

Greenhouse gas report 2018 to 2019

16/07/2019



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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 315,600 residents (2018 ONS data).

Registered address:

Tower Hamlets Council

Town Hall

Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London

E14 2BG

Reporting period

1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

Summary of emissions

LBTH's emissions for 2018/19 are 7,377 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 a number of sources. Electricity and Gas consumption data is calculated from LBTH's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Annual Report. Some of this data is estimated as there is uncertainty over the data provided by the utility provider. The transport data is provided by a number of 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 schools energy saving strategy. Secondly we are in Phase 2 of CRC where schools are no longer included, but street lighting emissions are.

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 2018 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.

Some of the emissions for purchased electricity are estimated and the percentages estimated are detailed in the table below.

SCOPE 1 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2018- 2019	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2017-2018	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Gas consumption	1,083	Gas consumption data from CRC reporting. Leisure centres not under operational control due to operator contracts and therefore not included.	3.7%	888	743
Owned transport	540	None	N/A	946	573
Total scope 1	1,623	-	3.7%	1,834	1,316

SCOPE 2 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2018- 2019	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2017- 2018	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Purchased Electricity	4,936	Purchased electricity data from CRC reporting.	3.6%	5,806	7,775
Total Scope 2	4,936		3.6%	5,806	7,775

SCOPE 3 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2018- 2019	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2017- 2018	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Business travel	38	Emissions from all mileage claims made for business purposes.	N/A	39	55

Waste and recycling collection	780	Emissions from the waste and recycling collection contractor Veolia.	N/A	1,328	1,910
Total Scope 3	818			1,367	1,965
Total emissions	7,377			9,007	11,056

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.

Our base year recalculation policy is to recalculate our base year and the prior year's emissions for relevant significant structural or reporting changes, such as those that have occurred with Phase 2 of CRC.

Summary of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	2018/2019 (tCO₂)	Base Year 2014/2015 (tCO₂)
Scope 1 (Direct emissions)	1,623	1,316
Scope 2 (Energy indirect)	4,936	7,775
Scope 3 (Other indirect emissions)	818	1,965
Total annual emissions	7,377	11,056
Intensity measurement of emissions = 'tonnes of CO₂e (scope 1 & 2) per employee'	1.29	1.82

Reason for Change in Emissions

There has been a decrease of 18% in LBTH's Greenhouse Gas emissions compared to last year. However there was an increase in gas consumption with a reduction in scope 2 and 3 emissions. 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 2018/19 it fell from 0.352kgCO₂ to 0.283kgCO₂. This does explain part of the big decrease in emissions from electricity consumption.
- The winter of 2017/18 was one of the coldest in recent times. This also affected the beginning of 2018/19 at the beginning of this reporting period. This weather meant more gas was consumed due to the increased demand in heating which is why gas consumption increased by 22%.

- There has been a decrease in emissions from both the Council and Veolia fleets. One reason for this is a reduction in the carbon emission factors for HGVs. This is partly responsible for the large decrease in emissions compared to the previous year. Also the reduction is due to the optimisation of routes and the fleet. Also the data on the Council fleet has been improved allowing for more accurate data.
- Retrofit & Maintenance projects – There has been continuing projects across the Council estate improving buildings energy efficiency.

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 7,377 tCO₂e are an 18% reduction on last year's emissions and a 58% reduction on emissions from 2007. The Council looks on course to not only meet but exceed the overall reduction target of 60% by 2020/21.

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 is currently being drawn up for publication by January 2020.

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 29% lower than the base year of 2014/15.

External Assurance Statement

There is no external assurance statement for this report. Although the gas and electricity consumption figures are calculated in the CRC Annual Report which has been externally audited.

Carbon Offsets

LBTH has not purchased any carbon credits.

Electricity

Electricity purchased for own consumption: 17,439 MWh.

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