

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information 198

I refer to your recent request for information regarding carbon emissions. Please find our response below.

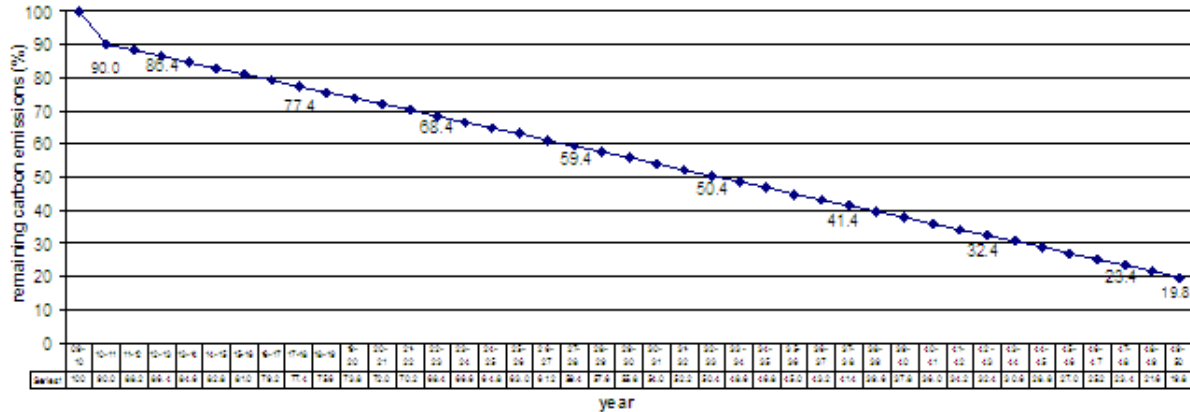
1). Can you identify the target for the % reduction in carbon emissions that RMBC has set itself and over what period of time (e.g. 20% reduction by 2020 etc).

Response

RMBC adopted a CO2 reduction target of:

- 1. 10% reduction in 2010 to meet the 10:10 policy
- 2. 2% year on year reduction

The targets comply with National long term reduction target of 80% by 2050.



2). What is the estimated additional total capital cost and ongoing annual revenue cost of achieving the carbon reductions target that Rotherham has set itself ?

Response

RMBC do not hold this information.

3). What is the average annual temperature anomaly (ie the net increase / decrease in the average temperature of Rotherham) over the past

- a) decade -2000 to 2010 (e.g 0.2 degrees c)
- b) 20th century.

Response

RMBC do not hold this information. Information for global or national temperature changes can be obtained from

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change> or from DECC

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_stats/impacts_cc/impacts_cc.aspx.

4). Using the response to question 3a and 3b above, how much of any changes in the average annual temperature of Rotherham can be attributed to the following climatic factors :

- a) man made carbon emissions
- b) natural carbon emissions.
- c) changes in cloud cover
- d) variations in solar activity
- e) changes in ocean movements (pacific decadal oscillation / El Nino etc)

Response

RMBC do not hold this information. Information for global or national temperature changes can be obtained at the links provided in our response to Q3.

5). In response to Q4 above, please provide any scientific evidence of how Rotherham's man made carbon emissions have contributed to the change in the average annual temperature of Rotherham over the last decade.

Response

RMBC do not hold this information.

Britain is estimated to contribute a mere 2% of global carbon emissions. Given that the population of:

- the world is around 6 billion
- Britain is around 60 million (and hence 1% of the worlds population)
- Rotherham's population is around 253,000 (i.e. 0.42% of Britain's population)

can you please answer the following questions:

6). If Rotherham Council achieved its carbon reduction targets, what do RMBC estimate the reductions will be in:

- (a) the average annual temperature of Rotherham (over eg a decade)
- (b) Rotherham 's contribution to global average temperatures

Response

RMBC do not hold this information.

7). Is it Rotherham Council's official policy position that greenbelt land is recognised as an asset that helps to absorb rather than increase CO2 emissions?

Response

Rotherham LDF Core Strategy states:

Objective 2: Green Belt

Review Green Belt boundaries to enable the borough to meet future housing and employment needs without harming the wider aims of national Green Belt policy.

This will be taken forward by a "**Green Belt**" policy which will balance the need to provide land in sustainable locations against the reasons for including land in Green Belt provided in National Guidance.

8) Using the answer given in 7 above, if housing is built on greenbelt land can Rotherham Council confirm that this will lead to a net increase in carbon emissions arising from that space (e.g. new housing = new population/ new energy demands/increased traffic etc) as opposed to a space that previously absorbed carbon dioxide?

Response

RMBC do not hold this information.