

Appendix A1: Further Information

Introduction to the Plans

1. Introduction

Bristol City Council was the first UK local authority to declare a climate emergency in November 2018 and the Mayor initiated a programme of work, with city partners, to create the [One City Climate Strategy](#). This set out the key objectives and areas of action needed to achieve its goals of carbon neutrality and climate resilience. It set out six 'enabling conditions' which were necessary for the city to achieve its goals. One of these was 'funding' and the evidence base for the strategy spelled out the billions of pounds of investment needed to achieve the net zero goal.

The European Union's Horizon Europe innovation programme recognised a similar need for investment in cities across the Union and created the 'Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission' for 2030 to support cities in securing this investment. This initiative was open to cities in the European Union plus those of several countries like the UK who associated with the Horizon Europe programme. Following a competitive process two UK cities - Bristol and Glasgow - were accepted as part of the 112 cities in the Mission.

The Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission approach is that the member cities want to decarbonise and have set out some ambitious goals. Member cities are committed to involving their communities in planning the delivery of these goals and ensuring a Just Transition. However, cities are often unable to attract the amount of finance needed, on the right terms, to deliver the scale of investment required, despite there being significant private sector investment seeking net zero projects.

This approach echoes the Bristol City Leap approach. In that initiative we identified the investment opportunity on the council's estate and created a prospectus for would-be investors and have since been able to secure partners seeking to make a very substantial investment. The European initiative provides a structured and pan-European approach as a means of attracting investment at scale and goes beyond the city council's estate.

Benefits of being part of the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission

Mission cities are invited to submit their City Climate Contract to the European Commission via the NetZero Cities portal for the review and, following a positive assessment, the plans are endorsed with a Mission Label. Crucially, the Mission initiative then provides support to facilitate access to private finance through the newly created European Capital Hub. This would put Bristol at an advantage when seeking support for decarbonisation projects – aiming to fill the investment need identified in the Bristol Climate Investment Plan. In addition, the Mission platform provides necessary technical, regulatory and financial assistance to cities to help us secure investment from the private sector or national institutions.

The Mission Label also facilitates the creation of targeted funding opportunities in the Horizon Europe programme for which Bristol is eligible. Through our participation in the Mission we have already secured £1.3m of funding from Horizon Europe Pilot Cities Programme to support the development of our "Net Zero Investment Co-Innovation Lab" which we anticipate will have generated an investment fund(s) of £50-100m for Bristol and the wider region by the project end in July 2025.

Furthermore, the Mission initiative’s approach has provided the inspiration for Bristol City Council’s wider Net Zero Programme. We have used that to secure £5m of funding from Innovate UK for a Bristol City Council-led consortium for our Mission Net Zero Pathfinder Demonstrator Project based on the Mission approach. This is extending the city level planning to both the neighbourhood level - with the creation of three Community Climate Investment Plans - and to the regional level with the West of England Climate Investment Plan. In this way, we will create a suite of plans owned by the relevant key communities and stakeholders that can facilitate investment into everything from community buildings and street retrofit projects to regional scale infrastructure.

2. Background

Bristol’s greenhouse gas emissions

We have been monitoring emissions from road transport in the city and energy in homes, other buildings and industry. The emissions are shown in Figure 1 below along with the reductions since 2005.

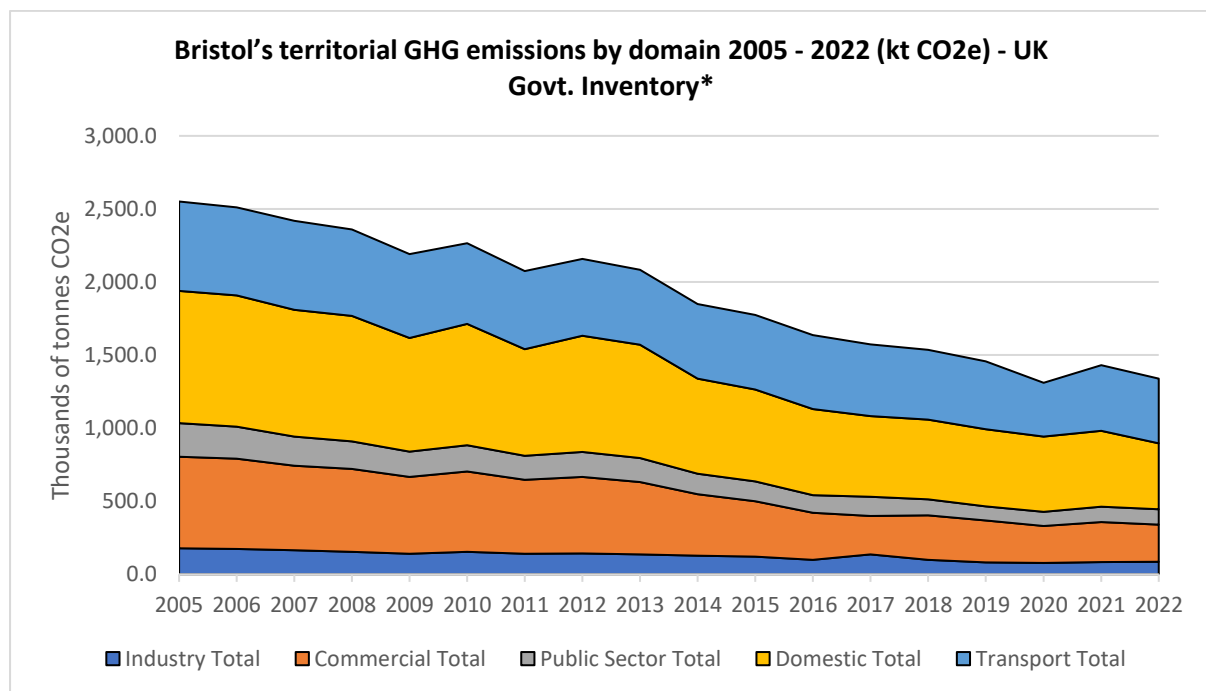


Figure 1: Bristol’s territorial GHG emissions by domain, adapted from DESNZ 2024.

These are termed our ‘territorial emissions’ and we have not included emissions from goods that residents buy, nor travel beyond the city. Emissions arising from those activities are termed ‘consumption based emissions’ and, whilst an important part of the overall impact of the city on climate change, they are not within the scope of the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.

In the Action Plan inventory and modelling we have used a tool called ClimateView which combines data from different sources including UK government data, to create a bespoke emissions inventory. This provides a higher total estimate of the emissions from the city, but the relative breakdown of emission sources is very similar and provides a robust basis for the modelling of proposed interventions in the action plan and forecasting of their impacts.

The projected pathway achievable through the climate action plan, as modelled in ClimateView is shown in Figure 2 below.

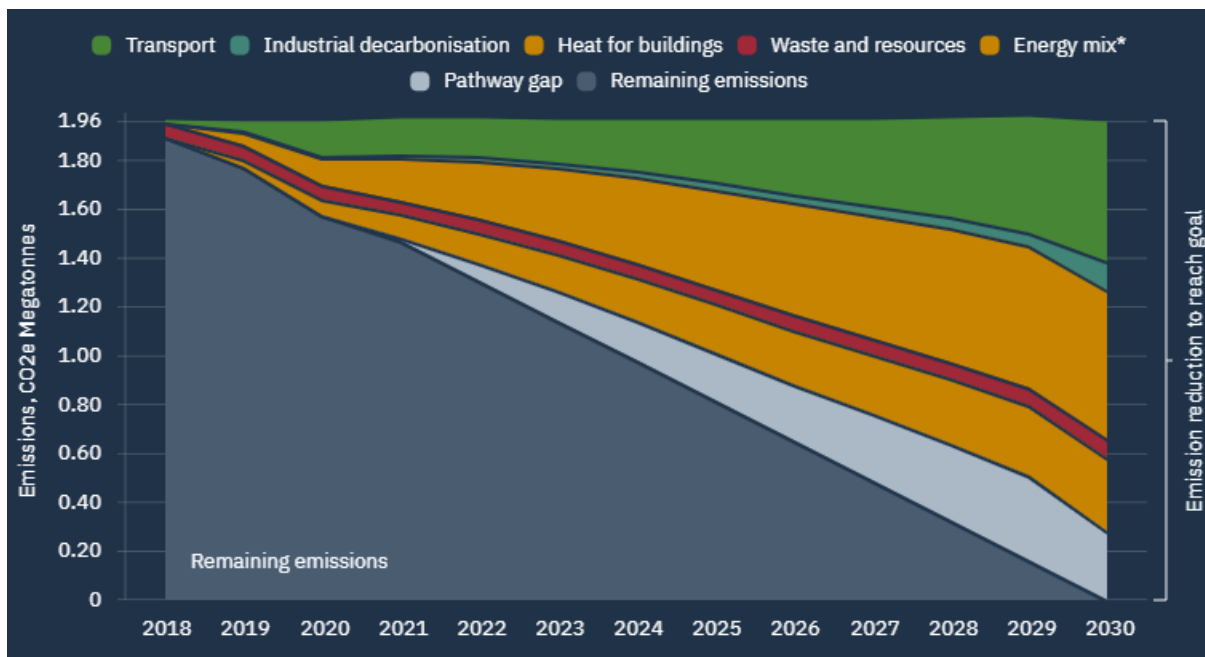


Figure 2: Bristol’s modelled transition pathway achievable through the Climate Action Plan.

Current Policies and Strategies

National

The UK has a national target established in legislation to reach net zero by 2050 and has adopted statutory targets for 2030 and 2037. The 2024 statutory Progress Report to Parliament prepared by the UK Committee on Climate Change provides a comprehensive overview of the UK Government’s progress and future plans for reducing emissions. It noted that the UK has committed to reduce emissions in 2030 by 68% compared to 1990 levels, but that “*the country is not on track to hit this target*” and that “*only a third of the emissions reductions required to achieve the 2030 target are currently covered by credible plans. Action is needed across all sectors of the economy, with low-carbon technologies becoming the norm.*”

In July a new government was elected and is bringing forward new climate policies and plans which it is hoped will accelerate climate action in the UK and Bristol.

Regional

The West of England Combined Authority has a Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan that covers climate and ecology strategy and action. It was agreed by all the constituent authorities of the Combined Authority who all share a 2030 ambition for carbon neutrality and sets out a framework for action. Some of the actions have been implemented at an initial scale and would need to be scaled up to achieve the 2030 ambition. Where relevant these scaled-up actions have been included within this plan.

City

Bristol developed the One City Climate Strategy in March 2020 and this has provided the strategic framework for action since then. It followed the declaration of the Climate

Emergency in November 2018 and set a very ambitious goal for the city to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Action Plan and Investment Plan have been developed drawing upon the detailed objectives of the One City Climate Strategy.

3. Developing the plans

Following a process recommended by the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative, the Mission cities are encouraged to form a multi-stakeholder 'Transition Team'; a group of city-wide organisations who control or influence key parts of the city's decarbonisation activities. Cities are also supported by City Advisors to create three documents:

1. A Statement of Commitment which sets out the main actions that the council and city partners have already committed to take – for Bristol these are actions in relation to the One City Climate Strategy – Appendix A2.
2. A City Climate Action Plan which sets out the actions needed to deliver the goals of the One City Climate Strategy – these encompass the actions city partners have committed to take but also describes the additional actions required for decarbonisation - Appendix A3 and its annexes.
3. A City Climate Investment Plan which sets out the investment/funding needed to deliver the Action Plan - Appendix A4 and its annex.

These three documents form what the Horizon Europe programme has termed a 'Climate City Contract'. However, it is not a 'contract' in the usual sense of this word, but more a compact, or statement of intent, co-created by the Transition Team detailing the local context and rationale for climate action, along with specific actions, their costs, co-benefits and contribution to greenhouse gas reductions. It is not legally-binding.

Bristol's ambition to be carbon neutral presents huge opportunity but also a city scale challenge. This requires the involvement not solely of Bristol City Council but also other willing city partners to help the city achieve its carbon reduction aims. To this end, Bristol City Council convened a Transition Team in 2023. The Transition Team was brought together following an initial stakeholder analysis exercise. The group comprises approximately 50% public sector organisations and 50% from the private sector, see below.

Transition Team Members

Bristol City Council (coordinator) Bristol & Bath Regional Capital, Bristol Energy Network, Bristol City Leap, Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership, Bristol Waste, Bristol Water, Business West, Cabot Institute, City of Bristol College, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Enterprise Mobility, Future Leap, National Grid, NatWest, North Bristol NHS Trust, City Office, OVO Energy, Retrofit West, SevernNet, TLT Solicitors, Wales & West Utilities, West of England Combined Authority, Wessex Water, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, Vattenfall UK.

The Transition Team worked together to draft the City Commitments document which outlines the city's existing goal of carbon neutrality by 2030, its strategic priorities, process and underlying principles of climate action. This has been signed by the Leader of the Council and the Co-Chairs of the One City Environment Board.

To create the Bristol One City Climate Action Plan, the Transition Team was subdivided into working groups focussed on key emissions areas including transport, energy, buildings,

waste and business. Throughout a series of workshops, groups collaborated to devise actions aiming to achieve the objectives of the One City Climate Strategy. These are set out in the Action Plan in Appendix A3 which includes the following information:

Part A – Current State of Climate Action

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Baseline Inventory
- Current Policies and Strategies Assessment
- Systemic Barriers and Opportunities to 2030 Climate Neutrality

Part B – Pathways towards Climate Neutrality

- Climate Neutrality Scenarios and Impact Pathways
- Climate Neutrality Portfolio Design
- Indicators for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Part C – Enabling Climate Neutrality

- Governance Innovation Interventions
- Social Innovation Interventions
- Outlook and next steps

To create the Bristol One City Investment Plan we combined information from members of the Transition Team with work commissioned from consultants to create estimates for the cost of each action. This is included in Appendix A4. It sets out the following information:

Part A – Current State of Climate Investment

- Existing Climate Action Funding and Financing
- Strategic Funding and Financing Evaluation
- Barriers to Climate Investment

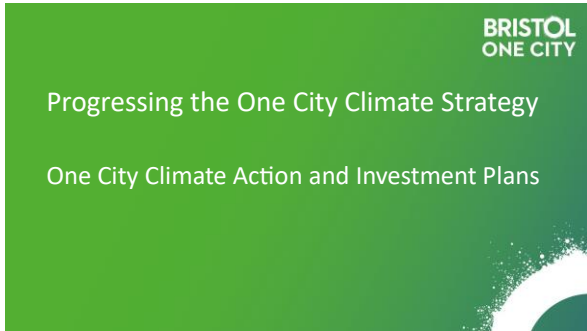
Part B – Investment Pathways towards Climate Neutrality

- Cost Scenarios for Climate Neutrality
- Capital Planning for Climate Neutrality
- Economic and Financial Indicators for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Part C - Enabling Financial Conditions for Climate Neutrality by 2030

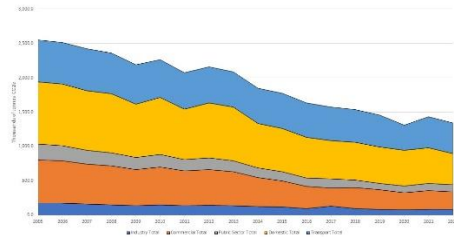
- Climate Policies for Capital Formation and Deployment
- Identification and Mitigation of Risks
- Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement for Capital and Investment Planning

Presentation for the Committee



A strategy for a carbon neutral, climate resilient Bristol by 2030

Bristol's territorial Greenhouse Gas emissions



Creating the Enabling Conditions



A strategy for a carbon neutral, climate resilient Bristol by 2030



The Transition Team

Bristol's Climate Mission Approach



Our process



Action Plan

- Part A – Current State of Climate Action
- Part B – Pathways to Climate Neutrality
- Part C – Enabling Climate Neutrality

Investment Plan

- Part A – Current State of Climate Investment
- Part B – Investment Pathways towards Climate Neutrality
- Part C – Enabling Financial Conditions

Mission Net Zero Programme



Mission Net Zero – Today's Decision

