**Medway Council’s Carbon Emissions 2018/19**

(Own Estate and Operations)

Historically we have only recorded carbon emission data for the energy supply to our buildings and streetlighting. For 2018/19 emissions, we used a new carbon accounting tool to report on emissions from other sources, such as fleet mileage, which will allow us to track future carbon savings more accurately.

We are improving how we calculate our emissions so that we can monitor progress against the Climate Change Action Plan.

**What is our carbon reduction target?**

In 2020, we commissioned Local Partnerships to undertake a technical study to understand the Council’s carbon footprint and to inform our approach to reducing our emissions. The study identified a series of interventions to put the Council on a path to **reducing its emissions by 95% by 2050 against a baseline year of 2018/19**. The study uses the science-based target approach to reducing emissions at a rate that is in line with keeping global temperature rises below 1.5°C. This means halving emissions every ten years as opposed to reducing emissions by a fixed amount every year. **It sets the first carbon budget for 2020-27 as 57,631 tonnes of carbon dioxide emission equivalent**.

**What is included in our emissions reporting?**

Our carbon footprint includes:

Direct Emissions (Scope 1 & 2)

Energy to power and heat Council owned buildings

Emissions from small fleet vehicles and Refuse Collection Vehicles owned or leased by the Council

Electricity for Council owned buildings and street lighting. It does not include Council owned housing except for energy supplied to communal areas and sheltered housing.

Indirect emissions (Scope 3)

Staff business travel

Water

Transmission and distribution losses – this term is used to describe the proportion of electricity purchased by the Council that is lost between the power station and the point of use (e.g., buildings or street lighting).

We have not included areas of indirect control for example emissions from Local Authority Schools, staff commuting and contracted out services, such as school transport and waste disposal.

**What are the main sources of emissions across our estate and operations?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Scope (1, 2 or 3)** | **Tonnes CO2e** | **Percentage** |
| Heating (Gas and other heating fuel) | Scope 1 | 3,576.02 | 29.5% |
| Building (Electricity) | Scope 2 | 3453.80 | 28.5% |
| Street Lighting (Electricity) | Scope 2 | 2,762.29 | 22.8% |
| Fleet (Diesel and Petrol) | Scope 1 | 1,320.45 | 10.9% |
| Transmission and Distribution Losses | Scope 3 | 529.83 | 4.4% |
| Staff Travel | Scope 3 | 319.52 | 2.6% |
| Water | Scope 3 | 143.20 | 1.2% |
| Total |  | 12,105.11 | 100% |

Table 1 – Emissions summary 2018/19

**What rate of carbon emission reduction have we previously achieved?**

In the period between April 2014 and March 2019, the Council’s carbon emissions fell by 43% (based on energy supply to our buildings and streetlighting only).

**How does this compare to energy usage?**

During the same period (April 2014 to March 2019) our energy consumption only really reduced by 11%.

**How have we achieved carbon reductions?**

The reduction reported in our footprint has been achieved through a combination of measures. The key contributors to these savings include:

* decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid
* energy efficiency initiatives in our corporate buildings such as lighting upgrades and insulation

**How much electricity do we self supply?**

Self-supplied electricity has increased from 6985 kwh in 2014 to 619097 kwh in 2019. In 2018/19 this represents less than 3% of the total electricity supply.

**Next Steps**

The rate of decarbonisation is forecast to slow, which is likely to reduce future carbon savings from our estate. There will however, be a renewed focus on carbon reduction following the climate emergency declaration and through the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan.

This report will be published on the Council’s website.