Charles Burrell Centre

Breckland Council's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme

Source: Charles Burrell

Industry: Charitable

Employees: 16

Location: Thetford, Norfolk, UK

Website: *charlesburrellcentre.org.uk*

Overview

The Charles Burrell Centre, a vibrant community hub in Thetford, is committed to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint. As a participant in Breckland's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme, the centre has taken proactive steps to assess and lower its emissions, with a decarbonisation plan developed by Opergy Ltd.

Their strategy includes transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and encouraging sustainable transport. By implementing these measures, the Charles Burrell Centre aims to not only cut emissions but also enhance energy resilience and inspire local organisations to take climate action.

Executive Summary

The Charles Burrell Centre joined Breckland's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme to assess its carbon footprint and develop a tailored decarbonisation strategy. Opergy's analysis found that the centre emitted 111.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2023, primarily from gas heating and electricity use. Key recommendations included transitioning to heat pumps, installing solar panels with battery storage, and improving insulation. The centre's large site offers significant potential for renewable energy integration. Challenges such as financial constraints and older buildings were identified, but funding opportunities were explored to support implementation.

By taking these steps, the centre is actively working towards net zero while enhancing energy efficiency and resilience. Its commitment to sustainability sets a strong example for other community organisations, reinforcing the importance of local action in tackling climate change.

The Low Carbon Regeneration Programme

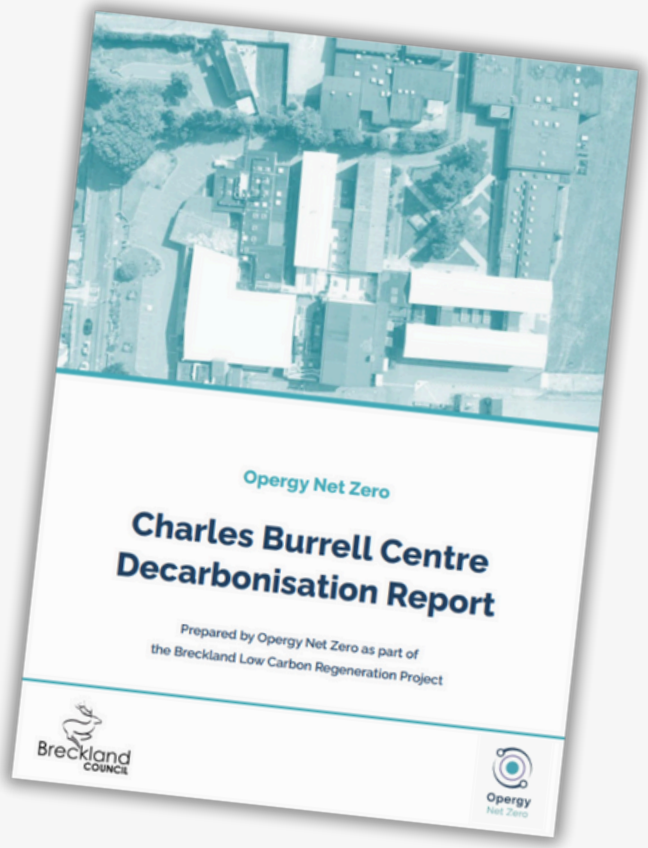
Breckland Council's Low Carbon Regeneration Programme, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), was a comprehensive initiative designed to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint, lower energy costs, and embrace more sustainable practices. The programme offered tailored technical advice, 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

The partnership between the Charles Burrell Centre, Breckland Council, and Opergy in the Low Carbon Regeneration Programme provided expert guidance to help the centre reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency. Opergy conducted a detailed carbon assessment, identifying key opportunities for renewable energy and efficiency upgrades.

Supported by Breckland, the collaboration connected the centre to funding opportunities and practical solutions, ensuring a structured approach to sustainability and reinforcing its commitment to achieving net zero.



The Challenges

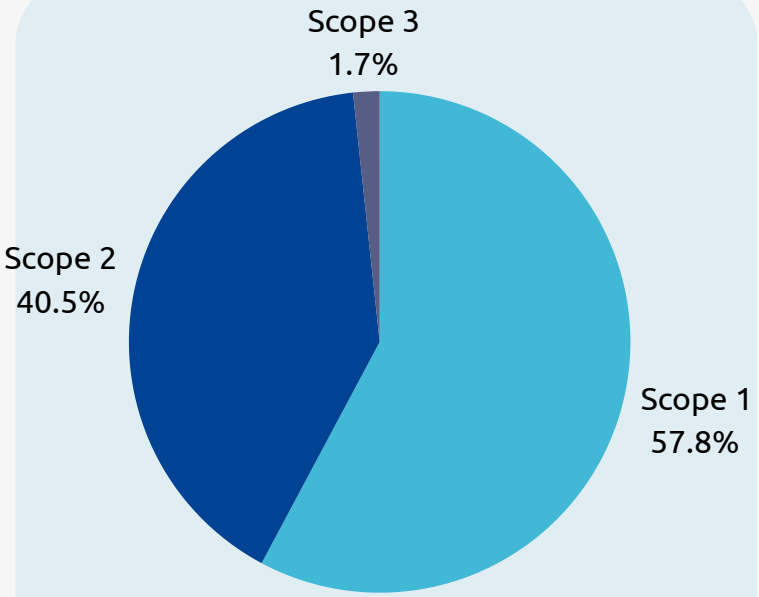
The Charles Burrell Centre faces several challenges on its journey to net zero. Its older buildings require significant upgrades before energy retrofits can be implemented. Heating relies on gas-fired boilers, contributing to high emissions, and replacing them with heat pumps requires substantial investment. Limited financial resources restrict the ability to implement large-scale changes, and available grants often lack long-term funding certainty. Additionally, quantifying Scope 3 emissions remains difficult due to data gaps and external dependencies.

Despite these obstacles, the centre is exploring funding opportunities and phased solutions to overcome barriers and advance its sustainability goals.

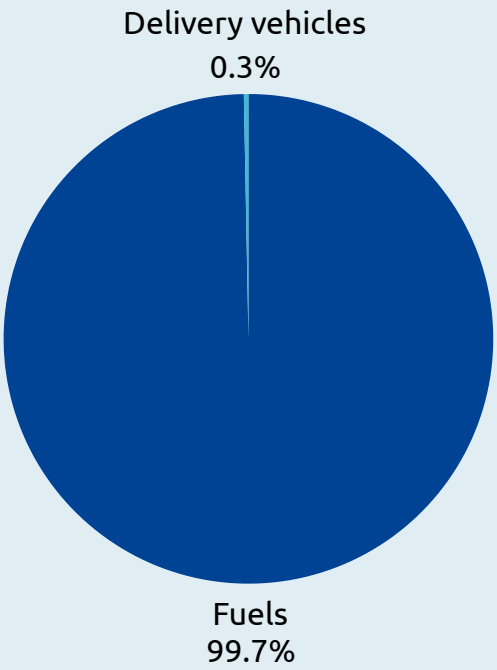
Charles Burrells' Scope 1, 2 & 3 Emissions

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

Total emissions

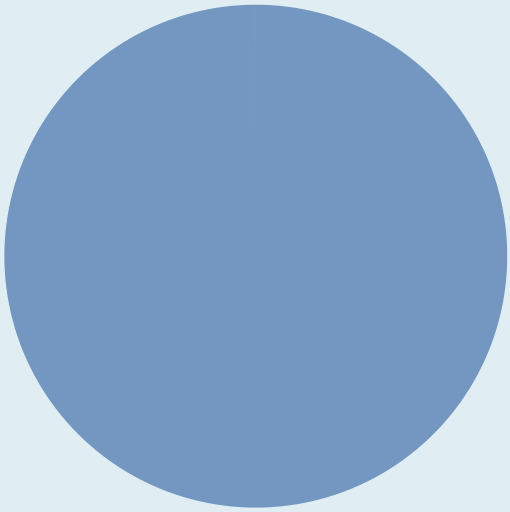


Scope 1



Scope 2

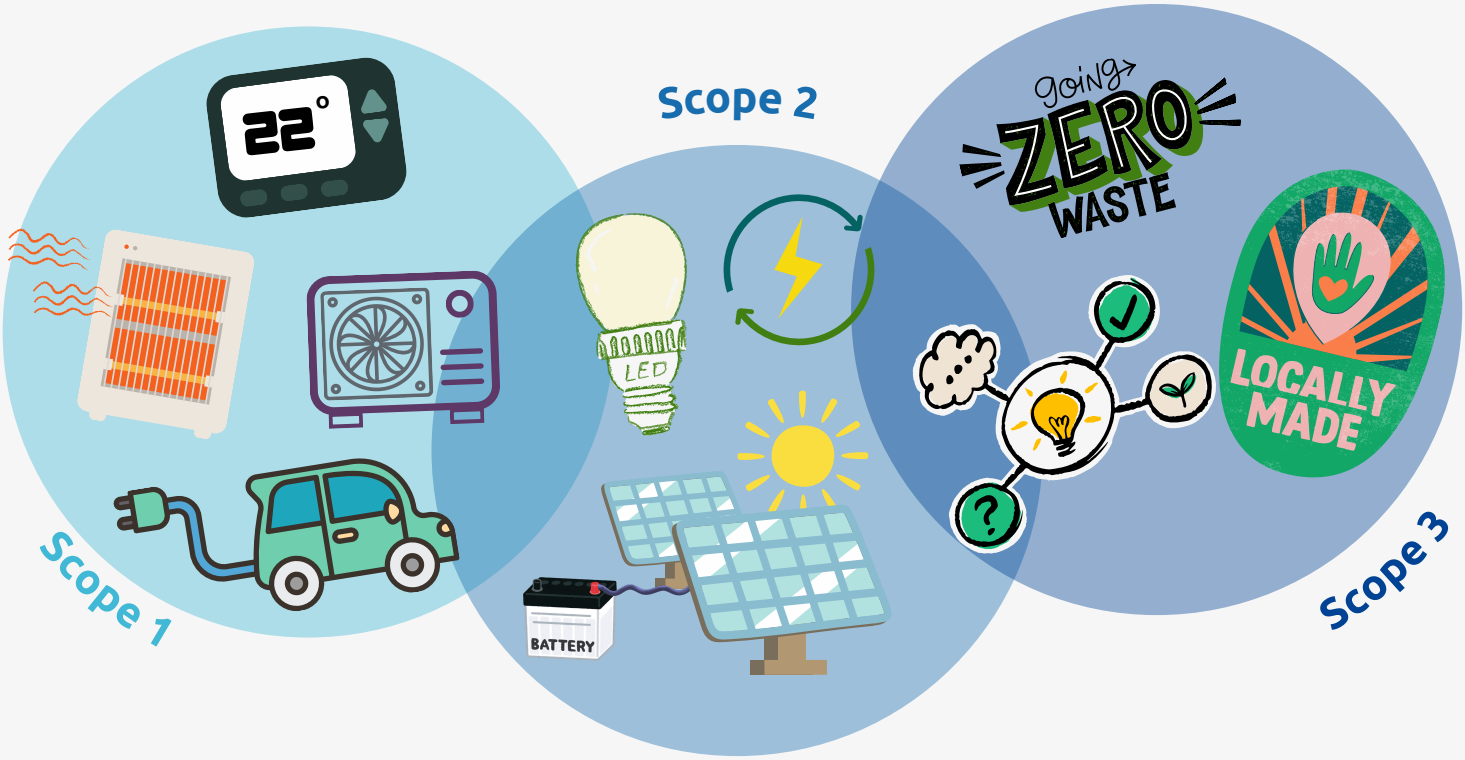
Scope 3



How The Programme Will Help Charles Burrell To Decarbonise

The Low Carbon Regeneration Programme and Opergy's decarbonisation report provide the Charles Burrell Centre with a clear roadmap to reduce emissions. The report identifies key areas for improvement, such as transitioning from gas heating to heat pumps, installing solar panels with battery storage, and enhancing insulation. It also connects the centre to funding opportunities and strategic guidance to overcome financial barriers.

By following these recommendations, the centre can improve energy efficiency, lower costs, and progress towards its net zero ambitions.



The Future

The Charles Burrell Centre's journey to decarbonisation is an ongoing commitment to sustainability. Moving forward, the centre aims to implement key recommendations from Opergy's report, including transitioning to renewable energy, improving insulation, and replacing gas heating with low-carbon alternatives. Securing funding will be crucial to overcoming financial barriers, enabling phased upgrades.

Continuous carbon monitoring and efficiency improvements will help track progress. By taking these steps, the centre will not only reduce emissions but also create a more sustainable, cost-efficient community hub, setting an example for local organisations on the path to net zero.

Funded by
UK Government