

TRURO CITY COUNCIL



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3 March 2021

To: The Mayor (Cllr B Biscoe)
Deputy Mayor (Cllr J Allen)
Chairman and members of the
PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a **virtual** meeting of the Parks and Amenities Committee will take place on **MONDAY 8 MARCH 2021 at 7.00 pm** via Zoom Virtual Meetings (via an email link*) for the transaction of the under mentioned business:

*Members of the public who wish to attend are requested to email: info@truro.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
- 2 **DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 4 **OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA - VERBAL QUESTIONS (5 minutes)**
Members of the public wishing to attend this meeting should email info@truro.gov.uk
- 5 **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2021 HAVING BEEN BEFORE COUNCIL ON 1 MARCH 2021**
- 6 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** Appendix A
To receive a report at the meeting.
- 7 **HENDRA PLAYING FIELD (DREADNOUGHT FIELD)**
Request for Use -To consider a request from Hendra Community Group to use the Hendra Playing Field on Sunday 11 July 2021 for a family picnic 12:00 – 15:00.
- 8 **CARBON AUDIT OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL** Appendix B
Councillor Mainwaring-Evans to report back on his work in carrying out a carbon audit for the Council (Minute 257 refers). To consider making recommendations to Finance & General Purposes Committee & onwards to Council, as appropriate.
- 9 **HEALTH AND SAFETY – PARKS DEPARTMENT**
Update - To receive an update from the Compliance Officer following the on-going coronavirus pandemic (Minute 355 refers).

- 10 **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**
 (i) **Update (standing item)** - To receive a general update from the Compliance Officer (Minute 357 refers).
 (ii) **Public Conveniences Working Group** – Refurbishment of Green Street Public Conveniences. Compliance Officer to report.
- 11 **TENNIS COURTS, BOSCAWEN PARK**
 To note Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) recent statistics which show Boscawen Park is an extremely popular site, rated in the top 45 parks nationwide at number 31, based on the number of unique people that have made a court or coach booking in the past 12 months. Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer to report.
- 12 **BOSCAWEN PARK** Appendix C
 To consider a request from Truro Cricket Club to site a mobile storage container on the cricket ground adjacent to Boscawen Park. A plan showing the possible location is attached.
- 13 **TREMORVAH PLAYING FIELD**
 To consider a request from CBRE Global Workplace Solutions to install fencing to Lowena Hostel next to the playing field (as instructed by Cornwall Council. Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer to introduce.
- 14 **BOSCAWEN PARK AND THE SWANPOOL**
Dredging of Swanpool – Update (Standing Item)
 Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer to report (Minute 263 refers).
- 15 **IDLESS NURSERY**
 Project Update – Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer to report (Minute 264 refers).
- 16 **PARKS, AMENITIES AND FACILITIES OFFICER’S REPORT** Report to follow
 Report from Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer relating to any information for Members that does not require a recommendation.
- 17 **PARKS MANAGER’S REPORT** Appendix D
 Report from Parks Manager relating to any information for Members that does not require a recommendation.
- 18 **LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**
- 19 **CORRESPONDENCE**
- 20 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
 It is likely that, due to the confidential nature of the following item, it will be taken below the line.
- 21 **NEW TENNIS PAVILION PROJECT**
 Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer to report at the meeting.
- 22 **PRESS AND PUBLIC**
 To consider inviting back the press & public to the meeting.
- 23 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**
Monday 12 April 2021 - Virtual Meeting
 The agenda for the next Parks and Amenities Committee to be held on Monday 12 April 2021 will be prepared on Wednesday 7 April 2021. In accordance with Minute 302 (03.12.12), should a member wish an item to be included on this agenda please inform the Town Clerk’s office by Tuesday 6 April 2021 as no items other than those on the agenda can be considered at the meeting.



ROGER GAZZARD
TOWN CLERK

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021

I am sure everyone has noticed the colour in the parks and flower beds lately, indeed all over the winter months, bringing much needed uplift to a very gloomy winter. We have thanked and thanked the parks staff for their hard work and creativity over this last year and I do hope they know how much we appreciate them. If you are ever passing any of them it would be good to make yourself known and have a SD chat. Anyone who has ventured to Boscawen Park will know how popular it is at the moment and how good the coffee and hot chocolate is, sold by Lloyd and his staff.



The unsung heroes are the Toilet Team members, who have kept the Green Street and Leats toilets open and useable for most of lockdown. Unfortunately, one of them was assaulted at Green Street so the toilets are not shut until we can be assured that our public partners - police, adult social care and Covid Marshall, can work with us to offer our staff some support. Kate Bell and Richard have to prioritise staff safety and I am sure we all fully support their actions. It is clearly important for the town that we have these facilities open once the town reopens but that requires everyone working together.



Chris Waddle and Dominic have been working hard to keep the woodland areas accessible. Although there is little that can be done about the muddy paths - they have kept the sloping areas safer by creating steps. Also, Chris has made a load of best boxes ready for spring.

Once lockdown is eased we are ready to work with the community in the green spaces. I think this will be of huge benefit to both the green spaces and the participants - nature therapy is so effective in relieving stress, anxiety and depression. Catherine Williams has been working hard on keeping the group in touch and hosting Zoom meetings.

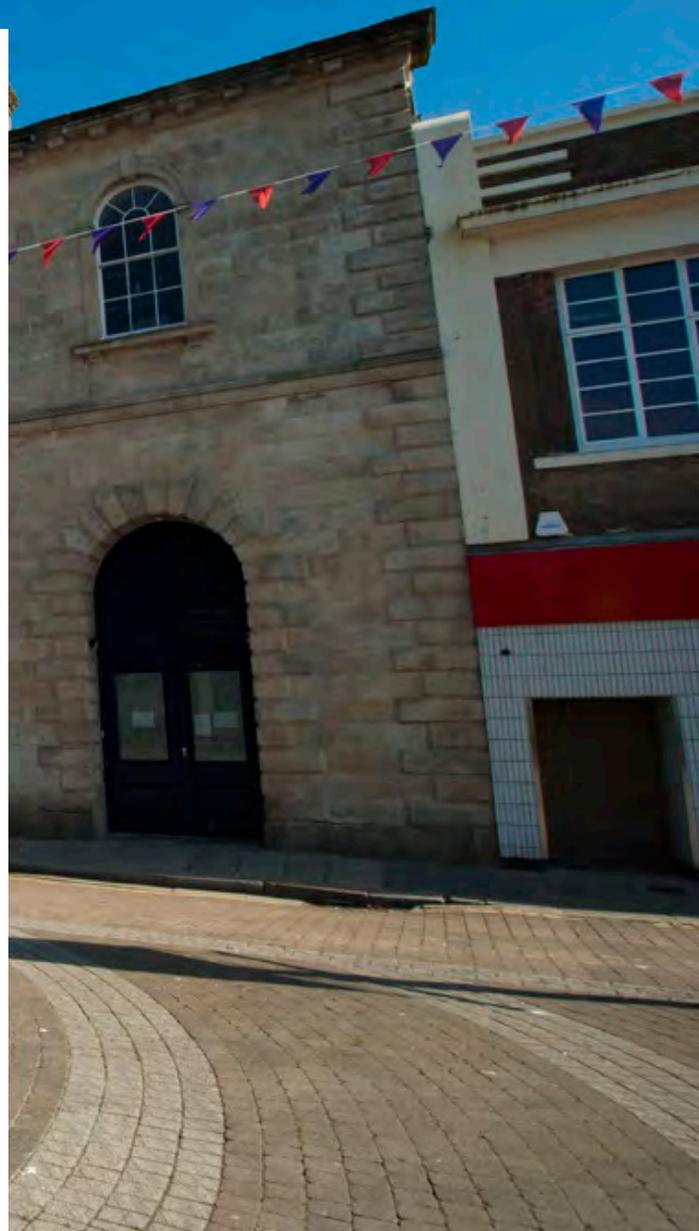
We have had the lovely surprise of being invited to enter the Britain in Bloom competition again, having been Champion of Champions only three years ago. There is a change of emphasis this year with more attention being paid to green initiatives and wildlife - we are ready to accept that challenge. With that in mind, we have started planning our annual Green Truro event - which will be web based, plus, we hope, some actual events in our green spaces and a scaled down event on Lemon Quay. The 2020 webinar Right Tree Right place: Wild about Truro and Cornwall is now on line and Taren can supply a link to this.

I should like to thank Tom Mainwaring-Evans for the production of a carbon audit for the council. This will provide us with an excellent base-line to create a plan for the council, which can then be a part of a Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan for Truro, in partnership with other key players. I believe Tom's report is being circulated and he will be presenting at the meeting and be able to take questions.

The nursery at Idless is now on track for opening late summer/early autumn. This major project had been a significant challenge and headache for Richard. It is very sad that former Councillor, Mayor and Chair of Parks, Ms Connie Fozzard, who donated the land, was never able to see her dream fulfilled. However, Richard kept her informed as much as he was able and I am sure she found the updates very uplifting.

Finally, thanks to our management team, who have had to deal with significant challenges in the last few weeks. Kate can never relax and is constant monitoring the conditions for her team. Richard and Liam are having to deal with all the problems of lockdown, as well as plan for the coming season and all their routine work. Cheryl and Isabelle steer the mother ship and facilitate all our meetings so smoothly.

Truro City Carbon Audit and Report



2019/20

Truro City Council
Authored by: Cllr Thomas Mainwaring-Evans



Truro City Council

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Climate Crisis and our commitment

Climate change is an increasing issue of critical importance facing our society. Caused largely by the release of greenhouse gases from consuming fossil fuels like oil, coal, and gas. Climate change is affecting our entire world, extreme weather conditions such as, heavy rain, heat waves, floods and droughts are becoming more frequent occurrences affecting the UK. Other consequences of the rapidly changing climate include sea level rise, loss of biodiversity and ocean acidification.

In order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (The agreed target set within the Paris Agreement) achieving carbon neutrality by mid-21st century is paramount.

- **Truro City Council:** In 2019 Truro City Council (TCC) declared a climate emergency with a commitment to be Net Zero by 2030.
- **Cornwall Council:** In January 2019 Cornwall Council (CC) declared a climate emergency with the aim of making Cornwall carbon neutral by 2030.
- **UK Government:** In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy to pass legislation committing to end its contribution to global warming by 2050.

1.2 Benefits from reducing our carbon footprint.

Reducing our carbon footprint can provide a variety of benefits, such as:

- **To protect our communities:** Climate change can negatively impact communities in a variety of ways, examples locally could be through increased flooding, food security, damage to buildings or transport as well as harm to human health.
- **To protect nature:** The Environment Agency (EA) stated in 2019 that climate change is already having 'dire consequences'. Nature is feeling the brunt of anthropogenic driven climate change, destroying their habitats and ecosystems.
- **To reduce costs:** Reducing consumption of fossil fuels often leads to a reduction in costs, efficiency improvements should have a direct correlation to reduced consumption and therefore reduced spending.

1.3 Our position and commitment

Truro City Council recognises the crucial importance of addressing the climate emergency. We must all do our bit and take responsibility for our actions. Achieving carbon neutrality however should not be underestimated. We must act quickly, but more importantly is the need to act correctly, using suitable science and available evidence to inform our decision making. The choices we make today will impact our future and the future of other generations. We must now ensure these choices create positive impacts for the all the people of Truro now, and tomorrow.

We are an environmentally conscious and friendly Council who take pride in the variety and biodiversity of the green spaces we manage. Due to this we have taken the decision not to attempt to claim any carbon offsetting from our tree planting and management of green spaces. We will continue to manage our green spaces for the benefit of Turo's public and wildlife because it is the right thing to do, helping to enhance our local wildlife and improve our public's health and wellbeing.

1.4 How do we achieve carbon neutrality?

Carbon neutrality is achieved by firstly calculating your carbon footprint and then reducing it to zero through a combination of efficiency measures in-house and supporting external emission reduction projects.

This can be broken down into 5 clear steps:

1. **Define:** Decide what services or products to include within the carbon reporting.
2. **Measure:** Identify what data needs to be collected and calculate carbon emissions from it.
3. **Target:** Use the results from the carbon reporting to set a target and a plan to achieve this target.
4. **Reduce:** Deliver internal emission reductions.
5. **Communicate:** Ensure stakeholders are efficiently communicated with. Consider publishing the results and reduction plan.

2. Reporting style

2.1 Local Government Association

The audit follows the guidelines of the LGA's Carbon Accounting Tool produced in accordance with the Carbon Disclosure Project. This tool enables us to benchmark our significant emission sources and to prioritise available actions we can take to reduce these emissions. Following a consistent approach with other Councils will enable us to accurately compare our emissions.

2.2 Green House Gas measurement

Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO²e is the combination of the 7 main GHGs (Carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrous oxide, Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, Sulfur hexafluoride and Nitrogen trifluoride). Allowing a simpler comparison between the emissions of other greenhouse gases relative to one unit of CO₂.

2.3 What is in Scope?

GHG emissions can be sourced from 3 main areas, called Scopes:

Scope 1

All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers and fleet vehicles.

This report calculates GHG emissions from TCCs:

- Fleet
- Gas consumption
- Heating oil consumption

Scope 2

Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.

This report calculates GHG emissions from TCCs:

- Electricity consumption

Scope 3

All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These have the potential to be the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water.

This report calculates GHG emissions from TCCs:

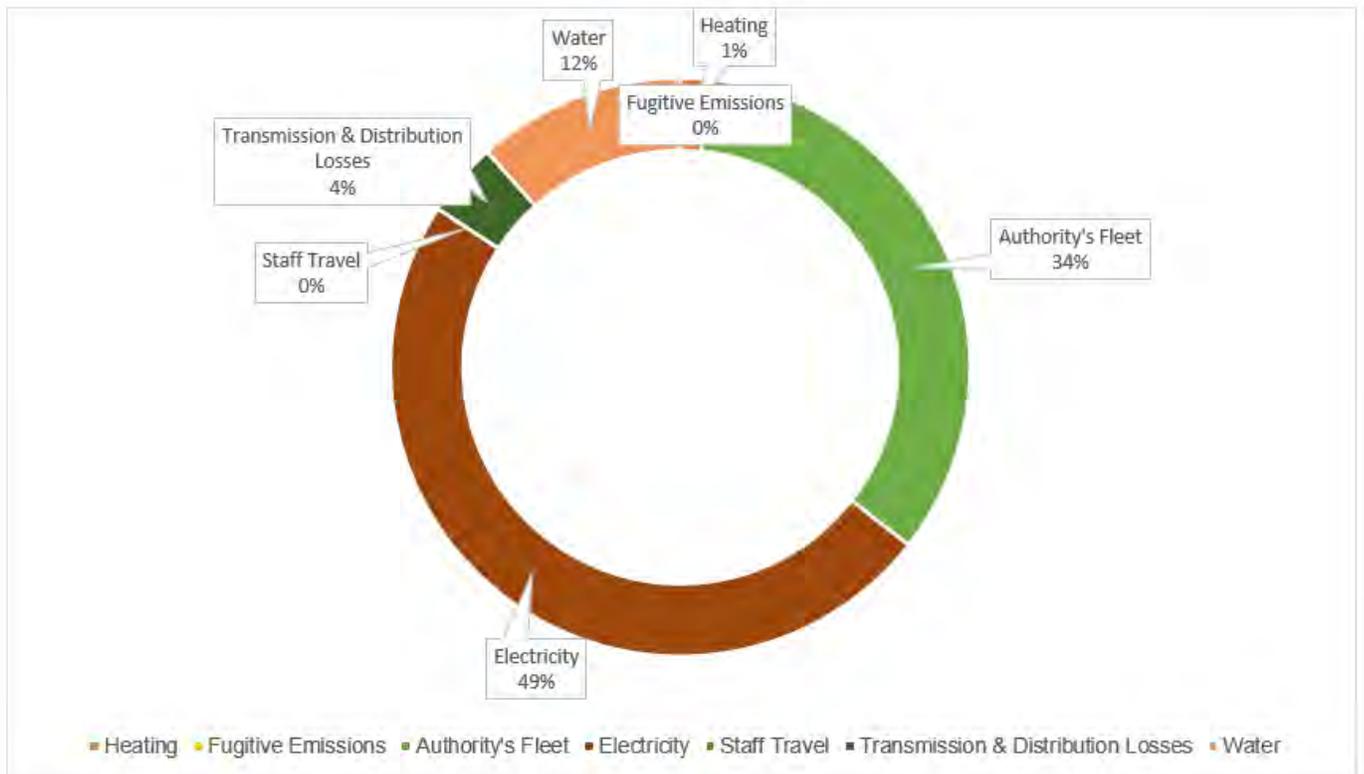
- Water consumption
- Transition and distribution losses
- Staff travel
- Flights
- Hotel stays.

3. Summary of Results

Table 1: Showing the amount and type of emissions for each scope and their overall percentage of the total emissions for Truro City Council in 2019-20.

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Percentage of Total Emissions
Scope 1	Heating	0.69	1.6%
	Fugitive Emissions	0.00	0.0%
	Authority's Fleet	14.93	34.0%
Scope 2	Electricity	21.39	48.7%
Scope 3	Staff Travel	0.00	0.0%
	Transmission & Distribution Losses	1.82	4.1%
	Water	5.11	11.6%
Total Emissions		43.94	100.0%

Chart 1: Visualising the percentage break down from each type of emission.



4. Analysis of results

4.1 Emission sources

No data was captured for Fugitive Emissions or Staff Travel, this has led to their emissions not being quantified. The desire was to include emissions from waste management operations; however, this was not possible during the audit. Future audits should attempt to capture these emissions if possible. For the financial year 2019-20 no flights or hotel stays were recorded and therefore no emissions have been generated through these sources.

Electricity (49%) and Authority's Emissions (34%) equal a combined 36.32 tCO²e (83%) of the total emissions recorded within this audit. This would therefore indicate that attempts to reduce Truro City Council's carbon emissions should be targeted toward these two emission sources to maximise any results.

4.2 Truro City Council intensity matrix

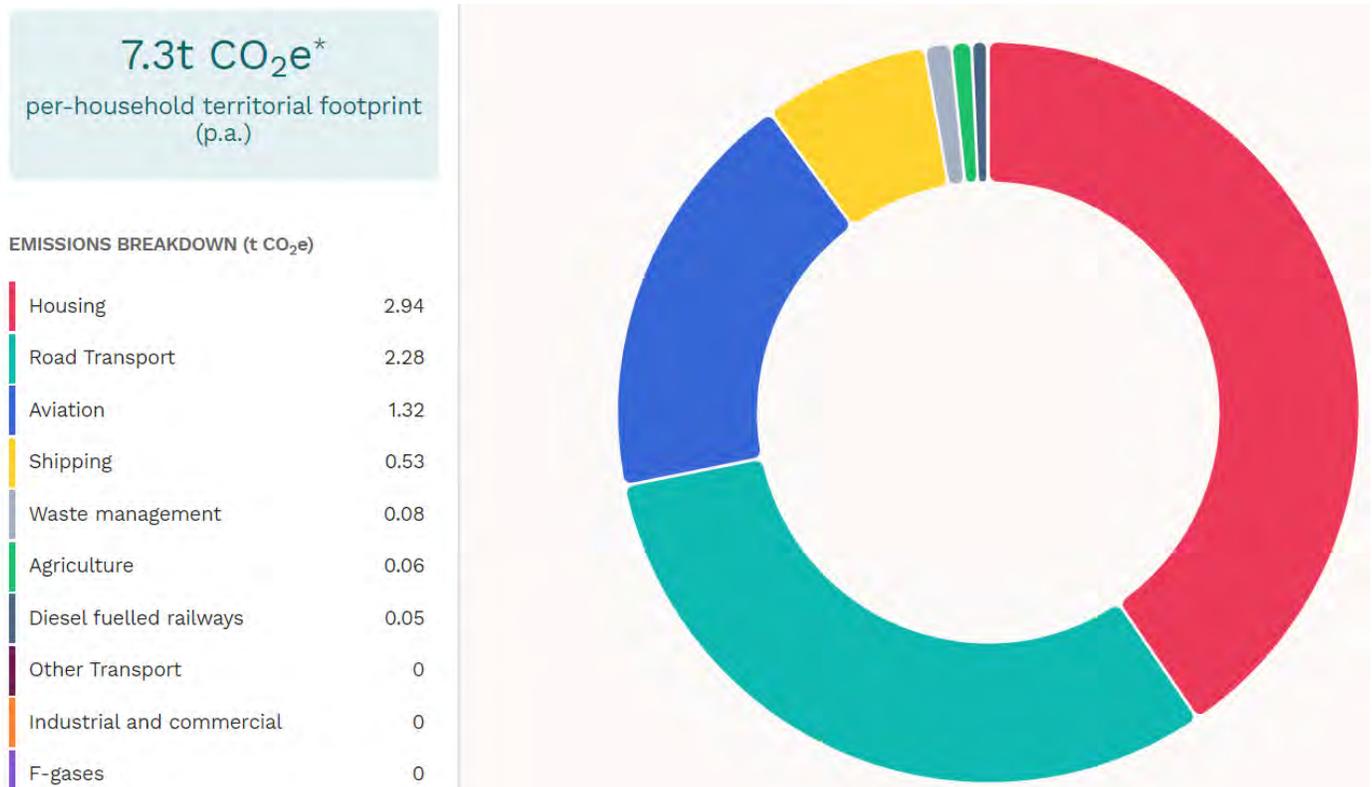
The assets and responsibilities of Truro City Council appear to have increased in the last 5 years. Changes in an organisation need to be taken in to account when comparing 1 year's carbon audit results to another for the same organisation. This can be achieved by using an intensity matrix. Examples of this could be:

- tCO²e per sq ft of building space
- tCO²e per £million turn over.
- tCO²e per staff member.

4.3 Carbon capturing tool for Truro

A new carbon capturing tool ‘Impact Community Carbon Calculator’ has just been created by the Centre for Sustainable Energy in partnership with Exeter University. This tool provides estimated data on the average tCO₂e for a Truro household. When using the tool on the 26/02/2021 it stated that the average Truro household has a carbon footprint of 7.3 tonnes annually (please see table 2 for details). This tool provides Parish Councils the ability to get a break quickly and easily of total carbon emissions and their sources from within their parish.

Chart 2: Showing the breakdown of carbon emission sources for an average household in Truro.



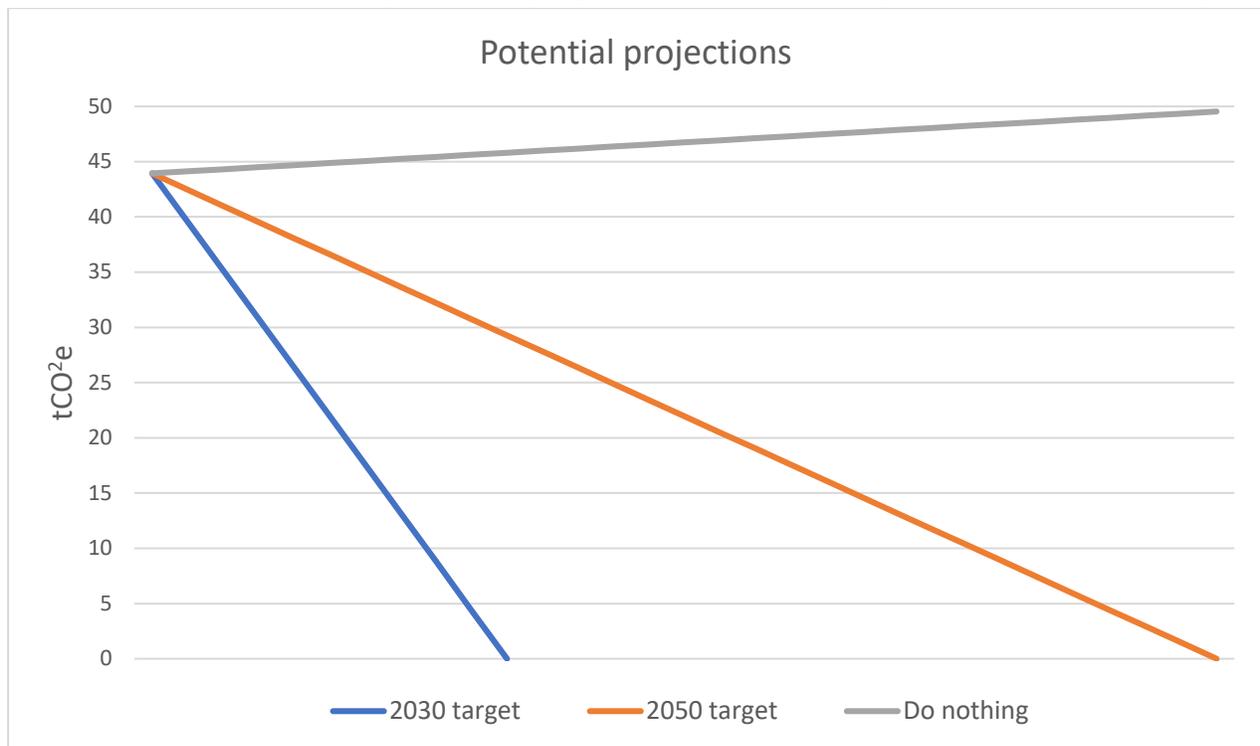
4.4 Potential future emissions

If Truro City Council is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 this would require an annual reduction of 4.39 tCO²e. To achieve this by 2050 would require an annual reduction of 1.46 tCO²e. If we do not act and there are no unforeseen significant changes, then in line with Cornwall Councils (1) predictions our emissions could rise by 5.64 tCO²e by 2050.

Table 2: Shows the total predicted emissions emitted from Truro City Council before it reaches its target.

Target dates	2030	2050	2050 (Do nothing)
Total emissions emitted (tCO ² e)	241.81	680.78	1448.94

Chart 3: Shows 3 different potential projections of Truro City Councils carbon output



1. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/climate-emergency/the-carbon-neutral-challenge/>

5. Potential next steps

For the Council to achieve the aspiration of being net zero by 2030 would be difficult and require serious calculated and well-resourced action driven by engaged council staff, Councilors and residents. To help bring about active engagement and keep momentum on achieving this ambition it could be beneficial to create a working group aimed at reducing the City Councils Carbon emissions.

There are various pledges the Council can agree to take which help to keep momentum on reducing the carbon footprint and to show this commitment to residents, partners and others. An example of this is the Climate Neutral Now Pledge ⁽²⁾, this pledge requires an organisation to follow 3 main steps:

1. Measure the company/organization's climate footprint.
2. Reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as much as is possible.
3. Compensate the emissions that are unavoidable by using United Nations Certified Emissions Reductions ⁽³⁾ (CERs).

5.1 Opportunities to reduce the City Councils Carbon footprint

- Property retrofitting:

Having an energy efficiency survey undertaken on the properties under Truro City Councils ownership could show properties which are currently inefficient. The Council can then target and well evidenced actions to improve these inefficacy's having benefits through reducing the Councils carbon emissions and saving on costs.

Improving buildings energy efficacy's is a current 'green initiative' being promoted by National Government, this could mean there is available funding for this.

- Renewable energies:

With the number of properties and land Truro City Council has there is potential to install renewable energy generating equipment, using this energy ourselves or feeding back to the grid. Helston Parish Council for example have installed solar panels on some of their properties. Cornwall Council have various funding options to help begin carbon reduction projects, some specifically aimed at parish councils.

- Electric vehicles:

Beginning the transition from diesel and petrol-powered vehicles to electric would help to reduce the City Councils Carbon emissions as well as improve air quality locally. The increasing price of fuel and committed transition from fossil fuel powered vehicles to an electric fleet globally indicates this move will be inevitable, the question appears to be more when.

- Rainwater harvesting:

The plant nursery facilities of the City Council are a great asset, these facilities are currently expanding and could potentially grow further still. Having good rainwater harvesting at the nurseries could help to lower the amount of water used at these facilities, dropping the associated carbon emissions and cost.

- Support from other groups

Cornwall has numerous organisations and establishments which are actively engaging with groups, people and Parish Councils with the aim of improving their environmental credentials and lowering the carbon emissions of these groups. Groups such as Tevi and Exeter University might be able to support Truro City Councils carbon reduction ambitions.

4. https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/18877993.bid-put-solar-panels-helston-guildhall-roof-approved/?fbclid=IwAR0x5y6R66HraN8m_4pnPhyAzJABYRNQhtz2Tul8oNAYYHLSelpoDkNpUXI

5. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/funds/cornwall-town-parish-fund>

5.2 Future reporting

Now we have a baseline for emissions it is important to continue annually reporting on our carbon emissions and then using these reports to identify and act on actions which can reduce them.

Emissions reported in future audits are likely to fluctuate, a report next year for example could show a decline in tCO₂e due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the change of working conditions most had forced upon them. It may however show an increase if we are able to calculate waste management-based emission sources. These changes need to be identified and recorded.

Proportionately capturing changes related to the growth or decline of an organisation is the main reason an intensity matrix needs to be used. If the TCC were to take over responsibility of several more buildings from Cornwall Council for example then our total electricity consumption is likely to rise, this cause in change should be reflected.

5.3 Acknowledgments

I want to thank the staff at Truro City Council for their input which was fundamentally important in completing the carbon audit of TCC's assets. I also want to thank Cllr Ms. Southcombe and Cllr Webb for the support and on-going progressive dialog they readily provided.

These results of the audit were informally cross checked by a member of Cornwall Councils Carbon Neutral team and the Environmental Manager at Corserv. I thank them both for their support in helping to deliver this audit.

Container will go alongside hedge by scoreboard (purple below). We will leave enough room to ensure hedge can be maintained.



Parks Manager's Report:

The following is a roundup of work currently being undertaken by the Parks staff.

Boscawen Park

The Park has had minimal maintenance over the last twelve months. The clearance of winter debris and general thinning out of shrubs is being done on a grander scale this year. We should be back into a manageable state by mid-March.

The Park is suffering from increased foot traffic, which combined with the rain has create a lot of mud. This is causing bare patches of grass, which will be seeded as soon as temperatures improve.

A new wildlife garden has been created on the entrance to the main car park. We will continue to plant this as we go further into the spring. The bed will also provide propagation material for future projects.

Seeds have been collected and dried to help with pollinator friendly areas.

Large perennial areas are being mulched with recycled waste from the depot dump.

Nursery

Preparation work for the delivery of plug plants in the next few weeks. Seeds have already been sown and are being planted into cell packs, which is the second phase of their production.

Pots and growing areas have been cleaned and sterilized ready for production.

During the last year the nursery has produced up to 5000 plants, which are being used on Wild Truro and other beds. The whole of Pydar Street and Union Place were planted during the summer with inhouse produced plants.

Victoria Gardens

The Sexton now works until 10.00am in the cemetery and then relocates to Victoria Gardens for the rest of the day. This is of course if there are no immediate, necessary Sexton duties.

This is working well and over the last fortnight lots of shrub areas have been cleared and cut back. The extensive pruning opens up the areas for light and air also, rejuvenating the plants.

The Head Gardener has also overseen the replanting of one of the rose beds. This has involved the removal of the old soil, incorporation of organic matter and planting of the sourced bare root roses.

There are now further plans to rejuvenate other areas of the gardens.

The Skate Park remains closed until further government advice.

The Council is in the process of hiring a Skate Park Attendant, with the hope of having someone in the position for 1 April.

Town

Pruning and cleaning through of perennial beds.

Mulching of all perennial beds and trees.

Replanting/ replacement of perennial plants in our sustainable beds.

Removal of basket poles, which have degraded. These are now going through a health and safety check.

More sustainable Wild Truro beds being created.

Liam Shoesmith
Parks Manager

3 March 2021