

Deal Town Council Carbon Reduction Strategy

Overview

Deal Town Council is made up of 15 Councillors from three Wards: Middle Deal; Mill Hill; & North Deal.

Town Councils, like Parish Councils, are the most representative bodies within the UK democratic framework. In Deal, 15 councillors represent 24,000 citizens, which is a ratio of 1 councillor for 1,600 people. In comparison, the MP for Dover is a single person representing 102,530 people.

The Town Council operates out of the Town Hall with eleven members of staff working full time or part time, but all hybrid working. It works closely with Dover District Council and Kent County Council to serve its citizens.

Deal Town Council's core activities are:

- Owns & Manages Deal Town Hall
 - Hires spaces for weddings, receptions, meetings, training
 - Undercroft hired to charities for table-top sales
 - Various events throughout the year i.e.
 - Heritage Open Day
 - Holocaust Memorial Day
 - Charter Day
- Manages the Visitor Information Centre
 - Open two weekday mornings
- Issues grants to local organisations
- Mayoral Office
 - Mayor represents the Town at events across the County
- Markets
 - Manages the Saturday Market in Union Road Car Park
 - Manages the Wednesday Market in the Undercroft (currently suspended)
- Braderie
 - Manages the annual street fayre (cancelled in 2020 & 2021)
- Allotments
 - Rents 123 plots to residents at three allotment sites:
 - Golf Road
 - Mill Hill
 - Park Avenue
- Planning
 - Consultee to Dover District Council for planning applications
- Committees
 - Finance & General Purposes
 - Special Project Fund Sub-Committee
 - Grants Sub-Committee
 - Town Plan Steering Group
 - Planning Committee
 - Transport & Infrastructure Committee
 - Environment Committee
 - Staff Liaison Panel

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

The Full Council declared a Climate Emergency on 26 June 2019:

“That Deal Town Council commits to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2025 by creating a carbon audit and roadmap by March 2020 and will provide up to a £1,000 from this year’s contingency fund to cover the costs of producing the carbon audit and roadmap.

To include environmental impact assessments in officers’ reports, highlighting in particular the impact on direct and indirect CO2 emissions.

To seek means to assist other organisations in the town to reduce their direct and indirect CO2 emissions, in conjunction with specialist advice from Dover District and Kent County Council officers.

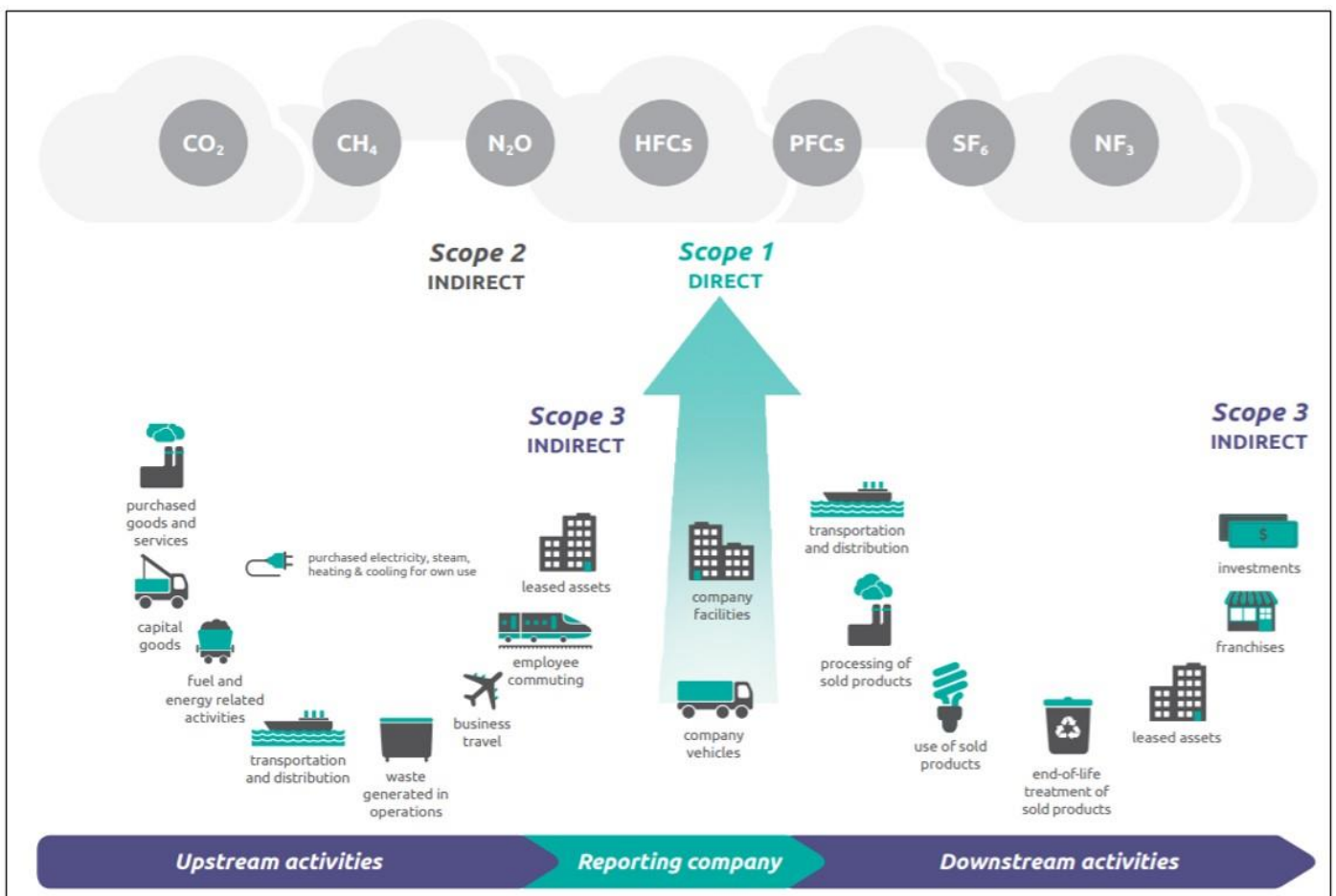
Vision

Deal Town Council is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2025

This means that by March 2025 Deal Town Council will be a net zero-carbon organisation. The council’s own operations will be clean and efficient.

Measurement

The Council is using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol model to assess its emissions and calculating them using the new KALC Carbon Calculator.



Greenhouse Gas Protocol - the world's most recognised carbon footprint standard

Scope 1 – emissions from owned or controlled combustion sources (i.e. natural gas powered heating)

Scope 2 – emissions from the generation of purchased energy (i.e. electricity supplied)

Scope 3 – As much of the emissions that occur in up and downstream supply chains

Baseline Emissions Footprint

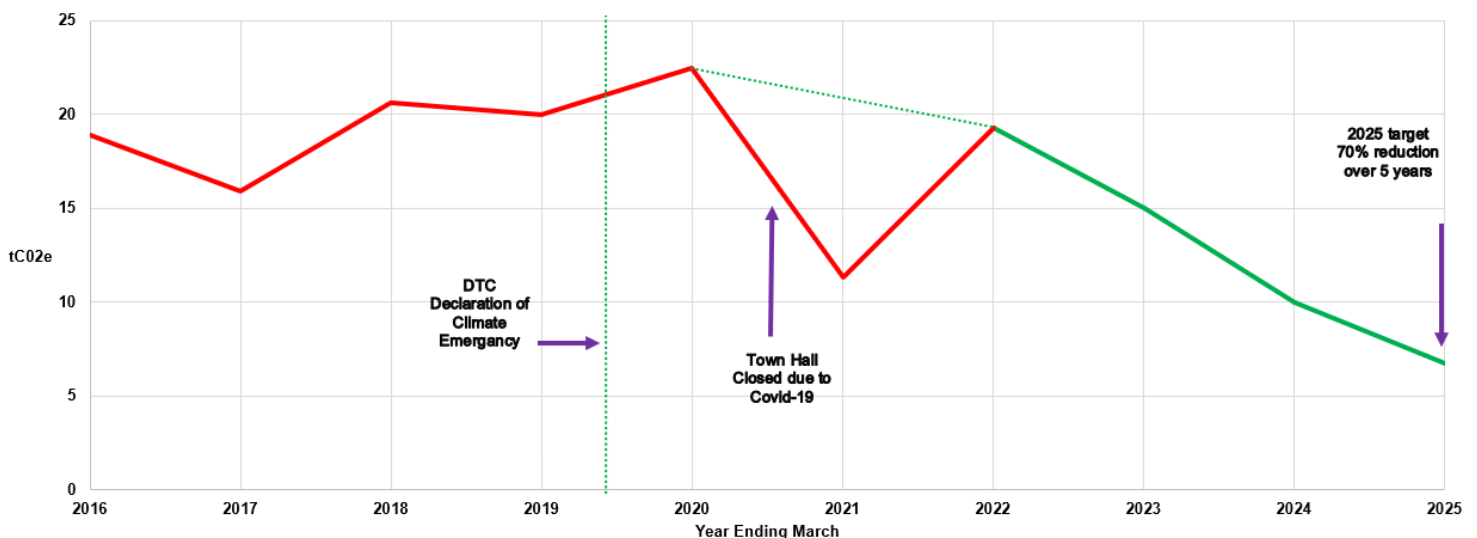
Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

Baseline Year: April 2015 - March 2016		April 2016 - March 2017	April 2017 - March 2018	April 2018 - March 2019	April 2019 - March 2020	April 2020 - March 2021	April 2021 - March 2022
Baseline year emissions:							Estimate
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO2e)						
Scope 1	13.1	10.6	14.3	15	15.8	7.7	14.2
Scope 2	3.2	3.1	3.6	2.2	3.6	2.1	2.4
Scope 3 (Gas and electricity distribution plus water only)	2.6	2.2	2.7	2.8	3.1	1.5	2.7
Total Emissions	18.9	15.9	20.6	20	22.5	11.3	19.3

Emissions reduction targets

We project that carbon emissions will decrease over the next three years to 6.75tCO₂e by 2024-2025. This is a reduction of 70% over five years.

Journey to Net Zero by 2025



To achieve this rapid decrease work is focused on minimising the emissions from Scope 1 (heating) and Scope 2 (purchased energy) activities.

To deliver this vision we will focus on the six priority areas listed below in order. We will produce an Annual Action Plan to tackle these priorities. Each year our emissions and Action Plan will be reviewed by an external auditor and reported publicly.

Priority Area 1 – Deal Town Hall: Scopes 1 & 2

- Continually improve energy efficiency and thermal performance of Deal Town Hall within the limits of being guardians of an historic building
- Seek opportunities for decarbonising heating and electricity in Deal Town Hall
- Maximise usage whilst minimising emissions

Priority Area 2 – Working Practises: Scope 1 & 2

- Assess Town Hall usage and emissions to see how working practices can adjust to reduce energy usage and emissions
- Engage staff and encourage action through communications and initiatives
- Eliminate the use of single-use plastics
- Ensure all new starters receive induction training on the council's environmental aims and policies
- Committees to run all decisions through a Net Zero Carbon Emissions Checklist
- Reduce water demand – particularly with Council planting
- Reduce, reuse and recycle as much waste as possible
- Improve paper management (Reduce printing & minimise shredding)
- All purchasing decisions to be fully assessed
- Where possible, Council Meetings and working hours to overlap
- Events to be 'No Waste' and low carbon impact

Priority Area 3 – Transport: Scopes 2 & 3

- Assess the necessity of Mayoral and other operational transport
- Review options for using electric vehicles
- Encourage staff & councillors to adopt sustainable transport options.

Priority Area 4 – External Activities Management: Scope 3

- Continue to help allotment holders to minimise their environmental impact
- Expand allotment portfolio
- Proactively manage the Markets to help local shoppers to buy from local providers
- Work with traders to help them to reduce their carbon footprints

Priority Area 5 – Carbon Emission Balancing

- Invest in local or regional schemes to offset emissions the Council cannot reasonably reduce
- Green the urban area to improve the environment for people, birds, animals and insects

Priority Area 6 – Helping Our Citizens and Businesses

- Share the work the Council has undertaken to reduce its carbon footprint
- Work with local businesses and organisations to encourage more sustainability
- Encourage citizens to improve the thermal performance of their homes
- Encourage, promote, campaign for and foster good public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling
- Object to major developments that are not environmentally sustainable or impact biodiversity

Boundaries

Deal Town Council cannot be responsible for the carbon emissions of every element of its activities so there are things that it can influence, but not control. For instance:

- The Council will encourage Market traders and allotment holders to act sustainably, but cannot be responsible for their emissions
- The Council will run events and will encourage participants and visitors to act sustainably, but cannot be responsible for their emissions

- Suppliers will have been expected to have calculated, minimised and offset the whole life emissions of any significant Council purchases to avoid double accounting

Monitoring & Reporting

The Council has committed to an external annual review that will be published in April from 2022 to 2025.

Deal Town Council Carbon Reduction Annual Action Plan 2022/3

Month	Action	Scope	Benefit	Budget
March	Roof space lagging	1	Thermal improvement	£3,800
	Chamber window repairs	1	Thermal improvement	£2,544
April	External Carbon Audit & Review	-		£770
	Planting	2	Save water	£0
May	Heating Controls	1	Energy efficiency	est.£3,000
	Carbon Emissions Checklists	2	Minimise negative impact of decisions on emissions	£0
June	Secondary Glazing (FF)	1	Thermal Improvement	£tbc
July	Paper Management	2	Reduce paper & improve recycling	£0
August	Secondary Glazing (GF)	1	Thermal improvement	£tbc
September	Mayoral Transport Review	2	Energy efficiency	£0
October	Councillors & Staff Carbon Literacy Training	2	Awareness & understanding	£500
November	Winter Meeting Programme: Council Meetings during working hours	1 & 2	Energy efficiency	£0
December	New Energy Performance Certificate	1 & 2	Verification of work completed & identification of next actions	£400
January	No bookings	1 & 2	Energy efficiency	£0
February	No bookings	1 & 2	Energy efficiency	£0
March	Carbon Literacy Virtual Training Programme	2	Awareness & understanding	£tbc