

2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale, NW9 4EW  
19 March 2021  
Our ref: 7046096

Thank you for your request received on 22 February 2021, for the following information:

**Please could you answer as many of the following questions as possible.**

**1. Could you provide the following environmental information on the council's civic office and administrative buildings, as well as identifying if this information is based on actual or estimated data.**

**2020 2019 2018. 2017. 2016**

**Environment Indicators**

- \* Electricity (MWh)**  
**of which renewable electricity**
- \* Heating natural gas (MWh)**
- \* Water consumption (m3)**
- \* Business travel (km)**

**Total all activities (tCO2e)**

**Total per FTE**

**Carbon offsetting commitment (tCO2e)**

**Net carbon commission (tCO2e)**

**2. How much of the energy the council purchases come from renewable sources ?**

**3. Please could you also provide the split in percentage terms between renewable and non-renewable energy to Question 2 ?**

**4. Does the council have an energy-efficient LED system, controlled by automatic presence detectors and perimeter dimming to take account of daylight levels ?**

**5. Does the council have Photovoltaic panels on rooftops to supplement the supply of purchased electricity ?**

**6. If yes, how much energy does the council generate in this way ?**

**7. Does the council have a complete greywater system, whereby non-contaminated waste water is harvested from plant machinery, hand basins and rainfall ? Therefore, allowing to reduce consumption of mains water.**

**8. Does the council have recycling awareness campaigns across its main office locations ?**

**9. Does the council have facilities to separate out paper, glass and plastics used in its offices for recycling ?**

**10. Are non-recyclable materials from council office locations sent to a special processing plant, where they are used to generate heat and power, reducing waste that is sent to landfills.**

**11. In internal cafeterias, does the council refrain from providing single use**

- items and provide employees with reusable crockery and cutlery ?
12. Does the council offer a discount to customers with reusable coffee cups in their cafeterias ?
13. Does the council send food waste to an anaerobic digestion plant where it can be used to produce electricity as well as organic fertiliser ?
14. How much has the council invested in video conferencing across its offices.
15. The number of video conferences held in a typical month ?
16. To help cut paper consumption, has the council replaced any ageing office printers across its locations with new Eco-friendly photocopiers ?
17. Do employees engage in an active 'Sustainability Network' of volunteers that, among other activities, decides which project to support as part of a carbon offsetting program ? This can include investments in renewable energy, community infrastructure, and conservation and reforestation initiatives.
18. Please could you provide information on any new environmental initiatives you have introduced.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **Response**

***1. Could you provide the following environmental information on the council's civic office and administrative buildings, as well as identifying if this information is based on actual or estimated data.***

***2020 2019 2018. 2017. 2016***

***Environment Indicators, Electricity (MWh) of which renewable electricity, Heating natural gas (MWh), Water consumption (m3), Business travel (km), Total all activities (tCO2e), Total per FTE, Carbon offsetting commitment (tCO2e), Net carbon commission (tCO2e)***

Information not held.

***2. How much of the energy the council purchases come from renewable sources ?***

The council does not specifically procure any renewable energy at present but does note that 40.2% of grid electricity has been generated from renewable sources. (BEIS Energy Trends Dec-20).

***3. Please could you also provide the split in percentage terms between renewable and non-renewable energy to Question 2 ?***

Renewable energy specifically Purchased = 0%; Non-renewable energy = 100%

***4. Does the council have an energy-efficient LED system, controlled by automatic presence detectors and perimeter dimming to take account of daylight levels ?***

The Councils main Colindale Office has an LED system controlled by automatic presence detectors but without perimeter dimming. The Council is at present participating in a retrofit scheme and has recently installed LED lighting in eleven of its smaller buildings.

**5. Does the council have Photovoltaic panels on rooftops to supplement the supply of purchased electricity ?**

Several schools in the borough have solar panels installed, while the Council itself has a solar panels installation on its vehicle depot and has recently retrofitted solar panels to five smaller buildings.

**6. If yes, how much energy does the council generate in this way ?**

Electricity generation for the Council depot was approximately 16,172kWh in 2020

**7. Does the council have a complete greywater system, whereby non-contaminated waste water is harvested from plant machinery, hand basins and rainfall ? Therefore, allowing to reduce consumption of mains water?**

The Council encourages private developers to reuse and recycle rain water through various rain water harvesting systems.

**8. Does the council have recycling awareness campaigns across its main office locations ?**

No

**9. Does the council have facilities to separate out paper, glass and plastics used in its offices for recycling ?**

Yes, materials collected for recycling from council offices are taken to a Materials Recovery Facility for sorting and onward transport to various reprocessors

**10. Are non-recyclable materials from council office locations sent to a special processing plant, where they are used to generate heat and power, reducing waste that is sent to landfills.**

Yes, non-recyclable waste is treated on behalf of the council by contractors to the North London Waste Authority, the majority of waste sent for disposal is treated at the Energy from Waste facility at the Ecopark in Edmonton.

**11. In internal cafeterias, does the council refrain from providing single use items and provide employees with reusable crockery and cutlery ?**

N/A, the council has no internal cafeteria

**12. Does the council offer a discount to customers with reusable coffee cups in their cafeterias ?**

N/A, the council has no internal cafeteria

**13. Does the council send food waste to an anaerobic digestion plant where it can be used to produce electricity as well as organic fertiliser ?**

The council's separate food waste service was suspended from 4 November 2018. The council will consider options for the future of this service

**14. How much has the council invested in video conferencing across its offices.**

MS Teams E3 Licence - covers video conferencing and Teams Live Events - £7.25 a month per employee.

**15. The number of video conferences held in a typical month ?**

Please see below refusal notice.

**16. To help cut paper consumption, has the council replaced any ageing office printers across its locations with new Eco-friendly photocopiers ?**

The Council regularly replaces office equipment with more efficient IT equipment on a regular cycle.

**17. Do employees engage in an active 'Sustainability Network' of volunteers that, among other activities, decides which project to support as part of a carbon offsetting program ? This can include investments in renewable energy, community infrastructure, and conservation and reforestation initiatives.**

No

**18. Please could you provide information on any new environmental initiatives you have introduced.**

**Electrical Vehicle Charge Points:** the Electric Vehicle Charge Point project was identified as a project which will provide benefits to the council in meeting their obligations to sustainability and clean air. There has been funding made available by the Go Ultra Low City Scheme (GULCS) to support the commitment to rolling out a network of EV charging infrastructure across London. Barnet have so far taken part in two bidding rounds and have been successful in securing funding from both. From this we have been able to install over 100 charge points and have plans for further installations, including the borough's first rapid charge points.

**Work from home:** following the council's move to Colindale, we have promoted and encouraged all staff to work from home where possible, this has increased further due to the COVID-19 crisis. This will reduce the environmental impacts of staff travel, as well as allowing for more efficient use of energy within the council corporate estate.

**NLWA Low Plastic Zones:** NLWA is working with boroughs to create a series of Low Plastic Zones around North London. They will encourage businesses to reduce the use of unnecessary plastic and work towards being low plastic.

**Solar Panels and EV Charge Points on LBB Estate:** in the Road to Zero Strategy, Central Government set out that all new cars and vans should be effectively zero emission by 2040. Making sure the electricity system is ready to meet the future demand created by EVs will be vital if we are to achieve this. Developing a proposal to install and generate electricity from Solar Panels utilising opportunities within LBB's asset portfolio, while providing increased capacity and access to EV Charging points on LBB's estates supports the Central Government strategy.

**Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Application:** this will help public sector organisations in England, including central government departments and their agencies, local authorities, schools and NHS Trusts, to install energy efficiency and low carbon heating measures, reducing energy bills and carbon emissions. Installations under the PSDS are expected to support up to 30,000 low-carbon jobs.

**REFIT LBB Estate:** an innovative solution for public buildings to cut energy costs, reduce carbon emissions, improve energy performance and find new ways to generate income.

Barnet now has a major energy saving initiative to reduce running costs across its assets. 15 buildings are included in the project, including 7 public libraries.

### **Refusal notice**

We are refusing some of your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. In order to determine how many video conferences are held in a typical month, all 1655 employees would have to be asked how many video calls and meetings they held - approx. 5 minutes per employee to calculate this. Our calculation is as follows:

1655 staff x 5 minutes = 137.5 hours

### **Advice and Assistance**

If you were to narrow your request down to individual job roles or departments within specific time frames, we may be able to provide an answer to your request.

### **Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

### **Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing**

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.**

### **Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: [foi@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk). Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.

