Test Valley Borough Council's Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2024/25

1. Introduction

1.1 Test Valley Borough Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019. In June 2020, a Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) was approved which focused on actions that would help reduce the council's greenhouse gas emissions and work towards becoming carbon neutral as soon as possible. An updated Climate Emergency Action Plan was approved in November 2024 which further encourages the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for both the council emissions and borough wide emissions.

1.2 This greenhouse gas (GHG) report covers the period of 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

2. Emissions summary

2.1 Table 1 summarises the council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the past year against the baseline year of 2018/19 based on the Environmental Reporting Guidelines 2019 methodology. This is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e)[1].

2.2 The current reporting reflects greenhouse gas emissions from some of our own buildings, as well as all our fleet and plant (scopes 1[2] and 2[3]). It does not include wider indirect emissions (scope 3[4] e.g., business travel).

Table 1: Test Valley Borough Council's annual GHG emissions summary

	2024/25 tCO_2e	2023/24 tCO_2e	2022/23 tCO_2e	2021/22 tCO_2e	2020/21 tCO_2e	2019/20 tCO_2e	2018/19 tCO_2e
Scope 1	314	415	1,404	1,431	1,342	1,326	1,276
Scope 2	260	232	222	234	255	366	416
Total gross emissions	574	647	1,626	1,665	1,597	1,692	1,691
Carbon Credits	212	186	181	208	144	7	8
Total net emissions	362	461	1,444	1,457	1,453	1,685	1,683

[1] This is the measurement advocated for use by the government. It takes account of the global warming potential of different greenhouse gases, expressed in terms of the global warming potential of one unit of carbon dioxide.
[2] Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources i.e., fleet fuel use and gas use for heating buildings.
[3] Indirect emissions from the purchase and use of electricity, steam, heating and cooling. By using the energy, an organisation is indirectly responsible for the release of these greenhouse gas emissions.
[4] Includes all other indirect emissions that occur in the upstream and downstream activities of an organisation.

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 about 130,500[5]. The borough covers an area of just over 62,700 hectares and contains a mixture of urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

4. Reporting Period

4.1 This report is for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

5. Changes in Emissions

5.1 The council's total gross greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 11.2% for this period, compared to 2023/24.

5.2 The council's total net greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 21.6% for this period, compared to 2023/24.

5.3 This decrease has originated from the reduction of emissions in the scope 1 emissions. This includes fleet fuel, and gas use, as outlined in Table 2.

5.4 The council's scope 1 emissions have reduced by 24.3% compared to those in the 2023/24 period. This is largely due to the transition from diesel to HVO fuel amongst the council's fleet vehicles.

5.5 The council's scope 2 emissions, for electricity, have increased by 12.3% compared to 2023/24. One of the factors that is likely to have influenced this is an increase in the electricity consumption associated with Bourne House. Due to the removal of gas-powered heating at Bourne House it was anticipated that electricity use would increase at this site. It is anticipated that rates of electricity use will fluctuate each year due to the changes in demand of electricity at each site.

5.6 The council purchases electricity from a Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) certificate backed electricity tariff. This combined with our solar photovoltaic (PV) generation shows that the council's total net greenhouse gas emissions are continuing in a downward trajectory for 2024/25.

6. Measuring and Reporting Approach

6.1 The information for this report is based on Department for Environment, Flood and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 2009 *Guidance on* how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions and the government's 2019 Environmental Reporting Guidelines.

[5] Office for National Statistics – Census 2021.

6.2 The current data reporting reflects emissions from some of our own buildings, as well as our fleet and plant (within scopes 1 and 2). At present, this includes 34 assets for electricity use, 16 assets for gas use, fuel used for fleet, and hand plant. It does not include wider indirect emissions (scope 3, such as business travel).

7. Organisational Boundary

7.1 Our annual greenhouse gas report more closely aligns with operational control approach as per the government's 'Environmental Reporting Guidelines'.

8. Operational Scope

8.1 The table below shows what is included in each scope measure in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e).

Table 2: Test Valley Borough Council's annual GHG emissions breakdown[6]

Scope	Source	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
1 (Direct Emissions)	Fleet fuel	1,010	1,053	1,078	1,087	1,077	90	15
	Small machinery	15	14	13	15	13	18	20
	Gas use	251	260	251	329	313	308	278
Total Scope 1		**1,276**	**1,326**	**1,342**	**1,431**	**1,404**	**415**	**314**
2 (Indirect Emissions)	Electricity use	416	366	255	234	222	232	260
Total Gross emissions		**1,691**	**1,692**	**1,597**	**1,665**	**1,626**	**647**	**574**
Green tariff		-	-	138	203	179	182	208
Offsets		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PV exports		8	7	6	5	2	4	4
Net emissions		**1,683**	**1,685**	**1,453**	**1,457**	**1,444**	**461**	**362**

9. Baseline

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

10. Targets

10.1 The council aims to be carbon neutral as soon as possible.

11. Carbon Offsetting

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

11.2 The council have, however, planted over 39,000 trees between 2021 and 2025. A carbon sequestration assessment was undertaken to estimate the

[6] Please note, some of the figures may not add up due to rounding.

potential impact of the council's green spaces on the carbon sequestration and storage. Research into carbon sequestration is a new science. Therefore, while we have recognised the estimated impact of our tree planting in our Climate Emergency Action Plan, it is not possible to be precise, and this impact has not been discounted from the net greenhouse gas emissions figure for 2024/2025.

12. Green Tariffs

12.1 Since October 2020, the council has purchased electricity supplies through a green tariff via a REGO backed tariff. We have multiplied the amount of electricity, which is backed by REGOs, by the grid average emissions factor and deducted the emissions from our gross figure as allowed under the UK government guidance.

13. Electricity Generation

13.1 The council has a 60kWp solar photovoltaic system at Portway Depot in Andover as well as a solar photovoltaic system at the Ganger Farm Sports Pavilion in Romsey that is in the order of 50kWp and a small solar photovoltaic system at Bourne House in Romsey that is in the order of 10kWp. A portion of the electricity generated at Portway Depot is exported to the grid.