



London Borough of Tower Hamlets Greenhouse Gas Report 2019 to 2020

18/09/2020



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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 317,705 residents (2018 ONS data).

Registered address:

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

Reporting period

1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Summary of emissions

LBTH's emissions for 2019/2020 are 6,485 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 2014/15 LBTH's baseline was adjusted due to a change in reporting guidance and new and more accurate data being available. However, the targets remained unchanged.

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 several sources across the Council who are responsible for different fleets and staff mileage.

Emissions from schools are not reported. This is for two reasons. Firstly, we have reported emissions for which LBTH has operational control over. 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. Secondly in Phase 2 of CRC schools were no longer included, but street lighting emissions were. Although the CRC scheme has ended the reporting framework for this report has not changed.

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 January 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 2019 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 and waste collection.

SCOPE 1 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2019- 2020	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2018-2019	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Gas consumption	1,016	Gas consumption data from CRC reporting. Leisure centres not under operational control due to operator contracts and therefore not included.	N/A	1,083	743
Owned transport	585	None	N/A	540	573
Total scope 1	1,601	-		1,623	1,316

SCOPE 2 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2019- 2020	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2018- 2019	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Purchased Electricity	4,074	Purchased electricity data from operational control.	N/A	4,936	7,775
Total Scope 2	4,074			4,936	7,775

SCOPE 3 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2019- 2020	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2018- 2019	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Business travel	37	Emissions from all mileage claims made for business purposes.	N/A	38	55
Waste and recycling collection	773	Emissions from the waste and recycling collection contractor Veolia.	N/A	780	1,910
Total Scope 3	810			818	1,965

Total emissions	6,485		7,377	11,056
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The emissions from the waste and recycling collection has had to be estimated for this year. This is because the waste collection service transferred from Veolia to LBTH in April 2020. As part of this transfer staff are no longer able to access data held on the Veolia system and therefore unable to provide data for 2019/20. So, a decision was taken to use the mileage data from 2018/19 for 2019/20. As this data relates to waste collection there is a good confidence level that this represents a good estimate as it is data for waste collection which follows the same collection patterns each week.

Base Year

We have a fixed base year of 2014/2015. This is because we had to re-baseline in this year due to the change in reporting requirements for Phase 2 of CRC resulting in school emissions no longer being reported but street lighting being so. Also the Carbon Management Plan was refreshed around the same time, leading to the decision to re-baseline LBTH's carbon emissions using the 2014/2015 emissions as the base year. This re-baseline also allows us to more accurately compare year on year to see how LBTH's emissions change.

Summary of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	2019/2020 (tCO₂)	Base Year 2014/2015 (tCO₂)
Scope 1 (Direct emissions)	1,601	1,316
Scope 2 (Energy indirect)	4,074	7,775
Scope 3 (Other indirect emissions)	810	1,965
Total annual emissions	6,485	11,056
Intensity measurement of emissions = 'tonnes of CO₂e (scope 1 & 2) per employee'	1.14	1.82

Reason for Change in Emissions

There has been a decrease of 12% in LBTH's Greenhouse Gas emissions compared to last year. Unlike last year there was a decrease in consumption of both gas and electricity, though there was an increase in emissions from owned transport. The reasons for these changes are:

- 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 2019/20 it fell from 0.283kgCO₂ to 0.2556kgCO₂. This does not explain all of the big decrease in emissions as consumption of gas and electricity also fell.
- The winter of 2019/20 was relatively mild compared to previous years. This therefore will account for why gas consumption fell by 6% this year compared to last year.

- Emissions from owned transport did increase slightly. This is because the fleet expanded over the course of the year so therefore has resulted in higher emissions. As part of the Net Zero Carbon plan it is proposed that zero emission vehicles will be introduced to the fleet so these emissions should start to fall in the years to come.
- Retrofit & Maintenance projects – There has been continuing projects across the Council estate improving buildings energy efficiency.
- Disposal of buildings – Over the last year the Council has sold several buildings so this has led to the removal of their emissions from this reporting.
- Coronavirus-COVID19 lockdown – Although the lockdown started on 23rd March, right at the end of this reporting period, staff did start to work from home earlier in March, so this resulted in a reduction in energy consumption across the Council.

Targets

As the baseline figure was recalculated in 2014/15 LBTH's carbon reduction targets were recalculated accordingly, the percentage reductions are still in line with those set out in the Carbon Management Plan which is a 60% reduction by 2020 on 2007 levels. The targets cover the emissions reported in all three scopes.

Year	Target Carbon emissions	% reduction	% reduction on 2007
2014/2015	11,056	Baseline	38%
2016/2017	10,749	3%	40%
2020/2021	7,166	35%	60%

This year's emissions of 6,485 tCO₂e are a 12% reduction on last year's emissions and a 64% reduction on emissions from 2007. **This means the Council has met and exceeded its target of reducing its emissions by 60% from 2007 levels by 2020/21 a year early.**

The Sustainable Development Team is responsible for leading the programme to reduce LBTH's emissions. The plan for doing this is set out in the Carbon Management Plan which was refreshed in 2016 following the recalculating of the emissions baseline and a review of proposed projects.

In March 2019 LBTH declared a Climate Emergency and committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2025. A plan on how this target will be achieved was agreed by Cabinet in March 2020.

As a result of this new target for the Council to have net zero emissions by 2025 this will be the last Greenhouse Gas Report in this format. This is for several reasons;

- These reports have been reporting against the target to reduce emissions by 60% on 2007 levels by 2020/21 which has now been achieved.
- The Council has a new target to reach net zero emissions by 2025.
- 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.

Future Greenhouse Gas Reports will still report emissions in the same way but will also provide updates on the work towards the net zero target.

Intensity Measurement

We have chosen the Intensity measurement of direct emissions = 'tonnes of CO₂e per employee' for scope 1 and 2 emissions. 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 2014/15.

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: 15,939 MWh.

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