CDC greenhouse gas report 2018/2019

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for Cherwell District Council (CDC) are calculated for each year from April to March in line with the financial year and data is available from the year 2008/2009. This report was previously carried out by an external contractor NEF, but following a change in our key contact at NEF, the working relationship with them became frustrated and the quality of reports produced declined, as such since 2017/2018 this work has been carried out in house. There is currently no targeted, proactive plan in CDC to reduce GHG emissions and to the best of my knowledge this has been the case for at least the last few years and possibly longer. As such the data recorded simply reflects routine changes which have taken place for other business reasons.

Organisations are required to report on their scopes 1 and 2 emissions and CDC has opted to report on some of its scope 3 emissions.

Scope 1: Direct emissions. These are emissions from activities owned or controlled directly by the organisation. In the case of CDC this includes gas used at its corporate buildings and fuel used by its own vehicles for waste collection, street cleansing and landscaping services.

Scope 2: Energy indirect. These are emissions which are caused by the organisations energy use but are released at source not at location owned or controlled by the organisation. In the case of CDC this covers the electricity used at its corporate buildings.

Scope 3: Other indirect. Emissions other than scope 2 emissions, that are caused by an organisations actions but do not occur at sources owned or controlled by the organisation. In the case of CDC these include well to tank (WTT) and transmission and distribution (T & D) emissions from gas and electricity usage and fuel consumption. It also includes emissions from business mileage in staff owned vehicles and electricity and gas emissions (including WTT and T &D) from the leisure centres in CDC. Regarding the leisure centre emissions, these are currently reported as scope 3 emissions in line with the approach taken by SNC, however, this decision was taken based on their own organisational boundaries and CDC could opt to define these boundaries differently and in this case emissions from leisure centre energy usage would be reported in the same way as corporate building energy usage under scope 1 and 2 emissions.

CDC has opted not to report on any further scope 3 emissions including waste disposal, water supply and treatment.

All emissions are reported in tonnes of CO_2 equivalent.

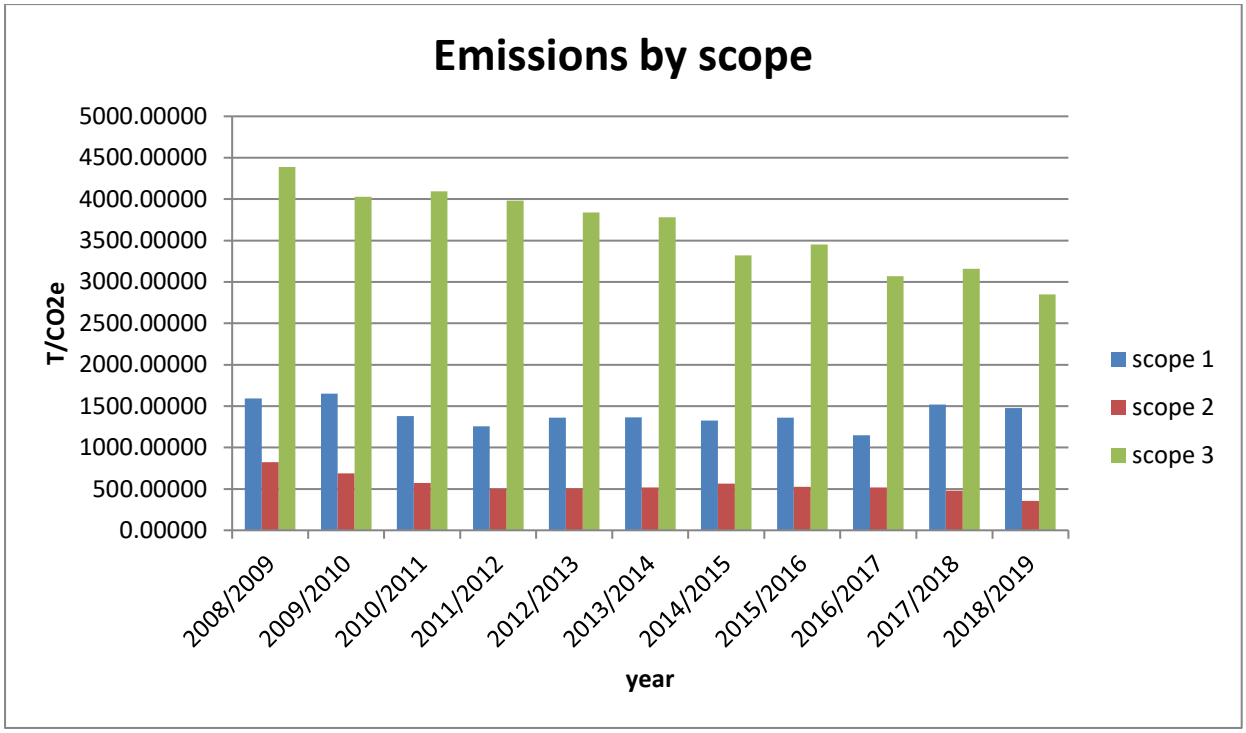

Figure 1: Emissions by scope

Overall emissions have declined fairly steadily from the baseline year 2008/2009 by more than 44%. Scope 3 emissions have shown a generally downward trajectory year on year with only one or two years showing minor increases. After initial decreases in the first few years of reporting scope 2 emissions remained static with very little change until 2017/2018 which saw a decrease and a further decrease occurred in 2018/2019. Scope 1 emissions have had a less clear trajectory and have decreased the least from the baseline year. In 2017 there was a fairly large increase in scope 1 emissions but this level has remained around the same in 2018/2019.

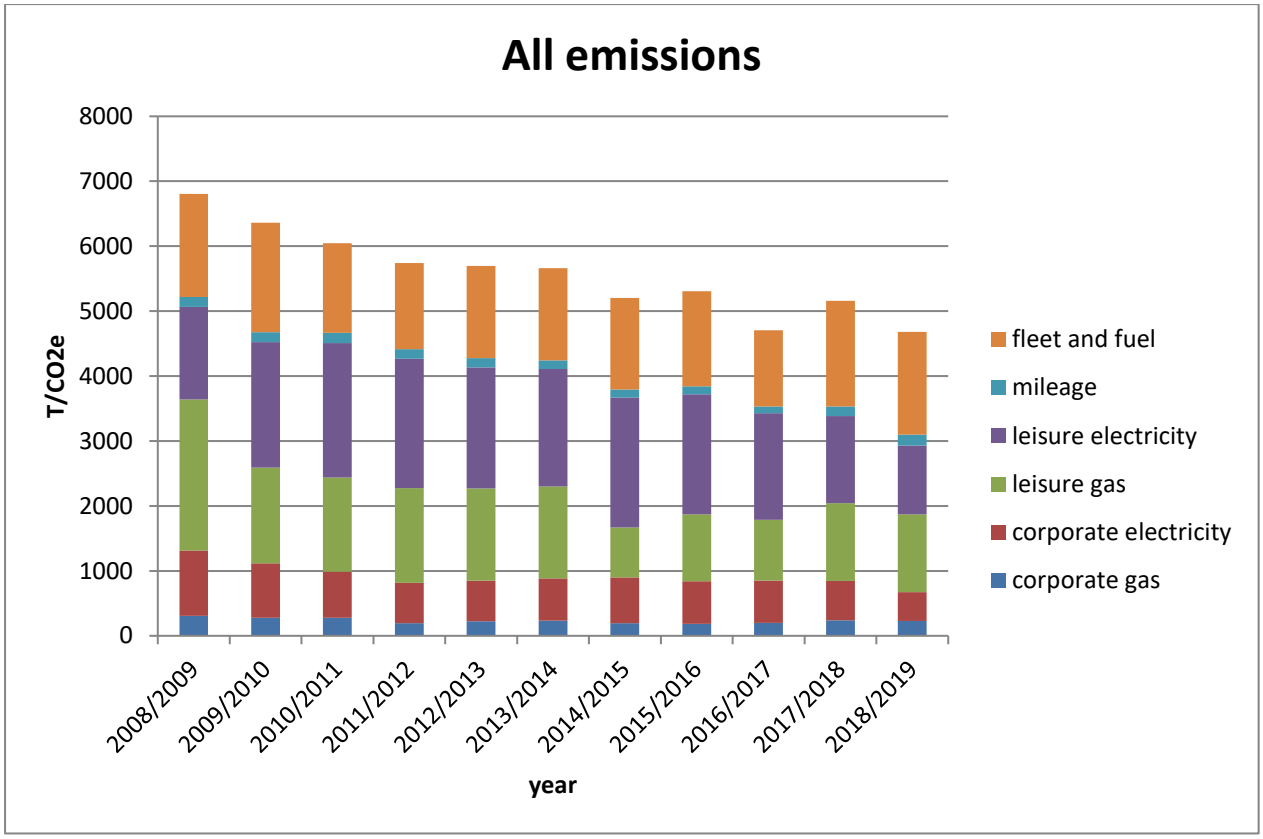

Figure 2: All emissions by sector, gas and electricity separated

Figure 2 shows a fairly significant increase in fleet and fuel emissions which account for the majority of the increase in scope 1 emissions. The fleet that is referring to is that of the waste collection and street cleansing services. As the district has continued to expand this increase in emissions is likely to have occurred due to additional vehicles and routes added to collection rounds to accommodate this expansion.