

Members' Library Service Request Form

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Document Title	East Lothian Council – Public Sector Climate Change Reporting 2016/17

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Designation	Head of Development
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REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

MEETING DATE:

BY: Head of Service (Development)

SUBJECT: East Lothian Council – Public Sector Climate Change Reporting 2016/17

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise members of the progress made by the Council towards meeting its climate change obligations during 2016/17, through Public Sector Climate Change Reporting.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Council's progress in respect of climate change. A link to the Council's Climate Change Report can be accessed at 7.1 of this report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 helped to establish Scotland as a world leader in tackling climate change. It introduced ambitious targets and legislation to reduce Scotland's emissions by at least 80% by 2050. Since then, sustained progress has been made against targets set out in the Act, with the independent Committee on Climate Change producing a national annual report on emissions reductions. National reports can be accessed at <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publications/>
- 3.2 The Climate Change Act 2009 places specific duties on public bodies across Scotland with respect to climate change. Section 44 of the Act requires public bodies to contribute to carbon emissions reduction targets; contribute to climate change adaptation and to act sustainably. The Act also allows Ministers by Order, to require reports on compliance with climate change duties. Following public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny, a Statutory Order under Section 46 of the Act came into force on 23 November 2015, requiring public bodies to report annually on compliance with climate change duties. The Order sets out reporting requirements, a list of major public sector players involved and a standard climate change reporting form.

3.3 Major players listed in the Order are required to submit progress reports to the Scottish Government by 30 November each year, for the previous financial reporting year. The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) has been commissioned to act as the focal point for public body reports to be submitted, analysed and published.

3.3 The Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting mechanism provides a solid basis for tracking public sector action on climate change and driving continuous improvement. It introduces a standard methodology to improve data consistency. Reports and analysis are publicly available, increasing accountability and transparency and making it easier to understand an organisation's climate performance. Climate Change Reporting is intended to help public bodies to:

- Identify operational inefficiencies
- Increase transparency
- Improve sustainability reporting
- Improve leadership and engagement
- Integrate objectives in corporate business plans
- Embed action across all departments
- Improve decision making and strategic planning
- Identify opportunities for financial efficiencies and cost savings

3.4 Scottish Ministers expect public bodies to lead by example in combatting climate change and make a valuable contribution towards achieving the ambitious emission reduction target of 80% by 2050. The Council is a provider of services, a major employer and a procurer of goods and services across the county. The East Lothian Council Report provides useful insight into how the Council is responding to the challenge of climate change, including how the Council is contributing to carbon emissions reduction; climate change adaptation; procurement policies and activity. The report also provides information on the governance and management arrangements in place.

The report includes a breakdown of the Council's carbon footprint for 2016/17, which is 17,610 tonnes CO₂e compared with 19,086 in 2015/16 and 20,763 tonnes CO₂e in 2014/15. For 2016/17 this includes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| • refuse municipal to landfill | 3,257 tonnes |
| • organic garden waste | 13,209 tonnes |
| • mixed recycling | 18,941 tonnes |
| • refuse municipal / commercial | 86 tonnes |
| • grid electricity | 21,211,711 kWh |
| • natural gas | 28,413,070 kWh |
| • LPG | 88,884 litres |
| • Gas oil | 93,217 litres |
| • Burning oil (kerosene) | 17,500 litres |
| • Water supply and treatment | 132,913 m ³ |
| • Average car – unknown fuel | 1,353,875 miles |

It is evident that the Council is making good progress in respect of emissions reduction, year on year.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications directly arising from the Council's progress report.
- 4.2 The 2016/17 Climate Change Report provides useful insight into how the Council is responding to the challenge of climate change, including its contribution to carbon emissions reduction and climate change adaptation. The Council will develop an East Lothian Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy during 2018, which will provide a strategic framework for emissions reduction and adaptation across the county.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 1.1 Financial – None
- 1.2 Personnel - None
- 1.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 The East Lothian Council Climate Change Report 2016/17 can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/sustainable-scotland-network/climate-change-reporting/climate-change-reports/>

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