

# CITY OF WESTMINSTER: ANNUAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REPORTING

## SUMMARY

Westminster City Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 setting out ambitious targets for the organisation to be net zero carbon by 2030. The council undertakes annual emissions monitoring to help track progress against the council's target.

This report provides a summary of the council's greenhouse gas emissions reporting process and associated emission in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) and an intensity measurement on the basis of carbon per full time equivalent employee. Emissions are calculated for sources across Westminster's estate and operations and reported against an organisational baseline of 2018/19.

## EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Annual emissions data reported in tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)		
Source	Baseline 2018/19	2022/23
<b>Scope 1</b>		
Natural gas	26,824	20418
Transport (WCC fleet)	110	68
<b>Scope 2</b>		
Electricity (purchased)	9019	5839
<b>Scope 3</b>		
Electricity (transmission and distribution)	4881	3554
Water	39	43
Transport (grey fleet & major contracted services)	3746	4239
<b>Gross emissions</b>	<b>44619</b>	<b>34162</b>
<b>tCO<sub>2</sub>e per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Employee</b>	<b>23.72</b>	<b>14.52</b>

### 1. Organisation Information

The London Borough of Westminster is a local authority registered at City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP.

### 2. Reporting period

This report covers emissions from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

### 3. Changes in emissions

For the current reporting year the council has overseen a reduction of 23.4% in total gross emissions from the baseline year. The change in emissions can be attributed to:

- A 23.94% decrease in Scope 1 emissions driven by the change in the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking (PDHU) from the older combined heat and power units to more efficient boilers.
- A 35.26% decrease in Scope 2 emissions resulting from Electricity usage in communal areas of our social housing stock and other corporate assets.
- A 9.57% decrease in Scope 3 emissions as a result of reduced electricity and gas usage within Council run leisure centres.

### 4. Measuring and reporting approach

Westminster has adopted the government's methodology for greenhouse gas reporting, using a baseline of 2018-19.

## 5. Organisational boundary

The Council has included all emissions over which the Council has direct operational control (including assets, infrastructure and operations), and other selected emissions sources which the Council is in a good position to influence (e.g. key contracted services).

## 6. Operational scope: emissions included

The following emission sources have been included in our annual emissions reporting

- Corporate Estate: energy (electricity and natural gas) used to heat and power buildings and the provision of water across buildings owned and operated by the Council.
- Non-building Supplies: energy (electricity) used in the operation of streetlighting, feeder pillars and other non-building infrastructure.
- Infrastructure Assets: energy (natural gas) used to power the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking (PDHU); energy (natural gas) used for communal boilers /systems in Council owned properties; energy (electricity) to power communal supplies, such as elevators and corridor lighting in Council owned properties.
- Solar Photovoltaic Supply: electricity generated and supplied to landlord areas from housing properties owned by the Council (these are 'carbon neutral' supplies, so have no GHG emissions associated with them).
- Owned Vehicle Fleets: emissions from the operation of Westminster City Council's vehicle fleet as part of the council's operations. This includes vehicles owned outright by WCC but excludes where vehicle or travel costs are charged direct to a budget code.
- Grey Fleet Travel: GHG emissions from WCC employees using their own vehicles for business travel.
- Outsourced Services: energy used to heat and power leisure centres (managed for Westminster City Council by Everyone Active); emissions associated with the vehicle fleet used for refuse collection (Veolia), highways maintenance (FM Conway) and housing maintenance (Axis, Precision, GEM, Morgan Sindall, Oakray, United Living, Effectable) contracts.

## 7. Operational scope: emissions excluded

The following emission sources have been excluded from our emissions reporting on the basis that they do not fall within the operational control of the Council and/or the Council has limited opportunity to directly influence emissions reductions:

- Residential energy (gas and electricity) from the Council housing stock: this includes energy that is purchased directly by tenants from energy supply companies.
- Schools' energy (gas and electricity): the Council does not have financial control over the purchase of energy and does not have operational control over how energy is used within school sites.
- Westminster City Council's Investment Portfolio (gas and electricity) energy is purchased directly by commercial tenants from energy supply companies.

The following emissions sources have been excluded on the basis of a lack of available data

- Waste arising from council sites and operations
- Employee commuting
- Fugitive emissions from refrigerant gas from air conditioning units and heat pumps
- Natural gas consumption from gas fired street lighting (this is a small proportion of the overall street lighting stock)
- Council leased vehicles
- Travel expenses charged to departmental budgets

## 8. Emissions calculation

Emissions were calculated using Government greenhouse gas emissions factors (UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting - 2021) using Westminster City Council's bespoke Carbon Assessment Toolkit, developed by GEP Environmental.

## 9. Geographic breakdown

All council emissions fall within the UK. Westminster City Council is not responsible for emissions in other countries.

## 10. Baseline year

Westminster has a baseline year of 2018-19. The base year was selected as the earliest reporting year with the most robust and comprehensive data set.

## 11. Recalculation policy

Any significant changes to our organisational operational boundary (e.g. acquisitions, divestitures or outsourcing) may trigger a recalculation of our baseline emissions in line with government greenhouse gas emissions guidance. Westminster City Council has set a threshold of 5% change in baseline emissions as the trigger for any recalculation of the council's baseline.

## 12. Emissions intensity measurement

Annual gross emissions will be reported in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e). A carbon intensity measurement of tonnes of carbon per full time equivalent (FTE) council employee will also be reported.

## 13. Targets

Westminster City Council has a target to be net zero emissions by 2030, This includes all Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and significant Scope 3 emissions, as reported in our emissions baseline.

## 14. Organisational contacts

Any queries relating to this report should be directed to [climateemergency@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:climateemergency@westminster.gov.uk)

## 15. Carbon offsets

The council does not utilise any carbon offsets to offset its organisational emissions.

## 16. Green tariffs

The Corporate buildings electricity is procured on the EDF Renewable for Business tariff.

## 17. Renewable Electricity

Westminster has not accounted for exported electricity from on-site solar photovoltaic panels within our greenhouse gas reporting.

## REPORTING HISTORY

Emissions data reported in tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) – all years					
Year	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total emissions	Change vs baseline
2018/19	26934	9019	8666	44619	N/a
2019/20	25216	7947	9608	42770	-4.1%
2020/21	26231	7541	7718	41399	-7.2%
2021/22	25760	7318	8336	41413	-7.2%
2022/23	20486	5839	7837	34162	-23.4%