



London Borough of Tower Hamlets Greenhouse Gas Report 2021 to 2022

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 331,969 residents (ONS mid 2020 estimate).

Registered address:

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

Reporting period

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Summary of emissions

LBTH's emissions for 2020/2021 are 6,930 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 was 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.

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 2021 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	2021- 2020	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	2019-2020	2018- 2019 (Base Year)
Gas consumption	1,138	Gas consumption data from operational control.	1,038	1,379
Owned transport	1,960	For 20/21 the fleet transferred from Veolia to LBTH so are now all Scope 1 emissions hence the increase in Scope 1 emissions.	1,873	541
Total scope 1	3,098		2,912	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	3,809	Purchased electricity data from operational control.	4,074	6,228
Total Scope 2	3,809		4,074	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	23	Emissions from all mileage claims made for business purposes.	14	38

Waste and recycling collection	0	See note next to Owned Transport in Scope 1.	0	779
Total Scope 3	23		14	817
Total emissions	6,930		7,000	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

	2021/2022 (tCO₂)	Base Year 2018/2019 (tCO₂)
Scope 1 (Direct emissions)	3,098	1,920
Scope 2 (Energy indirect)	3,809	6,228
Scope 3 (Other indirect emissions)	23	817
Total annual emissions	6,930	8,964
Intensity ratio – tonnes of CO₂e per full time equivalents	1.22	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 electricity (7%) consumption but an increase in emissions from gas consumption (9%) and the Council's transport fleet (5%). The reasons for these changes are:

- Emissions from owned transport and gas consumption have increased. This is due to increased activities in the Council's public facing buildings and sites following the COVID 19 lockdowns. This bounce back in emissions was expected following the dramatic reductions in 2020/21 due to the lockdowns and a number of sites being closed and a lot of staff working from home.
- 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 2021/22 it fell from 0.23314kgCO₂ to 0.21233. This does not explain all of the decrease in emissions as consumption of electricity also fell.

- Continued energy efficiency projects across the Council estate also contributed to the fall in electricity emissions and their associated carbon 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	8,964	Baseline
2019/2020	7,444	17%
2020/2021	7,000	22%
2021/2022	6,930	23%

This year's emissions of 6,930 tCO₂e are a 1% reduction on last year's emissions and a 23% 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 22% 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: 16,339 MWh.

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