

## Test Valley Borough Council's Annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Report 2020/21

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) declared a climate emergency in September 2019. In June 2020 the Council approved its Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), which focuses on action and mitigation measures that will help reduce and work towards the Council becoming carbon neutral as soon as possible.
- 1.2 This GHG report covers the period of 2020/2021.

### 2. Emissions Summary

- 2.1 Table 1 summarises Test Valley Borough Council's GHG emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>1</sup>) for the past year against the base year of 2018/19 using the Environmental Reporting Guidelines 2019<sup>2</sup> methodology.
- 2.2 The current reporting reflects emissions from some of our own buildings, as well as our fleet and plant (within scopes 1 and 2). It does not include wider indirect emissions (scope 3 e.g. business travel).

	2020 / 21 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	2019 / 20 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	2018 / 19 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 1	1,198.6	1,199.9	1,106.4
Scope 2	274.6	386.8	435.9
Total Gross emissions	1,473.2	1,586.7	1,542.3
Carbon credits	154.3	7	8
Total net emissions	1,318.9	1,579.7	1,534.3

Table 1 showing TVBC's annual GHG Emissions summary in tCO<sub>2</sub>e

### 3. Company Information

- 3.1 Test Valley Borough Council is a borough council within Hampshire providing a range of public sector services to a resident population of 131,700<sup>3</sup>. The Borough covers an area of 62,760 hectares. Test Valley contains a mixture of urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

<sup>1</sup> This is the unit of measurement advocated for use by the Government to report on greenhouse gas emissions. It looks beyond carbon dioxide, for example covering methane and nitrous oxide. It records the global warming potential of each greenhouse gas, expressed in terms of the global warming potential of one unit of carbon dioxide

<sup>2</sup> [Environmental Reporting Guidelines \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-reporting-guidelines)

<sup>3</sup> Available: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/about-test-valley-the-facts-and-figures/boroughprofile>

#### 4. Reporting Period

4.1 This report is for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

#### 5. Changes in Emissions

5.1 Our GHG emissions have changed for this period compared to the previous reporting years this is due to a combination of factors:

5.2 This reporting period has been significantly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. some sites being closed). We also need to be mindful that while some components of the emissions appear to show a reduction, there will be displacement of emissions – for example as a result of home working, which is not currently accounted for in the figures.

5.3 The gross emissions data for 2020/21 indicates that overall emissions reduced by about 7% relative to 2019/20; and 4% relative to 2018/19. When accounting for the exporting of electricity back to the grid, and the purchase of electricity from a green tariff (from October 2020), the emissions for 2020/21 reduced by about 16% relative to 2019/20; and 14% relative to 2018/19.

5.4 The emissions associated with the fleet fuel use marginally increased (0.8%) relative to last year, this is likely to reflect additional homes being served through waste and recycling collections, along with the responsibility for a growing number of open spaces. There may also have been some variations as a result of changes in service delivery accounting for the pandemic.

5.5 The emissions associated with the electricity usage dropped by about 29% (based on national grid conversion rates, not allowing for the REGO backed tariff), and emissions related to gas use were about 3% lower relative to the previous reporting year. The pandemic would have been a significant factor in this. For gas and electricity use, there are difference on a site by site basis. For information, while some buildings were close for public use, some of the systems may still have been operating, for example for health and safety compliance reasons.

#### 6. Measuring and Reporting approach

6.1 The approach for this report is based on DEFRA 2009 '*Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions*<sup>4</sup> and the government's 2019 '*Environmental Reporting Guidelines*<sup>5</sup>'.

6.2 The current data reporting focuses on the energy (gas and electricity) used by buildings that we own and operate, as well as our fleet (within scopes 1 and

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<sup>4</sup> [Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/422222/guidance-on-how-to-measure-and-report-your-greenhouse-gas-emissions.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [Environmental reporting guidelines: including Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting requirements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/422222/environmental-reporting-guidelines-including-streamlined-energy-and-carbon-reporting-requirements.pdf)

2).

- 6.3 At present, this includes 36 sites for electricity use, 13 sites for gas use, in the order of 100 fleet vehicles, along with fuel used for hand plant and electricity for street lighting (provided by Hampshire County Council on our behalf). It does not include wider indirect emissions (scope 3 e.g. business travel).
- 6.4 The council is planning to re-examine its approach to emissions reporting going forward.

## 7. Organisational Boundary

- 7.1 Currently our approach to reporting most closely aligns with operational control approach as per the government's *'Environmental Reporting Guidelines'*.

## 8. Operational Scope

- 8.1 Table 2 below shows what is included in each scope measure in tCO<sub>2e</sub>.

Scope	Source	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
1 (Direct Emissions)	Fleet Fuel Use	947.3	940	870.1
	Gas Use	251.3	259.9	236.3
<b>Total Scope 1</b>		1,198.6	1,199.9	1,106.4
2 (Indirect Emissions)	Electricity	257.6	368.2	419.5
	Street lighting	17.01	18.7	16.4
<b>Total Scope 2</b>		274.6	386.8	435.9
<b>Total gross emissions</b>		1473.2	1,586.7	1,542.3
<b>Credits</b>				
<b>Green Tariff</b>		148.3	n/a	n/a
<b>PV Export Only</b>		6	7	8
<b>Offsets</b>		n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Credits</b>		154.3	7	8
<b>Total net emissions</b>		1,318.9	1,579.7	1,534.3

Table 2 shows the breakdown of TVBC's GHG emissions for Scopes 1 & 2 as well as credits, tCO<sub>2e</sub>

## **9. Targets**

9.1 The council aims to be carbon neutral by as soon as possible.

## **10. Base Year**

10.1 The baseline year for the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan is 2018/19.

## **11. Carbon Offsetting**

11.1 The council has not purchased or delivered any carbon offset projects.

## **12. Green Tariffs**

12.1 Since 1 October 2020 Test Valley Borough Council purchases its electricity supply through a green tariff through a 100 % REGO<sup>6</sup> backed tariff. This covers all electricity under scope 2 but also includes the council's street lighting.

12.2 As we are unable to obtain a breakdown of the amount of street lighting electricity consumed since 1 October 2021 we have made a conservative estimate and assumed that half of the electricity used is REGO backed.

## **13. Electricity Generation**

13.1 The Council has a 49.6kWp solar PV system at Portway Depot.

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<sup>6</sup> Renewable Energy Company Obligation