

Rother District Council

Report to: Climate Change Steering Group

Date: 26 October 2023

Title: Rother District Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report - 2021

Report of: Lucie Bolton, Environment Strategy Officer

Ward(s): All

Purpose of Report: To present to the Climate Change Steering Group the District-wide greenhouse gas emissions for 2021.

Officer

Recommendation(s): It be **RESOLVED**: That:

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) district-wide emissions be reported annually to track progress of the Environment/Climate Strategy.

Introduction

1. This report presents the 2021 emissions data for Rother District.
2. The data for the district is collated and calculated by the Government and published annually via the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNEZ), formally the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
3. There is an 18-month delay for the publication of this data, hence the delay in reporting district-wide emissions.

Details of the report

4. In 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to do all that was within its powers to become carbon neutral, now more commonly referred to as net zero, in Council operations and as a district by 2030.
5. In June 2023, the UK Government published the annual estimates for local authority and regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This is the second time all GHG emissions have been reported with figures for carbon dioxide emissions only available prior to June 2022.
6. The data provided uses nationally available datasets and provides the most reliable and consistent breakdown of GHG emissions.
7. Full details of the district-wide emissions can be found in Appendix A – Rother District Emissions Report - 2021.

8. In 2021, Rother's territorial GHG emissions were 472.6 kilotonnes CO2 equivalent (ktCO2e), up 15% on 2020 and 4% on 2019.
9. Transport was the largest emitting sector, responsible for 30% of emissions in 2021.
10. The domestic sector was responsible for 29% of emissions and the industrial sector was responsible for 22%.
11. Most sectors saw a rise in emissions from 2020 to 2021, largely due to the COVID-19 restrictions easing and more heating use due to colder weather. This is consistent with the national picture.
12. Unlike the national picture, emissions from the industry, commercial, and public sectors have increased above 2019 levels. The increase in the domestic sector above 2019 levels is smaller than the national increase.
13. Emissions from industry saw the greatest increase above 2019 levels. This has been queried with the DESNEZ data team as the reasons are unclear.
14. The Government publishes data on non-domestic gas consumption at Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA). The 2021 data identifies three MSOA where total non-domestic gas consumption is over 10 GWh – Rother 006, Rother 008 and Rother 011. A map showing the location of these areas is included in Appendix A.
15. Overall, district emissions are not on track to meet the Council's 2030 carbon-neutral ambitions.
16. The report shows emission reductions from the transport, domestic, and industrial sectors need to be prioritised.
17. The emissions data in this report has been used in the Climate Strategy refresh and forms the evidence base for Climate Action Plan 2023/24-2026/27.

Conclusion

18. District-wide emissions increased between 2020 and 2021. This was expected due to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.
19. Emissions from some sectors have increased above 2019 levels resulting in an overall increase above 2019 levels. For the most part, this reflects the national picture.
20. The data demonstrates district-wide emissions are not on track to meet the Council's 2030 target and emissions from transport, domestic and industrial sectors should be treated as a priority.

Environmental

21. This report provides the annual district-wide emissions data which has been used as part of the evidence base for the Climate Strategy refresh.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	Yes	Access to Information	No
Sustainability	No	Exempt from publication	No
Risk Management	No		

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Appendices:	A – Rother District Emissions Report - 2021
Relevant previous Minutes:	n/a
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None