**Medway Council’s Carbon Emissions 2019/20**

(Own Estate and Operations)

Historically we have only recorded carbon emission data for the energy supply to our buildings and streetlighting. Since 2018/19 emissions, we have 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

Fugitive emissions - this term refers to leaks or unintended releases of pollutants from a contained source, such as an air conditioning unit, into the surrounding atmosphere.

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?**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Scope (1, 2 or 3)** | **Tonnes CO2e**  (Previous years data in brackets) | **Percentage of overall emissions**  (Previous years data in brackets) |
| Heating (Gas and other heating fuel) | Scope 1 | **3,438.45**  (3,576.02) | **32.7%**  (29.5%) |
| Building (Electricity) | Scope 2 | **2,617.52**  (3,453.80) | **24.9%**  (28.5%) |
| Street Lighting (Electricity) | Scope 2 | **2,442.13**  (2,762.29) | **23.2%**  (22.8%) |
| Fleet (Diesel and Petrol) | Scope 1 | **1,120.51**  (1,320.45) | **10.7%**  (10.9%) |
| Transmission and Distribution Losses\* | Scope 3 | **429.56**  (529.83) | **4.1%**  (4.4%) |
| Staff Travel | Scope 3 | **305.39**  (319.52) | **2.9%**  (2.6%) |
| Water | Scope 3 | **150.73**  (143.20) | **1.4%**  (1.2%) |
| Fugitive Emissions | Scope 1 | **5.88**  (0) | **0.1%**  (0%) |
| **Total** |  | **10,510.17**  (12,105.11) | **100%** |

Table 1 – Emissions summary 2019/20

**How does this compare with the previous year?**

The emissions for 2019/20 are 1,594.94 tCO2e less than the previous year. This is a reduction of 13.2% on the baseline year 2018/19. This figure has been derived by considering a full year of data for 2019/20 and applying the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) conversion factors for 2019.

The main sources of emissions are still operational buildings (heating and electricity) and street lighting, which account for 80.8% of total emissions (with street lighting contributing 23.2%). The Council’s fleet continues to contribute a stable 11% of emissions.

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

Our energy consumption in kWhrs reduced by 5.89% on the previous year. We intend to report on energy consumption by sector in our 2020/21 emissions report.

**How have we achieved carbon reductions?**

The reduction reported in our footprint has primarily been achieved through decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid. There were no substantial carbon reduction initiatives during this period other than a boiler replacement at Gun Wharf.

**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 through the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan.

This report will be published on the Council’s website and included in the review of the Climate Change Action Plan.