

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2011



Managers Report

Sevenoaks District Council is committed to improving its environmental performance and reducing the environmental impact of our work.

The Council has set out its ambitions to reduce its environmental impact within its Sustainable Community Action Plan, its Carbon Reduction Management Action Plan and through its Staff Travel Plan.

Targets have been set to encourage the reduction of the Council's carbon emissions and processes have been reviewed to deliver improvement and enable the Council to measure and report on its progress.

Reductions in carbon use will be achieved by reducing travel, increasing the energy efficiency of our buildings and plant, reducing waste and increasing sustainable procurement. The focus will be on direct reductions in carbon emissions, as soon as possible, rather than a reliance on indirect carbon offsetting to achieve carbon neutrality.

In producing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report we have followed guidance issued by the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra).

During 2010/11, the Council:

- Set up a Climate Change Working Group to complement the work of the Local Strategic Partnership and help deliver on targets within the Sustainable Community Action Plan;
- Introduced more efficient print and photocopying devices, which have also contributed to a reduction in paper use across the Council;
- Maximised the efficiency of its refuse collection rounds and reduced the miles travelled to collect refuse across the District; and
- Reviewed and re-launched a new Staff Travel Plan, encouraging staff to car share and use greener forms of travel to work such as cycling.

Key Indicators

Greenhouse Gas Emissions for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

	Tonnes CO ₂ e
Council Buildings	607.9
Vehicle Fleet	1,239.6
Staff Business Travel	8.9
Councillor Business Travel	1.4
TOTAL EMISSIONS	1,857.8
Decrease in Emissions since 2009/10	3.6%

1. Sevenoaks District Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The following table sets out the Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the operations of Sevenoaks District Council in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The data has been calculated in accordance with Government guidance issued by Defra and includes Scope 1, 2 & 3 Emissions.

Scope 1 emissions are categorised as direct emissions and occur from activities owned or controlled by the Council that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. For Sevenoaks District Council these are emissions from vehicles that are used to keep the District clean and green, collect refuse, recycling and trade waste, and maintain safe parking on the streets and in Council owned car parks.

Scope 2 emissions are categorised as indirect emissions and occur from emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with the Council's consumption of purchased electricity and gas. These indirect emissions are a consequence of the Council's activities but occur at sources it does not own or control.

Scope 3 emissions are categorised as indirect emissions and are discretionary to report. They are emissions are produced as a consequence of the Council's activities and occur at sources which the Council does not own or control. For Sevenoaks District Council these are emissions from staff and Councillor business travel and water used in the running of the Council Offices.

Scope	Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions		
	2010/11	2009/10	Percentage Change
Scope 1	1,239.6	1,297.6	- 4.5%
Scope 2	606.6	616.6	- 1.6%
Scope 3	11.6	13.5	- 14.0%
TOTAL Emissions	1,857.8	1,927.7	- 3.6%
Intensity Measure Tonnes of CO ₂ e per District Area (142 square miles)	13.1	13.6	-3.6%

2. Scope 1 Emissions

The following table sets out the detail of the Scope 1 emissions from the operations of Sevenoaks District Council in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Scope 1 emissions are those released from petrol and diesel fuel used in the Council owned vehicles that are used to deliver services such the collection of refuse and recycling

	2010/11	2009/10	Percentage Change
Petrol			
Units – Litres	1,237	902	+ 37.1%
Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions	2.7	2.0	+ 37.1%
Diesel			
Units – Litres	480,792	503,631	- 4.5%
Emissions	1,236.8	1,295.6	- 4.5%
TOTAL			
Litres	482,029	504,533	-4.5%
Tonnes of CO₂e Emissions	1,239.6	1,297.6	- 4.5%
Intensity Measure Tonnes of CO ₂ e per District Area (142 square miles)	8.7	9.1	- 4.5%

3. Scope 2 Emissions

The following table sets out the detail of the Scope 2 emissions from the operations of Sevenoaks District Council in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions released from the Council's consumption of purchased electricity and gas. The emissions occur at sources the Council does not own or control.

	2010/11	2009/10	Percentage Change
Electricity			
Units – Kilowatt Hour (kWh)	873,852	881,726	- 0.9%
Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions	458.4	462.6	- 0.9%
Gas			
Units – Kilowatt Hour (kWh)	806,714	839,090	- 3.9%
Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions	148.1	154.1	- 3.9%
TOTAL			
Units – Kilowatt Hour (kWh)	1,680,566	1,720,816	- 2.3%
Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions	606.6	616.6	- 1.6%
Intensity Measure Tonnes of CO ₂ e per Office Space (6,335 square metres)	0.095	0.097	-2.1%

4. Scope 3 Emissions

The following table sets out the detail of the Scope 3 emissions from the operations of Sevenoaks District Council in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Scope 3 emissions are the indirect emissions released from the use of water in Council buildings and emissions generated from staff and Councillor business travel by car. The emissions occur at sources the Council does not own or control.

	2010/11	2009/10	Percentage Change
Petrol			
Units - Miles	86,422	93,182	- 7.3%
Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions	4.9	5.4	- 9.3%
Diesel			
Units - Miles	72,030	73,752	- 2.3%
Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions	3.9	4.0	- 2.5%
Other Mileage (fuel type not available on Council records)			
Units - Miles	24,043	21,922	+ 9.7%
Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions	1.4	1.3	+ 7.7%
Water			
Units - Cubic Metre (m ³)	4,492	9,802	- 54.2%
Tonnes of CO ₂ e Emissions	1.3	2.9	-54.2%
TOTAL			
Units	186,987	198,658	- 5.9%
Tonnes of CO₂e Emissions	11.6	13.5	- 14.0%
Intensity Measure Tonnes of CO ₂ e per employee (411 FTE employees 2010/11)	0.028	0.033	- 15.2%

Note: Variance in the percentage decrease between fuel type and emissions level for petrol, diesel, other mileage and the total is due to different emissions factors being applied to different car engine sizes. For example 100 miles travelled in a large engine diesel car creates 3 units of emissions. If this 100 miles is travelled in a small engine diesel car only 1 unit of emissions is created. So although the amount of mileage travelled remains the same less emissions are created.

5. Future Measurement and Targets

Sevenoaks District Council will continue to measure its greenhouse gas emissions against the same criteria as detailed in this report in to the future. 2009 will act as the baseline year from which to measure the Council's future improvement.

The Council will continue to seek to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions each year but no formal targets have been set.

By delivering the actions set out in the Sustainable Community Action Plan, the Carbon Reduction Management Action Plan and the Staff Travel Plan it is expected that greenhouse gas emissions will fall in to the future.

If our ongoing analysis of data shows this not to be the case action plans will be reviewed and updated.

6. Value for Money

The Council's ambition to continually reduce its consumption of fuel and reduce its impact on the environment is in support of the Council's aims and objectives and its desire to provide the best value for money in the delivery of its services.

Reducing our impact on the environment delivers improved value for money to residents.

- Using less fuel and implementing more efficient processes reduces the overall cost of running the Council. These financial savings can be redirected to services that residents tell us are important them and help keep rises in council tax to a minimum.
- The Council continually review the contracts in place for the provision of its electricity, gas, fuel and water. This ensures the best value contracts are in place which minimise the cost to the Council whilst ensuring efficient delivery of council services.
- The purchase of all new equipment, such as IT equipment or refuse freighters, includes an assessment of the sustainability and environmental credentials of each product. Greater energy or fuel efficiency reduces the consumption of fuel which reduces the cost to the Council.
- Data collection and monitoring processes are part of an existing performance management framework and require no additional staff resources.
- Reporting greenhouse gas emissions will happen in June each year. Reports will only be published on the Council website for residents information.