

Carbon Reduction Commitment – Calculation of Hull City Council (HCC) 1990 Baseline Emissions

- **Local authority area:** Hull City Council
- **Stakeholders:** Hull City Council, NPS Humber (Property Design and Management Services), Knowledge Transfer Partnership Building Carbon Reduction (University of Lincoln/ NPS Humber)



Summary

To understand the carbon dioxide emissions of Hull City Council in line with the Climate Change Act baseline and targets, so that the Council can develop effective action programmes that more accurately address historical emissions.

Key learning points

- Identify existing energy/emissions data
- Identify if others within your sector have undertaken a similar exercise
- Check if data is reliable and verifiable and if extrapolation calculation is adequate for legal reporting purposes

Background

- HCC was unable to calculate its 1990 baseline emissions (required by the Kyoto Protocol) due to lack of available energy data until approximately 2000. The purpose of this desktop study was to gather and analyse existing data from secondary sources and calculate an extrapolation of the Council's energy data back to 1990.

Method

- The project process involved a literature review followed by a baseline extrapolation method. The literature review sought to identify the following:
 - Energy and baseline emissions data from 1990 to 2000 for a unitary authority.
 - Energy and baseline emissions data from 1990 to 2000 for the UK public sector
 - Evidence of extrapolation to 1990 undertaken by others
- Taking HCC's baseline energy total data (2000-2001) it is possible

to calculate a basic extrapolation back to 1990 using the UK energy consumption figures from 1990 to 2000 (supplied by The Department of Trade and Industry's publication Energy Consumption in the United Kingdom)

- **Barriers**

There is a lack of evidence to suggest that other unitary authority have undertaken an extrapolation exercise back to 1990 and therefore a lack of data focusing on energy use from 1990-2000

- **Resources**

A Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between NPS Humber and the University of Lincoln has been created to help the Humber office devise a toolkit to measure, predict, and monitor Hull City Council's carbon footprint. NPS were tasked to look at a baseline extrapolation and identify if and how others have calculated their emissions back to 1990 and this was undertaken as part of the KTP project.

- **Programme**

The study was restricted to a desktop study (approximately 5 days). Defra's document Guidance on How to Measure and Report Your Greenhouse Gas Emissions suggests that it is "important to ensure that the emissions data for your target base year is reliable and verifiable" (DEFRA 2009) and further research and debate should be undertaken to ascertain if the basic extrapolation calculation carried out in this report is adequate for legal reporting purposes.

Result - Key outcomes and impact

- A baseline energy total has been calculated for 1990.
- Limitations and Future Research
The literature research was limited by time and resource. Hull also changed from a district council within a two tier system under Humberside to a unitary authority in 1996 and became responsible for a number of additional services such as education, social services, highways and libraries. Whilst this has not been taken into account within this extrapolation it is likely to have had an impact on energy use.
- Whilst we have identified an extrapolated energy figure for 1990, further research would be required to clarify the actual emissions baseline.

Key contact

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References / Links

Defra, 2009. Guidance on How to Measure and Report Your Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting/pdf/ghg-guidance.pdf>

DTI, 2008. Energy Consumption in the United Kingdom:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/ecuk/ecuk.aspx>