

Background

All four public leisure centres in the Derbyshire Dales are operated under contract by Freedom Leisure, a not-for-profit leisure trust.

Freedom Leisure took over operational control of the centres in Ashbourne, Bakewell, Matlock and Wirksworth on 1 August 2018 for 10 years, with a five year extension option.

The Council continue to retain ownership of the leisure centre buildings.

Emissions reporting

Following the HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including streamlined energy and carbon reporting guidance March 2019 and the GHG Protocol Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard, the Council has reported scope 1, 2 and some scope 3 emissions since 2019/20.

Under the GHG Protocol standard the category of 'downstream leased assets' includes emissions from the operation of assets that are owned by the reporting company (acting as lessor) and leased to other entities in the reporting year that are not already included in scope 1 or scope 2. The leisure centres fall within this category.

Despite there being no statutory requirement to report these 'outsourced' scope 3 emissions the Council acknowledges that facilitating holistic emissions reduction requires a sense of the impact of these indirect emissions, as it may transpire that these are significantly higher than direct emissions and that emissions reduction efforts aimed at them may prove more effective overall than focusing on direct sources.

Reporting period

1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

Total reported emissions

525.85 t CO₂e across 4 sites

Quantification and reporting methodology

The Council has used the Local Government Association GHG accounting tool to generate emissions data. This tool uses the 2021 GHG conversion factors.

Targets

Freedom Leisure has a 5% annual emissions reduction target from a 2019-20 baseline.

Offsetting

Freedom Leisure does not currently offset any emissions.

Electricity

Freedom Leisure purchased 508,579kWh of electricity in respect of the four Council sites in 2020-21. The electricity purchased was renewable, responsibly-sourced, sustainable biomass electricity, which is estimated to produce 86% less carbon than coal-generated energy.

A CHP installed at Arc Matlock generated 165,216kWh of electricity saving estimated 38.52t of CO₂e.

Notes

- All four sites were assessed at the point of take-over in 2018 with £233,434 having since been invested in energy saving measures to date, including LED lighting upgrades to the Pool Halls, Sports Halls, Gyms & studios, pool circulation controls upgrades and optimisation, upgrades to wet side boilers and improved water control, water controls upgrades to include eco/low flow shower units and waste water recycling of pre-heated pool sample water, upgrade of all four centres gas and electric meters and upgrades to air handling units
- Each site has an energy management action plan
- Each site was assessed for eligibility for the 2019-20 Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme (phases 1 and 2) with only Ashbourne meeting the criteria. A successful collaborative bid between the Council and Freedom Leisure means that £734K of funding will be used to install air source heat pumps, Solar PV panels and a building energy management system. These works are predicted to deliver an annual CO₂e saving of 123.4 tonnes - around 56% of the current site emissions. The works are due to complete in February 2022.