

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual report on greenhouse gas emissions

Financial year 2019/20

Emissions results for 2019/20

GHG emissions data for period 1 st April 2019 to 31 st March 2020 (Tonnes CO ₂ e)		
	2019/20	Base year 2018/19
Scope 1	3,620	3,164
Scope 2	868	864
Scope 3	1,134	1,032
TOTAL GROSS EMISSIONS	5,622	5,060
Carbon offsets	0	0
Green tariffs	0	0

Organisation information

Cheltenham Borough Council is a second-tier local authority in Gloucestershire and employs around 230 FTE staff (excluding casual and temporary). Cheltenham Borough has a geographic area of 4,663 hectares and a population of 116,000. Our address is: Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 9SA.

Reporting period

1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Organisational boundary

The council owns a diverse range of properties. We have seven large sites, which includes a leisure centre and a number of listed buildings. We also own a wide range of smaller sites including toilets, pavilions, car parks, fountains and other miscellaneous properties. The majority of our larger sites are leased out and where tenants receive their energy bills direct from the supplier these properties are not included in this report.

Leisure & culture services

The Cheltenham Trust has run leisure and culture services for the Council since October 2014. The Trust is an independent organisation which occupies and operates the majority of the council's large buildings – Leisure@ and Prince of Wales Stadium, Cheltenham Town Hall, The Wilson Art Gallery & Museum and Pittville Pump Room. Emissions attributable to the Cheltenham Trust are listed separately in this report, but form part of the council's total emissions.

Waste & recycling service

Since April 2012, the council's waste & recycling service has been delivered by Ubico, a company wholly owned by Cheltenham Borough Council and Cotswold District Council. Emissions attributable to Ubico are listed separately in this report, but form part of the council's total emissions.

Housing stock

The council's housing stock is managed by an Arms' Length Management Company, Cheltenham Borough Homes (CBH). Where CBH operations are housed in council buildings their energy consumption is included

in this report, where operations are housed in other buildings it is not. Fuel consumption by the CBH vehicle fleet is included under scope 3 as the council has no control over the size, use or efficiency of the fleet. With the exception of communal areas in some sheltered housing, emissions from the council's housing stock are excluded in this report.

Gloucestershire Airport

The council holds a 50% shareholding in Gloucestershire Airport and therefore includes 50% of emissions from the airport's ground operations under scope 3.

Operational scopes

We have measured our scope 1 and 2 emissions and some significant scope 3 emissions. Scope 3 includes:

- Business travel;
- Fleet consumption by CBH;
- Transmission and distribution (T&D) element for electricity; the council has no control over this element of electricity consumption;
- Commuting; we have used south west travel survey data to make an estimate of this;
- Purchasing of goods and services. An in-depth exercise was carried out externally as part of the calculation of our baseline emissions. As we do not currently have the capacity in-house to replicate the exercise we have rolled over the baseline figure to ensure we continue to take account of goods and services we purchase.

		GHG emissions 2019/20 (tCO ₂ e)	GHG emissions 2018/19 baseline (tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1			
Council	<i>Gas</i>	367.04	355.24
	<i>Fleet diesel</i>	10.35	28.21
	<i>Fleet petrol</i>	18.22	7.13
Cheltenham Trust	<i>Gas</i>	1,298.94	1,245.95
Ubico	<i>Fleet diesel</i>	1,394.41	970.28
	<i>Fleet petrol</i>	23.48	27.66
	<i>Gas oil</i>	80.26	26.91
Ubico & shared occupancy property (Depot)	<i>Gas</i>	101.43	186.49
CBH (sheltered housing communal areas)	<i>Gas</i>	325.84	316.60
Total scope 1		3,619.97	3,164.46
Scope 2			
Council	<i>Electricity</i>	236.38	220.39
Cheltenham Trust	<i>Electricity</i>	520.23	524.75
Ubico	<i>Electricity</i>	95.20	105.10
Recharged properties	<i>Electricity</i>	15.76	13.51
Total scope 2		867.57	863.75
Scope 3			
Council	<i>Mileage claims</i>	16.40	18.00
	<i>Rail travel</i>	0.46	0.58
	<i>Twinning travel</i>	2.01	6.11
	<i>Commuting</i>	56.58	61.70

	<i>Purchasing of goods & services</i>	782.00	782.00
	<i>Electricity (T&D)</i>	19.97	18.79
Cheltenham Trust	<i>Electricity (T&D)</i>	43.96	44.73
Recharged properties	<i>Electricity (T&D)</i>	1.33	1.15
Ubico & shared occupancy property	<i>Electricity (T&D)</i>	8.04	8.96
Cheltenham Borough Homes	<i>Fuel consumption</i>	96.65	67.53
Gloucestershire Airport	<i>50% ground operations</i>	106.80	22.19
Total scope 3		1,134.22	1,031.74

We have used the published DEFRA emissions factors for 2019 for all 2019/20 calculations.

Changes in emissions compared with 2018/19 baseline

Our overall reported emissions have gone up by 11% compared with the last reporting year. We have looked into why this is and have drawn the following conclusions.

75% of the increase in 2019/20 is attributed to the council's waste & recycling service, managed by Ubico, and appears to be a result of an improved data-gathering process, which has revealed a higher level of fuel consumption by the Ubico waste & recycling fleet. Ubico data capture and accuracy has improved considerably since 2018/19 both in terms of correct allocation of fuel and investment in better systems for capturing information, therefore it is likely the picture is now more accurate.

The remainder of the increase in emissions in 2019/20 is the result of a change in the calculation method for Cheltenham Borough Homes' fuel consumption, a calculation error found in the 2018/19 figures relating to Gloucestershire Airport and the balance of other increases and decreases.

Base year

Our base year is 2018/19.

Targets

We have a target to be a net zero carbon council by 2030.

Carbon offsets

We have not purchased any carbon credits.

Green tariffs

We purchase green electricity from a mix of solar, hydro and wind sources, but do not claim zero emissions for our electricity supply.