

REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
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PENDLE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL EMISSIONS REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Climate Emergency Working Group 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 data and assess progress towards Pendle Council's Climate Emergency Declaration.

ISSUE

1. 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.
2. In July 2019, Pendle Borough Council (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.
3. 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.

4. 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 2 light commercial vans). This doesn't include Council owned Pendle Leisure Trust sites.

Scope 2 - Consumption of purchased electricity.

5. 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.

6. 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 Pendle Leisure Trust (PLT) sites.
7. Scope 3 relates to our indirect emissions; those generated from staff business travel and from our outsourced services.
8. 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.
9. 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

10. Our gas consumption reduced by 22% in 2021/22. This reduction came across Pendle Council's building stock, as 71% of buildings saw a decrease in consumption.
11. Emissions from our fleet also decreased over the reporting period, as our vehicles used almost 10,000 fewer litres of fuel.

Scope 2

12. Similarly, our emissions from electricity (Scope 2) decreased by 30%, but this was a result of the decarbonisation of the electricity grid and not reduced usage.

Scope 3

13. Energy consumption from outsourced services (PLT sites) increased by 81% however.
14. Unfortunately emissions from business travel have not yet been calculated due to delays in receiving the data for this. With business travel emissions only forming a small minority of emissions overall conclusions should not be altered by this however.

Table 1 – Carbon Emissions Report

	CO2 emissions 2020/21	CO2 emissions 2021/22	% difference
Scope 1			
Gas consumption	239	186	-22
Owned transport	612	594	-3
Process emissions	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Fugitive emissions	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Total scope 1	851	780	-8
Scope 2			
Purchased electricity	121	85	-30
Total scope 2	121	85	-30
Significant Scope 3			
Business travel	12	To be calculated	
Employee commuting	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Waste Disposal	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Product in use	Not calculated	Not calculated	
Outsourced services	1112	2016	81
Total significant scope 3	1124	2016	81
TOTAL	2,096	2,881	37

Observations

15. Just as the overall trend of last year’s emissions report reflected changes caused by entering the pandemic, the overall trajectory of carbon emissions this year is largely related to the lessening impact of COVID-19, particularly on outsourced services. The notable exceptions of the Council’s gas consumption and purchased electricity must be noted here though.

16. The strong decline in purchased electricity can be explained by the conversion factor for this drastically reducing as a result of a decrease in coal use and an increase in renewables for electricity generation. In fact, electricity usage increased by just over 15,000 kWh (approximately a 3.6% increase).

17. However, the comparable decline in tonnes of CO2e emitted through gas usage by PBC is largely explained by a decrease in usage and not a changing conversion factor.

18. Emissions from PBC owned transport remained largely similar, with the Council’s fleet fuel pilot not starting until the 1 April 2022: just after the reporting period finished for this report.

19. The significant increase in Scope 3 (outsourced services) reflects the opening up of Pendle Leisure Trust sites as the impact of COVID-19 on leisure services lessened. The results for this are broadly in line with pre-pandemic levels.

Performance Indicators – PBC Carbon reduction targets

20. PBC has adopted the following annual carbon reduction targets:

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

21. 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.

22. For 2021/22, Pendle Council strongly exceeded its 2% carbon reduction target for building stock with a reduction of 24.7%. Whilst PBC's emissions from owned transport decreased by 3%, this was short of the Council's 5% target.

Summary

23. Significant progress was made in scopes 1 and 2. Whilst emissions reductions from Pendle Council's owned transport did not quite meet our 5% reduction target, this is likely to improve next year as the impact of our pilot (which started 1 April 2022) into Hydro Vegetable Oil (HVO) and Gas to Liquid (GTL) is felt.

24. Unfortunately scope 3 saw a significant increase in emissions. This was due to the re-opening of Pendle Leisure Trust sites, with the results for this being largely in-line with pre-pandemic levels.

25. With scope 3 forming a strong majority of emissions, and with the potential to widen both our Climate Emergency Action Plan and associated targets in future, further focus on reducing emissions from our outsourced services could be a future consideration.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Approving the Annual Emissions data 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: The 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.

APPENDICES

N/A

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A