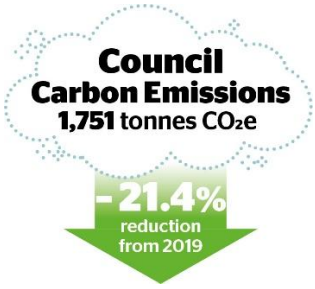
Appendix A: Headline Figures

Council Emissions

Infographic



Figure

Watford Borough Council emitted 1751 tonnes of CO_2e in the 2025/ 2026 financial year. This marks a 21.4% reduction in our emissions from our 2019/2020 baseline.

The figure was calculated using the same emissions sources used for our baseline report. We have separately expanded what emissions source we calculated and reported on this in our Annual Report and Greenhouse Gas report.

Data Source

- Natural gas data came from our kWh consumption provided by Total Energies via the Laser portal.
- Fleet data came from the litres of fuel consumed, tracked by Veolia (who we outsource waste collection, street maintenance, and parks and green spaces to) at Wiggenhall Depot.
- Electricity data came from our kWh consumption provided by Npower via the Laser portal.
- Water data came from our m^3 consumption provided by Wave.
- Business travel data came from our HR team who track business car travel by mile for expenses.
- Leisure centre data was provided by Everyone Active, our leisure centre operators.

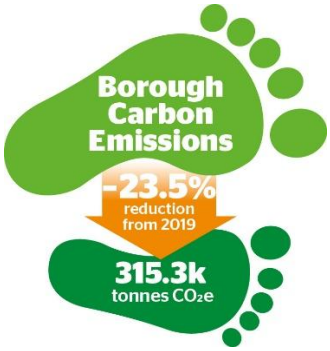
Methodology (if calculated in-house)

Consumption data was inputted into the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool, developed by Local Partnerships working with the LGA. The tool uses BEIS/DESNZ conversion factors to turn consumption data into emissions data.

Consumption data from the Colosseum was part of the Town Hall meter data, and this has been removed, based on previous usage prior to 20219/20, and on a pro – rata basis for 2025/26. Sub metering monitoring has been implemented so a more accurate data will be available. For more details see the Greenhouse Gas report.

Borough Emissions

Infographic



Figure

Watford Borough emitted 315 kilotonnes CO_2e in 2024. This marks a 24% decrease from 2019.

Data Source

Every summer, since 2005, the UK government has published UK local authority and regional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions. The data is published with a two-year delay, and was last updated in July 2026.

Borough Waste

Infographic



Figure

The average household in Watford produced 718kg waste in the 2024/2025 financial year. Of the total waste Watford Borough produces, 48.4% is recycled.

This is 10% lower than 2019/20.

Data Source

Herts Waste Aware is a partnership of all 10 local district and borough councils, and the county council. They produce an Annual Report every year that measures and analyses waste data for the previous year. The 2024/2025 Annual Report is their most recent report and provided us with waste and recycling data.

Council Waste

Infographic



Figure

Watford Council waste, for its core operational sites including the market, is estimated at 151 tonnes.

Total waste estimated for the annex council office site was 68 tonnes of which 31 tonnes was general waste. Office recycling is calculated at 54% a significant improvement on 2024/25.

Methodology (if calculated in-house)

A proxy waste estimate for some of our operational sites was calculated, the Town Hall (refuse and recycling) and the Market (general waste). For the Town Hall, we tracked how full the bins were in September and December 2025 and converted the volume into tonnage, then into emissions. The waste at the Market the total waste and recycling are recorded as number of bins collected and recorded.

Council Green Spaces

Infographic



Figure

42% of Watford Borough Council owned green space is managed to support nature.

Data Source

A GIS map of Watford Borough Council freehold land (with buildings and urban areas removed) was layered with a HCCSP Biodiversity Baseline map and internal Grounds Maintenance data.

HCCSP (Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership) is a partnership of all 10 local district and borough councils, and the county council. In 2021, HCCSP commissioned

an aerial desktop assessment of Hertfordshire to give create an indicative map of areas that supported biodiversity.

Our internal Grounds Maintenance map allowed us to remove areas of green space that would be classified as modified grassland.

Methodology (if calculated in-house)

Our freehold green space land amounted to 445.51 hectares and the amount of that land deemed to be managed to support nature amounted to 188.97 hectares.

Tree Canopy Cover

Infographic



Figure

Watford Borough has a tree canopy cover of 26%.

Data Source

An estimated figure for Watford's tree canopy cover was calculated using i-Tree Canopy. i-Tree was developed by the USDA Forest Service in the US to provide urban and rural forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. It expanded to the UK in partnership with Forestry Research, the research agency of the Forestry Commission and Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree-related research.

Methodology (if calculated in-house)

i-Tree Canopy randomly lays points onto Google Earth imagery and the user then classifies what cover class each point falls upon (tree or non-tree). From this classification of points, a statistical estimate of the amount or percent cover in each cover class can be calculated. To create an estimate of Watford's tree canopy cover, over 3,000 pins were dropped over the boundary of Watford Borough.

Council Water Usage

Infographic



Figure

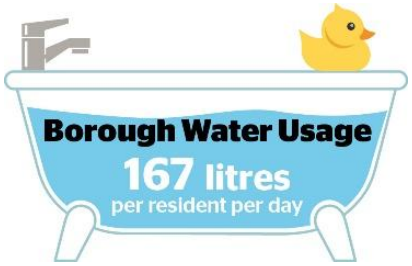
Watford Council water usage at the Town Hall and Museum is 30 litres per employee per day.

Methodology (if calculated in-house)

Water supply (taken from our Wave bills) for the Town Hall and Museum between April 2025 and March 2026 totals 1552m^3. The was divided by 207 (the average number of full-time equivalent Council employees for 2025/2026) and then further divided by 250 (the number of business days recommended by CIRIA, taking into account our additional 3 days at Christmas). In m^3, Council water usage is 0.0379 m^3 per employee per day, which converts to 30 litres/ employee/day. Note, we don't take account of councillors in our calculation.

Borough Water Usage

Infographic



Figure

Watford residents consume, on average, 166.9 litres of water per day.

Data Source

While Affinity Water are currently unable to break consumption data down any lower than their communities, the majority of Watford resides in the Colne community (alongside St Albans City and District). Affinity Water provided us with the Household PCC for the Colne community – 166.9 litres. The Household PCC is the total measured and unmeasured consumption divided by the total population for the community to give an average PCC for the whole community. It is interesting to note that the metered water consumption equates to about 25% less than the unmetered water consumption.