

Durham has committed to:



Reducing 2019 greenhouse gas emissions by **35.5%** by **2030**



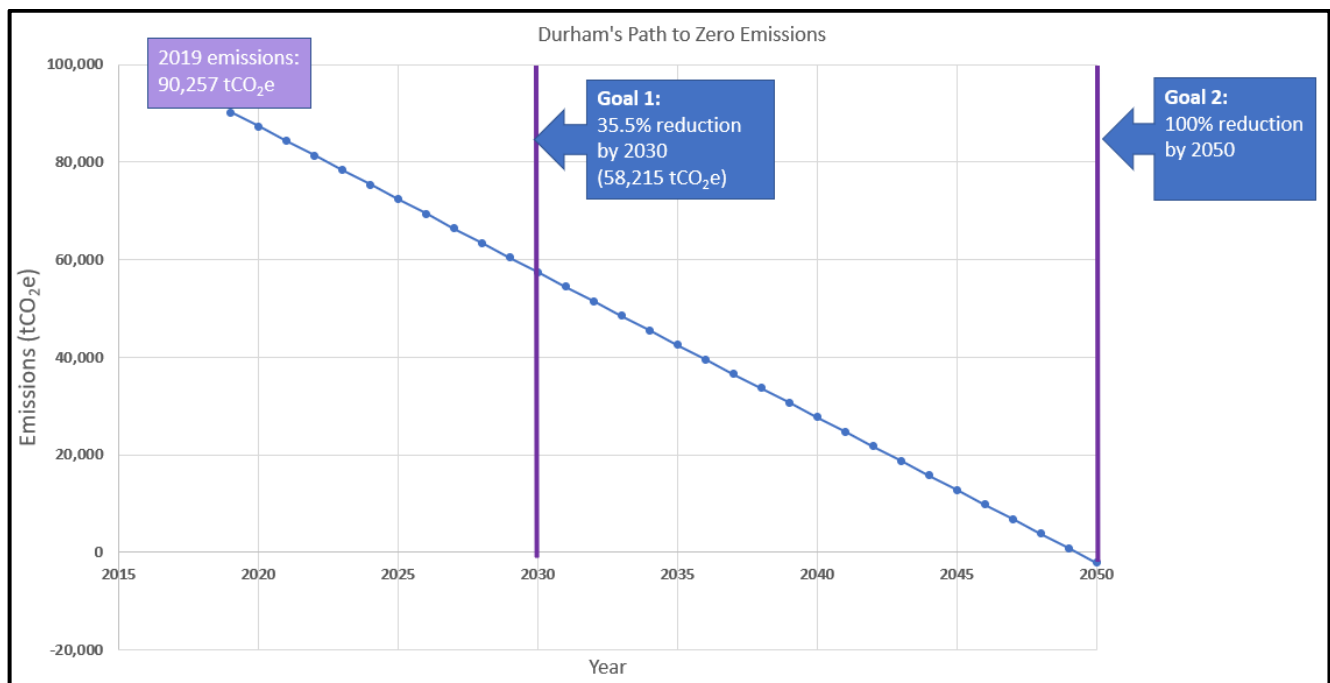
Achieving **net-zero** greenhouse gas emissions by **2050**

Background

This goal was set to meet the ambition of the United States' [April 2021 nationally determined contribution](#) made in line with the Paris Agreement, as required by the Global Covenant of Mayors.

How Durham determined these numbers

Durham used a straight-line path to determine how much the Town would have to reduce emissions by 2030 to meet net-zero emissions by 2050. A figure estimating yearly percent reductions from 2019 levels is shown below.



What this means for Durham

In 2019, Durham emitted approximately 90,257 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂e). This means that to meet its first goal, Durham's emissions should be approximately 58,215 tCO₂e in 2030 – a 32,042 tCO₂e reduction from 2019 levels.

In 2019, Durham's two largest emitting categories were the built environment and transportation, emitting 44,403 tCO₂e and 39,258 tCO₂e respectively. Reducing emissions within these two categories will be key in meeting Durham's short- and long-term emission reduction goals.

You can read more about Durham's 2019 emissions in its community-wide greenhouse gas inventory reports on the [Sustainable Durham website](#).