

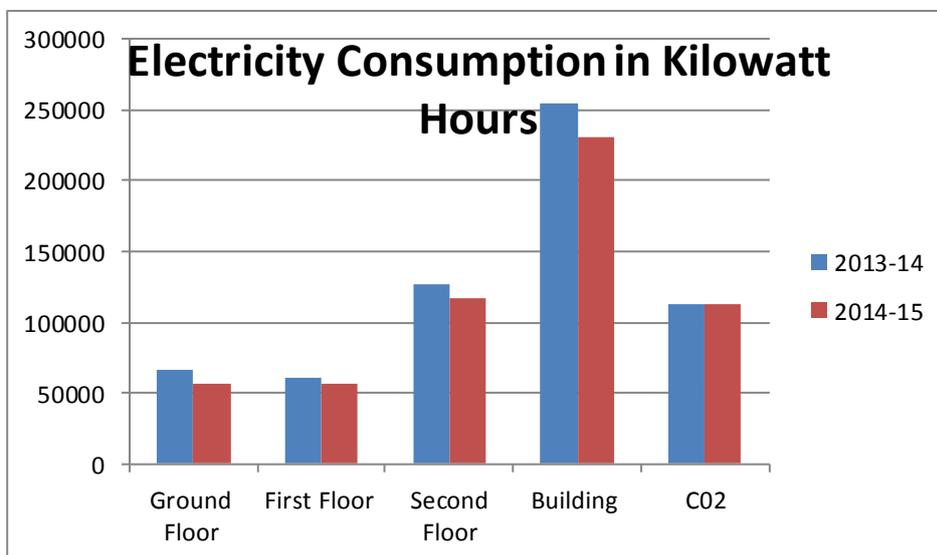
## Environmental Sustainability 2014-15

### Introduction

HEFCW has been recording its environmental performance since 2007-08. This has been supported by the use of an environmental management system, and is developed and managed through the HEFCW Health and Safety / Sustainability Group. HEFCW has sought to drive improvements through procurement as is evidenced by the actions set out within the annual Sustainable Procurement and Environmental Improvement Plan.

### Electricity Consumption

In 2013-14 we were successful in persuading the landlord to introduce separate sub metering for each floor of the building which provides detailed and accurate electricity consumption for each part of the billing as well as accurate billing. In 2014-15 the landlord has installed voltage optimisation equipment which undoubtedly accounts for some of the energy savings achieved in electricity consumption which has reduced by 9.5% although this has also been assisted by a relatively mild winter with a modest reduction in heating degree days recorded from 1846 in the previous year to 1786<sup>1</sup>. The graph at Table 1 below indicates no substantive change in CO<sub>2</sub> this is as a result of an increased CO<sub>2</sub> factor being applied to electricity consumption in 2014-15<sup>2</sup>.



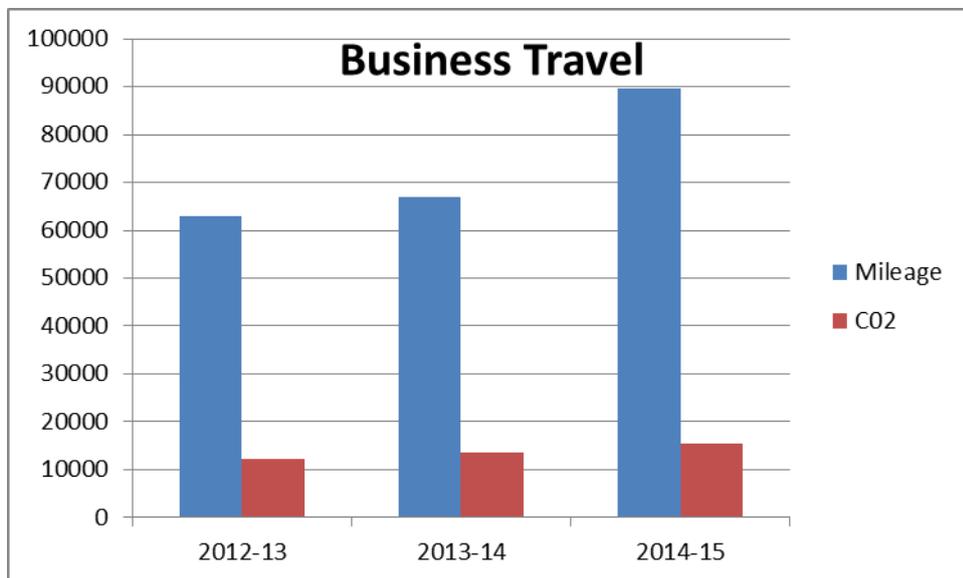
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/energy/degreedays-weekly-weekly.php> weekly data recorded at St Athan

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ukconversionfactorscarbonsmart.co.uk>

## Business travel

Carbon emissions associated with business travel have declined by 60% during the period 2008-09 to 2012-13. In 2013-14 business travel mileage increased by 6.3%, and this pattern has been repeated in 2014-15 with a substantial increase in business travel mileage of nearly 34%. The data recorded indicates a significant increase in rail travel by staff and a reduction in the use of staff private cars.

Business travel by Council members also increased. The reduction in car travel has in turn meant a smaller pro rata increases in CO<sub>2</sub> of just over 13%. The current year has also seen a reduction in the recorded use of video conferencing with recorded savings of 7225 miles against 14928 in the previous year.



## Waste Minimisation

Redundant ICT constitutes a significant potential source of hazardous waste for HEFCW. Recent changes in legislation require manufacturers to recycle waste electronic equipment. However much of the surplus ICT equipment generated by HEFCW is capable of providing further service in a less technically demanding context. During the last year nearly 50 computer monitors, 10 servers, and 3 printers have been checked and certified for reuse through the ICT recycling contract.

## Conclusion

It is encouraging to note a marked reduction in electricity consumption (9.5%) over the past year although the increased carbon factors applied to electricity mean that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are virtually unchanged from this source. Business travel is highly dependent upon staff numbers and the changing business requirements of the organisation. It is encouraging to note that staff are making increased use of rail travel and this has limited CO<sub>2</sub> increases to just over 13% despite an overall increase of 34% in business mileage. It is unclear why the use of video conference has declined, in part this could be explained by the higher level of travel arising from new roles, and the need for face to face engagement at a time of significant change for both the sector and HEFCW. Use of paper has continued to decline and in 2014-15 was recorded as 345 reams just over 44% of the consumption first recorded in 2007-08.