London Borough of Sutton

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report

Reporting year 2024/25

take part, take pride

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the report

This report satisfies the requirement for local authorities to measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions, as set out by the Department for Communities and Local Government single data list.

1.2. Quality assurance statement

The Council's Internal Audit team has conducted a review of the methodology for calculating the authorities GHG emissions and no qualifications have been raised.

1.3. Organisational Goals

The London Borough of Sutton has a long standing history of taking action to improve the environment. The Council's Corporate Plan, Ambitious for Sutton 2022-2027, commits to taking action on climate change and enhancing Sutton's status as a green borough, where residents and the council work together to minimise their environmental impact and to reduce council and borough-wide carbon emissions. To achieve these ambitions, climate action is governed by the Environment Strategy and Climate Emergency Response Plan which guides and tracks progress of these commitments.

Delivery of the Environment Strategy and Climate Emergency Response Plan is overseen by the Council's Environment and Sustainable Transport Committee. The council updates the Climate Emergency Response Plan annually, with the last update being published in October 2025.

1.4. GHG Target

The council aims to achieve net zero carbon emissions across its estate. Emissions will be reduced as far as possible through mitigation activities before undertaking offsetting. The target is for scopes 1,2 and 3.

1.5. Responsible Officers

Thuso Selelo Assistant Director of Asset Management, Planning & Capital Delivery and Paul Algeo, Head of Programme & Projects Management, are responsible for meeting this target.

1.6. Company Information

The London Borough of Sutton is a local authority in Greater London, one of 32 London boroughs. The main council offices are its Civic Offices which are located at:

St. Nicholas Way
Sutton
Surrey
SM1 1EA

1.7. Reporting Period

The reporting period used for this report is '2024', 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

1.8. Quantification and Reporting Methodology

The Council has followed the 2013 DEFRA guidance 'Environmental Reporting Guidelines' in the production of this report. The guidelines are designed to help businesses measure and report their environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions.

The 2024 UK Government Conversion Factors for greenhouse gas reporting have been used to calculate emissions. Using the methodology above, greenhouse gas emissions are reported and converted into a CO_2 equivalent (CO_2e)

2. Scope

2.1. Organisational Boundary

The operations from which the Council collects data are those over which the Local Authority has direct financial control (i.e. has the ability to direct their financial and operating policies). Consequently, data from schools with academy status, social housing and properties let for commercial operations are excluded. Data from wholly owned subsidiaries of the council has also not been included.

2.2. Operational Scopes

The Council measures emissions from activities under scopes 1, 2 and, to a limited extent, scope 3 as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Declaration of reported emission-releasing activities

Council activity giving rise to significant carbon emissions	Scope	Reported in 2024/25
Parks Maintenance (vehicles/equipment not owned or controlled by LA)	3	Yes
Premises* energy consumption (liquid and gaseous fuels)	1	Yes
Premises* fugitive emissions (air conditioning leaks)	1	No
Premises* energy consumption (purchased electricity)	2, 3	Yes
Owned transport	1	Yes
Staff business travel (vehicles not owned or controlled by LA)	3	Yes
Street lighting, traffic lights, signs, and bollards (purchased electricity)	2, 3	Yes
Waste Collections (vehicles not owned or controlled by LA)	3	Yes

*Our premises include maintained, voluntary aided and foundation schools, offices, libraries, day care centres, youth centres and community centres

3. Results

3.1. Headline results for 2024/25

3.1.1. The total[1] net GHG emissions from Council operations in 2024 was 7,321 tonnes CO_2e, which is 57% lower than the 2008 base year emissions.

3.1.2. GHG emissions from scopes 1 and 2 activities have decreased by 64% (10,328 tonnes) compared to the base year. By scope, the changes from 2008 to 2023 were:

- Scope 1 emissions decreased by 54%
- Scope 2 emissions decreased by 70%

3.1.3. Our overall intensity ratio which measures emissions per m^2 has also reduced by 58% compared to the 2008 base year. This ratio allows the Council to measure changes which are due to reductions in consumption as opposed to changes in the size or number of properties within its portfolio.

[1] This includes emissions from Scopes 1, 2 and 3 as well as out of scope emissions

3.2. Results by scope and activity

Table 2: GHG emissions by scope for current period and baseline year

	Tonnes of CO_2e	
	2024	Base Year 2008
Scope 1	2,812	6,095
Scope 2	2,966	10,012
Scope 3	1,467	1,010
Outside of Scope	75	6
Total gross emissions	7,321	17,123
Intensity measurement Scopes 1 & 2 'Kilograms of CO_2e per sq m of GIA	29.66	70.95

Table 3: GHG emissions by source activity for the year 2024 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025)

Scope/Activity	Units	% of data that is estimated	Consumption	GHG Emissions (tonnes CO_2e)
Scope 1				
Gas Boilers	kwh	5	15,238,345	2,787,093
Diesel	litres		10,061	25,280
Petrol	litres		0	0
Scope 2				
Electricity - Premises	kwh	2	10,430,912	2,159,720
Electricity - Street Lighting	kwh		3,895,768	806,619
Scope 3				
Business Travel	km		287,718	48,866
Waste Collection	litres		462,412	1,156,233
Transmission & Distribution	kwh		14,326,680	262,178

Table 4: Annual GHG emissions for all years measured

	Tonnes of CO2e																
Category	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Base Year 2008
Scope 1	2,812	2,950	3,117	3,065	2,696	3,279	3,379	3,338	4,316	4,568	4,778	4,770	5,198	4,444	5,426	5,450	6,095
Scope 2	2,966	3,040	2,902	3,197	3,335	4,076	4,595	5,857	7,186	8,458	8,888	8,384	8,162	8,398	9,535	10,100	10,012
Scope 3	1,467	1,393	1,255	1,352	1,339	1,496	1,604	1,856	781	832	930	875	822	914	979	1,025	1,010
Outside of Scope	75	61	41	62	45	37	25	30	1	2	1	2	22	6	28	6	6
Gross emissions	7,321	7,444	7,315	7,676	7,415	8,888	9,602	11,081	12,285	13,860	14,597	14,030	14,204	13,762	15,968	16,580	17,123
Kg of CO2e per sq m of GIA	30	31	31	32	31	38	41	45	53	60	63	59	59	56	65	69	71

3.3. Data Explanations

When compared to the base year, consumption of gas (scope 1) decreased across the estate by 34% in total, resulting in a 37% reduction in GHG emissions. Maintained schools reduced their emissions by 47% and corporate buildings decreased by 25%.

Emissions from owned transport (scope 1) have reduced by 98%. This follows the outsourcing of the Waste Collection and Street Cleansing (April 2017) and Parks Maintenance (February 2017) services. The emissions from fuel combustion generated by the contractors delivering these services are reported under scope 3.

The CO_2e factor for electricity has decreased by 58%[2] when compared to the base year. This has enhanced the reduction in emissions from electricity consumption under scope 2. Street lighting and corporate buildings have reduced consumption by 33.6% since 2008 with a corresponding 72% reduction in emissions. Consumption in schools has decreased by 8.6%, with a corresponding reduction in emissions of 62%.

No amendments have been made to prior years in this reporting period.

[2] In the 2019 GHG Conversion Factors, there was a 10% decrease in the UK Electricity CO2e factor compared to the previous year. The 2020 factor decreased by a further 9% (compared with 2019) and the pattern continued in 2021. The above decreases are all due to a decrease in coal use in electricity generation and an increase in renewable generation. In the 2023 update, the UK Electricity CO2e factor increased by 7% (compared to the 2022 update) due to an increase in natural gas use in electricity generation and a decrease in renewable generation. In the 2024 update, the UK Electricity CO2e factor has remained at a similar level to the 2023 update.

4. Actions aimed at reducing consumption and emissions

Listed below are some of the projects completed during the year which have delivered both energy and carbon saving benefits. In some cases, as with the LED upgrades, the projects also have the further advantage of extending the operating life of the asset.

- The decarbonisation of the corporate estate continued with the completion of lighting upgrade works at the Life Centre and Worcester Park Library. Further upgrades are planned for the libraries at Westcroft and Phoenix Centres.
- The smart meter program continued with 15 installations during the year 2024-25.
- Decarbonisation surveys of both the corporate and commercial estates were analysed to provide a list of costed projects for funding applications. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme was completed in November 2024 at the Sutton Youth Centre and is awaiting final commissioning.
- The installation of Solar PV at Westcroft Leisure Centre was completed in 2024/25, with carbon benefits expected to be realised in 2025/26

5. Additional Information

5.1. Recalculation Policy

The report uses a fixed base year of 2008 which was chosen in line with previous reporting requirements for National Indicator 185: “Carbon emissions from Local Authority Estate and Operations”. The Council has continued to use this baseline to allow the comparison of data with previous reporting.

The base year calculation policy is to recalculate the base year and the prior year emissions for relevant significant changes. This is defined as changes which meet a significance threshold of 5% of total base year emissions.

A number of schools in the borough have converted from maintained (Community) to non-maintained (Academy) status. If a school converts from maintained to non-maintained within the reporting year, it will be considered out of scope and will not be included in results. In order to ensure comparison

on a ‘like for like’ basis, any school that is not included in the current reporting year will also be removed from the 2008 baseline and subsequent years.

As there were no significant changes to the estate during the reporting year and the number of schools with Academy status remained at 35, emissions have not been recalculated this year.

Although the Council no longer delivers services from the site at 24 Denmark Road, it is currently still an owned asset and any emissions have been included.

5.2. Intensity Measure

The ‘kilograms of CO_2e per square metre of gross internal area (GIA)’ has been reported as this is a common activity ratio in the Local Authority sector.

5.3. Carbon Offsets

No carbon credits have been purchased during the reporting period.

5.4. Green Tariffs

All electricity purchased by the Council is supplied through the LASER consortium (public sector energy buying group) on a green energy tariff, meaning it is generated from renewable resources. However, this tariff does not meet the criteria set out by OFGEM and as such, is not exempt from the climate change levy.