

Manchester City Council Direct Carbon Emissions: Q4 2019/20 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 28,600 tonnes CO₂** and may reach 16,400 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.

Q4 2019/20 Estimates: Summary of key trends

The Council's total year to date emissions in 2019/20 has reduced by 12% (4,263 tonnes CO₂) compared to 2018/19, with emissions estimated to be 32,910 tonnes CO₂ (note that traffic signalling is now reported by TfGM and so excluded from the Council's direct emissions reporting).

73% of the Council's emissions come from our Council buildings. Year to date 2019/20 emissions are 7% (1,810 tonnes CO₂) lower than in 2018/19, supported by a 9.75% reduction in the electricity emissions factor and improvements to energy efficiency. The total energy used in our buildings (kilowatt hours of gas, electricity and oil) has reduced by 1% with energy consumption fluctuating by season and affected by warm and cold weather spells. Our buildings energy consumption between October and March 2020 (Q3 and Q4) increased by 1.13 million kWh (1.7% increase), compared to October - March 2019.

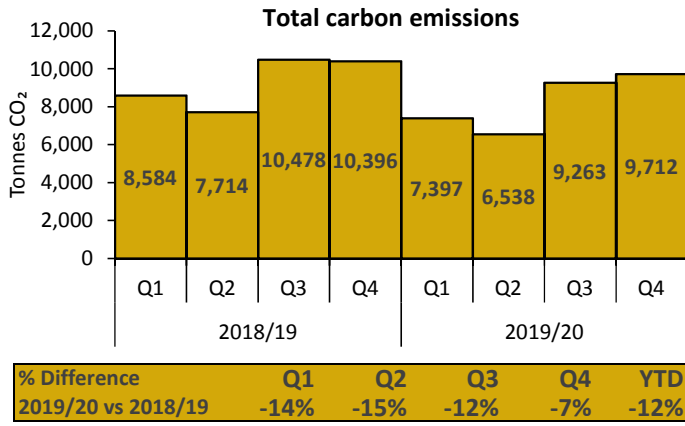
13% of the Council's emissions come from our street lighting. In 2019/20 there was a significant 37% (2,419 tonnes CO₂) decrease in year to date emissions from street lighting, compared to 2018/19. The decrease is mainly due to the replacement of incandescent street lighting bulbs with more energy efficient LEDs. By the end of 2020, all of the street lights in Manchester will have been replaced.

Year to date Council Fleet emissions in 2019/20 reduced by 6% (47 tonnes CO₂) compared to 2018/19. The Council's fleet of around 220 vehicles includes 16 electric vans, one electric car, one electric people carrier and three hybrid cars.

Year to date Emissions from the Biffa Waste Fleet in 2019/20 reduced by 0.4% (12.5 tonnes CO₂) compared to 2018/19. In 2019, Biffa started to trial the first fully electric Refuse Collection Vehicle in Manchester and the success of this trial has led to the purchase of 27 Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles.

Staff business travel accounts for only 2.3% of the Council's overall emissions. 2019/20 year to date emissions increased by 4% (26 tonnes CO₂) compared to 2018/19, mainly due to increased emissions associated with staff business mileage claims and rail travel, offset by a reduction in air travel.

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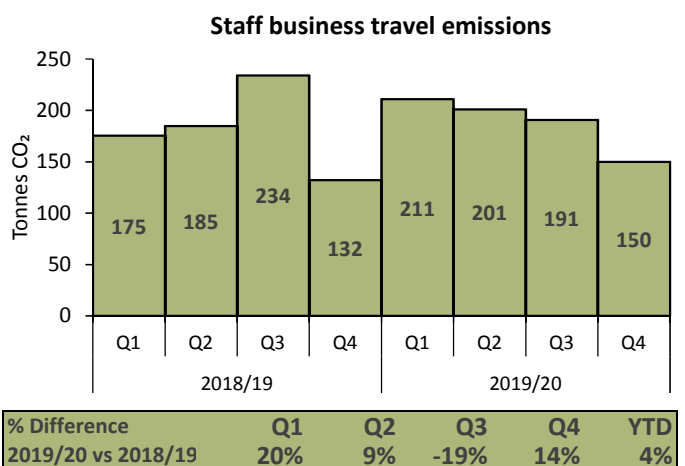
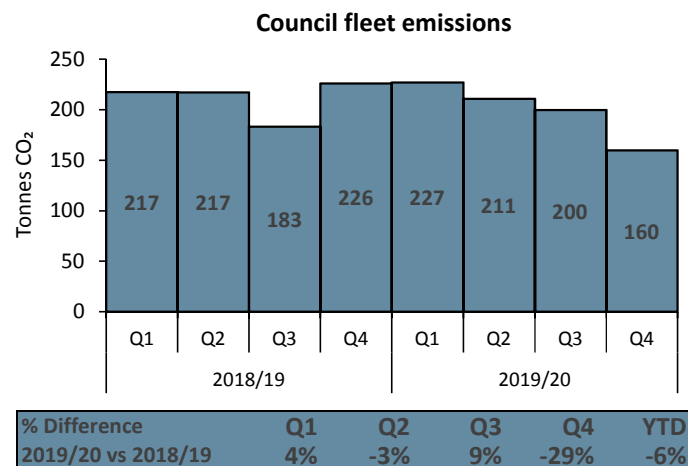
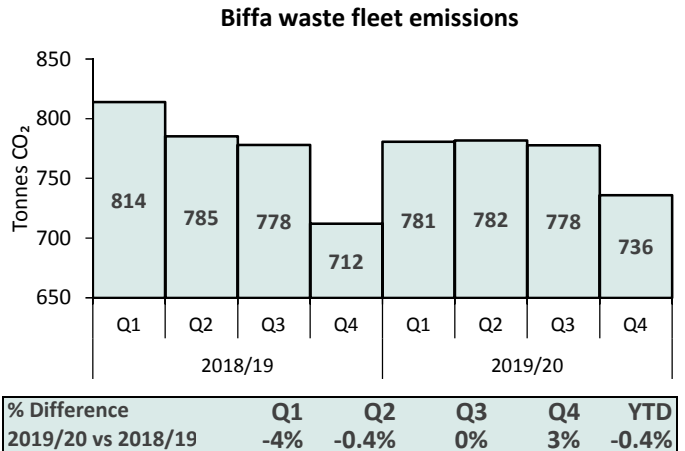
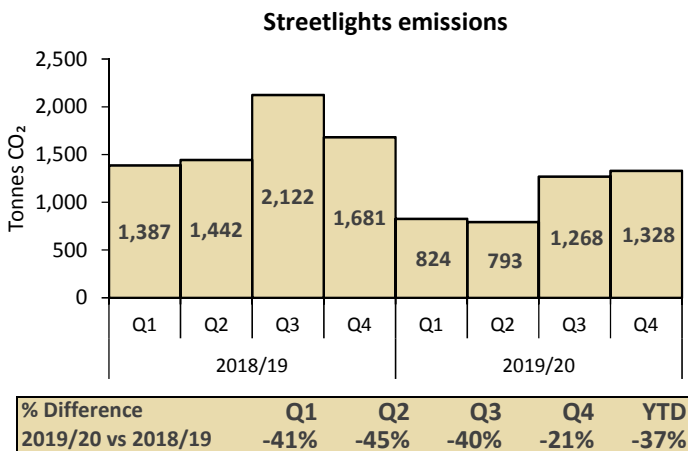
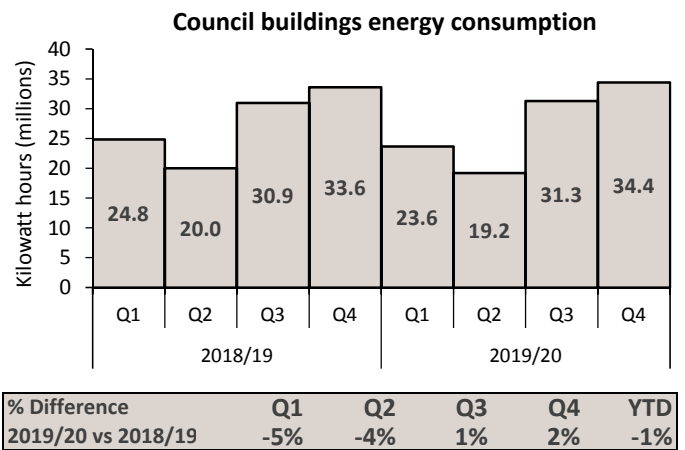
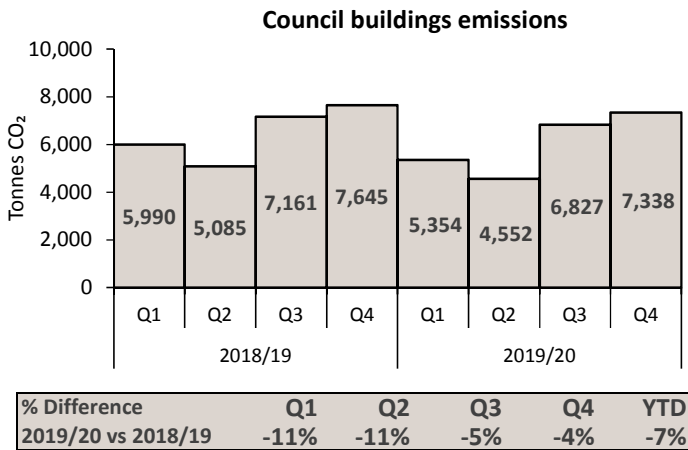
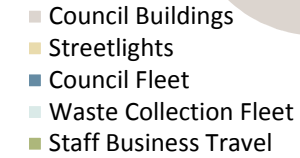


Total year to date carbon emissions (tonnes CO₂)

2018/19 37,173

2019/20 32,910

2019/20 year to date carbon emissions breakdown



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.