

WIRRAL COUNCIL

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REPORT 2012/13

17 July 2013

Background

The purpose of this report is to allow information on Wirral Council's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions to be published in the format requested by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) as part of the Single List of Central Government requirements from Local Government (2011/12), for data reference 067-00 "Emissions from Local Authority own estate and operations".

The Climate Change Strategy, approved by Cabinet in June 2007, commits the Council to tackling climate change. This requires a reduction in emissions of Greenhouse Gases and adaptation to the changes in climate that will occur. Wirral Council has developed a Climate Change Policy, an Action Plan and a Carbon Reduction Programme that focuses on awareness, energy, adaptation and transport.

Wirral Council achieved its target of a 20% reduction in carbon emissions by 2010 in 2007. In 2008, the Council adopted the CRed target of a 60% reduction by 2025. The Council works with residents, communities and both the public and private sectors to encourage them to achieve their own reductions.

Over 2012/13, Wirral's Carbon Reduction Strategy coordinates all related Council activities through a Wirral Carbon Reduction Programme. This enabled Wirral Council to plan, monitor and report progress. Partnership working has also underpinned Wirral's Climate Change Strategy and information on the various carbon reduction initiatives was monitored and reported to the Council's Sustainable Communities Committee. Current organisational changes are expected to impact on these reporting streams.

Wirral Council has introduced a Carbon Budget from April 2011. This will help achieve both local and national carbon reduction targets. The Carbon Budget will enable service managers to plan for CO₂ reductions at a Departmental and operational level and ensure that financial and carbon budgeting is fully integrated into mainstream financial management and business planning activities.

Wirral Council signed up to the Nottingham Declaration in 2001 and reaffirmed its commitment to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide in 2006. Proposals for quantifying CO₂ emissions as part of the procurement process for new Council contracts and other spend from April 2011 are currently being developed.

Wirral Council is a full participant in the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRCEES).

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Scope of Report & Specific Exclusions

This report is based on the scope for reporting stationary and transport figures specified for the National Indicator (NI) 185 2008/09 Baseline year. Elements excluded in 2008/09 are similarly excluded from subsequent years, as per the NI Guidance. The reasons for exclusion generally include instances in which data were either unreliable or not available for the NI baseline year. This approach ensures that the reported years are consistent in scope.

The report covers all Wirral Council owned and operated buildings over which it exercises direct control including Schools. Social housing is excluded.

Fleet Transport is included, as is business travel based on private vehicle mileage. Business travel by other means (Bus, train, aircraft etc.) is excluded as the information was not available in a consistent form. Commuting and Contractor mileage is also excluded for this reason.

GHG emissions data for period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013	Global tonnes of CO ₂ e		
	Current Year 2012/13	Prior Year 2010/11	Base Year 2008/09
Scope 1	15,245	14,494	20,606
Scope 2	20,025	24,846	27,598
Scope 3	4,446	6,112	7,514
Total gross emissions	39,716	45,452	55,718
Carbon Offsets	0	0	0
Green tariffs	(13,900)	(10,850)	(28,902)
Total annual net emissions	25,816	34,602	26,816
Intensity measurement 'Tonnes of CO₂e per £m Total Income'	122.69	133.35	157.30

1. Company Information

- 1.1. Wirral Council is the ninth largest Metropolitan district in the country, and the third largest in the north west of England.
- 1.2. Wirral Council is based at: Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 8ED

2. Reporting Period

- 2.1. The reporting period is the financial year from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.
- 2.2. This report includes information derived from consumption data prepared for National Indicators 185 & 194 for the 2008/09 financial years. Information for subsequent years was derived in an identical manner to ensure consistency.

3. Change in Emissions

- 3.1. Gross emissions have reduced by 12.6%. Contributory factors are: a reduction in staff numbers; energy efficiency initiatives; continued rationalisation of the Council's estate; and the disposal of redundant properties.
- 3.2. Scope 1 emissions from Natural Gas rose by 13.4%. This is attributed to the significantly colder conditions experienced over the 2012/13 financial year. Degree-day data for the region shows a 33.6 % increase on 2011/12.

4. Approach

- 4.1. The Government publication "Environmental reporting Guidelines: Including mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reporting guidance" (DEFRA 12 June 2013) has been used to prepare this report.
- 4.2. As requested by DECC in their e-mail dated 17 June 2013, the DEFRA web based tool was used to obtain the conversion factors used to calculate emissions in kg CO₂e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) using 2012 data. WTT (Well to Tank) conversion factors to quantify Scope 3 emissions associated with energy use were obtained using the same tool.

5. Organisational Boundary

- 5.1. The organisational boundary has been established using the financial control approach for all sites that were reported for National Indicators (NI's) 185 & 194 to ensure consistency.
- 5.2. Schools that have converted to Academies are excluded as the Council does not exercise financial control.

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6. Operational Scopes

6.1. Scope 1, Scope 2 and significant Scope 3 emissions have been measured and are reported.

Scope 1 (in metric tonnes CO ₂ e)	2012/13	Exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2011/12	2008/09 (Baseline)
Oil	1,256	0	0	1,785	3,013
Gas	13,534	0	0.39***	11,938	16,202
Fleet	454	0	0	771	1,391
Process	0	*	100	0	0
Fugitive	0	**	100	0	0
TOTAL	15,245			14,494	20,606

* Not Applicable – Wirral Council operates no industrial processes.

** Emissions from air-conditioning and refrigeration units are excluded due to the cost of data collection and resource scarcity. These types of unit are not installed in all buildings.

*** Percentage of annual consumption reported fro CRC as estimated.

Scope 2 (in metric tonnes CO ₂ e)	2012/13	Exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2011/12	2008/09 (Baseline)
Grid Electricity	20,025	0	1.43*	24,846	27,598
TOTAL	20,025			24,846	27,598

* Percentage of annual consumption reported for CRC as estimated.

Scope 3 (in metric tonnes CO ₂ e)	2012/13	Exclusions	% of activity data that is estimated	2011/12	2008/09 (Baseline)
Fuel & Energy not in 1 & 2 (WTT)	3318	0	1.43	4,894	6,000
Business travel	782	0	0	877	1,189
Water	346	0	0*	341	325
TOTAL	4,446			6,112	7514

* Waste water component included.

6.2. The updated guidance that has been published recommends the inclusion of a number of new Scope 3 emissions that may be included. Wirral council is evaluating the relevance of each to its operations and will develop suitable strategies for their inclusion as resources permit. The strategies will include the development of reliable baseline figures and consistent measurement methods.

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7. Geographic Breakdown

7.1. All Wirral Council's activities are UK based.

Geographical breakdown			
2010	Tonnes of CO ₂ e		
	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
Total Global	15,245	20,025	4,446
UK	15,245	20,025	4,446

8. Base year

- 8.1. A base year of 2008/09 (01/04/08 to 31/03/09) has been selected. This was the baseline year for NI's 185 and 194 for which energy data was submitted to DECC, verified by their agents and returned to the Council.
- 8.2. The Energy consumption information for 2008/09, previously used to calculate CO₂ emissions has been used to calculate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions expressed as CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent).
- 8.3. Guidance for both GHG reporting and CRC has changed significantly in 2013. Like most local authorities Wirral Council is undergoing a transformation in response to budgetary constraints. This is likely to significantly alter Council Activities and Estate. Combined these factors together with the need to consider expanding reporting of Scope 3 emissions means that reviewing baseline and scope reported has been postponed in order to be able to report in an efficient and consistent manner.

9. Targets

- 9.1. Wirral Council manages emissions using a Carbon Budget. Corporate targets are set with the long-term goal of reducing the Council's CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2025 and to adapt to the changes in climate that will occur.
- 9.2. In order to ensure this target is met, the Council produces an Annual Carbon Budget report to set annual reduction targets and to report progress. Elected Members have directed that this report is presented with the Financial Budget each year
- 9.3. The most recent Carbon Budget Report (Budget Cabinet 18 February 2013 – Minute 209 refers) reported a 24.95% reduction in CO₂ emissions against the 2008/09 baseline.

10. Intensity Measurement

- 10.1. The intensity measurement used is “Tonnes of CO₂e per £m Total Income”. The income figure is obtained from the Council’s “Financial Monitoring – Revenue (Month 9)” report.
- 10.2. The intensity measurement has fallen for 2012/13. Total income for the Council fell by 2.55% whilst gross emissions reduced by 12.6%.

11. External Assurance Statement

- 11.1. No external independent assurance statement has been commissioned to cover the reporting period.

12. Carbon Offsets

- 12.1. Wirral Council has not purchased any carbon credits over the reporting period.
- 12.2. Wirral Council has had no involvement in the Woodland Carbon Units scheme to date.

13. Electricity

Electricity purchased for own use or consumption: 43,532 MWh
Green Electricity Purchased: 30,217 MWh
GHG Reduction due to purchase of ‘green’ electricity: 13,900 CO₂e

- 13.1. Over the 2012/13 financial year Wirral Council purchased electricity for approximately 365 reportable supply points including 6 un-metered MPAN’s (Meter Point Administration Numbers). Wirral Council purchases energy under a managed supply arrangement. Prices are updated from 1 October each year and the proportion of electricity that is Climate Change Levy exempt is specified in the contract documents provided by each supplier.
- 13.2. All 6 un-metered MPAN’s are supplied by EDF. For the period 1 April 2012 to 30 September 2012, these supplies were 10% CCL exempt. For the period 1 October 2012 to 31 March 2013 the supplies were 90% CCL exempt.
- 13.3. All Half Hourly Metered (HHM) sites were supplied 100% CCL exempt electricity by EdF.
- 13.4. Non Half-Hourly (NHH) electricity is supplied by British Gas Business. For the period 1 April 2012 to 30 September 2012, these supplies were 25% CCL exempt. For the period 1 October 2012 to 31 March 2013 the supplies were 100% CCL exempt.

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- 13.5. Wirral Council generated approximately 9.496 MWh of electricity from a small number of on-site renewable systems. None are backed up by REGO's within the UK although some are Feed-In-Tariff Scheme (FITS) registered.

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