

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 • Northern Ireland



mySociety



Northern Ireland

We've summarised the key findings from the 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecards to provide an overview of Northern Irish councils' climate action.

The scores vary across Northern Ireland, and on average, Northern Irish councils score lower than other nations in the UK. Northern Irish councils scores range from 14% to 38%. Northern Irish councils have fewer powers than other councils in the UK in relation to schools, housing and transport.

Whilst most legislation is the same across all four nations, Northern Irish and English councils (unlike in Wales and Scotland) do not have a statutory duty to work towards net zero across their whole operations or council area.

2025 average score and 2023 comparison¹

by council type

24% Northern Ireland ▲ 3

42% England
Single Tier councils only ▲ 7

37% Wales ▲ 7

39% Scotland ▲ 5

LEADING THE WAY



9 out of 11
councils have committed to mowing
their green spaces less for wildlife²



100% ▲ 5 councils versus 2023
Northern Irish councils support
local food growing³

MAKING PROGRESS



3 out of 11 ▲ 3 councils versus 2023
councils have published an up to date
and easy-to-read annual report on their
Climate Action Plan⁴



4 ▲ 4 councils versus 2023
councils have a staff member working on
retrofit⁵



6 out of 11
councils have a named Cabinet
member or Portfolio holder lead for
climate action⁶

FALLING BEHIND



Antrim and Newtownabbey is the only
council to have lobbied the UK government
or the NI Executive for further climate action⁷

▼ 4 councils versus 2023



7 out of 11 ▼ 2 councils versus 2023
councils have committed to no new
building developments on functional
flood plains⁸

0 Northern Irish council
requires new homes to be
built to operationally net
zero standards by 2030⁹



(1) Nation comparison available at: <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/nations/>
Check the Scorecards results for Northern Irish Local Authorities at: <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/nations/northern-ireland/>
(2) Biodiversity Q3 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s5_bio_q3/?type=northern-ireland#performance
(3) Waste Reduction & Food Q5 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s7_wr_f_q5/
(4) Collaboration & Engagement Q2b - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s6_c_e_q2b/?type=northern-ireland#performance
(5) Buildings & Heating Q6 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s1_b_h_q6/?type=northern-ireland#performance
(6) Governance & Finance Q7 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s4_g_f_q7/?type=northern-ireland#performance
(7) Collaboration & Engagement Q3 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s6_c_e_q3/?type=northern-ireland#performance
(8) Planning & Land Use Q8 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s3_p_lu_q8/?type=northern-ireland#performance
(9) Planning & Land Use Q3c - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s3_p_lu_q3c/?type=northern-ireland#performance