



READING'S NET ZERO PATHWAY

25th September 2025

Ben Burfoot – Head of Climate and Sustainability
**Heather Marshall – Co-Chair Reading Climate Change
Partnership**



[Home](#)

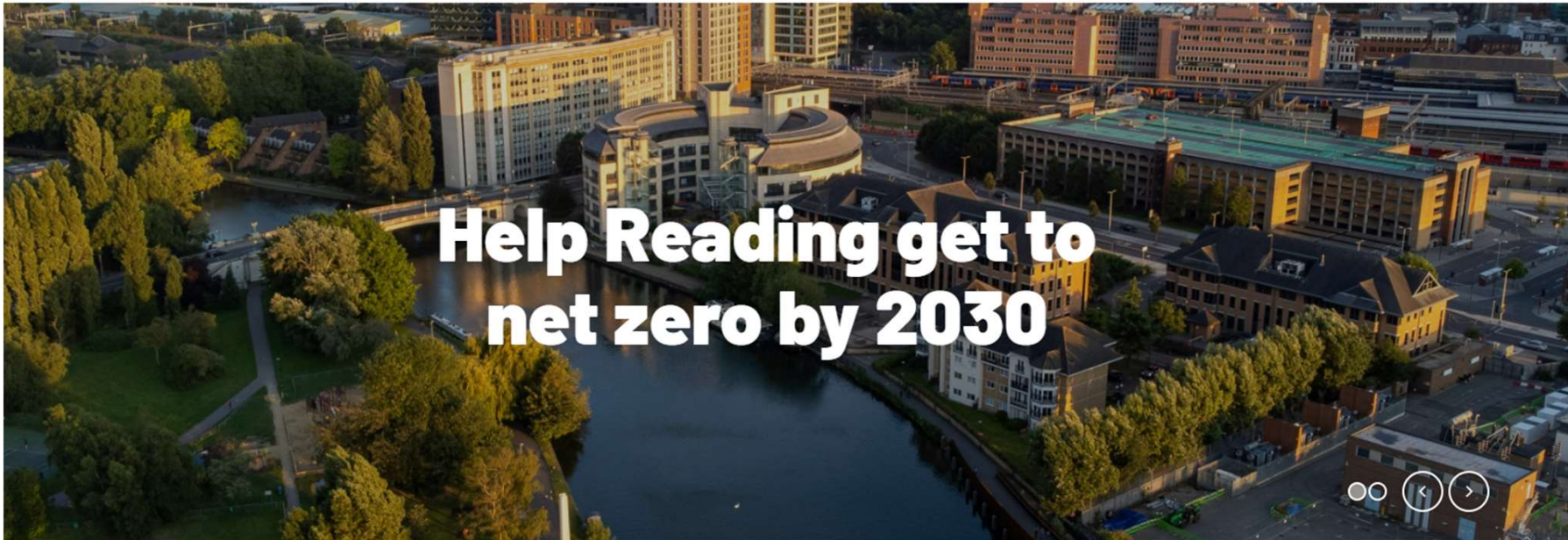
[What can I do?](#)

[About](#)

[Our plan](#)

[Events](#)

[Blog](#)



Reading has a goal to be climate-resilient and net zero by 2030. We're here to help everyone who lives, works or studies in Reading contribute to this big collective goal.



READING
CLIMATE FESTIVAL
7 - 21 June 2025





Year of Climate Engagement Project (YoCEP)



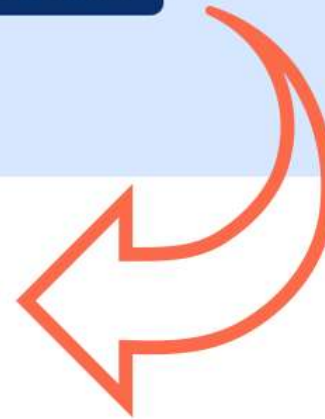
2024 is Reading's Year of Climate Engagement

Help shape Reading's Climate Emergency Strategy 2025 - 2030

Get involved! We're inviting everyone who lives, works or studies in Reading to help shape our town's climate action priorities for 2025 - 2030.

[Find out more](#)

readingcan.org.uk
readingcan.org.uk/priorities/



Climate Emergency Strategy 2025 to 2030

Our vision is of a healthier, happier, climate-friendly and climate-resilient Reading, a town that has chosen to respond to climate change by creating a stronger, more connected community and better quality of life for all.

This comes from our inclusive approach to achieving deep cuts in emissions and planning ahead for the effects of climate change.





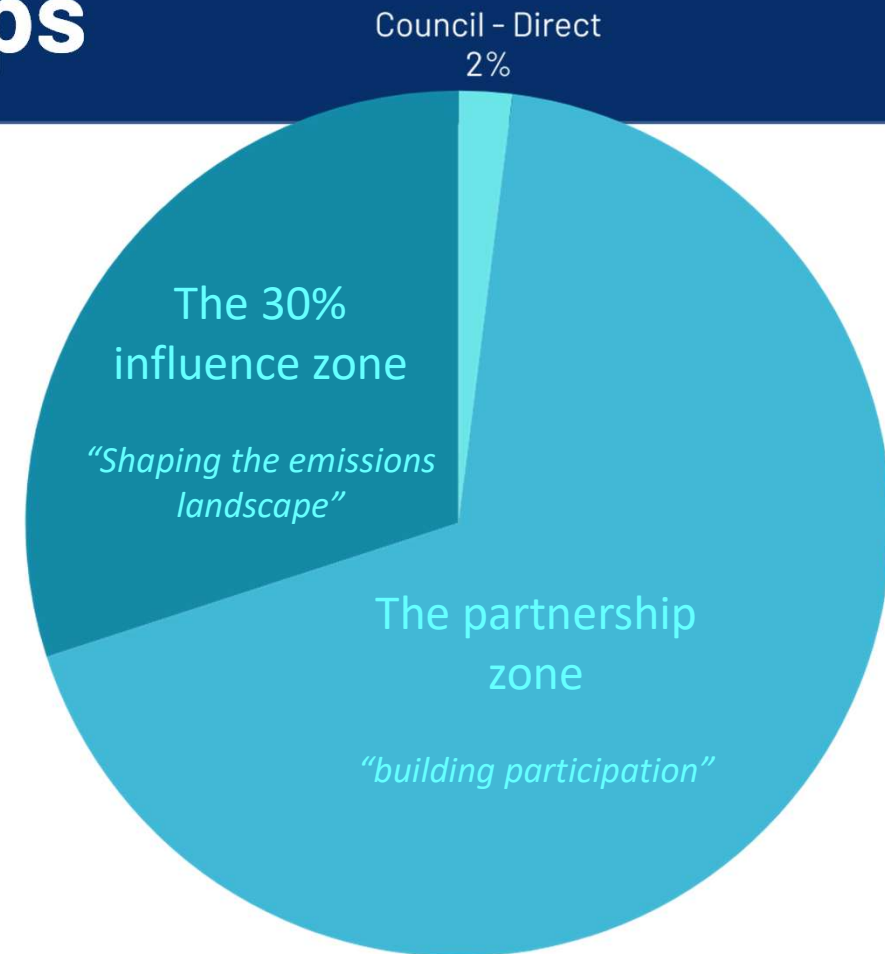
Schools' Climate Conference

Local Climate Action

Climate change partnerships

With 2% of emissions in direct RBC control, 30% of emissions within our influence, 68% remains outside of our control.

How much of this is genuinely within the control of local people and how much depends on national government, corporations and other factors—is key to understanding **the role of councils and climate change partnerships.**



The image is a composite graphic with a dark red and black background. On the left, a large, glowing Earth is shown with a fiery, orange and yellow aura around it, suggesting global warming or a climate crisis. In the center, the text "Climate Emergency Declaration" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. On the right, there is a target symbol consisting of concentric red circles with a red dot in the center. Below the target, a line graph with blue and red lines shows an upward trend from left to right, with the x-axis labeled with years from 1950 to 2015. The overall composition conveys a sense of urgency and the need for action on climate change.

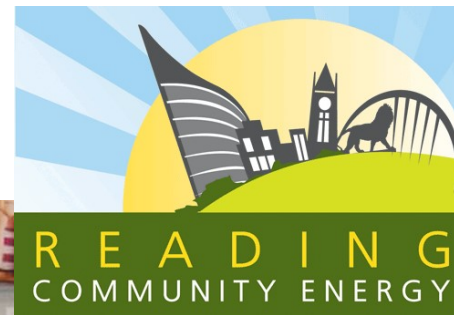
Climate Emergency Declaration

What are Reading's Commitments

Climate Emergency Declaration 2019... 'this Council commits to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Reading by 2030'

This Council therefore instructs officers to report to the SEPT and Policy Committees on further potential measures that could accelerate the timescale for reducing carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2030, but recognises that this date can only be achieved with substantial policy changes from national government.

Major Projects: Renewable Energy in Reading

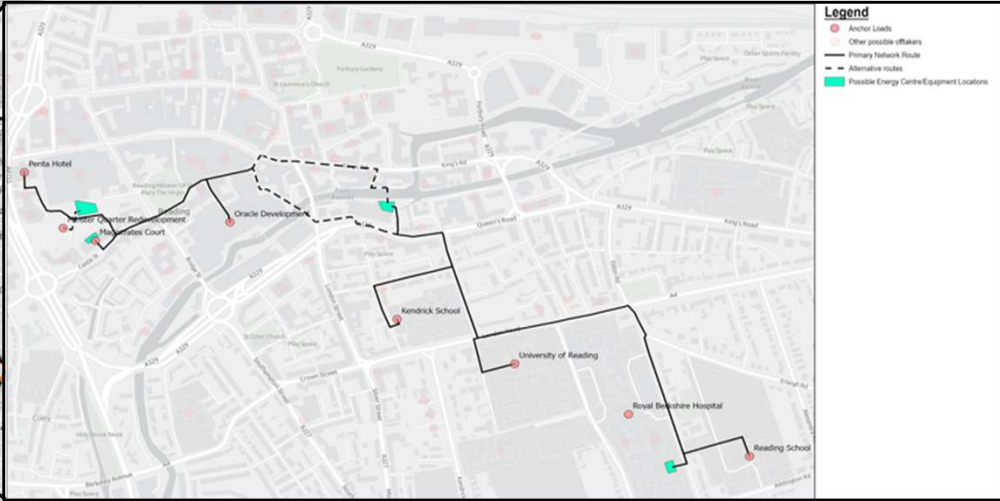
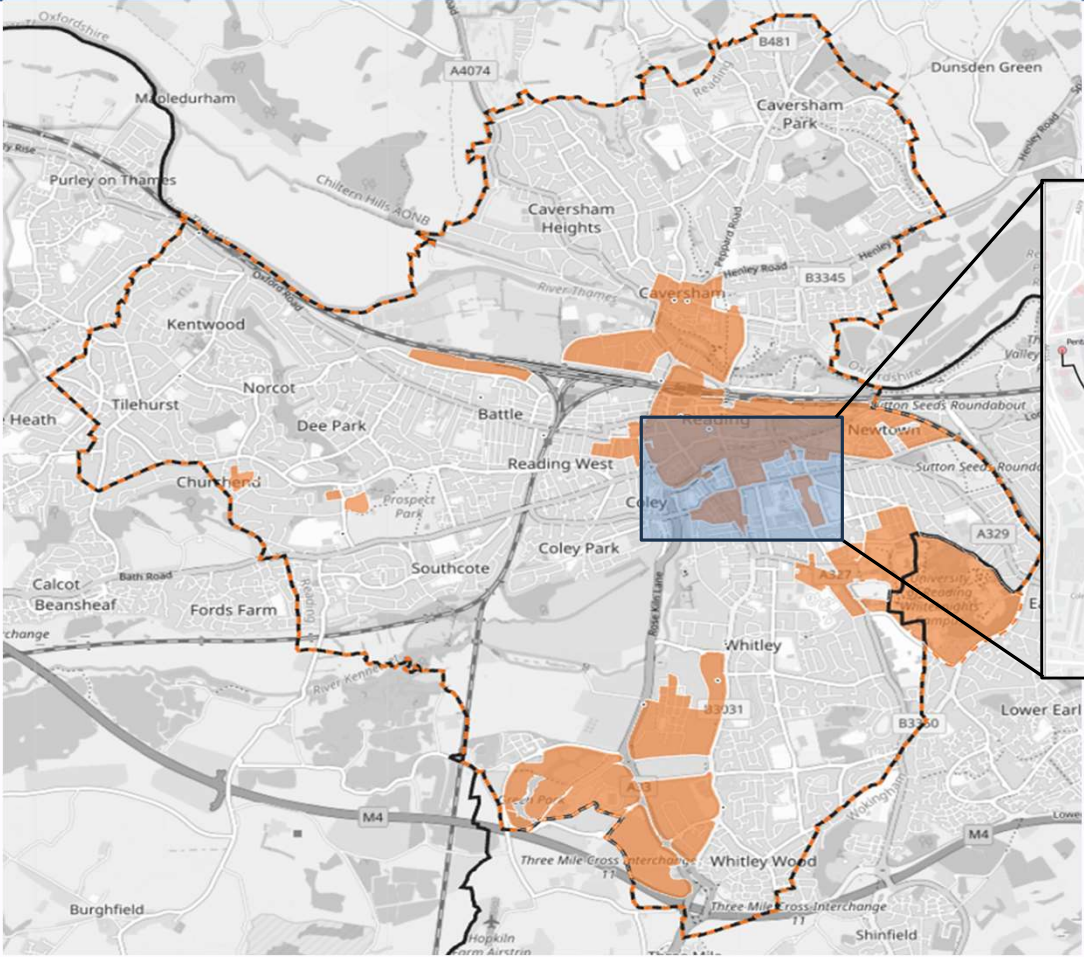


Major Projects: EV Future

02



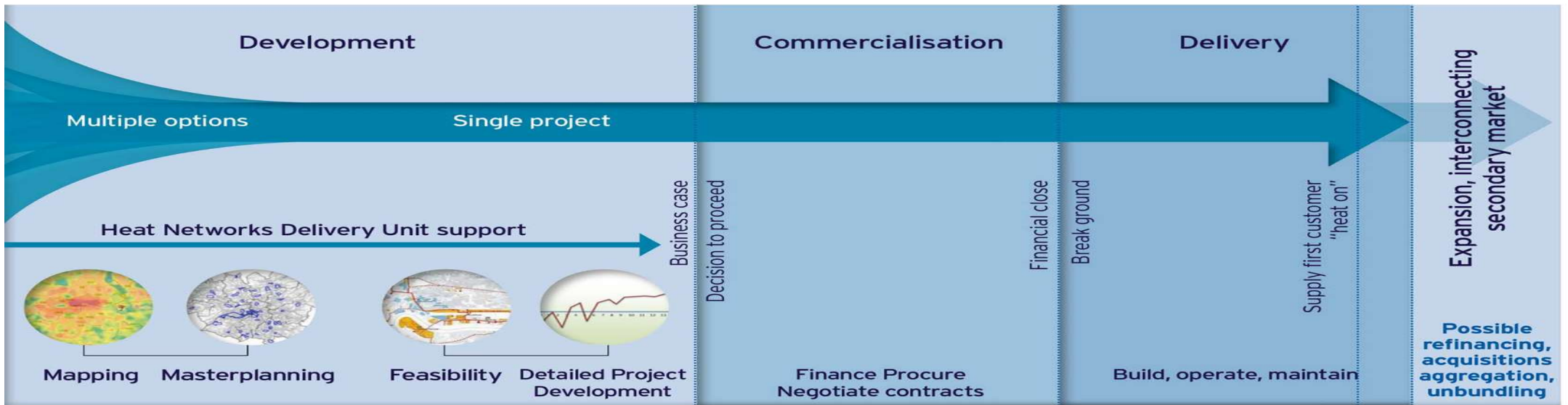
Major Projects: Heat Network



Major Projects: Heat Network

2025

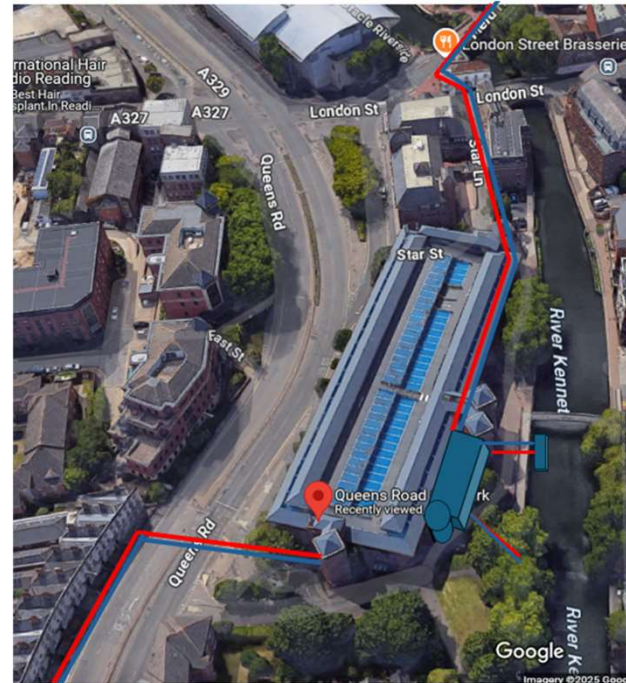
2030



Major Projects: Heat Network- Energy Centre



- Bristol Energy Centre containing Water Source Heat Pumps



Proposed
Reading
Energy
Centre on
Kennet-Side

Major Projects: Housing

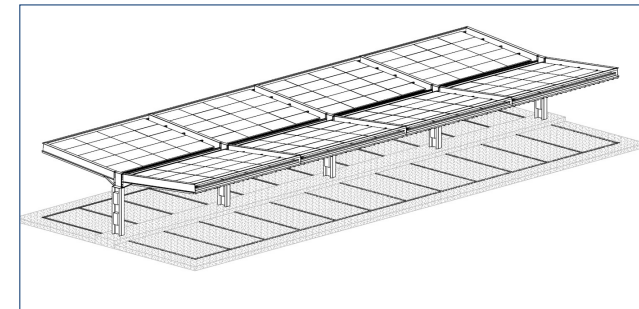


Major Projects: RBC Carbon Plan 2020-2025



Electrified Fleets

Solar canopies



Decarbonised buildings (heat pumps & renewables)

Policies: Planning Zero Carbon Development

02



**New Development >35%
below part L and pay into
Zero Carbon Fund**

**High BREEAM Standards
(Excellent)**

**Connection to heat
networks and use of low
carbon heat sources
mandatory**

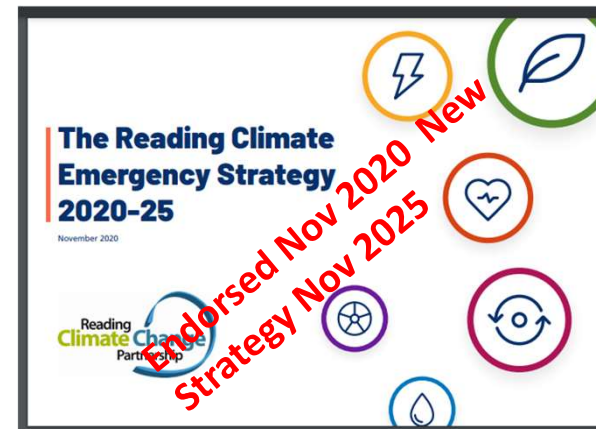
Policies: Climate Emergency

Classification:
Appendix 3

The Carbon Plan 2020-2025



Reading Borough Council - our pathway to net zero Carbon



1 | Page

Classification: OFFICIAL

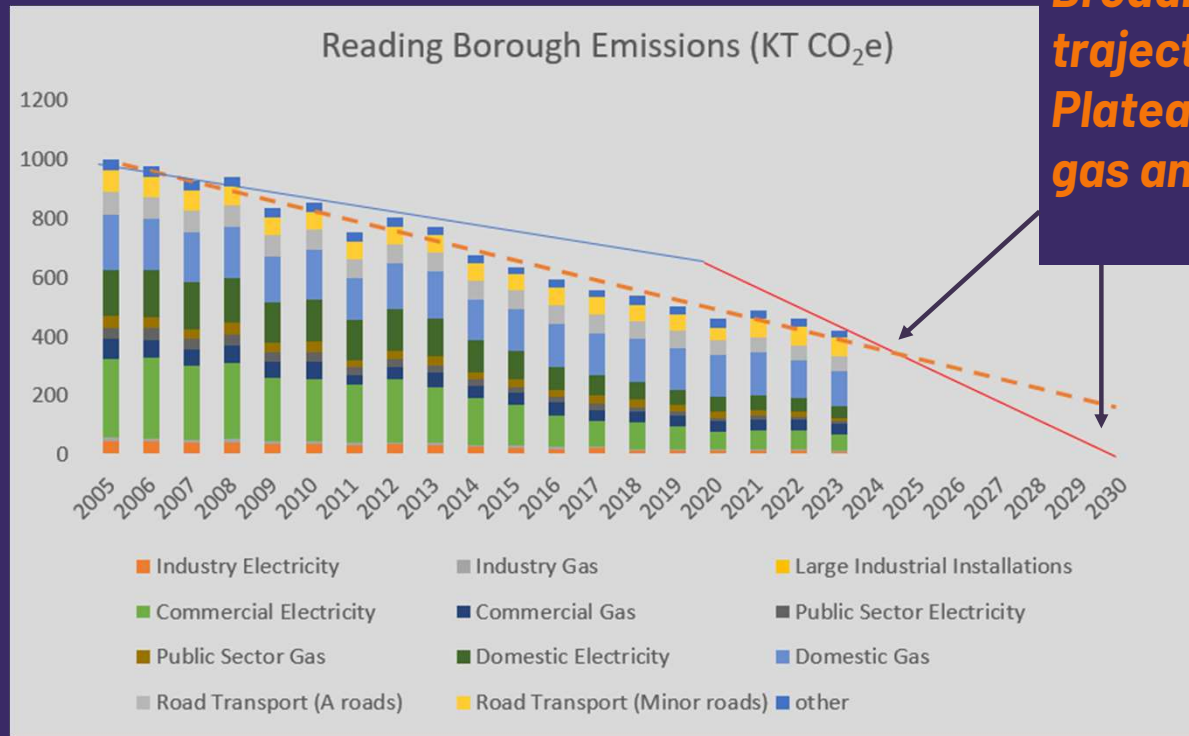
<https://www.reading.gov.uk/climate-and-pollution/climate-change/>

Strategy Themes (Draft)

- **Energy and heat** – Decarbonisation, Renewable energy, planning, housing, heat networks – Planning, Property, Culture, Highways, Housing, Trading Standards
- **Travel and transport** – Reading buses, LEVI, School streets etc Fleet, Sustainable transport, Highways – LTP
- **Water** – Transport, Planning, Housing, Emergency response
- **Beyond Waste**, RE3, Waste collection, REDA, FM.
- **Nature and Open Space**, Planning, Parks, Leisure, Assets, Neighbourhood's, Assets.
- **Food** – Schools, Coms, Culture, REDA, public health

Reading Borough Emissions 427 kTCO₂

**Reducing Emissions by 58%
Reading was the 12th best authority
in the UK for reductions within
its influence in 2023 (the latest
data available).**



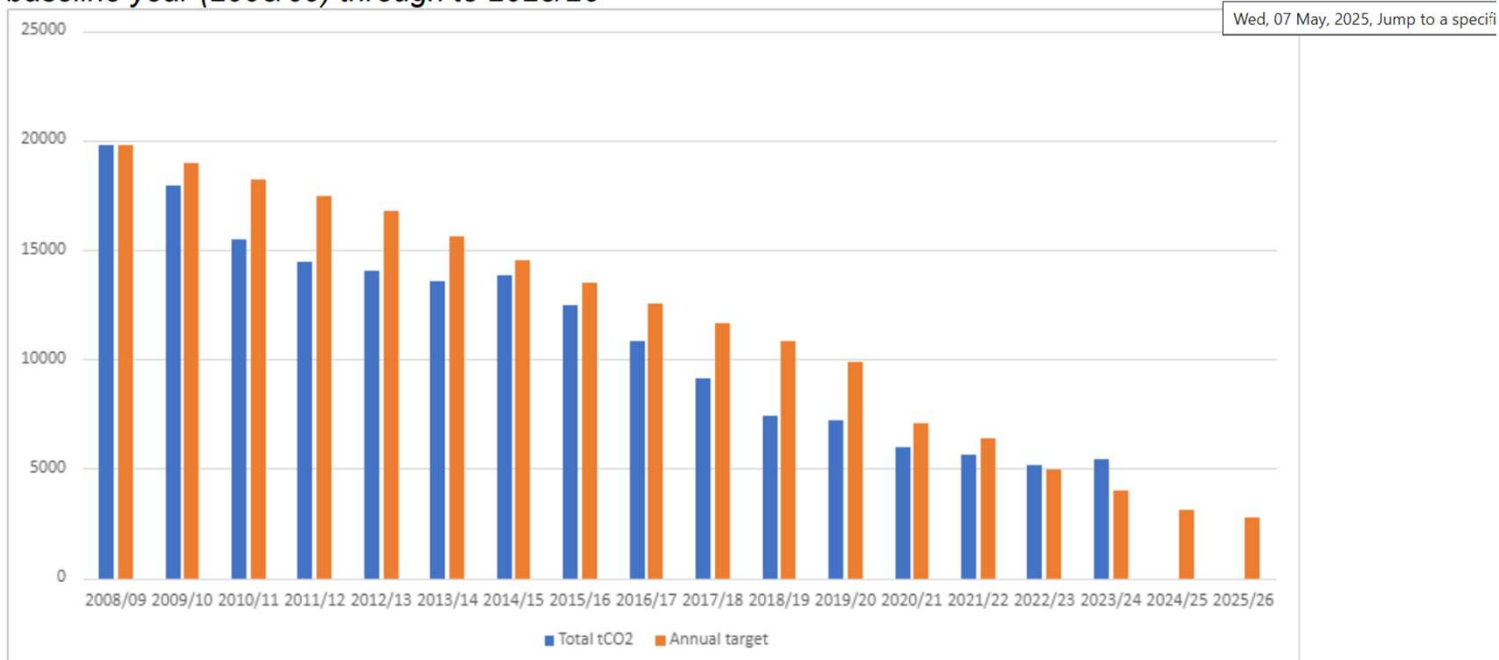
**Broadly on track for 2025 but trajectory shows gap for 2030
Plateauing largely due to gas and vehicle fuel**



CITIES A LIST

Reading Council Emissions - 5 kTe

Figure 2: RBC corporate GHG emissions performance against annual benchmarks from the baseline year (2008/09) through to 2025/26

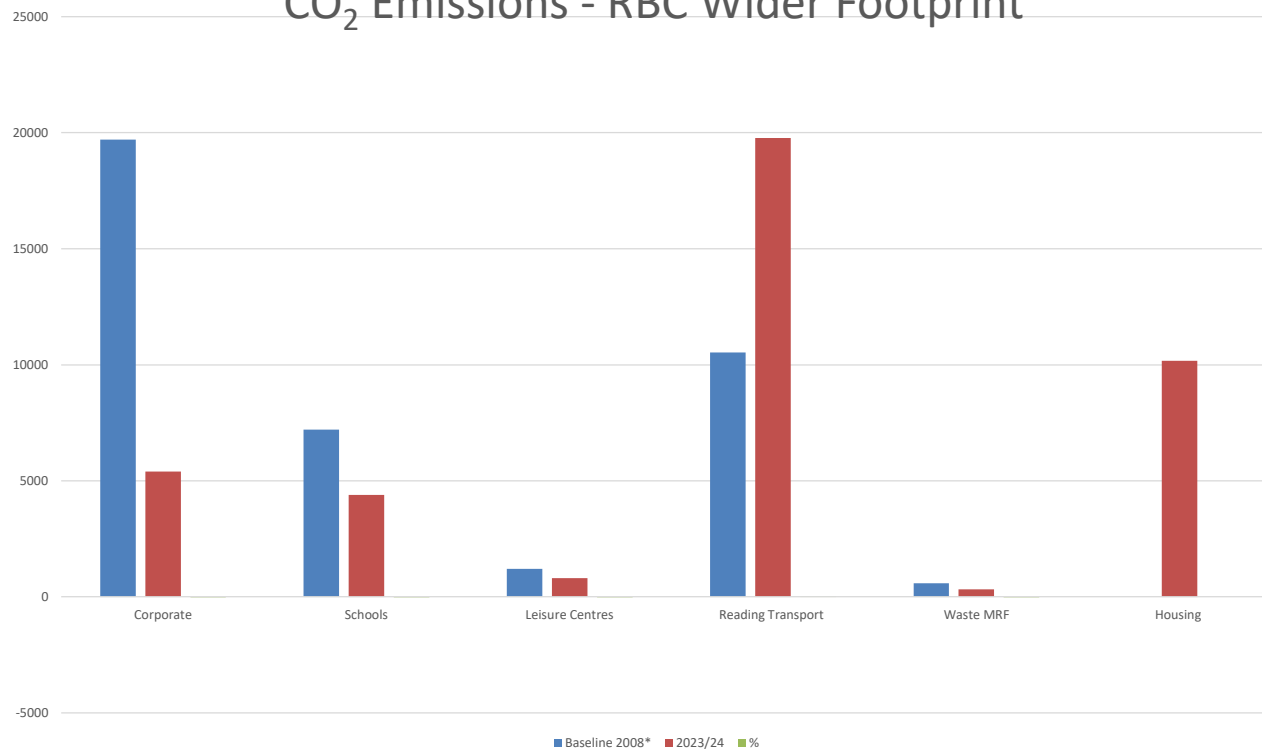


- 73% cut in RBC emissions since 2008/09
- Last two years Emissions have been above the target

Council wider footprint

02

CO₂ Emissions - RBC Wider Footprint



Reading's corporate emissions are <2% of borough but our wider activities have emissions of ~9% of the borough

	Baseline 2008*	2023/24	%
Corporate	19700	5403	-73.00%
Schools	7203	4401	-39.00%
Leisure Centres	1209	812	-32.00%
Reading Transport	10538	19771	141.00%
Waste MRF	589	324	-54.00%
Housing		10171	
Total	39239	40882	

*some baseline years later

Public Sector Emissions (wider footprint)

02

RBC: 40882 tonnes

Royal Berks: 14347 tonnes

University of Reading: 12750 tonnes

Total public sector emissions **82700 tonnes (2022)**

Climate Change Committee 7th Carbon Budget Report

2025

2% heat pumps

+2% insulated

3.5% EVs

By 2030

6% Heat Pumps

+15% insulated

25% EVs

By 2040

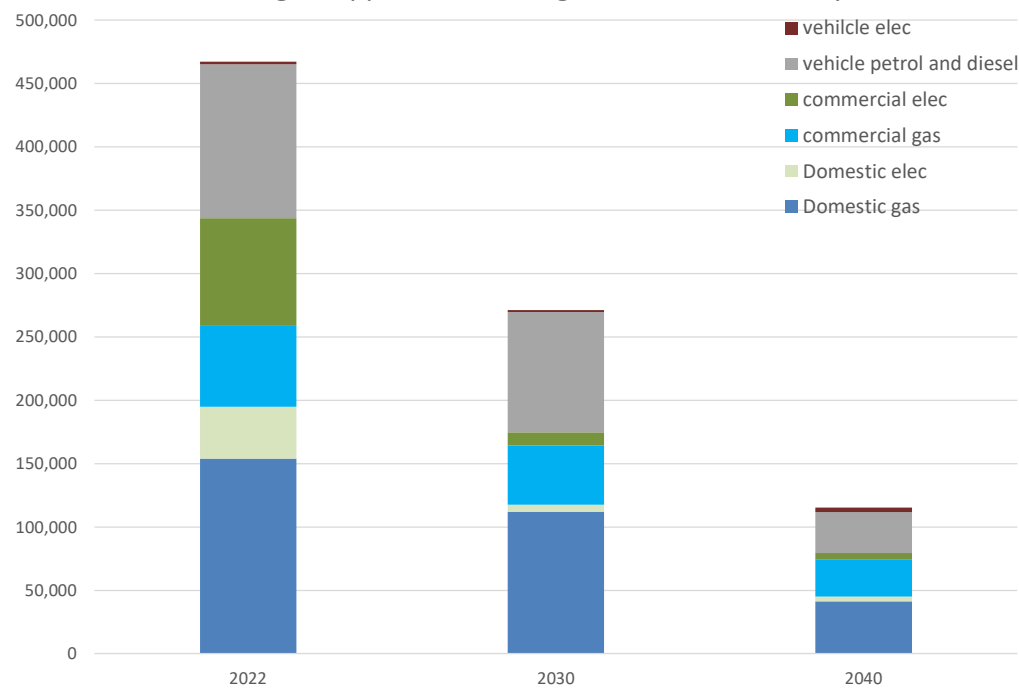
50% heat pumps

+18% insulated

75% cars EVs

A 2040 Trajectory

CCC targets applied to Reading Zero Carbon Pathway



Reduction by 2040. This goes beyond current government policy but aligns with the main elements

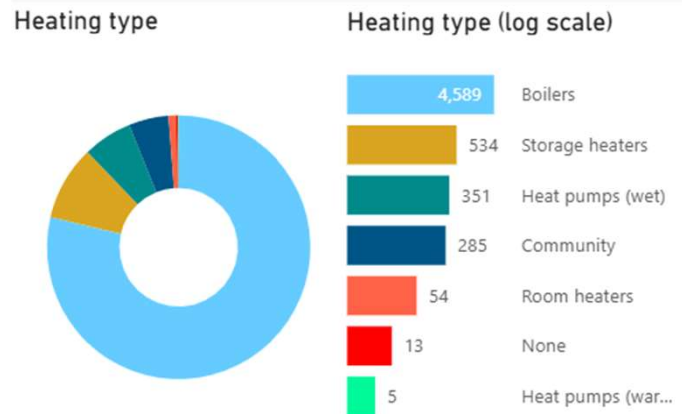
The graph shows how our emissions pathway could look in Reading if the CCC targets, UK Clean Power Plan and ambitious climate strategy targets were all met.

...recognises that the timescale for reducing carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2030 can only be achieved with substantial policy changes from national government.

RBC Declaration

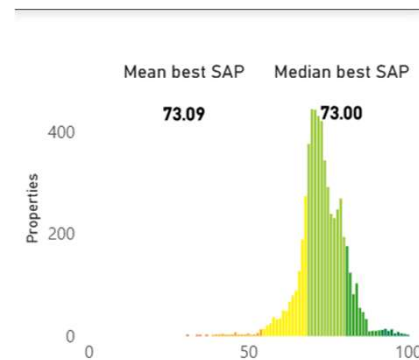
RBC Housing Stock

Q2



RBC's housing stock estimated emissions 10,171 tonnes CO₂
 Mean = 1.74t

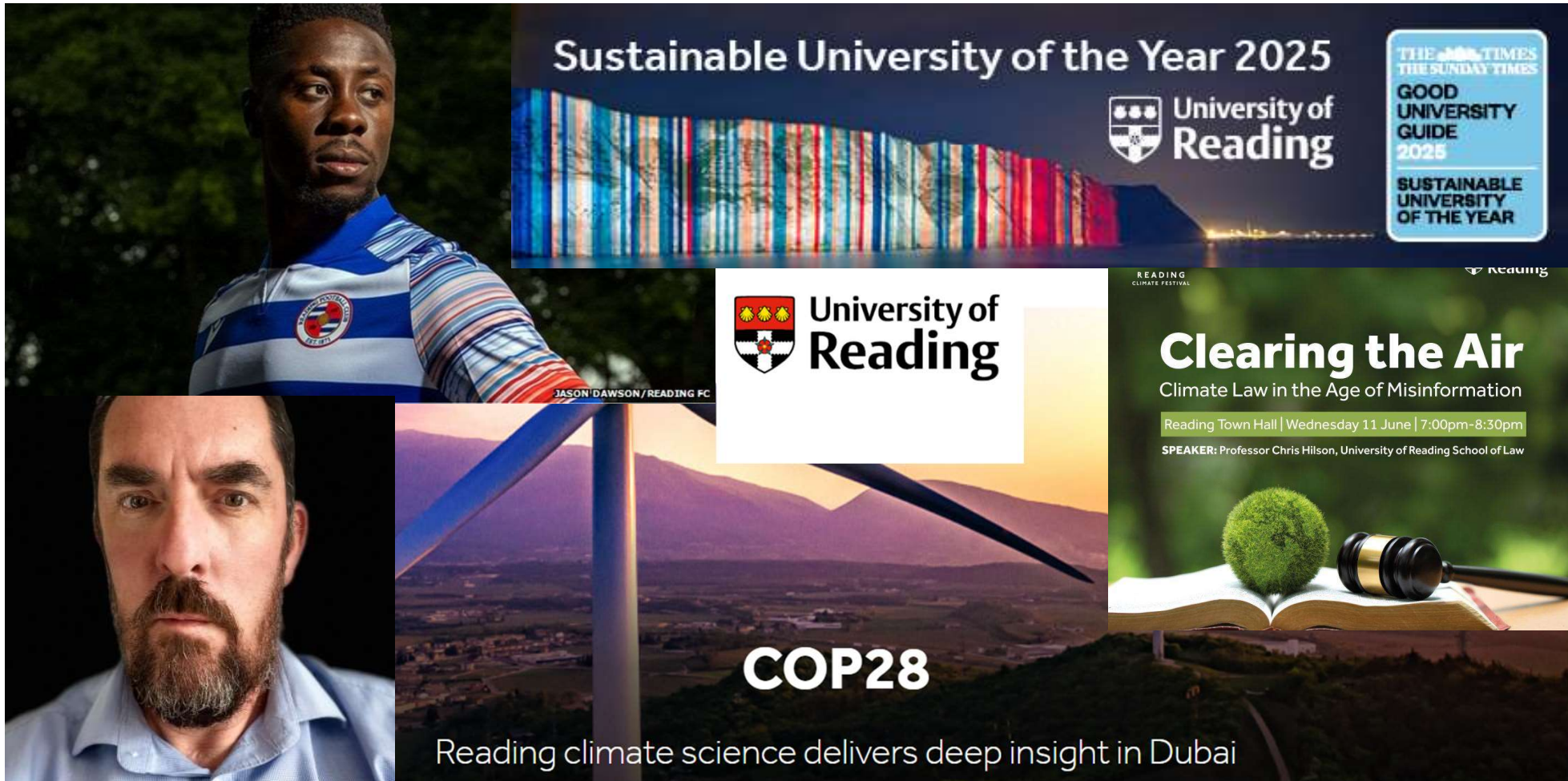
Mostly EPC 'C' and better but also mainly gas heated



Best of lodged & calculated score

SAP Band	Count per Band
A	82
B	660
C	3932
D	1088
E	63
F	5
Total	5830





Sustainable University of the Year 2025



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2025**
**SUSTAINABLE
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**



COP28

Reading climate science delivers deep insight in Dubai

READING
CLIMATE FESTIVAL

Clearing the Air

Climate Law in the Age of Misinformation

Reading Town Hall | Wednesday 11 June | 7:00pm-8:30pm

SPEAKER: Professor Chris Hilson, University of Reading School of Law



Systems Approaches for Accelerating a Just Transition (JUST-Systems)

Reading case study: Driving Net Zero Infrastructure for
Decarbonised Heat



JUST-Systems

Collaboration with Reading Borough Council

Dr Mehdi Shahrestani, Professor Stefan Smith,
Dr Martin Green, Professor Libby Schweber
School of the Built Environment
University of Reading

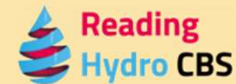
Academic core team:

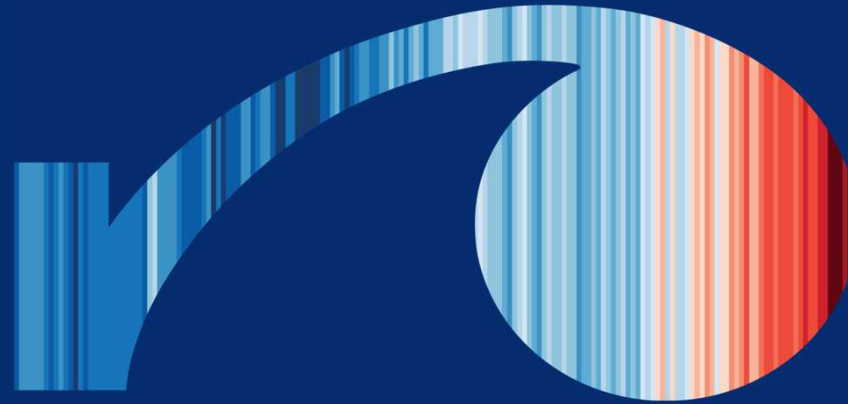
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Reading
- University of Stirling
- University of Strathclyde
- University of Warwick



- Driving Net Zero Infrastructure: Decarbonised Heat in Reading (England) – University of Reading

2





CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY 2025 TO 2030 CONSULTATION

AUG 25 TO OCT 03

<https://reading.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/climate-emergency-strategy>