

## Environmental Sustainability Review -

Trevor Pugh

Trevor Pugh is the Strategic Director for Environment and Infrastructure and responsible for the council's annual environmental sustainability statement.

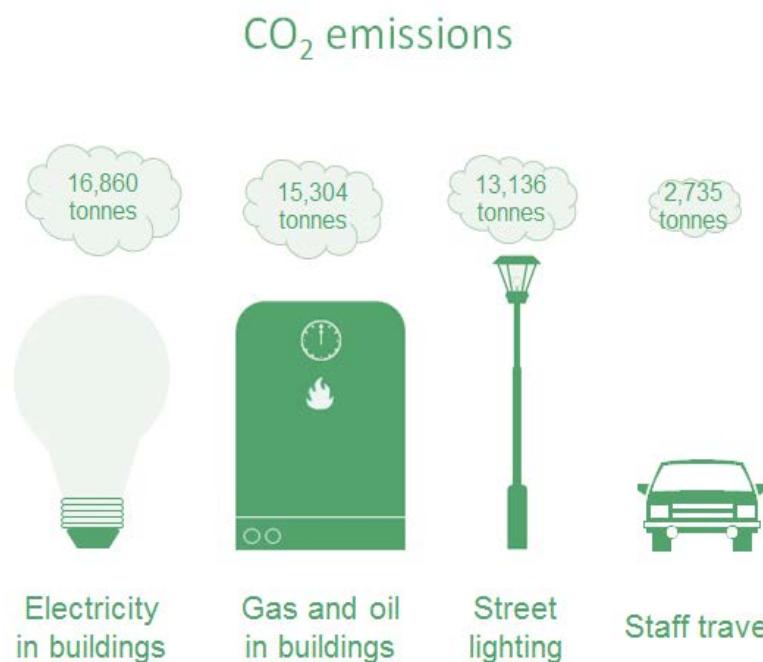
A healthy and well-functioning natural environment is the foundation for prospering communities, economic development and personal wellbeing; therefore environmental sustainability is an important goal for the council.

Surrey County Council manages public services in the environmental sector, in the areas of waste, transport, conservation and planning. Furthermore, the council has influence over environmental impacts through its own operations such as estate management, business travel and its procurement decisions. This report focuses on these 'corporate' aspects of environmental sustainability.

Scope of reporting:

- Greenhouse Gas emissions from our own estate and operations,
- Waste management on our own estate,
- Water consumption on our own estate,
- Business travel mileage by staff and county councillors, and
- Sustainable Procurement

### **Greenhouse Gas emissions from our own estate (including maintained schools) and operations**



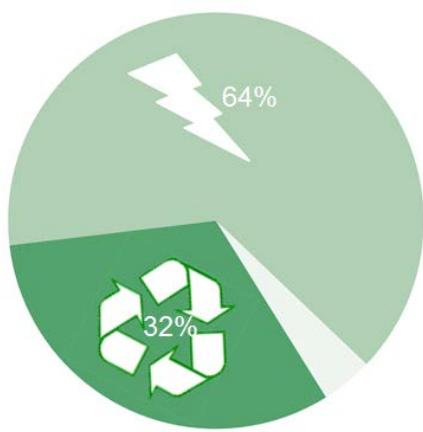
Our target for increasing energy efficiency and reducing our carbon emissions is a 10% reduction in emissions over a five year period. Three years into this programme, our carbon emissions from our own estate and operations have reduced by 8% compared to the baseline year.

This is a 'like for like' comparison, taking account of the impact of weather on variations in heating demand and also the impact of schools leaving our estate to become Academies.

Improvements in 'low carbon' electricity generation nationally have made the biggest difference in this reduction. Capital investment in energy efficiency in the council's buildings and the street lighting replacement programme have also contributed to emissions reductions. Further investment in energy efficiency measures in council buildings has been suspended due to financial pressures and so zero capital expenditure options are being investigated. The recently introduced part night lighting policy for street lights is projected to make cost and carbon savings in 2017/18 and the council will continue to look for affordable ways to increase energy efficiency.

### **Waste management on our own estate (excluding all schools)**

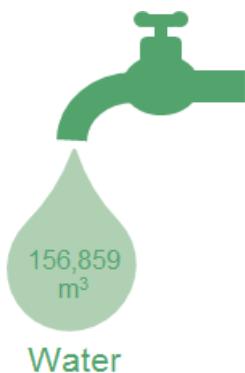
We are recycling 32% of our waste and a further 64% is being sent for Energy from Waste



The amount of waste diverted from landfill slightly increased (96% in 2016/17 vs 95% in 2015/16) and the total amount of waste produced from council buildings reduced; both positive trends. However a lower proportion of the non-landfilled waste was sent for recycling (32% vs 37%) and a higher proportion was sent to 'energy from waste' compared to previous year.

### **Water consumption on our own estate (excluding all schools)**

Water consumption decreased in 2016/17 compared to the previous year. This includes water used in care homes, some of which were vacated during 2016-17. The council has water meters installed at its largest sites and is examining further opportunities via reforms to the water market.



## **Business travel**



9,042,806 miles

Business travel is mileage driven by staff and councillors, including out of county visits such as visiting children in care. Business mileage reduced in 2016/17 compared to the previous year, which

counters the previous trend of year on year increases. The council encourages smart and remote working and provides a range of measures to support sustainable travel for business purposes and commuting.

## **Sustainable Procurement**

We have revised our process for suppliers to address environmental sustainability, which now includes a method to quantify environmental commitments in monetary equivalent values and to include these within the tender evaluation

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