

REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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PENDLE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL EMISSIONS REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Policy and Resources Committee of our Annual Emissions Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Annual Emissions Report is noted and approved

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To enable publication of our Annual Emissions Report and assess progress towards Pendle's Climate Emergency Declaration.

ISSUE

Since 2011, we have been producing annual emissions reports to monitor emissions from our operations, using the latest DEFRA published emission factors and calculation spreadsheet.

In July 2019, PBC declared a Climate Emergency, committing itself to carbon neutral status by 2030. The Annual Emissions Report provides a mechanism for monitoring progress towards our carbon reduction ambition.

Earlier this year, One Carbon World undertook an assessment of our 2019/20 carbon footprint and calculated our emissions per head of staff. It indicated emissions were similar to that of the national average at 12.7 tonnes per employee.

As with the One Carbon World assessment, our emissions data is captured within one of 3 categories (defined as Scope 1, Scope 2 or Scope 3 in the DEFRA Guidance). The data for each category varies greatly hence the importance of defining the Scopes within the report:

Scope 1 – Fuels used in boilers, furnaces or turbines.

In the Council's case, this is natural gas used in Council owned and managed properties (where the Council is responsible for the boiler) and Council controlled transport (mainly waste and cleansing services, ground maintenance vehicles and

light commercial vans). This doesn't include council owned Pendle Leisure Trust sites.

Scope 2 -Consumption of purchased electricity.

For the Council this is electricity consumed within Council owned and managed buildings. This doesn't include council owned Pendle Leisure Trust sites

Scope 3 –This includes business travel for staff where they are using their own vehicles and outsourced activities. It includes Pendle Leisure Trust controlled buildings and staff travel.

Both Scopes 1 & 2 relate directly to PBC generated emissions from our building stock and transport fleet. The building stock includes all council buildings, including Liberata managed sites such as markets and council shops. It does not include PLT sites.

Scope 3 relates to our indirect emissions; those generated from staff business travel and from our outsourced services.

Our corporate annual emissions reduction targets are currently 5% for our transport fleet and 2% for our building stock. Although these data sources are included in the Annual Emission Report, the methodology for our Emissions Report is wider (as outlined above), with the Scopes including a range of energy data. However, we are still able to extrapolate the necessary data to inform progress against our carbon reduction targets.

It should also be noted that carbon conversion factors released annually by DEFRA for each category within the 3 scopes differ year on year. Hence a reduction in energy usage doesn't necessarily equate to the same reduction once the carbon conversion factors have been applied.

Scope 1

Our gas consumption reduced by 1% in 2020/21, with an 8% reduction observed in Nelson Town Hall.

Emission from our fleet increased over the reporting period. Our vehicles used almost an additional 10,000 litres in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20, equating to a 1% increase in carbon emissions.

Scope 2

Similarly, our emissions from electricity (Scope 2) decreased by 9% and was achieved mainly through reductions in Nelson Town Hall (21%) and the Pavilions.

Scope 3

Our business travel halved during 2020/21 with staff driving 43,000 miles compared to 88,000 the previous year.

Energy consumption from outsourced services (PLT sites) reduced by 35%.

Table 1- Carbon emissions

	CO2 emissions 2019/20	CO2 emissions 2010/21	% difference
Scope 1			
Gas consumption	242	239	-1
Owned transport	605	612	1
Process emissions	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Fugitive emissions	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Total scope 1	847	851	0
Scope 2			
Purchased electricity	134	121	-9
Total scope 2	134	121	-9
Significant Scope 3			
Business travel	25	12	-52
Employee commuting	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Waste Disposal	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Product in use	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Outsourced services	1713	1112	-35
Total significant scope 3	1738	1124	-35
TOTAL	2,719	2,096	-23

Observations

Energy consumption over 2020/21 reflects the patterns generated over the pandemic. The reduction in both gas and electricity in our building stock reflects the shift to home working over this time with many offices remaining unoccupied over the pandemic. Buildings still require heating though and hence the gas reduction has not been as significant as the decline in electricity consumption. However, it should be noted that although these savings were noted across the PBC stock, staff home energy usage would have increased.

The significant reduction in staff business miles can also be attributed to the pandemic, as virtual meetings became more prominent and reduced the need for staff to travel.

The increase in fuel use by PBC vehicle fleet is also typical of the patterns observed during the pandemic. The pandemic placed greater demand on Environmental Services with the lockdowns generating increased waste from prolonged periods at home. There was evidence of a huge increase in waste during the pandemic. For example, one week during lockdown in Zones 6 – 10, 461 tonnes of waste was collected, compared to typical pre-pandemic levels of 353 tonnes.

Additionally, Pendle's green spaces became more popular as they were the only means of entertainment and exercise for residents. This meant increased maintenance of the sites, resulting in additional visits to empty bins and complete litterpicks.

The significant reduction in Scope 3 (outsources services) reflects the period of closure of PLT sites over the pandemic period.

Performance Indicators- PBC Carbon reduction targets

PBC has adopted the following annual carbon reduction targets:

- (i) Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reduction from local authority building stock (2%)
- (ii) Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reduction from local authority travel (vehicle fleet) (5%)

It should be noted that these targets exclude PLT and use a different framework to that used for PBC's Annual Emissions Report. The 3 Scope methodology outlined above is not applicable to present the PI's, i.e (i) PI combines data captured in both Scope 1 & 2.

Although in 2020/21 PBC exceeded its 2% carbon reduction target for 2020/21 for its building stock achieving a total of 7% reduction, carbon emissions from the fleet of vehicles increased over the year and the Council did not achieve its annual 5% reduction target. Fuel consumption increased by 4%, equating to a 1% increase in carbon emissions.

Summary

We have now compiled our 2020/21 Annual Emissions Report. Although significant reductions were achieved over 2020/21 within Scope 2 & 3, Scope 1 progress was somewhat limited.

When considering the carbon reduction targets, we appear to have exceeded the building stock target of 2%, with notable reductions in both gas and electricity (7% reduction). However, an increase of 1% was observed for our PBC transport fleet. This is the second year that we have not made any progress in reducing carbon emissions from our fleet.

Environmental Services is currently exploring low emission options for our fleet for a trial period of six months, as agreed by PRC in October. These alternatives, Hydro Vegetable Oil (HVO) and Gas to Liquid (GTL), are cleaner burning to standard diesel and should significantly assist PBC in achieving its carbon reduction target over the next 12 months.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Approving the Annual Emissions Report will help deliver against national and local carbon reduction targets and demonstrate commitment to the Climate Emergency Declaration.

Financial: None arising directly from this report.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from this report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: This Annual Emissions Report is fundamental to ensure we continue to effectively monitor and reduce our carbon footprint.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report

Appendix

Appendix 1- Annual Emissions Report 2020/21