

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REPORT 2015/16 July 2016**

#### **Background**

The purpose of this report is to allow information on Wirral Council's Green House 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 reporting of GHG emissions is part of the Council's coordinated actions on climate change and energy management. Wirral Council has a long held commitment to action on climate change both cutting emissions and adapting to unavoidable changes in the climate.

The Council was an early signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and adopted its first strategy on climate change in 2007. In 2013, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to action by signing up to Local Government Association's Climate Local initiative – the successor initiative to Nottingham Declaration programme. In 2014 the Council endorsed a new climate change strategy for Wirral. The Council maintains an ongoing commitment to energy management to help manage costs and ensure services are delivered in an efficient cost effective manner. Wirral Council is a full participant in the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRCEES).

The Council's initial target to reduce its carbon emissions by 20% by 2010 was achieved early. Subsequently the Council adopted the 'CRed' target of a 60% reduction by 2025. To help meet its emission reduction ambitions Wirral Council introduced a carbon budget from April 2011. This budget enables service managers to plan for CO2 reductions at a departmental and operational level. It helps ensure that carbon management is integrated into mainstream financial planning and business planning activities across the organisation. The Carbon Budget is currently under review to align more closely to Wirral's 2020 Pledges.

Beyond managing its own carbon emissions the Council works to influence residents, communities and both the public and private sectors to encourage them to achieve their own reductions. The Council supports the Wirral Climate Change Group as a forum for co-ordinating action on climate change across Wirral. This group developed the current climate change strategy for Wirral and maintains a rolling action plan in support of its implementation.

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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.

| <b>GHG emissions data for period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016</b>               |   |                               |                              |
|--|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | <b>Global tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e</b> |                               |                              |
|  | <b>Current Year<br/>2015/16</b>         | <b>Prior Year<br/>2014/15</b> | <b>Base Year<br/>2008/09</b> |
| Scope1   | 11,128                                  | 11,358                        | 20,606                       |
| Scope 2  | 17,365                                  | 19,545                        | 27,598                       |
| Scope 3  | 6,692                                   | 7,551                         | 7,514                        |
| <b>Total gross emissions</b>   | <b>35,185</b>                           | <b>38,454</b>                 | <b>55,718</b>                |
| Carbon Offsets   | 0                                       | 0                             | 0                            |
| Green tariffs  | (10,439)                                | (17,998)                      | (28,902)                     |
| <b>Total annual net emissions</b>  | <b>24,746</b>                           | <b>20,456</b>                 | <b>26,816</b>                |
| <b>Intensity measurement 'Tonnes of<br/>CO<sub>2</sub>e per £m Total Income'</b> | <b>106.0</b>                            | <b>112.1</b>                  | <b>157.30</b>                |

## 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 2015 to 31 March 2016.
- 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 3,296 tonnes (8.5%) from 2014/15. Contributory factors are: a reduction in staff numbers; energy efficiency initiatives; continued rationalisation of the Council's estate; generally milder weather, and the disposal of redundant properties.

## 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 14 April 2014, the DEFRA web based tool was used to obtain the conversion factors used to calculate emissions in kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) using 2014 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<br>(in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e) | 2015/16       | Exclusions | % of activity data that is estimated | 2014/15       | 2008/09 (Baseline) |
|---|---------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Oil   | 449           | 0          | 0                                    | 450           | 3,013              |
| Gas   | 10,253        | 0          | 17.04***                             | 10,442        | 16,202             |
| Fleet   | 425           | 0          | 0                                    | 466           | 1,391              |
| Process   | 0             | *          | 100                                  | 0             | 0                  |
| Fugitive  | 0             | **         | 100                                  | 0             | 0                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>11,128</b> |            |                                      | <b>11,538</b> | <b>20,606</b>      |

\* 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 for CRC as estimated.

| Scope 2<br>(in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e) | 2015/16       | Exclusions | % of activity data that is estimated | 2014/15       | 2008/09 (Baseline) |
|---|---------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Grid Electricity                                | 17,365        | 0          | 1.93*                                | 19,545        | 27,598             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>17,365</b> |            |                                      | <b>19,545</b> | <b>27,598</b>      |

\* Percentage of annual consumption reported for CRC as estimated.

| Scope 3<br>(in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e) | 2015/16      | Exclusions | % of activity data that is estimated | 2014/15      | 2008/09 (Baseline) |
|---|--------------|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Fuel & Energy not in 1 & 2 (WTT)                | 5,799        | 0          | 9.8                                  | 6,539        | 6,000              |
| Business travel                                 | 667          | 0          | 0                                    | 745          | 1,189              |
| Water   | 225          | 0          | 0*                                   | 267          | 325                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>6,692</b> |            |                                      | <b>7,551</b> | <b>7,514</b>       |

\* 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 |                             |         |         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| 2013/14                | Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e |         |         |
|                        | Scope 1                     | Scope 2 | Scope 3 |
| Total Global           | 11,128                      | 17,365  | 6,692   |
| UK                     | 11,128                      | 17,365  | 6,692   |

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has been used to calculate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions expressed as CO<sub>2</sub>e (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. Emissions targets are set with the long-term goal of reducing the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 60% by 2025 and to adapt to the changes in climate that will occur.
- 9.2. The most recent Carbon Performance Summary reported a 30.97% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions against the 2008/09 baseline.

## **10. Intensity Measurement**

- 10.1. The intensity measurement used is “Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per £m Total Income”. The income figure is obtained from the Council’s “REVENUE MONITORING 2015/16 QUARTER 3 (TO DECEMBER 2015)” report.
- 10.2. The intensity measurement has reduced for 2015/16.

## **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: 37,572 MWh**  
**Green Electricity Purchased: 22,585 MWh**  
**GHG Reduction due to purchase of ‘green’ electricity: 10,439 CO<sub>2</sub>e**

- 13.1. Over the 2015/16 financial year Wirral Council purchased electricity for approximately 400 reportable supply points including 6 un-metered MPAN’s (Meter Point Administration Numbers). Wirral Council purchases energy under a managed supply arrangement. Over the reporting period, prices were updated from 1 October each year for HH and UMS. NHH prices are updated from 1 April each year. The proportion of electricity that was Climate Change Levy exempt was specified in the contract documents provided by each supplier.
- 13.2. The withdrawal of the CCL exemption for ‘green’ electricity has led to a reduction in the amount purchased. Prior to the withdrawal of the CCL exemption, it was possible to purchase ‘green’ electricity with no financial penalty. This is no longer generally the case.
- 13.3. All 6 un-metered MPAN’s are supplied by EDF. For the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015 the supplies were 100% CCL exempt apart from a single account that accounts for 0.04% of street lighting energy consumption. From 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016, the supplies were 100% ‘brown’.

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- 13.4. All Half Hourly Metered (HHM) sites supplied by EdF and covered by this GHG report are supplied with 100% Green Electricity apart from one school that has a 100 % brown tariff. The school is exempt from Climate Change Levy because of its charitable status. The exemption was in place until 30 September 2015. From 1 October 2015, supplies ceased to be classified as 'green'.
- 13.5. Reported Non Half-Hourly (NHH) electricity is supplied by British Gas Business. For the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015, 82.4% of the electrical energy supplied was classified as 'green'. The arrangement was extended to the end of the financial year with the agreement of HMRC following negotiations with BGB and Crown Commercial Service, the organisation who purchased the wholesale electricity from renewable sources over the six months prior to 1 April 2015.
- 13.6. Wirral Council generated 338.677 MWh of electricity from 24 on-site solar PV systems. None are backed up by REGO's within the UK but all are Feed-In-Tariff Scheme (FITS) registered. The third phase of installation was completed in December 2015 and the reported generation does not cover a full year. Design calculations suggest the new installations will raise the total annual output to 450 MWh.

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