

South Hams District Council

Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Emissions Data Report for 2010-2011 financial year.

Purpose of report:

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have requested that each Local Authority publishes its own Greenhouse Gases (GHG) report to provide data on emissions which are released from Local Authority operations. This report will ensure that local authorities are accountable to local people for their GHG emissions.

This report is broken down into sections providing:

- (i) Background information on the local area and the local authority
- (ii) Summary and detail of GHG emission data
- (iii) Background information on: data captured, any exclusions, base year, targets and the work which will be carried out by the Local Authority to work towards mitigating GHG emissions.

Background information on local area and Local Authority

Local area- As a rural area, carbon emissions from South Hams (10.1 tonnes per Capita) is high in comparison to the neighbouring urban centres of Torbay (5 tonnes per Capita) and Plymouth (5.5 tonnes per Capita) (2008 figures). Major factors contributing to higher emissions are the greater distances travelled to work, and to access services and high levels of emissions from agriculture. In rural locations travel by car to access employment and essential services is often the only option.

Only a small amount of energy in the South Hams is generated from renewable sources. Over recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of new projects and outputs across the region. The South Hams now has the most projects in Devon generating renewable electricity.

Local Authority- South Hams District Council currently has no renewable installations. Late in 2010 South Hams Member's agreed to commission a feasibility study into installing renewable fittings to Council owned assets including Follaton House and the Depots. A separate study is also being conducted into the energy efficiency and potential for renewable installations at the Council-owned leisure centres within the main towns. The results of these studies will be reported during the updates to the council's Environment Strategy.

The council has adopted an Environment Strategy which will regularly be updated and will continue to monitor key information and trends on a regular basis to enable us to respond quickly and proactively to changes as they occur.

The council has a Carbon Management Plan.

The Government has committed to being the 'greenest government ever', with the renewable energy and the clean technology sector seen as 'essential' and 'vital' for future global competitiveness. This was evidenced in the increase in spending for science compared to most other sectors following the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Further Information:

http://www.southhams.gov.uk/index/residents_index/sustainability_climatechange.htm

http://www.southhams.gov.uk/index/residents_index/ksp-community-support/connect_partnership.htm

Summary and detail of GHG emission data

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) data for 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 (Tonnes of CO₂e)			
	2009-2010	2010-2011	Base Year (2010-2011)
Scope 1: Direct Emissions			
Emissions related to fuel combustion (gas)	894	725	725
Emissions related to owned transport (fleet data)	2,272	1,521	1,521
Scope 1- Total	3,166	2,246	2,246
Scope 2: Energy Indirect Emissions			
Emissions related to consumption of purchased electricity	1,476	1,081	1,081
Scope 2- Total	1,476	1,081	1,081
Scope 3: Other Direct Emissions			
Business travel by car	137	120	120
Business travel by rail	Na	2	2
Water	Na	17	17
Total- Scope 3	137	139	139
Total gross emissions	4,779	3,466	3,466
Carbon offsets	0	0	0
Green tariff	0	0	0
Intensity ratio (CO ₂ e tonnes/ Full Time Equivalent)	10.7	8.06	8.06

Company information

South Hams District Council, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5NE.

Reporting Period

1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

Measuring and reporting approach

South Hams District Council has followed the Defra Guidance on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions and the CRC EES guidelines.

Operational boundary

South Hams District Council has chosen to use the financial control approach to identify from which to collect data. This aligns with the CRC EES.

Operational scopes

We have measured our scope 1, 2 and significant scope 3 emissions.

Scope	Activity	Calculation method
1	Emissions related to fuel combustion (gas)	As per CRC EES guidelines
1	Emissions related to owned transport (fleet data)	Actual litres of fuel purchased converted to 'kg CO ₂ e' then to 'tonnes CO ₂ e'.
2	Emissions related to consumption of purchased electricity	As per CRC EES guidelines
3	Business travel by car	Actual mileage converted to kilometres then 'kg CO ₂ e' then to 'tonnes CO ₂ e'.
3	Business travel by rail	Actual mileage converted to kilometres then 'kg CO ₂ e' then to 'tonnes CO ₂ e'.
3	Water	As per CRC EES guidelines

South Hams District Council has used the conversion factors that were published in the Defra / DECC document of 06/10/10 to convert both 2009/10 and 2010/11 activity data. This reflects guidance received from Defra.

Exclusions

Scope 3- Employee commuting has been excluded as data collections are not developed and currently too costly to collect. This situation will be reviewed as reporting moves forward.

Geographical breakdown

South Hams District Council does not have any operations outside of the UK.

Base Year

Our base year is 2010/11. This is in line with the first CRC EES footprint year.

South Hams will exclude employee commuting activity data from the 2009/2010 and 2010/11 submission. The council will review this situation in 2011/12 to establish whether it is possible for this exclusion to be included in subsequent years this will be considered in relation to costs and practicalities of collecting it.

Target

South Hams District Council has a Carbon Management Plan that has set a target of a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions from the Council's operations by April 2011 (from April 2008 levels). The 20% reduction target was exceeded in 2009/10 by 13% (**33%**). This was achieved through a number of key investment projects namely vehicle replacements and improvements to the principal buildings, as well as improving carbon awareness of all staff.

A target for 2011-12 has not been set although the council is looking into the option of renewable energy.

The council previously had a requirement to collect data as part of the government's National Indicator set; this has now been replaced by the Government's Single Data set. One part of the Single Data set requires Local Authorities to collect data and provide a report on the Greenhouse Gases which are emitted from Local Authority operations.