



---

**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Report 2019/20

from own estate and operations

## Contents

Introduction.....	3
Council response.....	4
GHG reporting .....	4
St. Helens Council greenhouse gas emissions.....	5
1. Local authority Information .....	6
2. Reporting period.....	6
3. Changes in Emissions.....	6
4. Measuring and reporting approach .....	6
5. Organisational boundary.....	6
6. Operational scopes.....	6
7. Base Year .....	6
8. Targets.....	7
9. Conclusions .....	7
Contact .....	7
Conversion factors used .....	7

## Introduction

Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges facing the present generation. There are a number of overarching mandatory and voluntary international, national and local policies that compel Local Authorities to reduce impacts of climate change.

**The Kyoto Protocol** is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which sets binding targets for industrialised countries to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

**The European Union** emitted around 10% of the worldwide greenhouse. The EU's share of global emissions is falling as Europe reduces its own emissions and as those from other parts of the world, especially the major emerging economies, continues to grow.

With measures taken at European level and by Member States at national level, the EU is already on target to cut its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% by 2020, compared with 1990 emission levels. By reducing emissions since 1990 while expanding its economy, the EU has successfully shown that economic growth and emission cuts are not contradictory.

In 2014 EU leaders reached a landmark deal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels. The binding decision came after heated discussions at a summit in Brussels, as some members had argued that their varied interests should be protected.

At the G20 Summit 2017 there was no consensus with the USA regarding climate protection. The other 19 participants agreed to stick with the Paris agreement (Dec 2015), to view it as irreversible and to swiftly put it into practice. President Macron has now invited members for further negotiations at another climate summit in Paris on 12 December.

**The UK Government** has signed the Kyoto Protocol and taken a number of steps to limit the UK's emissions of greenhouse gases through legally binding targets, both now and in the future. It is on track to meet its EU Member State target by 2020.

**The Climate Change Act** was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also strengthened the UK's leadership internationally by highlighting the role it would take in contributing to urgent collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol.

Included in the Act are:

**2050 Target:** The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. This target was based on advice from the CCC report: Building a Low-carbon Economy. The 80% target includes GHG emissions from the devolved administrations, which currently accounts for around 20% of the UK's total emissions.

**The Committee on Climate Change** was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It includes the Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) which scrutinises and advises on the Government's programme for adapting to climate change.

**A National Adaptation Plan** requiring the Government to assess the UK's risks from climate change, to prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage critical organisations to do the same.

**Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020** was published by BEIS in April 2018 providing guidance for public and higher education sector organisations in England that want to support and report against a voluntary emissions reduction target.

**Clean Growth Strategy** was published by central government in October 2017 with the aim of leading the way to a low carbon future.

## Council response

### GHG reporting

In April 2011 Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) requested local authorities to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions from their own estate and operations by the end of July each year.

This report is published on local authority websites and a hyperlink to this data sent to DECC at [local.carbon@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:local.carbon@decc.gsi.gov.uk). This is to support the localism agenda by ensuring local authorities are accountable to their local people for their greenhouse gas emissions and is DECC's only entry on the 'single data list' reference 067-00.

The GHG data is reported in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) as it takes into account carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)

## St. Helens Council greenhouse gas emissions

	<b>2019/20 GHG emissions in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e  (Note 1)</b>	<b>2009/10 GHG emissions in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e  (Note 2)</b>	<b>Specific exclusions and % this represents for relevant scope</b>
<i>Scope 1 - Direct Emissions</i>			
Gas used in schools	3033 (3089)	4885 (4666)	
Gas used in corporate buildings	2359 (2261)	2818 (3000)	
Heating oil used in schools	39 (75)	878 (421)	
Heating oil used in corporate buildings	0 (16)	267 (20)	
Petrol used in fleet vehicles	37 (32)	42 (40)	
Diesel (5% blend biodiesel) used in fleet vehicles	1536 (1646)	1704 (1734)	
LPG used in fleet vehicles	3 (2)	16 (8)	
Gas oil used in fleet vehicles	109 (107)	36 (35)	
Process emissions	-	-	No process emissions
Fugitive emissions	Excluded	Excluded	Emissions from air conditioning and refrigeration units in office buildings have been excluded due to unavailability of data and considered to be very small proportion of Council total scope 1 emissions.
<b>Total Scope 1 emissions</b>	<b>7115 (7227)</b>	<b>10646 (9925)</b>	
<i>Scope 2- Energy Indirect Emissions</i>			
Electricity used in schools	1986 (2177)	5327 (3082)	
Electricity used in corporate buildings	1461 (1601)	3474 (2129)	
Electricity used in street lighting	2252 (2469)	6660 (3458)	
<b>Total Scope 2 emissions</b>	<b>5698 (6247)</b>	<b>15461 (8669)</b>	

## 1. Local authority Information

St.Helens Council is a local authority based in Merseyside. Main address is Town Hall, Victoria Square, St.Helens, Merseyside, WA10 1HP

## 2. Reporting period

The report covers emissions for financial year 2019/20

## 3. Changes in Emissions

Overall St. Helens Council GHG emissions have reduced by 51% compared to the baseline year of 2009/10.

There was a 5% reduction in GHG emissions from last year.

Emissions from electricity in corporate buildings are 58% lower than the baseline year and 9% lower than last year. Emissions from street lighting are 66% lower than the baseline year and 9% lower than last year.

The amount of electricity used in schools, corporate building and street lighting continues to reduce but a contributor to the lower GHG figures comes from the lower conversion factor due to a national switch away from coal as fuel for power stations.

Compared to the baseline year the scope 1 emissions have reduced by 33% and Scope 2 emissions by 64%. The combined reduction since the baseline year is 51%.

## 4. Measuring and reporting approach

This report was prepared in accordance with DECC guidance on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions.

When calculating Council emissions the 2020 Greenhouse Gas conversion factors contained at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting> have been used.

## 5. Organisational boundary

The financial control approach has been used reporting emissions for activities where the Council directs the financial and operating policies of the operation with a view to gaining economic benefits from its activities.

## 6. Operational scopes

The report includes **Scope 1**<sup>1</sup> and **Scope 2**<sup>2</sup> GHG emissions.

'Discretionary' **Scope 3**<sup>3</sup> emissions have not been included due to unavailability of quality data.

## 7. Base Year

Our base year is 2009-10 which is set using fixed base year approach.

Our base year policy is to use the original figure and to provide the recalculated baseline figure using any annual update to the GHG conversion factors from DECC (updates from changes in calculation methods or improvements in the accuracy of emission factors or activity data).

---

<sup>1</sup> **Scope 1 (Direct emissions):** Activities owned or controlled by your organisation that release emissions straight into the atmosphere.

<sup>2</sup> **Scope 2 (Energy indirect):** These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of your organisation's activities but which occur at sources you do not own or control.

<sup>3</sup> **Scope 3 (Other indirect):** Emissions that are a consequence of your actions, which occur at source, which you do not own, or control and which are not classed as Scope 2 emissions. Example: staff business travel, waste disposal, purchased materials or fuels, water use etc

## 8. Targets

Our emissions reduction target is to reduce our GHG emissions from scopes 1 and 2 activities by 3% a year.

## 9. Conclusions

St. Helens Council recognises the need to reduce the impact of climate change by reducing its carbon emissions. The Council has developed a strategy to reduce carbon emissions from council buildings. The Council also recognises opportunities in measuring its greenhouse emissions which include:

- Improvements in energy management practices (monitoring and usage)
- Investment in green technologies
- Reduce overall energy and fuel use and improve energy efficiency
- Promote and improve the use of transport and fuel efficiency
- Cost savings

The Council will continue to measure and report its greenhouse gas emissions according to DECC's requirements.

## Contact

Brian Malcolm

Traffic, Parking Services & Bridges Manager

Email: [brianmalcolm@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:brianmalcolm@sthelens.gov.uk)

## Conversion factors used

Energy type	Conversion factor (kgCO <sub>2e</sub> /kWh)
Electricity (grid)	0.23314
Natural gas	0.18387
Heating oil	0.24666

	Units	Conversion factor (net kgCO <sub>2e</sub> /unit specified)
Petrol	Litres	2.16802
Diesel	Litres	2.54603
Gas oil	Litres	2.75766
LPG	Litres	1.55537