IMPACT REPORT 2020-2025

WinACC

Five years of local climate action



WELCOME



From challenge to change: five years of action and adaptation

The years 2020–2025 have been unlike any other. A global pandemic reshaped daily life, an energy crisis exposed our reliance on fossil fuels, and the cost-of-living pressures reminded us how closely climate, fairness and wellbeing are linked.

Through all this, WinACC has kept its purpose clear — helping communities across Winchester District take meaningful local action on climate change. WinACC's 2020–2025 strategy aimed high: to make Winchester one of the first districts in the country to reach net-zero.

We can't claim sole credit for the progress that's been made, but we know WinACC helped make a difference.

WinACC's work has supported local councils to strengthen their climate plans, helped local clean energy generation become a reality, and brought people together to take action that is meaningful to them.

Even through difficult times, public support for climate action has remained unwavering, reflected in the growing enthusiasm for solar farms and home energy projects across the district — clear signs that people want practical, positive change.

WinACC has adapted, collaborated and stayed true to its values during these extraordinary years. This report captures the story — one of resilience, partnership and hope for what comes next.

WinACC Mission

To urgently drive systemic change to achieve a net-zero carbon Winchester area with communities and decision makers.

WinACC Values

Through all of our work runs the thread of environmental and social justice for all. We are:

- welcoming, creative, and positive
- evidence based, challenging, honest
- outside party politics, professional and collaborative
- ambitious that the deep changes required can be achieved
- aware that climate change relates to and impacts all areas of life on earth.

FIVE YEARS AT A GLANCE

2020 - 2025

53,274

Visitors to the website

44,338

WinACC e-newsletters opened

130+

WeCAN events for and by groups since 2022

350

WinACC members

50

Regular WinACC volunteers

62

Partnerships with other organisations

20 X

Increase in support for solar farm plans after our campaigning

7

Solar farms were granted planning permission after our campaigning

155

Whole house retrofit plans in the winchester area

113

Appearances at specialist council forums and groups

10

Council policies influenced to take climate into account

52

In-depth reports written

PEOPLE OF WINACC

Bringing together people who care about the future

Partnerships turn good ideas into real progress



‘WinACC’s strength lies in how we work — by building relationships, sharing expertise, and creating momentum across communities.’
Jo Crocker, Executive Director

WinACC connects people and organisations with the knowledge, confidence and support to act on the issues that will have the most impact. From shaping local policy to supporting hands-on projects, we help ideas grow into collective action that makes a lasting difference.

STRONGER TOGETHER

Collaborating creates lasting change



Everything WinACC achieves is through collaboration. Over the past five years, our partnerships have grown across councils, community groups, local charities, and businesses.

Over 62 organisations from environmental charities to trusts, foundations, universities and more have all collaborated on projects and campaigns to lead change in our district.

62
Partnerships with different organisations

21
Funding partners



Volunteer led Action Groups give hundreds of hours of time to turn ideas into projects that make a tangible difference across clean energy, transport and planning, food, home energy and more.

WinACC volunteers bring expertise, enthusiasm and commitment to shared goals, ensuring practical solutions are informed, effective, and replicable.

WinACC members strengthen our voice.

10
Action Groups

50
Regular volunteers

350
WinACC members

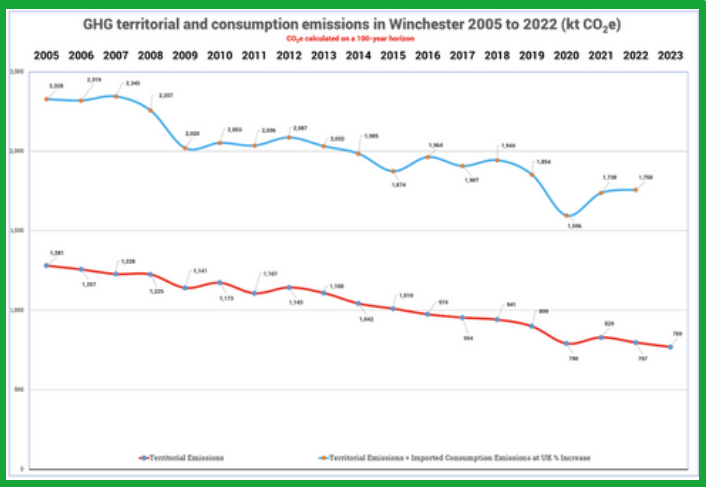
ENERGY & EMISSIONS

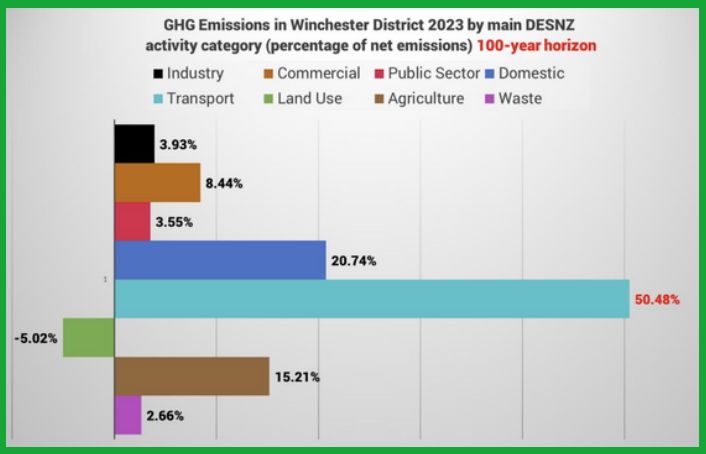
Tracking progress and driving local change

Each year, WinACC produces detailed reports on greenhouse gas emissions across Winchester district — analysing how energy use, transport, housing and land use contribute to our collective carbon footprint. These reports have become an essential tool for local councils, community groups and residents, helping everyone understand where progress is being made and where more needs to be done.

Alongside the data, we've focused on action. WinACC has supported a range of initiatives to cut emissions at source — from advising on home retrofit projects and energy efficiency measures, to backing the development of local solar farms and community buildings powered by renewable energy.

By combining evidence, advocacy and community action, we're helping to make real reductions in emissions — and building confidence that a fair, net-zero future is within reach.





5

Winchester district greenhouse gas emission reports

52

In depth energy and emissions reports

155

Whole house retrofit plans delivered as part of Winchester Area Superhomes

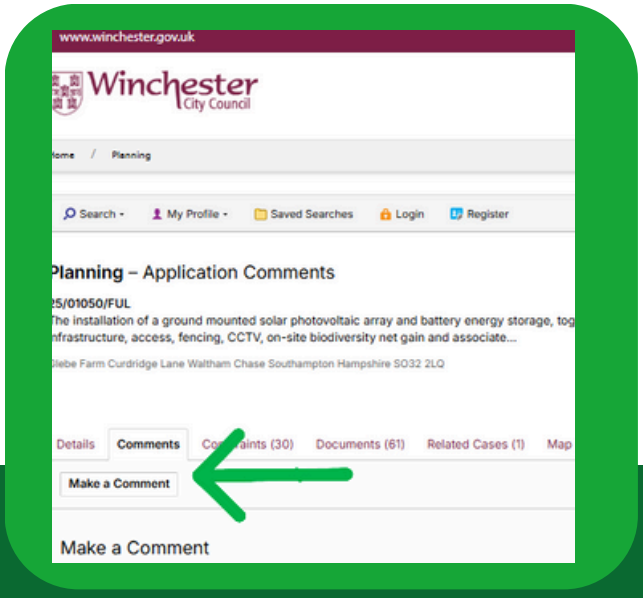
A LEGACY OF CLEAN ENERGY GENERATION

Campaigning for solar farms

Over the past five years, WinACC has played a key role in supporting the growth of solar energy generation across Winchester District. We've worked with developers, parish councils, community organisations and residents to turn ideas into viable projects — from early feasibility and planning advice to community engagement and independent guidance.

Our aim has always been to ensure that solar developments are technically sound, environmentally responsible and locally supported. By helping people understand the planning process and providing clear, impartial information, we've empowered communities to have a real voice in shaping renewable energy locally. This trusted, evidence-based approach has helped unlock projects that now deliver clean energy, strengthen community confidence, and demonstrate that solar power can work for both people and place.





7

Solar farm planning applications supported

41,500

Homes could be powered by these solar farms, around 22% of the districts energy demand

20 X

Increase in positive responses to solar farm planning applications following each campaign

COMMUNITY ACTION

WeCAN
Winchester Climate Action Network

Supporting community commitment to change

The WeCAN (Winchester Climate Action Network) project has been at the heart of WinACC's neighbourhood-level work, helping people see how climate action can be meaningful in their everyday lives. Rather than imposing a fixed agenda, the project supports communities to identify climate action that matters most to them — from energy-saving measures at home, to community transport initiatives, to local green spaces.



By bringing neighbours together, WeCAN has created vibrant local networks where people share knowledge, swap ideas, and work together on projects they care about. Whether it's organising repair cafes, neighbourhood workshops, or home energy initiatives, the focus is always on enabling people to take action that feels achievable and relevant.

Over the past five years, WeCAN has reached thousands of residents across Winchester district, empowering individuals to make changes and fostering collective momentum. The project has shown that real change happens when communities lead, supported by expertise and practical guidance — a model that other areas are now looking to replicate.

17
Established WeCAN groups

51,000
People with a WeCAN group in their neigbourhood

130+
Events by and for WeCAN Groups since 2022



Climate action groups turn ideas into action

Supporting climate action groups with expertise - increasing impact

Giving climate community leaders opportunities to deepen their understanding through climate impact education is important. It can motivate and sometimes redirect project planning.

'The first thing that stood out … was how little impact recycling had. I had been blown away at how well that had taken off in our area, and now thought …"Oh no! I have chosen the wrong thing", but also, "It may be a good way of starting to look at what we can do," as about two hundred people got involved in recycling. My hope was that we could use this as a way in.

'It was clear from the village's carbon footprint report that our overall consumption of goods and services is really high! I hadn't realised how big that part of our consumption footprint is locally – bigger than travel and home energy! We started trying to get the message out that rather than collecting all this stuff for recycling could we rethink what we're consuming in the first place. We've got some way to go as recycling is still the most popular topic when we post on social media.' *Participant from a WeCAN group at the first phase of project evaluation*

POLICY & INFLUENCE

Shaping county and district council policies by increasing collaboration



Policy influence only works when communities have a seat at the table

WinACC regularly seeks opportunities for driving systemic change. For example climate assemblies to deliberate then feed in to policy, and bringing together parish, district and county councillors for 'leading climate action' workshops.

'I am delighted to see that your goals and ambition, as well as your commitment to action, is so well considered.' *Cllr Rob Humby, former Leader of Hampshire County Council*

WinACC's voice has helped shape climate policy across Winchester district and Hampshire. We've responded to key consultations, advised local councils, and connected national campaigns to local action.

Through patient, persistent advocacy, WinACC has ensured that local planning, transport, and housing policies are shaped with climate, nature and people put first.

2
Climate assemblies

113
Representations at council groups and forums

10
Policies influenced

COUNCIL POLICIES INFLUENCED BY WINACC'S TRANSPORT AND PLANNING GROUP 2020-2025

Bushfield Camp Planning Application



Hampshire Waste and Minerals Plan



Central Winchester Regeneration



Local Transport Plan 4



Winchester Railway Station Development



Winchester City Council Local Plan



The Square, Winchester, closed to traffic



Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan



Air Quality Strategy





Winchester Movement Strategy



Winchester City Council Policies

Hampshire County Council Policies

CONTACT US

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Search for WinACC on social media:

Thank you to everyone who has supported WinACC between 2020 and 2025 — volunteers, members, funders, and partners.

Together, we're working for a better future.





Make a donation:

www.winacc.org.uk/donate

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