



North Devon Council

Report Date: 6 June 2022

Topic: North Devon Council Carbon Footprint

Report by: Donna Sibley, Climate Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In July 2019 North Devon Council signed up to the Devon Climate Emergency Declaration. The Council have committed to being a net zero carbon organisation by 2030, and to supporting North Devon to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 at the latest.

1.2. A baseline carbon footprint was calculated by Dr Daniel Lash at Exeter University for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

1.3. The Sustainability and Climate Officer has updated our carbon footprint, based on data for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, see Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. To approve the 2020-2021 carbon footprint report for publication, and note our current position with respect to achieving our target of net zero carbon by 2030.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Annual reporting of our carbon footprint is a commitment in our Climate Emergency Declaration.

4. REPORT

4.1. The UN Greenhouse Gas Protocol identifies carbon emissions as Scope 1, 2 and 3. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources, ie from owned facilities, equipment or transport. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting company. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in a company's value chain.

4.2. Our baseline assessment measured our Scope 1, 2 and certain Scope 3 emissions giving us a carbon footprint of just under 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

4.3. There are significant areas where data was not available, and so not included in the carbon calculation. This is especially true for our Scope 3 emissions. Typically 80-90% of an organisation's carbon emissions fall in Scope 3, and so it is likely that our baseline carbon footprint is an under-estimate.

4.4. The 2021 carbon footprint included more Scope 3 emissions, principally procured goods and services. The two footprints can be broken down as follows:

No.	Category	2018/19	2020/21
Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions and removals		1392.4	1354.3
1	Stationary combustion	190.7	181.5
2	Owned transport	1201.8	1172.9
3	Process emissions	0.0	0.0
4	Fugitive emissions	0.0	0.0
Scope 2: Energy GHG Indirect emissions		351.0	197.0
5	Electricity	351.0	197.0
Scope 3: Other direct GHG emissions		2208.1	6207.7
6	Purchased material and fuel	748.1	3246.2
7	Transport related activities	425.6	19.2
8	Waste disposal	0.0	7.3
9	Leased assets and franchising, outsourcing	0.0	2043.9
10	Sold goods and services	1034.4	891.1
TOTAL GROSS FOOTPRINT (SCOPES 1, 2 and 3)		3951.5	7759.0
11	Offset emissions	0.0	0.0
TOTAL NET FOOTPRINT (SCOPES 1, 2 and 3 and Offset)		3951.5	7759.0

Notes on coverage

1. Stationary Combustion – emissions from gas or oil combustion in buildings.
 2. Owned transport – waste vehicles, street cleansing vehicles owned by NDC.
 3. n/a
 4. Fugitive emissions – leaks from cooling systems, tests showed none.
 5. Electricity – emissions from electricity used in buildings.
 6. Purchased material and fuel – incl procured goods and Well to Tank emissions.
 7. Transport related activities – emissions from grey fleet and business travel.
 8. Waste disposal – very poor data available.
 9. Leased assets and franchising, outsourcing – procured services.
- Sold goods and services – data on red diesel sold at Ilfracombe Harbour was included.

4.5. In the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 there were three lockdowns as a result of the covid epidemic. The impact of this will have been a drop in some carbon emissions for this period. For example, staff travel for business is very low compared to previous years, as is energy use in some of our public buildings such as Barnstaple bus station. We understand this is an extraordinary reporting period, and that it's likely that we will see an increase in carbon emissions in the next year.

4.6. Implications for our Net Zero Carbon by 2030 target - The Council has set a target for its operations to be net zero carbon by 2030. In practice, this will be extremely challenging to achieve and will impact on a broad range of council functions and delivery, and will potentially require significant financial input to achieve.

4.7. We are currently not on target to achieve net zero by 2030.

4.8. Options for emissions associated with our properties - We have received a heat decarbonisation plan for some of our properties identifying options to reduce their carbon emissions such as retrofit, smart energy controls and renewable energy generation.

4.9. The carbon footprint should feed into long term planning regarding properties owned by the Council. There may be options available that will increase efficiency of those buildings such as maximising occupancy, co-location or even disposal/ alternative use of the property.

4.10. Options for emissions associated with transport - We will need to look at emerging low impact technology for our waste fleet, most likely either electrical or hydrogen powered vehicles, but at present this is not a viable alternative to diesel for a large, hilly, rural authority. There are also wider considerations around the necessary infrastructure to support such a move, as well as the funding needed to invest in this emerging technology.

4.11. There are opportunities to replace smaller vans with electric vehicles.

4.12. In relation to the impacts from our grey fleet there is a potential opportunity to move to use of pooled (electric) vehicles. Again, this will involve significant investment.

4.13. Alternatively/ additionally, there may be opportunities to incentivise greener travel by staff e.g.) use of cycle or public transport as opposed to car use, but this does present real difficulties in a large rural area as North



Devon. However with the Government's commitment to phase out diesel and petrol cars and move to electric vehicles, there may be opportunities to incentivise their purchase by staff in the future.

4.14. Options for emissions associated with procured goods and services - Whilst there are undoubted opportunities to reduce the emissions associated with our purchased good and services through the introduction of a sustainable procurement system, this will not be possible to show in our carbon footprint calculations.

4.15. The current methodology used in 2020/2021 relies on carbon intensity values for different industry sectors from 2009. Reporting in future years will therefore use the same values. Whilst BEIS has indicated these may be updated, they are not able to reflect any changes we make as they apply at the Standard Industry Category level.

4.16. It is extremely likely that we will not be able to "Avoid Reduce or Replace" emissions and therefore the Council will need to give consideration in the future to offsetting. There are a number of options in relation to this. We do intend, as given in our Carbon plan, to look at opportunities to offset emissions through generation of renewable energy. There are also opportunities to offset emissions through traditional carbon capture – eg developing woodland planting.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Additional resource may be required to improve data collection. This is already being considered through the Sustainable Procurement group. The resources required to reduce the Council's carbon footprint are addressed in the Carbon, Environment and biodiversity Plan.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. There are not any equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. This report is neutral with respect to the environment, but it does provide the baseline data on which to act and report.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: the Council's desire to reduce its carbon footprint may affect its commercialisation decisions.

8.1.2. Improving customer focus: n/a



8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: the Council's desire to reduce its carbon footprint may affect its regeneration or economic development decisions.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph :

9.2. Delegated power:

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

10.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: North Devon Council Greenhouse Gas Report, 2018 to 2019. (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

12.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Donna Sibley, Climate Officer