

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Environment Report 2016

Local authorities are in a leading position to demonstrate CO2 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, the international standard for environmental management.

Council's environment policy can be viewed on the Council website at www.midandeantrim.gov.uk

Energy Use

Year	Energy Use (Electric gas oil)	Carbon Equivalent (tonnes)	No. Employees	Carbon Equivalent per Employee (tonnes)
2015/16 MEA	18,522,793 kWh	5044.3	770	6.55
2014/15 MEA	18,855,853 kWh	5135	770	6.67
2013/14 MEA	20,445,204 kWh	5571	770	7.24

Council has reduced its energy consumption per employee by 9% over 2 years.

Transport

Year	Total fuel used by car users and vehicle fleet (liters)	Carbon Equivalent (tonnes)	No. Employees	Carbon Equivalent per Employee (tonnes)
2015/16 MEA	696,828 (MEA)	1814	770	2.35
2014/15 MEA	760,909 (MEA)	1981	770	2.6
2013/14 MEA	856,550 (MEA)	2230	770	2.90

Council has reduced its fuel consumption per employee by 19% over the past two years.

Waste

Year	Waste generated (tonnes)	No. of Employees	% Recycled	Carbon Equivalent (tonnes) from waste landfilled	Carbon Equivalent per Employee (kg)
2015/16 MEA	97.41 (MEA)	770	66.7%	30	38.96
2014/15 Larne	33.0 (Larne)	254	60.6%	9.2	36.5
2013/14 Larne	31.2 (Larne)	214	60.0%	8.8	41

Council employees are recycling 67% of internal waste.

Carbon Footprint

Year	Total Carbon Footprint (tonnes CO2)	Carbon Footprint per employee (tonnes CO2)
2015/16 MEA	6888.3	8.9
2014/15 MEA	7125	9.2
2013/14 MEA	7810	10.1

Council has reduced its total carbon footprint by 12% over the past two years.

Water

Year	Water Consumption (m3)	No. of Employees	Water Consumption per employee (m3)
2015/16 (Larne and Ballymena areas)	39036	531 (Ballymena and Larne area figure)	73.5
2014/15 (Larne and Ballymena areas)	47,724	531 (Ballymena and Larne area figure)	89.9

Council are continuing to improve recording and monitoring of water usage, but are limited to Larne and Ballymena areas at present. Water consumption shows a decrease of 18% per employee over in these areas over the past year.

Environmental Incidents

There were no environmental incidents during 2015/16.

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.

Overall, environmental performance has improved over recent years as shown by the annual survey of organisations environmental management performance published by Arena Network. Council retained their platinum status which is the top quantile for the 111 businesses who take part. Only 23 participants have reached this level which is a score over 90%.

One of Council's household recycling centres in Ballycarry was recognised at the 2016 Sustainable Ireland Awards. It was awarded Best Recycling Centre of the Year. Collectively, Council's 5 recycling centres deal with over 20,000 tonnes of household waste per annum and diverted over 74% of this for recycling in 2015/16. This is far in excess of the NI average for these sites, currently sitting at 61%. The Ballycarry site is one of the highest performing recycling centres with a segregation rate of 81.5%.

Council's environmental education officer takes an education bus around Household Recycling Centres, schools, communities and events, such as Love Food Hate Waste annually to raise awareness of the environmental benefits to reducing and recycling waste.

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/>

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Mid and East Antrim has been fully integrated within the work programme for Parks and Open Spaces. It sets out three main objectives to enhance biodiversity:

- Help conserve habitats and species
- Raise awareness of local biodiversity
- Involve people in biodiversity projects and develop partnerships

Projects to protect threatened bird species have focused on swifts (walks and talks, bird boxes), barn owls (3 boxes installed at Ecos Nature Park, Eden Allotments and Diamond Jubilee Wood), and black guillemot (creating nesting holes at Glenarm Marina and installing guillemot boxes Carrickfergus Marina). Bird and bat boxes have also been put up in several parks, including Ecos Nature Park, Smiley Park and Shaftesbury Park, to encourage birds like sparrows, which while still common are in decline.

Mid and East Antrim Council is one of eight local authorities involved in the 'beelicious' project which is funded by Heritage Lottery Funding. Mid and East Antrim have £5,617 to spend on improving habitat and raising awareness for bees.

Biodiversity issues have been incorporated into all existing Green Flag Management plans; Dixon Park, Diamond Jubilee Wood, Bashfordsland Wood & Oakfield Glen, Carnfunnock Country Park, Ecos Nature Park, People's Park, Town Park and Eden Allotment Gardens.

Over 30 public environmental education events have been organised including birdwatching, hedgelaying, pond dipping, foraging workshops, butterfly hunts, bug hunt, apple day and a seashore safari.

Practical conservation tasks have been undertaken with schools and local groups including tree planting events in the winter of 2015-16 at Town Park (with Larne Grammar), Curran Park (with Olderfleet Primary), at Carnlough (with local groups, the Community Association and primary schools) and at Carrickfergus Mill Ponds (with Central Primary). Over 2600 native trees were planted across parks and open spaces in the Borough.

Council awarded £10,000 to support successful applications in 2016 Live Here Love Here Campaign, supporting volunteer and community groups and schools undertaking civic pride projects to improve their local environment within the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area. Council piloted a weekly food waste collection in June 2016 across 2500 homes in the Borough, encouraging residents to separate out the high energy food waste. Participating residents are diverting 1.5 tonnes of food waste from landfill per week.

Further Information

For further information on our environmental performance or details of our initiatives in this area, please contact:

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