

Calderdale Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2008 – 2011

Introduction

Calderdale Council's Environmental Management System (EMS) sets a target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the Council's estate and operations by 15% by 2013-14. The EMS also sets targets to reduce the amount of waste produced at Council sites by 9% and increase the percentage of sites with recycling facilities by 30% by 2013-14.

In addition, between 2009 and 2014, the Council's Corporate Travel Plan seeks to:

- reduce the number of miles travelled by car on Council business by 15%;
- reduce the proportion of employees commuting alone by car by 15%; and
- reduce fleet fuel consumption by 5%.

Between them, these various targets address the majority of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions. The exception to this is fugitive emissions from refrigerating equipment.

GHG emissions data for period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011			
	Tonnes of CO ₂ e		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Scope 1	15,443	14,793	15,130
Scope 2	21,360	21,362	22,338
Scope 3	26,404	27,140	25,759
Total emissions	63,207	63,295	63,227
Intensity ratio (annual expenditure - £m)	379	343	346

Supporting information

1. Company information

Calderdale Council is a unitary authority located in West Yorkshire. Registered address: Halifax Town Hall, Halifax HX1 1UJ.

2. Reporting period

This report covers two years – 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, and 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

3. Change in emissions

Our reported emissions have remained virtually constant since the baseline year, although the intensity ratio has fallen showing a real-world reduction in CO₂e compared to Council expenditure. Main areas of reduction have been employee commuting and coal and oil consumption. The reduction shown on the commute is most likely to result from more accurate data being available in 2010-11 than in previous years, due to a massive increase in the response rate of the Staff Travel Survey. Coal and oil consumption have been reduced by switching a number of sites to gas.

The reductions shown in these areas are offset by an increase in electricity consumption. Two new leisure centres opened at the end of 2010, which together accounted for 300 tonnes of CO₂e from electricity consumption during 2010-11. The remaining increase is attributable to the installation of AMR across the Council's estate. This has resulted in

corrections on a large number of bills, and the extra electricity has been accounted for in the 2010-11 data out of necessity. The dip in Scope 1 emissions in 2009-10 is also significantly attributable to school closures during a particularly hard winter.

4. Approach

We have followed the Government's guidance on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Organisational boundary

We have reported emissions from the Council's own estate and operations, as well as from all maintained schools, PFI schools and academies. We have also included transport emissions from two significant outsourced services, namely highways maintenance (Amey) and waste collection and disposal (SITA).

6. Operational scopes

We have measured scope 1, 2 and significant scope 3 emissions.

	GHG emissions 2008-09 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	GHG emissions 2009-10 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	GHG emissions 2010-11 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)
Scope 1			
Gas consumption	12,295	12,119	12,341
Coal consumption	707	508	531
Oil consumption	932	740	784
Owned transport	1,299	1,216	1,264
Fugitive emissions*	210	210	210
Total scope 1	15,443	14,793	15,130
Scope 2			
Purchased electricity	21,360	21,362	22,338
Total scope 2	21,360	21,362	22,338
Scope 3			
Business travel	787	743	774
Employee commute	2,820	3,430	2,136
Waste disposal [†]	21,605	21,605	21,605
Other transport (outsourced)	1,192	1,362	1,244
Total scope 3	26,404	27,140	25,759

*The figure given for each year here is a very rough estimate based on available data. However, we are confident that the scale of magnitude is reliable, demonstrating that as a proportion of the whole footprint, fugitive emissions are only a minor consideration, accounting for approximately 0.3% of the footprint total.

[†]No reliable data collected before 2010-11; therefore the figure from this year has been used pro rata. This represents, if anything, an overestimate, since the only major change in waste disposal arrangements during the reporting period has been a reduction in composting of parks waste.

7. Base year

Our base year is 2008-09 which we set using a fixed base year approach.

Our base year recalculation policy is to recalculate our base year and the prior year emissions for relevant significant changes which meet our significance threshold of 5% of total base year emissions.

There have been no significant changes that would cause us to recalculate the base year.

8. Targets

Our target is to reduce absolute CO₂e emissions from the Council's estate and operations by 15% by 2013-14. Additional targets to reduce waste to landfill and emissions from commuting and business travel are detailed in the introduction.

So far there has been no significant progress against the CO₂ target.

9. Intensity measurement

We have chosen 'Tonnes of CO₂e per £m expenditure', in keeping with the intensity measurement used previously to achieve the Carbon Trust Standard in 2009.

Our intensity measurement has remained constant since last year – although it has fallen since the baseline – since a reduction in CO₂e has been mirrored by a reduction in annual expenditure.

10. External Assurance Statement

The methodology and data used for calculating our carbon footprint are externally audited each year by Bureau Veritas, as part of the re-accreditation process for EMAS and ISO14001. The most recent external audit was completed in September 2011. A copy of the verified 2010-11 Environmental Statement and certification can be found at: www.calderdale.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/environmental-projects/index.html.