

# Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Carbon Footprint Report 2019

Local authorities are in a leading position to demonstrate CO<sub>2</sub> reductions through their activities and behaviour as an example of best practise to residents and local businesses. By calculating their own emissions and making in-house reductions, in addition to increasing awareness and supporting local businesses and residents, carbon emissions can be reduced across each local authority area and therefore across the country as a whole, meeting the government's climate change targets.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving environmental performance year on year. This is demonstrated through its accreditation to ISO 14001:2015, the international standard for environmental management.

**Council's environment policy can be viewed on the Council website at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/council/policies-and-documents/policies/environmental-policy/>**

## Energy Use

Year	Energy Use (Electric gas oil)	Carbon Equivalent (tonnes)	Carbon Equivalent per Employee (tonnes)
2018/19	21,532,680kWh	5,864	6.82
2017/18	23,773,595 kWh	6,474	7.63
2016/17	19,865,871 kWh	5,410	6.72
2015/16	18,522,793 kWh	5,044	6.55

Council has reduced its energy consumption by 9.4% compared to the previous year. This is due to improved monitoring and energy efficient technologies.

## Transport

Year	Total fuel used by vehicle fleet (litres)	Carbon Equivalent (tonnes)	Carbon Equivalent per Employee (tonnes)
2018/19	763,184	1,986	2.31
2017/18	740,714	1,928	2.27
2016/17	714,981	1,861	2.31
2015/16	696,828	1,814	2.35

**Council's fuel consumption** increased by 1.8% compared to the previous year. Council have a target set to reduce fuel consumption by 5% during 2019/20.

## Waste

Year	Waste generated (tonnes)	% Recycled	Carbon Equivalent (tonnes) from waste landfilled	Carbon Equivalent per Employee (kg)
2018/19	142.6	66.5%	47.78	56.9
2017/18	143	66.1%	48.48	57.16
2016/17	108.71	60.9%	33.48	41.64
2015/16	97.41	66.7%	30	38.96

Council has reduced internal waste to landfill by 1% compared to the previous year. Council employees are recycling 66.5% of internal waste. Council have set a target to increase waste recycled by 5% during 2019/20.

## Carbon Footprint

Year	Total Carbon Footprint (tonnes CO2)	Carbon Footprint per employee (tonnes CO2)
2018/19	7,898	9.12
2017/18	8450	9.96
2016/17	7,304	9.0
2015/16	6,888.3	8.9

Council has reduced its carbon footprint by 6% compared to the previous year. This is mostly due to reduced energy consumption.

## Water

Year	Water Consumption (m3)	Water Consumption per employee (m3)
2018/19	58,910	68.6
2017/18	71,163	83.9
2016/17	59,791	73.4

Water consumption has reduced by 17% compared to last year, due to efficiencies and improved monitoring and record keeping.

## Environmental Incidents

There were no environmental incidents during 2018/19.

## Highlights and Achievements

Council has a positive impact on the environment through provision of street cleansing, refuse collection, recycling collection, air monitoring, beach cleaning,

biodiversity projects, environmental education, building control services, parks and grounds maintenance and public conveniences.

Council was recognised as one of the highest achieving Councils for commitment to environmental excellence at the Northern Ireland Environmental Management Benchmarking Awards 2018. Council retained their platinum status in the top quintile. Of the 101 businesses who took part, only 33 achieved platinum status by scoring over 90%.

Council recycled 52% of all waste collected from householders during 2018/19, similar to 2017/18.

Waste services rolled out two recycling campaigns during 2018/19:

1. A food waste campaign during December 2018 to encouraging householders to reduce food waste over Christmas and recycle as much as possible.
2. To raise awareness and understanding of Household Recycling Centre users site to segregate waste before coming on site and encourage re-use of items where possible.

The waste management team received the NI Local Government Award for Best Waste Management Team and two awards at Sustainable NI Awards for Household Recycling Centre of the Year and Safety in Waste in 2018.

Council's Recycling Officer takes an Education Bus around Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), schools, communities and events annually to raise awareness of the environmental benefits to reducing and recycling waste. In the academic year 2018/19, we have undertaken 85 (primary and secondary) school visits across 40 schools (approx. 50% of the 76 Eco Schools in borough). All 76 schools in Mid and East Antrim are registered in the Eco Schools programme. 22% of schools in MEA Council area have a current Green Flag, 35 schools hold Silver Certificate. 9 schools currently hold Bronze Certificates.

Council supported The Alpha Programme, Waste Resource Action Programme, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Live Here Love Here, Litter Survey, Eco Schools, The Big Spring Clean, Environmental Youth Speak, Recycle Now/Recycle Week and European Week for Waste Reduction.

Landfill gas from Ballymacvea Landfill site operates at 0.4Mw of electricity which was fed into the national grid. This has prevented harmful landfill gas seeping into the atmosphere.

**Completion of Council's environmental management objectives and targets has had a positive impact on the environment. These are available for view on the Council**

website: <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/council/policies-and-documents/policies/environmental-policy/>

Green Dog Walkers Scheme is a UK wide community-based campaign to change attitudes about dog fouling. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council are using the scheme as an innovative approach to dog fouling, one of the most controversial issues we deal with in our Borough. If you see a dog wearing the Green Dog Walkers collar, this means the owner has taken the pledge:

- **to always clean up after their dog;**
- **to carry extra poop bags; and**
- **to give other dog walkers free dog poop bags.**

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Mid and East Antrim has been fully integrated within the work programme for Parks and Open Spaces with success in the following areas:

Council won the RHS Gardening for Wildlife award at the 2018 Britain in Bloom awards, thanks to biodiversity initiatives

- Free Biodiversity Summer School activities in August 2018 in Diamond Jubilee Wood, Ecos Nature Park and Larne Town Park.
- Extensive biodiversity events programme e.g. Dawn Chorus walks, Peregrine Watch, Bat Night, Tree Week, Big Garden Bird Watch and Whale Watches.
- Creature Calendar created to increase awareness of priority species in the Borough e.g. hedgehogs, common lizard.
- CES bird ringing programme in third successful year, this year situated at Galgorm Wood Cullybackey.
- Forest School programme - Eighteen forest school sessions are delivered across the Borough annually.
- Schools Growing Clubs completed first successful year. Practical sessions included building raised beds, cloches, composters and bird boxes; learning how to plant and look after crops through the season. Parks and waste colleagues worked alongside to ensure all materials used were recycled.
- Bioblitz - after success in Larne 2018, the bioblitz festival was held again in Glynn in June 2019
- **Extensive 'Wild About Food' foraging programme (8 free public events) running from March to October 2019, highlighting local plant species**

Habitat creation and conservation has been achieved across the Borough:

- 1 million wildflower seeds sown annually to increase wildflower meadow habitat in the Borough, most of this focus was on urban wildflower meadow sites
- Large wildlife pond creation at Diamond Jubilee Wood in the hopes of attracting migratory birds to site
- Diamond Jubilee Wood was officially designated a Local Nature Reserve by CNCC (Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside) in October 2018.
- Tree Week: 2500 trees planted with schools and community groups during National Tree Week
- 7565 x people involved in Beelicious project which enhanced pollinator habitat across the Borough
- Invasive species - staff are managing Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed.
- **MEA4Trees' programme**- This ambitious tree planting initiative will seek to engage local communities to plant a tree for every household in the Borough over the next six years (i.e. 56,000 trees) across Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.
- Working alongside volunteers on a Red Squirrel Reintroduction project
- **£478,936 PEACE IV funding secured to deliver the 'Your Place Our Space'** programme from Spring 2018 to Spring 2020. This is bringing people from different communities together to utilise our abundance of fantastic parks and open spaces for fun and innovative programmes as well as breaking down barriers. Many of the projects delivered will have an environmental aspect including 9 new community gardens, 9 new community orchards, community training sessions and weekends culture & wonder

Within Mid and East Antrim Borough, three beaches hold the Seaside Award, they **are Carnlough, Ballygally and Brown's Bay. These beaches are only three out of a** total of 23 beaches in Northern Ireland that are tested for water quality by DAERA. Council achieved 8 green flag awards during 2018/9 for its high quality parks and green spaces.

Council won 10 awards at the Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition were announced in September 2018, **officially recognising top gardening talent across Mid and East Antrim's** town and villages.

## Further Information

For further information on our environmental performance or details of our initiatives in this area, please contact: [Elaine.Smith@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Smith@midandeastantrim.gov.uk)