

# Report on Green House Gas Emissions from Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council's own Estate and Operations 2018/2019



## 1. Introduction

The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the United Kingdom to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050 against a 1990 baseline. Local authorities such as Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council have a pivotal role to play when it comes to achieving this goal with the legislation placing an emphasis on councils to set a leading example. The Borough Council understands the importance of its role and has made a public commitment to delivering “a healthy, active and safe Borough” as one its key corporate priorities identified in the current Council Plan. This report indicates the greenhouse gas emissions from the council's own estate and operations using a standard format and methodology suggested by the Government.

## 2. Company Information

Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council is a district local authority in North Staffordshire providing a range of services to a resident population of 123,871. The registered address is Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire, ST5 1BL.

## 3. Reporting period

1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

## 4. Summary of Greenhouse Emissions.

Table 1 summarises the total annual net emissions of greenhouse gases from the Council's estate and operations for the last four years compared to a baseline year of 2009/10.

| <b>Table 1: GHG emissions data for Newcastle under Lyme<br/>Borough Council</b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
|   | <b>2018/2019</b> | <b>2017/2018</b> | <b>2016/2017</b> | <b>2015/2016</b> | <b>2009/10</b> |
| <b>Scope 1</b>  | 2183             | 2478             | 2253             | 2068             | 2040           |
| <b>Scope 2</b>  | 485              | 772              | 913              | 970              | 1308           |
| <b>Scope 3</b>  | 475              | 457              | 575              | 788              | 788            |
| <b>Total gross emissions</b>  | <b>3143</b>      | <b>3707</b>      | <b>3741</b>      | <b>3826</b>      | <b>4136</b>    |
| <b>Carbon offsets</b>   | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0              |
| <b>Green Tariff</b>   | 0                | 0                | 0                | 256              | 0              |
| <b>Total net emissions</b>  | <b>3143</b>      | <b>3707</b>      | <b>3741</b>      | <b>3570</b>      | <b>4136</b>    |

## 5. Operational Scopes

We have measured scope 1, 2 and certain scope 3 emissions. Table 2 shows what is included in each scope measured in t CO<sup>2</sup>

| <b>Table 2: Comparative Breakdown of GHG emissions in tonnes for Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council</b> |                  |                |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
|   | <b>2018/2019</b> | <b>2017/18</b> | <b>2016/2017</b> | <b>2015/2016</b> |
| <b>Scope 1 (Direct emissions)</b>   |                  |                |                  |                  |
| Gas consumption   | 1080             | 1222*          | 1098             | 1159             |
| Owned Transport   | 1103             | 1256           | 1155             | 909              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>2183</b>      | <b>2478</b>    | <b>2253</b>      | <b>2068</b>      |
|   |                  |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Scope 2 (Indirect emissions)</b>   |                  |                |                  |                  |
| Purchased electricity   | 485              | 772*           | 913              | 970              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>485</b>       | <b>772</b>     | <b>913</b>       | <b>970</b>       |
|   |                  |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Significant Scope 3 (Indirect other)**</b>   |                  |                |                  |                  |
| Business Travel   | 45               | 45             | 45               | 45               |
| Employee commuting  | 302              | 302            | 355              | 355              |
| Waste Disposal from HQ  | 2                | 2              | 2                | 2                |
| Outsourced Activities   | 24               | 24             | 95               | 303              |
| Castle House (NBC use of the building as a tenant)***   | 61               | -              | -                | -                |
| Transmission and Distribution   | 41               | 84             | 78               | 83               |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>475</b>       | <b>457</b>     | <b>575</b>       | <b>788</b>       |
|   |                  |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Total gross emissions</b>  | <b>3143</b>      | <b>3707</b>    | <b>3741</b>      | <b>3826</b>      |
|   |                  |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Credits</b>  |                  |                |                  |                  |
| Green Tariff  | 0                | 0              | 0                | 256              |
| <b>Total net emissions</b>  | <b>3143</b>      | <b>3707</b>    | <b>3741</b>      | <b>3570</b>      |
|   |                  |                |                  |                  |

\*Scope 1 Gas Consumption and Scope 2 Purchased Electricity; a retrospective amendment has been made to the Years 2017/2018. Previously Gas Consumption had been reported as 1043 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, the corrected figure is 1222 tonnes. Scope 2 Purchased Electricity had been stated as 730 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, the corrected figure is 772 tonnes. It has transpired that previous meter readings provided in June 2018 for several buildings, but principally for Jubilee Leisure Centre inaccurately presented energy usage to be significantly lower than actual usage.

\*\*Business Mileage (emissions from vehicles used on Council business but not owned by the Council) and Commuting by Employees\* is based on the available information, which is from 2015/2016. Waste produced from the Civic Offices and Outsourced activities such as a major third party carrying out a statutory duty on our behalf is based on available information from 2017/2018.

\*\*\* This building is owned by Staffordshire County Council and is a shared public sector Hub which is fully electric with energy consumption costs apportioned amongst several organisations.

## 6. Reasons for Changes in Emissions

Total emissions have reduced from last year. In particular;

- Emissions from electricity usage have reduced assisted by the Council relocating its headquarters from a 1960's energy inefficient building to newly built energy efficient building; Castle House. Furthermore, there has been a change in the greenhouse gas reporting conversion factors for electricity generation, because nationally more electricity is being generated by burning gas and from renewable sources rather than more polluting coal.
- Emission from gas consumption has reduced to a level similar to that in 2016/2017. Last year, emissions were substantially higher, principally attributable to usage within the leisure centre. As a result the heat recovery system for the main pool has been replaced. Going forward, a number of expenditure control measures have been proposed and an energy audit has been commissioned. The closure of the Civic Offices and relocation of staff to Castle House, mentioned above, has also assisted because the old building was heated by gas whilst the new HQ is fully electric.
- There has been a fall in emissions from owned transport. Fuel usage has reduced due to a number of front line services have being streamlined including changes to make the green waste collection a chargeable service.

## 7. Baseline, Targets and Carbon Management Plan

The Carbon Management Plan had set an emissions reduction target to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, by 1241 tonnes (30%) from the 2009/10 baseline by the end of 2017. This target had been successfully met in 2017 and total annual net emissions have continued to decrease year on year.

On the 3rd April 2019, the Borough Council adopted a Climate Emergency Motion; this resolved to aim to make Newcastle under Lyme a carbon-neutral borough by 2030 and to establish and support a climate change action group, comprising of various representatives to encourage and coordinate the drive towards achieving this.

It is envisaged that the climate change action group will refresh the Council's Carbon Management Plan seeking to achieve carbon neutrality and to establish a new target.

## 8. Approach

We have followed the UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting published in June 2019; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2019>.

## 9. Organisational boundary

We have used the financial control approach consistent with our Carbon Trust Management Plan baseline collected in 2009/10.

## 10. Intensity measurement

We have chosen tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per resident of the Borough. The population figures for the Borough sourced from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment July 2015 are 123,871. In addition we have used tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per employee equivalent. The number of employees for the Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council In March 2018 was 551.

|   | 2018/19 | 2017/18 | 2016/17 | 2015/16 | 2009/10 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Intensity measurement 'Tonnes of tCO2e per resident of the Borough' | 0.025   | 0.028   | 0.030   | 0.029   | 0.033   |
| Intensity measurement 'Tonnes of tCO2e per employee of the Borough' | 5.718   | 6.318   | 7.235   | 7.227   | 7.119   |

## 11. External Assurance Statement

We have not received an independent external assurance statement.

## 12. Carbon offsets

We have not purchased carbon offsets.

## 13. Green tariffs

We have not purchased electricity from green tariffs.

## 14. Electricity Generation

The Council has solar panels and a combined heating power system which have generated electricity at the Jubilee 2 Health and Leisure complex.

## 15. Further information

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