

# 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.

This section 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.

## Average score<sup>1</sup>

by council type

**27%** Single Tier

**24%** District

**34%** County

**11%** Northern Ireland

**29%** Combined Authority

## LEADING THE WAY



**68%** of local authorities\* have raised funds for climate action<sup>2</sup>



**84%** of councils\*\* have a named climate portfolio holder<sup>3</sup>



**45%** of councils include climate as a priority in their Corporate Plan<sup>4</sup>

## CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

**14%** of councils have trained all their senior\*\*\* staff and councillors who are cabinet or committee chairs in climate awareness<sup>5</sup>

**64%** of councils don't have a detailed sustainable procurement policy<sup>6</sup>

**47%** of councils list climate implications on full council decisions<sup>7</sup>

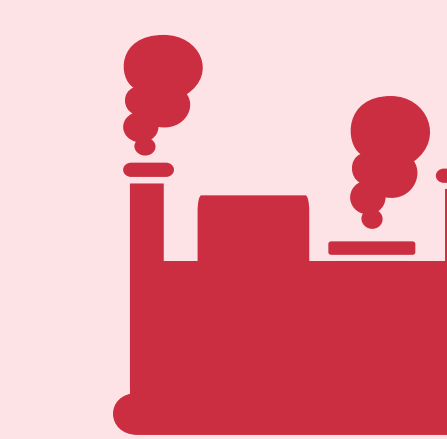
(\*) "local authorities" excludes combined authorities • (\*\*) "councils" include all 389 UK local and combined authorities assessed in the 2023 Council Climate Action Scorecards • (\*\*\*) "senior staff" includes all Chief Executives, deputy Chief Executives and Directors or Heads of Departments, or equivalents, depending on what each council calls them • (1) [https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/sections/s4\\_g\\_f/](https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/sections/s4_g_f/) • (2) Q 4.10c Has the council raised income for climate action from any other sources? • (3) Q 4.7 Does the council have a Cabinet member or Portfolio Holder that has climate change explicitly in their remit? • (4) Q 4.1a Does the council's corporate plan include a net-zero target and make tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities? • (5) Q 4.9 Have all senior management and councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received climate awareness training? • (6) Q 4.6 Has the Council embedded climate action and waste reduction into their procurement policies? • (7) Q 4.5 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? • (8) Q 4.11a Has the council passed a motion in support of divestment from all fossil fuels from the councils' pension funds? • (9) Q 4.11b Has the council's pensions fund committed to divesting from all fossil fuels? • (10) Q 4.12 Does the council have direct investments in airports or high carbon intensive energy industries?

## FUNDING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

**1%** of councils have committed to divesting their pension fund from fossil fuels by 2030<sup>8</sup>

**13%** of councils have passed a motion supporting the divestment of its own investments and their pension fund<sup>9</sup>

**10%** of local authorities\* have direct investments in airports<sup>10</sup>



EMISSION REDUCTIONS  
between 2019 and 2021

**7%** of councils have reduced their own emissions by 20% or more<sup>11</sup>

**2%** of district & single tier councils have had **area wide emissions** reduced by 10% or more<sup>12</sup>

**0%** No county, combined authority or Northern Irish council have had **area wide emissions** reduced by 10% or more<sup>12</sup>

(11) Q 4.3b According to the council's own reporting, have the council's own greenhouse gas emissions reduced since 2019? • (12) Q 4.4 Has the council's area wide carbon emissions decreased, according to UK Government data?

