

Manchester City Council Direct Carbon Emissions: Q1 2020/21 Estimates



Background

The *Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan (2020-2025)* sets out the Council's commitments to tackling climate change over the next 5 years. The plan summarises the specific actions which are required to ensure that the Council reduces direct carbon emissions from our buildings and transport by at least 50% between 2020 and 2025, whilst also playing our full part in supporting and influencing the city to do the same.

To keep within the Council's carbon budget (2018/19-2099/100) and on track to becoming zero carbon by 2038, the Council's target is to reduce emissions by 13% each year, starting from 2018/19. While the target emissions for 2020/21 are around 31,100 tonnes CO₂, reducing to around 17,800 tonnes CO₂ by 2024/25, based on actual emissions since 2018/19 it is predicted that the **Council's direct emissions in 2020/21 may reduce further to 28,100 tonnes CO₂** and may reach 16,100 tonnes CO₂ by 2024/25.

Purpose and scope of this report

This report provides a quarterly estimate of the Council's direct carbon emissions, to enable short term tracking of progress towards our commitment to reduce emissions. Indirect emissions are excluded, for example, those from staff commuting to work or working from home. The scope of this quarterly update includes:

- Approximately 300 operational buildings, including leisure facilities, but excluding schools and Council housing;
- Street lighting;
- Biffa waste fleet;
- Council fleet vehicles; and
- Staff business travel including staff using their personal cars to carry out council business, rail travel, air travel, taxis and travel by car club.

The quarterly snapshot represents an estimate of carbon emissions and may be subject to change the following quarter due to billing delays for our operational buildings and street lighting (any residual unavailable figures will be estimated based on the previous year) and staff business travel by personal car. There are also seasonal fluctuations to consider, with roughly 60% of annual emissions from our buildings and street lighting occurring in the winter months between 1st October and 31st March. The most accurate and complete picture of the Council's direct CO₂ emissions can be found in the Climate Change Action Plan annual report, published each July, available at

www.manchester.gov.uk/climatechange

NOTE: In order to produce reports detailing the CO₂ emissions associated with the Council's direct activities, activity data e.g. miles travelled, kilowatt hours of electricity and gas used etc. are converted into carbon emissions using a nationally agreed set of emission conversion factors which are published annually by the government. It is anticipated that the electricity emission factor will continue to decrease as the National Grid becomes greener overtime.

Q1 2020/21 Estimates: Summary of key trends

The Council's total emissions in Q1 2020/21 has reduced by 31% (2,310 tonnes CO₂) compared to Q1 2019/20, with emissions estimated to be 5,086 tonnes CO₂. The electricity emissions factor decreased by 8.8% between 2019/20 and 2020/21. New ways of working due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in over half of staff working from home from mid-March 2020, have clearly impacted the Q1 2020/21 estimates.

73% of the Council's emissions came from our Council buildings. Q1 2020/21 emissions are 31% (1,658 tonnes CO₂) lower than in Q1 2019/20 and the total energy used in our buildings (kilowatt hours of gas, electricity and oil) has reduced by 28% (6.5 Million kWh). Snapshot data may be subject to change due to billing delays as any residual unavailable figures have been estimated based on the previous year - some building usage and occupancy hours have changed considerably due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

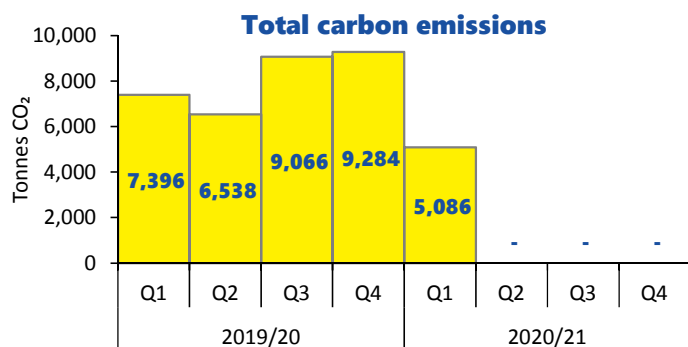
9% of the Council's emissions came from our street lighting. In Q1 2020/21 there was a significant 44% (366 tonnes CO₂) decrease in emissions from street lighting, compared to Q1 2019/20. The decrease is mainly due to the replacement of incandescent street lighting bulbs with more energy efficient LEDs. By the end of 2020, all of the street lights in Manchester will have been replaced.

Council Fleet emissions in Q1 2020/21 reduced by 33% (74 tonnes CO₂) compared to Q1 2019/20. Mileage figures have been lower this quarter due to the suspension or reduction in a number of services due to COVID-19. The Council's fleet of around 238 vehicles includes 16 electric vans, one electric car, one electric people carrier and three hybrid electric cars. Until the charging infrastructure in our operational depots is improved, we cannot take on any more electric vehicles.

Emissions from the Biffa Waste Fleet in Q1 2020/21 reduced by 6% (50 tonnes CO₂) compared to Q1 2019/20. This quarter fuel consumption was slightly lower for waste collection vehicles due to suspension of services for part of the period due to COVID-19. In 2019, Biffa started to trial the first fully electric Refuse Collection Vehicle in Manchester.

Staff business travel accounts for only 1% of the Council's overall emissions. Emissions in Q1 2020/21 reduced by 77% (161 tonnes CO₂) compared to Q1 2019/20. New ways of working due to COVID-19 have clearly impacted on staff business travel - during Q1 2020/21 no flights were taken and there were only 32 journeys by rail (compared to 1,204 journeys in Q1 2019/20). Compared to Q1 2019/20 there was a significant reduction in the mileage associated with the use of taxis (-76%), car club vehicles (-69%) and staff using their own vehicles for work (-69%).

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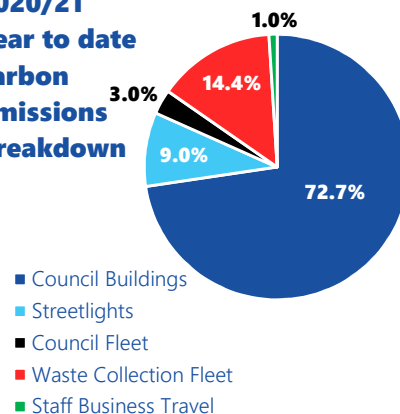


Total year to date carbon emissions (tonnes CO₂)

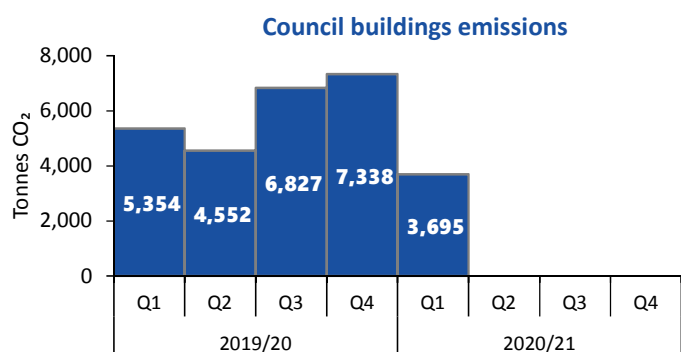
2019/20 7,396

2020/21 5,086

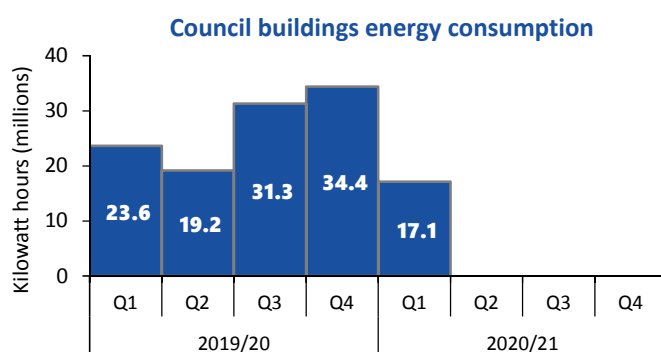
2020/21 year to date carbon emissions breakdown



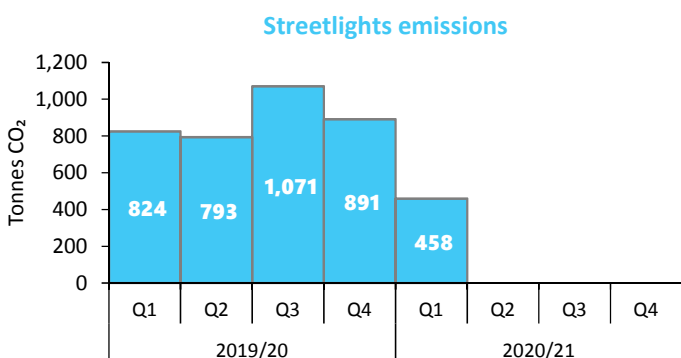
% Difference	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
2020/21 vs 2019/20	-31%	-	-	-	-31%



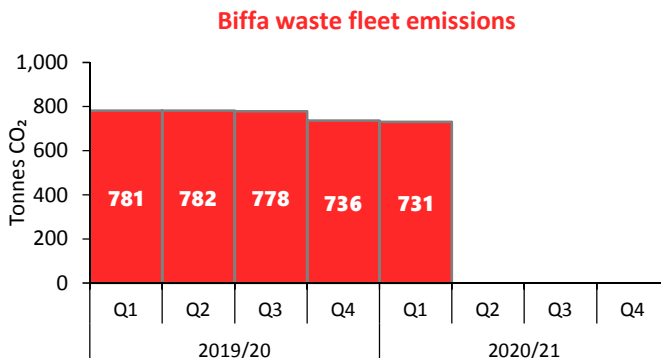
% Difference	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
2020/21 vs 2019/20	-31%	-	-	-	-31%



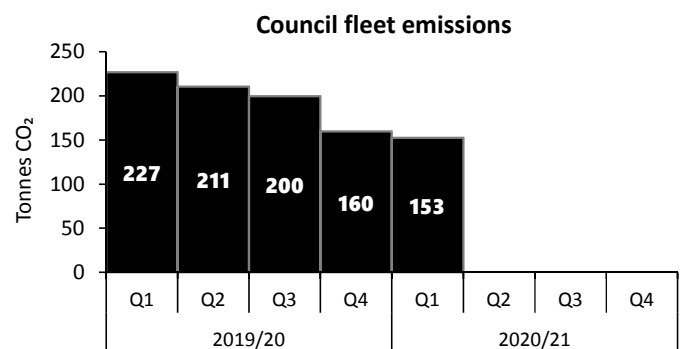
% Difference	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
2020/21 vs 2019/20	-28%	-	-	-	-28%



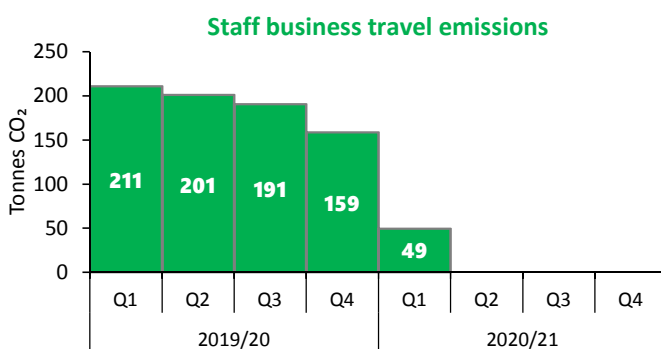
% Difference	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
2020/21 vs 2019/20	-44%	-	-	-	-44%



% Difference	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
2020/21 vs 2019/20	-6%	-	-	-	-6%



% Difference	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
2020/21 vs 2019/20	-33%	-	-	-	-33%



% Difference	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
2020/21 vs 2019/20	-77%	-	-	-	-77%

KEY

Q1: 1st April - 30th June
 Q2: 1st July - 30th September
 Q3: 1st October - 31st December
 Q4: 1st January - 31st March

YTD refers to the financial year to date, from 1st April to the end of the current reporting quarter. The percentage difference reported compares number of tonnes CO₂ or Kilowatt hours to the same period in the previous year.