



London Borough of Tower Hamlets Greenhouse Gas Report 2020 to 2021

12/07/2021



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Council Information

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) is a local government authority with 5,700 employees. The borough has a population of approximately 331,661 residents (ONS mid 2020 estimate).

Registered address:

Tower Hamlets Council
Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London
E14 2BG

Reporting period

1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Summary of emissions

LBTH's emissions for 2020/2021 are 7,336 tonnes CO₂e.

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

LBTH has been reporting its Greenhouse Gas emissions since 2009. At this point LBTH worked with the Carbon Trust to set carbon reduction targets that were set at 25% by 2012/13, 40% by 2016/17 and 60% by 2020/21. In 2019/20 this 60% reduction target was achieved a year early.

In March 2019 LBTH declared a Climate Emergency and committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2025. The target is to reduce carbon emissions by 75% by 2025/26 and offset any residual emissions. A plan on how this target will be achieved was agreed by Cabinet in March 2020.

As a result of the Climate Emergency declaration the decision has been made to re-baseline our emissions to 2018/19 the year in which the Climate Emergency declaration was made. The new baseline now includes buildings that were not previously reported as they were not included in the CRC scheme which was the framework for the previous baseline. Now all buildings that are under the operational control of LBTH are reported against. This means that the emissions total will be higher than previous years due to the inclusion of these extra buildings.

The data used to report emissions is calculated from several sources. Electricity and gas consumption data is calculated directly from the supplier's data. The transport data is provided by two sources from LBTH who are responsible for the transport fleet and recording staff mileage.

Emissions from schools are not reported. This is because LBTH does not have day to day operational control when it comes to controlling energy use and the resulting emissions of schools. So, although school emissions are not reported they are monitored and targeted in a school's energy saving strategy.

The collection of data and this report has followed the BEIS/DEFRA Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reporting

guidance which was published in March 2019. This is the latest guidance that has been published and is what BEIS advises is followed when writing the report.

To convert energy and fuel use to tCO₂e DECC's 2020 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting have been used

Organisational boundary

We have used the operational control approach.

Operational scopes

We have measured our emissions as follows;

- Scope 1 (Direct emissions) – Gas consumption and owned transport
- Scope 2 (Energy indirect) – Purchased electricity, including street lighting.
- Scope 3 (Other indirect) – Business travel.

SCOPE 1 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2020- 2021	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	2019-2020	2018- 2019 (Base Year)
Gas consumption	1,038	Gas consumption data from operational control.	1,377	1,379
Owned transport	1,873	For 20/21 the fleet transferred from Veolia to LBTH so are now all Scope 1 emissions hence the increase in Scope 1 emissions.	579	541
Total scope 1	2,911	-	1,956	1,920

SCOPE 2 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2020- 2021	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	2019- 2020	2018- 2019 (Base Year)
Purchased Electricity	4,410	Purchased electricity data from operational control.	4,677	6,228
Total Scope 2	4,410		4,677	6,228

SCOPE 3 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2020- 2021	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	2019- 2020	2018- 2019 (Base Year)
Business travel	14	Emissions from all mileage claims made for business purposes.	37	38
Waste and recycling collection	0	See note next to Owned Transport in Scope 1.	774	779
Total Scope 3	14		811	817
Total emissions	7,336		7,444	8,964

Base Year

We have a fixed base year of 2018/2019. This is the year that LBTH declared a climate emergency. The baseline was set for this year so we can measure our progress against the climate emergency target. The re-baselining also ensured that all buildings under LBTH operational control are now included as this had not been the case previously as we reported against CRC requirements.

Summary of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	2020/2021 (tCO₂)	Base Year 2018/2019 (tCO₂)
Scope 1 (Direct emissions)	2,911	1,920
Scope 2 (Energy indirect)	4,410	6,228
Scope 3 (Other indirect emissions)	14	817
Total annual emissions	7,336	8,964
Intensity ratio – tonnes of CO₂e per full time equivalents	1.28	1.57

As mentioned in the Operational Scopes section Scope 3 in the base year includes emissions from Veolia who were providing the Council's waste and recycling collection. In 2020/21 this service came back in house to LBTH from Veolia so the emissions from this activity transferred from Scope 3 to Scope 1. This is why there is a big difference between Scope 1 and 3 between the two years.

Reason for Change in Emissions

There has been a decrease of 1% in LBTH's Greenhouse Gas emissions compared to last year. There is a mixed picture however with a decrease in gas (24%) and electricity (6%) consumption but an increase in emissions from the Council's transport fleet (38%). The reasons for these changes are:

- Emissions from owned transport have increased considerably. There are numerous reasons for this.

- All the waste collection services transferred from Veolia back to LBTH in 20/21. This means that these emissions have gone from being scope 3 emissions to now being scope 1 emissions so LBTH's direct emissions scope has increased.
 - As a result of this in the 2019/20 GHG report it was not possible to get the Veolia emissions data due to LBTH no longer having access to it. So, these emissions were estimated based on 18/19 data. It now appears that this data may have underestimated the emissions which has amplified the difference in transport emissions between this year and last year.
 - In previous years the Veolia emissions were calculated based on mileage rather than consumption of fuel. This method is less accurate and is made less accurate due to the nature of waste collection service miles. All the transport data for this year has been calculated using fuel consumption data which is why emissions are higher as this is a far more accurate way of calculating emissions rather than using mileage data.
 - The positive from this is that we now have more robust data from our own internal data sources that we can directly monitor against year on year going forward.
 - The fleet has continued to expand with several new vehicles included in this year's data.
 - The COVID pandemic response has seen increased mileage from LBTH and has also contributed to an increase in emissions.
- Falling carbon conversion factors. As the UK's electricity supply continues to decarbonise the conversion factors for the carbon impact of electricity continues to fall. In 2020/21 it fell from 0.2556kgCO₂ to 0.23314kgCO₂. This does not explain all of the big decrease in emissions as consumption of gas and electricity also fell.
 - The Coronavirus COVID19 pandemic is partly responsible for a decrease in energy consumption at a number of LBTH sites, especially public facing sites. However, the decrease in energy consumption is not great due this as a number of LBTH sites remained fully operational during the lockdowns as LBTH provided a local response to the Pandemic.
 - Gas consumption fell by 24% compared to the previous year. It is difficult to say how much of this was due to a relatively mild winter and how much was due to buildings being closed due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Targets

LBTH declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. This set a target for LBTH to be Net Zero by 2025/26 with a 75% reduction in emissions with the residual emissions being offset. The below target shows the annual progress made against that target. The targets cover the emissions reported in all three scopes.

Year	Carbon emissions	% reduction
2018/2019	8,964	Baseline
2019/2020	7,444	17%
2020/2021	7,366	18%

This year's emissions of 7,366 tCO₂e are a 1% reduction on last year's emissions and a 18% reduction on emissions from 2018/19.

Intensity Measurement

We have chosen the Intensity measurement of tonnes of CO₂e per full time equivalents. This is the most appropriate measurement as it is the staff's work and actions that creates LBTH's emissions. LBTH has approximately 5700 staff. Our intensity measurement this year is 18% lower than the base year of 2018/19.

External Assurance Statement

There is no external assurance statement for this report.

Carbon Offsets

LBTH has not purchased any carbon credits.

Electricity

Electricity purchased for own consumption: 17,253 MWh.

For more information please contact the Sustainable Development Team on 020 7364 6649 or email: climate@towerhamlets.gov.uk