



PRESS RELEASE

No. 191/2015

Date: 30th March 2015

Combating Climate Change - Greenhouse Gas Inventory produced for Gibraltar while public lighting energy consumption drops

In the week following the global celebration of Earth Hour, HM Government of Gibraltar is proud to announce the development of a City-Level Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Gibraltar in line with the Government's wider strategy to combat climate change. The Department of the Environment and Climate Change and the Climate Change Task Force, chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister, have been actively addressing key aspects of Gibraltar's strategy during the course of the year.

Effective monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) forms a critical element in developing a strategy towards a low carbon economy and Gibraltar's inventory is amongst some of the most comprehensive city-level inventories produced to date.

The inventory identifies the main causes of carbon emissions in Gibraltar. These include traffic, power generation, and shipping. This presents a number of challenges, all of which point towards initiatives for energy efficiency, and traffic reduction, which is one of the aims of the Sustainable Traffic, Transport and Parking Plan.

The Department of the Environment and Climate Change is embarked on an energy efficiency campaign. But action to increase energy efficiency has been at the heart of Government policy for the past two years. Part of the Government's Energy Strategy has been to replace street lighting with lower energy alternatives. Figures released by the Gibraltar Electricity Authority show considerable reduction in energy use for street lighting, flood lighting and traffic lights. This is in spite of the increase in such lighting around Gibraltar. The reductions represent 19% in street lighting from 2012/13 to 2014/15, 50% in floodlighting from 2011/12 to 2014/15 and 22% in traffic light consumption 2012/13 to 2014/15. These represent a reduction both in carbon emissions and in cost to the Government.

In addition, the total amount of Carbon Dioxide emitted from power generation fell by 24% from 181,182t in 2013 to 141,936t in 2014. While differences in weather (which can affect use of heating or air conditioning) can make a major contributor, it is also likely that energy efficiency action by both the public and Government have contributed to this.

Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Dr John Cortes, commented, "Clearly our energy and environment policies are not only taking shape, but showing results. Government is leading by example, investing in technical studies to guide our actions, and in the technology required to reduce our carbon footprint and save public money. It is clear that the public has embraced the principle of saving energy, and this is absolutely essential. Gibraltar has never before seen such determination and sense of direction in achieving these hugely important aims that benefit both our citizens and our reputation in environmental governance."



The City-Level Greenhouse Gas Inventory will shortly be available online on the Department of the Environment and Climate Change's webpages on HM Government of Gibraltar's Website.

Department of the Environment and Climate Change

HM Government of Gibraltar • Duke of Kent House, Line Wall Road • Gibraltar GX11 1AA

t +350 20060215 **t** +350 20059833 **e** info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi **w** gibraltar.gov.gi