

Carbon Management Programme (CMP) Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Emissions Report 2025/26

London Borough of Brent

For Period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

The current CO₂ reductions stand at 75.8% in the most recent year 2025/26 over the 2010/11 baseline.

This CO₂ emissions report relates to our Council corporate estate and operations only, not borough-wide business and residential CO₂ emissions, and our corporate emissions only make up a small proportion of total borough-wide emissions.

The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, in line with many other local authorities across the UK, and is committed to do all reasonable in its gift to aim for carbon neutrality by 2030. It is important that the Council leads by example in reducing its own CO₂ emissions and it had a specific action in its Brent Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2022-24 Delivery Plan to develop a plan to get to net zero by 2030. The Energy Team have created the Council's Corporate Estate Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan, which identifies a Roadmap for achieving Brent Council's corporate estate net zero goals.

Brent Council previously set a highly ambitious target of -60% CO₂ reduction from 2010-11 to 2020-21, which exceeded all CO₂ reduction targets over that period (UK Government Emissions Reduction Pledge, Clean Growth Strategy target, Central Government target, UK-wide target, Mayor's London-wide target). The target was achieved - and exceeded – five years ago. Brent Council has gone on to further reduce CO₂ in each of the five years since.

Substantial CO₂ emissions reductions early on in this reporting period were in large part due to continuing reductions in emissions from property rationalisation with a smaller number of buildings being used, particularly due to the move to the Civic Centre.

After that there has been a significant drop in CO₂ emissions from our streetlights light-emitting diode (LED) upgrade programme completed early in 2019.

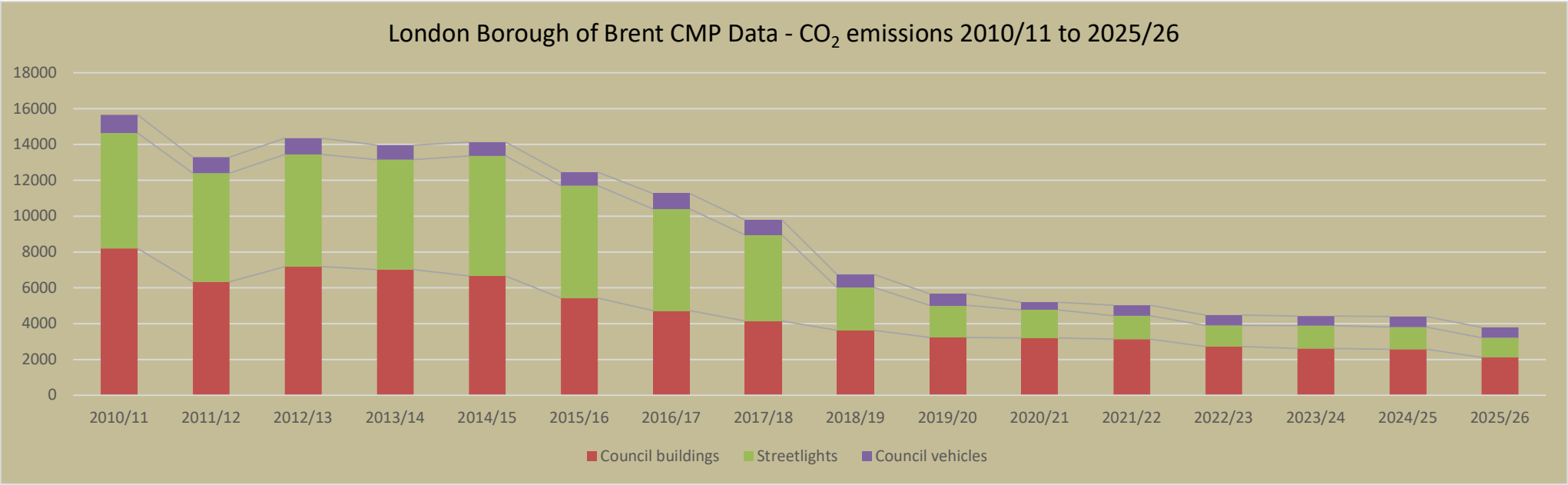
Further CO₂ emissions reductions have come during 2022/23 and 2023/24 from Brent Energy Team's initiatives including a project to improve energy efficiency across 16 Council corporate buildings (along with further decarbonisation of the grid).

In 2024/25, as in 2023/24, significant electricity savings (in kWh) have been achieved, particularly in the Civic Centre, but the official UK 2023 and 2024 Green House Gases (GHG) conversion factors kWh to CO₂ worsened, which is outside the Council's control, due to the 'energy crisis' in which global factors caused the short-term increased use of fossil fuels in the energy mix.

Significant CO₂ emissions have once again been achieved during 2025/26. This has primarily been due to targeted energy reductions in several areas in the Civic Centre, plus further decarbonisation of the national electricity grid causing the GHG conversion factor for electricity to reduce again.

1. Change in Emissions 2010-2026

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
kWh -> CO ₂ factors used	GHG 2010	GHG 2011	GHG 2012	GHG 2013	GHG 2014	GHG 2015	GHG 2016	GHG 2017	GHG 2018	GHG 2019	GHG 2020	GHG 2021	GHG 2022	GHG 2023	GHG 2024	GHG 2025
Council buildings	8,193	6,330	7,185	7,023	6,656	5,432	4,718	4,156	3,626	3,220	3,200	3,138	2,719	2,612	2,561	2,110
Streetlights	6,447	6,071	6,256	6,139	6,697	6,278	5,683	4,794	2,387	1,808	1,568	1,299	1,186	1,264	1,249	1,099
Council vehicles	1,009	893	915	803	772	741	869	842	732	652	426	592	571	548	589	582
Total emissions (tCO ₂)	15,649	13,293	14,356	13,966	14,125	12,452	11,269	9,791	6,744	5,679	5,195	5,029	4,476	4,424	4,399	3,791
% change (-ve = CO ₂ reduction)	baseline	-15.1%	-8.3%	-10.8%	-9.7%	-20.4%	-28.0%	-37.4%	-56.9%	-63.7%	-66.8%	-67.9%	-71.4%	-71.7%	-71.9%	-75.8%



2. Company Information

London Borough of Brent is a Local Authority in north-west London.

For CO₂ emissions enquiries contact:

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3. Reporting period

1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

4. Approach

For building emissions, the overarching approach has been to align collection to the CRC (Carbon Reduction Commitment) Energy Efficiency Scheme and use as much data as possible from CRC monitoring and data collection.

The CRC scope was significantly changed for Phase 2 Year 1 2014/15 onwards. The most important changes were that schools would no longer part of the reporting data and street lighting would be included. This new scope closely aligns with areas of influence that the Council has in reducing CO₂. Therefore, the data in this report is for a revised scope (with revised 2013/14 baseline) from this year onwards compared to previous years.

This CO₂ emissions report uses the official Government Kilowatt-hour(kWh) -> annual CO₂ factors. These factors are updated yearly by the Government, to reflect the changing mix of energy sources that make up the UK-wide grid, especially electricity increasingly from renewables such as wind and solar.

Just CO₂ rather than CO₂ equivalent (all greenhouse gases) is reported, in line with CRC reporting. The data is presented by use type (Council buildings, Streetlights, Council vehicles) rather than by fuel/scope.

5. Organisational boundary

The scope of the business has been aligned to CRC definitions of what should be included. In particular this now excludes schools and academies, and includes street lights. The exceptions to this rule are:

- Oil used for heating included in CMP, excluded from CRC
- Council fleet vehicles and vehicle mileage claims emissions included in CMP, excluded CRC

*Note data has been revised slightly, to account for removing, from all years, data related to school expansion classes. School expansion classes are ex-council buildings that have been repurposed for use by schools to provide extra space for growing pupil numbers. It was agreed back in 2013/14 that

school expansion classes would continue to be included in this CMP data (despite being excluded at that point from CRC) - the main reason for this was to keep the scope as close to the baseline year as possible. However, at that time, when the ex-council buildings started to be used by schools, their long-term status was unclear, e.g. considered temporary use by schools; whereas now, they are permanently converted to schools and no longer part of the council, the schools are paying the bills directly, and the council has no direct influence on the ability to reduce CO₂. On this basis, Brent Energy Steering Group (19.07.18) agreed the decision to take out CO₂ emissions data from schools expansion classes for all years of CMP data.

6. Base Year

Our base year is 2010/11. Our base year recalculation policy is to recalculate our baseline if legislation changes significantly in relation to defining the scope of the business, or if significant changes are identified in the boundary of the business as a direct or indirect result of other legislation or guidelines.

*See note above, on alteration of baseline and all years to exclude school expansion classes from data.

7. External Quality Assurance

A CRC audit has been undertaken by Green Energy Partners Ltd to ensure compliance for each of the years 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. Although the CRC scheme ended in 2019, the same methodology has been used since. The summary conclusion from each of these reports was that we are Compliant with the CRC scheme, achieving in each case a 'Green' rating overall in the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) assessments.