Thurrock Council

Greenhouse gas report

2019/20

Background

This report publishes Thurrock Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and satisfies the requirement of local authorities to measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions.

Scope of report

The following figures are based on information gathered from a variety of sources and collated using the council's Oracle database. Data validation and reporting is then carried out using the Team Sigma system.

The report covers Thurrock Council's:

1. owned and operated buildings
2. fleet transport
3. street lighting

Notable exclusions include schools and academies, grey fleet business miles and contractor emissions.

GHG emissions data for period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Global tonnes of CO_2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) per year

Scope	Current Year 2019/20	Prior Year 2018/19	Base Year 2013/14 (recalculated)
Scope 1	2,333	2,541	1,727
Scope 2	3,158	3,609	6,278
Scope 3	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Total gross emissions	5,491	6,150	8,005
Carbon offsets	0	0	0
Total annual net emissions	5,491	6,150	8,005
Out of scope emissions	Not applicable	Not applicable	21

Company information

Thurrock Council: Civic Offices. New Road, Grays, RM17 6SL.

Reporting Period

The reporting period is 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Change in emissions

Scope 1

Consumption of gas has increased by 29%, resulting in an increase of 31% in emissions when compared to the base year of 2013/14. This is due to an increase of 63% in the 2016/17 reporting period and an increase of 3% over the last financial year.

The emissions from usage of diesel fuel by owned vehicles have increased by 28% since the base year (2013/14). Previously this has been attributed to better data collection. Emissions from fuel declined since 2017/18 and this has been attributed to the council replacing some diesel vehicles with unleaded vehicles. Over the last financial year, diesel usage has decreased by 19% and unleaded usage has increased by 14%.

Scope 2

Consumption of electricity has decreased by 13%, resulting in a decrease of 50% in Scope 2 emissions when compared to the based year of 2013/14. This reduction cannot solely be attributed to the decrease in electricity usage as there has been a significant decrease in the electricity conversion factor. This can be demonstrated by the fact that over the last financial year, electricity usage has decreased by 3% and emissions from electricity have decreased by 12%.

Approach

The methodology followed is in accordance with central government guidance on measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), as set out by the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The DECC standard set of conversion factors for 2019 have been used.

The reporting guidance identifies the main types of emissions sources in 3 categories, known as scopes. These are defined as follows.

Category	Definition
Scope 1 – direct emissions	Activities owned or controlled by your organisation that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. Examples of Scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, owned or controlled vehicles.
Scope 2 – energy indirect	Emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of your organisation’s activities but which occur at sources you do not own or control. The most common type of Scope 2 emission is electricity purchased for own consumption from the National Grid or a third party.
Scope 3 – other indirect	Emissions are discretionary to include that are a consequence of your actions, which occur at sources which you do not own or control and which are not classified as Scope 2 emissions. Examples of Scope 3 emissions include business travel not owned or controlled by your organisation – for example, use of public transport – commuting, use of 'grey fleet' – that is, use of employees' own cars for which fuel costs are claimed back via expenses – emissions from contractors, and supply chain procurement

Scope 3 emissions are discretionary and are not included in this report.

Organisational boundary

The organisational boundary has been established using the financial control approach. This is defined as all sources of environmental impact over which the organisation has financial control. An organisation has financial control over an operation if it has the ability to direct the financial and operating policies of the operation with a view to gaining economic benefits from its activities.

Operational scopes

Scope 1 and scope 2 emissions only have been reported on.

Emission	Description	Scope
Direct fuel combustion	Direct GHG emissions as a result of combustion in the boilers of all buildings with the council's organisational boundary	1
Owned transport	Emissions as a result of all council owned vehicles. Not contacted out or claimed business Miles	1
Consumption of purchased electricity	Consumption of all purchased electricity heat, steam and cooling for building s with the organisational boundary	2

Geographic breakdown

All Thurrock Council's activities are UK-based.

Targets

As set out in Thurrock Council's Carbon Management Plan, there is a target to reduce carbon emissions from its activities by 29% by 2018 and by 50% by 2027 based on the emissions data for 2012. This is currently under review.