

Annual Greenhouse Gas Report: 2017-18

Bedford Borough Council acknowledges the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions generated through the delivery of our services and the resulting contribution they make towards climate change.

Acknowledging and understanding the need to do as much possible locally to reduce the effects of climate change; we want to demonstrate leadership by “getting our own house in order” by reducing both our direct and indirect carbon dioxide emissions as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Adopted in March 2011, Bedford Borough Council’s Carbon Management Plan sets out a programme of action for the Council to achieve its aspirational 40% carbon reduction target. This document can be found at: http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/what_is_the_council_doing/carbon_management_programme.aspx

This report summarises the Council’s actual carbon emissions for 2017/18. It goes onto examine the achievements we have made for those sites originally included in our baseline year- 2009/10. It follows guidance provided by Defra on how to measure and monitor greenhouse gas emissions.

Overall emissions for 2017/18		
Scopes	Global tonnes of CO ₂ e	
	2009/10 (baseline year)	2017/18
Scope 1	12,613	8,785
Scope 2	13,693	8,219
Scope 3	651	3,122
Out of scopes (biomass)	-	-
Total gross emissions	26,957	20,126
Carbon offsets	0	0
Green tariff	0	0
Total net emissions	26,957	20,126
Intensity measurement “Tonnes of CO ₂ e per head of population”	0.17	0.12

Operational Scope

We have measured Scope 1 and 2 emissions for all properties and vehicles we fully own and control. Our reported Scope 1 and 2 emissions also include emissions from those properties that we lease in from others, where we are delivering a service.

In line with previous NI185 reporting and the baseline within our Carbon Management Plan, we have also measured significant Scope 3 emissions.

	GHG emissions 2009-10 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	GHG emissions 2017-18 in tonnes of CO ₂ e
Scope 1		
Gas consumption	8,012	5,566
Heating oil consumption	1,733	1,060
Owned transport	2,859	2,112
LPG	9	47
Process emissions	N/A	N/A
Fugitive emissions	N/A	N/A
Total Scope 1	12,613	8,785
Scope 2		
Purchased electricity	13,693	8,219
Total Scope 2	13,693	8,219
Significant Scope 3		
Business travel	508	236
Outsourced activities	143	2,886
Employee commuting		
Waste Disposal	-	-
Product in use	-	-
Total Significant Scope 3	651	3,122
Out of Scope (biomass)	-	0

Schools are included within our Scope 1 (gas and oil) and Scope 2 (electricity) emissions. The breakdown of schools emissions against non-schools emissions is illustrated below (scope 3 emissions have been excluded):

	GHG emissions 2009-10 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	GHG emissions 2017-18 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	% Increase/ Decrease
TOTAL building emissions *excluding Scope 3	23,447	14,892	36% decrease
Schools	10,379	8,799	15% decrease
All other Council buildings	13,068	6,093	53% decrease*

* the Council's leisure sites are now being managed by a third party (as of 1st February 2014) and the resulting emissions are now deemed as scope 3- the emissions are now the responsibility of Fusion Lifestyle Limited and have not been included here (albeit Bedford Borough Council continues to monitor consumption and emissions).

Changes in Emissions

Stationary Sources

Since 2009/10, the Council's estate has changed quite significantly. Despite the Council closing a number of buildings as part of its modernisation programme, many sites have been handed back to the Council (e.g. care homes) and some sites continue to grow and expand (e.g. schools).

Despite such changes, within the Council's own building estate, significant progress has been made in reducing carbon emissions- this is largely the result of its highly successful RE:FIT programme and continuation of other invest to save schemes. More information about successful projects the Council has implemented can be found here.

http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/energy_and_carbon_management/refit.aspx

The Council aspired to achieve a 40% carbon reduction saving on its buildings and this year we have seen the Council overachieve on this target. A huge 53% has been saved in carbon in the Council owned buildings, with a 49% saving overall including transport. Schools have also seen an increase in their savings, up to 15% compared to the 2009/10 baseline.

The most significant savings can be seen from the Half Hourly Street Lighting where continued improvements to the street lamps has saved 1,793,987 kWh or 31.6% in electricity consumption which is equivalent to 630,694 tonnes of carbon. Compared to the previous year the carbon emissions from this project alone have reduced by 23%. The ongoing upgrades to street lighting across the Borough have made a significant impact to the Council's footprint and will continue over the next few years.

REFIT tranche 1 projects were signed off in July 2016 and the savings from each site were being realised fully in the 2017/18 reporting period. Further projects under Tranche 2 began to be installed by in house teams which included lighting upgrades at Lurke Street, Queen Street and Riverstreet Multi-storey Car Parks. Already huge savings can be seen at these sites with Queen Street saving 53% of its electricity consumption compared to 2009/10 or 50% compared the previous year. Lurke Street has been equally successful saving 43% compared to the previous year.

Bedford Borough Council continues to push energy efficiency measures forward under Tranche 2. Further lighting upgrades and improved heating controls are scheduled to be completed in 2018, leading to further reduction in Council building's energy consumption.

Transport

The carbon saving achieved on transport alone is 31% against 2009/10 levels. This saving has improved compared to previous years due to a decrease in fleet mileage and passenger transport.

Approach

We have followed the Governments Guidance published by Defra on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions. This is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-reporting-guidelines-including-mandatory-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reporting-guidance>

The emission factors used to produce this Greenhouse report are those provided for 2017 by Defra and are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2017>

Organisational Boundary

We have used the Financial Control approach as recommended within the Defra guidance. Further detail on which operations or activities have been included within our organisational boundary for the purposes of compiling this report is provided under 'Operational Scope' below.

Company Information

Bedford Borough Council is a unitary authority in Bedfordshire.

Registered address: Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP

Reporting Period

1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

Geographic Breakdown

All of our operations and activities are carried out in the UK.

Base Year

Our base year is 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

Targets

Bedford Borough Council set an aspirational target to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% from its baseline year by March 2015. This target is outlined within the Council's Carbon Management Plan.

Intensity Measurement

Bedford Borough Council exists to deliver services for the people of Bedford Borough and therefore we have used an intensity measurement of “tonnes of CO₂e per head of population” based on mid-year population statistics.

2017/18 - mid-year 2017 population estimate (taken from WasteDataFlow) is 168,751.

External Assurance Statement

We have not received an independent external assurance over our reported emissions.

Carbon Offsets

We have not purchased any carbon offsets.

For further information please contact:

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