

Moray Council Annual Climate Change Summary

Reporting period 2024-25



moray
council

Key Takeaways



Total Council emissions for 2024-25
17055.6 tCO₂e



Decrease in emissions since 2023-24
7.7%



Largest area of emissions: Building heat
3963.4 tCO₂e (23.2% of total)



Decrease in emissions since baseline (2017-18)
45.8%

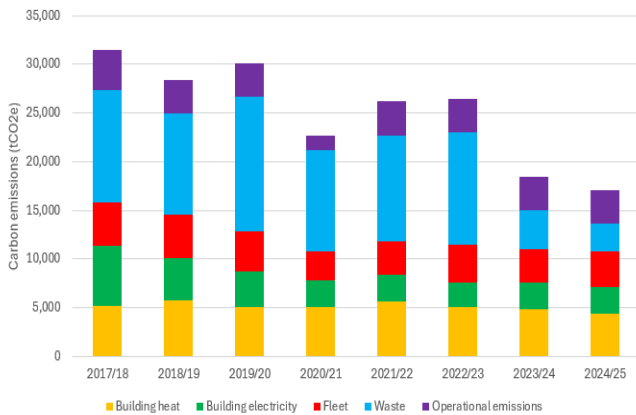


Emissions reduced by diverting landfill to NESS EFW facility
8759.2 tCO₂e



Electricity generated from solar photovoltaic panels
53,616 kWh (up by 4%)

Carbon reduction progress to date

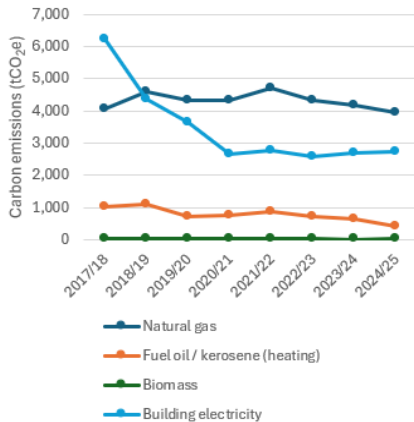


- The Council's emissions have fallen by 45.8% since the 2017-18 baseline.
- Some emissions categories, such as staff commuting emissions, have only been recorded in recent reporting periods. To ensure a consistent scope for the purpose of this report, estimated historical emissions for these categories have been added.
- The most significant emissions reductions have come from improvements in the disposal of non-recyclable waste, which was previously sent to landfill but is now cleanly combusted to produce energy.
- The areas of building heat and operational emissions have slightly reduced, however building electricity and fleet have gone up slightly.

Sectoral Analysis



Building Heat and Electricity

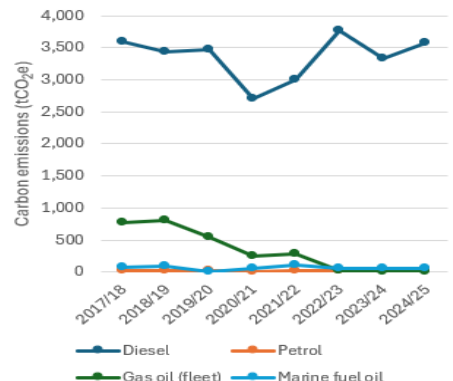


- The Council's current largest emission source is providing heat to our buildings, contributing to 23% of total emissions. While fuel oil / kerosene emissions have fallen by 60% since the 2017/18 baseline, the Council remains dependent on natural gas boilers for most building heat. Emissions from natural gas heating has shown little decrease with gas boilers continuing to be installed and replaced on cost grounds.
- Emissions from our electricity usage have fallen by 60% since baseline. This is the combined result of the decarbonisation of the national grid, along with energy savings from efficiency improvements and through solar PV installations (see Case Study 1). However, electricity use in some areas are growing as new uses such as more EV bus and cars and new electricity points at Buckie harbour to replace generators.



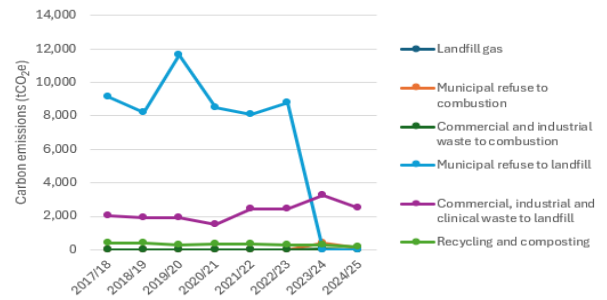
Fleet

- The use of diesel in Council vehicles makes up 97% of our transport emissions, and 21% of our total emissions.
- There has been no significant decrease in diesel consumption compared to the baseline, with a small increase in the last reporting year, possibly due to vehicles servicing new housing developments and M.Connect. Budget cuts meant that around 20 vehicles were not replaced during 2024/25 at their optimal replacement age. This has led to an ageing fleet with less fuel-efficient vehicles, which naturally increases consumption.
- 6 EVs replaced 6 diesel cars, with financial benefits of £5,000 per year in fuel savings and maintenance costs reduced by 75%. EV charging consumption increased to 606,912 kWh in 2024/25, which is an increase of 11.5%.
- Small quantities of petrol are used in Open Spaces machinery, and marine fuel in Council vessels.



Waste

- The joint NESS Energy from Waste facility has resulted in a further reduction in emissions from the Council's waste operations over the past reporting year.
- Nether Dallachy landfill site was still accepting commercial and industrial waste during 2024/25 so these figures are still reported on. With the closure of the landfill site these emissions will reduce further next year.
- Other emissions from waste management include those incurred from recycling and composting, now making up 6% of waste emissions.



Case Study 1 – Solar PV on council buildings



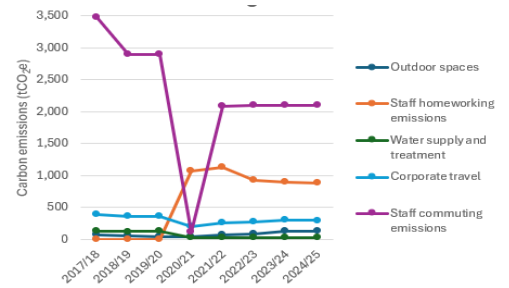
Procured in August 2024 and commissioned between April and June 2025, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels have been installed on buildings at Ashgrove Depot. The project was funded under a “spend to save” approach. To date, the system has operated smoothly, generated electricity supporting lighting, workshop and office activities, EV charging, and other general electricity demands. Surplus electricity is exported to the grid. The system can be monitored remotely, enabling prompt identification and resolution of any issues.

Investment: £56,432
 Internal rate of return (IRR): 25.86%
 Lifetime Savings (25 yrs): approx. £514,467

Payback Period: 4.3 years
 First-Year Savings: £11,932

Operational Activities

- Operational emissions have fallen by about 15% since the baseline in 2017/18. This is mainly due to less staff commuting and less emissions from water supply and treatment.
- Emissions from staff working at home have also been recorded since the pandemic, accounting for the resulting additional heating and electricity usage outside Council facilities.
- Emissions from corporate travel, which includes flights, rail journeys and grey fleet mileage (personal cars used for business purposes), have continued to increase following a return to “business as usual” practices since the COVID pandemic.



Case Study 2 – Connecting people with nature through conservation activity

- Over 2024-2025, the Council partnered with Wild Things! environmental education charity to progress action plans at three sites the Council manages for nature; Millbues, Elgin Oakwood and the Wards.
- 59 residents, including school groups and adult volunteers, helped to:
 - Plant approximately 200 native trees
 - Remove 1,000 old tree protector tubes
 - Remove large areas of invasive trees and plants
 - Record wildlife sightings and submit them
 - Care for wildflower and wetland areas
- Strong community engagement demonstrated a deep sense of community care and concern for natural habitats.

Sustainability

- Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- All Public Sector Bodies must demonstrate how they are progressing sustainable development as part of their Best Value duties.
- The Council has approved a Sustainable Development Statement in November 2024 which identified short-to-medium term actions to ensure sustainability is embedded within the Council's plans and decision-making processes. This includes guidance on how officers can include sustainable development in the Implications Section of Committee Reports.

Procurement and Investment

- The Council continues to deliver and record non-cash benefits such as sustainability, climate change and community wealth building through its procurement process.
- Only 4.08% of contracts commence during the year included a sustainability target (in comparison to 5.68% in the previous reporting year). This falls short of the target of 20%.
- Of the contracts with identified environmental non-cash benefits, 8 related to greenhouse gas reduction, 4 for waste, 2 around energy and 5 specifically support sustainable construction.

Climate Adaptation

- The Council completed its first adaptation benchmarking report, strengthening the monitoring of adaptation activities and gaps.
- A Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) for 2018–2023 was produced in 2025, improving understanding of historical impacts and potential future climate-related costs.
- SNAP 3, published in September 2024, now informs the Council's approach to adaptation, with its Nature Connects outcome reinforcing the alignment of biodiversity and wider climate action.
- The Council is a national leader on coastal change, applying an innovative pathway approach through a Regional Coastal Change Adaptation Plan and ten local plans.

Biodiversity

- The Draft Biodiversity Strategy went out for public consultation in 2025.
- Ecological training was provided to Open Space operations teams to support professional knowledge around planting and management practices.
- Moray Nature Network mapping was completed in early 2025.
- New local guidance for biodiversity was approved, providing greater clarity on how NPF4 policy 3 is to be applied in planning decisions.
- Preparation of the Local Development Plan 2027 and Biodiversity Strategy 2026 - 2036 continue to embed the Nature Network.