



2018 Northern Ireland environmental BENCHMARKING survey



20 years of environmental excellence



The Responsible Business Network
Northern Ireland

Sponsored by:



Supported by:



The Survey

20 Years of the Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey

In 1998, the Kyoto protocol had just been adopted, tech giant Google was founded, and the Good Friday agreement was signed. Meanwhile, Business in the Community Northern Ireland launched its first Environmental Benchmarking Survey.

Fast forward to 2018 and the agenda has advanced – both in terms of attitudes towards, and expectations of, organisations' management of environmental impacts, as well as the technologies at our disposal to improve performance. The past few years have seen innovative initiatives established to accelerate the environmental agenda. Many Survey participants are converting their waste into marketable products that satisfy the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's (NIEA) End of Waste Regulations. Some hold Prosperity Agreements with the NIEA, exploring opportunities to go well beyond compliance in reducing environmental impact. And 10% of Survey participants in 2018 reported that they are generating on-site renewable energy that provides at least half of their total energy consumption.

The environmental agenda has come to the fore with many of our members since the Survey started in 1998, and we look forward to its continued advancement.

Why Benchmark?



Constants in a world of change

Over the Survey's 20 years, organisations have come and gone, been bought and sold, renamed and restructured. However, through all of this change in the business landscape, 11 companies have steadfastly taken part in every Survey since 19. Thank you to these companies for their ongoing support.

Belfast Harbour

HYSTER-YALE GROUP

Belfast International Airport

Moy park

BOMBARDIER

Pritchitts
A Lakeland Dairies Company

BT

SEAGATE

COMPASS GROUP

HENRY BROTHERS

Translink

Greenwords



Chris Conway

Environment Leadership Team Chair, Business in the Community NI

I am delighted to present the results of the 2018 Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey. Now 20 years old, the Survey plays a key part in ensuring environmental issues are on the agenda in Board Rooms across Northern Ireland.

Over these two decades, 11 organisations have taken part in every Survey. Additionally, 23 participants have completed the Survey for at least the last 10 consecutive years. I'd like to thank all of these organisations for their ongoing support.

This year, we welcome an impressive 27 'newcomers' to the Survey – many of which were introduced through the 'Bring a Business' initiative. This is very encouraging, as it shows the power and influence that organisations can have on their suppliers, ensuring environmental improvement works throughout the value chain.

An impressive third (33) of respondents achieved the top level of Platinum. Interestingly, the results show that the majority of repeat participants' scores increased, with 24 organisations moving into a higher band. This is excellent.

In response to feedback from participants we introduced some changes for the 2018 Survey including: Greater reflection of current issues; Increased focus on public reporting; Circular economy focused questions; Clear and concise language; Revised performance improvement section scoring.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of this year's participants and thank you for your involvement. I hope that you will continue to participate and encourage your key stakeholders and suppliers to get involved in the future too.

Finally, I would like to thank Moy Park and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency for making the Survey possible through their invaluable continued support.



David Small

Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

The Survey is established as the leading tool in Northern Ireland to provide participants with proof of their green status. This is done through detailed analysis of their environmental management, improvement and impact. It is a powerful driver of environmental performance, and the NIEA through the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is delighted to support the Survey once again.

I'm pleased to see that 101 businesses and public sector organisations participated in the Survey this year, and that more organisations than ever have achieved the top Platinum level. It is clear from the results that innovative organisations are making the commitment to ensure the highest standards of environmental performance, and to promote the importance of the environment to their key stakeholders.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the 27 newcomers to the Survey this year, and we look forward to seeing their performance improve year-on-year as they continue to develop their environmental monitoring and management practices.

Congratulations to all participants for taking part and putting themselves forward to publicly demonstrate their 'green credentials'.

The Results

Top performer

Bombardier	
------------	--

Platinum

Alpha Resource Management Ltd	↔
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	↑↑
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	↔ 20
Biffa Waste Services	↑↑
Bombardier	↔ 20
BT	↔ 20
Business in the Community NI	↑ 10
Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Ltd	↔
Danske Bank UK	↑
Encirc Ltd	↑
Farrans Construction trading as a division of Northstone (NI) Ltd	↔ 10
George Best Belfast City Airport	↑ 10
Gilbert-Ash	↑
GRAHAM	↔ 10
Henderson Wholesale	↔
Henry Group Limited	↑ 20
Heron Bros	↑
Hyster-Yale Group	↑ 20
Interface	NEW
JH Turkington and Sons	↑↑
LE Pritchitt & Co Ltd	↔ 20
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	↔ 10
Moy Park Ltd	↔ 20
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	↔ 10
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd	↑ 10

Platinum (continued)

Queen's University Belfast	↑	10
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	↔	20
SGBD Ltd t/a JP Corry	↑	
Tayto Group Limited	↑	
Translink	↔	20
Ulster University	↔	10
Western HSC Trust	↔	10
Whitemountain	↔	

Gold

Adman Civil Projects Ltd	↑	
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	↔	10
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	↔	10
Belfast Metropolitan College	↔	
Blackbourne Integrated M&E	↔	
Caterpillar (NI) Limited	↓	10
Compass Group UK & Ireland	↓	20
Dunbia	↔	10
Edentrillick Quarries	NEW	
Genesis Crafty	↔	
Greiner Packaging Ltd	↔	
Haldane Fisher Ltd	↑	10
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta	↑	10
ISL Waste Management Ltd	↔	
Kier Group Plc	↔	
Lafarge Ireland Ltd	↓	10
Linden Foods Ltd	↓	10
McLaughlin and Harvey	↔	10
McQuillan Envirocare Ltd	↑	
Montupet UK Ltd	↔	10

Gold (continued)

Norbev Ltd	↔	
Northern Ireland Assembly	↔	
O'Hare & McGovern Ltd	↓	10
Public Prosecution Service	↑	
RPS Ireland Ltd	↔	
Survitec	↑	
Ulster Supported Employment Limited	↔	
Veolia	NEW	

Silver

Ards and North Down Borough Council	↓	
Baker & Mckenzie Global Services NI Limited	↔	
Balcas Timber Limited	NEW	
Belfast International Airport	↔	20
Ciena	NEW	
Citi Group	↔	
Education Authority NI	NEW	
Firmus energy	NEW	
H M Electrics	↔	
Kerry Ingredients	NEW	
O'Neills Irish International Sports Company Ltd	NEW	
Recon Waste Management Ltd	NEW	
RecyCo Ltd	NEW	
SAICA Pack	↑	
Senator	NEW	
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	↓	10
Springfarm Architectural Mouldings Ltd	NEW	
SSE	NEW	
Terex MP Omagh	NEW	
Young Excavator Services Ltd	NEW	

Bronze

Charles Hurst Motor Group	↓	
Clive Richardson Ltd	↓	
Dowds Group	NEW	
Finnebrogue Artisan	↓	
Foyle Food Group	↓	10
McAvoy Group	↔	
Michael Nugent Ltd	NEW	
NI Environment Link	NEW	
Oasis Group	NEW	
Ready Egg Products Ltd	NEW	
Riding For The Disabled Association (Coleraine and District Group) Ltd	↑	
Sodexo	NEW	
South West College	NEW	
TLI Group	NEW	
Ulster Wildlife	↑	
William Coates Ltd	NEW	

Green

Aramark	↔	
Galantas Gold	NEW	
Patrick Keenan	↔	
SAC Compliance Ltd	NEW	

Key

Did not participate in 2016 or 2017	NEW
Remained in the same band as previous year	↔
Moved up one band from previous year	↑
Moved up two bands from previous year	↑↑
Dropped one band from previous year	↓
Dropped two bands from previous year	↓↓
Participated for at least 10 consecutive years	10
Participated for 20 consecutive years	20

Sector Results

Construction

Farrans Construction trading as a division of Northstone (NI) Ltd	Platinum
Gilbert-Ash	Platinum
GRAHAM	Platinum
Henry Group Limited	Platinum
Heron Bros	Platinum
JH Turkington and Sons	Platinum
SGBD Ltd t/a JP Corry	Platinum
Adman Civil Projects Ltd	Gold
Blackbourne Integrated M&E	Gold
Haldane Fisher Ltd	Gold
Kier Group Plc	Gold
Lafarge Ireland Ltd	Gold
McLaughlin and Harvey	Gold
O'Hare & McGovern Ltd	Gold
McCue Crafted Fit	Silver
Clive Richardson Ltd	Bronze
Dowds Group	Bronze
McAvoy Group	Bronze
Michael Nugent Ltd	Bronze
William Coates Ltd	Bronze
Patrick Keenan	Green

Education

Queen's University Belfast	Platinum
Ulster University	Platinum
Belfast Metropolitan College	Gold
Education Authority NI	Silver
South West College	Bronze

Engineering

Bombardier	Platinum
Hyster-Yale Group	Platinum
Caterpillar (NI) Limited	Gold
Montupet UK Ltd	Gold
Terex MP Omagh	Silver

Financial

Danske Bank UK	Platinum
Citi Group	Silver

Food and Drink

Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Limited	Platinum
Henderson Wholesale	Platinum
LE Pritchitt & Co Ltd	Platinum
Moy Park Ltd	Platinum
Tayto Group Limited	Platinum
Compass Group UK & Ireland	Gold
Dunbia	Gold
Genesis Crafty	Gold
Linden Foods Ltd	Gold
Norbev Ltd	Gold
Kerry Ingredients	Silver
Finnebrogue Artisan	Bronze
Foyle Food Group	Bronze
Ready Egg Products Ltd	Bronze
Aramark	Green

General Manufacturing

Encirc Ltd	Platinum
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	Platinum
Greiner Packaging Ltd	Gold
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta	Gold
Survitec	Gold
Ulster Supported Employment Limited	Gold
Balcas Timber Limited	Silver
SAICA Pack	Silver
Springfarm Architectural Mouldings Ltd	Silver
SAC Compliance Ltd	Green

Sector Results

General Services

Alpha Resource Management Ltd.	Platinum
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Platinum
George Best Belfast City Airport	Platinum
Translink	Platinum
ISL Waste Management Ltd	Gold
McQuillan Envirocare Ltd	Gold
RPS Ireland Ltd	Gold
Baker & Mckenzie Global Services NI Limited	Silver
Belfast International Airport	Silver
Ciena	Silver
Recon Waste Management Ltd	Silver
RecyCo Ltd	Silver
Senator	Silver
Young Excavator Services Ltd	Silver
Charles Hurst Motor Group	Bronze
Oasis Group	Bronze
Riding For The Disabled Association (Coleraine and District Group) Ltd	Bronze
Sodexo	Bronze

Government Dept and Agency

Northern Ireland Assembly	Gold
Public Prosecution Service	Gold

Health & Social Service Trust

Western Health and Social Care Trust	Platinum
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Gold
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	Silver

Local Authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Platinum
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Platinum
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	Gold
Ards and North Down Borough Council	Silver

Mining and Quarrying

Whitemountain	Platinum
Edentrillick Quarries	Gold
Galantas Gold	Green

Non-Governmental Organisation

Business In The Community NI	Platinum
NI Environment Link	Bronze
Ulster Wildlife	Bronze

Textiles and Clothing

Interface	Platinum
O'Neills Irish International Sports Company Ltd	Silver

Utilities

Biffa Waste Services	Platinum
BT	Platinum
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	Platinum
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd	Platinum
Veolia	Gold
firmus energy	Silver
SSE	Silver
TLI Group	Bronze

The Headlines

1. The 2018 Survey attracted the highest number of participants in the past four years

But this year's Survey hasn't compromised quality for quantity. The average score has remained virtually unchanged – at an impressive 77% (that equates to the Silver band). The strength of the Survey is dependent on a strong contingent of participating organisations, so we'd also like to thank those organisations that 'brought a business' and encouraged a supplier or partner organisation to take part.

2. Overall, those that returned to the Survey have continued to improve and outperform those that are new

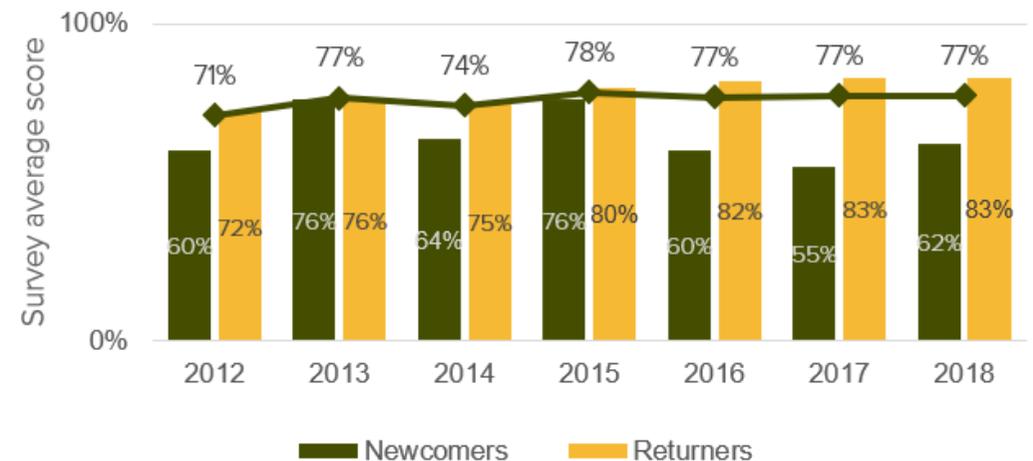
Those that have participated in the Survey in both of the past two years, on average, improved their score by 3.2%. There were 13 organisations that improved by over 10%. Why? Some of our anecdotal evidence suggests that after participants engage in the Survey, they can use the process to help identify ways to improve their management and performance. When organisations come back to the Survey a year later, these improvements are reflected in their Survey responses. Of course, we're not taking credit for these improvements – many of the organisations we spoke to simply improve year-on-year because they see it as the right thing to do and good for their business. Either way: continued involvement in the Survey correlates with higher scores, with returners to the Survey scoring, on average, 21% higher than new participants.

The NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey contributes to these Global Goals:



Average scores for new and repeat participants

There remains a gap between newcomers to the Survey, and those that are returning

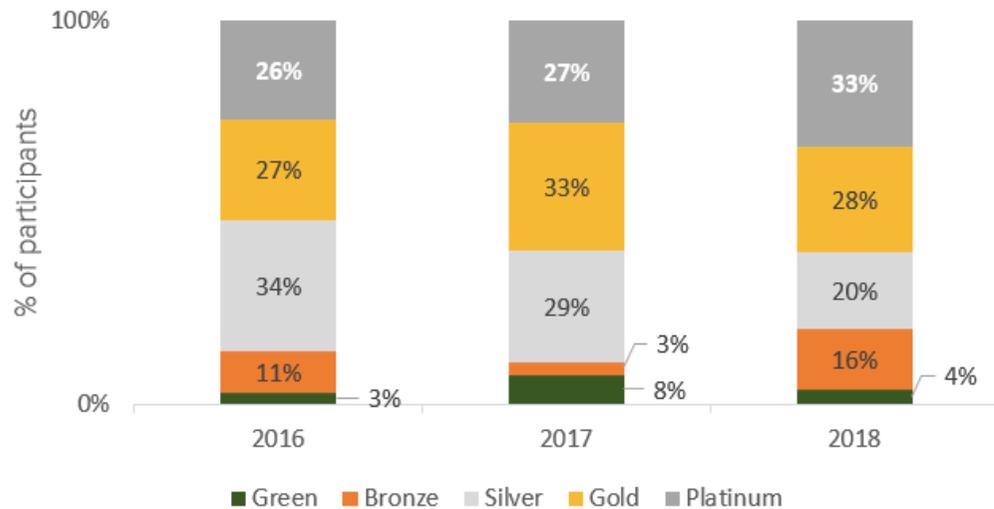


The Headlines

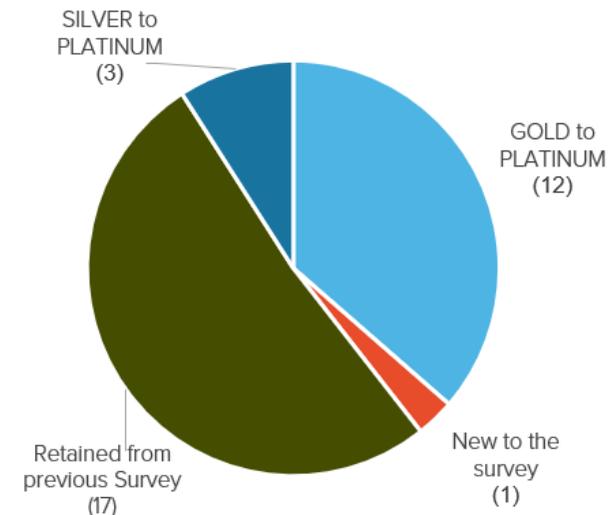
3. More participants than ever are achieving Platinum status

Looking in more detail at repeat respondents' scores gives a glimpse into dramatic improvements in some cases. The average score increase amongst repeat participants was 3.4%, but eight organisations improved their score by more than 15%; half of these larger score increases were from public sector respondents. It goes to show that with concerted effort and continued focus, significant changes are possible. However, simply standing still isn't an option; only continuous improvement will yield consistently high results in the Survey.

There are more organisations taking part, with more achieving platinum status



How 2018 Platinum organisations got there



The Headlines

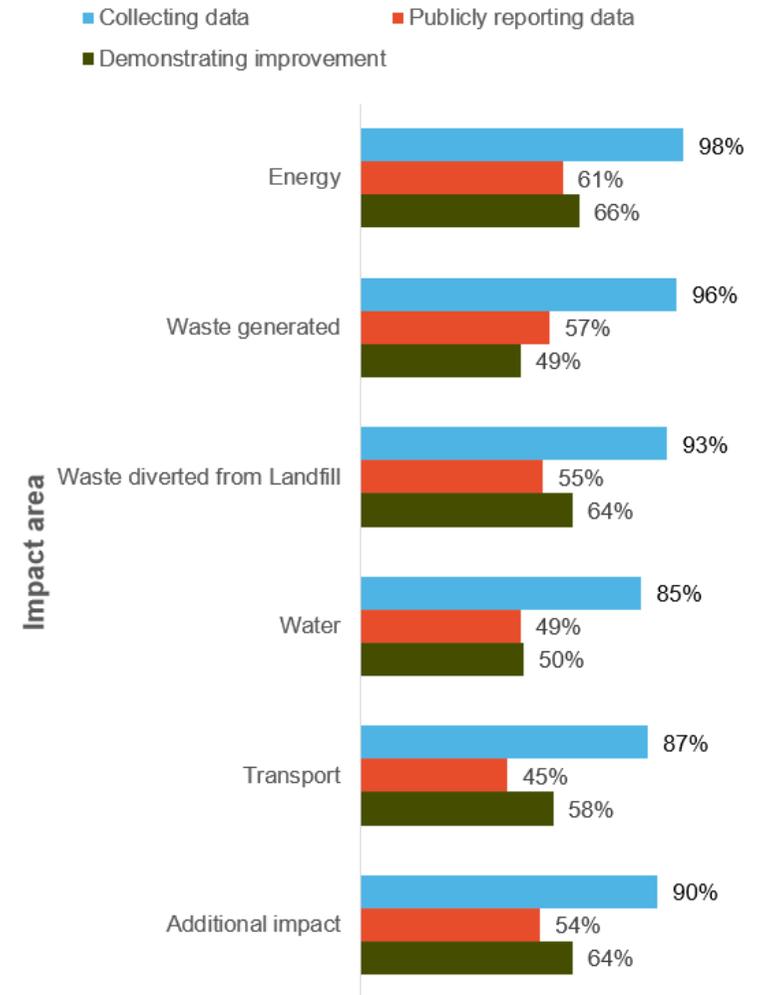
4. Environmental performance is where there is the most room for improvement

Perhaps the most challenging part of the Survey is the performance section. For many organisations, measuring and reporting on their environmental data can be hard, let alone demonstrating an improvement year on year. Some participants find it difficult to improve as their business expands, so we recommend that companies 'normalise' their environmental performance data (by dividing by revenue, number of employees, or any other metric that is indicative the size and scale of the operations), to show improvements in efficiency.

On average, participants generally achieve two thirds of the available marks for the Performance section. This is important because the performance section has the highest weighting, so there's still room for improvement for most. Besides, this is the section that measures the physical environmental impacts – water and energy usage, waste generation and disposal, transport miles, and ultimately greenhouse gas emissions – so it's important for organisations to look at improving in this area.

We do, however, see positive signs in other section of the Survey. Eighty-one percent of organisations have an externally-certified Environmental Management System (EMS) in place (these were almost all certified to ISO 14001), so most achieved full marks for Section 2.

Environmental performance:
Proportion of organisations...



Continued on next page

The Headlines

5. Most participants are measuring and reporting high-quality environmental performance data. The challenge is reporting an improvement year-on-year

Given that there are still many points to be had in the performance section, it's worth digging a little deeper into where the gaps are. The first stage in managing environmental performance is measuring impact. As in previous years, a clear majority of organisations are measuring their performance in some capacity.

Approximately half of organisations are also reporting their data publicly – a broadly accepted way to hold the organisation accountable to its stakeholders, and thus help drive environmental improvements. However, there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of organisations publicly reporting since last year.

This could possibly be due to some smaller organisations – where the stakeholder demand for public reporting may not be as strong – joining the Survey for the first time this year.

As in past years, energy and waste have the highest proportion of organisations measuring and publicly reporting. This – we suspect – is because these impact areas are often the most significant impact areas for most of the organisations participating in the Survey, and this data is often provided by third party suppliers.

We also found that most organisations are basing their submissions on data that covers a majority – if not all – of their operations, rather than extrapolating from a small sample of data or basing on estimates. This is a good indicator that the data is robust.

Performance improvement was where participants didn't score as highly. Clearly, achieving continuous improvement is challenging. However, where organisations were able to demonstrate improvements, these improvements tended to be significant (greater than 7.5% over three years). This suggested that when organisations set their sights on stepping up their performance, they can do so in a meaningful way.

Performance improvements were most common in energy, waste diverted from landfill, and the responder-defined additional impact category. Especially with regard to energy efficiency, the business case for efficiencies and cost reductions is increasingly tried-and-tested, enabling energy managers to make good progress.

We continued to notice a trend in organisations demonstrating that they are diverting 100% of their waste away from landfill. This isn't surprising, given growing public and policy attention directed towards waste and especially and plastic pollution – this is, in part, thanks to initiatives such as the BBC and David Attenborough's Blue Planet, high-profile collaborations such as the Ellen McArthur Foundation Plastics Pact, and Sky's Ocean Rescue Campaign. We explore this a little further in the circular economy section later in the report.

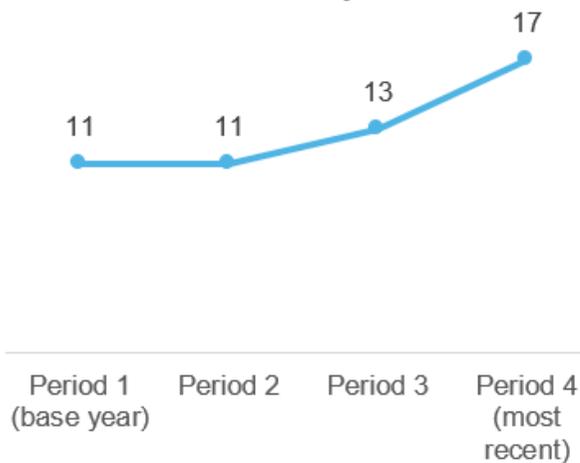
Spotlight on the Circular Economy

From the results reported in the Survey this year, it's clear that there's a shift towards a more circular economy. A circular economy is one where by-products of organisations' operations – waste, energy, resources – become inputs to other processes, either within the same organisation, or passed on to others. Circular economy principles can increase efficiency and reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions – a win-win for efficiency and the environment. For most organisations taking part in the Survey, the most relevant impact area for a transition to the circular economy is waste.

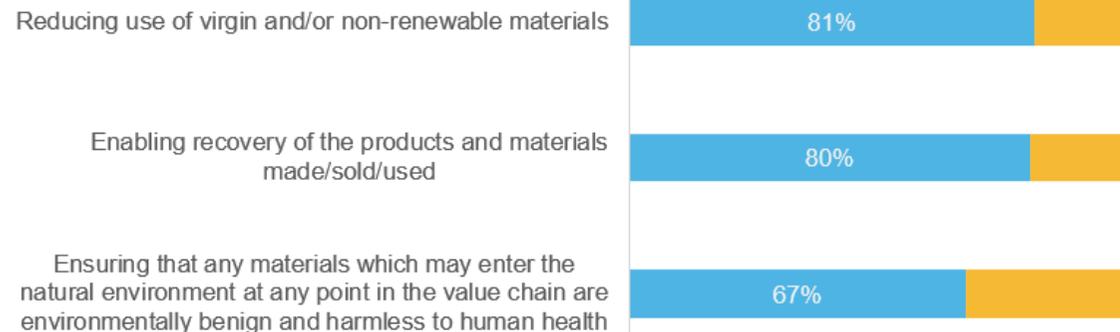
More organisations are diverting waste away from landfill

Over the four-year period that respondents were asked to report on, there is a trend that shows more organisations are now diverting 100% of their waste away to landfill – with 17 respondents now reporting this achievement. Some organisations are achieving this by finding innovative ways to re-use and minimise materials that would otherwise go to waste, and then sending any unavoidable waste for recycling and/or waste-to-energy incineration plants. Others are simply delegating responsibility for waste to their waste contractor.

Number of organisations diverting 100% of waste away from landfill



Number of organisations that are addressing the impacts of their products and services by...



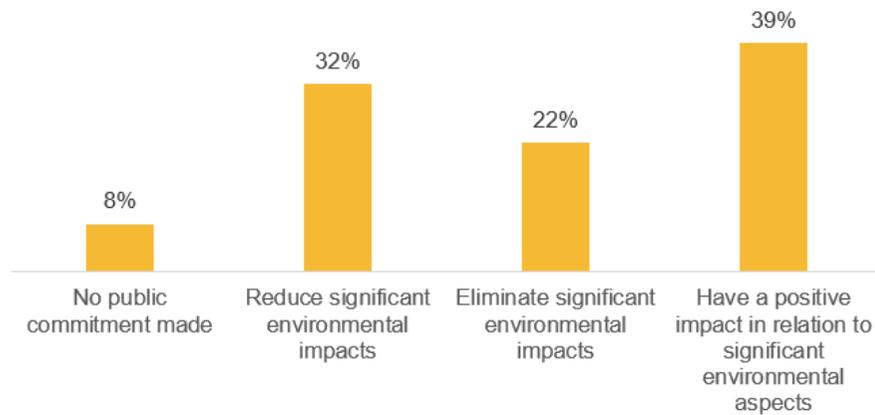
Spotlight on the Circular Economy

Taking an end-to-end approach to environmental management is becoming more common

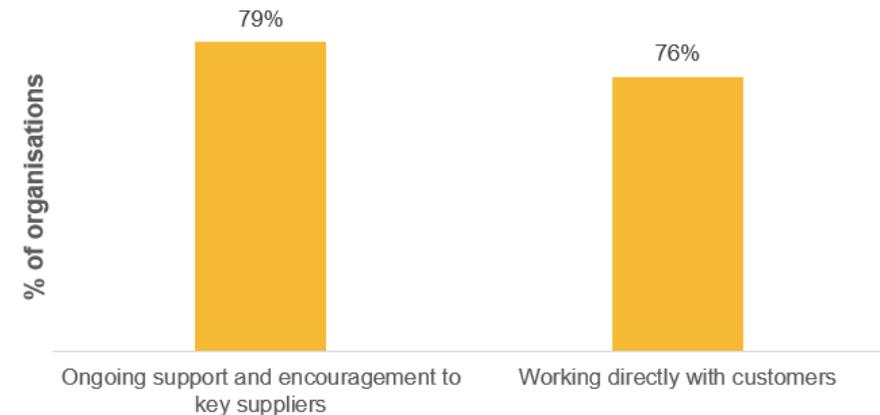
A significant majority of organisations reported that they are working to minimise the impact of their products and services using the ‘cradle-to-grave’ principle of the circular economy. Many organisations said they’re working to reduce their use of virgin and non-renewable materials as inputs, and then are looking to improve the recovery of their outputs.

We’re looking forward to seeing how this ambition translates into practice, which is where significant challenges lie. We would encourage organisations to continue to collaborate on circular economy approaches to scale their impact and demonstrate continual improvement in years to come

% of organisations that have made public commitments to:



Addressing environmental impacts by working directly with stakeholders to minimise environmental impact



Sector Analysis

Splitting the results by sector allows participants to compare their scores to peers and competitors. It also allows us to look at which sectors are taking the lead on the environment and to spot trends over the past few years. Below we have detailed a few highlights from this analysis. An important caveat here is that many sectors offer a fairly small sample size and, as organisations come and go each year, the make-up of each sector is ever changing, which explains some significant jumps year-on-year.

The Engineering sector - the highest scoring sector for this year - continued to show steady improvements. Engineering is closely followed by Local Authorities, which also made significant improvements in recent years. In fact, there have been encouraging improvements across many of the public-sector groups, including Health and Social Services Trusts and Government Departments & Agencies

It is of note that the Education sector welcomed some new participants this year, starting their Survey journey with lower scores. Whilst this brought the Education average down, it's great to see more organisations in this sector participating. The steady decline in the Food & Drink sector was due to some drops in scores in the environmental performance section, as well as welcoming a couple of new entrants.

Sector	Sector average scores ¹						
	2018	2017	Change	2018	2017	2016	2017-18 Change
Construction	21	22	-1	77%	77%	84%	0%
General Services	18	18	=	75%	70%	71%	5%
Food & Drink	15	15	=	78%	78%	84%	0%
General Manufacturing	10	7	+3	74%	76%	75%	-2%
Utilities	8	7	+1	78%	81%	75%	-3%
Local Authority	4	4	=	86%	84%	70%	2%
Education	5	3	+2	80%	89%	89%	-9%
Engineering	5	6	-1	86%	86%	83%	0%
Health and Social Services Trust	3	4	-1	85%	83%	81%	2%
Financial	2	2	=	78%	71%	70%	7%
Mining and Quarrying	3	0	+3	70%	-	-	-
Textiles and Clothing	2	0	+2	80%	-	-	-
Non-Governmental Organisation	3	0	+3	67%	-	-	-
Government Department and Agency	2	2	=	83%	74%	-	9%

Bring a Business

A key contributor to the success of the Survey is our existing cohort of participants. Each year we ask organisations to promote the Survey to their key suppliers and partner organisations, encouraging them to take part in the Survey. This year, 12 organisations successfully helped grow the Survey by bringing another organisation on board. This is an important means of spreading the impact of the Survey, and for organisations to extend their positive environmental impacts beyond their immediate operations.

We'd like to thank the following organisations that 'Brought a Business' to the Survey this year:

Existing participants

New participants brought on board

Belfast Harbour Commissioners

Young Excavator Services Ltd

Bombardier

SAC Compliance Ltd

Dunbia

RecyCo Ltd

Gilbert-Ash

Dowds Group

GRAHAM

William Coates Ltd

Heron Bros

Michael Nugent Ltd

McQuillan Envirocare Ltd

Edentrillick Quarries

Northern Ireland Electricity Networks

TLI Group

Public Prosecution Service

Oasis Group

Seagate Technology (Ireland)

Sodexo

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

SSE

Ulster Wildlife

NI Environment Link

The Benchmarking Process

Each year organisations from a wide variety of sectors are invited to take part in the Survey. It aims to provide a tool that participants can use to benchmark how they manage and perform against environmental criteria. The Survey provides both a useful framework for those new to the agenda and a stretching challenge for others more developed in environmental matters. It is also an important tool businesses can use to communicate with other stakeholders and compare against their sector peers. It has been a key driver in improving standards in environmental management within the Northern Ireland business community since 1998 and is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure the Survey remains relevant and adjusts to environmental priorities and shifts in emerging issues.

How organisations are scored

Organisations taking part are ranked Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze or Green. The higher the overall score, the higher the organisation will rank. There is no limit on the number of organisations that can fall into any one 'band'.

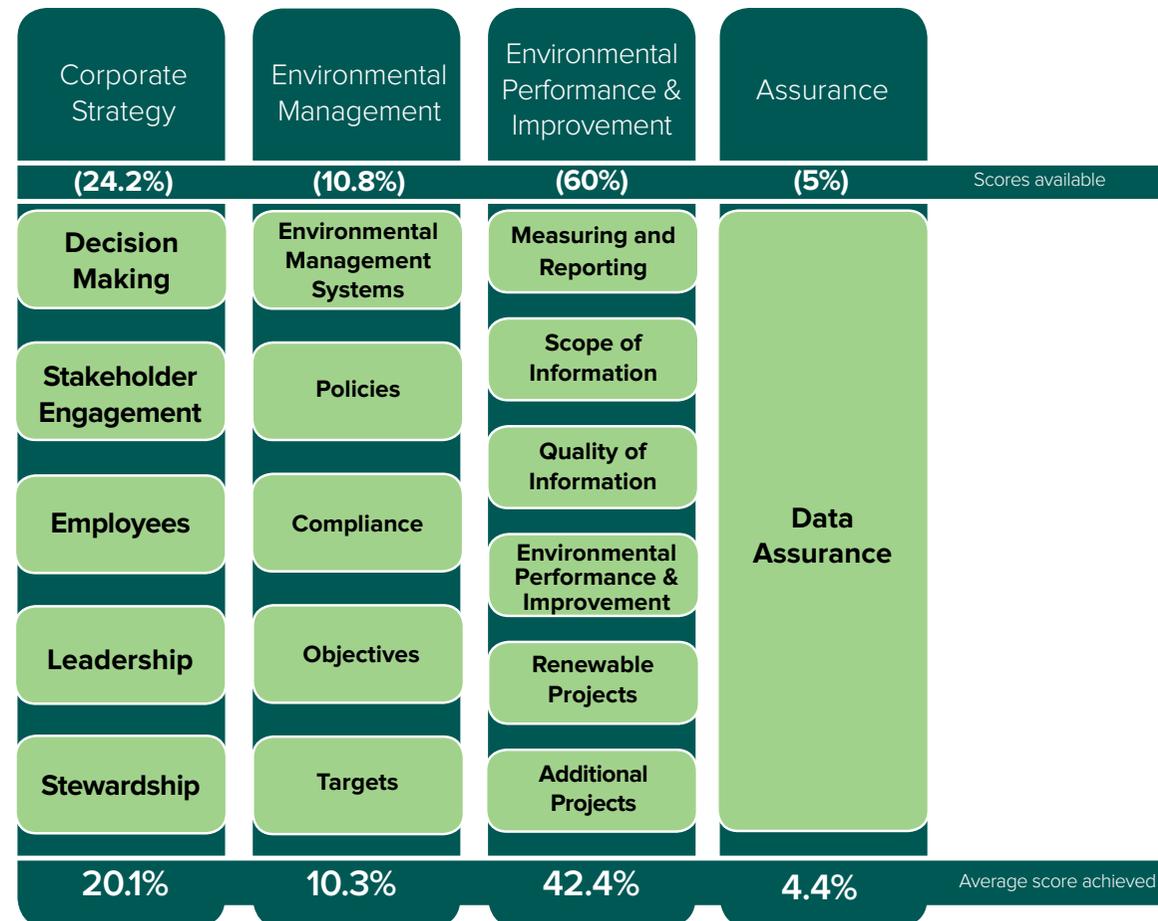
The first two sections of the Survey relate to environmental management (rather than performance improvement). Organisations that struggle to score well in these sections will achieve a Bronze or Green level ranking.

For organisations to increase their score and to advance up the rankings, they need to have well-established management systems and must be able to demonstrate performance improvement, as the majority of marks available (60%) are in this section. Investing in increasing environmental performance in the impact areas will also increase marks for each business. Participants that show an ongoing performance improvement over a number of years will do best. So those wishing to rise towards a higher band level must focus their efforts on continual improvement.

How does it work?

The Survey is split into four sections:

The largest gap between points available and points achieved was in the performance section



Platinum Trophies

This year the trophies for Platinum Level organisations were made by a local supplier, David Keys Sustainable Woodworking.

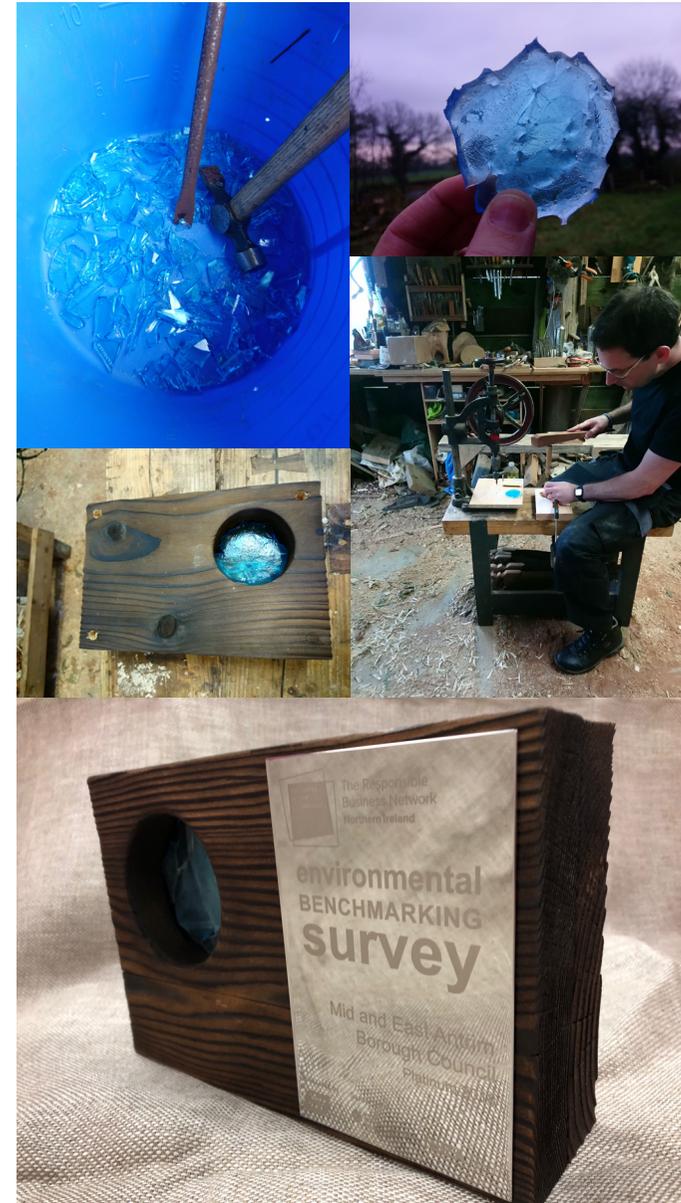
David runs an 'Unplugged' workshop, where he uses 'old-school' hand tools to reduce electricity consumption. Most of the tools he uses date back to before the Second World War, and he has restored them back to their original condition.

The trophies are made from broken fencing posts and offcuts from a shed manufacturer, and the glass inlays are made out of used glass from Bombay Sapphire gin bottles, making them truly circular.

George Dawson Award

This recognition award is designed to celebrate the significant contribution made by a business person to improving the environmental performance of his or her organisation and its impacts upon the environment and wider community.

The 2018 George Dawson Award recipient is **Donna McCullagh** from **Adman Civil Projects Limited**.



David Keys Sustainable Woodworking

Email: d.keys01@gmail.com



David Keys Sustainable Woodworking

Case Studies

Pritchitts

Pritchitts, a Lakeland Dairies Company, manufactures ultra-heat treated (UHT) dairy and dairy alternative products at its Newtownards-based operation.

Pritchitts aims to meet its ambition of being a regenerative company by 2040 by concentrating its sustainability efforts across three aims:

- Being carbon positive
- Wasting nothing; and
- Enhancing the environment

This strategy recognises the need to address each step of its value chain – from farmers to factories and customers – and sets five-year sustainability targets that align with the business' planning cycle and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In June 2018, Lakeland Dairies in Northern Ireland became the first dairy processor to secure a voluntary Prosperity Agreement with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The agreement aims to improve environmental and business outcomes for both organisations and sets commitments to deliver ambitious advancements in resource and energy efficiency, and reductions in carbon emissions from factory operations.



The Agreement will help the cooperative as a business, and across its sphere of influence, to respond positively to key environmental challenges. One of the most important aspects of the Agreement is its commitment to work with NIEA and the wider units in DAERA, as well as with farmers to identify ways to reduce ammonia emissions arising from dairy farms.

It also reinforces Lakeland Dairies work to help farmers better understand land quality and nutrient requirements and to continue their support for biodiversity and habitat protection.



Henry Brothers

Henry Brothers, a Mid-Ulster based construction company, has participated in the Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey since its inception in 1998. Over the last twenty years, the company has invariably experienced change, notably to the company structure to include a dedicated team of Environmentalists including a board level CSR director to manage all aspects of the business processes to ensure it is performing at the very highest standards across the business.



With the adoption of a Sustainable Business Strategy in 2014, the company has made notable improvements across the business with investment into Photovoltaic panels fitted to the head offices, equating to a saving of circa 540 tonnes of CO2 over the next 20 years, as well as a fleet of eco

vans and a range of hybrid vehicles to drive down fuel use.

Over the last four years, Henry Brothers has collaborated with Queen's University to develop a company Research and Development Programme. Queen's students are employed to conduct research projects relevant to the industry with a focus on Sustainability within the construction sector to push the Sustainability agenda and continually improve.

This year, research was conducted into the use of plastics within the construction supply chain, the results of which will be shared as best practice with industry.



HENRY BROTHERS

Carnstone's Verification Statement



For as long as the Survey has been going, Carnstone has provided assurance that the results published in this report are accurate. Whilst the Survey is self-reported, it is our job to check that organisations are being scored correctly and fairly.

We conducted our verification in two stages. Firstly, we analysed the raw data from the Survey, looking for inconsistencies, significant changes in organisations' responses year-on-year, and missing data. Secondly, we took a sample of organisations to be verified in person. In October 2018 we visited nine companies, which covered approximately 9% of participants. This coverage is consistent with the proportion verified in previous years.

The verification visits are light-touch – not an in-depth audit – but are sufficiently rigorous for us to satisfy that what is being reported is materially accurate and supported by evidence. Carnstone and Business in the Community Northern Ireland would like to thank the organisations that offered their time to meet with us. We believe that this verification component helps ensure the Survey methodology is robust and, for us, it's an opportunity to engage with the Survey participants.

The process was well managed by Business in the Community, and on the whole participants responded well and within the deadline. While we were generally satisfied that the responses provided by participants were materially correct, we did observe inaccuracies in some Survey responses.

Where we noticed possible errors and inconsistencies in the responses – either from our desk-based analysis or the verification visits – we asked for explanations and corrections. For the most part, the responses we received were prompt and complete. Most of the inaccuracies we found were in the environmental performance data section (Question 13a of Section 3). The difficulties that arose were mainly due to participants being unclear on how to effectively measure, record and report performance data, and how to normalise that data appropriately. We encourage all participants to pay particular attention to the quality and robustness of their data in future Surveys.

Overall, we continue to be impressed by the commitment of organisations in Northern Ireland to the Survey and their willingness to disclose information on their environmental performance.

Rosie Towe

Partner

www.carnstone.com



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland

www.bitcni.org.uk

E-mail: info@bitcni.org.uk



Business in the Community is a unique movement in the UK and Ireland of over 850 member companies (over 260 of which are in Northern Ireland), with a further 2,000+ engaged through our programmes and campaigns. We operate through a local network of more than 100 business led partnerships and 60 global partners.

Belfast

Bridge House
Paulett Avenue
Belfast, BT5 4HD
T (028) 9046 0606
F 0870 460 1731

Londonderry

BEAM Centre
INVISTA House
Third Street, Maydown
Derry/Londonderry
BT47 6TH
T (028) 7186 1550
F 0870 460 1731

Registered Details

137 Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7RQ.

Registered Charity No: 297716. Company Limited by Guarantee No: 1619253