

Buildings & Heating

Buildings and Heating is one of the biggest sectors of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. This section covers the main actions that local authorities can take to support privately owned and rented homes and social housing to reduce the emissions from their homes. This section also covers what combined authorities can do to create green jobs in their area.

2025 average score and 2023 comparison¹

by council type

54%

Single Tier

▲ 5

48%

District

▲ 6

69%

County

▼ 1

29%

Northern Ireland

▼ 4

75%

Combined Authority

▲ 15

While averages have increased for most questions since 2023, average scores have decreased for county councils and in Northern Ireland. Improvements can be seen in capacity on retrofitting and council owned social housing. However, only 51% of UK councils have a renewable energy tariff or generate renewable energy equal to 20% of their own energy use, this is less than previously assessed.

LEADING THE WAY · LOCAL AUTHORITIES²



72%

▲ 13 versus 2023

have at least 1 part-time retrofit staff member³



77%

▲ 6 versus 2023

owned social housing is energy efficient, EPC band C or higher⁴

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



52%

▲ 4 versus 2023

of local authorities support residents to collectively purchase renewable energy⁵



52%

▲ 9 versus 2023

of UK homes are energy efficient, rated EPC C* or higher⁶

37%

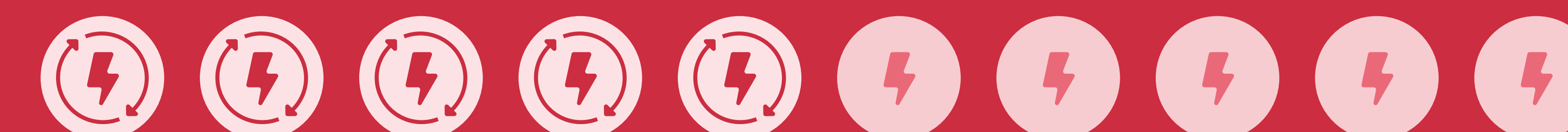
of responsible councils are conducting investigations or enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for privately rented homes in 2023/24⁷



51%

▼ 8 versus 2023

of councils⁸ have a renewable energy tariff or generate renewable energy equal to 20% of their own energy use than in 2023⁹



29%

▲ 5 versus 2023

of local authorities provide support for local community renewable energy creation¹⁰

(1) Average scores here: https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/sections/s1_b_h/ · (2) "local authorities" excludes mayoral authorities · (3) See 'Q1.6 Does the council have a staff member employed to work on retrofitting across the council area?'. Having a part-time staff working 3 days a week or more is required for authorities to meet the criteria · (4) See 'Q1.3 Are the homes owned and managed by the council energy efficient?'. This question applies only to local authorities that own or manage more than 100 council homes · (5) See 'Q1.11 Does the council have a scheme to allow residents to purchase renewable energy cheaply, through collective buying?' · (6) See 'Q1.7 Are the homes and buildings in the council area energy efficient?'. The UK Government target is for all homes to meet EPC band C or higher by 2035 · (7) Only applicable to district councils and English and Welsh single-tier authorities. See 'Q1.8 Is the council actively enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards of homes in the private rented sector?' · (8) "councils" include all 391 UK local and mayoral authorities assessed in the 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecards · (9) See 'Q1.2 Are the council's operations powered by renewable energy?' and 'Q 1.1 (CA) Is the combined authority's operations powered by renewable energy?' · (10) See 'Q1.12 Has the council supported local community renewable energy creation?'

