

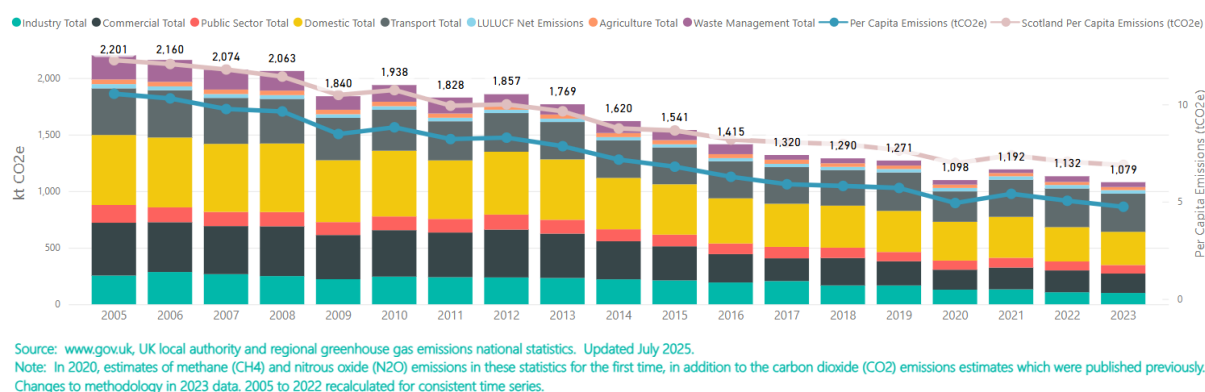
Appendix A: Net Zero Aberdeen & Aberdeen Adapts: Progress Summary 2024/25

The [Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap](#) and [Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework](#) are city-wide strategies for reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. They were co-created in 2022, and are planned for periodic review over the next year. Net zero and adaptation actions for Aberdeen are being delivered by a range of organisations and partnerships.

Helping to drive forward activity, an [Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board](#), comprised of representatives from 16 organisations across multiple sectors and industries, met in May and November 2024.

Citywide emissions are showing continued reductions. The UK Local Authority greenhouse gas statistics for 2005-2023 show an overall reduction in Aberdeen's place-based emissions. Between 2022-2023, city-wide emissions reduced by 4.7% (from 1,131.9 kt CO₂e to 1,079.3 kt CO₂e*). The [Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap](#) set a target of net zero by 2045, with an interim target of 57.5% reduction by 2025. From 2005 to 2023, there has been an overall 51% reduction. Annual per capita emissions in Aberdeen for 2023 are 4.7t CO₂e, lower than the Scottish average of 6.9t CO₂e.

Table 1 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimates, Aberdeen City 2005-2023



This summary highlights collaborative place-based climate progress and key updates provided by stakeholders, for the period April 2024 to March 2025. Information is set out under headings of Circular Economy, Buildings & Heat, Energy, Mobility, Natural Environment, Adaptation & Resilience, and Empowerment & Communication. Updates from prior years can be found on the [Net Zero Aberdeen](#) website.

Circular Economy

- Construction progressed on a new Bridge of Don Household Waste Recycling Centre, this modern facility has been designed with a purpose-built reuse shop, with completion expected August 2025.

* t CO₂e/kt CO₂e stands for tonnes/kilotonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.

- Reconstruction of the Altens Materials Recovery Facility is nearing completion. Expected to be fully operational by the end of 2025, the facility incorporates photovoltaic panels, allowing partial use of renewable energy. The facility has improved sorting, with optical sorters, and has been future proofed with a modular design allowing easier adaption to changing requirements.
- [Nestrans People & Place programme](#) (with funding from Transport Scotland) supported North East Cycle Hub partners to secure an agreement with Hazlehead Household Waste & Recycling Centre (HWRC) to refurbish bikes originally sent for recycling or energy from waste. Bikes are repaired and safety checked by North East charity Stella's Voice, and distributed at low or no cost to individuals without access to a cycle. Aberdeen City Council's Waste and Recycling Service secured funding from Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund to implement the scheme at Hazlehead HWRC. Unwanted bikes are collected and stored securely ready for onward transport and repair by Stella's Voice. Some refurbished bikes are returned to Hazlehead to be sold to the local community through the reuse shop.
- 19 bright pink recycling bins for small electrical items were installed across Aberdeen, at community sports clubs and libraries, providing locals with easy, safe, and accessible options to dispose of unwanted electrical items. 3 additional bins were toured around schools to help educate young people on electrical recycling.

Buildings & Heat

- The Energy from Waste plant at Tullos was fully commissioned and began delivering heat to the Torry District heating network Summer 2024, providing low carbon heat to a number of public buildings as well as residential properties. Work is continuing to connect more buildings to the network.
- The Aberdeen Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) was developed, awaiting final approval from Council's Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in September 2025. This will allow the Strategy and Delivery Plan to be uploaded to Aberdeen City Council's website.
- 40 new Gold Standard Council homes with ground source heat pumps were completed at Kaimhill housing development in 2024. Construction of new housing with ground source heat pumps continued at Cloverhill, around 200 have been completed.
- The University of Aberdeen was successful in making a case to focus £4m of Scottish Funding Council loan funding on heating and electrical infrastructure projects in and around Old Aberdeen. These will include efficiency upgrades in their heating plant rooms, the installation of a thermal store to improve heat efficiency, transformer upgrades to start future-proofing the site's electrical infrastructure, and plans to bring buildings with stand-alone gas heating onto their Combined Heat & Power (CHP) network.

- [ETZ Ltd](#) real estate support ran property supply chain workshops, attended by over 100 people, to advise on best practice to property construction and refurbishment including circular economy principles and practical application of whole life carbon. The property improvement fund provided capital funding to support the refurbishment of 8 properties in the Energy Transition Zone saving 4,000 tonnes of carbon compared to if the properties were rebuilt, and improving their operating performance, reducing energy costs, and providing carbon savings of 46 tonnes per year.
- Construction continued on ETZ Energy Works, a new build on Hareness Road, which has been designed and built efficiently under Net Zero framework principles, with actions including; whole life carbon assessments, use of low embodied carbon materials, orientation to maximise use of sun and shading, green space and biodiversity. It is planned to be an ecosystem to help companies involved in green energy scale up.

Energy

- Aberdeen City Council agreed (at Finance & Resources Committee, March 2025) actions including a £19m investment in Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub (a joint venture with bp to produce and distribute green hydrogen), and £9m to enlarge the electric vehicle charging network.
- [bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Limited](#) (bp and Aberdeen City Council joint venture) announced that the final investment decision for Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub has been agreed, supporting the region's energy transition ambitions and its drive to become a leader in lower carbon energy. The hub will feature a hydrogen production, storage, and distribution facility, which will be powered by electricity generated at a solar farm to be installed on the former Ness landfill site.
- ETZ Ltd supply chain initiatives supported over 150 companies across the city to identify low carbon opportunities, develop strategies to enter new energy markets and provided access to capital funding. These programmes will support the growth of supply chain companies in Aberdeen and derisk investment decisions.
- The [Energy Transition Zone](#) planning permission in principle was approved for catalytic development sites to support optimisation of Aberdeen South Harbour, and to attract new investment from low carbon supply chain companies.
- 'Team Aberdeen', a delegation of representatives from Aberdeen City Council, Net Zero Technology Centre, Peterson Energy Logistics, Robert Gordon University, and the University of Aberdeen attended CERAWEEK Conference (a global energy conference) in Houston March 2025.
- [Port of Aberdeen](#) embarked on installation of 9 shore power connections in North Harbour. Data is being collecting including carbon emissions from vessels, and reduction of emissions. In addition, impact on air quality around the harbour is being monitored from installation of air quality monitors.

Mobility

- Highland, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Councils announced a project to install 570 new electric vehicle charging points across the north of Scotland by 2028 (including 190 chargers in Aberdeen), more than doubling the existing charging network.
- 6 cycle storage units were installed at Tillydrone and Seaton Multistorey housing blocks, providing a secure space for up to 120 bicycles, and winning a 2024 Cycle Forum Award. 4 further shelters, providing secure space for up to 130 bicycles are in final stages of installation at Aulton Court, Bayview Court, Beachview Court and Northsea Court. These facilities can promote cycling for commuting and leisure, reducing carbon emissions and traffic congestion.
- 51 sedum roofed bus shelters installed across the city with funding from Nestrans and Aberdeen City Council, bringing the total to 81. These shelters act as 'stepping stones for nature' and are self-powered by solar panels. A further 32 are planned for installation in 2025/26.
- Nestrans People & Place programme (with Transport Scotland funding) enabled partners to deliver projects including:
 - Cycling Scotland worked with BeCycle, Dyce Academy and Loirston Primary, with support from Tyred and Cranky, to increase access to bikes for young people, including:
 - 10 bikes, secure storage, and cycle training accessories for Loirston Primary School.
 - 15 bikes and helmets for Dyce Academy, to support 20-25 young people to ride to school.
 - BeCycle worked with partners to provide bike loans and ongoing maintenance to identified young people in the Woodside community.
 - The bike workshop at Camphill School Aberdeen was upgraded and extended, increasing capacity to offer e-bike servicing, and to service e-cargo and e-adaptive bikes, and increasing capacity for repair and reuse of bikes. This further supports Camphill School's Murtle Market initiative, a sustainable shop showcasing local, seasonal organic produce, and zero waste principles.
 - Cycling Scotland engaged with Aberdeen City schools to increase cycle parking, adding parking for 72 bikes across Culter, Dyce, Seaton and Greenbrae Primary Schools, and Northfield Academy.
 - Cycling UK funded the Mamacita Foundation to purchase 3 electric bikes, enabling staff and volunteers to use these to deliver essentials, including food, to some of the most vulnerable in communities in the City.
- Schools were invited to submit Expressions of Interest to participate in a pilot "School Streets" scheme, aimed at improving feelings of safety, reducing traffic volumes, and promoting active travel around pick up and drop off times.

- Funding was secured from the Aberdeen City Region Deal to continue to develop the business case for [Aberdeen Rapid Transit](#) (ART), a partnership with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, Nestrans and the North East Bus Alliance. ART is a bus rapid transit system which aims to deliver a step-change improvement in public transport provision in Aberdeen through delivery of fast, frequent, and reliable public transport services. The [Strategic Business Case](#) for ART was completed in March 2025, setting out the case for investment in bus rapid transit in the North East and the preferred way forward for delivery. This establishes the infrastructure requirements in terms of bus priority, vehicles, ticketing, and mobility hubs, establishing key design principles and high-level costs as well as appraising options for delivery.

Natural Environment

- 3 GP practices in Aberdeen began training with RSPB Scotland to roll out 'Nature Prescriptions', an initiative designed to increase patients' physical and mental health through a greater connection with local nature.
- Aberdeen City Council continued to adapt and change the ways they manage and maintain greenspace, managing more and more spaces for nature. This positive greenspace management mitigates against the impacts of climate change and supports biodiversity. Changes included adopting common sense approaches, such as reducing grass cutting, planting trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, boosting habitats for many species. The work is done in a way which doesn't exclude people and supports the urban environment. The changes described have contributed to a 4% increase in the percentage of land that is protected for nature (increasing from 17% in 2021 to 21% in 2024).
- Aberdeen City Council planted 41,879 trees since the Winter of 2022, more than has been achieved for many years. This included restocking woodland areas and green spaces affected by storm damage and planting on new areas of land identified as suitable for tree planting. The team worked in partnership with communities, including schools and businesses, as part of the tree planting programme.
- More groups were involved in Keep Scotland Beautiful's ["It's Your Neighbourhood"](#) scheme than any other local authority in Scotland – with 35 flying the flag for Aberdeen.
- To date, 150+ Meadow-in-a Box packs have been distributed to Aberdeen schools, nurseries, and community groups. This project sees the educational and nature value of creating a wildflower meadow in a small and easily managed space, a planter box. With a small planter and the right seed mix, it is possible to grow a small meadow anywhere.
- 2025 saw Aberdeen beach recognised and awarded with a Keep Scotland Beautiful [Beach Award](#) for the 19th year in a row.
- Aberdeen engaged with over 200 successful community partnerships on "in bloom" initiatives, nature projects and environmental campaigns. There was collaboration with volunteers, communities, Friends Groups, businesses, schools, third party organisations

and companies. This partnership work has won the city a number of [Beautiful Scotland awards](#); The Rosebowl (overall winner), Best in Scotland, Best City, VisitScotland Award for Tourism, Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Award and Residential Community Trophy.

- Aberdeen was awarded [Green Flags](#) for nine sites in 2024, the most it has ever achieved. The Green Flag Awards recognise and reward well managed parks and green spaces. Aberdeen was the first place in Scotland to have an allotment site awarded with a Green Flag, now Garthdee Field and Slopefield allotments are both awarded.
- The [Aberdeen B-Lines](#) project, a Council partnership with Buglife, enhanced or better managed 12.24ha of habitat for invertebrates. 6,700 plug plants and 2,070 nature rich bulbs planted, 71kg of wildflower seed sown or donated to local landowners, and 2 bee banks installed for nesting mining bees. 190 volunteers contributed their time, with 13,720 hours of habitat work carried out and 270 primary school children attending bee sessions.

Adaptation & Resilience

- Aberdeen City Council provided emergency power packs to Peterculter Community Resilience Group, Cults, Milltimber and Bieldside Community Resilience Group, Bridge of Don and Danestone Community Resilience Group, and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP).
- A Community Resilience Conference was held in October 2024, with talks from Police, Met Office, and SEPA, supporting communities take action in extreme weather.
- Aberdeen City Council continued to run a grant to assist residents in protecting property from flooding. This 75% funded grant scheme is for private residences that have either been previously flooded and sustained damage; are located on a vulnerable area on the SEPA Flooding Maps; or are shown on the Integrated Catchment Study Model. The grant has recently expanded to include commercial properties.
- A CCTV camera was fitted to monitor water levels at Maryculter Bridge on the River Dee, and more are planned for other critical locations to assist prioritisation of resources during a flood event.

Empowerment & Communication

- Across 4 [Community Planning Aberdeen](#) partners, staff Green Champions have continued to grow in strength to 128 Green Champions, a 30% increase since January 2024. Carrying out initiatives such as monitor switch-offs, a step challenge, awareness campaigns and litter picks.
- From April 2024 to March 2025, 40 community led environmental improvement projects have been funded, 29 via the Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF), administered by [NESCAN](#), and 11 from the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting (JTPB) Fund (being

delivered by a partnership between ACVO TSI, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, tsiMORAY, NESCAN Hub and Money for Moray), an increase of 67% from 2023/24 (24).

- The Just Transition Commission visited Aberdeen in October 2024, meeting with communities (facilitated by NESCAN Hub), and Business and Industry representatives (including Unions). A report of findings from the visit “[A Just Transition for Aberdeen and the North East](#)” was published May 2025.
- Led by the University of Aberdeen’s [Just Transition Lab](#), a multi-million pound interdisciplinary partnership is bringing together early career researchers from 6 leading Universities along with community organisations, businesses, local authorities and governments across the UK to understand how systems approaches can unlock Net Zero solutions at scale, break down the barriers to action and empower communities to take ownership of solutions that support their development.
- The University of Aberdeen explored how to embrace improvements in ‘how’ research is conducted. The University signed the [Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research & Innovation Practice](#) (a voluntary agreement developed by the UK research and innovation sector to deliver research in a more environmentally responsible and sustainable way), and became members of the [Laboratories Efficiency Assessment Framework](#) (LEAF), a mechanism through which they aim to accredit some of their labs to an internationally recognised environmental standard.
- Business in the Community appointed as delivery partner for Aberdeen Just Transition Project, a multi-stakeholder initiative led by Aberdeen City Council, bp, Shell, SSE, and Barclays to support a fair energy transition in Aberdeen.
- At March 2025, 35 organisations had signed the [Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge](#), committing to playing a part in Aberdeen’s journey to net zero, nature restoration and climate resilience.