

2025

Council Climate Action Scorecards

Climate Emergency UK assessed all UK councils on the actions they've taken towards net zero between January 2020 and October 2024.

Find out more at
[Action Scorecards • Biodiversity](#)



mySociety

Biodiversity

The biodiversity crisis needs to be tackled alongside the climate crisis. The Biodiversity section covers the actions councils can take to improve biodiversity in their area, while helping to reduce emissions and adapt to the climate crisis. It also covers what combined authorities can do to enable biodiversity improvement across the region they cover.

2025 average score and 2023 comparison¹

by council type

32% Single Tier ▲ 5

28% District ▲ 6

43% County ▲ 13

28% Northern Ireland ▼ 10

While there have been improvements across this Biodiversity section, noticeable in the reduction of mowing, action continues to lag. A large proportion of authorities are still without planning ecologists, while the vast majority are continuing to use pesticides and peat based products.



90% ▲ 10 versus 2023

of local authorities² have reduced mowing or created wildflower habitat in their area³

ENHANCING HABITAT



57% ▲ 8 versus 2023

of local authorities turn off or dim their street lighting, including 81% of county councils⁴



6 No change versus 2023

combined authorities provide significant funding for biodiversity⁵

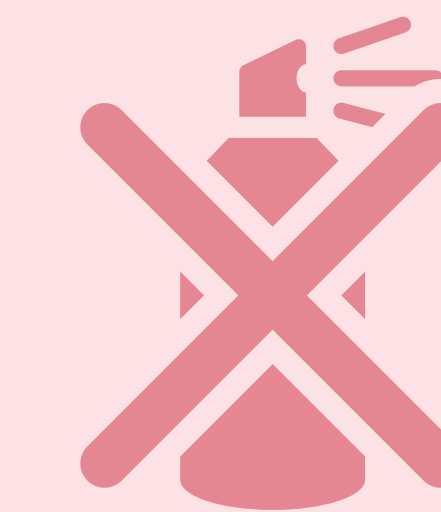
IMPROVEMENT NEEDED



54% ▲ 22 versus 2023

of local authorities employ a planning ecologist to enforce Biodiversity Net Gain to new developments⁶

THREATENING NATURE



12% ▲ 6 versus 2023

of councils⁷ are pesticide free⁸



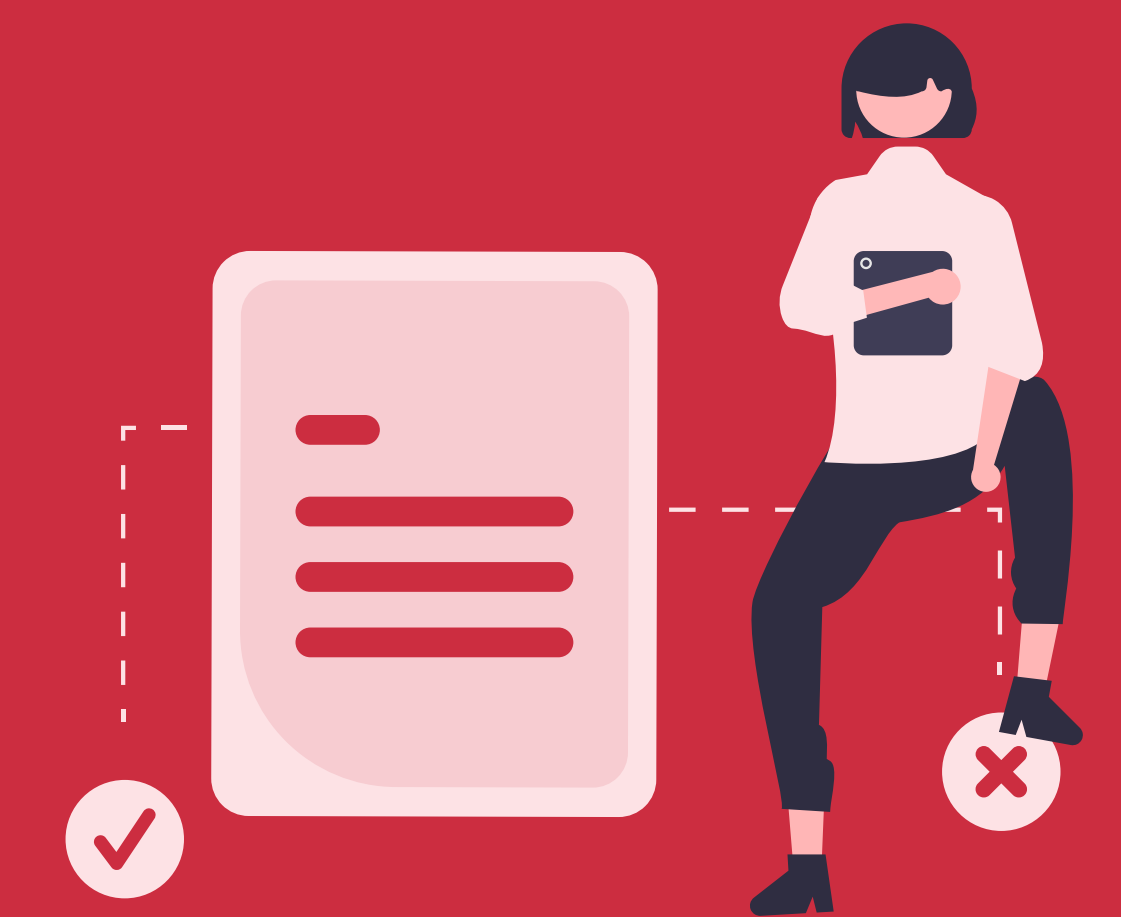
24% ▲ 7 versus 2023

of councils have a tree cover target and a tree management plan⁹

5%

No change versus 2023

of planning authorities have set a higher minimum standard than the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain for new developments¹⁰



(1) Average scores here: https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/sections/s5_bio/ • (2) "local authorities" excludes combined authorities • (3) Q 5.3 Has the council committed to mowing their green spaces less for wildlife? • (4) Q 5.6 Does the council turn off or dim their street light network to reduce light pollution? • (5) Q3.6 Does the combined authority provide funding for community action on biodiversity, for example through an environment fund or biodiversity action fund? • (6) Does the council employ a planning ecologist to scrutinise planning reports for biodiversity net gain? with our criteria setting the minimum level for employing a planning ecologist at 0.6FTE • (7) "councils" include all 389 UK local and combined authorities assessed in the 2023 Council Climate Action Scorecards • (8) Q 5.2 Has the council banned the use of pesticides on all council owned and managed land? • (9) Q 5.5 Does the council have a target to increase tree cover and is a tree management plan agreed as they grow • (10) Q 5.9 Does the council require a higher biodiversity net gain commitment from new developments? You can also learn more about Biodiversity Net Gain here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-biodiversity-net-gain>