

Cost-saving Climate Action

Councils¹ have responsibility for a wide range of services, including schools, primary care, roads, bins and housing. But, since 2010 in particular, the budgets available for vital services have not been keeping up with the need. Sometimes climate action is misperceived as a less urgent priority against other work at a time when money is tight, both for councils and residents.

Yet so many climate actions save residents and councils money, pay for themselves in the long term or even generate income.

According to a study commissioned by Climate Emergency UK in 2025², for every £200 per capita increase in a council's spending power, a 0.8% improvement in its Scorecard performance is observed. This shows that when given the appropriate resources, councils are able to deliver more climate action. The study also shows that local community support and political will are equally important.

For this infographic, we've highlighted the questions that cover actions councils can take to reduce residents bills, save costs to the councils and generate income, all whilst taking action towards net zero.

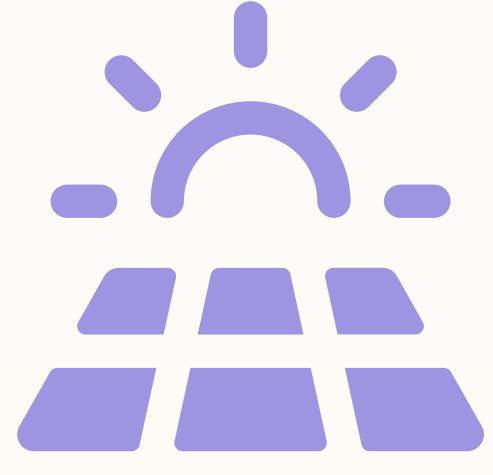


SUPPORTING RESIDENTS



62% ▲ 19 versus 2023

of local authorities³ support initiatives to redistribute surplus food⁴

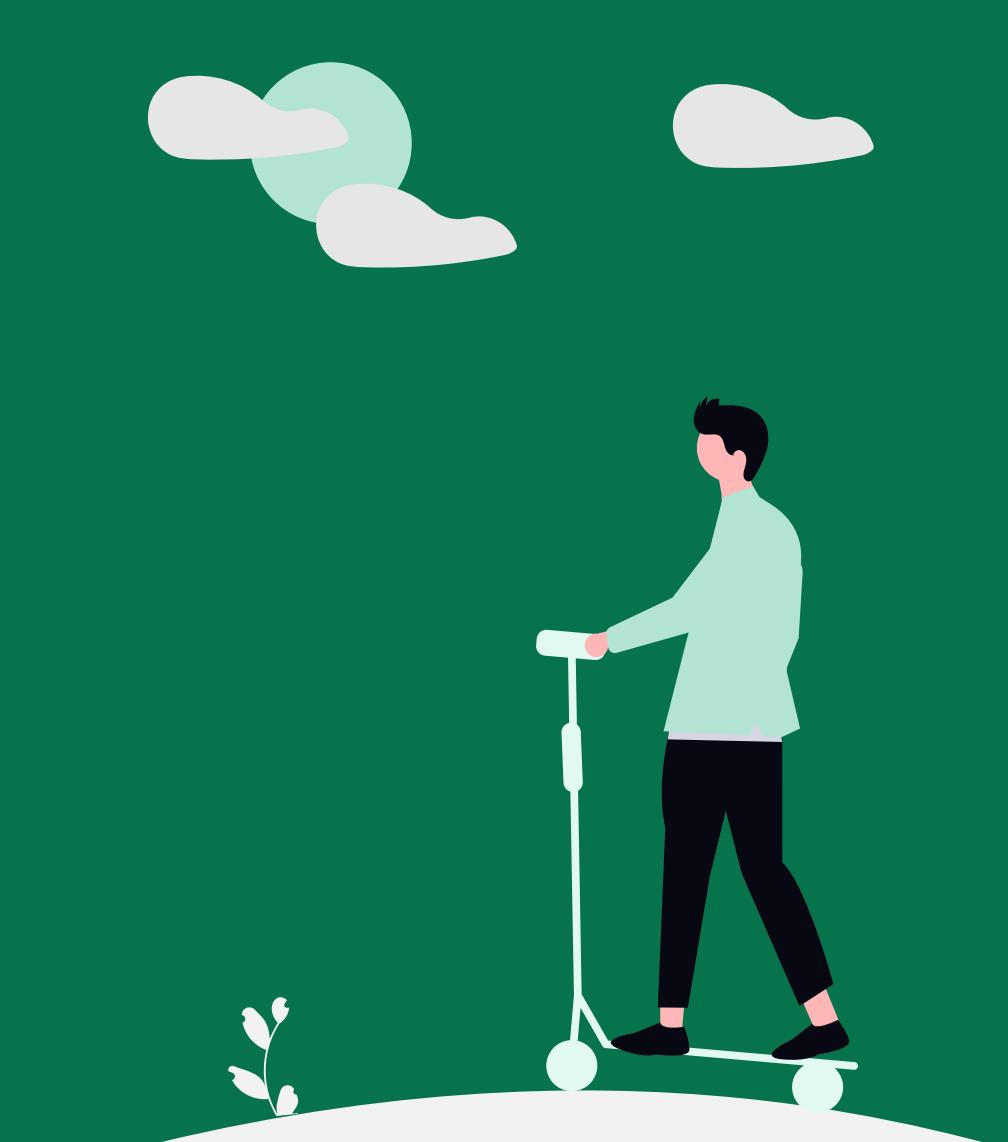


52% ▲ 4 versus 2023

of local authorities have a Solar Together or similar scheme to allow residents to purchase renewable energy cheaply, through collective buying⁵

79% ▲ 4 versus 2023

of local authorities have set up or support at least one shared transport scheme that can be used across their whole area such as car clubs, bike hire or e-bike and e-scooter shared hire schemes⁶

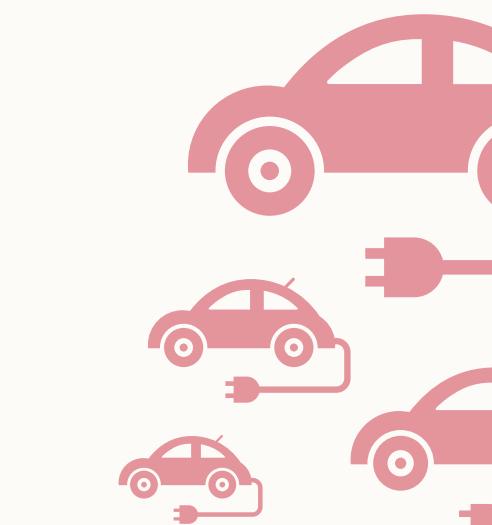


ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

16 ▲ 1 council versus 2023

local authorities have launched a Climate Bond, Community Municipal Investment or equivalent which raises money for specific projects to benefit residents and the climate⁷

IMPROVING COUNCILS' FINANCES



27% ▲ 7 versus 2023

of local authorities have 10% or more of their council fleet as electric vehicles but only 3% have 50% or more⁸



57% ▲ 8 versus 2023

of local authorities turn off or dim their street lighting, including 81% of county councils⁹



66% ▼ 5 versus 2023

of local authorities have completed extensive retrofit work on any of its significant buildings to cut costs and carbon¹⁰



88% ▲ 20 versus 2023

of local authorities have raised income for climate action from external sources¹¹

(1) "councils" include all 391 UK local and mayoral authorities assessed in the 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecards

(2) <https://climateemergency.uk/other-resources/>

(3) "local authorities" excludes mayoral authorities (combined authorities and Greater London Authority)

(4) Waste Reduction & Food Q3 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s7_wr_f_q3/?type=single

(5) Buildings & Heating Q11 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s1_b_h_q11/?type=single

(6) Transport Q2 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s2_tran_q2/?type=single

(7) Governance & Finance 10b - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s4_g_f_q10b/?type=single

(8) Transport Q1 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s2_tran_q1/?type=single

(9) Biodiversity Q 6 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s5_bio_q6/?type=single

(10) Buildings & Heating Q1a - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s1_b_h_q1a/?type=single

(11) Governance & Finance 10c - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s4_g_f_q10c/?type=single