

# Factsheet: Carbon emissions in Islington

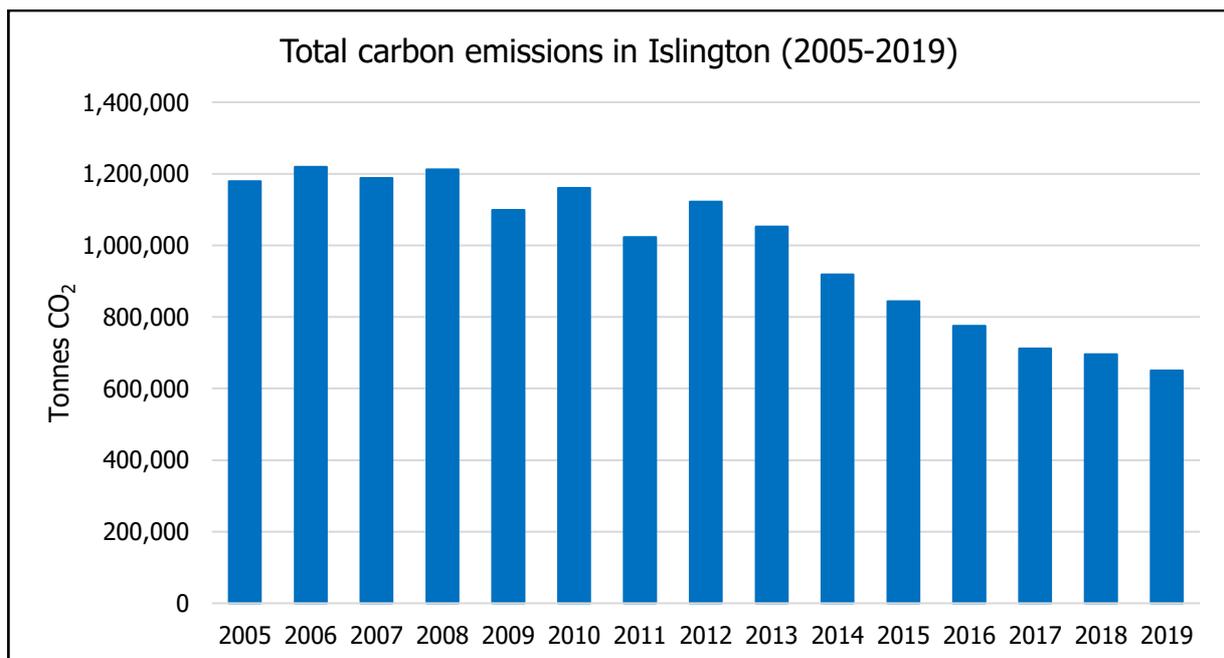
August 2021

## Introduction

Prior to its declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019 and committing to an objective of becoming a net zero carbon borough by 2030, Islington Council had a target of reducing the carbon emissions of the borough by 40% between 2005 and 2020. The data for carbon emissions for UK districts is produced by central government and is released two years in arrears, meaning the latest data released in 2021 was for the year 2019.<sup>1</sup>

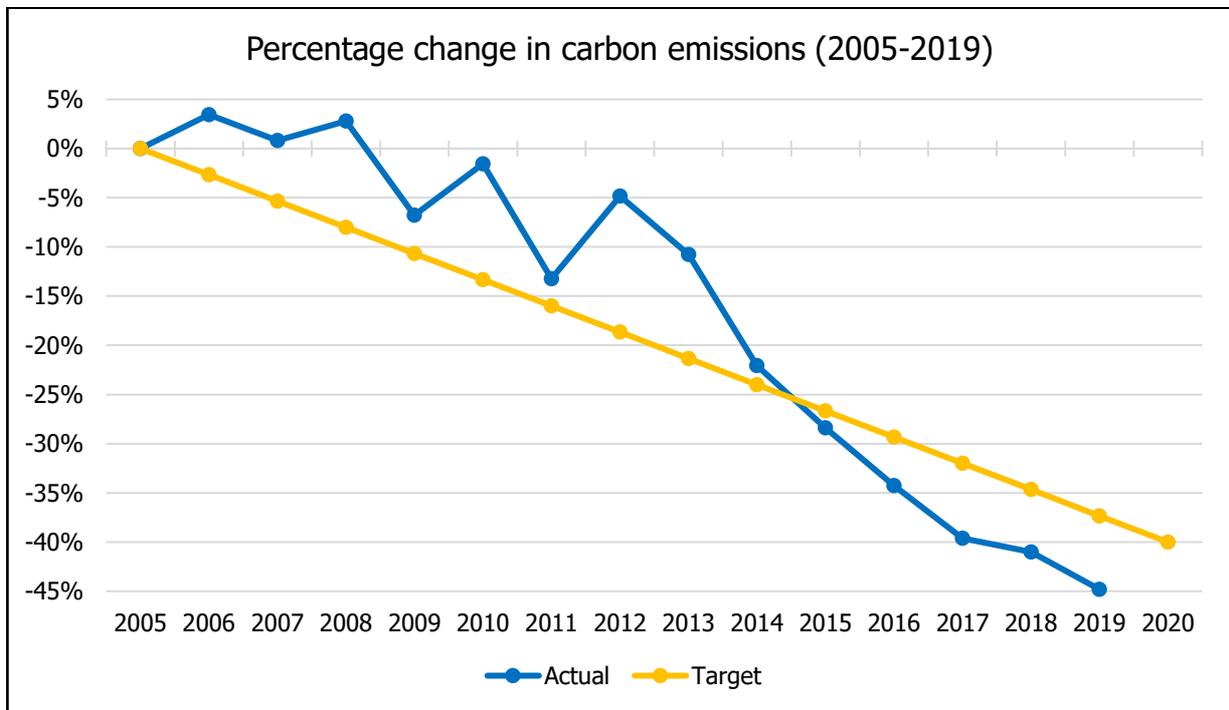
## Headline figures

- Total carbon emissions in Islington reduced by 45% between 2005 and 2019, meaning that we overachieved on the 40% target
- Per capita carbon emissions fell by 58% (Islington's population rose by 32% in this period)
- Islington's reduction is above the London (39%) and national average (36%)
- Emissions decreased in all three main sectors (commercial, residential and transport)

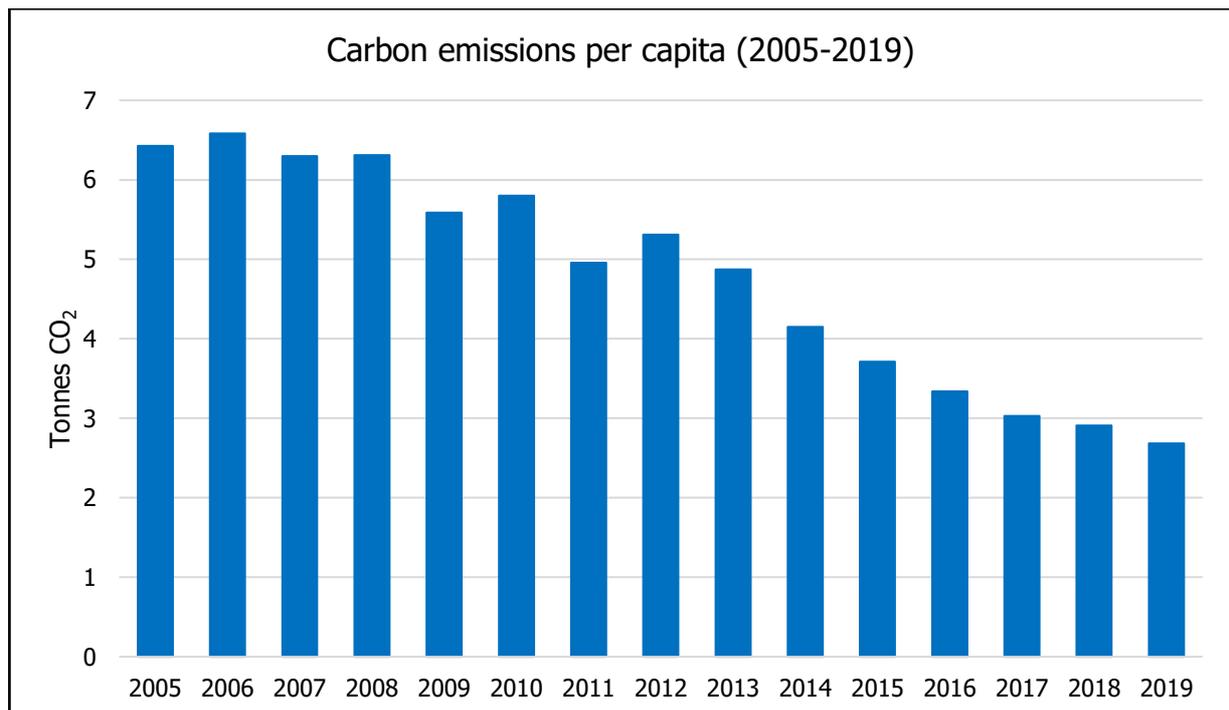


<sup>1</sup> [UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019](#)

After a mixture of increases and decreases in the first seven years of the 2005-2019 period, emissions have consistently fallen since 2012. These fluctuations are linked to the carbon intensity of the electricity grid, which has consistently reduced since 2012 following several years of fluctuations that tie in with those seen below.

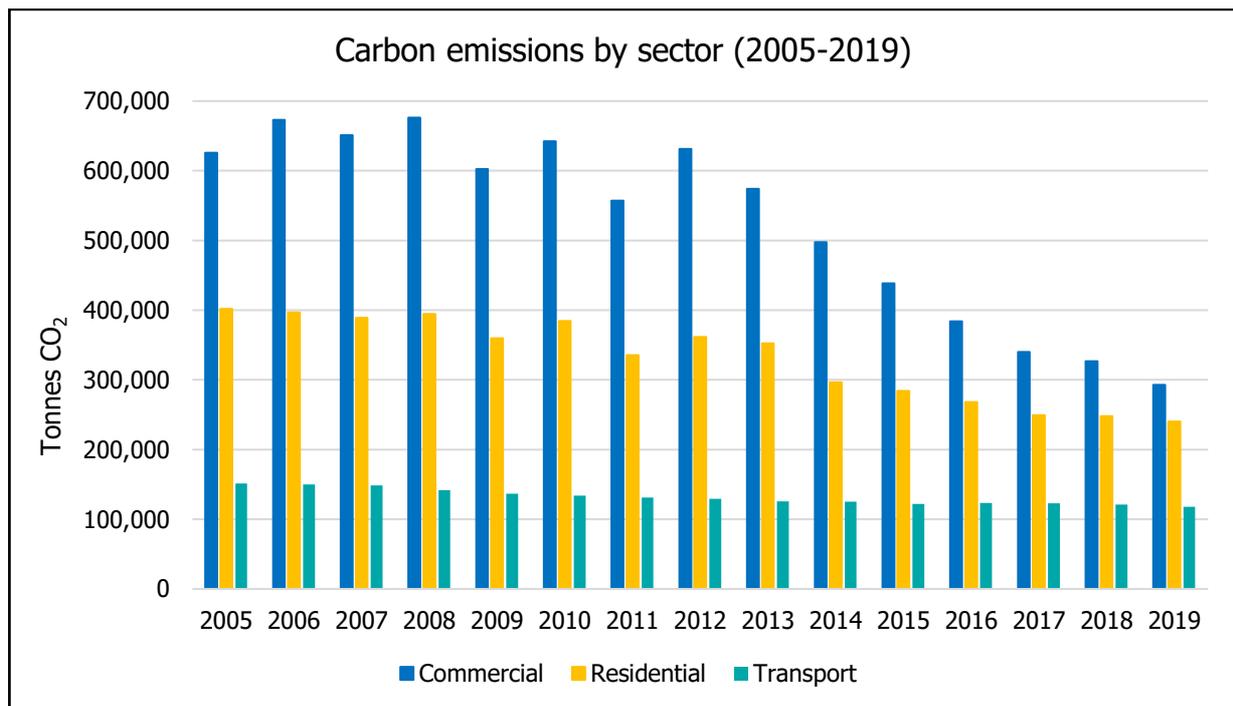


The reduction in emissions in Islington has been achieved despite significant population growth. Between 2005 and 2019, Islington’s population rose from 183,477 to 242,467, a 32% increase. Taking this into account, our per capita emissions have dropped even further than the 45% total figure – falling from 6.4 tonnes per person in 2005 to 2.7 tonnes per person in 2019, a decrease of 58%.



## Sources of emissions

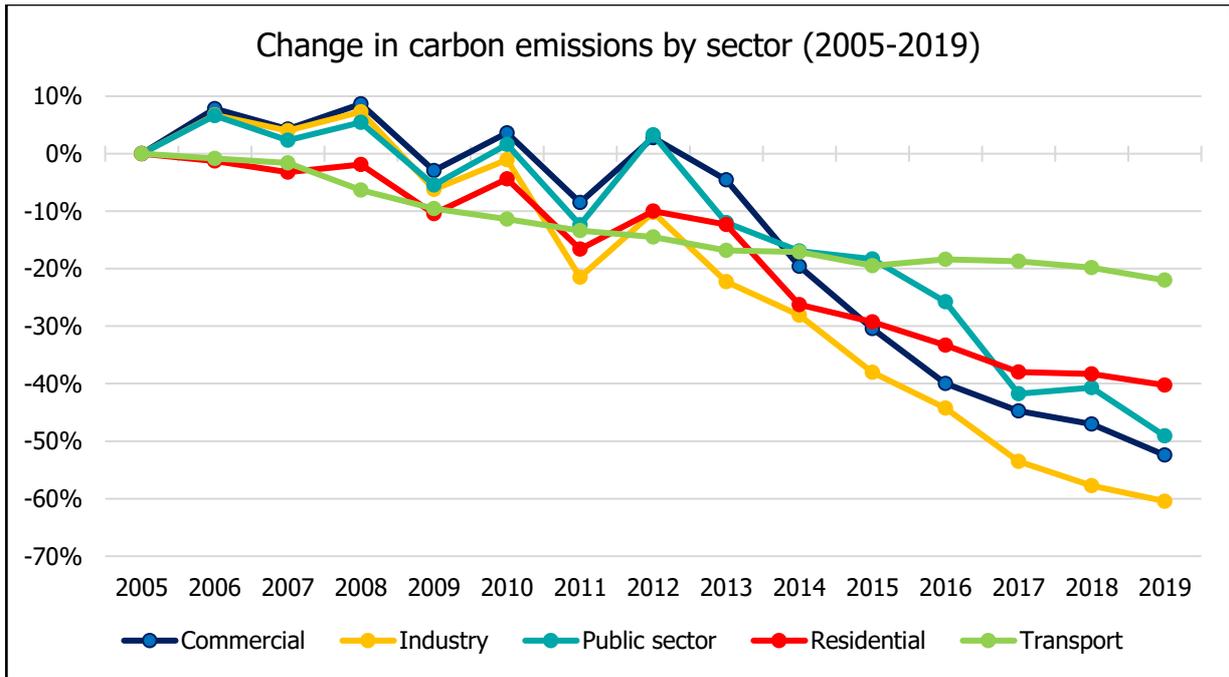
The national dataset breaks down the carbon emissions into three main sectors; commercial and industrial, residential and transport. According to the latest figures from 2019, the commercial and industrial sector is the largest contributor to emissions in Islington, accounting for 45% of the total. Residential properties account for 37% and transport for 18%. The latest dataset also breaks down the commercial and industrial sector into commercial (33%), industrial (6%) and public sector (7%).



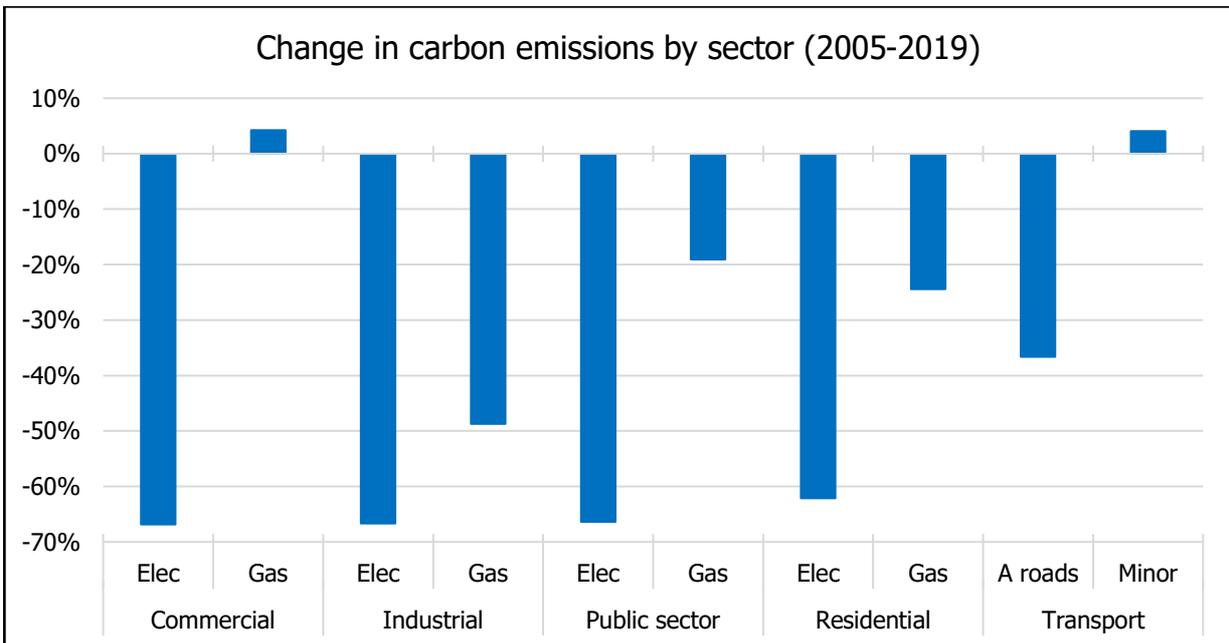
Carbon emissions have reduced in all three sectors over the period 2005-2019; commercial and industrial emissions reduced by 53%, residential emissions by 40% and transport-related emissions by 22%. Within the commercial and industrial sector, industrial emissions fell by 60%, commercial by 52% and public sector by 49%.

Part of the reason for the differences between sectors is the rapid decarbonisation of the electricity grid, which saw its carbon intensity reduce by 60% between 2005 and 2019 (meaning that even if electricity consumption had remained static, electricity-related emissions would have fallen by 60%).<sup>2</sup> Electricity accounts for a greater proportion of emissions in the industrial (63%) and commercial sectors (55%) than in the public sector (41%) or residential sector (27%), meaning that the first two have seen a more significant drop in its emissions.

<sup>2</sup> [UK Local and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions: Estimates for 2005–2019: Technical Report](#), p14



As shown below, electricity and gas-related emissions have decreased at different rates in the different sectors during the period in question. In two areas emissions are higher than in 2005 – gas use in commercial properties and emissions from transport on minor roads.



## Comparison with elsewhere

The reduction in emissions in Islington between 2005 and 2019 are higher than both regional and national averages, as shown in the table below. The overall reduction in emissions (44.8%) was the 24<sup>th</sup> highest of the 379 districts in the country (up from 27<sup>th</sup> last year), whilst the per capita emission reduction was the 11<sup>th</sup> highest (up from 12<sup>th</sup>).

<b>Area</b>	<b>Total carbon emissions change</b>	<b>Per capita carbon emissions change</b>
Islington	-44.8%	-58.2%
London	-39.3%	-49.1%
England	-36.5%	-42.9%
UK	-35.9%	-42.0%