



Bringing forward Dorset's climate targets

CLlr Nick Ireland, Leader – Dorset Council

APSE Energy Delivering Net Zero event | 25 September 2025

Climate Change | **Carbon Neutral Dorset**

Biodiversity Loss | **Nature Positive Dorset**

Adaptation | **Resilient Dorset**

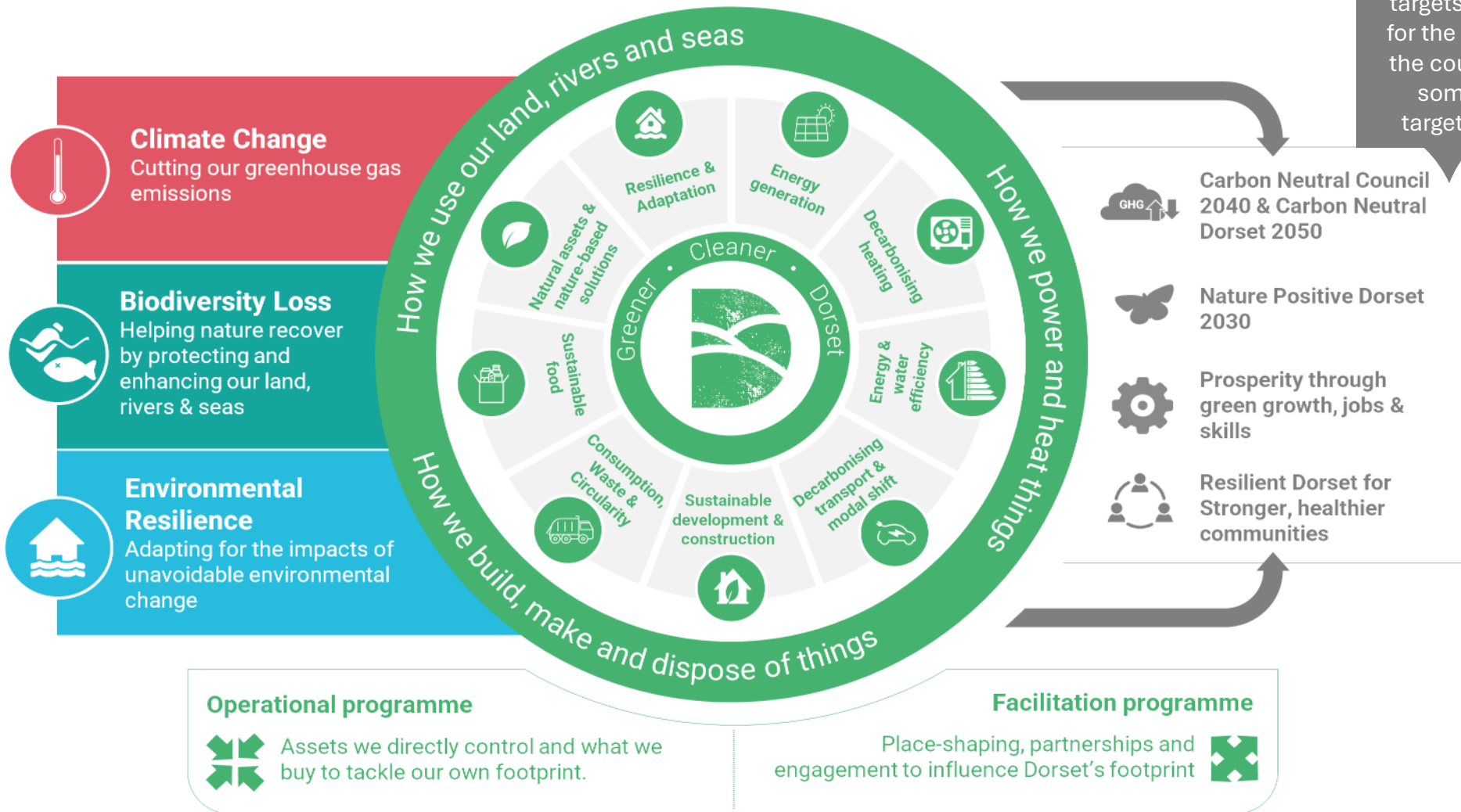
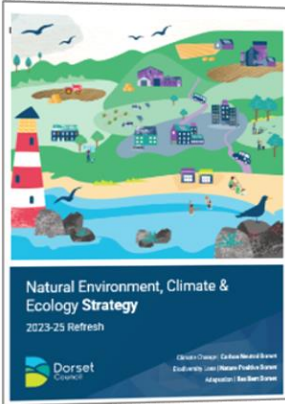


1. Strategy & headline emissions

Council Climate Strategy (2023)

Our vision is for a **carbon neutral, nature positive and resilient Dorset** achieved through a **clean, green and fair transition**, and that generates prosperous, stronger and healthier communities.

The new Dorset Council Plan for 2024-29 has brought forward the net zero targets by 5 years – to 2035 for the council and 2045 for the county. It also contains some further stronger targets to support this....



- Climate Change**
Cutting our greenhouse gas emissions
- Biodiversity Loss**
Helping nature recover by protecting and enhancing our land, rivers & seas
- Environmental Resilience**
Adapting for the impacts of unavoidable environmental change

- Carbon Neutral Council 2040 & Carbon Neutral Dorset 2050
- Nature Positive Dorset 2030
- Prosperity through green growth, jobs & skills
- Resilient Dorset for Stronger, healthier communities

Operational programme

Assets we directly control and what we buy to tackle our own footprint.

Facilitation programme

Place-shaping, partnerships and engagement to influence Dorset's footprint

Council Plan: Updated targets

We've set climate and nature as one of the four priorities of the new Council Plan, and set a range of new targets including...



Transition all our small **vehicles** to electric by 2030, and all larger vehicles to low emission fuels by 2026

Add another 5MW of **solar PV** to our estate by 2030

Switch all our oil-fired **heating** to non-fossil fuel alternatives by 2028

Cut emissions from staff **business travel** by at least 25% by 2029

Develop **adaptation plans** for our services by March 2026

A 65% **recycling and composting** rate by 2035

Manage 80% of our **urban verges** for nature by 2030 (50% now)

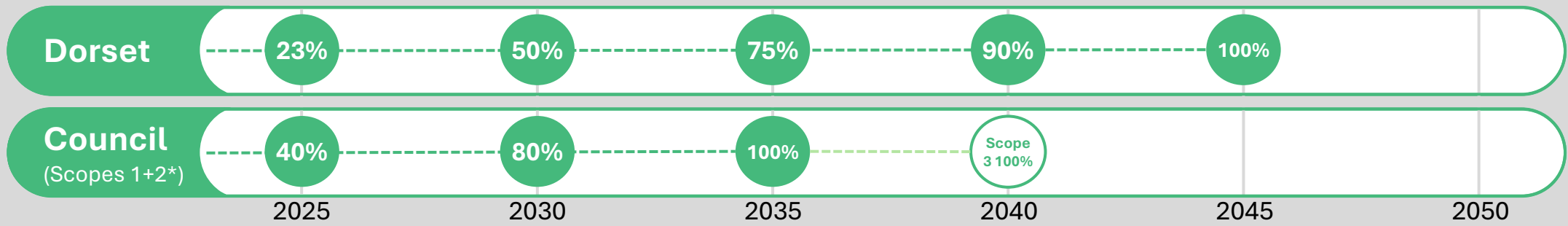
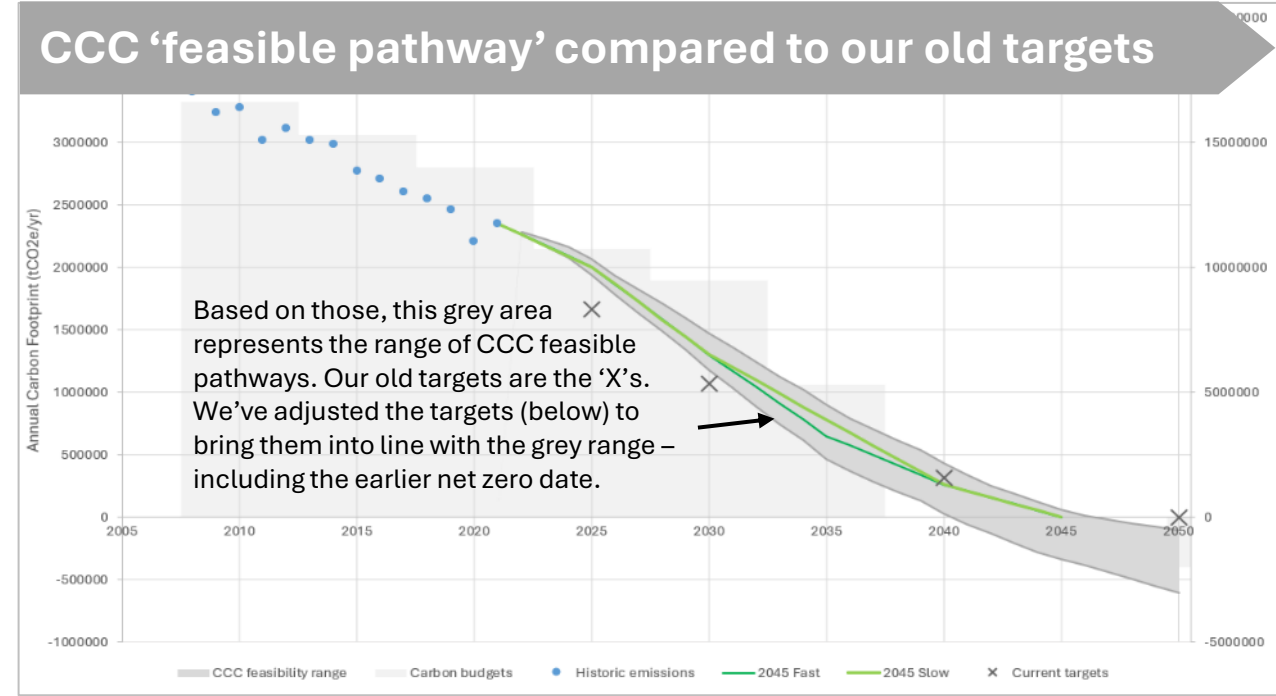
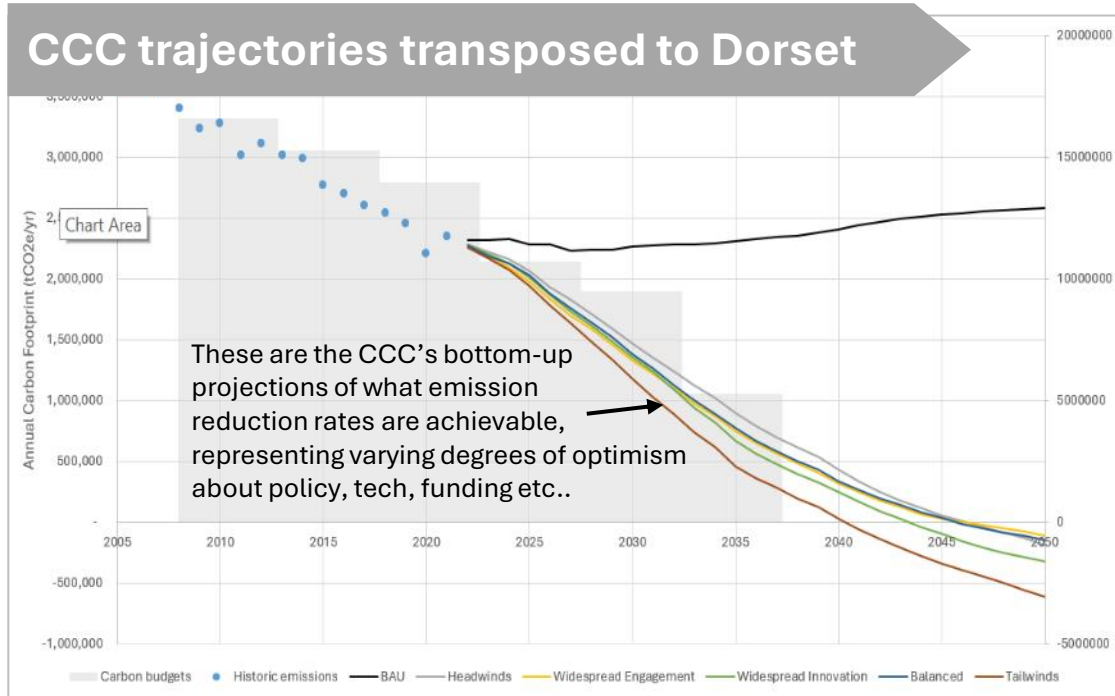
70% of our **county farms** estate using sustainable farming practices by 2030 (5% now)

15,000Ha of Dorset covered by Landscape Recovery **management agreements** by 2030

There's lots not listed here – you can view it at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/council-plan

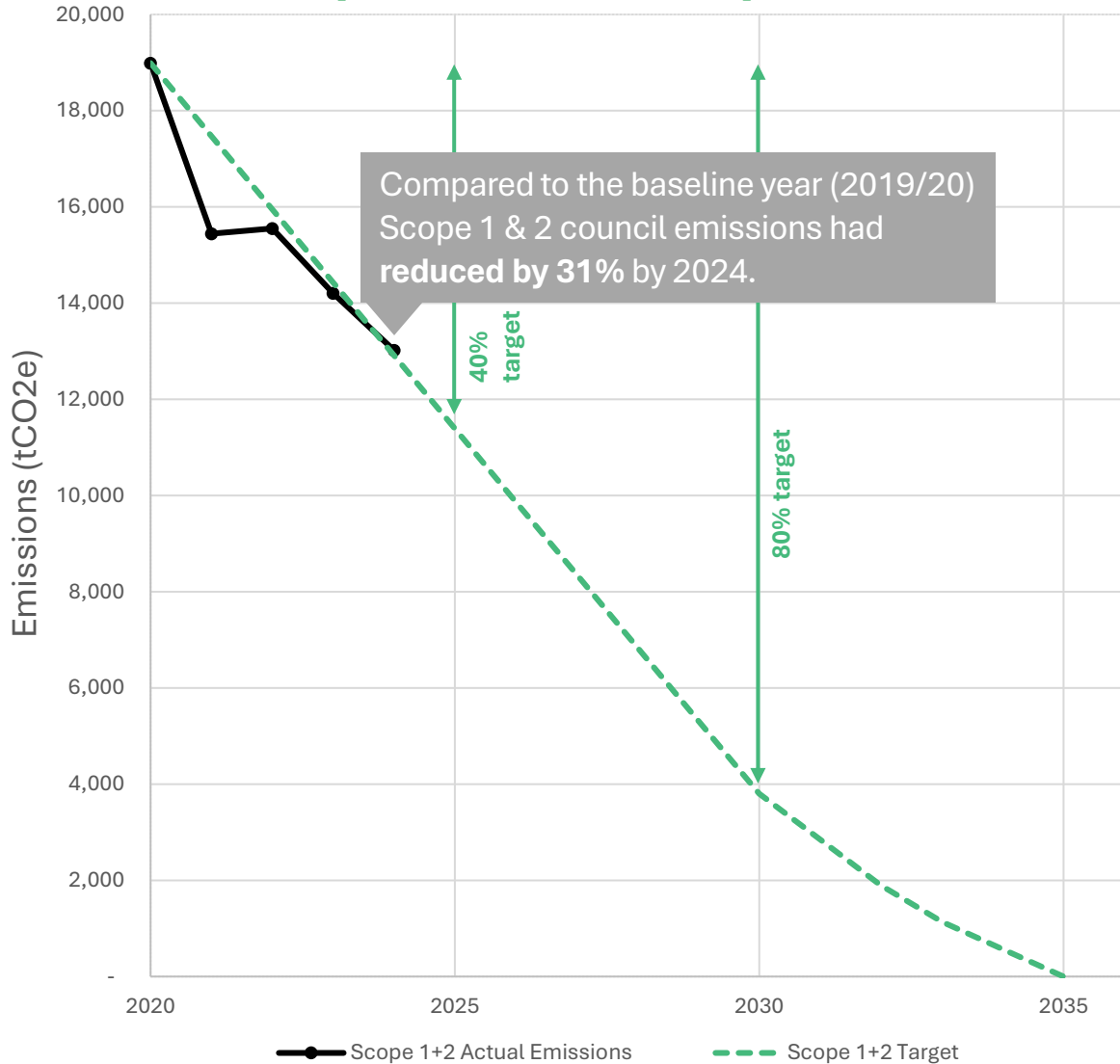
Council Plan: Updated targets

We've also brought our net zero targets forward by 5 years, and updated our target trajectories to better reflect the Climate Change Committee's...

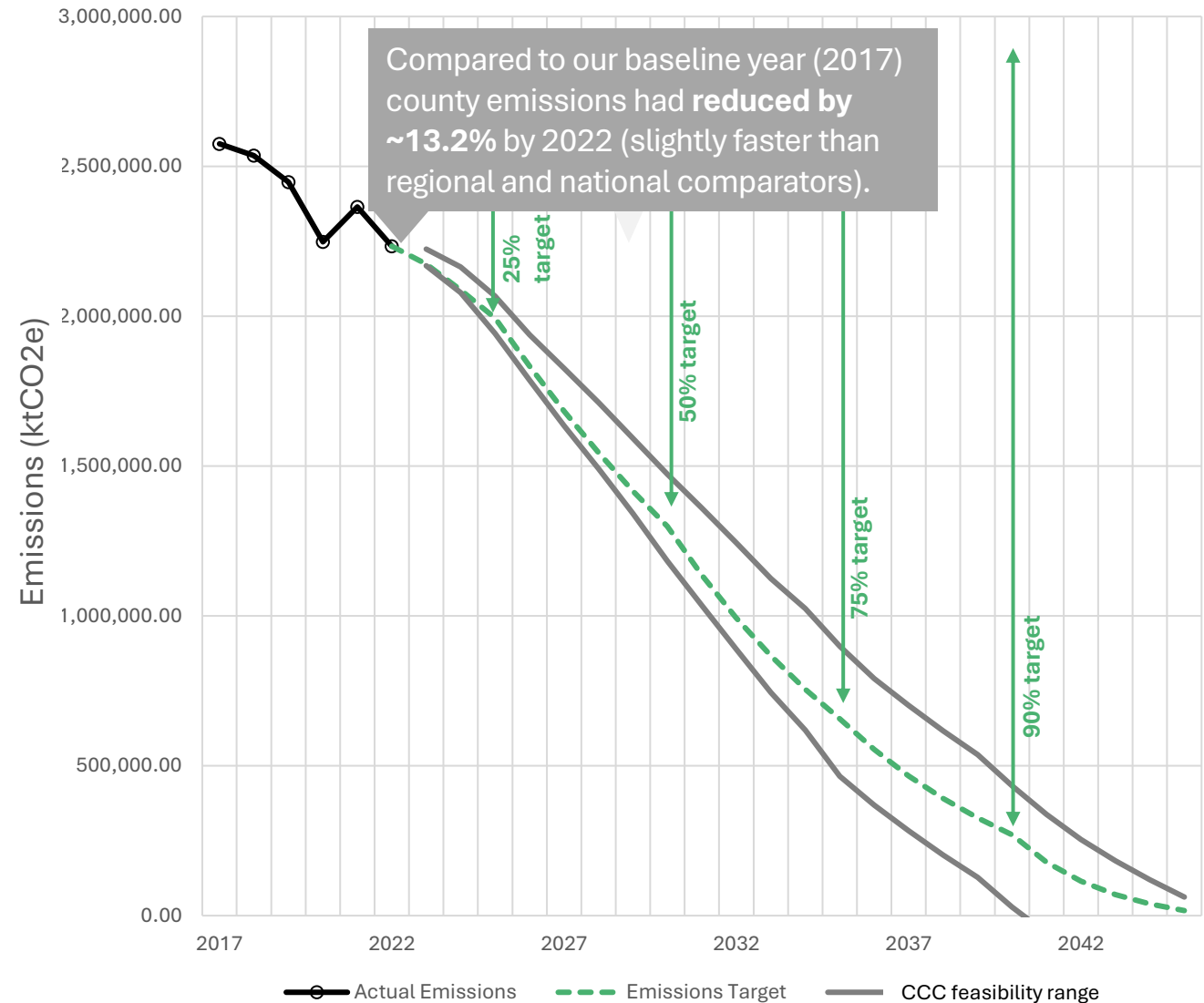


Our emissions: Target and performance

Dorset Council (2024): 13kt CO₂e Sc1+2 only
 [23.8kt CO₂e Sc1+2+3]

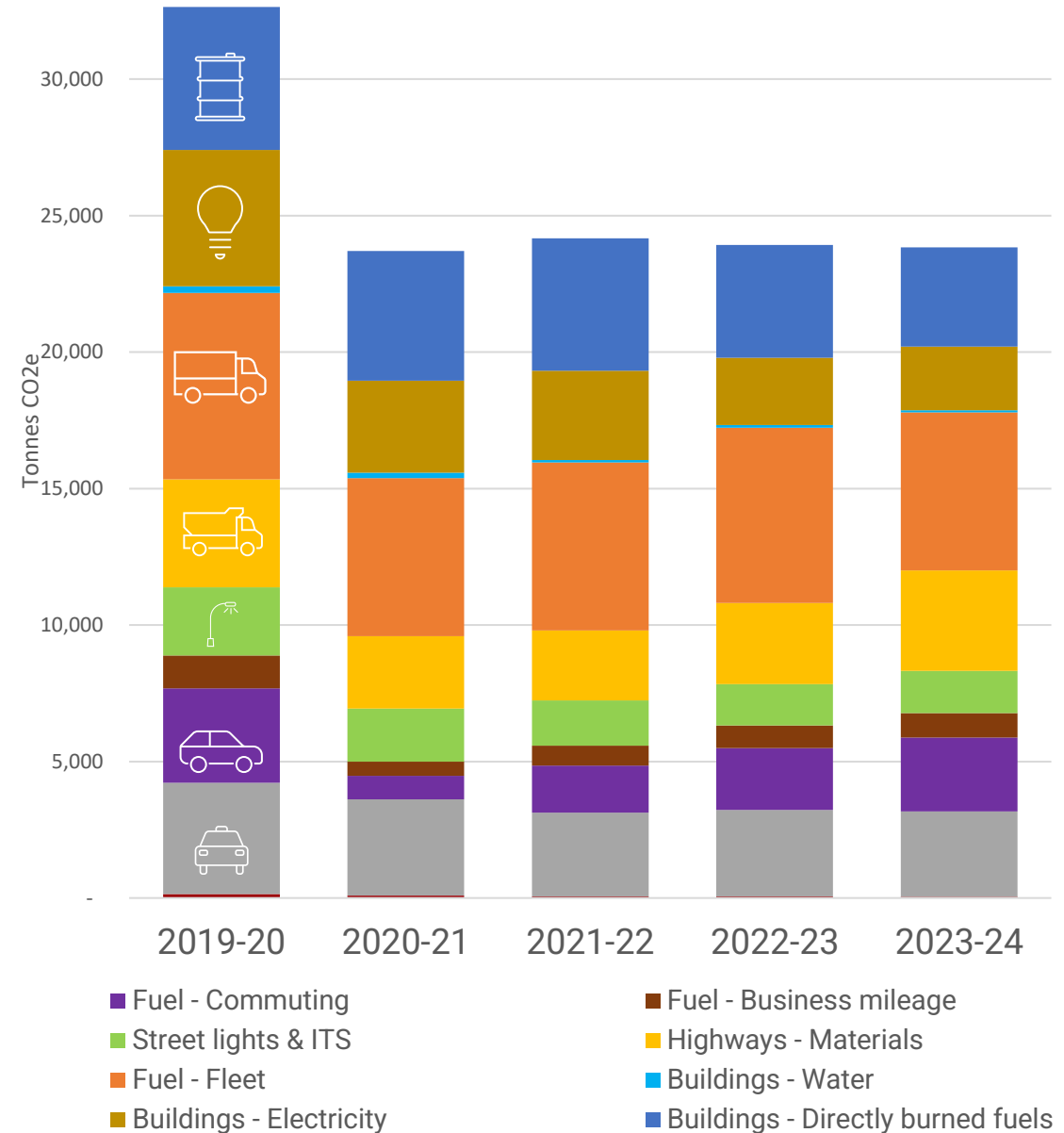
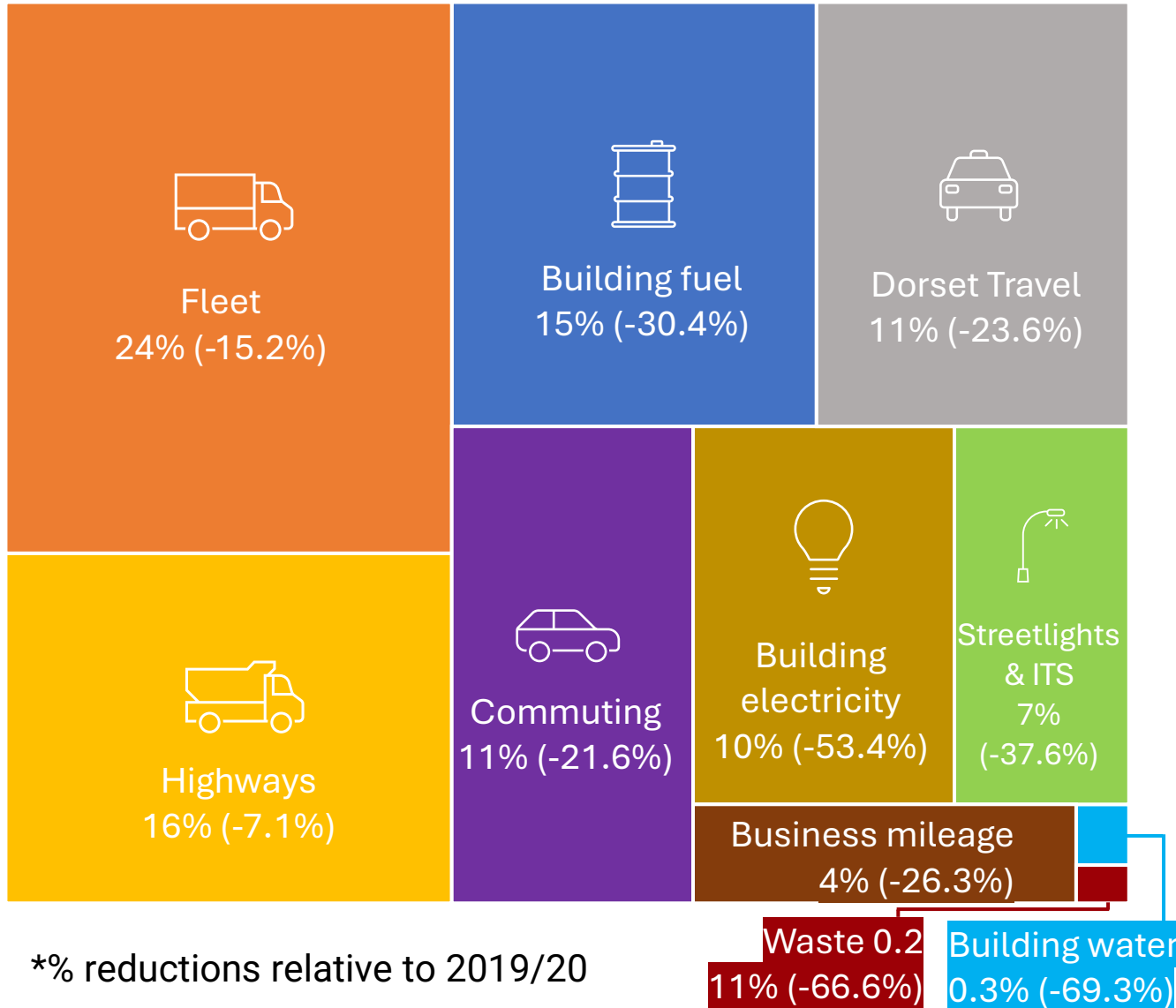


Dorset (2022): 2.2Mt Co₂e



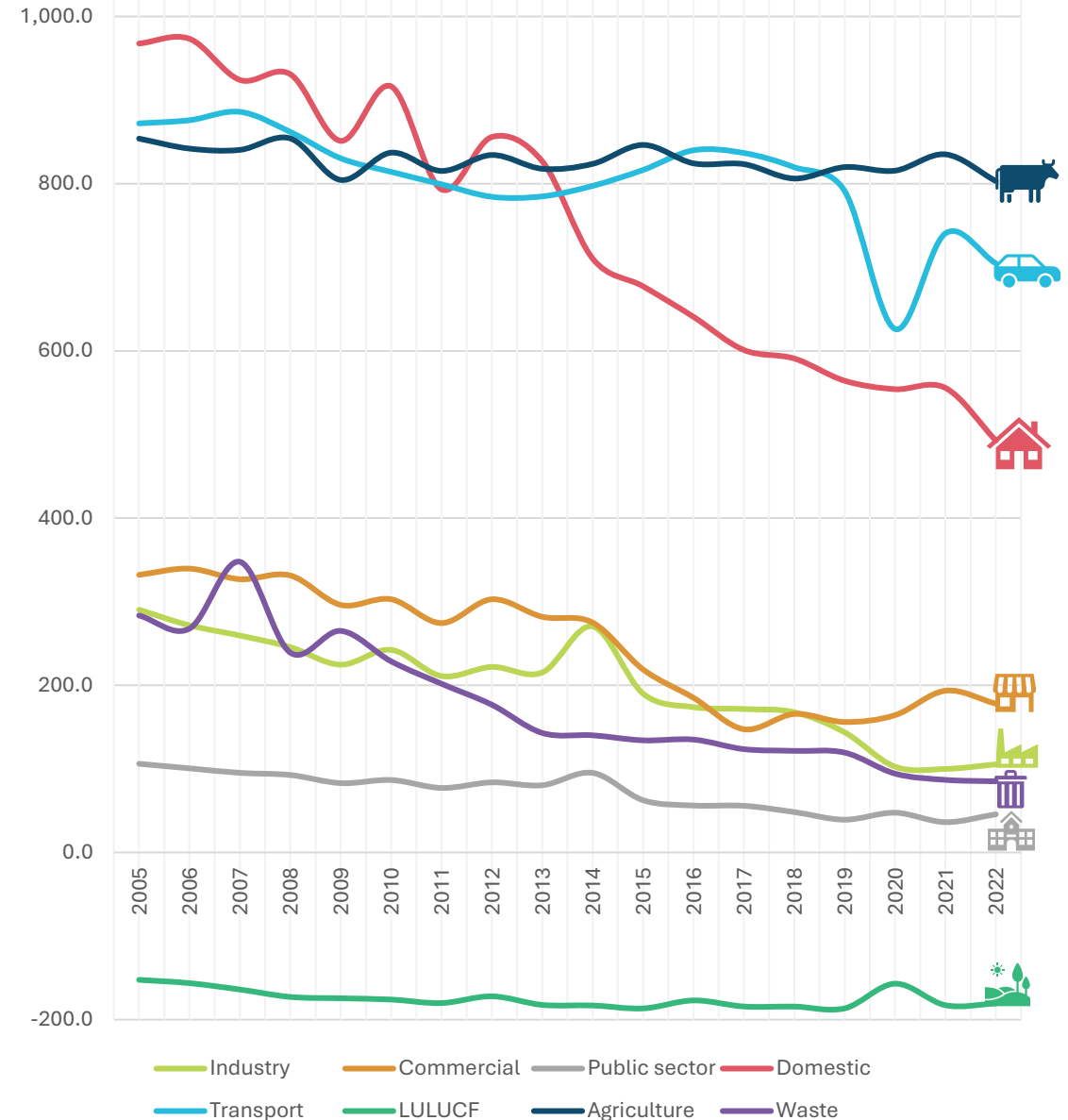
Our emissions: Council breakdown (2023/24)

Scopes 1, 2 and a subset of scope 3*:



*% reductions relative to 2019/20

Our emissions: County breakdown



2. Achievements so far

Our emissions: Progress so far



188

DC-sponsored EV
charge points across
Dorset



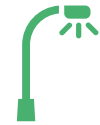
54

EV charge points
across 13 DC sites
by end of current
phase



1/4

Small fleet already
EV (34), with all small
vehicles to be EV by
2030



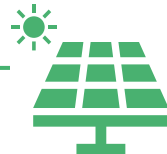
>8,000

Street lanterns
replaced with energy
efficient LEDs



>200

Buildings upgraded
through £19m of
PSDS funding



>13,000

Solar panels installed
across the DC estate
(5MW)



>1,100

Properties insulated
through Healthy
Homes Dorset, saving
>£1m on energy bills



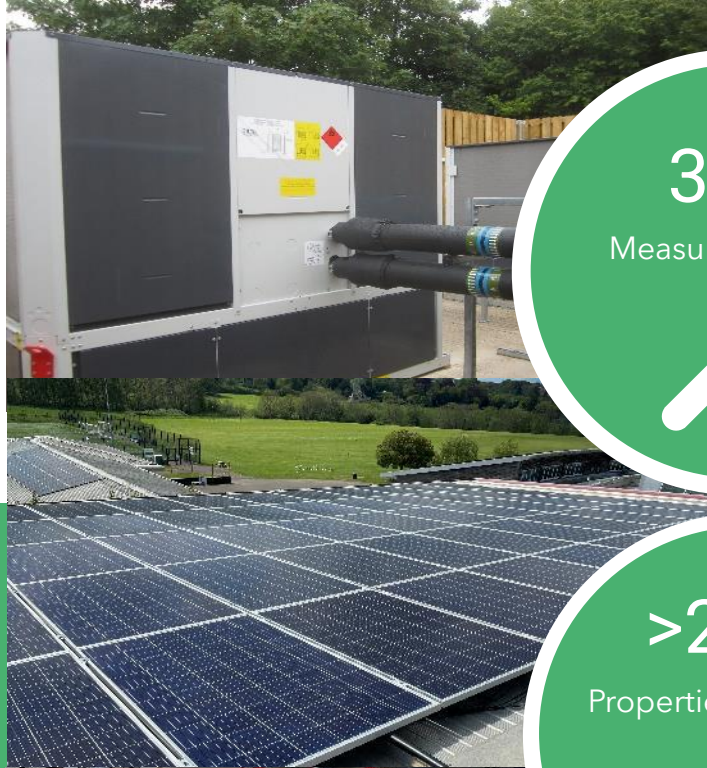
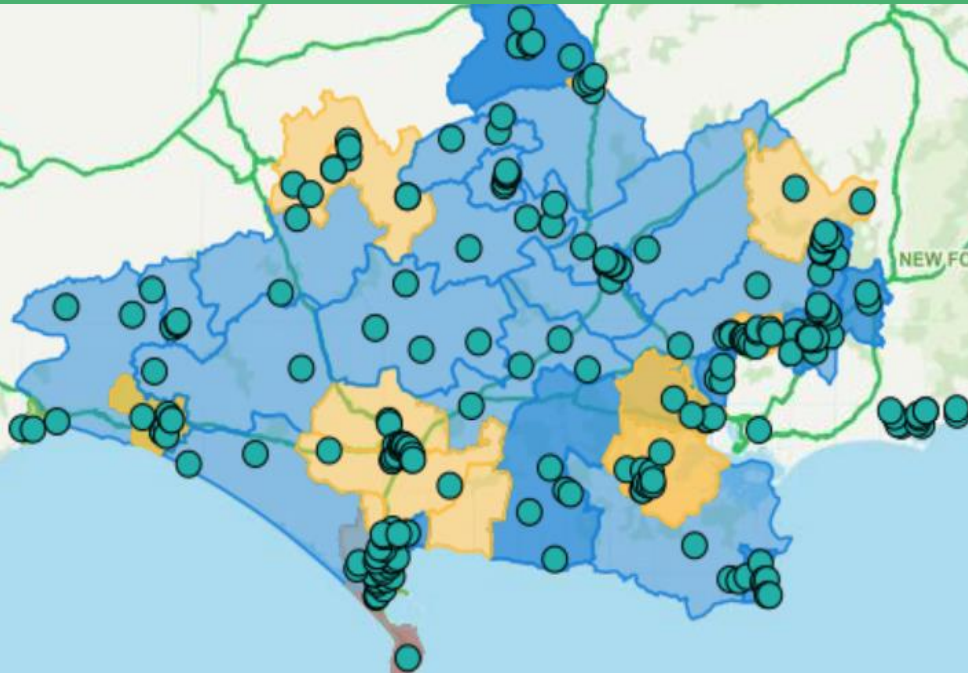
25,000

tonnes of CO₂e
saved and 13MW
renewable energy
installed through LCD

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme




An £18.2m grant-funded programme to retrofit Dorset's public sector estate



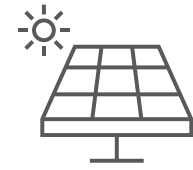
Since 2021 we have delivered...

350
Measures installed



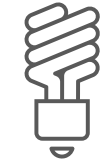
250
Tonnes of CO₂ saved
per year from heat
pumps

>200
Properties upgraded



13,000
Rooftop solar panels
installed (5MW)

>1,500
tonnes of CO₂ saved
per year



45
LED lighting upgrade
projects



185
Heating controls
upgraded

...plus £2m invested in electrical infrastructure



Funded by
UK Government

Low Carbon DORSET



Helping reduce Dorset's footprint

Supporting local business and community organisations with...



Free technical advice



Grants



Sharing best practice

Visit

lowcarbondorset.org.uk



Since 2018 we have delivered...

25,000

tonnes of CO₂e already saved



13MW

of renewable energy already installed



£7M

in grants awarded



>1,000

applications for support received



700+

Organisations supported



Funded by UK Government

Healthy Homes Dorset

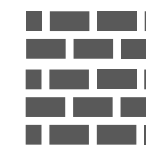
Making homes healthier, cheaper to run, and lower carbon



>1,100
Properties insulated

>£1m
saved on energy bills

>4,200
tonnes of CO₂ saved over the lifetime of measures installed in 2023-24 alone



>1,300
Insulation measures installed since 2021



4,900
Requests for advice by phone or online for HHD and LEAP in 2023-24 alone



3,000
Initial HHD & LEAP home visits since 2021



Free impartial expert advice for all residents



Eligibility-based insulation funding



HUG2 off-gas, low-income EPC D-G delivery



Plus Home Improvement and Energy Efficiency Loans in Dorset in partnership with...

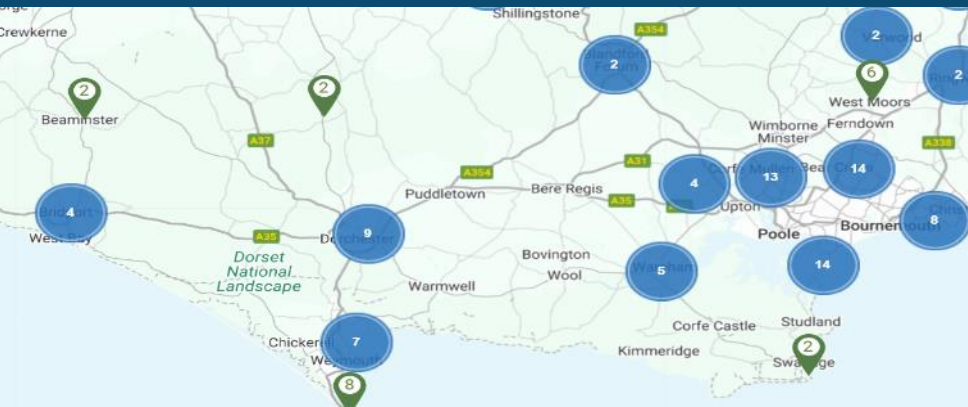


Visit healthyhomesdorset.org.uk or dorset-hug.co.uk

Public EV Charger Programme



Expanding the network of public charge points to meet growing demand for charging facilities.



Visit
[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/
 electric-vehicle-charge-points](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/electric-vehicle-charge-points)



256
 Public EV chargers installed (from 63 in 2020)

78
 Rapid chargers installed (from 8 in 2020)

~1650
 Tonnes of CO2 saved since 2021 from council-sponsored chargepoints

182
 Council-sponsored charge points

~17%
 Average month-on-month growth in # of transactions for council-sponsored chargers (from 765 in Aug 2021 to 4775 in Aug 2024)

~£1.24m
 In grant funding secured (LEVI, ORCS, Workplace Grant), plus match from Mer's private investment and CiL/s106 funding

3. Accelerating progress

Current projects: Accelerating Solar PV

Challenge: Accelerate renewables deployment



- **46 further schemes** developed to outline design stage and **42** assessed as deliverable (**2.2MW**)
- **~£2.5m** estimated total cost
- **36** have secured grid connections so far



- **Dorset participating in Scheme 4** (Autumn registration, mid 2026 installation)
- **Very good response rate** from residents
- **278 tCO₂e/yr** saved if 296 homes sign up (~7ktCO₂e over 25yrs), at a cost to us of **£15.24 per household** cost for us (c.f. ~£4.5k for us to remove that tCO₂e directly)

Current projects: Fleet HVO

Challenge: Cut our fleet emissions

44%

of the council's scope 1+2 emissions came from fleet (5,794 tCO₂e) in 2023/24

98%

of our fleet emissions come from diesel consumption.

75%

of our fleet can transition to HVO immediately, with the rest once vehicles are replaced at their end of life.



>4,000

tonnes of CO₂e will be saved compared to using diesel

1/3

of our scope 1+2 emissions will be cut from transitioning to HVO

Our supplier (WP Group) have given assurances that our HVO supply isn't derived from palm or palm-derivatives.

Current projects: On-Street Charging (2025-29)

Challenge: Cut Dorset's vehicular emissions



In our largest towns over 24,000 households lack off-street parking

Our Council-sponsored charging units so far are mainly in our public car parks

We may need to supply up to 67% (1,670) of total public charge points in Dorset to meet predicted demand

So, between 2025-2029 our charging network will significantly expand:

We've secured £2.49m of OZEV funding plus private match for on-street residential chargers

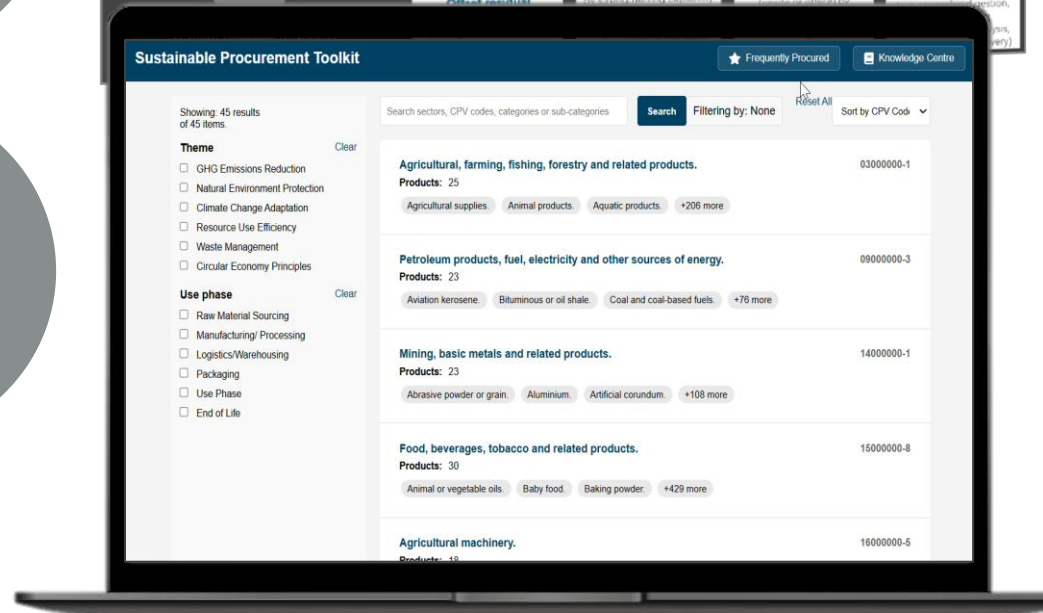
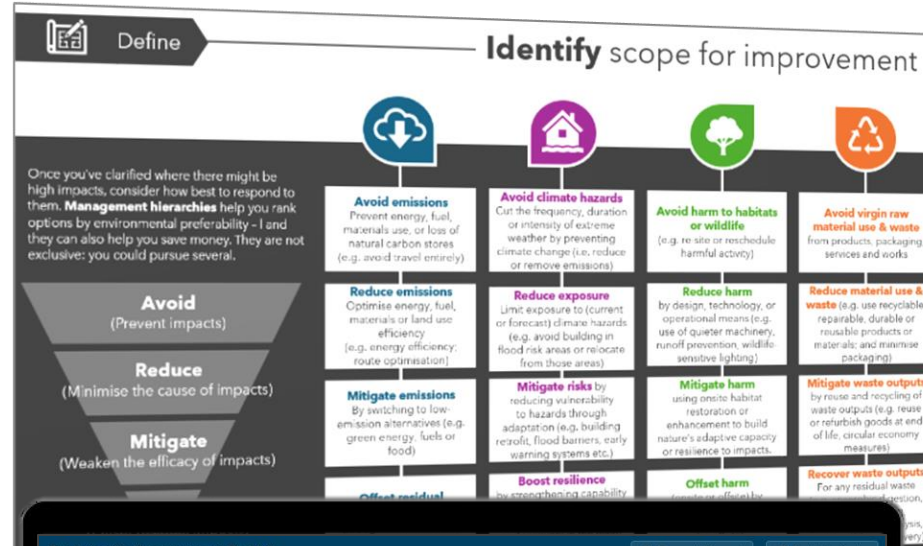
We're launching a scheme to install at least 750 on-street chargers at >300 locations

We're also developing a policy on cross-pavement charging



Current projects: Procurement Toolkit

Challenge: Tackle our Scope 3 footprint



The webtool gives product-specific guidance for 45 product categories for the main lifecycle stages, including:

- Supplier selection questions
- Tender criteria
- Model responses
- KPIs
- Standards and labels
- Proportionality guidance for inclusivity for SMEs and VCSEs

Current projects: Adaptation & Resilience

Challenge: Assess the climate risks



Operational Risk Assessment

7x themes and 44x impact areas



Health, safety & wellbeing



General operations



Assets, infrastructure & equipment



Transport & travel



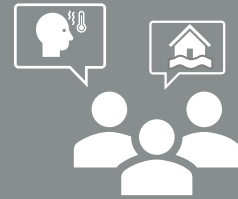
Supplies & supporting services



Resourcing & finance



Strategic, democratic & assurance



Dorset Citizens Climate Panel

Towards a Dorset Adaptation Plan

- A community conversation and visioning exercise a citizen panel and public survey
- 22-person resident panel, selected by lottery, running Oct-Nov.
- Supported by an expert advisory group

Current projects: New & emerging strategy



Challenge: Embedding in wider policy/strategy

Energising Dorset
Economic Prospectus - Growth Strategy
2025 - 2030

Economy Strategy

Dorset Council

Appendix 1
Dorset Council Waste Strategy 2024

Introduction

This Dorset Council Waste Strategy replaces the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset 2008 and the updated version published in 2017. The strategy has been reviewed and updated to take account of the progress made to date and the recent changes in legislation. It sets the strategic vision and framework for how we will deal with waste in Dorset in the longer term, but it has a focus on the actions that will be undertaken over the next 5 years, due to the significant change that is anticipated in that timeframe.

Our waste strategy continues to focus on existing waste up the waste hierarchy and aligns closely with the Dorset Council Climate Change Strategy 2024-2030. The strategy also sets out the vision and policy objectives regarding developments and treatment options.

The strategy details:

- Our achievements so far
- The challenges ahead and what we need to do
- Our vision for the future
- Our policy objectives to drive change

Our achievements

- **Waste and recycling performance**

Dorset Council has a proven track record as follows:

- In 2022/23, Dorset's recycling rate was 67.1%, the highest in the country for a unitary and disposal authority in the country.
- We also have one of the lowest quantities of residual waste per household in the country at 277.82 kilograms for 2022/23.
- We have our waste sent to landfill by 70% over the last decade. Residual waste sent to landfill has been reduced to just 2%. The majority of our residual waste is now sent to the New Earth mechanical biological treatment plant in Poole where organic and reusable materials are extracted, and otherwise material is turned into refuse derived fuel.
- All food waste collected is treated in-country using anaerobic digestion which produces biogas used to generate electricity, and bio-fertiliser sold as a soil improver for plants and crops.
- Dorset Council has been listed in the top 3 local authorities in the national Farming Recycling Carbon Index. This uses waste data to calculate the carbon emissions avoided through each local authority recycling scheme.

1

Dorset and BCP Councils
Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2025
Strategy (Draft for consultation)

Transport Plan

This is where your journey begins...

DRAFT

Dorset Council BCP Council

Dorset Council
Local Plan Options Study
August 2025

Local Plan

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing

Dorset Council Working together | ambitious for Dorset

Dorset Council Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy
2025-2027

EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy

Workplace Travel Plan

Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy 2025
Consultation draft

Nature Recovery Strategy

NATURE RECOVERY DORSET

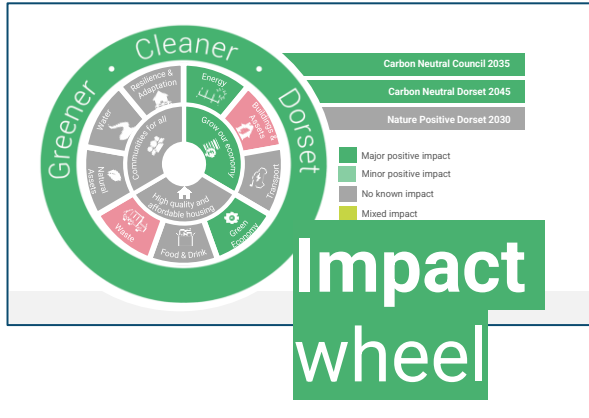
Dorset Council
Local Energy Plan
September 2025 Draft

Energy Plan

Dorset Council Working together | ambitious for Dorset

DORSET COUNCIL
FARMS ESTATE STRATEGY - DRAFT
July 2025

Farms Estate Strategy



Current projects: Wider engagement

Challenge: Mobilising our communities



CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

In association with EAUC, STEM Learning and the University of Reading



Dorset
Council

Climate Workshop 1
Town and Parish Councils

Engaging our residents... **Our Journey to Net Zero Exhibition**

A touring & online exhibition of inspiring stories showing the county's commitment to addressing climate change.

Engaging our schools... **Climate Ambassadors Programme**

A collaboration with the Met Office recruit expert volunteers to support schools in creating and implementing action plans

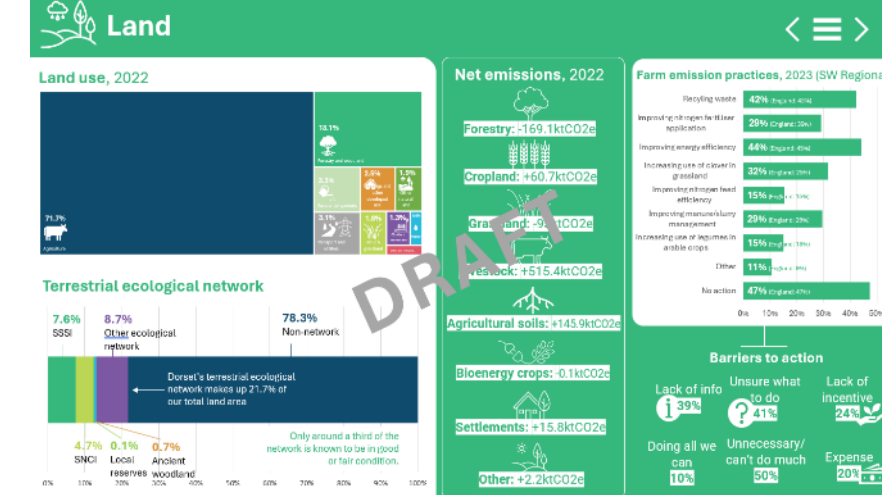
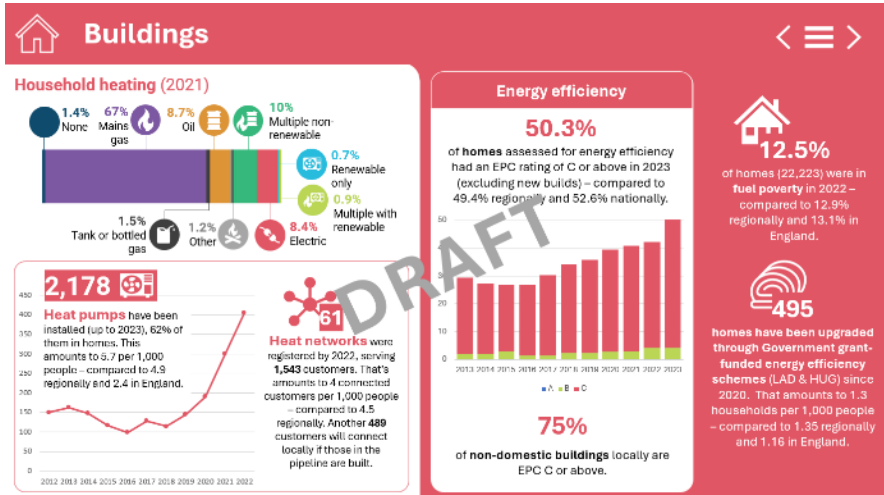
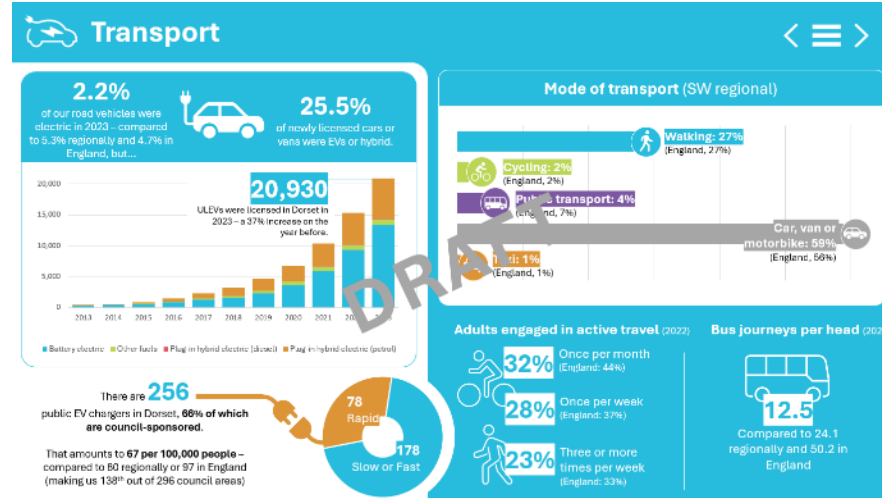
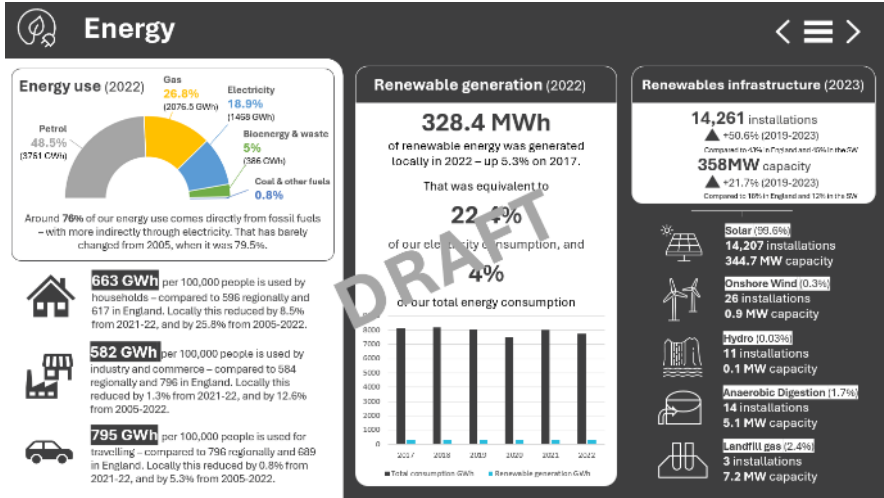
Engaging local councils... **Town & Parish Council events**

Building a local council network supported by events and a toolkit

Current projects: Improving monitoring



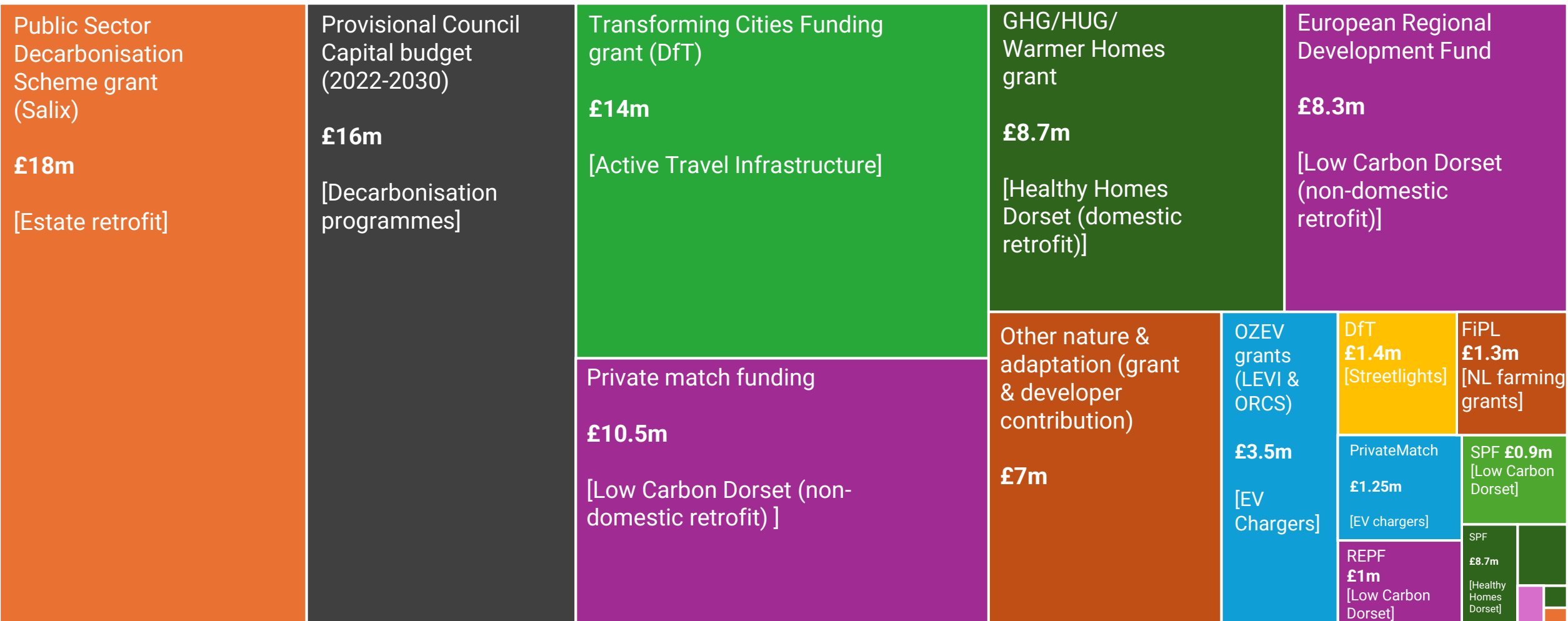
Challenge: Strengthening our monitoring



Operational dashboard: Monthly tracking of key operational emissions

County dashboard: Visualisation of wider-determinants of decarbonisation progress

Funding (~£93m)



Also now exploring:

Renewables income (SEGs)
(existing 5MW, est ~£40-200k/yr)

PPAs

Climate bonds

~£0.5m

Innovate UK Net Zero Living Fund
[Procurement toolkit]

SW Net Zero Hub
[Estate retrofit]

Public Health
[Healthy Homes Dorset (domestic retrofit)]

COMF grant
[Healthy Homes Dorset (domestic retrofit)]

Want to know more?

Visit our website for more on our plans, progress, and guides...

 dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-change

Visit the 'Our journey to net zero' exhibition – touring libraries or online at...

 dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/our-journey-to-net-zero

