



West Sussex County Council is the local authority responsible for providing services to the residents and businesses of West Sussex. Our responsibilities include education, transport, social services, public safety and waste disposal. Our built estate is integral to this role, whether as a learning environment, as a point of contact for our customers or as a flexible workplace for our staff.

Our total energy demand is evenly split between the school estate, the aggregated energy demand of the corporate estate and our street lighting services. The most significant contributing factors to energy demand across both the school and corporate estate are:

- The age, construction and electrical and mechanical system design of the built estate, and;
- The behaviour of occupants.

As a result of our strategy for carbon reduction, our services in 2025 are expected to be responsible for 50% less carbon dioxide (CO₂) (as measured using scope 3 emissions) than is currently the case. [Our Sustainability Strategy](#) outlines our priorities and action in this area.

To meet our targets, the Council has implemented an Energy & Water Management Project (introduced in 2008), which sets annual CO₂ reduction targets and focuses action on areas including data management, financial innovation, technology and skills. Developing these areas has involved an overhaul of the M&T system, the delivery of a variety of measures using the Council's invest-to-save fund, and a rollout of smart metering technology across our built estate.

We have trialled a wide range of technologies in recent years, rolling out those that have performed well across the Council's estate. For example, a project to improve the heating system at County Hall, Chichester, led to a 32% reduction in gas consumption in its first six months. Following the success of the trial, the technology was installed across twelve sites, saving a further 75 tonnes of CO₂.

Our projects have also included the following:

- Boiler optimisation technology across 13 corporate sites has led to emission reductions of over 120tCO₂, and annual cost savings of nearly £54,000.
- New chillers at County Hall, Chichester have delivered 40tCO₂ savings and cost savings of over £8,000. A new, more efficient Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) system at County Hall North, Horsham will also save over 40tCO₂ and £8,000.
- In addition, lighting conversion projects across 70 sites are expected to save nearly 380tCO₂, and offer cost savings of £78,000 each year.
- Solar PV panels at sites in Chichester, Bognor Regis, Horsham and Worthing totalling 123.5kWp have saved a further 61.25tCO₂.

These projects have exceeded the carbon saving target we set for three successive years, and thanks to a series of energy saving projects, the Council's like-for-like financial savings are just under £465,000.

For the foreseeable future we envisage the Energy & Water Management Project will continue to identify measures that realise financial and carbon dioxide savings in the corporate estate. We are also developing carbon budgets that will help individual services identify where their actions can have the greatest impact.

Technologies that perform well will continue to be rolled out across the built estate, and promoted for use in schools. In addition, we are working with local businesses and public sector organisations through the [West Sussex Environment and Climate Change Board](#), to ensure that shared environmental objectives are fully understood, effectively communicated, and embedded in the development and delivery of policy across the County.