

Reference: 27877141
Date: 15 February 2023

Dear Hannah Jewell

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Request relating to: Climate Action Scorecards

We can confirm that the information requested is held by The London Borough of Barking & Dagenham. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you;

Your six requests have been aggregated as below;

Request 1;

I would like information about your council's electricity sources in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information may be held by an estates department or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

1a. Does the council have a 100% renewable green electricity tariff for all of the electricity that the council is directly responsible for, and is this tariff with Green Energy UK plc, Good Energy Limited or Ecotricity?

This includes all electricity that the council is directly responsible for, in council offices and any other buildings leased and managed by the council where the council pays the electricity tariff. This does not include homes owned or managed by the council. If unsure, please state your provider and tariff.

It currently does not but in line with its Draft Zero Carbon Roadmap, aims to increase its supply of green energy over time. It is also undertaking a corporate retrofit programme which see the deployment of solar panels and heat pumps across certain buildings, allowing for the generation of some levels of renewable power

b. Does the council generate and use energy from waste? And if so, what percentage of the council's total electricity use is powered by these energy from waste electricity sources?

It does not. The Council is contractually bound to deliver all of its waste for disposal to the statutory waste disposal authority, East London Waste Authority (ELWA).

c. Does the council buy directly from a local renewable electricity source or have its own renewable electricity sources? And if so, what percentage of the council's total electricity use is powered by this/these renewable electricity sources?

This includes council owned renewable electricity sources that are located outside of the council area, such as solar farms located further south to maximise electricity generation.

It does not and has no links to solar farms. Also please see response in Q1a

Request 2;

I would like information about your council's homes and MEES enforcements in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information may be held by a housing department or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

2a) What is the energy efficiency of the council's homes (managed or owned by the council)? Please provide either a distribution table with the number of buildings for each EPC rating or the percentage of the council's homes that have received an EPC rating of C or above.

EPC Rating	No of Council properties
A	3
B	617
C	4058
D	5274
E	1074
F	189
Grand Total	11215

b) What is the number of investigations, enforcement notices and enforcement actions that the council did, related to MEES (Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards) in the 2021/22 financial year.

Zero.

Where data is available separately for each statistic please provide separately. If only some information is available, please give me that information.

Request 3;

I would like information about your council's staff positions in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information is most likely to be held by a HR department or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

3a. How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture?

2,600

3b. How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles. Please exclude waste management staff unless they are specifically working 3 or more days per week on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects.

If you have answered yes to have a biodiversity planning officer and/or a retrofit staff member below,

both these staff members can be included in this question even if they are contracted.

This is likely to include all staff in your climate/sustainability team, such as Climate Change Officers or similar. This may include full time staff who spend 60% of their time on climate change projects and 40% of their time on other work.

You might include other staff in other departments, such as a procurement officer if they are spending 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE) on writing and implementing a sustainable procurement policy or a planner that is working primarily on low carbon policies for new buildings.

It is impossible to say how many staff are working more than 3 days a week on climate change projects. There is one lead commissioner with the overarching responsibility for reaching net zero, but climate change is being embedded across the Council and we have officers who manage retrofit, district heating, ecology, tree-planting, parks and open spaces management, green procurement, energy, low emissions infrastructure projects on a weekly basis.

4. Does the council have one or more staff member who works on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households. Please list any roles that work in this area, including the full time equivalent (FTE) if they work part time.

The same answer as given in Q3b applies.

Please include staff members that are shared with other councils, such as between county and district councils, and note if they are shared across other areas.

Not applicable

5. How many planning ecologists (ecologists within the planning department) or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the council employ to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE).

Zero

Request 4;

I would like information about your council's planning in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information is most likely to be held by a planning officer or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

*6a. Has the Council approved any new *i or expanded *ii roads or road junctions in its area from 1st January 2019 until 1st January 2023? Please list which ones were accepted.*

**i) The intention of this question is to understand overall increases in road capacity, rather than recent housing developments. Please exclude minor roads built exclusively to connect new housing to the pre-existing road network.*

**ii) An expanded road or road junction is one that has increased capacity for motor vehicle traffic, not counting bus lanes, cycle infrastructure, or pedestrian infrastructure. Please include roads and junctions where new lanes have been added.*

Within the Borough the Council have not approved schemes to increase overall capacity for motor vehicle traffic on the existing local network post 2019; the Council in connection with major developments i.e., Barking Riverside, Beam Park and Dagenham Green have approved new roads and road junctions since the 1st of January 2019 until 1st January 2023

b. Has the council approved any new or expanded airport runways, terminals, measures to increase passenger numbers or other planning proposals that expand airport capacity in its area since 1st January 2019 until 1st January 2023? Please list which ones were accepted.

None

c. Has the Council approved any planning applications for fossil fuel extraction projects proposed in its area since 1st January 2019 until 1st January 2023? Please list which ones were accepted, including where relevant fossil fuel projects that were later 'called in' by central government. By fossil fuel extraction projects we mean: any oil wells and fields (on or offshore), coal mines, fracking and shale gas, gas, natural (including liquified) gas (on or off shore) plants, and unabated fossil fuel generation and power plants well as related infrastructure such as pipelines and terminals for the fossil fuels.

None

Request 5;

I would like information about your council's carbon literacy training in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information may be held by the HR department or other departments that organise staff training.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

7a. Have all senior management received carbon literacy training or equivalent since 1st January 2019? Please state the type of training.

There has been one session of carbon literacy training for senior managers, run as online workshop by the Carbon Trust and Anthesis in 2021.

b. Have all current councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received carbon literacy training or equivalent since being elected? Please state the type of training.

Some attended the above training but bespoke sessions are planned for all councillors in the spring.

This training could be from the Carbon Literacy Organisation or another organisation, university or in-house. We want to know the number of people who have attended the training. We don't need to know the number of staff that have received a certificate of completion or attendance.

Unknown

Request 6;

I would like information about your council's lobbying work in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following question:

8. Has the council written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2019? Please provide some evidence of the most recent letter or

meeting such as a copy of the letter or email sent, or the date, topic of meeting and position of the person that the meeting was held with.

This includes either asking for more powers and funding for local authorities to take climate action, or asking for the government to take further action themselves. This includes working with other local authorities to send joint letters or meetings to lobby UK or devolved governments, and includes both general climate action and calls for action on specific issues such as transport where climate change is mentioned as a motivating factor for taking action.

This includes if a cabinet member or other councillor has written to or met with the UK or devolved governments on behalf of the council.

None

Internal Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request then you have a right under Section 50 of the Act to request an internal review. All such requests must be sent to us within 8 weeks and must clearly state your reference number and your reason for your request for an internal review.

We will respond to your request for an internal review within 20 working days of receipt. Your request for an internal review should be sent by email to foi@lbbd.gov.uk quoting your FOI reference number.

Information Commissioners Office

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review then you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (the "ICO") for an independent review. The ICO is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and The Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Please note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the council's internal review procedure. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the council's reference number and your reasons for your appeal. The ICO's contact details are as follows;

The Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane, Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

More information can be found at the ICO's website at <http://www.ico.org.uk> If you have any further enquiries about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing foi@lbbd.gov.uk

We trust you find the above to be satisfactory but should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

The FOI Team