

Coventry City Council

Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2017/18

1.0 Introduction

Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge facing the world today. Coventry City Council has recognised that it has a key part to play in mitigating climate change.

The City Council recognises that it has a duty to lead by example. The Council is a major employer and consumer of resources within the city. It operates from a varied portfolio of over 200 assets comprising of council offices, libraries, care homes, car parks and operates a fleet of around 320 vehicles. Therefore, we have set a target to reduce the Council's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 35% by the year 2020.

This report provides an annual overview of GHG emissions from Coventry City Council's estate and operations and follows guidance and conversion factors provided by DEFRA (Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs) on how to measure and monitor greenhouse gas emissions. This report presents GHG emissions (in CO₂e) for 2008/09 (base year), 2016/17 and the financial year 2017/18. The structure of this report follows Government guidance.

2.0 Results

	2017/18	2016/17	2008/09 (Base year)
Scope 1	5,235	4,537	8,343
Transport Fuel	3,020	2,925	4,050
Gas Oil	451	5.4	573
Natural Gas	1,764	1,607	3,720
Scope 2	9,598	9,830	17,452
Heating (property)	197	301	
Electricity (property)	5,400	4,751	6,937
Electricity (street lighting)	4,000	4,778	10,516
Scope 3	4,313	4,553	9,496
Electrical transmission and distribution	879	1,024	1,340
Business travel	464	611	1,055
Outsourced services	2,970	2,877	7,101
Total gross emissions	19,146	18,920	35,292
Carbon offsets	0	0	0

Total annual net emissions	19,146	18,920	35,292
Intensity measurement (tonnes of CO ₂ e per FTE)	3.99	3.62	4.51

3.0 Supporting Information

3.1 Organisation Information

Coventry City Council is responsible for providing a wide range of services to people who live within the city, to people who visit the city and to businesses and other organisations based in Coventry. It currently serves a population of 345,385 and has approximately 3,720 full time equivalent (FTE) employees.

3.2 Reporting Period

1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

3.3 Change in Emissions

Coventry City Council's GHG emissions from scopes 1 and 2 combined have fallen 42.5% and emissions from scope 3 have fallen 54.59% from 2008/09.

The council achieved its target of a 35% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 at the end of the financial year 2015/16. While this year's results show a slight increase in emissions from 2016/17, issues with data means that caution should be applied when making comparisons.

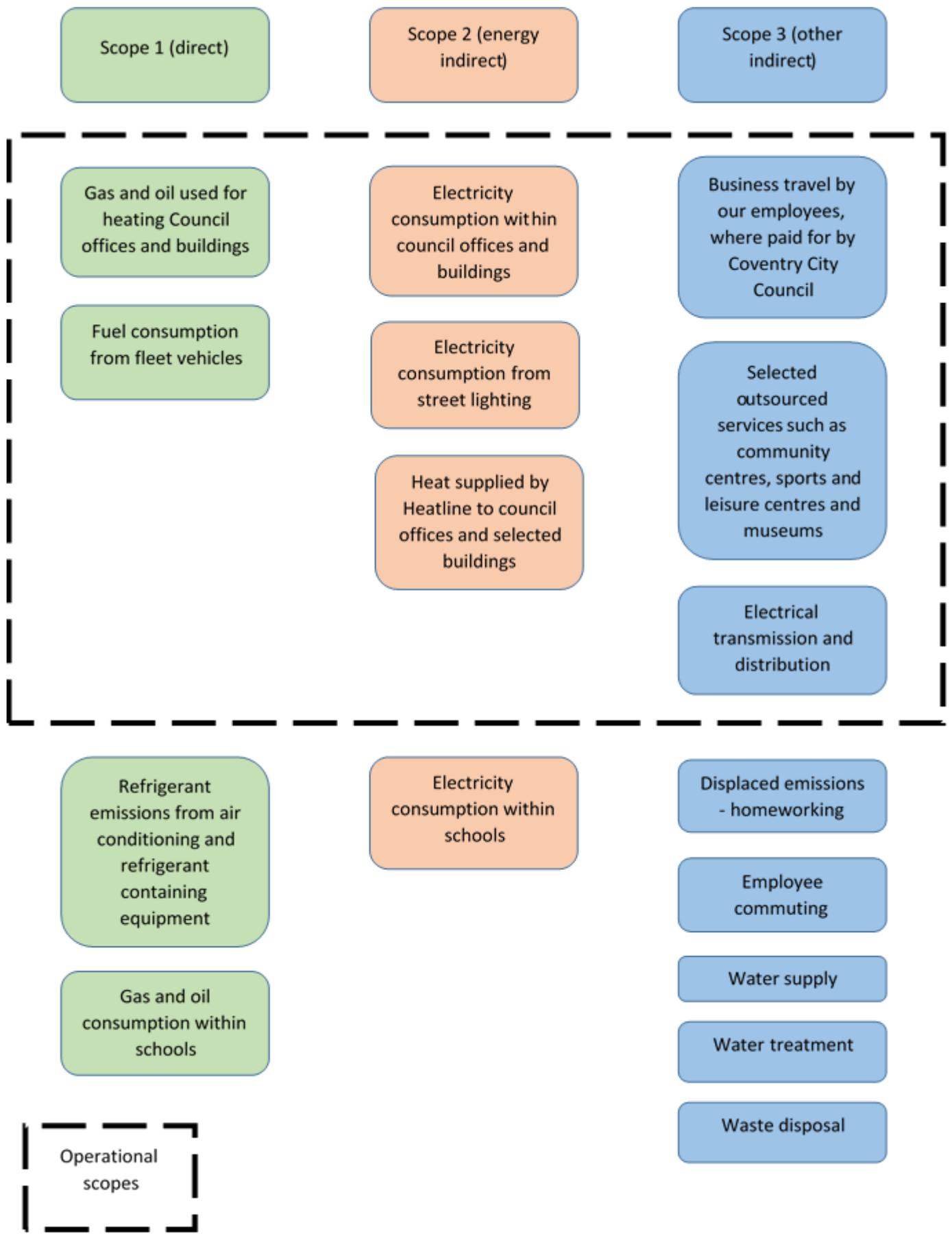
The Council's Carbon Management Plan 2014 outlines the main initiatives which have contributed to our carbon reductions. In October 2017, many of the council's services were relocated to One Friargate in a move that is expected to cut carbon emissions by one third. With the move being mid-year and the building not fully connected to Heatline, the expected carbon reductions are not reflected in this year's report. In addition to this, the Council were still responsible for Civic Centres 1-4 until December 2017 so more energy was being consumed than was actually required.

More information can be found in Coventry City Council's Carbon Management Report, which is available online.

3.4 Operational Scope

We have measured our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions for all properties and vehicles that we fully own and control. We have reported some Scope 3 emissions, based on the availability of comprehensive and reliable data; and the extent to which Coventry City Council has control over the operation/activity in question, see figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Coventry City Council's operational scopes



3.5 Intensity Measurement

We have taken the approach of measuring the intensity of scope 1 and 2 emissions via tonnes of CO₂e per FTE employee. Most recent figures show there are about 3,720 FTE employees in the core council, this is less than in previous years and as such, the intensity is higher.

3.6 Approach and Methodology

The Council has followed Defra's Guidelines on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions are reported in tonnes of CO₂e. We have used the financial control approach, meaning we have identified and reported on emissions from the operations over which we have financial control.

3.7 Limitations of Assessment

It has been recognised that there are issues with the reporting of business mileage, for scope 3 (business travel), which affects the accuracy of our carbon emissions. We are looking at the measures we can take to develop and improve accuracy going forward.

In addition, there were reporting issues with the council's gas oil consumption for 2016/17 and so this is not a true reflection of consumption and should not be used when making comparisons.

Collection of emissions data is complex and while significant progress has been made to improve the accuracy and reliability of the council's carbon footprint, there is still more to do. The result reported here is based on the best information available at the time.

3.8 Geographical Boundary

All of our activities and operations are carried out in the UK.

3.9 Base Year

The base year for the council's carbon footprint is 2008/09.

3.10 Targets

We achieved our reduction target of 35% by 2020 in 2015/16.

3.11 External Assurances

We have not sought external assurances over our reported emissions.

3.12 Carbon Offsetting and Green Tariffs

We have not purchased any carbon offsets, nor do we consume energy from green tariffs.