

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Environment and Community Panel		
DATE:	03/03/2020		
TITLE:	Carbon Audit Update		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Update		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Environment		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Henry Saunders, Ged Greaves & Dave Robson		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
To give an update on the completed carbon audit.
KEY ISSUES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCKLWN carbon audit. • General update.
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:
Not applicable.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
This report is for noting.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
To highlight and inform the completion of the Carbon Audit. Provide general update

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The carbon audit of the BCKLWN has been completed for the financial year 2018/2019.
- 1.2 We have attended the first Norfolk Climate Change Partnership meeting, with another provisionally scheduled for the 13th March.
- 1.3 We are developing a draft climate change policy to be ready for early summer 2020.
- 1.4 A number of task and finish groups have been set up to look at reducing CO₂ emissions across Borough Council carbon footprint. This work will feed in to options to be included in the Strategy and Action Plan which will be drawn up later in the year.

2. Update Report

2.1. Carbon Audit

- ✚ The carbon audit was completed in January 2020.
- ✚ Overall CO₂e emissions decreased from 6,183.4 tonnes of CO₂e in 2014/2015 to, 4,632.4 tonnes of CO₂e in 2018/2019. This is a reduction of 1,551 tonnes of CO₂e, which equates to a 25% reduction.
- ✚ Scope 1 (Gas, Oil, Fleet Vehicles) emissions totalled at 1,713.3 tonnes of CO₂e, compared to 1,829.3 tonnes CO₂e in 2014/2015. This is a reduction of 116 tonnes, which equates to a 6% reduction in scope 1 emissions.
- ✚ Scope 2 (Electricity Usage) emissions totalled at 1,425.2 tonnes of CO₂e compared to 2,721.5 tonnes CO₂e in 2014/2015. This is a reduction of 1,296.3 tonnes, which equates to a 48% reduction in scope 2 emissions.
- ✚ Scope 3 (Transmission and Distribution losses, Water Supply, Water Treatment, Contractor Mileage, Business Travel) emissions totalled at 1,493.9 tonnes of CO₂e compared to 1,632.6 tonnes CO₂e in 2014/2015. This is a reduction of 138.7 tonnes, which equates to a 8% reduction in scope 3 emissions
- ✚ Scope 2 only includes electricity consumption, which has shown the largest decrease of 48%. However, the BCKLWN's electricity consumption has only decreased by 471,310 kWh, from 5,506,178 kWh in 2014/2015 to 5,034,868 kWh in 2018/2019 (a 9% decrease). Our emissions decrease is explained by the increased greening of the national grid between 2014 and 2019, which results in less carbon intensive electricity production. Consequently, the amount of CO₂e emitted from electricity production has decreased. Thus, we consume a similar amount of electricity, but emit 48% less CO₂e.

- ✚ Management Team agreed to carry out a carbon audit for every financial year going forwards and that Scope 2 emissions from electricity supply should be changed to a green tariff.

2.2. Current Emission Reduction Strategies

- ✚ In 2012 solar panels were installed onto some council owned properties (including King's Court). These panels generated 35,815 kWh of clean electricity in 2018/2019. This electricity is directly used by the BCKLWN, which helps reduce electricity consumption from the national grid.
- ✚ The BCKLWN have commissioned a Re: fit of its estate through Ameresco. This will improve energy efficiency and provide roughly 450 tonnes of CO₂ reductions per year.
- ✚ The Big Plant tree planting programme has taken place in King's Reach, where 500 trees were planted.
- ✚ The lease car strategy has been updated, whereby from the 18th June 2019 lease cars can only be hybrid petrol/electric or fully electric.
- ✚ The Mayor's car is now a hybrid.
- ✚ There has been a push to reduce the ICT carbon footprint. "Free Cooling" was introduced, which allows DX AC Units to be turned off during the cooler periods throughout the year. ICT now only rely on DX AC units during the hot summer months now. ICT have also virtualised most of their server estate, which reduces the physical hardware in their datacentre. Both initiatives saw an electricity saving of £8k+ per year and a carbon reduction of 35 tonnes per year.
- ✚ A climate change officer working group has been set up.
- ✚ A graduate intern has been appointed to aid climate change work. This was initially a 4 month internship, which has now been extended to 12 months.
- ✚ We have completed a carbon audit for the BCKLWN's 2018/2019 emissions, which highlights a 25% reduction in emissions since 2014/2015.
- ✚ We will be using a green tariff for electricity for the 2020/2021 financial year. This will reduce our scope 2 emissions to 0 tonnes CO₂e, which equates to an approximate reduction of 31%.

- ✚ We are working with the UEA Environmental Consultancy module, which will provide us with consultancy papers on ways to reduce our emissions.
- ✚ The corporate business plan includes climate change as one of its priorities: “Protecting and enhancing the environment including tackling climate change”.
- ✚ A county group has been established to work with other Norfolk councils on our emissions reduction journey: The Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.
- ✚ We have started developing a draft climate change policy.

2.3. Climate Change Policy

- ✚ Following on from the cabinet recommendation regarding motion 5/19 a climate change policy is in development.
- ✚ We aim to have this completed by summer 2020.
- ✚ Following the policy being adopted, we will start working on a strategy and action plan for early 2021.

2.4. Update on Work Going Forwards

- ✚ We have attended the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership initial meeting, in January 2020 to identify terms of reference and aims of the group. The group will be meeting every other month, to discuss ways we can all work together and learn from each other to reduce emissions in our respective area’s and Norfolk as a whole.
- ✚ We are currently reviewing the district emissions bubble and writing a comparison report, detailing how the district’s emissions have changed from 2005 – 2017.
 - The latest data we have is from 2017 as the department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) data sets are published two years behind the current year.
 - We aim to have this completed within the coming months.
- ✚ We are setting up a number of task and finish groups to look at reducing CO₂ emissions from the Borough Council’s carbon footprint. These will help identify strategies for the future to help reduce the council’s emissions. The areas being considered are:

- Housing which will look at ways to improve energy efficiency in housing and reduce emissions from the domestic sector.
- Planning to look at ways in which to reduce emissions and set standards from within the local plan.
- Vehicle fleet which will look at how we can reduce emissions for our own council owned vehicles.
- BCKLWN Re: fit which will look into options to further improve the council's estate through re: fit programmes. This follows on from the re: fit currently in progress, which is expected to reduce emissions by roughly 450 tonnes CO₂ per year.
- Green habitat which will look at ways to increase carbon sequestration to offset BCKLWN emissions. This would include tree planting and increasing general green habitat and follow on from the recent tree planting at King's Reach, Fairsted, King's Lynn.

3. Issues for the Panel to Consider

This update is to report our progress on the carbon audit as well as current and future work.

4. Corporate Priorities

This work aligns with the corporate business plan priority, 'to protect and enhance the environment including tackling climate change'.

5. Financial Implications

The internship has now officially been extended for the original 4 month term, to a 12 month term which will finish on 25th September 2020. Cabinet have agreed to replace the Intern post with a 2 year fixed term post.

6. Any other Implications/Risks

Not applicable at this time.

7. Equal Opportunity Considerations

Not applicable at this time.

8. Environmental Considerations

The carbon audit highlights the BCKLWN's emissions for the 2018/2019 financial year. This will allow for decisions to be made for the borough council to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the future.

The policy work undertaken will feed into and influence future policy in relation to climate change, the borough council's carbon footprint.

9. Consultation

This is an update report and no consultation will be required.

10. Conclusion

The panel are asked to note the content of the report.

11. Background Papers

- BCKLWN 2018/2019 Carbon Audit.