

London Borough of Merton’s greenhouse gas reporting

Merton Council has published its carbon footprint annually since 2009-10. This report covers the period for 2014-15 and identifies progress against the Council’s targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). Emissions are calculated for sources across Merton’s estate, schools and operations, and reported against a revised baseline of 2011-12.

Annual GHG emissions data reported as tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent (tCO ₂ e)		
	Baseline 2011-12	2014-15
Scope 1		
Gas	6,457	6,463
Other fuel	23	28
Transport	1,576	1,061
Scope 2		
Electricity (purchased)	10,832	10,647
Scope 3		
Electricity (transport & distribution)	926	931
Gross emissions	19,813	19,130
Exported energy	(0)	(162)
Net emissions	19,813	18,968

1. Company Information:

The London Borough of Merton is a local authority registered at the Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX.

2. Reporting period:

This report covers emissions from 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015.

3. Change in emissions:

The council has overseen a reduction of 4.2% in total gross emissions from the baseline year. The change in emissions can be attributed to:

- **Energy consumption** - a reduction in energy use in buildings as a result of estate rationalisation and energy efficiency improvements compared to the previous year
- **Transport** - reduction in transport mileage (mileage from waste operations have been excluded from 2014-15 as this is a contracted service).
- **Renewable Energy** - A significant increase in the uptake of renewable energy from the previous year, reducing a larger proportion of emissions

4. Quantification and reporting methodology:

Merton has adopted the government’s methodology for greenhouse gas reporting¹, using a revised baseline of 2011-12.

5. Organisational boundary:

Merton has used the financial control approach whereby the council reports emissions from those sources where we have the ability to influence the financial and/or operating policies.

6. Operational scopes¹:

We have measured our Scope 1 (direct emissions) & Scope 2 (energy indirect) emissions, with the only omission being data for air conditioning. The Scope 3 (other indirect) emissions are for electricity transmission and distribution (emissions not included in Scope 2). We have excluded emissions from waste due to the lack of robustness over the data.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/measuring-and-reporting-environmental-impacts-guidance-for-businesses>

7. Geographical breakdown

All emissions fall within the UK. Merton Council not responsible for emissions in other countries.

8. Base Year:

Merton has a revised base year of 2011-12. The base year was revised to provide a more robust data set than the previous 2009-10 baseline, and provide consistency with the baseline in our Climate Change Strategy.

9. Targets:

Merton's adopted Climate Change Strategy provides a framework for the ongoing programme of action to tackle climate change in Merton. The Council will be targeting a 40% reduction by 2020-21, which exceeds the Government's voluntary emissions reduction target of 30% for the public sector.

10. Organisational contacts:

Any queries relating to this report should be directed to future.merton@merton.gov.uk

11. Carbon offsets:

The council does not utilise any carbon offsets.

12. Green tariffs:

The council does not use any green tariffs.

13. Renewable Electricity:

Merton has accounted for exported electricity from on-site solar photovoltaic panels within our greenhouse gas reporting (as permitted under the 2013 UK Government environmental reporting guidance); deducting the carbon saved from exported electricity from our gross emissions figure.

- Renewable electricity generated from owned or controlled sources in 2014-15: 655 MWh
- Electricity exported to the grid (50% deemed export) in 2014-15: 328 MWh

GHG emissions data expressed as tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) – All years							
Year	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Gross emissions	Exported energy	Net Emissions	% change vs baseline
2009-10	8,989	12,085	957	22,030	(0)	22,030	N/A
2010-11	9,271	11,800	950	22,021	(0)	22,021	N/A
2011-12 [†]	8,056	10,832	926	19,813	(4)	19,809	N/A
2012-13	9,009	10,643	841	20,493	(33)	20,460	+3.3%
2013-14	8,294	10,065	861	19,219	(58)	19,161	-3.3%
2014-15	7,552	10,647	931	19,130	(162)	18,968	-4.2%

[†]Revised baseline year

ⁱ Scope 1 (Direct emissions): Activities owned or controlled by Merton that release emissions straight into the atmosphere (e.g. emissions from combustion in owned boilers and vehicles)

Scope 2 (Energy indirect): Emissions associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of Merton's activities but which occur at sources the council does not own or control (e.g. purchased electricity).

Scope 3 (Other indirect): Emissions that are a consequence of Merton's actions, which occur at sources which the council does not own or control (e.g. electricity transmission and distribution losses, waste disposal or purchased fuels).