



# London Borough of Tower Hamlets Greenhouse Gas Report 2023 to 2024

18/09/2024



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## Council Information

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) is a local government authority with 5,700 employees. The borough has a population of approximately 325,789 residents (ONS mid 2022 estimate).

### Registered address:

Tower Hamlets Council  
Town Hall  
160 Whitechapel Road  
London  
E1 1BJ

## Reporting period

1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

## Summary of emissions

LBTH's emissions for 2022/2023 are 4,764 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

## Quantification and Reporting Methodology

In March 2019 LBTH declared a Climate Emergency and committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2025. The target is to reduce carbon emissions by 75% by 2025/26 and offset any residual emissions. A plan on how this target will be achieved was agreed by Cabinet in March 2020.

As a result of the Climate Emergency declaration the decision was made to re-baseline our emissions to 2018/19 the year in which the Climate Emergency declaration was made. The baseline includes buildings that were not previously reported as they were not included in the CRC scheme which was the framework for the previous baseline. Now all buildings that are under the operational control of LBTH are reported against.

The data used to report emissions is calculated from several sources. Electricity and gas consumption data is calculated directly from the supplier's data. The transport data is provided by two sources from LBTH who are responsible for the transport fleet and recording staff mileage.

To convert energy and fuel use to tCO<sub>2</sub>e DECC's 2023 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting have been used

## Organisational boundary

We have used the operational control approach.

## Operational scopes

We have measured our emissions as follows;

- Scope 1 (Direct emissions) – Gas consumption and owned transport
- Scope 2 (Energy indirect) – Purchased electricity, including street lighting.
- Scope 3 (Other indirect) – Business travel.

<b>SCOPE 1 in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>2023- 2024</b>	<b>Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2018- 2019 (Base Year)</b>
Gas consumption	901	Gas consumption data from operational control.	1,274	1,394
Owned transport	1,902	For 20/21 the fleet transferred from Veolia to LBTH so are now all Scope 1 emissions hence the increase in Scope 1 emissions.	2,047	541
<b>Total scope 1</b>	<b>2,803</b>		<b>3,321</b>	<b>1,935</b>

<b>SCOPE 2 in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>2023- 2024</b>	<b>Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions</b>	<b>2022- 2023</b>	<b>2018- 2019 (Base Year)</b>
Purchased Electricity	1,944	Purchased electricity data from operational control.	2,560	6,202
<b>Total Scope 2</b>	<b>1,944</b>		<b>2,560</b>	<b>6,202</b>

<b>SCOPE 3 in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>2023- 2024</b>	<b>Notes about emission sources and any specific exclusions</b>	<b>2022- 2023</b>	<b>2018- 2019 (Base Year)</b>
Business travel	17	Emissions from all mileage claims made for business purposes.	21	38
Waste and recycling collection	0	See note next to Owned Transport in Scope 1.	0	779
<b>Total Scope 3</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>817</b>
<b>Total emissions</b>	<b>4,764</b>		<b>5,901</b>	<b>8,954</b>

## Base Year

We have a fixed base year of 2018/2019. This is the year that LBTH declared a climate emergency. The baseline was set for this year so we can measure our progress against the climate emergency target. The re-baselining also ensured that all buildings under LBTH operational control are now included as this had not been the case previously as we reported against CRC requirements.

## Summary of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	<b>2023/2024 (tCO2)</b>	<b>Base Year 2018/2019 (tCO2)</b>
<b>Scope 1 (Direct emissions)</b>	2,803	1,935
<b>Scope 2 (Energy indirect)</b>	1,944	6,202
<b>Scope 3 (Other indirect emissions)</b>	17	817
<b>Total annual emissions</b>	<b>4,764</b>	<b>8,954</b>
<b>Intensity ratio – tonnes of CO2e per full time equivalents</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>1.57</b>

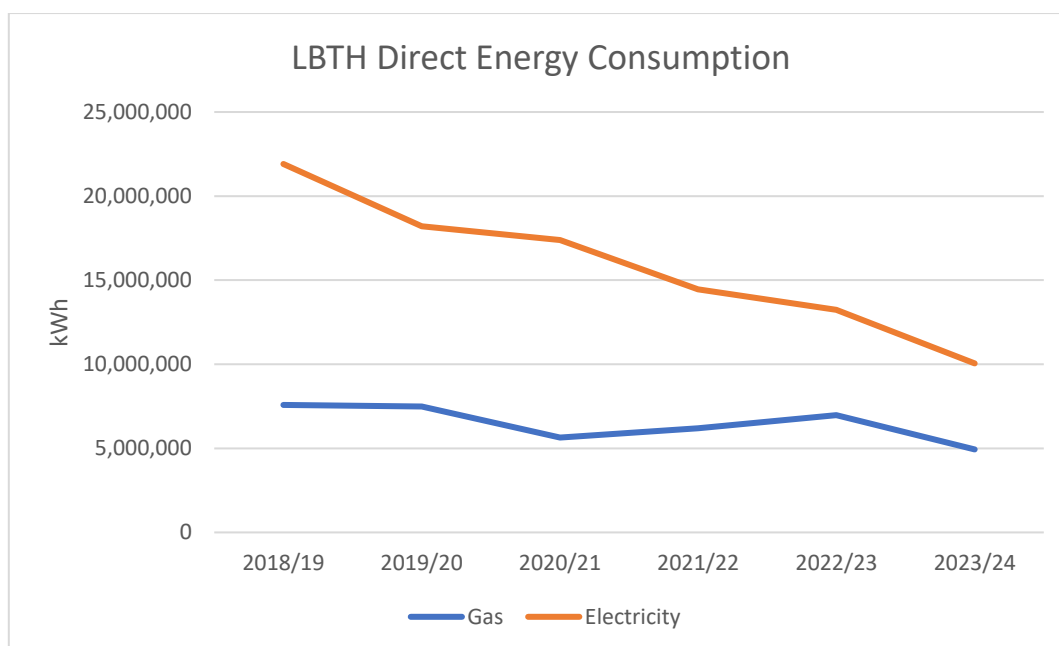
As mentioned in the Operational Scopes section Scope 3 in the base year includes emissions from Veolia who were providing the Council’s waste and recycling collection. In 2020/21 this service came back in house to LBTH from Veolia so the emissions from this activity transferred from Scope 3 to Scope 1. This is why there is a big difference between Scope 1 and 3 between the two years.

## Change in Emissions

There has been a decrease of 19% in LBTH’s Greenhouse Gas emissions compared to last year. There was a decrease in electricity consumption (24%) and gas consumption (29%). The Council’s transport fleet also saw a decrease in emissions of 7%.

The reasons for these changes are:

- Most of the reduction in the consumption of electricity and gas on the previous year was due to the Council vacating Mulberry Place and moving to the New Town Hall. The New Town Hall is off gas whereas Mulberry used gas which has resulted in a large reduction in the consumption of gas. The New Town Hall is far more energy efficient than Mulberry Place and this has seen a large reduction in the consumption of electricity. This is also aided by Solar panels on the New Town Hall providing energy, reducing reliance on the grid.
- Energy consumption also fell from other sites including John Onslow House where it fell by 22%. This was due to staff being relocated to the New Town Hall.
- Continued energy efficiency projects across the Council estate also contributed to the fall in carbon emissions.



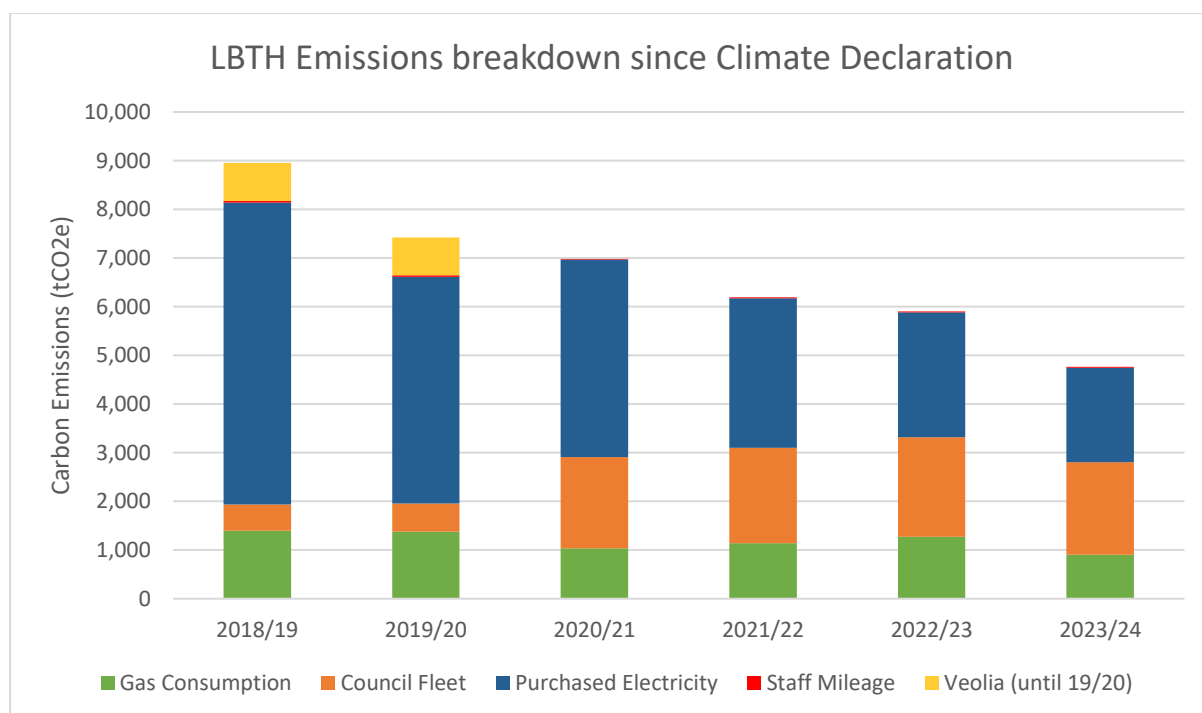
Since 2018/19 electricity consumption has fallen by 54% whilst gas consumption has fallen by 35%. The biggest drivers behind the fall in electricity consumption, after the vacating of Mulberry Place, are street lighting (48%) due to the LED replacement programme, John Onslow House (80%), Albert Jacob House (46%) and Jack Dash House (53%). These three sites have had the use changed since 2018/19 with the council optimising its use of the estate and staff relocating to the Town Hall. This has allowed for energy consumption to fall with resulting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

## Targets

LBTH declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. This set a target for LBTH to be Net Zero by 2025/26 with a 75% reduction in emissions with the residual emissions being offset. The below target shows the annual progress made against that target. The targets cover the emissions reported in all three scopes.

Year	Carbon emissions	% reduction
<b>2018/2019</b>	8,954	Baseline
<b>2019/2020</b>	7,422	17%
<b>2020/2021</b>	6,981	22%
<b>2021/2022</b>	6,192	31%
<b>2022/2023</b>	5,901	34%
<b>2023/2024</b>	4,764	47%

This year’s emissions of 4,764 tCO<sub>2</sub>e are a 19% reduction on last year’s emissions and a 47% reduction on emissions from 2018/19.



## Intensity Measurement

We have chosen the Intensity measurement of tonnes of CO2e per full time equivalents. This is the most appropriate measurement as it is the staff's work and actions that creates LBTH's emissions. LBTH has approximately 5700 staff. Our intensity measurement this year is 46% lower than the base year of 2018/19.

## External Assurance Statement

There is no external assurance statement for this report.

## Carbon Offsets

LBTH has not purchased any carbon credits.

## Electricity

Electricity purchased for own consumption: 10,050 MWh.

**For more information please contact the Sustainable Development Team by emailing: [climate@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:climate@towerhamlets.gov.uk)**