



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

6TH DECEMBER 2022

UPDATE REPORT ON THE CARBON FOOTPRINT PROJECT & WELSH PUBLIC SECTOR NET ZERO CARBON REPORT FOR 2021/22

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES IN DISCUSSION WITH
THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE & CORPORATE SERVICES**

**Author(s): David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates &
Anthony Roberts, Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee with regards to the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Reporting Scheme and Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's submission under that regime for the Financial Year 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report as part of the ongoing work under the remit of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee.
- 2.2 Agree to publish the data on the Councils Carbon Footprint Dashboard.
- 2.3 Receive further reports providing additional updates on progress as / when deemed appropriate.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This report provides background information and an update on the current situation regarding the Carbon Footprint of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and its related activities, whilst noting ongoing development in the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Reporting process.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2017, the Welsh Government set the ambition of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. Subsequently in March 2019, the Welsh Government published 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales' (which includes Policy 20: Support the public sector to baseline, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality). This mirrors Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's own commitment to be organisationally Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- 4.2 In May 2021, the Welsh Government introduced the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon (NZC) reporting scheme. This scheme encompasses over 60 public sector organisations including all Welsh Unitary Authorities, Health Boards and Trusts, National Park Authorities, Welsh Universities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and various other public sector bodies.
- 4.3 Although launched in May 2021, participants were required to submit carbon emissions data for both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years and now for subsequent years going forward.
- 4.4 The Carbon Reporting process and the plans for the creation of a future Corporate Decarbonisation Plan, for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's activities, will provide a clear path and defined timescales to achieving the Council's carbon reduction targets by 2030.

5. RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS 2021/22

- 5.1 The Council's Carbon Emissions for 2021/22 were submitted to the Welsh Government by the 9th of September 2022 deadline. The NZC Emissions for 2021/22 were 120,907.4 tonnes CO₂.
- 5.2 From the 2021/22 year onward, the Welsh Government has introduced three additional carbon emission reporting requirements namely:
 - Staff Business Travel
 - Staff Commuting
 - Home Working

Whilst Staff Business travel related emissions is relatively straight forward to calculate using data from the Envoy Expenses system, the calculation of emissions related to Staff Commuting and Staff Home Working was more challenging and will require more ongoing refinement for future submissions.

- 5.3 As a result of these changes, the Council's reported carbon emissions for 2021/22 increased when compared to the previous two years. A comparison of the carbon emissions for the first three years of the scheme are set out in Appendix 'A'.
- 5.4 A significant reduction in emissions can be seen in 2020/21 which is attributable to the cessation of several activities across various emission sources due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5.5 Over the same three years, the production of Renewable Electricity Generation increased from 1,119,617 kW during 2019/20 to 1,139,889 kW during 2020/21 and 1,163,788 kW in 2021/22.

- 5.6 It should be noted that, under the current rules of the Welsh Government reporting scheme, renewable electricity generated by the Council's photovoltaic systems cannot be used to offset the Council's carbon emissions. Notwithstanding this restriction, most of the energy generated is/can be used 'behind the meter' thus reducing our intake from the National Grid, and then consequently our carbon emissions also.
- 5.7 Equally, although the Council purchases 100% of its electricity from renewable generated certified sources, the Council cannot currently use this to offset our carbon emissions, under current reporting rules.

6. ANALYSIS OF THE COUNCIL'S CARBON EMISSIONS.

- 6.1 Due to the unique nature of the 2020/21 Financial Year and its effect on the Council's Carbon emissions, it was decided to use the 2019/20 Financial Year as the Baseline Year against which progress towards the Council's 2030 target could be assessed.
- 6.2 The introduction of the three new reporting requirements added 5,562.37 tonnes CO₂ to the Council's total reported emissions for 2021/22. Without these additional elements, the Council's emissions would have reduced to 115,345 tonnes CO₂, some 1,198 tonnes CO₂ lower than the Baseline Year. So, if given a like for like comparison, there would have been a reduction in carbon emissions compared against the Baseline.
- 6.3 The breakdown of the 2021/22 carbon emissions per Emission Categories as a percentage of total emissions illustrates that emissions related to the purchase of Goods and Services dominates the Council's emissions:
- Supply Chain (67%)
 - Natural Gas (12%)
 - Electricity (7%)
 - Fleet & Equipment (5%)
 - Business Travel, Commuting and Home Working (5%)
 - Waste (4%)
 - Other Fuels / Water (>0%)
- 6.4 There has been a slight rise in Natural Gas and Electricity related emissions in 2021/22 when compared to the baseline year. This could be due to several factors including improvements in consumption data provided by energy suppliers, so less reliance on estimated data or variations in weather conditions between the two years.
- 6.5 Waste related carbon emissions have also increased slightly during 2021/22. It should be noted that the waste emissions are not just derived from the waste generated by the Council's own activities but also includes domestic and commercial waste that is collected by the Council. This increase in emissions could be due in part to more employees' home working increasing levels of domestic waste production.
- 6.6 Fleet and Equipment related emissions for 2021/22 have increased substantially when compared with the baseline year. This is due to an improved methodology for data collection and analysis.

- 6.7 Water related carbon emissions have reduced significantly during 2021/22. This is due to the quality of water consumption data supplied to the Council by Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water (DC-WW). Unlike the natural gas and electricity consumption data which can be accessed directly by the Energy and Carbon Reduction Team on a daily / monthly basis, most water consumption data is supplied to the Council on an annual basis by DC-WW. Unfortunately, the billing system operated by DC-WW is not compatible with the energy management software used by most Public Sector organisations. Officers from the CLAW Energy Managers Network are in discussions with DC-WW to find a solution to this matter.
- 6.8 Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) is only used on two Council sites within Rhondda Cynon Taf, one of which has transitioned from using an obsolete, unreliable biomass heating system, to a new more reliable LPG system (during 2021) which has resulted in an increase in LPG related carbon emissions.
- 6.9 It is acknowledged that there is a requirement to continuously improve the data identification, collation, analysis, and reporting mechanisms to take on board changes to the Council's carbon reduction activities and service adaptations. It is the Council's aim to improve the quality and robustness of the data used to complete the Public Sector Net Zero carbon submissions and equally importantly, to help inform the discussions surrounding the transition to a Carbon Neutral authority by 2030.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required with regards to this report.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no immediate Welsh Language requirements with regards to this report.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 There are no consultation requirements at present with regards to this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 10.1 The costs associated with the calculation of our Carbon Footprint, including those related to the engagement of the Carbon Trust are all currently funded through the relevant cost centres so there are no further financial implications aligned to this report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 11.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 12.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update report relating to the progress of the Carbon Footprint project as it relates to the work of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee.

Any future actions that arise due to recommendations of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee, will be considered by the Council's Cabinet, and it will take full regard to the Seven National Wellbeing Goals.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 This report provides an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee with regards to the work underway in fully understanding the Carbon Footprint of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, it's activities and how it relates to the Welsh Government reporting requirements, alongside the wider carbon reduction commitments of the Council.

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Appendix 'A'

Follows on the next page.

Appendix 'A'

Table 1: Rhondda Cynon Taf Council – Net Zero Carbon Emissions

Emission Category	Tonnes CO ₂ 2019/20 (Baseline Year)	Emission Category	Tonnes CO ₂ 2020/21	% Change from Baseline Year	Emission Category	Tonnes CO ₂ 2021/22	% Change from Baseline Year
Supply Chain	86,728.59	Supply Chain	82,205.83	-5.21%	Supply Chain	81,676.97	-5.82%
Natural Gas	13,590.39	Natural Gas	10,869.16	-20.02%	Natural Gas	14,346.60	5.56%
Electricity	7,775.94	Electricity	5,715.59	-26.50%	Electricity	8,271.97	6.38%
Waste	4,444.99	Waste	3,530.70	-20.57%	Waste	4,842.35	8.94%
Fleet & Equipment	3,750.39	Fleet & Equipment	3,420.78	-8.79%	Fleet & Equipment	6,007.51	60.18%
Water	243.51	Water	216.76	-10.99%	Water	112.01	-54.0%
Other Fuels (LPG)	9.38	Other Fuels (LPG)	48.78	420.04%	Other Fuels (LPG)	87.68	834.75%
					Staff Travel, and Home Working	5,562.37	N/A
Total:	116,543.2	Total:	106,007.6		Total:	120,907.4	