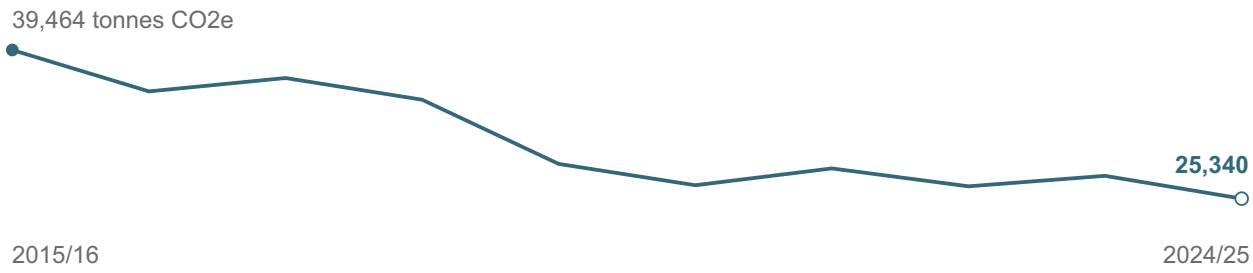
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Emissions Performance 2024/25

Appendix 1 to the Climate Change Activity Update

Policy & Resources Committee · Climate Change Board · July 2026 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting



Total reported emissions, tonnes CO2e, 2015/16 to 2024/25

-35.8%

PERFORMANCE

The year in numbers

Reported carbon emissions fell 7.9 per cent in 2024/25 - to 25,340 tonnes CO2e, 35.8 per cent below the 2015/16 baseline - reversing the previous year's increase.

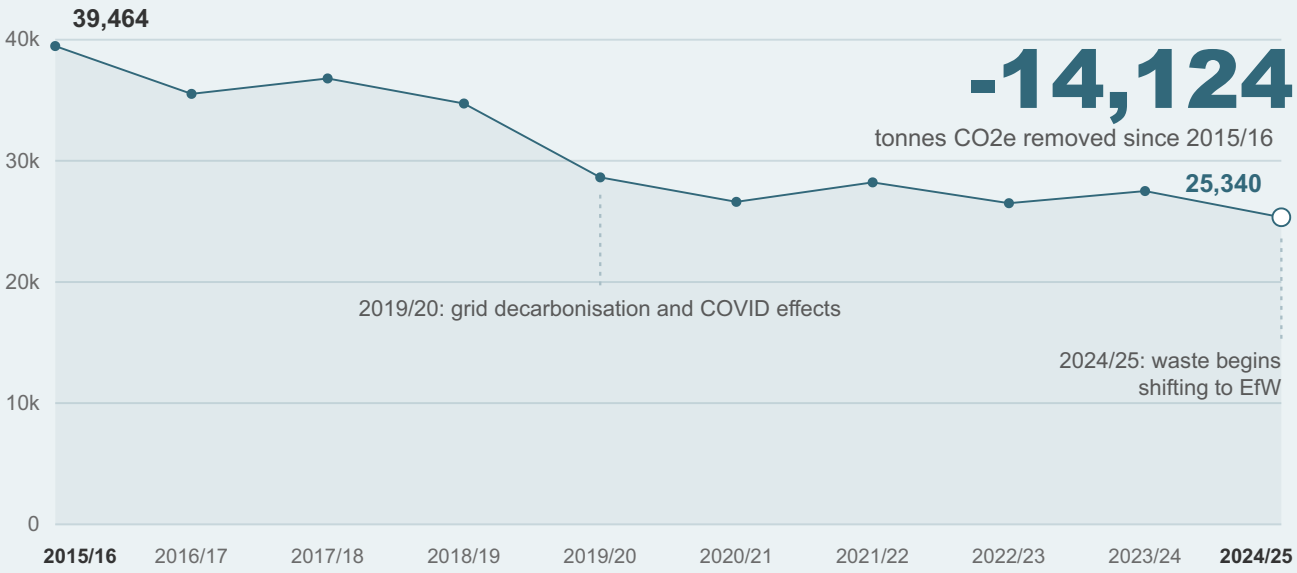


FIG. 1 Total reported emissions, tonnes CO2e, 2015/16 to 2024/25. Source: PBCCD annual return summary.

25,340
TONNES CO2e REPORTED IN 2024/25

-7.9%
CHANGE IN YEAR (-2,174 TONNES)

-35.8%
CHANGE SINCE THE 2015/16 BASELINE

52.1%
OF THE FOOTPRINT IS NOW SCOPE 3

The result reverses the in-year increase of 3.8 per cent reported to the Committee in August 2025, which had been driven largely by a rise in the carbon intensity of the national electricity grid together with additions to the operational estate.

The decade-long picture is one of steady descent in two distinct phases. The early years of reduction were dominated by the decarbonisation of the national grid, which lowered the Council's electricity emissions with comparatively little local intervention. The years since 2019/20 have been flatter, as the remaining footprint became concentrated in sources that only local action can move - waste above all. 2024/25 is significant because the year's reduction was made by such action: the transition of residual waste away from landfill.

OVERLEAF · THE WASTE TRANSITION →

THE WASTE TRANSITION

One source, most of the story

Municipal waste sent to landfill has been the Council's largest single source of emissions in every year of the reporting period - 38.5 per cent of the whole footprint in 2024/25, and 73.9 per cent of Scope 3.

-28.9%

Waste to landfill emissions, **saved in a single year**

Remaining: 9,763 tonnes (71%) **Saved: 3,970 tonnes (28.9%)**

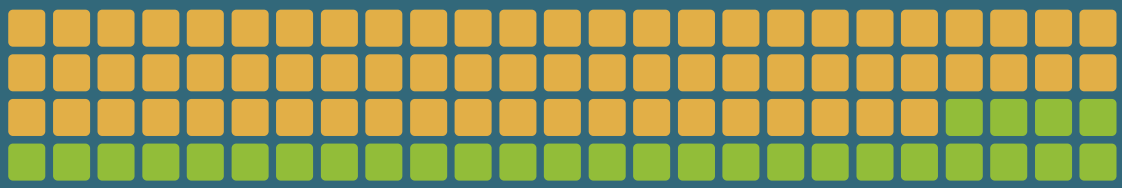


FIG. 2 Each square is 1% of 2023/24 landfill emissions (13,733 tonnes CO2e), rounded to whole percentages.

The reduction is a clean, like-for-like measure of operational change. The tonnage of waste landfilled fell from 27,629 to 19,642 tonnes, while the emission factor applied to that waste was unchanged at 497 kg Co2e per tonne in both years. Nothing in the accounting moved; the waste did.

Within Scope 3, reductions of 4,140 tonnes - the landfill fall, a lower combustion factor on residual waste sent for energy recovery, and a small decline in business mileage - were partly offset on paper by 2,426 tonnes of additions, almost all of which is the contracted school and public transport line newly included this year. The reported Scope 3 total fell by 1,714 tonnes, or 11.5 per cent.

Scotland's ban on landfilling biodegradable municipal waste took effect on 1 January 2026.

The full step change arrives in next year's figures.

BASIS OF REPORTING

Emissions from waste sent to landfill fell by 3,970 tCO2e (-28.9%) in 2024/25, the single largest contributor to the year's reduction, as the transition to Energy from Waste took effect. This was achieved alongside the inclusion of contracted school and public transport services within the Scope 3 boundary for the first time, which the Council has added in the interests of complete reporting.

A Smaller, and a different shape

A decade of reduction has changed the composition of the footprint as well as its size. The Council's remaining emissions are increasingly those that national trends will not reduce on their own.

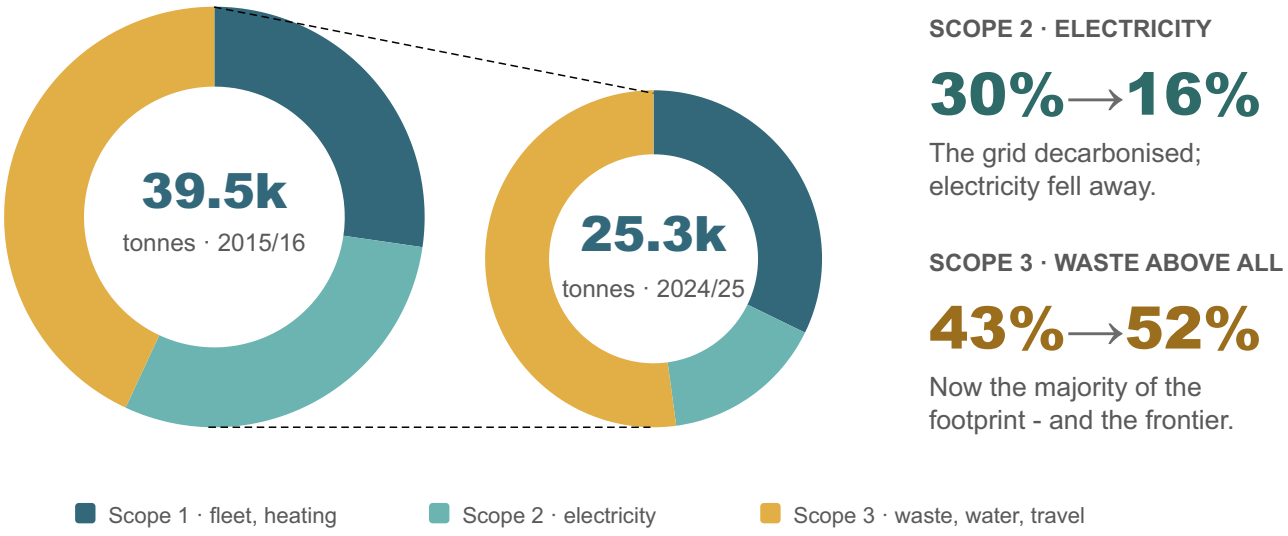
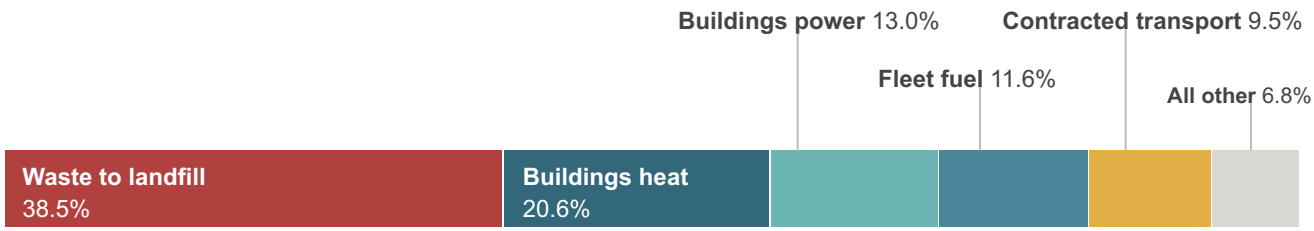


FIG. 3 Composition of reported emissions by scope, 2015/16 and 2024/25. Ring areas are drawn in proportion to the totals they represent.

In 2015/16, purchased electricity accounted for 30 per cent of reported emissions; grid decarbonisation has reduced that share to 16 per cent. Scope 3 sources - dominated by waste now make up 52 per cent of the footprint, up from 43 per cent at baseline. Waste to landfill alone remains the largest single source, and the sources that follow it are heat, power and transport: the operational fabric of the Council itself.



Shares of the 2024/25 footprint by source. All other sources: streetlighting 2.9%, business travel 1.5%, grid losses 1.1%, other waste 1.0%, water 0.2%.

FIG. 4 The 2024/25 footprint by emission source.

STATUTORY REPORTING

The statutory account

The figures behind this report, as returned under the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties.

Performance improved across the Council's directly controlled emissions. Scope 1 emissions fleet fuel and building heating - fell 5.4 per cent to 8,165 tonnes. Scope 2 emissions from purchased electricity were effectively unchanged at 3,962 tonnes, with the small rise reflecting estate additions against a stable grid factor. Scope 3 emissions fell 11.5 per cent to 13,213 tonnes, for the reasons set out on page 3.

SCOPE	2023/24 (tCO2e)	2024/25 (tCO2e)	CHANGE
Scope 1 direct - fleet, heating	8,630	**8,165**	**-5.4%**
Scope 2 indirect - electricity	3,957	**3,962**	**+0.1%**
Scope 3 indirect - waste, procurement	14,927	**13,213**	**-11.5%**
Total	**27,514**	**25,340**	**-7.9%**

Reduction since baseline · 39,464 tCO2e (2015/16) → 25,340 tCO2e (2024/25) **-35.8%**

Data note. Figures are drawn from the Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties annual return and follow the summary return totals. Source-level detail includes 6 tonnes CO2e of electric vehicle charging reported under combined scopes and therefore sums to 25,346 tonnes; source shares in Figure 4 are calculated on that basis. The 2015/16 baseline is 39,464 tonnes CO2e.

END OF APPENDIX 1