

Annual Greenhouse Gas Report: 2013-14

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 by March 2015. 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 provides an annual overview of carbon emissions from our activities, providing an update on the progress we have made to date. It follows guidance provided by Defra on how to measure and monitor greenhouse gas emissions.

GHG emissions data for period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012		
Scopes	Global tonnes of CO ₂ e	
	2012/13	2013/14
Scope 1	12,869	11,059
Scope 2	12,633	11,678
Scope 3	440	1013
Out of scopes (biomass)	54	111
Total gross emissions	25,996	23,861
Carbon offsets	0	0
Green tariff	0	0
Total net emissions	25,996	23,861
Intensity measurement “Tonnes of CO ₂ e per head of population”	0.16	0.15

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 2013 to 31st March 2014

Changes in Emissions

In 2012/13 large increases in Scope 1 emissions were evident largely due to the cold winter and cold spring that was experienced. This resulted in huge increases in consumption; owing to more heating fuel being used throughout our sites. Compared to this year's gas and heating fuel data, we can see that 2013/14 had a much milder winter and therefore heating was not needed as much in most cases.

A dramatic decrease in heating fuel is evident at Borough Hall where a project to convert the existing gas oil boilers to gas has saved around 256 tonnes of CO₂ alone since November 2013. Also a lighting upgrade project and solar PV installation at Allhallows MSCP has saved around 116,908 kWh (56 tonnes CO₂) compared to last year, whilst also providing green generated electricity to the public conveniences as well.

School site consumption has also reduced compared to 2012/13; again owing largely to the mild winter and warm spring we have experienced, despite new schools being built and existing schools being developed. This is why the saving from the baseline is minimal, due to the increase in the number of schools or expansion of schools since the baseline.

Scope 3 emissions have increased due to our leisure sites being outsourced in February 2014 and now classed as Scope 3. AMEY have reduced their scope 3 emissions as they have been campaigning to reduce their consumption through an energy competition - which has proven successful as they have dramatically reduced their carbon compared to last year.

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 were published by Defra in July 2013 and are available at:

<http://www.ukconversionfactorscarbonsmart.co.uk/>

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.

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 NI 185 reporting and the baseline within our Carbon Management Plan, we have also measured significant Scope 3 emissions.

	GHG emissions 2012-13 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	GHG emissions 2013-14 in tonnes of CO ₂ e
Scope 1		
Gas consumption	8,013	7,058
Heating oil consumption	2,051	1,272
Owned transport	2,789	2,696
LPG	16	33
Process emissions	N/A	N/A
Fugitive emissions	N/A	N/A
Total Scope 1	12,869	11,059
Scope 2		
Purchased electricity	12,633	11,678
Total Scope 2	12,633	11,678
Significant Scope 3		
Business travel	296	175
Outsourced activities	144	838
Employee commuting	-	-
Waste Disposal	-	-
Product in use	-	-
Total Significant Scope 3	440	1013
Out of Scope (biomass)	54	111

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:

	GHG emissions 2012-13 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	GHG emissions 2013-14 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	% Increase/ Decrease
TOTAL building emissions	22,750	20,153	11 % decrease
Schools	11,010	10,424	5 % decrease
All other Council buildings	11,740	9,729	17 % decrease

Progress compared to baseline

	GHG emissions 2009-10 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	GHG emissions 2013-14 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	% Increase/ Decrease
TOTAL building emissions	23,447	20,153	14 % decrease
Schools	10,503	10,424	0.75 % decrease
All other Council buildings	13,135	9,729	26 % decrease

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 has 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 from National Statistics.

2013/14 population data unavailable so 2012 data used

2012 mid year population estimate is 157,800.

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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