

## Kent State of the Environment Report: CO2 Emissions

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*Next update: Winter 2020*

*This data is published by the Sustainable Business and Communities Team of Kent County Council*

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The data described comes from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy which presents the [latest estimates of end-user carbon dioxide emissions for local authority areas in the UK for 2005-2018](#). Their main findings nationally include:

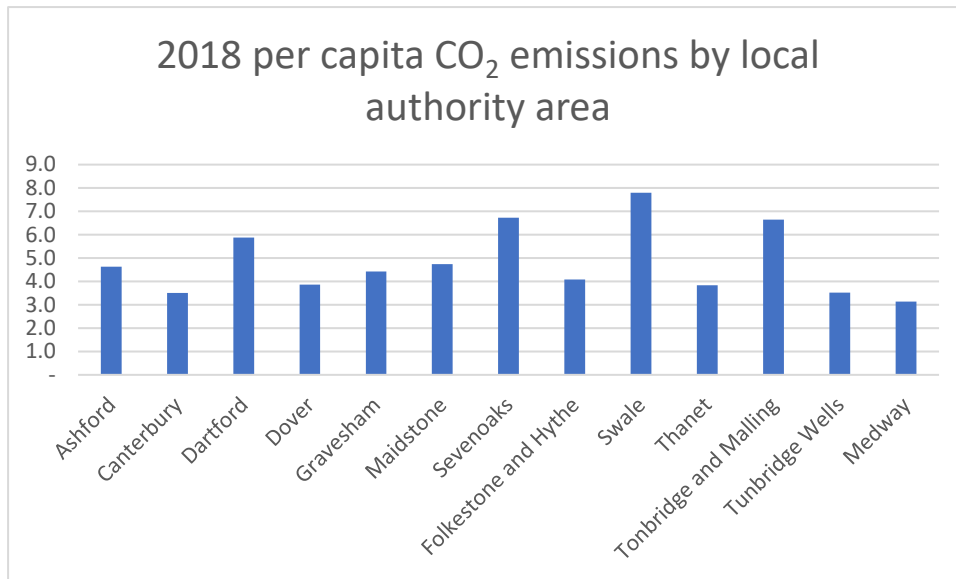
*“Between 2017 and 2018, CO2 emissions decreased in 321 out of the 382 local authorities in the UK (84%). This is consistent with the decrease in overall UK emissions from 2017 to 2018. The main driver of the decrease in UK emissions in 2018 was a change in the fuel mix for electricity generation, with a decrease in the use of coal and gas and more use of renewables.”.*

### Key facts

**Between 2005 and 2018 Kent’s transport sector made little progress to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with only a -6% reduction recorded.** From 2014, emissions in this sector have generally been rising, with the figures in 2016 showing that levels are at their highest since 2007. However, between 2017-18 there was a small fall of 52kt. The transport sector remains Kent’s biggest source of CO<sub>2</sub>, accounting for 44% of emissions.

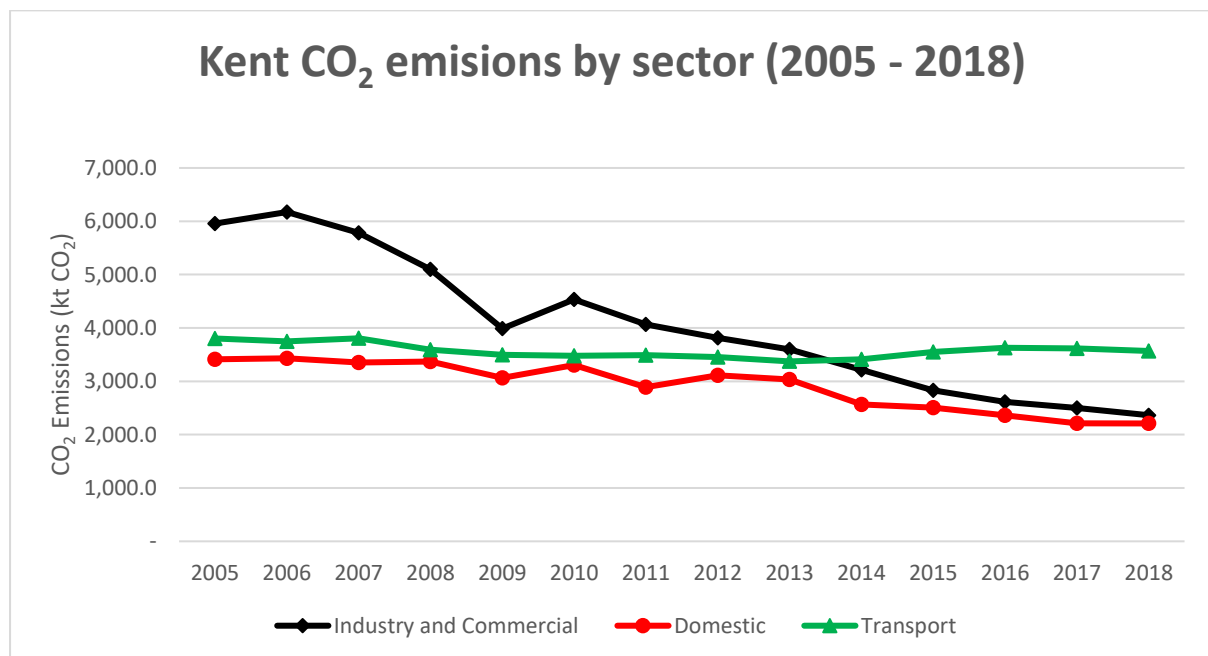
**The biggest reductions have occurred in the industrial and commercial sector, which has seen emissions fall -60% (3,591 kilotons) between 2005 and 2018.** This sector now accounts for 29% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Kent. Between 2006 and 2009 some local authority areas saw large declines in their industrial and commercial sector emissions, with Gravesham’s CO<sub>2</sub> levels falling by 86% due to old industrial sites/machinery being removed or redeveloped. Such changes have transformed some local authorities’ per capita emissions. The trend is continuing though, where emissions dropped a further -5% from 2017 to 2018.

**Within the domestic sector there was a -35% decrease in emissions between 2005 - 2018, falling to 2,209kt.** This fall has been influenced by shifts in the carbon intensity of electricity as well as overall energy consumption. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from domestic electricity fell by -59% during this period, whereas emissions from domestic gas only fell by -18%.



## Summary

**Overall, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Kent fell by 40% (5,118 kilotons) between 2005 and 2018** – this means the county has already met the 2020 Kent Environment Strategy target to reduce emissions by 34%. Between 2017 and 2018 there has been a -2% fall in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with Tunbridge Wells seeing the biggest fall of -10%, followed by Medway at -4%. Thanet is the only district to have seen an increase in emissions – with a 2% rise.



## Data sources

2005 to 2017 UK Local and Regional CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions – Data Tables (BEIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2018>