



Uniting Rural
Communities
to tackle
climate
change

Gloucester to Tewkesbury flood protection improvements called for

🕒 25 April 2014



The most recent severe flooding of communities near the River Severn happened in February

People living in areas affected by flooding in Gloucestershire are to petition the environment minister for better flood prevention measures.

Riverside communities between Gloucester and Tewkesbury are regularly hit by severe flooding.

Parish council representatives have met to discuss the possibility of creating flood bypass channels, more dredging and better tree maintenance.

Campaigners say it would "virtually eliminate" flood risk in the area.

The resolution calls for work to be carried out between Sandhurst and Minsterworth to enhance flood flow through a constriction in the flood plain.

Why does it matter?

Hebden Bridge: Flood alleviation scheme delayed a year

🕒 30 June 2020



Many businesses were not insured, leaving them facing huge financial costs after the flooding

Multi-million pound flood defence works to safeguard a town will take a year longer than expected to finish, it has emerged.

The work at Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire is set to take an extra year as the council and Environment Agency try to minimise the impact on the town.

Hebden Bridge, which sits in the Calder Valley, was badly flooded in 2012, 2015 and February this year.

One local business said it was vital to keep the town open for trade.

Calderdale Flood Recovery and Resilience Programme officials said a major concern had been how major construction works would disrupt tourism.

• More stories across Yorkshire

Works are now expected to start in the summer 2021, but because the scheme will be constructed in phases it is not expected to be completed before summer 2024, taking three instead of the planned two years.



Homes and businesses were left standing in up to 6ft of water

What is net zero?

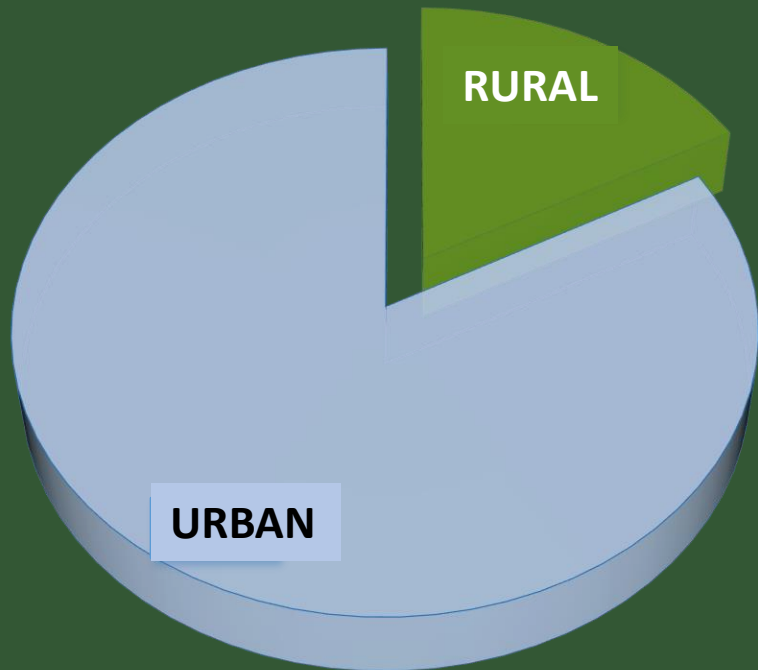
- June 19, Legislation passed requiring the Government to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100% relative to 1990 levels by 2050.
- Doing so would make the UK a 'net zero' emitter.



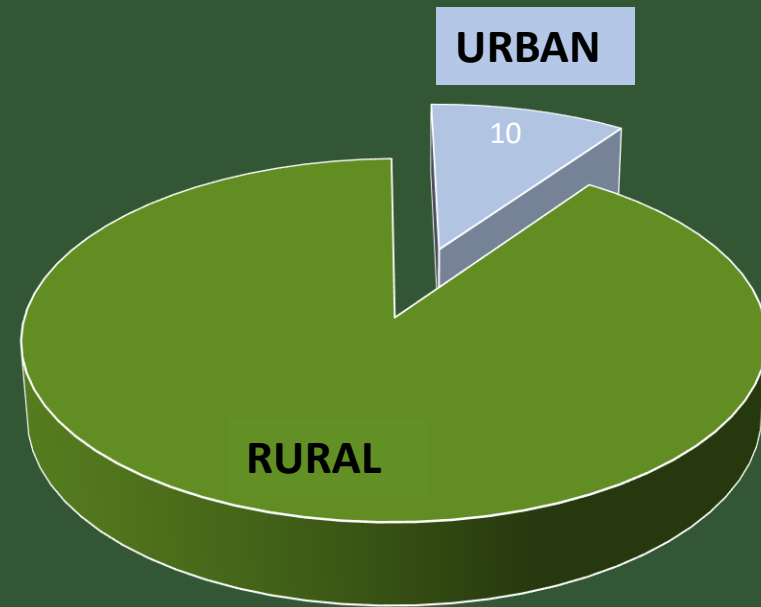
Setting the scene in rural
areas...

Rural Communities role

POPULATION OF ENGLAND



LAND MASS





<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

HOW BIG IS YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT?

The planet is in crisis - from climate change to the pollution in our oceans and devastation of our forests. It's up to all of us to fix it. Take your first step with our environmental footprint calculator.

COMPLETE YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE

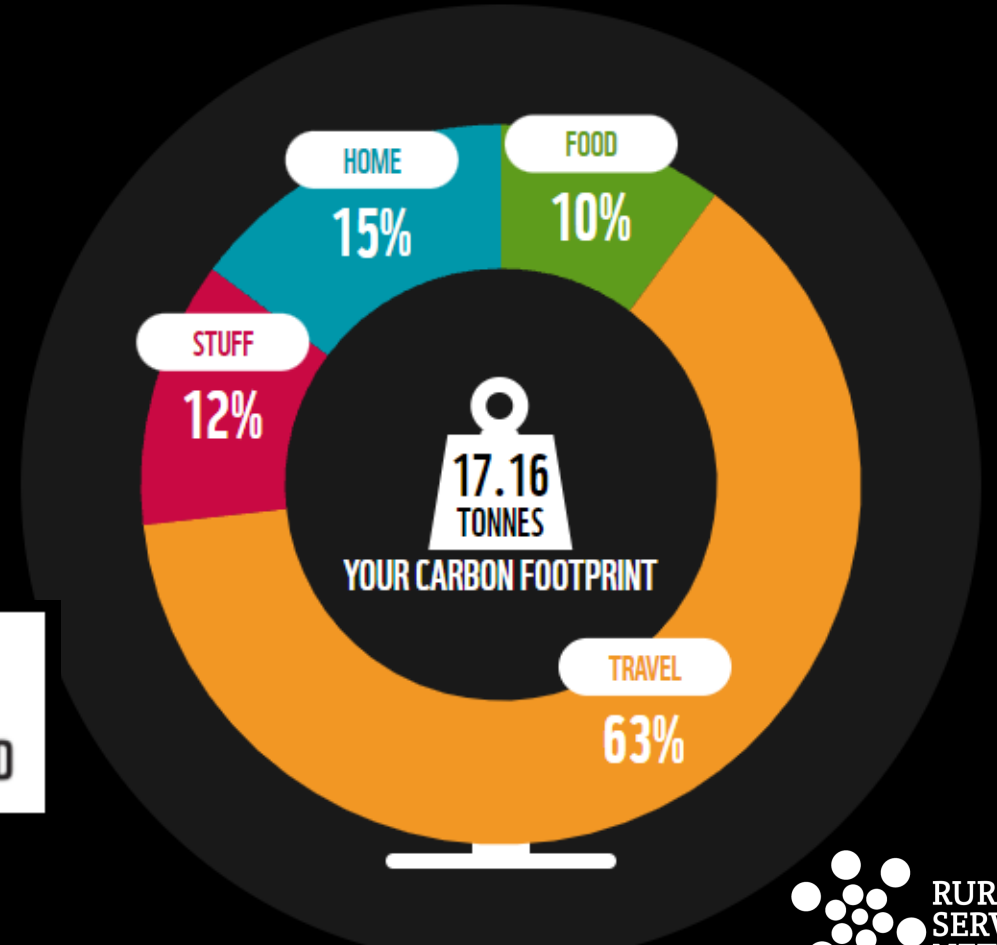
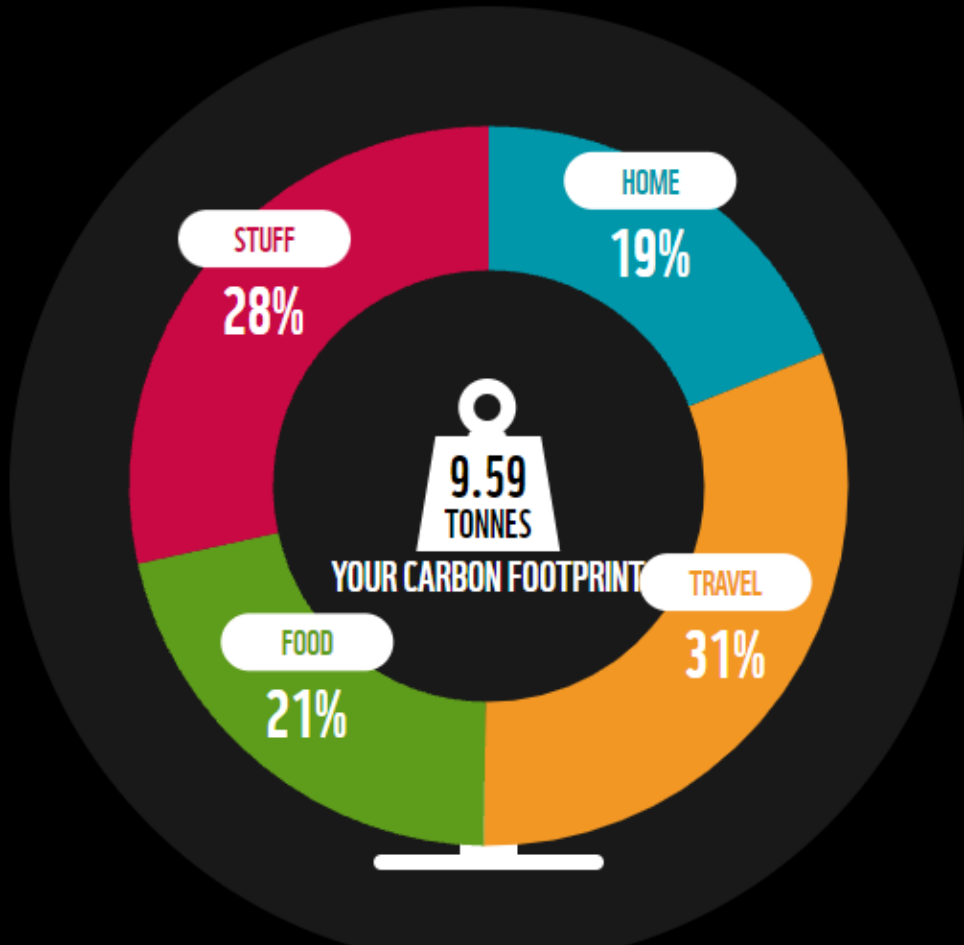
Restart questionnaire



Carbon Footprint

Urban

Rural



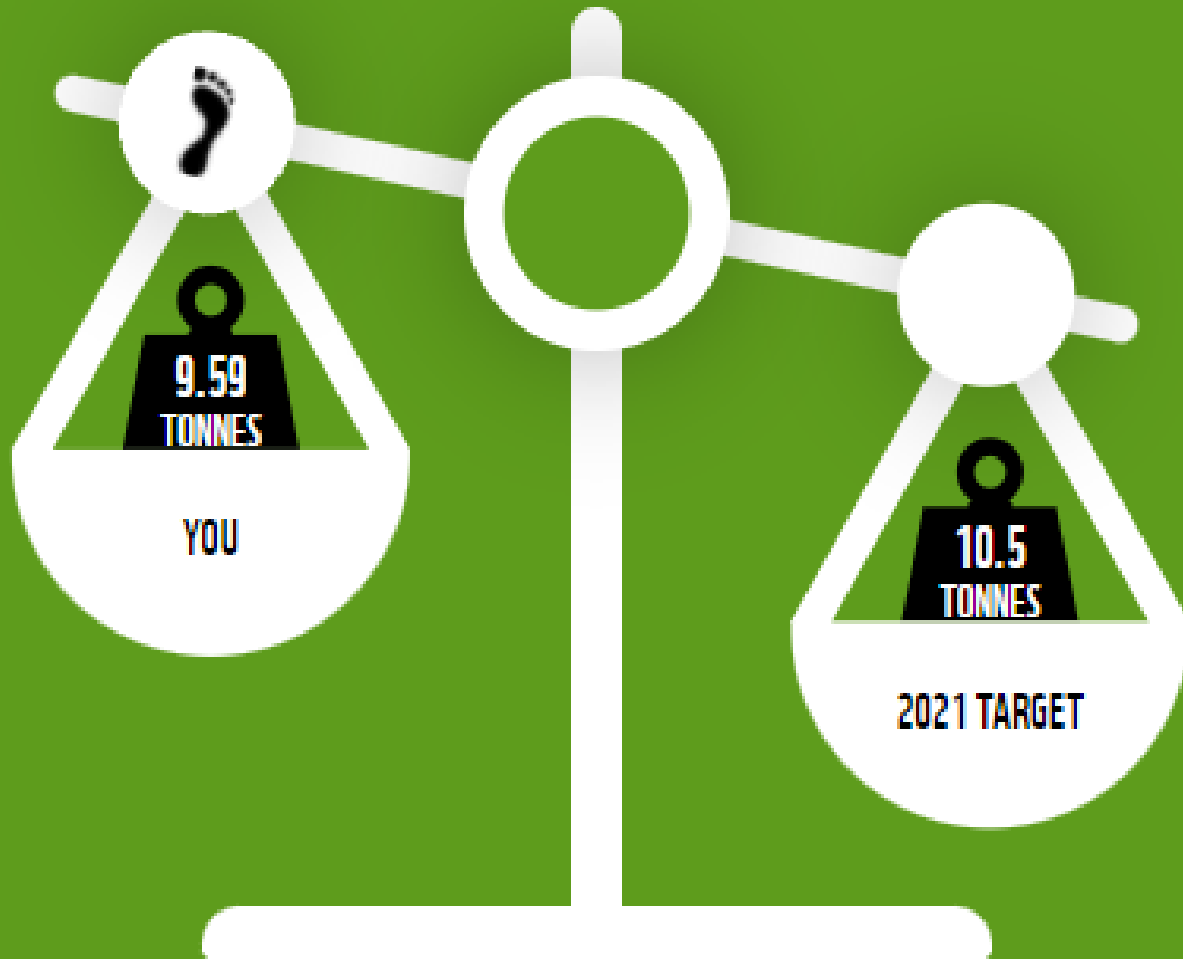
CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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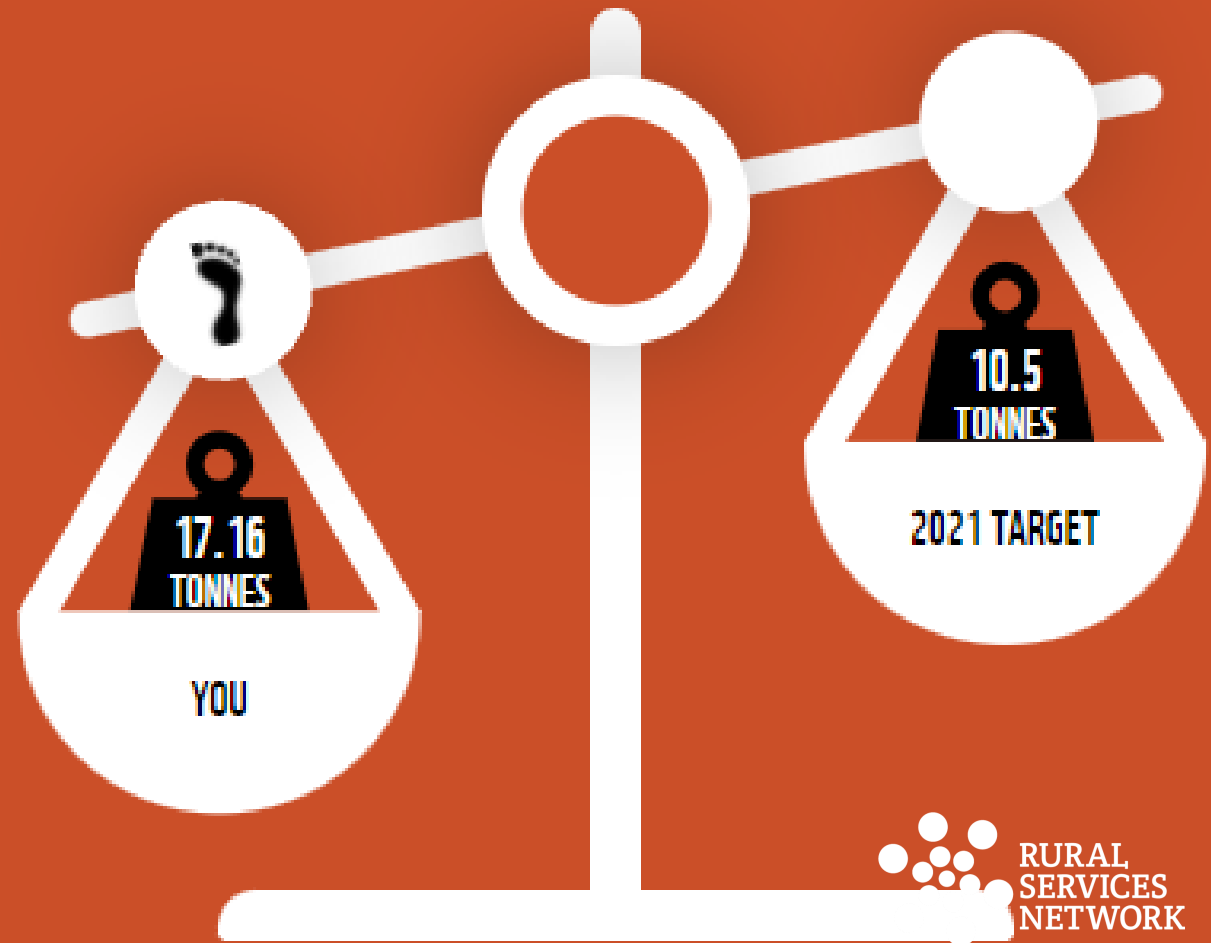
Urban

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'RE ON TARGET



Rural

YOU'RE OVER THE TARGET BUT THERE'S STILL TIME.



Challenges of decarbonisation in rural areas

There are particular characteristics of rural areas which can make decarbonisation challenging

- Distances required to travel to access services, employment and education
- Transport options
- State of Rural Housing Stock
- Fuel Poverty gap is large in rural areas



Rural villages / hamlets
/ isolated dwellings

Had 2 or more
cars

Had 2 or more
cars

in 2021/22 planned
expenditure on **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**
per resident is **NEARLY**
10X MORE IN
predominantly **URBAN AREAS**

rural areas

in

Electric Vehicles

Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices at all speeds, total devices per 100,000 population:

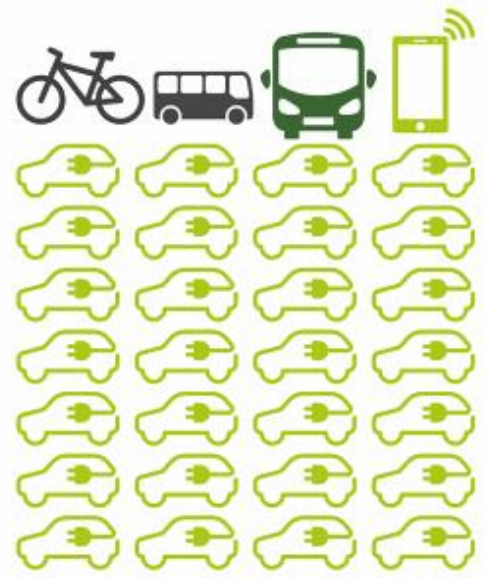
- Predominantly Rural local authority areas 25.1
- Predominantly Urban local authority areas 34.1

“Range Anxiety” - fears over the distance EVs can travel between charges – is often cited as one of the key barriers to people opting to buy EVs.”

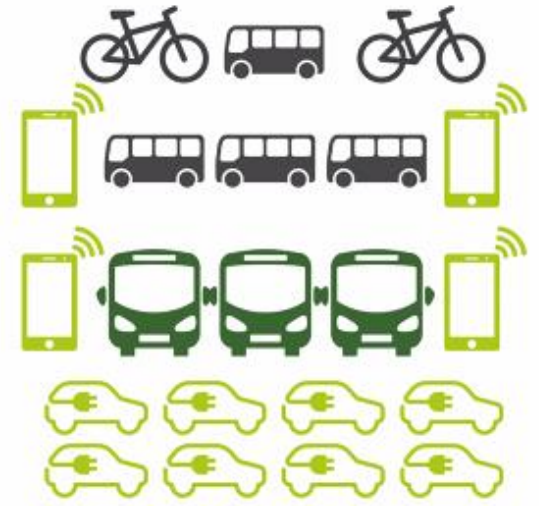
Future Mobility



Today



Electric Vehicle Dominated Future



A more sustainable future



Energy Efficiency of housing stock

Estimated percentage of households not connected to the gas network (2019)

- Predominantly Rural 25.1%
- Predominantly Urban 10.3%



Rural fuel poor households are more seriously affected with an average £690 fuel poverty gap which is more than twice the national figure of £334.

Rural fuel
poverty
gap



National
average
fuel
poverty
gap



Why?

- Characteristics of the housing stock
- Higher percentage of homes being off the mains gas grid
- Older demographic
- Lower average incomes (workplace based).

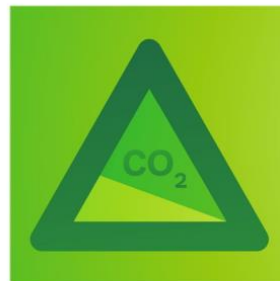
Opportunities for rural areas in decarbonisation

- An approach based solely on urban areas would fail
- Land mass of rural means it can be a solution but rural areas must benefit from this
- Opportunities for the green economy in rural areas
- Diversification of land use / development of agritech
- Focus on 'local food'
- Growth in Changes in the way we live – working from home / less travel
- Potential for rural 'hubs'

Sustainable Warmth Policy Paper published Feb 2021



There is a lack of detail in the sustainable warmth paper for rural areas and this lack of detail poses questions about whether the proposed measures might **disadvantage** fuel poor families in rural areas who may be **harder**, or **more expensive**, to reach and whether there will be appropriately thorough rural proofing and monitoring of individual future policy measures to address fuel poverty.



Revitalising Rural



RURAL
SERVICES
NETWORK

Realising the Vision

**DECARBONISING RURAL COMMUNITIES
AND ECONOMIES**



RSN Asks of Government

Economic Growth Programmes

Housing and Renewables

Housing Energy Efficiency

Electric Vehicle Charging

Rural Buses

Electricity Network Capacity

Local Energy Networks

Local Services
