London Borough of Tower Hamlets Greenhouse Gas Report 2022 to 2023

23/08/2022

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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 312,273 residents (ONS mid 2021 estimate).

Registered address:

Tower Hamlets Council
Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London
E1 1BJ

Reporting period

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Summary of emissions

LBTH's emissions for 2022/2023 are 5,737 tonnes CO_2e.

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

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 was made to re-baseline our emissions to 2018/19 the year in which the Climate Emergency declaration was made. The baseline 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.

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.

To convert energy and fuel use to tCO_2e DECC's 2022 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	2022-2023	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	2021-2022	2018-2019 (Base Year)
Gas consumption	1,079	Gas consumption data from operational control.	1,142	1,394
Owned transport	2,047	For 20/21 the fleet transferred from Veolia to LBTH so are now all Scope 1 emissions hence the increase in Scope 1 emissions.	1,960	541
Total scope 1	**3,125**		**3,101**	**1,935**

SCOPE 2 in metric tonnes CO2e	2022-2023	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	2021-2022	2018-2019 (Base Year)
Purchased Electricity	2,591	Purchased electricity data from operational control.	3,069	6,202
Total Scope 2	**2,591**		**3,069**	**6,202**

SCOPE 3 in metric tonnes CO2e	2022-2023	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	2021-2022	2018-2019 (Base Year)
Business travel	21	Emissions from all mileage claims made for business purposes.	23	38
Waste and recycling collection	0	See note next to Owned Transport in Scope 1.	0	779
Total Scope 3	**21**		**23**	**817**
Total emissions	**5,737**		**6,192**	**8,954**

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

	2022/2023 (tCO2)	Base Year 2018/2019 (tCO2)
Scope 1 (Direct emissions)	3,125	1,935
Scope 2 (Energy indirect)	2,591	6,202
Scope 3 (Other indirect emissions)	21	817
Total annual emissions	**5,737**	**8,954**
Intensity ratio – tonnes of CO2e per full time equivalents	**0.99**	**1.57**

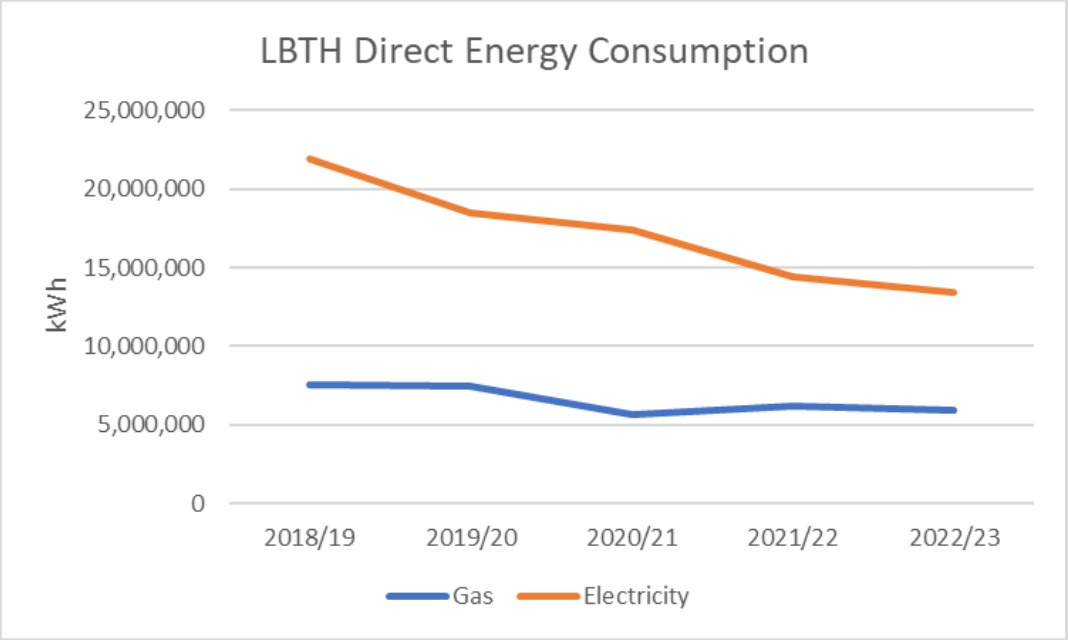
As mentioned in the Operational Scopes section Scope 3 in the base year includes emissions from Veolia who were providing the Council's waste and recycling collection. In 2020/21 this service came back in house to LBTH from Veolia so the emissions from this activity transferred from Scope 3 to Scope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

Change in Emissions

There has been a decrease of 7% in LBTH's Greenhouse Gas emissions compared to last year. There was a decrease in electricity (7%) consumption and gas consumption (5%) resulting in a decrease in emissions of 16% and 6% respectively. The Council's transport fleet saw a slight increase in emissions of 4%.

The reasons for these changes are:

- Consumption of electricity falling by 7% and gas by 5% on the previous year. This was aided by the Council relocating staff from several sites to the New Town Hall. This meant the energy consumption of these less efficient buildings fell with staff now working in the New Town Hall which is more energy efficient.
- Energy consumption from street lighting fell by 14% on the previous year as the LED replacement programme continued. Energy consumption from street lighting has fallen by 46% since 2018/19 because of this programme.
- Falling carbon conversion factors. As the UKs electricity supply continues to decarbonise the conversion factors for the carbon impact of electricity continues to fall. In 2021/22 it fell from 0.21233kgCO_2 to 0.19338CO_2. This does not explain all of the decrease in emissions as consumption of electricity also fell as explained above.
- Continued energy efficiency projects across the Council estate also contributed to the fall in electricity emissions and their associated carbon emissions. This includes the installation of air source heat pumps at Overland's & Mowlem's Children Centres, Toby Lane Depot and Jack Dash House.



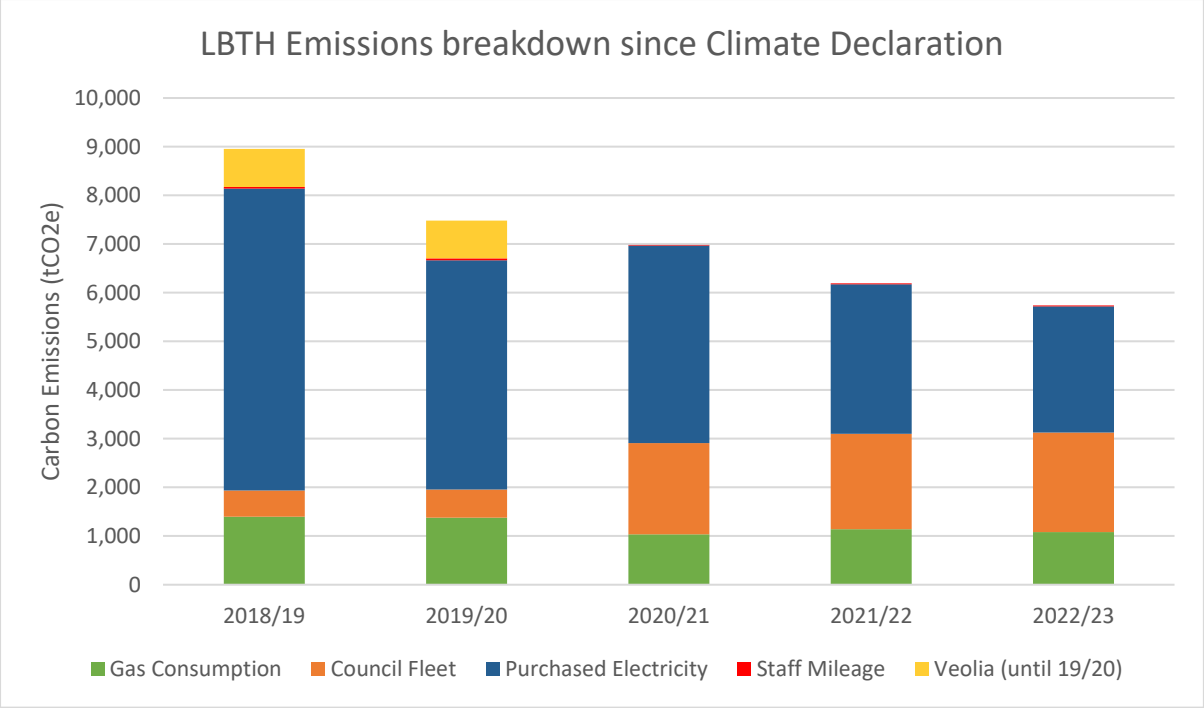
Since 2018/19 electricity consumption has fallen by 39% whilst gas consumption has fallen by 22%. The biggest drivers behind the fall in electricity consumption are street lighting (46%) due to the LED replacement programme, John Onslow House (75%), Albert Jacob House (60%) and Jack Dash House (55%). These three sites have had the use changed since 2018/19 with the council optimising its use of the estate and staff relocating to the Town Hall. This has allowed for energy consumption to fall with resulting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

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	8,954	Baseline
2019/2020	7,479	16%
2020/2021	6,981	22%
2021/2022	6,192	31%
2022/2023	5,737	36%

This year's emissions of 5,737 tCO_2e are a 7% reduction on last year's emissions and a 36% 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 37% 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: 13,397 MWh.

For more information please contact the Sustainable Development Team by emailing climate@towerhamlets.gov.uk