Appendix A: Headline Figures

Council Emissions

Infographic



Figure

Watford Borough Council emitted 2053 tonnes of CO_2e in the 2024/ 2025 financial year. This marks a 8.3% 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.

Data Source

- Natural gas data came from our kWh consumption provided by Total Energies and EDF.
- 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.
- Water data came from our m^3 consumption provided by Business Stream.
- Business travel data came from our HR team who track business travel by mile for expenses. They only track car travel at present.
- 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.

Borough Emissions

Infographic



Figure

Watford Borough emitted 373 kilotonnes CO_2e in 2023. This marks a 11% decrease from 2019, slightly less than was recorded in 2022.

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 2025.

Borough Waste

Infographic



Figure

The average household in Watford produced 752kg waste in the 2023/2024 financial year. Of the total waste Watford Borough produces, 49.6% is recycled.

Total waste has reduced 6% since 2019.

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 2023/2024 Annual Report is their most recent report and provided us with total waste and recycling data.

Council Waste

Infographic



Figure

Watford Council waste, for three core operational sites including the market, is estimated at 163 tonnes.

Total waste estimated for the annex council office site was 7.1 tonnes of which 3.9 tonnes was general waste. This equates 0.1kg per employee per day for office waste. Office recycling is calculated at 45%.

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). We did not have access to the waste data from the Cemetery this year, therefore we used the amount from the 23/24 report. For the Town Hall, we tracked how full the bins were in March 2025 and converted the volume into tonnage, then into emissions. The waste at the Market is weighed using a compactor and includes all general waste.

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

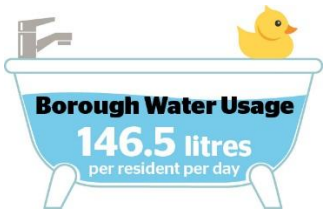
Watford Council water usage at the Town Hall and Museum is 31 litres per employee per day.

Methodology (if calculated in-house)

Water supply (taken from our Business Stream bills) for the Town Hall and Museum between April 2024 and March 2025 totals 1905.2 m^3. The was divided by 244 (the average number of full-time equivalent Council employees for 2024/2025) and then further divided by 253 (the number of business days recommended by CIRIA). In m^3, Council water usage is 0.03 m^3 per employee per day, which converts to 30.9 litres.

Borough Water Usage

Infographic



Figure

Watford residents consume, on average, 146.5 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 – 146.5 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.