

Wealden District Council Green House Gas Emissions Report 2010-2011

Introduction/Context

This greenhouse gas emissions report has been produced in accordance with new guidance issued by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) requiring local authorities to publish a report of greenhouse gas emissions arising from their own estates and operations. It supersedes previous Government guidance for reporting carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions under the National Indicator NI185. The key difference between the two reporting methods is that emissions in this report cover not only CO₂ but all 6 main greenhouse gases, collectively known as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). These are defined by the Kyoto Protocol as: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), nitrous oxide (N₂O), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Wealden District Council has been calculating and reporting its CO₂ emissions as part of the National Indicator NI185. In January 2011, the Council set a target of 15% reduction in CO₂ emissions by March 2015 compared to the 2008/09 NI185 baseline. The Council will continue to monitor its emissions in accordance with the new methodology and will now report in CO₂e.

More information on the methodology used in this report can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/economy/business-efficiency/reporting/>

Emissions Summary

	<i>2010/11 Emissions</i>	<i>2009/10 Emissions</i>
	Tonnes CO ₂ e	Tonnes CO ₂ e
Scope 1	3,260	3,423
Scope 2	949	983
Scope 3	312	320
Total Gross Emissions	4,521	4,726
Carbon offsets	0	0
Certified Green tariff	0	0
Total Annual Net Emissions	4,521	4,726
Scope 1 & 2 Intensity Measurement (Tonnes of CO₂e per resident)	0.029	0.030

*See section 13 below for details of green electricity purchased

Supporting Explanations

1. Organisation

Wealden District Council is a second tier local authority employing approximately 476 full time equivalent staff and serving a population of 144,125 (2011 mid-year estimate) over an area of 323 square miles. The Council currently operates its own housing stock and in-house waste collection service providing residential and commercial waste collection within the district and surrounding areas.

Until recently the Council operated from two main headquarter sites located in Crowborough and Hailsham. In May 2011 the Hailsham site was closed for refurbishment and officers decanted to the Crowborough site and other rented offices. The Council plans to relocate all staff to the Hailsham site in summer 2012 and thereafter operate from a single site headquarters. The impact of these moves will not be seen until emissions for 2011-2012 are calculated. The main office is therefore currently located in Pine Grove, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1DH.

2. Reporting Period

This report covers greenhouse gas emissions from Wealden District Council's estates and operations in financial years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

3. Change in Emissions

Our reported emissions have fallen by 205 tonnes (4.3%) in 2010/11 compared to 2009/10. This reduction can be attributed to a variety of measures including improved efficiency of commercial fleet vehicles and restructure of rounds, improvements in IT, boilers and controls, and greater awareness amongst staff of the need to save energy.

Emissions from electricity use in corporate buildings (offices, depots and sheltered schemes) has fallen by 34 tonnes (3.5%) even though electricity now produces nearly three times the amount of emissions per kWh than gas energy. Emissions from gas use in corporate buildings shows a decrease of 11 tonnes (0.8%). However, 2010/11 was considerably colder than 2009/10 with 208 more heating Degree Days for the region, an increase of 9.4%. By applying a degree day adjustment fraction (0.906) to gas used in 2009/10, an estimate of what should have been the consumption (relative to weather conditions) can be made. This shows that the actual gas use was 844,816 kWh less than predicted indicating the energy saving resulting from more efficient boilers and improved system controls.

4. Approach

This is Wealden District Council's first Green House Gas Emissions Report. We have followed the Government's "Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions" (September 2009) and used the October 2010 Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

5. Organisational Boundary

The report uses the Financial Control Approach, whereby only those sources of emissions over which the Council has financial and operational control are included. This includes the Council offices, depots, sheltered/temporary accommodation schemes and commercial vehicle fleet.

Direct and indirect emissions from Leisure centres have been included as scope 3 emissions (see below) as this service is outsourced and the Council does not have full financial or operational control. Emissions from employee business travel are also included as scope 3 emissions.

6. Operational Scopes

We have measured our scope 1, 2 and significant scope 3 emissions as defined below:

Scope 1 (Direct emissions)

Activities owned or controlled by the Council that release emissions straight into the atmosphere e.g. combustion in boilers and vehicles.

Included:

- Gas use in buildings: 2 main offices, 3 depots and 16 sheltered/temporary housing schemes. Figures obtained from manual meter reads.
- Fuel use in fleet vehicles and machinery: refuse and recycling collection, estate wardens, maintenance, street cleaning, grounds maintenance, trade collections, and cesspool services etc. Figures obtained from fuel card consumption data.

Excluded:

- Fugitive emissions from air conditioning and refrigeration units

Scope 2 (Energy indirect)

Emissions being released into the atmosphere as a consequence of the Council's activities but which occur at sources we do not own or control e.g. consumption of purchased electricity.

Included:

- Purchased electricity in buildings: 2 main offices, 3 depots, 16 sheltered/temporary accommodation housing schemes (communal areas only). Figures obtained from manual meter reads.

Excluded:

- Private electricity consumption in flatted self contained sheltered scheme properties.
- Purchased electricity at miscellaneous sites including car parks and toilets. These are either non metered supplies where consumption is estimated or where meter reading is infrequent. Consideration will be given to inclusion in future reporting.

Scope 3 (Other indirect):

Emissions that occur at sources which the Council does not own or control and which are not classified as Scope 2 emissions e.g. employee business travel and outsourced services.

Included:

- Employee business travel (based on mileage claims – distance travelled)
- Gas and electricity consumption at 3 Leisure Centres. Figures obtained from manual meter reads taken by leisure provider.

Excluded:

- Employee commuting
- Public transport and air travel
- Purchased materials

Sources of Emissions

	<i>2010/11 Emissions</i>	<i>2009/10 Emissions</i>
	Tonnes CO ₂ e	Tonnes CO ₂ e
Scope 1		
Building Gas Consumption	1395	1406
Fleet Vehicles & Machinery	1865	2017
Process Emissions	N/A	N/A
Fugitive Emissions	Not Calculated	Not Calculated
Total Scope 1	3260	3423
Scope 2		
Purchased Electricity (buildings)	949	983
Total Scope 2	949	983
Scope 3		
Leisure Centre Gas	54	48
Leisure Centre Electricity	92	120
Employee Business Travel	166	152
Employee Commuting	Not Calculated	Not Calculated
Total Scope 3	312	320

7. Geographic Break Down

Whilst the majority of the Council's operations occur within the Wealden District boundary, some services are provided on a commercial basis to neighbouring

districts and boroughs. This includes trade waste collections and collection of domestic green waste on behalf of Eastbourne Borough Council. These emissions have been included in the fleet vehicle emissions above.

8. Base Year

For the purposes of this report, the base year is 2009/10 which is the first year calculations of green house gas emissions have been undertaken. Development of a base year recalculation policy incorporating significant thresholds will be undertaken.

9. Targets

Wealden District Council has set a target of 15% reduction in CO₂ emissions by March 2015. This covers all scopes listed in this report. Consideration will be given to converting this to a CO₂e target. It should be recognised that any changes in service delivery models could potentially have a considerable impact on emissions levels and ability to measure and report those emissions.

Fiona Berry, Sustainability Coordinator is responsible for measuring and reporting against this target.

10. Intensity Measurement

We have chosen an intensity ratio for our combined scope 1 and 2 emissions of 'Tonnes of CO₂e per resident of Wealden'. This reflects the Council's provision of services to its residents across the District. The mid year estimated number of residents in 2010 was 144,096 and in 2011 was 144,125.

11. External Assurance Statement

The Council has not commissioned an external assurance assessment and this report has been produced using existing resources.

12. Carbon Offsets

The Council did not purchase carbon offsets in 2010/11 or 2009/10.

13. Green Tariffs

Wealden District Council purchase 100% renewable energy for both the main office sites from Scottish and Southern Energy (representing almost 50% of purchased electricity). However, as this tariff does not meet the offsetting criteria set out in OFGEM's 'Final Green Supply Guidelines' no reductions in net emissions have been made in the final emissions calculations.