

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)

Background

Bradford Council operates a diverse array of public services serving a population of over 500,000 citizens. The Council is participating in the UK Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) energy efficiency scheme to develop energy management strategies that will reduce emissions related to heat and power requirements. The focus of the CRC scheme is to reduce carbon emissions. However this report includes other significant GHGs such as methane and nitrous oxide. These are included in the totals and are expressed as CO₂ equivalents (CO₂e). Emissions released directly through fossil fuel combustion such as motor vehicles or boilers are shown under Scope 1. Indirect emissions released by generating electricity are listed under Scope 2. Business travel is a significant release of emissions from transport not owned by the Council - these are listed under Scope 3. Bradford Council has committed to reduce the organisations overall carbon emissions by 40% using 2005 as a baseline year.

Table 1 City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council GHG emissions 2009 - 2012

	Global tonnes CO ₂ e		
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Scope 1			
Fossil fuels	29,859	31,834	27,216
Council owned transport	7,759	7,511	6,741
Scope 2			
Electricity	41,371	42,517	44,543
Scope 3			
Business travel	2,399	1,129	1,193
Total	81,388	82,991	79,693

What have we reported?

This report does not include fugitive emissions from air conditioning units or refrigeration units due to a lack of data. Similarly data was unavailable for emissions from waste processing activities carried out by the Council, but we have included those emissions from waste transport activity.

Why have our emissions changed?

The reduction in emissions from previously reported years can be accounted in part by the decommissioning of older coal and oil fired boilers and the increasing use of biomass boilers across the Council's estate. Efficiencies have also been made from fleet management that have reduced the quantity of road transport fuels purchased.

Conversion factors

Finally the previous GHG report submitted in 2011 reported higher emissions associated with electricity use than those reported previously (2009-2011). This is due to a higher conversion factor used from the published 2010 DECC conversion factors. This report uses the factors found in Annex 3 of Defra's 2012 guidelines for GHG conversion factors. The guidance advises users to update previous years' electricity by using the latest conversion factors due to greater accuracy of the revisions.