

Thetford Garden Centre

Breckland Council's Low Carbon
Regeneration Programme

Industry: Retail & catering

Employees: 83

Location: Thetford, Norfolk, UK

Website: thetfordgardencentre.co.uk

Source: Thetford Garden Centre

Overview

Thetford Garden Centre is a family-run business dedicated to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint. As part of Breckland's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme, Thetford Garden Centre provided data to support the development of a tailored decarbonisation plan by Opergy Ltd. In 2023, Thetford Garden Centres total emissions were 142.2 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent, with key sources including natural gas heating and electricity consumption.

To achieve net zero, Thetford Garden Centre is prioritising energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and supporting sustainable travel for staff. With a strong commitment to reducing environmental impact, Thetford Garden Centre is taking proactive steps to make its operations greener and more sustainable.

Executive Summary

Thetford Garden Centre joined Breckland's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme to enhance its sustainability and reduce emissions. Partnering with Opergy, Thetford Garden Centre underwent a comprehensive carbon assessment, revealing total emissions of 142.2 tonnes, carbon dioxide equivalent in 2023. Key contributors included natural gas heating and electricity use. The decarbonisation plan identified priority actions such as electrifying heating, improving energy efficiency, and increasing renewable energy use. Thetford Garden Centre has already adopted sustainable practices, including using an electric vehicle, eliminating peat from compost and zero waste to landfill.

With a structured action plan in place, Thetford Garden Centre is committed to achieving net zero, enhancing operational efficiency, and promoting sustainability across its business. The project has provided valuable insights and a clear roadmap, positioning Thetford Garden Centre as a leader in environmentally responsible retail.

The Low Carbon Regeneration Programme

Breckland Council's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), was a comprehensive initiative designed to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint, lower energy costs, and embrace more sustainable practices. The programme offered tailored technical advice, guidance, and recommendations to support the adoption of energy-saving solutions and to increase the use of renewable energy. “

This initiative aligned with the Council's ambition to achieve net zero by 2035 by leveraging its regulatory powers to drive behavioural change and empowering communities to take meaningful action toward sustainability.

The Partnership

Thetford Garden Centre partnered with Breckland Council and Opergy through the Low Carbon Regeneration Programme to reduce its carbon footprint and enhance sustainability. Opergy conducted a detailed carbon assessment, identifying key emissions sources and tailored solutions. With Breckland's support, Thetford Garden Centre received expert guidance on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and low-carbon practices.

This collaboration has provided a clear roadmap for decarbonisation, helping Thetford Garden Centre take meaningful steps toward net zero while strengthening its environmental commitment.

The Challenges

Thetford Garden Centre faces several challenges in its journey to net zero. High natural gas usage for heating is a major emissions source, but switching to electric alternatives requires investment and operational adjustments.

Previous assessments found solar panels too expensive, limiting on-site renewable energy generation. Staff commuting contributes significantly to emissions, yet the rural location makes active travel difficult.

While Thetford Garden Centre has installed EV chargers, grant restrictions prevent customer use. Overcoming these barriers requires funding, engagement, and strategic planning.

We had already started our B Corp Certification journey when we were invited to join Breckland Council's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme, and found that attending the conference, together with keeping in touch with fellow businesses, is a helpful and resourceful initiative.

Angela Perry, Executive Assistant

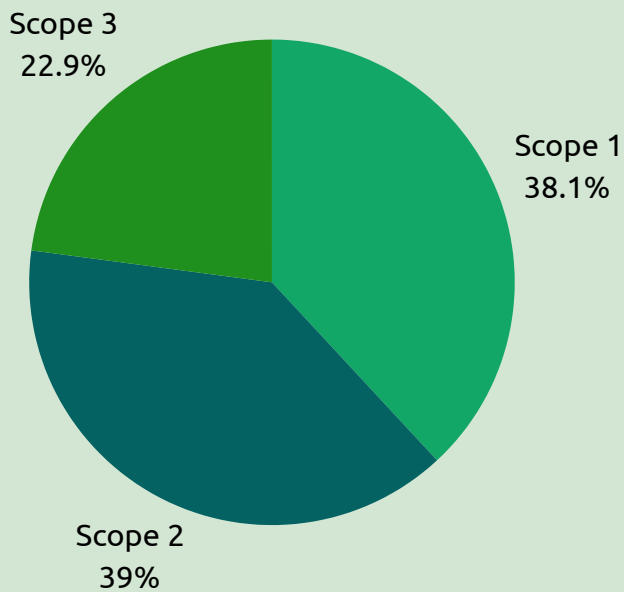


Thetford Garden Centres'

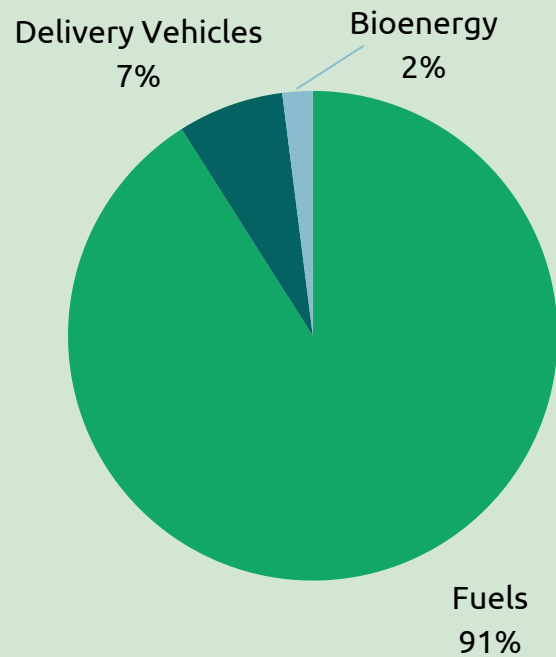
Scope 1, 2 & 3 Emissions

To address these challenges, a comprehensive assessment identified the garden centres' primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions:

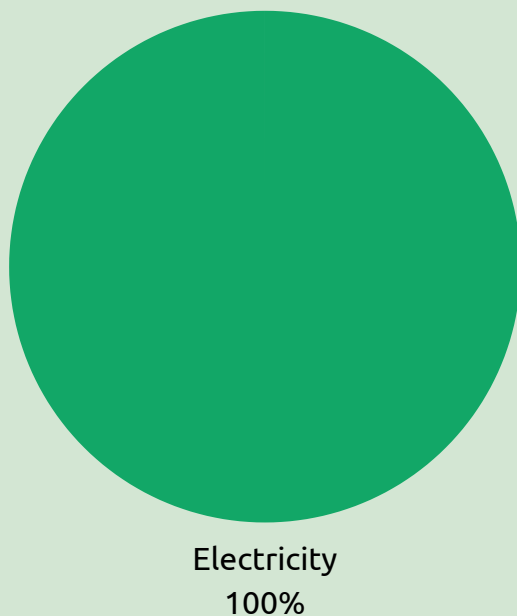
Total emissions



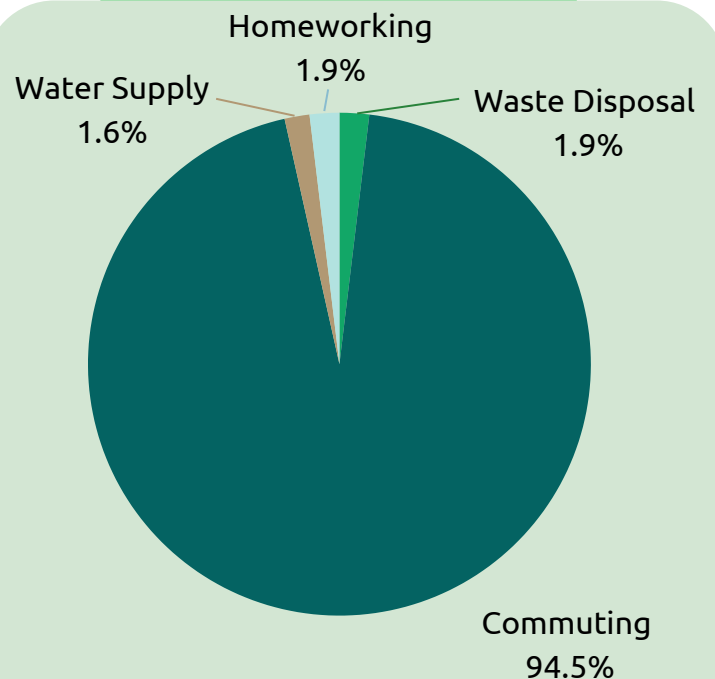
Scope 1



Scope 2



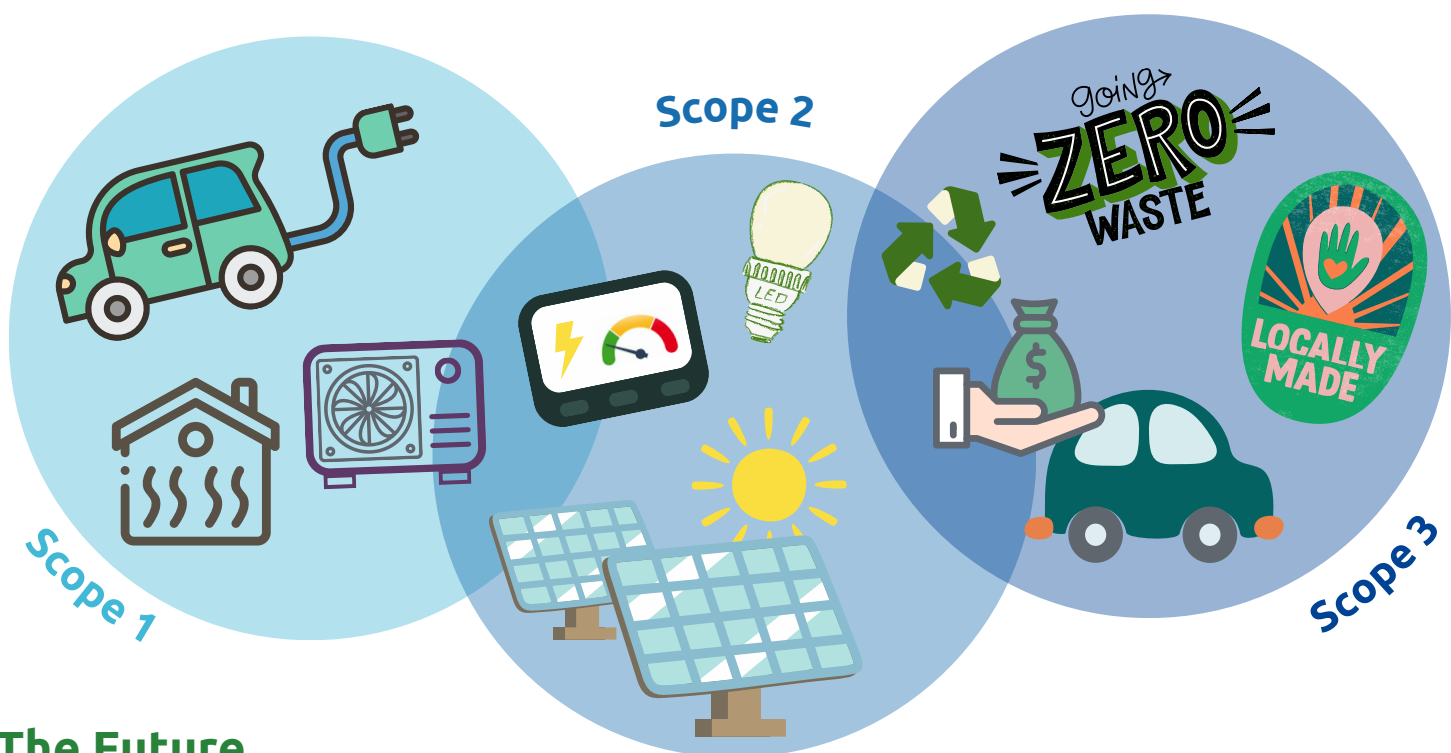
Scope 3



How The Programme Will Help Thetford Garden Centre To Decarbonise

The Low Carbon Regeneration Programme and Opergy’s decarbonisation report provide Thetford Garden Centre with a clear roadmap to reduce emissions. The report identifies key carbon sources, prioritises energy efficiency, and recommends practical steps like electrifying heating, improving insulation, and adopting renewable energy.

It also highlights strategies to support staff in low-carbon commuting. By following these tailored recommendations, Thetford Garden Centre can lower costs, enhance sustainability, and progress towards its net zero ambitions in a structured and achievable way.



The Future

Thetford Garden Centre is committed to an ongoing journey towards net zero, guided by Opergy’s decarbonisation plan. Future steps include electrifying heating, improving building insulation, and reassessing solar panel installation. Expanding EV charging access and supporting staff in sustainable commuting will further cut emissions.

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It's always a great thing to get like-minded people together, to exchange ideas for the good of people, planet, and the local community. We hope to continue with Breckland Council's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme to further the development and evolution of our sustainability goals.

Angela Perry, Executive Assistant

Continuous monitoring and reporting will ensure progress, while exploring funding opportunities will aid implementation. By embedding sustainability into its operations, Thetford Garden Centre aims to reduce its carbon footprint, enhance efficiency, and serve as a leader in environmentally responsible retail for years to come.

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