

NALC Study Tour 2025: Braunstone Town Council

LRALC's role in supporting town and parish councils with their carbon net zero targets.

John Kilcoyne



Acting CEO

Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils

LRALC staff have completed Carbon Literacy Training.



Certified Carbon Literate



Blaby DC Carbon Net Zero project

Autumn 2023



LRALC was commissioned by Blaby DC to work with four pilot councils to set out their current baseline carbon footprint.

The ultimate aim would be to become carbon neutral by 2030.

BLABY PARISHES



Blaby DC Carbon Net Zero project

Autumn 2023



The parishes established a framework for reducing their carbon emissions.

Key members of staff or councillors were given the opportunity to attend Carbon Literacy training (8 hours). This is normally a significant cost per person but was included as part of the trial project.

Parishes were asked to commit to achieving Carbon Literate Organisation status.



Blaby DC Carbon Net Zero project

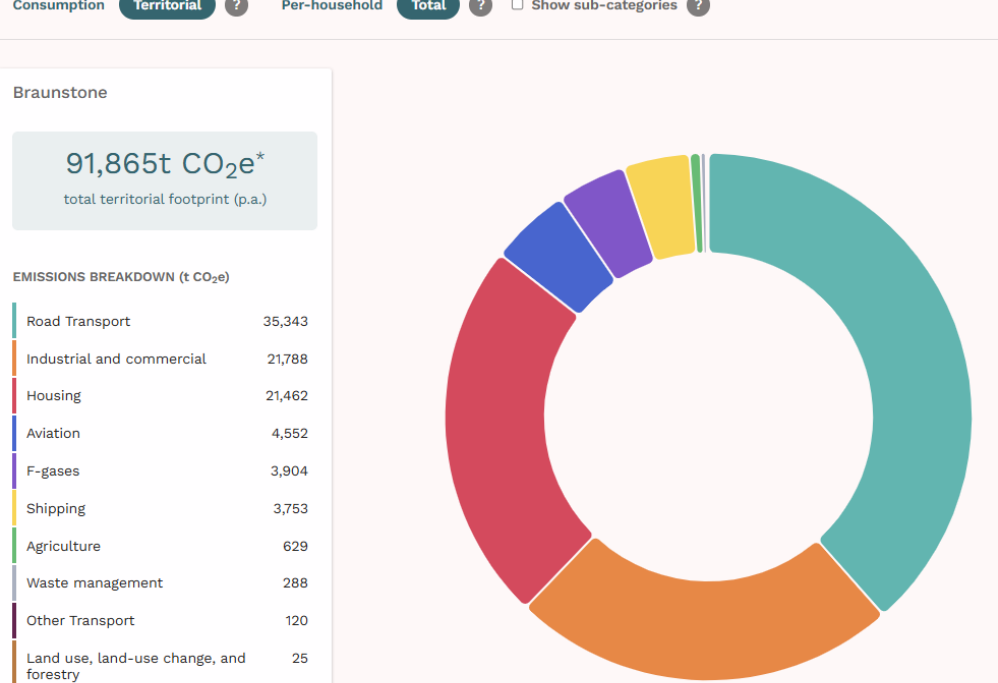
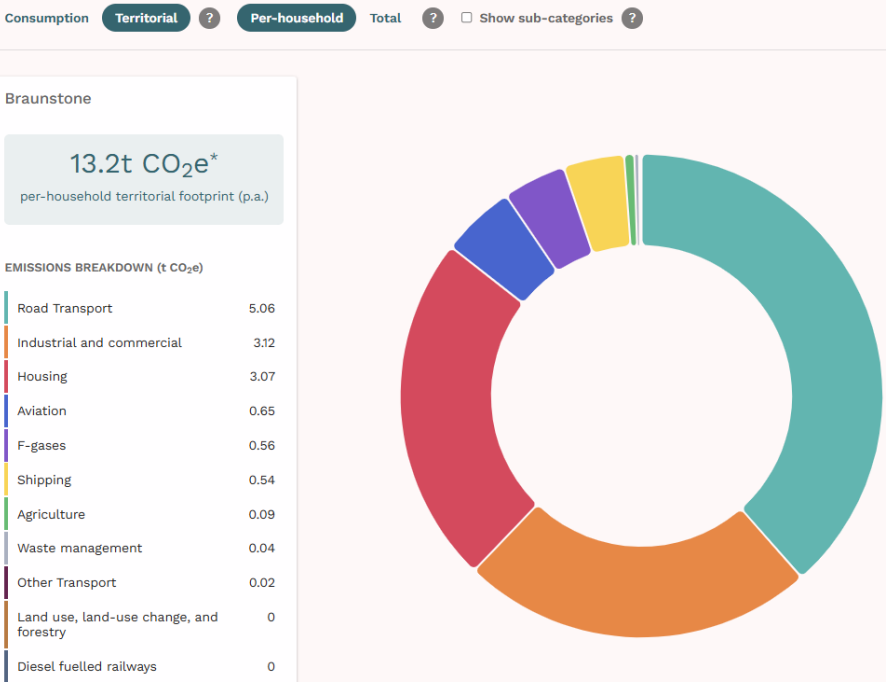
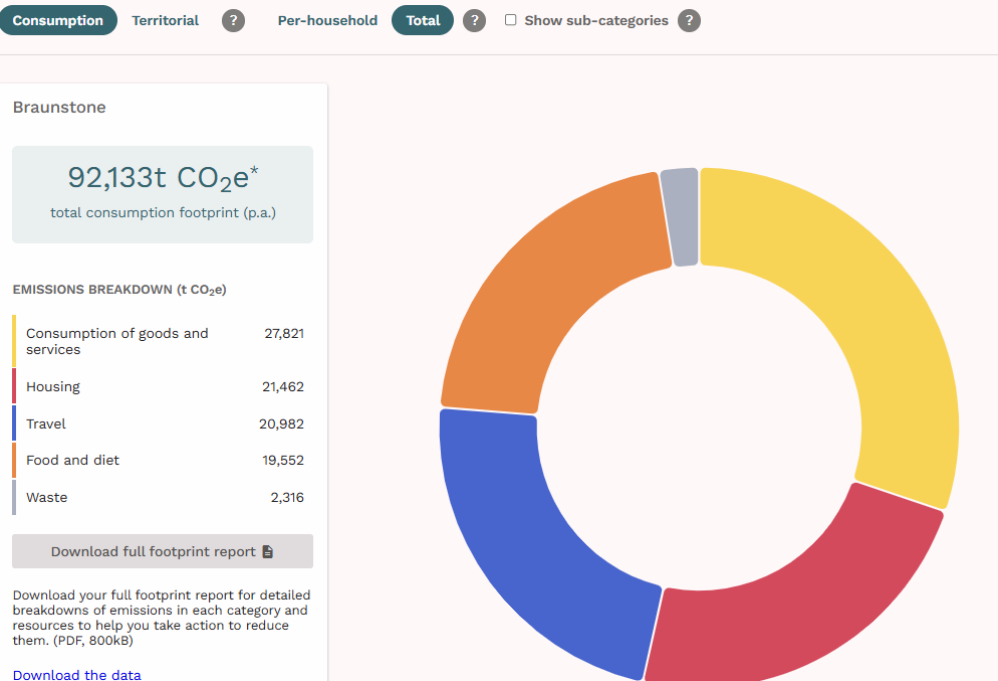
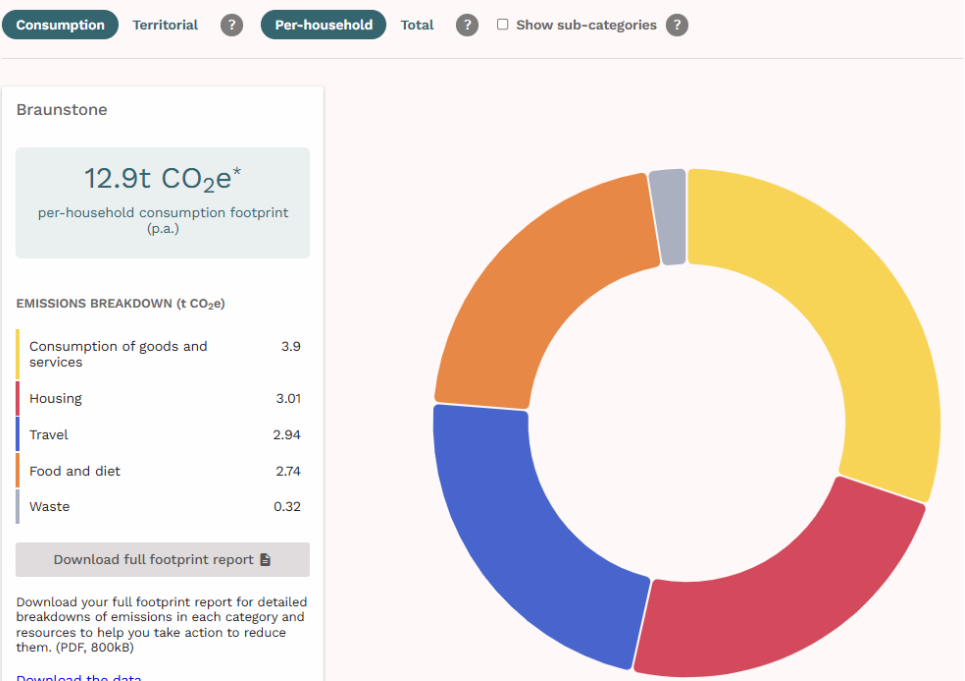
LRALC reported back to Blaby DC on the progress of the project.

LRALC continues to support parishes who are part of the trial with training, advice and resources.

Feedback was requested from the participating councils following the initial stage of the project and again in mid 2024 to check on progress.

https://impact-tool.org.uk

Data accessed 15th April 2025



Consumption

Territorial

?

Per-household

Total

?

☐ Show sub-categories

?

Braunstone

CHANGE

12.9t CO₂e*

per-household consumption footprint
(p.a.)

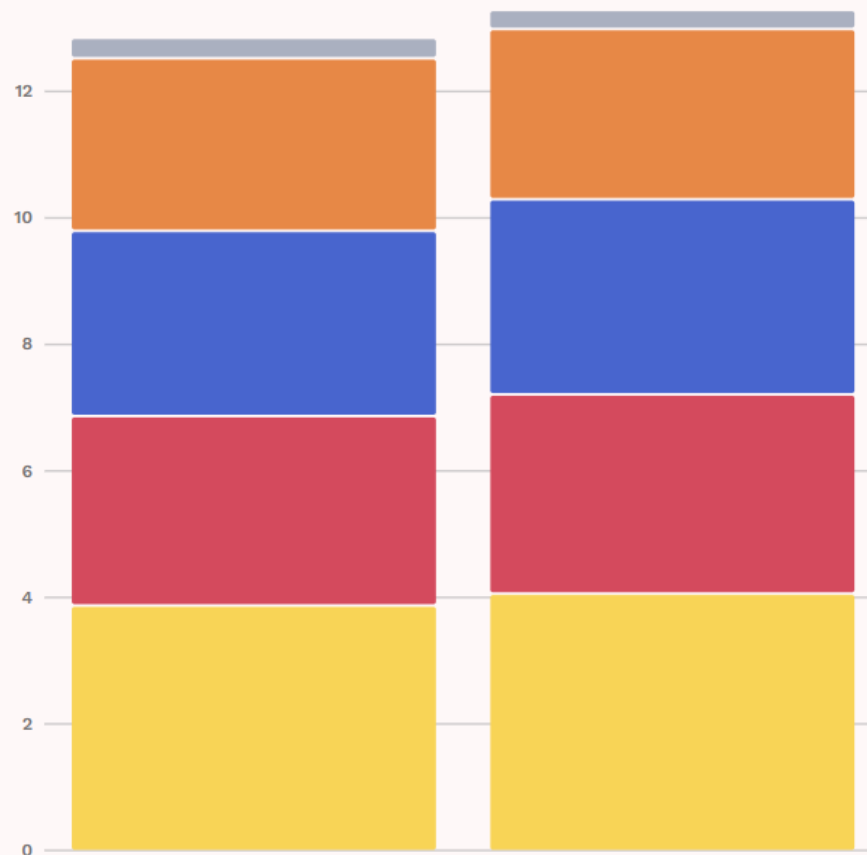
EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO₂e)

Consumption of goods and services	3.9
Housing	3.01
Travel	2.94
Food and diet	2.74
Waste	0.32

Download full footprint report 

Download your full footprint report for detailed breakdowns of emissions in each category and resources to help you take action to reduce them. (PDF, 800kB)

[Download the data](#)



Blaby

CHANGE

13.3t CO₂e*

per-household consumption footprint
(p.a.)

EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO₂e)

Consumption of goods and services	4.08
Housing	3.16
Travel	3.1
Food and diet	2.7
Waste	0.3

Download full footprint report 

Download your full footprint report for detailed breakdowns of emissions in each category and resources to help you take action to reduce them. (PDF, 800kB)

[Download the data](#)

What can your town or parish council do?

Statutory responsibility and power:

Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Act 2006

What can your Town or Parish Council do?



**Braunstone
Town Council**
Serving the communities of Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley

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Responding to Climate Change

Responding to Climate Change

Human influence on climate has been the dominant cause of observed warming since the mid-20th century. Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. The report informs us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.

We all have a part to play, which is why on 13th May 2021, a resolution was considered and approved by the annual resident's meeting (Annual Towns Meeting) asking the Town Council to "produce a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy by November 2021 to:

1. Pledge to make the activities of Braunstone Town Council carbon neutral and embed climate and environmental awareness in all our decision making.
2. Promote and encourage awareness and action on climate change, environmental protection and recycling by local residents, businesses and community organisations.
3. Put climate change at the heart of our procurement policies including moving to the use of renewable energy sources for its activities and encourage its customers and suppliers to do likewise.
4. Protect and enhance the town's Green spaces, promote and encourage tree planting, and seek to increase and enrich biodiversity".

Climate Change & Environmental Strategy

Following consultation during the summer of 2021, the Council adopted a Climate Change & Environmental Strategy on 23rd September 2021. This Climate Change and Environmental Strategy sets out the framework for Braunstone Town Council to deliver the four pledges above.

What can your Town or Parish Council do??



BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN 2025-2026

Nature of Action to be delivered	Reason for inclusion	Benefits (Council and Community)	Resources Required	Potential Barriers to Delivery	Delivery Actions	Timescales for Delivery	Priority Level
Install solar PV at Mossdale Meadows depot and on other Civic Centre roofs	1. Reduction in Carbon footprint; 2. significant savings with high energy costs.	1. Reduction of Carbon Footprint; 2. savings reinvested in other carbon reduction actions and/or services.	Significant financial resources to purchase and install (potentially £50 to £100k) Consider working with partners.	Older roofs may need reinforcing;	1. Structural surveys of roof condition; 2. remedial action if necessary; 3. tender exercise; 4. obtaining finance.	2025 – 2027	Medium
Install Battery Storage for Solar Panels at Community Facilities	Both Community Centres are used evenings. Thorpe Astley Community Centre has an Air Source Heat Pump. Millfield Hall has electric heating/air conditioning	1. Reduction of Carbon Footprint; 2. savings reinvested in other carbon reduction actions and/or services.	Estimated £20k £18,789 unused borrowing from 1 st round of carbon reduction initiatives.	Need data from solar panels and usage data to determine optimum battery size. No smart meters in place.	Obtain usage data Liaise with installer	Civic Centre Completed Thorpe Astley 2027 – 2029	High

What else can your Parish Council do?

Statutory responsibility and power: Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Act 2006

Lead by example:

- audit your assets and resources
- bank ethically
- declare a climate and biodiversity emergency
- educate your community about climate awareness
- enable practical action
- encourage the community to get involved
- engage with local and neighbourhood planning
- investigate bulk purchasing options
- manage land for nature
- plant trees
- promote low-carbon ways of travelling
- reduce pesticide use
- share examples of good practice
- use local and sustainable suppliers
- work with key stakeholders
- write a sustainability plan
- ...





Net Zero Toolkit for Town, Parish Councils and Local Groups



Net Zero Toolkit – 2025 Update

Please note we are unable to make the following two documents fully accessible. If you require these forms in an alternative format, please contact communitiesteam@leics.gov.uk and we will contact you to discuss alternatives.



(MS Word, 490 Kb) >

Action Checklist



(MS Word, 98 Kb) >

NetZero Carbon Action Plan Template

www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/parish-councils/net-zero-toolkit

Net Zero Toolkit

For Leicestershire Parish & Town Councils and Local Groups



Green
Living
Leicestershire

Parish and town council roles and responsibilities

As grassroots governing bodies, parish and town councils are in a unique position to support action on climate change due to the following reasons:

- Close connections with local communities and understanding of their needs.
- Direct access to residents enabling effective communication and engagement on climate change.
- Ability to implement local initiatives such as energy efficiency projects, sustainable transport options and green space preservation.
- Authority to influence local planning decisions, advocate for climate policies and promote climate-resilient infrastructure.

This responsibility has been recognised nationally; the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) declared a climate emergency in 2019. NALC works with parish and town councils to address climate change at a grassroots level by fostering the development of more environmentally conscious communities. NALC also continues to lobby the government on the crucial role local councils play in achieving net zero targets.

Further information can be found at the [NALC webpage](#).

More locally, the [Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils \(LRALC\)](#) can support your council in achieving or furthering your Net Zero activities. A number of resources are available on their website.



www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/parish-councils/net-zero-toolkit

Parish Council and community group action checklist

ID	Action	Resources / support available	Cost (£-£££)	Level of work required (1 = minimal, to 5 = extensive)	Checkbox
Where to start					
1	Use the Local Climate Adaptation Tool to understand the expected impacts of climate change in your local area.	Local Climate Adaptation Tool	Free	1	
2	Identify the key sources of emissions in your area and calculate the carbon footprint of your parish using the Impact Tool.	IMPACT Community Carbon Calculator Guidance to use the tool can be found here: https://impact-tool.org.uk/using-impact	Free	1	
3	Promote the usage of WWFs carbon footprint calculator for individuals within and outside of the parish, town council or community group.	WWF Carbon Footprint Calculator	Free	1-2	
4	Have your parish or town council declare a climate emergency.	NALC – Declaring a Climate Emergency Climate Emergency UK	Free	3	
5	Have your group members undertake carbon literacy training.	Carbon Literacy Project	£	3	

ID	Action	Resources / support available	Cost (£-£££)	Level of work required (1 = minimal, to 5 = extensive)	Checkbox
6	Create a Net Zero Action Plan using the provided template.	This can be found on Leicestershire County Council's Net zero webpage and on the Communities webpage	Free	3	
7	Consider setting a Net Zero target for your parish or town council.	Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC) have a number of resources available on their website – LRALC climate webpages	Free	2	

Buildings and energy					
8	Consider switching to a green energy supplier for council buildings.		££	2	
9	Encourage local residents to swap to green energy tariffs for their own homes.		Free	2	
10	Find your parish and town council owned buildings energy performance certificate to give an indication of the building's energy efficiency and inform if energy efficiency measures could be installed.	Non-domestic EPC register	Free	1	

www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/parish-councils/net-zero-toolkit

What should your town or parish council audit?



Think about every area of your business.
How do you use, fuel, maintain, repair, replace... ?



What should your town or parish council audit?



Even your council meetings have a carbon footprint!



The Carbon Literacy Project

Carbon Literacy®: “An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.”

Today, over 88,384 individuals from over 7,224 organisations are Carbon Literate - are you?

I am an
Organisation

Interested in
Carbon Literacy

I am an
Individual

Interested in
Carbon Literacy

I am a
Trainer

Interested in Resources,
Information and Certification

What On Earth Is
Carbon Literacy?

Carbon Literacy
Project



[Organisation](#)

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Local Authorities

Carbon Literacy Toolkit for Local Authorities

The Local Authorities Toolkit provides you with the tools and resources needed to deliver a day's worth of Carbon Literacy® training focused on what local authority employees can do in their working role to reduce emissions.

Why Carbon Literacy for Local Authorities?

With a third of the UK's carbon emissions directly influenced by local authority practice, policy and partnerships, local authorities have a vital role to play in the UK's decarbonisation. Three-quarters of local authorities have now declared a climate emergency. Such a declaration should place the climate emergency at the centre of a local authority's agenda and assign responsibility to all employees to

Further projects

Presentations to councils including Annual Parish Meetings.

LRALC can research parish council's existing carbon footprint and help to identify next steps.

What else can individuals do?

<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/parish-councils/net-zero-toolkit>



What else can individuals do?

Make a plan



Obtained the backing of your council or community group ✓

Identified colleagues and community champions to support you ✓

Analysed your local community's carbon footprint ✓

Then you are ready to create a net zero plan!

The next section provides some suggested actions under a number of themes that your town, parish council or community group could take.

Active travel

Choose to walk or cycle when you can. You could save £11 a year for every mile travelled, save 29kg of carbon and improve your health at the same time.



Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle

Lower the amount you throw away. Follow the four 'R's' to conserve natural resources.

Conserve water

An average person unknowingly wastes up to 30 gallons of water daily. Reduce usage by turning off taps when not in use and reusing waste water in the garden.



Try plant-based alternatives

Consider substituting meat with plant-based alternatives for some of your meals. A meat rich diet generates more carbon emissions than a plant-based diet.

Love Food Hate Waste

In Leicestershire, around a third of rubbish in black bins is food waste. Taking simple steps, like meal planning, can help reduce waste and save you money.

Shop local

By buying local, in-season produce, the goods you buy have not travelled the distances imported goods will have.



Recycle clothing

Give clothes another life by swapping, borrowing, renting or buying second-hand and wash clothes less, and at lower temperatures to give them a longer life.

Take fewer flights

Take a train rather than a plane for shorter journeys as it emits less carbon.



Switch off and unplug

Cut costs on your energy bills and reduce carbon by switching off appliances and avoiding stand-by when not in use.



Reduce single use items

Seek alternative reusable items where possible – from carrier bags to bottles to food packaging – to help cut waste and reduce emissions.



Check energy labels

Buy efficient appliances with top energy ratings. The scale goes from A (efficient) to G (least efficient).



Carry on the conversation

Keep informed, explore the topic of climate change and share what you've learnt. Search #NetZeroLeicestershire on social media.



How can LRALC help your council?

Now opening up to other councils across the whole LRALC area

Carbon footprint audit

LRALC do not make any claims to be climate change experts.

However, we are experts in parish councils and know about your business.

What else can individuals do?

<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/parish-councils/net-zero-toolkit>

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning

www.leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk/climate-change

