

Calderdale Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2011 – 2012

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 2014-15. The EMS also sets targets to reduce the amount of waste produced at Council sites by 10% and increase the percentage of sites with recycling facilities by 16% 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 2011 to 31 March 2012				
	Tonnes of CO ₂ e			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Scope 1	15,423	14,771	15,129	13,157
Scope 2	21,055	20,645	21,588	21,033
Scope 3	26,361	18,417	17,326	22,547
Total emissions	62,840	54,157	54,043	56,737
Intensity ratio (annual expenditure - £m)	377	293	296	307

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

1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

3. Change in emissions

Our reported emissions have reduced significantly since the baseline year, with the intensity ratio showing a similar rate of reduction. The main area of reduction in 2011-12 has been gas use, which was affected by a milder winter than the previous two but nonetheless represents a significant reduction since the baseline year. Emissions from waste sent to landfill have also fallen significantly since the baseline year – this is due to a significant large drop in the CO₂e emissions factor since 2008.

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)	GHG emissions 2011-12 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)
Scope 1				
Gas consumption	12,310	12,093	12,314	10,688
Coal consumption	692	571	597	322
Oil consumption	1,011	818	866	846
Owned transport	1,411	1,288	1,352	1,300
Fugitive emissions*	210	210	210	210
Total scope 1	15,423	14,771	15,129	13,157
Scope 2				
Purchased electricity	21,055	20,645	21,588	21,003
Total scope 2	21,055	20,645	21,588	21,003
Scope 3				
Business travel	700	634	648	595
Employee commute	2,846	3,470	2,155	3,042
Waste disposal	21,605	13,311	13,311	17,730
Other transport (outsourced)	1,211	1,327	1,212	1,180
Total scope 3	26,361	18,417	17,326	22,547

*The figure given for each year here is a 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 0.4% of the footprint total.

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 2014-15. Additional targets to reduce waste to landfill and emissions from commuting and business travel are detailed in the introduction.

To date we have achieved a 9.7% reduction since the baseline year, showing good progress towards the 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.

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 audit was completed in March 2012. A copy of the verified 2010-11 Environmental Statement and certification can be found at:

www.calderdale.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/policy/index.html