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, and the technologies at our disposal to improve performance.

Since 1998, the Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey has pushed the environmental agenda to the fore, assessing the extent to which environmental business practices have been embedded within the corporate strategies and operations of local organisations.

The Survey benchmarks organisations against both their sector peers and against leading Northern Ireland organisations based on their environmental management and performance in key areas. It is a voluntary exercise that helps organisations identify environmental impacts, measure progress, drive improvement, and raise awareness of the environment as an important, strategic and competitive issue at board level.

The Survey has grown to become Northern Ireland’s leading environmental benchmarking exercise, attracting organisations from numerous industry sectors, including participants from the top 200 companies and leading public-sector organisations, such as health trusts, local authorities and universities. It is now recognised as a positive influencer that is helping organisations throughout Northern Ireland to achieve more sustainable ways of doing business.

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 1998. Additionally, 23 participants have completed the Survey for at least the last 10 consecutive years.

101 businesses and public sector organisations have participated in the 2018 Survey; more organisations than ever. An impressive third (33), have achieved the top Platinum level. Interestingly, the results show that the majority of repeat participants’ scores increased, with 24 organisations moving into a higher band.

The 2018 Survey saw 27 ‘newcomers’ – many of which were introduced through the ‘Bring a Business’ initiative. This initiative asks Survey participants to encourage one of their key suppliers or contractors to take part in the Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey, in an effort to challenge participants to work with their supply chains to improve their environmental impacts. This shows the power and influence that organisations can have on their suppliers, ensuring environmental improvement works throughout the value chain.

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.

Business in the Community congratulates all of this year’s Survey participants and thanks them for their involvement.

Business in the Community would also like to thank the programme sponsor, Moy Park, and programme funder, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. The Northern Environmental Benchmarking Survey would not exist without their invaluable continued support.

The Survey is open to all organisations in Northern Ireland; however, you must be registered to take part. If you would like to take part in 2019, please keelin.mccone@bitcni.org.uk, or call (028) 9046 0606.
Celebrating Successful Key to Inspiring Behaviour
Platinum Award winner Moy Park talks about their sustainability strategy

We would anticipate that customers and consumer trends will continue to drive further investment in areas such as packaging and operational improvements for enhanced shelf life. As a business, we are always looking for cutting edge R&D techniques and data analysis to help drive efficiency and reduce costs. The purpose of these initiatives is to help protect the natural environment across all areas of our business, including sustainability and environmental management.

While striving for efficiencies and driven by improved sustainability performance, we don’t have to understand the journey alone. There are a number of groups and forums that have been set up to drive this agenda and to work in partnership with other organisations on sustainability throughout the food sector. Through all these means we will be able to drive sustainable solutions with the business community and industry.

Many external stakeholders value outstanding sustainability performance. It is important to continually strive for industry-leading practices which go above and beyond regulatory demands or standards.

The Moy Park sustainability agenda is embedded throughout all levels of our business starting from the top. By driving investment in technology, culture and engaging and inspiring colleagues to make a positive contribution to protecting the environment, ensuring that we are consistently improving our resource efficiency and holding ourselves accountable for improved performance in the use of energy, water management and improving sustainability-related activities, we can make a positive contribution to protecting the natural environment across all areas of our business, including sustainability and environmental management.

We wish to congratulate all our colleagues, individuals and teams for improving upon your current performance in the business. For us at Moy Park, the result has been evidence throughout all areas of our business, of a culture of sustainability right across our business, motivating and inspiring colleagues to take ownership of our sustainability agenda.

‘It’s altogether greener at Danske Bank’

Championing Responsible Business

Heron Bros is proud to lead the way for others

Heron Bros is proud to have achieved Platinum status in this year’s NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey. The company’s commitment to protecting the environment is evident throughout their achievement of the top score of ‘Platinum’ in this year’s survey, demonstrating a socially and environmentally responsible business which is continuously improving upon your current performance by engaging, inspiring and involving our staff in various initiatives throughout Northern Ireland.

All 2019’s NI Responsible Companies were awarded for their continuous improvements in sustainability across all areas of the business – including sustainability and environmental management.

We wish to congratulate all our colleagues, and teams, for improving upon your current performance in the business.

We have brought biodiversity to the heart of the city through a new living wall in our redesigned Reception, which we have brought on the open market. We are also constantly encouraging our employees to be environmentally conscious, and improving our sustainable supply chain. For example, we have been able to achieve a number of key sustainability targets.

In 2019, we’ve reduced our carbon footprint by 212 tonnes – the equivalent of 60 double-decker buses. We have also improved our sustainability vertically through our supply chain, vertically improving our environmental performance by engaging, inspiring and involving our staff in various initiatives.
The Results

Top performer

Moy Park Ltd

Platinum (continued)

Platinum

Alpha Resource Management Ltd

Arklow and Mid-Roundabout Partnership Scheme

Belfast Harbours Commissioners

55

Alpha Resource Management Ltd

Platinum

Borough Council

Business in the Community NI

Danske Bank UK

Business in the Community NI

Borough Council

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Business in the Community NI

Borough Council

Belfast Metropolitan College

Borough Council

Belfast Institute of Technology and Design

Borough Council

Belfast Metropolitan College

Business in the Community NI

Borough Council

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

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Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
George Dawson Award for Environmental Contribution

The Community’s Environmental Leadership Team. At the Centre of Business in the Community, in Northern Ireland with David McCarthy Chair, Business in the Community’s Northern Ireland. This recognition award is for her passion and commitment to improving the environment, and staff as well as the people in the wider community. The recipient of the 2018 George Dawson Award is Laura Duggan, George Best Belfast City Airport and right, Chris Conway, Chair, Business in the Community, in Northern Ireland. This recognition award is designed to identify the significant contribution made by a business person in promoting the environmental performance of their organisation and its impact upon the environment and society. The recipient of the 2019 George Dawson Award is Donna McCullagh from Adman Civil Projects Limited for her commitment to environment and social responsibility. She has demonstrated the excellent work done by Adman Civil Projects. Donna McCullagh, Business in the Community, in Northern Ireland.

Translink’s strong belief in being environmentally sustainable

Who is Translink?

Translink is an integrated public transport company, the largest in Northern Ireland. It is an agency of the Northern Ireland Department for Infrastructure. Translink operates bus and rail services across Northern Ireland, for the benefit of all who live, work and travel in the region. It is a not-for-profit organisation and all revenue is reinvested in providing high-quality public transport services. Translink is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its operations and promoting the use of public transport to help reduce traffic congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions.

Translink operates over 1000 buses and 170 rail services every day, providing an environmentally sustainable and affordable transport alternative to private car journeys. It is a leader in sustainable transport innovation and has implemented a number of initiatives to reduce its environmental impact, such as:

- Using electric and hybrid vehicles
- Investing in energy-efficient technologies
- Implementing sustainable practices in its operations
- Promoting sustainable transport options

By 2020, Translink aims to reduce its carbon footprint by 25% compared to 2015 levels. The company is also committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2040 through the use of electric and hydrogen buses.

Translink Principles

Translink’s commitment to sustainability is underpinned by its principles:

- Environment: Translink is committed to reducing its environmental impact and promoting the use of sustainable transport options.
- Economy: Translink is committed to providing affordable and reliable transport services to all.
- Society: Translink is committed to being a good corporate citizen and contributing to the social well-being of the communities it serves.
- Innovation: Translink is committed to innovation and continuous improvement.

With these principles in mind, Translink is working towards a sustainable future for all who live, work and travel in Northern Ireland.

Energy savings opportunities

The Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) is a UK government scheme designed to improve the energy efficiency of large businesses. The scheme requires large businesses to identify and implement energy saving opportunities, and to report on their progress.

ESOS applies to any large business that carries out a trade or a business, and any company that carries out a trade but is not a business, if the business or company has a balance sheet value of between £35 million and £435 million, or if it has a turnover of between £35 million and £435 million.

Organisations can choose to participate in ESOS, and the scheme is in place from 2018 to 2023. The scheme requires organisations to identify and implement energy saving opportunities, and to report on their progress.

Organisations that fail to participate in ESOS will face financial penalties.

For more information on ESOS, please visit GOV.UK.

Business in the Community

Are you interested in helping to protect and enhance biodiversity?

Business in the Community is a not-for-profit organisation that provides support and guidance to businesses and public sector organisations to help them improve their environmental performance. The organisation aims to:

1. Provide a framework for organisations of all sizes to address the business impact on biodiversity.
2. Help organisations to identify and implement opportunities to enhance biodiversity.
3. Promote the importance of biodiversity to businesses and the wider community.

Through our high quality and impactful environmental sustainability programmes, we catalyse action and collaborations to find solutions and drive positive change.

At Ulster, we are committed to sustainability and a recognise the vital importance of biodiversity. We have integrated sustainability into all aspects of our operations and we are committed to reducing our environmental impact. We are a founding member of the Business in the Community’s Northern Ireland Environmental Business Network.

The Business in the Community’s Northern Ireland Environmental Business Network is a collaboration of businesses and public sector organisations that are committed to improving their environmental performance. The network aims to:

- Share best practice and learn from each other.
- Collaborate on projects to improve environmental performance.
- Foster links between environmental and business communities.
- Provide a mechanism for third parties to gain recognition for their contributions to sustainability.

The network is open to businesses and public sector organisations of all sizes to address the business impact on biodiversity.

For further information, please contact ian.nuttall@bitcni.org.uk or call 028 9046 6606.
GROW. CREATE. INSPIRE.

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE NORTHERN IRELAND ENVIRONMENTAL BENCHMARKING SURVEY

Producing fresh, locally farmed poultry for 75 years. Our commitment to quality from farm to fork makes Moy Park the food industry leader of choice.

moypark.com