

Net Zero Reporting: 2025 Welsh Public Sector emissions

Overview

Every year, public bodies in Wales measure and report their carbon emissions, to track progress towards the 2030 Public Sector Net Zero ambition. Welsh Government believe the Public Sector is well placed to be at the forefront of tackling climate change. In 2025, 82 organisations voluntarily reported their emissions, up from 47 in 2020.

In 2025, the Welsh Public Sector produced an estimated 3,958 kilotonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (ktCO₂e) – equivalent to the annual heating emissions of 1.4 million homes. This represents a 12% increase in Welsh Public Sector emissions compared with 2024.

	Emissions, 2025 (ktCO ₂ e)	Proportion of total 2025 footprint	Change from 2024
Total emissions	3,958	100%	+12%
Breakdown by emission category			
Supply chain	2,963	75%	+16%
Buildings	546	14%	+<1%
Transport	430	11%	+4%
Medical gases	11	<1%	+9%
Waste	8	<1%	-57%

The increase in total emissions does not mean the public sector is becoming more carbon intensive. Much of the change is driven by more participating reporting organisations (up 74% since 2020, and 4% since 2024), more complete data and updated national datasets (produced by DESNZ and Defra) on the carbon intensity of the UK economy.

Supply chain emissions

Total supply chain emissions (those associated with the goods and services purchased) have increased by 16% between 2024 and 2025, from 2,559 to 2,962 ktCO₂e. This is driven by the carbon intensity of the UK economy (Carbon Dioxide produce per pound spent (kgCO₂e/£)), and inflationary increases in spending in the Public Sector.

Public Sector spending increased by 1% over the last year, while the emissions intensity of goods and services purchased rose by 15%. This indicates that the 16% rise in emissions is mostly a result of changes in the datasets of UK carbon intensity, not changes in supplier carbon performance or how Welsh public bodies buy goods and services.

Current emissions calculation methods are highly sensitive to macroeconomic factors and highlight why the Public Sector should progress towards using supplier and product specific emissions data in future.

Building use emissions

Total emissions from operating buildings in the public estate have risen by less than 1% since 2024, increasing to 546 ktCO₂e. This reflects very modest rises in energy use: electricity use increased by 2% and natural gas use by 1%.

The increase in reporting organisations helps explain the slight increase in building emissions. When looking at the average energy use per organisation, energy consumption fell by around 2.5% between 2024 and 2025.

Transport emissions

Total transport emissions increased by 4% between 2024 and 2025, mainly due to increases in fleet emissions and staff commuting. Fleet emissions went up by 7% to 225 ktCO₂e, and commuting emissions rose by 4% to 142 ktCO₂e. In contrast, emissions from working from home stayed the same, and business travel emissions fell for the first time since 2022, decreasing by 6% to 34 ktCO₂e.



Gwasanaeth Ynni Energy Service

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