

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Greenhouse Gas Report 2017/18

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 2017 to 31st March 2018

Summary of emissions

LBTH's emissions for 2017/18 are 9,007 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 DEFRA Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reporting guidance which was published in June 2013. 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 2017 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	2017- 2018	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2016-2017	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Gas consumption	888	Gas consumption data from CRC reporting. Leisure centres not under operational control due to operator contracts and therefore not included.	6%	749	743
Owned transport	946	None	N/A	483	573
Total scope 1	1,834	-	6%	1,232	1,316
SCOPE 2 in metric tonnes CO₂e	2017- 2018	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2016-2017	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Purchased Electricity	5,806	Purchased electricity data from CRC reporting.	3.4%	6,768	7,775
Total Scope 2	5,806	-	3.4%	6,768	7,775

SCOPE 3 in metric tonnes CO2e	2017- 2018	Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2016-2017	2014- 2015 (Base Year)
Business travel	39	Emissions from all mileage claims made for business purposes.	N/A	34	55
Waste and recycling collection	1,328	Emissions from the waste and recycling collection contractor Veolia.	N/A	1,325	1,910
Total Scope 3	1,367	-	-	1,359	1,965
Total emissions	9,007			9,359	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

	Global tonnes of CO2e	
	2017/2018	Base Year 2014/2015
Scope 1 (Direct emissions)	1,834	1,316
Scope 2 (Energy indirect)	5,806	7,775
Scope 3 (Other indirect emissions)	1,367	1,965
Total annual emissions	9,007	11,056
Intensity measurement of emissions = 'tonnes of CO2e (scope 1 & 2) per employee'	1.34	1.82

Reason for Change in Emissions

There has been a decrease of 4% in LBTH's Greenhouse Gas emissions compared to last year. However there was an increase in scope 1 emissions with a reduction in scope 2 and 3 emissions. The reasons for these changes are:

- The winter of 2017/18 was one of the coldest in recent times. In particular there was a long cold snap between 24th February and 4th March. This was also followed by another cold snap in the middle of March. This weather meant more gas was consumed due to the increased demand in heating which is why scope 1 emissions increased by 19%.
- There has also been an increase in the emissions from the Council's fleet. This is because there are 37 more vehicles in the data set this year compared to last year. This may mean that last year's emissions may have been under reported. It is difficult to find an answer to this as personal within the team from where this data is collected have changed in the last 12 months.
- 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 2017/18 it fell from 0.412kgCO₂ to 0.352 kgCO₂. This partly explains the continuing fall in emissions from electricity consumption
- 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 9,007 tCO₂e are a 4% reduction on last year's emissions and a 49% reduction on emissions from 2007. The Council looks on course to meet 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. This continues to be reviewed and updated to ensure that it supports the continuing carbon reduction work of the Council.

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 26% 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: 16,514 MWh.

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