

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 2016-17 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 CO2 equivalent (tCO2e)		
	Baseline 2011-12	2016-17
Scope 1		
Gas	6,457	6,267
Other fuel	23	0
Transport	1,576	1,061
Scope 2		
Electricity (purchased)	10,832	7,840
Scope 3		
Electricity (transport & distribution)	926	709
Gross emissions	19,813	15,877
Exported energy	(0)	(213)
Net emissions	19,813	15,664

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 2016 – 31 March 2017.

3. Change in emissions:

The council has overseen a reduction of 21% 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
- **Transport** - reduction in transport mileage (mileage from waste operations have been excluded from 2016-17 as this is a contracted service).

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 scopesⁱ:

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.

7. Geographical breakdown

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

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

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 2016-17: 1,034 MWh
- Electricity exported to the grid (50% deemed export) in 2016-17: 517 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%
2015-16	7,325	9,421	778	17,524	(173)	17,351	-12.4%
2016-17	7,328	7,840	709	15,877	(213)	15,664	-20.9%

[†]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).