

Benchmarking carbon reduction targets and recent performance

Benchmarking has been conducted with other SE7 county councils and a selection of other authorities (including county, unitary and boroughs). The non-SE7 authorities were identified through web searches for councils that have reviewed their carbon management plans within the past two years.

Benchmarking targets

Other county councils that have recently reviewed equivalent policies have set targets as set out below, with a variety of timescales and levels of change.

In the national context, the Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 which established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. A small number of councils have directly linked this national and long term target to their own estates, but most have set shorter term targets.

Local Authority	Emissions Reduction Target and Period	Per annum equivalent
Surrey	10% reduction by 2018/19 vs 2013/14 baseline	2.0%
Other SE7 county councils		
East Sussex	80% reduction by 2050 vs 2009/10 (in support of national legislated target, although baseline different)	3.5%
Hampshire	No percentage target reduction has been set in most recent strategy and action plan updates in 2012 and 2014	n/a
Kent	2.6% reduction per year, up to 2015 (no baseline specified)	2.6%
West Sussex	50% reduction by 2025 vs 2011/12 i.e. over 13 yrs	3.8%
Other authorities		
Buckinghamshire	10% reduction by 2016/17 vs 2011/12	2.0%

Surrey County Council is setting a 10% reduction targets, in light of:

- Outline financial appraisal of opportunities for carbon reduction projects in the corporate estate and maintained schools
- Growth pressures from schools expansion and other sources e.g. IT
- Understanding of indicative feasibility / deliverability based on experience of implementing efficiency projects in corporate estate and maintained schools, over the past four years.
- A change in approach to funding for schools energy efficiency projects: schools will be required to take on borrowing, via interest free loans from Salix, instead of

predominantly receiving funded projects from the county council (via the Schools Maintenance Grant).

- The relatively small scale of economically and practically feasible opportunities identified to date, in relation to council owned fleet, which is mostly comprised of Fire and Rescue Service vehicles.
- Recent upwards trends, to date, in business travel mileage claims.

Performance

A rudimentary comparison, shows Surrey CC is broadly in line with other SE7 county councils, although there is significant variation between councils in some cases. However, benchmarking emissions changes is unreliable. It is subject to changes in reporting rules (affecting all councils, but obscuring year on year changes), differences in application of guidance and variations in carbon reduction investment levels.

Emissions reporting source:	CRC reporting ¹ (latest figures available <u>13/14</u> vs 10/11)	GHG reporting ² (latest figures available <u>12/13</u> vs 10/11)
Surrey	-27.9%	-6.5%
East Sussex	-30.1%	-14.0%
Hampshire	+0.5% *	-5.0%
Kent	-30.6%	-6.9%
West Sussex	-21.2%	Figures unavailable for 12/13 vs 10/11

1. **Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)** Energy Efficiency Scheme is administered by the Environment Agency. It involves annually reporting and purchasing Allowances. The scope only includes emissions from the council's corporate buildings and streetlighting. Emissions reduction for CRC reporting should not be taken as an entirely comparable year on year progress, as changes in the rules for qualifying emissions have occurred. * Hampshire's figure is not reflective of the council's change in emissions overall.
2. **Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** reporting to DECC involves annually reporting emissions, but there are no financial implications. The scope of reporting covers a wider range of emissions i.e. emissions from business travel and fugitive emissions from air conditioning.