generated from the Civic Centre site is measured. This has decreased by 50% from the previous years and is a 72% reduction from the baseline year.

Whilst the Council's emissions from its 'own fleet' increased by 41% from the previous year, overall, it still shows an 88% reduction from the baseline year. This in part is due to fuel for certain parties now being recharged to clients and therefore not within Bromley's organisational emissions. Likewise, there has been improved accuracy of reporting, plus the fleet is gradually moving to electrification. The use of the 'winter gritting fleet' has also changed, with newer cleaner vehicles in the fleet. Emission is also dependent on the severity of the winter season.

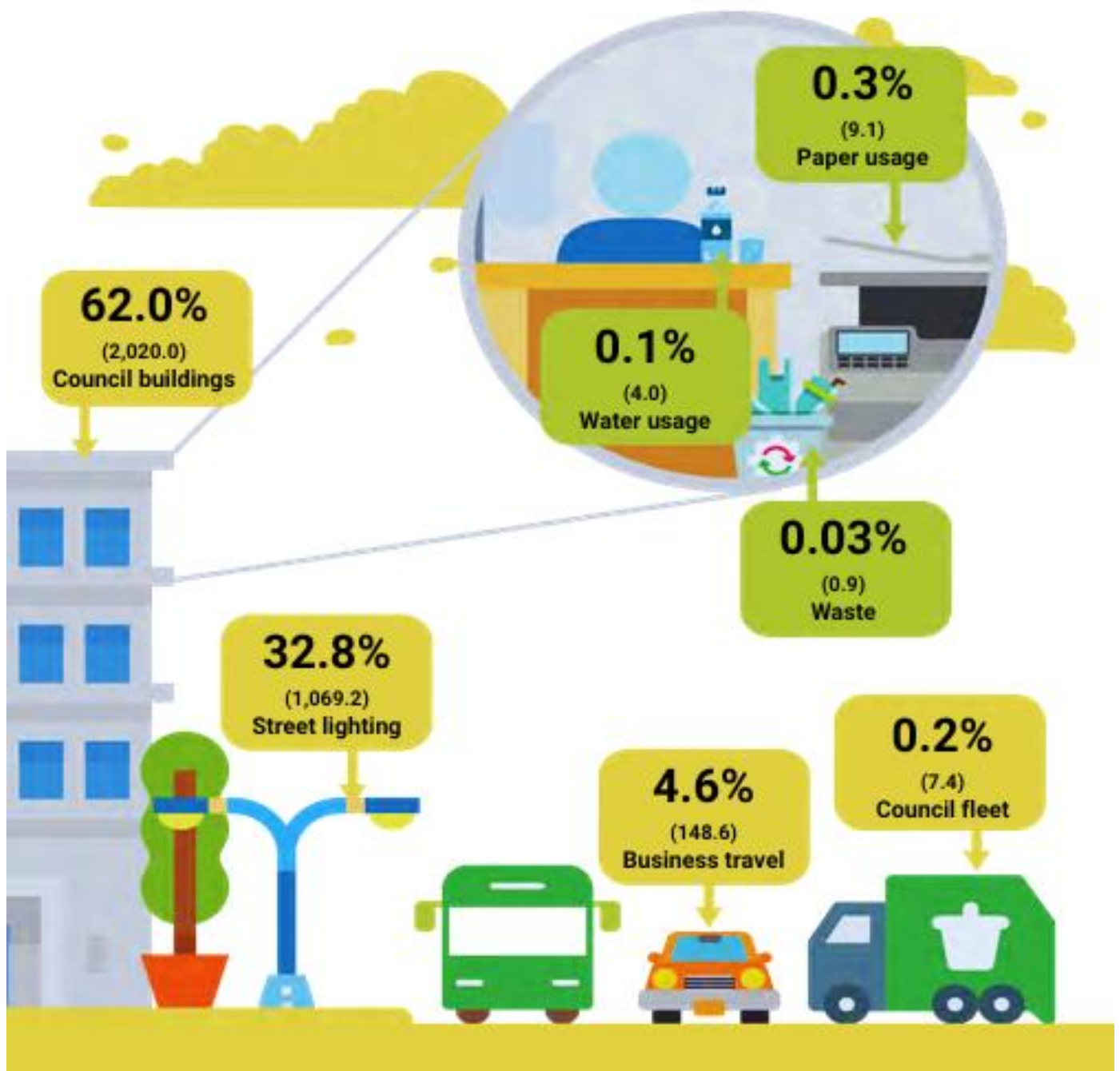
In year 6, (2024/25) 'business travel' emissions have risen for the second year running, rising by 7%. Nevertheless, this is still lower than the baseline year 2018/19 by 22%. The low mileage in 2022/23 was possibly due to the digital reporting platform having changed and older data having been archived which meant not all data could be retrieved accurately. For year 5 and 6 more effective data retrieval was possible.



Where our emissions are coming from

In tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e/yr) for 2024/25

Source	Percentage	Tonnes
Council buildings	62.0%	2,020.0
Street lighting	32.8%	1,069.2
Business travel	4.6%	148.6
Paper usage	0.3%	9.1
Council fleet	0.2%	7.4
Water usage	0.1%	4.0
Waste	0.03%	0.9



Summary

This chapter has provided a progress update on the changes to our emissions profile between year 5 and year 6 of this action plan.

Before reading any further, please refer to the Net Zero Action Plan ^[3] and the years 1 to 6 progress reports as reported in November each year to the Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committee to refresh on the policy context, as well as the scope of our reporting to fully understand what the plan is and is not. The 2026 PDS report can be found [here](#). To reiterate:

- It is an organisational plan covering strategies to reduce emissions created by Bromley Council.
- It is not an action plan to quantify and lay a roadmap for the reduction of emissions across the whole borough.

The next chapter will outline the key principles which guide the delivery of this plan.



^[3] Carbon Management Programme Update, Report ES20201, Executive 6 October 2022

Our approach

Key drivers in Bromley

Our adopted approach to meeting net zero in organisational emissions is guided by three key drivers:

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE)

Global energy use accounts for two thirds of all emissions. That is why REEE is the foundation of our NZAP. It is the gateway to reducing our overall energy demand on the national grid as far as possible, moving away from fossil fuel-based energy, towards a green energy supply.

Leadership by example

Bromley Council aims to set an example, leading the way in reducing the emissions of our organisation, while we continue to guide residents, businesses, and communities to do the same.

Co-benefits

The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines co-benefits as being “the positive effects that a policy or measure aimed at one objective might have on other objectives”. Although the measures detailed in this NZAP are aimed at emissions reductions, where possible the plan seeks to positively influence other objectives across the Council.

For example, the planting of woodlands and street trees may help in a small way to absorb some CO₂ in due course, (ones the trees have established). The main purpose is to provide quality spaces for our communities, support biodiversity, provide cooling/shading and improve air quality. This aligns with the objectives of the Council’s Air Quality Action Plan, the Open Space Strategy, and Bromley’s local planning document.

Likewise improving building energy efficiency through retrofits and installing on-site renewable energy generation on buildings, supports energy and cost savings, provides energy security, leads to green job creation, skills development, and economic growth.

Public health benefits from active travel can also be realised. Active Travel England highlights that low-carbon travel choices deliver strong co-benefits for public health, safer streets and more attractive places, helping people become more active while creating greener, more livable communities.

Priority actions

Various factors have informed the proposed projects which we will implement to achieve net zero by 2027, such as:

- The potential carbon, energy and cost savings of initiatives.
- Available funding.
- The priorities identified in terms of mobilising medium to large scale projects.

In line with best practice, we aim to reduce our emissions as much as possible, then offset any remaining emissions. Seven priority initiatives have been agreed:

Primary initiatives 1 to 4

96% reduction

Aim to reduce emissions to potentially deliver a 96% reduction

Secondary initiatives 5 to 7

4% offset

Aim to offset the remaining 4% of emissions

Our 7 priority initiatives

Reduction against the 2018/19 baseline



Street Lighting LED

Phased upgrade of remaining 10,000 non-light-emitting diodes (LED)

Reduction
24 to 27%



Energy efficiency

Priority site refurbishments and Automated Meter Readers (AMR) installed

Reduction
5 to 10%



Renewable energy

Purchase power from renewable energy generator

Reduction
Up to 96%



Zero Emissions Fleet

100% zero emissions fleet and accompanying infrastructure

Reduction
Under 1%

Offset



Alternative Technologies and Renewables Investment

Establish portfolio of renewable investments

Offset
TBC



Parks and Greenspaces

Natural carbon offsets and co-benefits

Offset
Less than 1%



Certified Carbon Offsets

Purchase UK based carbon credits

Offset
TBC

Street lighting LED upgrades



2026 target

Phased upgrade of remaining
10,000 non-LEDs



Intermediary target

Feasibility assessment for upgrade
of remaining streetlights before the
end of 2022



Cost

£4.5 million



Emissions reductions

6 to 9%

In 2024/25 electricity consumption from Bromley's 28,000 streetlights accounted for 32.8% of the Council's carbon emissions, with a 6% reduction in emissions from the 2023/24 reporting year. Most streetlights were upgraded prior to year 6 reporting, with 422 converted to LED in the finance year 2024/25.



Key actions

- A phased upgrade programme for updating the remaining non-LED lights has been completed. Initial upgrades focused on the old high wattage lanterns used for the 10m and 8m columns. The remaining columns updated were predominantly 6m columns with relatively low wattage lamps.



Progress

In October 2020 a project began to upgrade a further 4,200 traffic route streetlights (10m and 8m columns) to LEDs with dimming capability and photocells, installation of these remaining streetlights was completed in 2024. In 2024/25 a further 422 lanterns were converted to LEDs. Apart from the benefits of improved light quality for both pedestrians and road users, this latest project is set to achieve the following:

- Annual cost saving: £380k
- Annual carbon saving: 600 tCO₂e
- Project payback: 3 years

Buildings (energy efficiency)



2027 target

Priority site refurbishments complete and AMR meters installed



Intermediary target

Feasibility assessments and energy audits undertaken before the end of 2025



Cost

TBC (audit dependent)



Emissions reductions

5 to 10%

In 2024/25 energy consumption from the operation of Council buildings accounted for 62% of total emissions. This compares to 62.5% in year 5, 60.4% in year 4 (2022/23), 54.8% in year 3 (2021/22), 48.7% in year 2 (2020/21) and 58% in year 1 (2019/20). The percentage contribution of emissions from buildings to the overall total emissions has increased. This is due to the percentage contribution from the streetlight and fleet vehicles and business mileage emissions having reduced. To realise future cost/energy/carbon savings it is imperative that the Council continues to improve the energy efficiency of the estate and move towards the use of low carbon energy sources for heating whenever feasible.

As electricity use rises across buildings, rooftop solar offers a straightforward way to cut operating costs and reduce exposure to volatile energy prices. Generating power on-site lowers the amount of electricity purchased from the grid and provides a predictable, long-term energy cost once the system has paid back its initial investment and acts as a hedge against future price spikes.



Key actions

- Undertake a full energy audit of the top 10-15 most energy intensive buildings to identify energy efficiency opportunities.
- Develop an energy efficient upgrade programme for the priority sites.
- Ensure any site refurbishments and new build projects incorporate low carbon design elements and solar photovoltaic (PV) installation wherever viable.
- Continue the rollout of the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) installation programme to achieve more accurate and timely billing and energy monitoring capability.



Progress

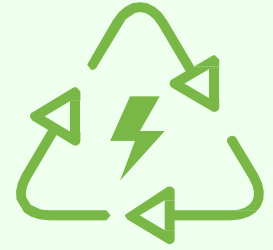
During 2024/25, the Council identified which of its operational buildings consumed the most energy, helping to support more effective asset management and cost control. The operational property repair programme that is underway will incorporate where appropriate energy efficiency improvements alongside planned works, subject to robust financial appraisal and prudent use of resources.

The option for a competitive tender to appoint specialist advisers to undertake detailed technical reviews of the remaining high consumption buildings, with completion in 2026 is being reviewed. The findings from any such assessments will be used to prioritise future energy efficiency and energy investment options, informed by value for money assessments, and the requirement to remain within the approved financial envelope.

The scale and timing of any future upgrade programme will be influenced by the cost and nature of required works, including potential electricity supply and infrastructure constraints. Against a backdrop of ongoing energy price volatility and energy security considerations, targeted improvements that reduce overall energy demand and exposure to market fluctuations can play an important role in managing operating costs over the medium to long term. In this context, reducing unnecessary energy use remains a cost-effective way to protect the Council's revenue position.

Roll out of the Automatic Meter Readings (AMR) installation continues, with 40% of the estate converted. The installation programme will help us to achieve more accurate and timely billing and energy monitoring capability and will enable us to achieve better results when tendering supply contracts.

100% renewable energy



2027 target

Purchase power directly from a renewable energy generator



Intermediary target

Green electricity and gas contract secured by 2021



Cost

TBC



Emissions reductions

Up to 96%

Transitioning to 100% renewable electricity demonstrates the Council's commitment to support renewable electricity generation, but on its own it may not deliver real-world emissions reductions unless it supports additional new renewable generation.

In 2024/25 electricity associated emissions accounted for 66% of the Council's total net zero profile emissions, whilst gas emissions accounted for 29%.

Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin certificates (REGOs)

- The REGO regime, issues a certificate for each megawatt hour (MWh) of renewable electricity produced by a generator (companies that generate the electricity).
- REGO certificates are most often used to help energy suppliers, (companies that purchase the electricity from generators and then sell it to the user, such as the council), demonstrate the proportion of electricity they purchase from generators that is made using renewables.

REGOs can also be traded separately from the renewable electricity in respect of which they were issued. Therefore, using REGOs to reduce scope 2 emissions is a more questionable method, and the REGO scheme does nothing material in and of itself to support new renewable generation being developed.

Buying electricity with the attached REGO certificates from a supplier, i.e. bundled, which means the REGO's are not traded separately and with the REGO's retired in the same year, reflects our purchasing decisions and commitment to supporting renewable energy. However, we recognise that purchasing REGOs from an already established renewable energy supplier, does not enable new renewable supplies to be developed and is not considered as ensuring 'additionality'.

As a local authority we report our greenhouse gas emissions using the Local Partnerships Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool. The standard methodology recommended for UK Local Authorities. The 'Local Partnership GHG accounting tool' uses 'location based' reporting for electricity emissions using the UK government conversion factors and does not incorporate market based zero emission claims. With REGO's being part of 'market based' reporting.

The renewables' share of grid network electricity generation ^[4] was 52.5 per cent in 2025.

Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

An alternative to REGO purchased electricity are direct agreements with renewable energy generators. These types of agreements typically allow for further investment that specifically lead to new renewable generation being developed.

However, PPAs are more complicated to set up and tend to be for longer contractual periods (e.g. 10-15 years). Usually, they also require large energy users and hence for local authorities will in the main only be possible as a consortium with other local authorities.

Green Gas

Likewise, as for electricity, Renewable Gas Guarantees of Origin (RGGOs) can be issued by the Green Gas Support Scheme (GGCS) for gas, which will contain information on the type of green gas produced, the feedstocks used, and sustainability criteria that have been met. Any 'green' gas produced is injected into the gas grid where it mixes with fossil fuel. Green gas is biomethane and accounts for a very small proportion of the gas in our grid. The rest is natural gas. Green gas is more expensive than renewable electricity and there is less of it around. Green gas can in part come from a renewable source and the rest of the green gas claim would be from carbon offsetting. Green gas certificates cannot be used to reduce emissions from gas purchased from the network.

^[4] UK, Energy trends October to December 2025 and 2025 – Department for Energy Security and Net Zero



Key actions

- Review green energy options for both gas and electricity when the existing energy contract nears expiry, including PPA options to purchase directly from a renewable energy generator.



Progress

In October 2020 the Leader of the Council made an executive decision that the Council proceeds with the procurement of green energy. In October 2020 the Council switched to purchasing REGO-backed renewable energy from Haven Power, and green gas from Total Gas & Power. Unlike many energy suppliers who supply a mix of both green and brown energy, Haven Power only supplied 100% renewable energy. In 2022 a standard flex supply gas contract was procured with SEFE that terminated on 30 September 2025. For electricity, a contract was procured with EDF in May 2024 and finished at the same time as the gas contract. EDF electricity stated to be 100% from a nuclear source.

New energy contracts commenced on 1st October 2025 with EDF with electricity for two years on a fixed rate and gas for three years on a fixed rate. The new contract and timing to commence in October 2025 meant that a 22% cost saving was achieved.

EDF state that the electricity supply contract is 100% renewable. The REGO certifications are produced following a completed tax year, and therefore the first official REGO certifications will be produced in 2026 following the consumption period of October 2025 – March 2026. Procurement of energy is kept under review and further reporting in 2026.



Zero Emissions Fleet



2027 target

100% Zero emissions fleet and accompanying infrastructure



Intermediary target

Install minimum of five electric 'chargepoints' at main depot by 2023 and the rest by 2026



Cost

TBC



Emissions reductions

Under 1%

Council fleet refers to vehicles directly managed by the Council but not vehicles used by the Council's contractors (e.g. Veolia for Waste Services). The Council's owned fleet across the whole organisation consists of a total of 34 vehicles, including five electric vehicles, which account for just under 15% of the fleet. A further 10 vehicles are hybrids, meaning that just over 40% of the total fleet is either electric or hybrid.

We also operate two plug-in hybrid Mayoral cars based at the Civic Centre, along with a small number of other hybrid pool vehicles, as a 'stepping stone' away from a diesel and petrol-powered fleet.

Our gritters are owned by the Council but are operated by our contractor as part of the Highways contract.

Although the Council's fleet only accounts for less than 1% of the Council's emissions, this is deemed an important initiative for helping to advance the use of zero emissions vehicles in the broader context. Also, the benefits of zero emissions vehicles extend to improving air quality, which feeds into Bromley's Air Quality Action Plan objectives.



Key actions

- Install electric charge points at the main depot to enable electrification of the Council's own fleet and the next fleet of refuse collection vehicles, if electric becomes the industry standard for HGVs over hydrogen.
- Switch to a 100% Zero emissions fleet



Progress

Members have approved the appointment of Connected Kerb as a supplier for the on street electric vehicle charge points to be installed in the locations defined in the EV Residential Charging Strategy following approval by Members at the Environment and Community Services PDS Committee on 23 January 2025. There are currently 33 on street charge points in the Borough and 30 in car parks (including 12 ultra rapid points).

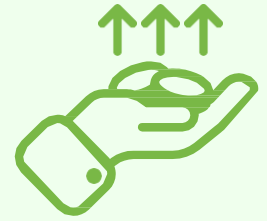
The [Gul-E scheme](#) is being progressed, with 19 Gul-E units installed across the borough in 2024/25, which provides a secure and convenient home charging option for those who don't have access to a driveway. This is achieved by the placing of a specially built gully under or beside residents' garden paths, leading out to the roadside where their cars are parked. This can only be accessed by the resident, ensuring reliable car charging access from their home without causing a trip hazard to the public or adding to street clutter.

The Council's waste contractor Veolia has also installed 6 fast chargers at the main depot, Waldo Road Waste Transfer Station, to enable their electric vans to be charged. In addition a 'rapid' charger was also installed to support the electric Refuse Collection Vehicle, (eRCV). This vehicle came into use in November 2025 and will enable us to establish how to effectively incorporate eRCV's into the fleet ensuring optimal operational performance. At the same time eRCV's support improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions.

These borough projects are being kept under review, to assess the range of different and emerging electric vehicle charging solutions and their performance.



Alternative Technologies and Renewables Investment



2027 target

Establish a portfolio of renewable Council owned, or joint owned, investments



Intermediary target

Annually horizon scan for UK-wide investment and partnership opportunities



Cost

TBC



Emissions reductions

TBC

Following the Government's recent announcement for the UK to become a world leader in clean wind energy, and all homes to be powered by renewable energy by 2030, it is envisaged that renewable investment opportunities will increase during the course of this plan, allowing organisations to either use the generated electricity themselves, offset their emissions, or create a revenue stream.



Key actions

- Explore commercial renewable investment opportunities as and when they materialise.
- Explore joint partnership opportunities with other councils.



Progress

Bromley may be able to accommodate some ambitious renewable projects. The aim is to carry out early-stage feasibility assessments to determine the suitability for renewable opportunities in the borough, with the Council also monitoring the market for opportunities elsewhere.

Woodlands, parks and greenspaces



2027 target

Establishment and/or enhancement of Council green spaces for natural carbon offsets and co-benefits



Intermediary target

Feasibility assessment to begin in 2021



Cost

TBC



Emissions reductions

<1% by 2027

Tree planting is a medium to long-term solution for carbon sequestration because young trees absorb small amounts of carbon during their early years. In the context of the Council's net zero target, a significant number of trees/saplings would have to be planted across vast acres of land to make an impact. Tree establishment also comes with its challenges – a robust maintenance programme to stimulate healthy growth, and tree/site protection is vital for its success.

However, the Council recognises the value and many benefits that green spaces, parks and woodlands provide to residents and natural ecosystems, and the need to protect and enhance them for future generations. As more and more carbon is sequestered over time, this initiative will help the Council maintain its net zero target post 2027 and reduce borough wide emissions.



Key actions

- Produce a new Tree Management Strategy.
- Consider offsetting opportunities associated with registering new tree planting under the government approved Woodland Carbon Code.
- Quantify/compare carbon sequestration levels for native trees, grasslands, wild meadows, hedgerows and verges.
- Conduct feasibility assessments for shortlisted Council-owned sites deemed suitable.
- Deliver suitable projects in a cost-efficient manner, maximising grant funding opportunities where possible.



Progress

The Council's Arboriculture Team produced the Tree Management Strategy 2023 to 2027.

The five-year 'Treemendous' tree planting programme commenced in 2021/22 with 5,000 additional street trees planted and 1585 trees planted during the 2024/25 planting season.

The trees planted have been carefully selected for the locations to complement the existing trees already on site or to improve and diversify the species of trees in that area. Species suitability and the "right tree, right location" approach has been adopted.

Every newly planted tree benefit from an aftercare programme. With all new trees, regular watering is needed to help them successfully establish, especially during warmer weather in the summer months. Watering is undertaken by our contractors, but importantly our amazing Tree Friends (www.bromley.gov.uk/TreeFriends), who are volunteers, help the Council's tree team maintain a healthy tree stock across the borough.

Bromley's Green Space Team will continue to review funding opportunities and apply for appropriate grant funding as the opportunities arise.

The Woodlands Establishment Board continues to assess three identified sites within the borough, which include Edgebury, Kemnal and World's End Lane, that are underused and suitable for woodland creation. With a small amount of funding from the Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Planning Grant, concept plans were designed and a public consultation undertaken. To move towards any woodland established the Council will look to apply for sufficient funding for the planting and ongoing maintenance of these new woodlands. Being able to access sufficient grant funding is essential to enable future delivery of new woodlands and restored habitats.

With funding from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF), the Council has planted five micro forests, each approximately 200 m² in size and containing around 600 trees. The sites are Norman Park, Tillingbourne Green, Churchfield Rec, Whitehall Rec, and Kings Meadow.

Certified Carbon Offsets



2027 target

Purchase UN certified and/or verified voluntary carbon credits, based in the UK



Intermediary target

Annually horizon scan for UK-wide carbon offset opportunities from 2024



Cost

TBC



Emissions reductions

TBC

Purchasing certified carbon offset credits remains a last resort option for offsetting any residual carbon emissions that cannot viably be offset through initiatives 5 and 6. If the Council does exercise this option the preference will be for a UK-based project, typically involving tree planting, new woodland creation or peatland bog restoration, with the added benefit of protecting an areas biodiversity.



Key actions

- Research suitable UK-based carbon offset projects.
- Purchase offset credits in an honest and transparent way.



Progress

The Carbon Management Team will look to identify the most appropriate and cost-effective carbon offsetting credits further into this plan, once all of the above initiatives have been fully appraised.

Summary



This chapter laid out the initiatives which will be used to deliver our NZAP. Projects to reduce emissions are ongoing, whilst offset projects are currently being researched. New projects and policy will require feasibility assessment, identify suitable financing and demonstrate fiscal responsibility and member approval. As we move forward, we will have a clearer idea of the remaining emissions that we need to offset.



Enabling factors and implementation

Enabling factors

Delivering the projects and proposed actions set out in the Net Zero Action Plan requires funding to be secured, formal decisions to be made through appropriate governance arrangements, and strong partnerships both internally and with external stakeholders. Some of the available financial mechanisms are explored in the following chapter.

Financial factors

Currently, it is difficult to know the amount of funding required for the Council to reach its net zero target by 2027. Some initiatives, such as the LED streetlight upgrades, have been completed, with only a few residual upgrades required. Funding for these projects, which included the Salix Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme and Recycling Fund have also closed.

Feasibility assessments will need to be undertaken to identify and help inform the most viable and cost-effective projects/initiatives to take forward in terms of building energy efficiency and renewable measures. Likewise, energy costs and procurement of green energy with 'additionality' is kept under review.

In the context of sustained increases in energy prices and ongoing pressure on council budgets, it is increasingly important to consider measures that reduce overall energy use and limit future cost exposure. Improving energy efficiency across the estate can help manage demand and reduce reliance on increasingly volatile energy markets, supporting greater financial stability over the medium to long term.

A number of these measures can also be delivered on an invest-to-save basis, where upfront costs are offset over time through reduced energy bills. This approach helps ensure that limited resources are targeted at actions that make financial sense and protect budgets. As such, the financial options available to the Council to support delivery of these actions continue to be kept under review to ensure affordability and value for money.

The key funding streams are outlined over the next two pages:

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

First announced in September 2020, the UK Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme provided grants for public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures in non-domestic buildings. The scheme was managed by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and delivered by Salix Finance. However, the Scheme closed in mid-2025 and no further funding will be made available.

Mayor of London – London Climate Finance Facility

To achieve London's net zero target will require a mix of public and private finance, investment and grant funding. Therefore, in 2023 the Mayor of London extended his programme and launched a new London Climate Finance Facility³. The Carbon Management Team will continue to review options and opportunities to bid for funding.

Carbon Offsetting Funds (s106 contributions)

The Carbon Offsetting Funds (COF) is related to major developments required to reach a certain level of onsite carbon reduction. If the development falls short of achieving net zero-carbon, the developer is expected to make a cash-in-lieu contribution to the relevant Local Planning Authorities' carbon offsetting fund. This fund is ring fenced for the sole purpose of delivering carbon reduction projects across the borough. Projects paid for out of this fund must deliver tangible carbon savings. For example, the fund has supported the 'Domestic Energy Efficiency Advice and Referral Service', which commenced in 2021/22. Likewise, funding is contributing to the refurbishment of both the West Wickham and Walnuts leisure centres by contributing towards the installation of more energy efficient air handling units (AHU) and the building energy management system (BEMS).

The GLA's "Zero Carbon Accelerator" frameworks

This scheme was developed by the Mayor of London to help make London's non-domestic public buildings and assets more energy efficient and lower emissions and save public money. The aim is to finance projects in their development stage, such as the commissioning of feasibility studies and consultation services. This enabling financial mechanism, signposts to loan funding and is designed to deliver projects at pace by streamlining the process to achieve financial and carbon savings earlier.

Carbon Neutral Fund

In recognition of new investment being required to achieve our net zero target, as part of approving the 2020/21 revenue budget the Council agreed to establish a Carbon Neutral Fund. This will provide pump-priming funding of £0.875m for new initiatives to reduce the Council's carbon footprint whilst reducing its long-term energy costs. Any carbon reduction project taken forward must demonstrate robust financial management, deliver measurable energy savings,

³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/climate-change/zero-carbon-london/london-climate-finance-facility>

and provide clear value for money. Projects will also need to be delivered within the existing budgetary envelope and be approved by the Executive.

The Council's Capital Programme Funding

For future energy efficiency initiatives as part of the Environment Work Programme, such as building refurbishment, further street lighting upgrades, and renewable energy projects.

Each initiative to achieve the Council's net zero target will need to be assessed through a detailed business case process, considering available funding, revenue budget savings and other investment priorities. Savings generated from these projects will need to be factored into consideration of the Council's future budget strategy.

Local Power Plan

In February 2026, the Government announced the [Local Power Plan](#), which set out the UK Government's agenda for supporting community energy through £1 billion of investment across a range of schemes, including grants, loans, and advisory support. This funding is specifically intended for Community Energy Groups and will not be available until Year 8 of the 2026/27 reporting period. As a result, this funding is not reflected in this report but will be kept under review.

Governance and partnerships

Achieving net zero emissions will be ongoing, remain ambitious and subject to change as technology evolves, the regulatory environment changes, and the funding landscape changes.

Hence, continual review will be required to ensure the action plan is on track. While the key driver behind our 2027 net zero target relates to the regulatory changes of June 2019, it is important to recognise the influence of the wider landscape on our organisational NZAP.

Bromley's Greener Future Working Group

The impact of coronavirus on Council services, residents, businesses and the delivery of future Council projects cannot be understated. This is why the Council established an officer group, the Green Recovery Working Group, in December 2020 to align the Council with national aspirations to place climate and ecological policy at the heart of an economic and socially resilient recovery from COVID-19. The name of the group has since changed to Greener Future.

This 'Greener Future' officer group supports the delivery of the NZAP and aligns with existing corporate functions to promote a more environmentally and socially sustainable borough, whilst strengthening the Council's financial resilience.

Some of the areas of focus of the group include retrofit programmes, green growth and skills

development, emission reduction and energy efficiency and associated cost savings, renewable energy, green infrastructure, transport and being resilient to a changing climate.

According to the DESNZ⁴ 'Public Attitudes Tracker' carried out in Winter 2025, 77% said they were concerned overall about climate change and 68% of people said that they supported government action to reduce climate change in the UK.

However, councils receive no core funding for climate action and compete for short-term pots of funding that come and go over time which creates uncertainty and can limit progress. Hence, elevated lobbying power will be required to demand greater financial support to councils, enabling us to reduce our organisational emissions and those of the borough.

TEC-LEDNet Priority Areas

The London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) and the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet), comprise London's local government environment leaders. In November 2019 they committed to pooling their experience, expertise, resources and working together, to pursue seven priority areas, necessary for delivering on London's climate ambitions, through the publication of a TEC-LEDNet Joint Statement: Climate Change.

These seven climate themes include:

- Retrofitting our buildings to make them cheaper to heat and reduce their impact on the environment.
- Increasing the number of Londoners employed in the green economy.
- Ramping up local renewable power.
- Ensuring that all new developments have a minimal carbon footprint.
- Advancing low carbon transport.
- Working with residents and businesses to reduce their consumption-based emissions.
- Developing the resilience London needs to cope with the extreme weather events that come more frequently and severely with climate change.

The council continues to engage with London Boroughs to working collaboratively. By networking with our London borough partners, we can deliver value for money by learning from each other, ensuring a consistent approach, and realising savings through economies of scale.

⁴ [DESNZ Public Attitudes Tracker: Net Zero and climate change, Winter 2025, UK - GOV.UK](#)

Monitoring, verification and reporting

Performance against the Council's 2027 Net Zero Carbon target will be closely monitored, measured and reported by the Carbon Management Team.

Each new initiative will be quantified in terms of carbon, energy and financial savings, and show before and after statistics to help assess project performance.

Carbon Management Performance (CMP) reports are provided to the Director of Environment and Public Protection at the Departmental Management Team (DMT) meetings. This report will include information pertaining to the progress of projects and other relevant carbon reduction work.

The Carbon Management Team will report biannually to the Environment Portfolio Holder (the Council Member responsible for Environment) on the progress made towards the Council's net zero target. The Council's own Net Zero Action Plan is reported on annually, in November, to the Environment and Community Services PDS Committee. The report quantifies the Council's performance in reducing our own 'direct' organisational emissions known as scope 1 and 2 emissions and provide yearly progress statistics against the net zero target.

It does not report on borough wide emissions, which summaries data published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), and the London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI). The borough-wide CO₂ emissions report is uploaded directly to the Council's website.



Summary and further information

This chapter detailed the mechanisms which will enable the delivery of initiatives in our NZAP, as well as those which will allow us to measure their success and progress towards net zero by 2027.

For more information on Council activity regarding emissions reduction projects, please email: carbon.management@bromley.gov.uk



Glossary

Automated Meter Reader

Automatic Meter Readers (AMRs or SMART Meters as they are sometimes known) provide suppliers with a cost-effective solution to obtaining meter readings that would otherwise need to be physically read. They are also capable of providing end users with information to help monitor and control energy consumption.

Carbon emissions

The shorthand for carbon dioxide emissions, or CO₂ usually produced by the burning of fossil fuels. Within this report Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) are also reported in units of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). This allows the impact of each of the seven main greenhouse gasses to be expressed in terms of the amount of CO₂ that would create the same amount of warming, allowing easy comparison of the impact of different emission types.

Throughout this report, all greenhouse gas emissions are given in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Carbon management programme

Bromley Council's dedicated programme of work to reduce carbon emissions.

Carbon neutral

Means that any CO₂ released into the atmosphere from a company's activities is balanced by an equivalent amount being removed. In theory a company could choose to offset all its emissions and not take action to reduce the emissions.

Carbon offsetting

Reducing emissions or capturing carbon in one sector, to compensate for an inability to reduce emissions in another sector. In accordance with the GHG mitigation hierarchy, carbon offsets must be a last-resort strategy and should not substitute other climate change mitigation measures.

Carbon Offset Fund

A fund that receives s106 contributions from developers who submit applications to build major developments that fall short of carbon standards. This money is then used to support carbon reduction projects in Bromley.

Carbon sequestering/sequestration

Capturing carbon through long-term storage methods. An example would be to plant more trees.

Decarbonisation

The process for the removal or reduction of carbon dioxide (CO₂) output into the atmosphere.

Energy efficiency

The amount of useful energy produced per unit of fuel. For example, loft insulation keeps the useful warm air in the home, increasing the energy efficiency of the building.

Electric Vehicle (EV)

Electric vehicles are those which use electric motors to drive their wheels. They derive some or all their power from large, rechargeable batteries. Also known as battery electric vehicles, BEV.

Greater London Authority (GLA)

The regional governance body of London.

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

The gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, an excess of which are increasing global average temperatures i.e. global warming. In the context of this action plan, it usually refers to carbon dioxide but can also refer to other gases such as methane. This is why we report our emissions in units of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e).

Further information on the UK greenhouse gas emissions can be found at

https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/local_authority_carbon_dioxide_emissions

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. There are currently 195 member countries in the IPCC (www.ipcc.ch/about). The IPCC prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports about the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place.

LED lighting

Light Emitting Diode. A more energy efficient form of lighting when compared to standard bulbs. They do not get as hot and release more of their energy as light.

Net Zero Carbon

The aim of reducing carbon dioxide emissions as much as possible, and if any residual emissions are produced, they are offset by carbon capturing processes.

Payback period

A period of time in which the value of a loan, or budget must be repaid to the lender. The payback period for carbon usually represents the duration required for a sustainable project or technology to offset its initial carbon footprint.

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

A long-term contract under which a business agrees to purchase electricity directly from a renewable energy generator. Power Purchase Agreements provide financial certainty to you and the project developer. PPAs therefore help to deliver more renewable energy, saving CO₂.

Procurement

The process of acquiring goods and services, which a council chooses not to run internally, through fair and competitive bidding processes in an open market.

Scope 1 Emissions

Direct emissions that occur from activities such as burning gas in boilers to heat homes and businesses or emissions from petrol/diesel used in vehicles we own.

Scope 2 Emissions

Indirect emissions that occur from activities such as buying in electricity and using that electricity to power our buildings.

Scope 3 Emissions

Indirect emissions that are related to an organisation's activities but occurring from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation. For example, adult social care providers, contracted by Bromley to undertake that service, will produce emissions through their company activity.

Bromley Council do not legally own, or control the emissions arising from this contractor's activities.

Solar photovoltaic (pv) system

Solar pv panels convert sunlight into electricity, which is a renewable form of energy. Renewable energy comes from sources that are constantly and naturally renewed.



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