



England

We've summarised the key findings from across the 324 English councils and mayoral authorities to provide an overview of the results from the 2023 Council Climate Action Scorecards.

Whilst the scores vary across England, it is noticeable that, of the lowest scoring councils in the UK, 80% are in England. There are low scoring councils across all four types of English authorities: district, county, single tier and mayoral, with at least 10% of councils across each type of English authority scoring 20% or below.

Whilst most legislation is the same across all four nations, in England there is no statutory duty for councils to act on climate.

Average score

by type of council in England

35% Single Tier
England only

29% District

35% County

46% Mayoral Authority

8% Lowest council score

65% Highest council score

LEADING THE WAY

79% of councils have reduced mowing or created wildflower habitat in their area¹

85% of councils, including all county councils, have a named climate Portfolio Holder²

83% of councils help residents retrofit their homes³

81% of councils have a Climate Action Plan with SMART targets⁴

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

60% of English planning authorities have set the highest water efficiency standards for new builds⁵

62% of English transport authorities have low-emission buses used on routes⁶

62% of councils produced an annual Climate Action Plan update report⁷

FALLING BEHIND

17% of English planning authorities have set net zero standards for building new housing⁸

7% of English councils have adopted a detailed decision making process that puts the climate crisis at the heart of all council decisions⁹

7 Only 7 English councils recycle more than 60% of their waste but no councils recycle more than 70%¹⁰



East Devon is the only English council that produces less than 300kg of residual waste per household¹¹

(1) Biodiversity • Question 3 - Has the council committed to mowing their green spaces less for wildlife? • (2) Gov & Finance • Question 7 - Does the council have a Cabinet member or Portfolio Holder that has climate change explicitly in their remit? • (3) Buildings & Heating • Question 9 - Does the council provide a service to support private homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient? • (4) Collaboration & Engagement • Question 2a - Has the council published a Climate Action Plan with SMART targets? • (5) Planning & Land Use • Question 5 - Does the council require a higher level of water efficiency for all new homes? The highest water efficiency standards are 110 litres of water per person per day in England and Wales, with Scotland using a per appliance metric • (6) Transport • Question 8a - Are there any low emission buses used within the council's area? • (7) Collaboration & Engagement • Question 2b - Has the council published an up to date and easy-to-read annual report on their Climate Action Plan? • (8) Planning & Land Use • Question 3c - Does the council set a requirement that all new homes to be built must be operationally (regulated) net zero? A net zero standard is defined as when the regulated operational emissions, which are the emissions from the use of the building, are zero or negative. See [UKGBC](#) for more detail • (9) Gov & Finance • Question 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? • (10) Waste Reduction & Food • Question 8 - How high is the councils' area wide annual recycling rate? • (11) Waste Reduction & Food • Question 9 - How low is the councils' area wide level of household waste produced?

