

## Governance & Finance

This section looks at the extent climate action has been incorporated and embedded across the whole of a council in all its activities and services, including in its decision making, forward planning and governing and reporting structures. It also looks at how councils are raising funds for climate action and whether the councils' investments are sustainable or supporting high carbon infrastructure and industries.

### 2025 average score and 2023 comparison<sup>1</sup>

by council type

**34%** Single Tier ▲ 7

**31%** District ▲ 7

**38%** County ▲ 4

**19%** Northern Ireland ▲ 8

**33%** Combined Authority ▲ 4

There have been a number of improvements, with the number of councils reporting at least a 20% emission decrease in their operations improving and councils continuing to include climate within their decision making process. However, councils continue to struggle to see emissions reduce and move investments away from funding the climate crisis.

### LEADING THE WAY



**88%** ▲ 20 versus 2023

of local authorities<sup>2</sup> have raised funds for climate action<sup>3</sup>



**86%** ▲ 2 versus 2023

of councils<sup>4</sup> have a named climate portfolio holder<sup>5</sup>

### FUNDING THE CLIMATE CRISIS



**10%** No change versus 2023

of local authorities have direct investments in airports<sup>6</sup>

**2%** have committed to divesting their pension fund from fossil fuels by 2030<sup>7</sup>

while 13% of councils have passed a motion supporting divestment



(1) Average scores here: [https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/sections/s4\\_g\\_f/](https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/sections/s4_g_f/) • (2) "local authorities" excludes combined authorities • (3) Has the council raised income for climate action from any other sources? • (4) "councils" include all 391 UK local and combined authorities assessed in the 2023 Council Climate Action Scorecards • (5) Does the council have a Cabinet member or Portfolio Holder that has climate change explicitly in their remit? • (6) Does the council have direct investments in airports or high carbon intensive energy industries? • (7) Has the council's pensions fund committed to divesting from all fossil fuels? • (8) Does the council's corporate plan include a net zero target and make tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities? • (9) Has the council adopted a new governance or decision making process to put tackling the climate emergency at the heart of every council decision made? • (10) Have all senior management and councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received climate awareness training? • (11) According to the council's own reporting, have the council's own greenhouse gas emissions reduced since 2019? • (12) Has the council's area wide carbon emissions decreased, according to UK Government data?

### CLIMATE GOVERNANCE



**40%** ▼ 5 versus 2023

of councils included climate as a priority in their Corporate Plan<sup>8</sup>



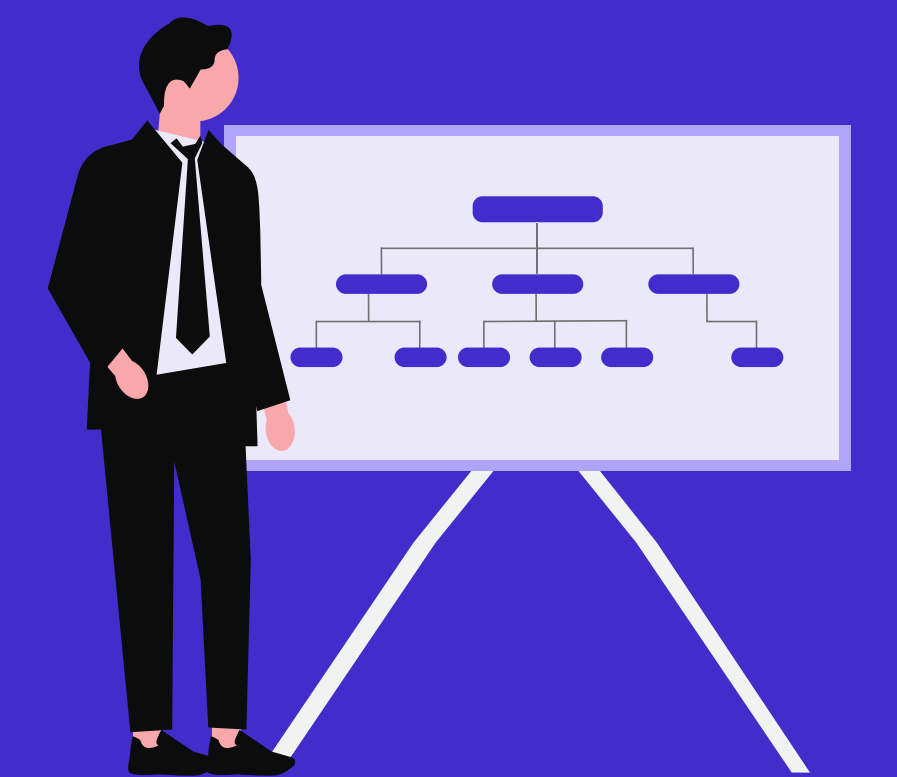
**61%** ▲ 14 versus 2023

of councils list climate implications on full council decisions<sup>9</sup>

15% adopting a detailed climate impact assessment tool for decisions

**10%** ▼ 4 versus 2023

of councils have trained all their senior staff and cabinet or committee chair in climate awareness<sup>10</sup>



### EMISSION REDUCTIONS, BETWEEN 2019 AND 2022



**19%** ▲ 12 versus 2023

of councils have reduced their own emissions by 20% or more<sup>11</sup>



**50%**

of councils have had area wide emission reductions by 10% or more<sup>12</sup>