



The impact of Coronavirus Lockdown on Zero Waste Scotland's Carbon Footprint

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On March 16th, 2020, Zero Waste Scotland began universal homeworking in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Under these new working conditions, the company's daily carbon footprint has fallen by an estimated 73% compared to business as usual (BAU) as a result of avoided commuting and corporate travel impacts.



European Union



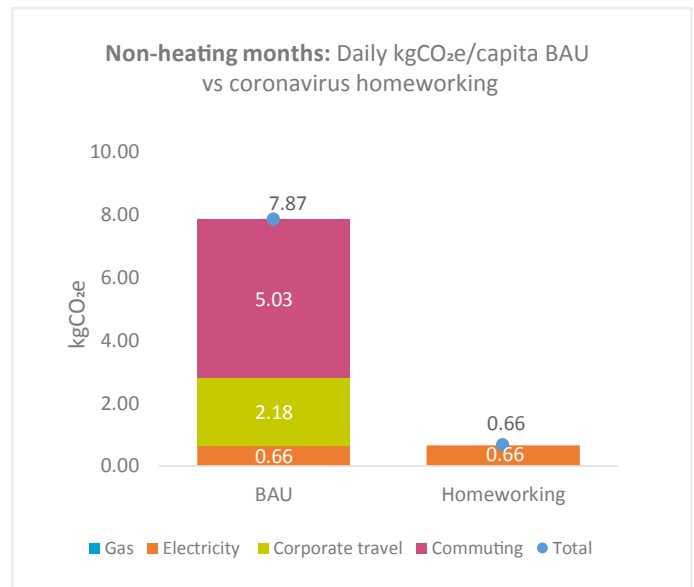
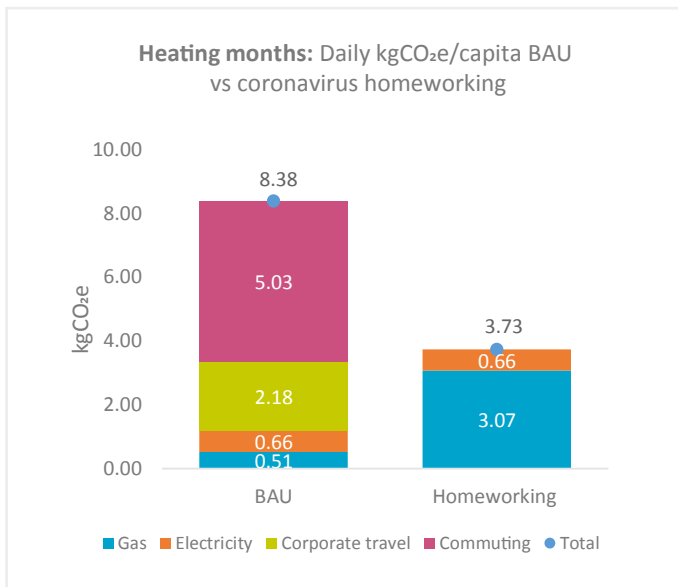
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Daily per-capita emissions during coronavirus

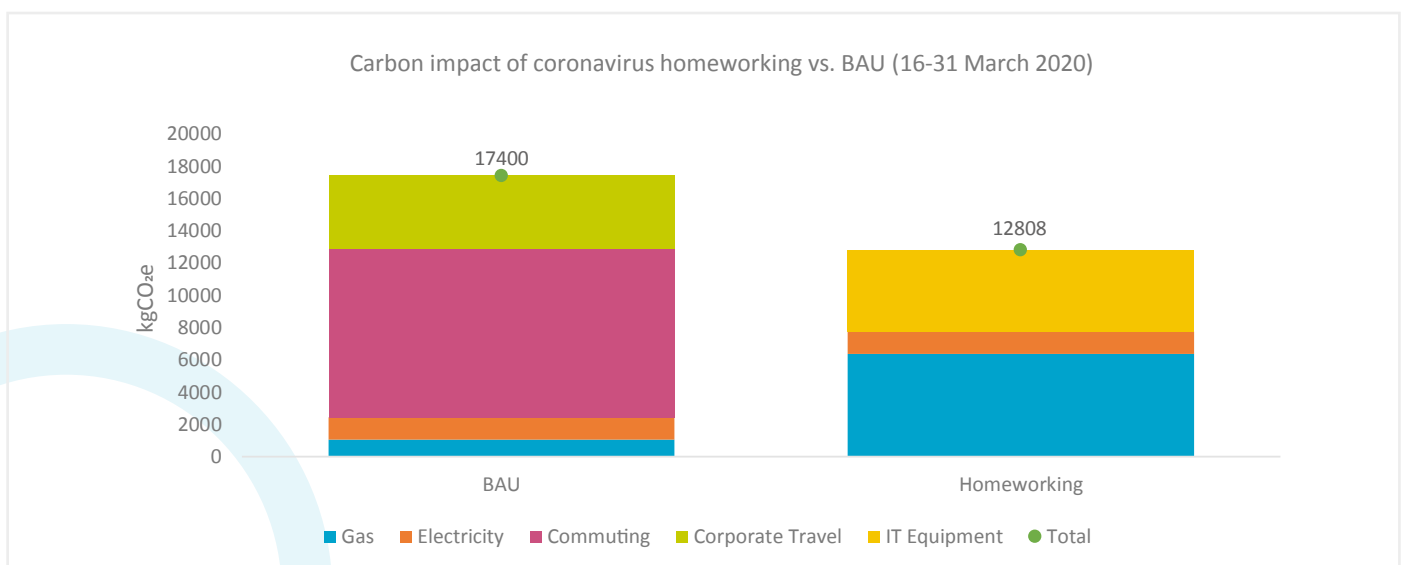
Average daily kgCO₂e/capita under coronavirus working conditions is 73% lower than BAU (54% lower during heating months, and 92% lower during non-heating months) due to avoided corporate and commuting travel. Assuming no change in corporate travel, savings would be 29% and 64% respectively meaning, **regardless of seasonal variation and corporate travel activity, homeworking provides significant year-round carbon savings over office working.**

- **Heating:** heating impacts are higher for homeworking than office working during heating months (October-March), as more energy is required to heat a hundred homes than an office of a hundred people.
- **Electricity:** electricity impacts are not significantly affected, as electricity for personal computers is simply shifted from the office to the home, while electricity for office servers is unchanged.
- **Corporate Travel:** the cessation of corporate travel has resulted in significant carbon savings.
- **Commuting:** The cessation of commuting has provided the greatest carbon savings vs BAU.



Embedded equipment emissions

Embedded carbon impacts of new I.T. equipment provided for homeworking is estimated at 5.1 tCO₂e. This reduced net savings for the last 2-weeks of Q4 FY19/20 to 26% vs BAU but is a one-off deduction which will not affect future savings.



¹Dept for Energy and Climate Change, 2013; 'Report 4: Main Heating Systems'; Energy Follow-up Survey 2011

