2017 Northern Ireland environmental BENCHMARKING survey

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

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The Survey

Established in 1998, the Survey has grown to become Northern Ireland's leading environmental benchmarking exercise, attracting organisations from all industry sectors including a number of NI's top 200 companies, and leading public sector organisations.

The Survey is recognised as a key driver of environmental management and improvement. It encourages organisations of all shapes and sizes to improve their environmental performance by benchmarking them against their peers, and helping to identify areas where more effort is required.

The Survey is widely regarded as a positive influencer that helps organisations throughout Northern Ireland to achieve more sustainable ways of operating.

Why Benchmark?

The benchmarking process enables organisations to examine their performance, and compare themselves with similar organisations. It also provides valuable opportunities to share ideas and learn from what others are doing.

Effective environmental management provides a valuable way for organisations to make tangible cost savings, whilst contributing to a more sustainable future.

Greenwords

Chris Conway
Environment Leadership Team Chair, Business in the Community NI

I am delighted to present the results of the 2017 Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey which again show a year-on-year improvement. Now in its 19th year, the Survey plays a key part in ensuring environmental issues are firmly on the agenda in Board rooms across Northern Ireland.

This year, we welcome an impressive 18 'newcomers' to the Survey – the majority 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 60% of respondents achieved the top levels of Gold and Platinum. Interestingly, the results show an increase for the majority of repeat participants, with 20 organisations moving into a higher band. This is very encouraging.

A major focus of Business in the Community's Environmental Sustainability Programme is the Circular Economy, and this year we introduced an additional dimension to the Survey by beginning to explore participants' engagement in the Circular Economy, and the opportunities that this presents.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the 2017 participants and thank them for their involvement. As we move forward to the 20th year of the Survey, I hope that you will continue to participate, and encourage your key stakeholders and suppliers to get involved 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

It has been a year of many changes in Northern Ireland, and yet one thing that remains constant is the commitment of local organisations to improve their environmental performance.

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

I'm pleased to see that 90 businesses and public sector organisations participated in the Survey this year, with 60% of those achieving the top levels of Gold and Platinum. 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 18 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 publically demonstrate their 'green credentials'

The Headlines

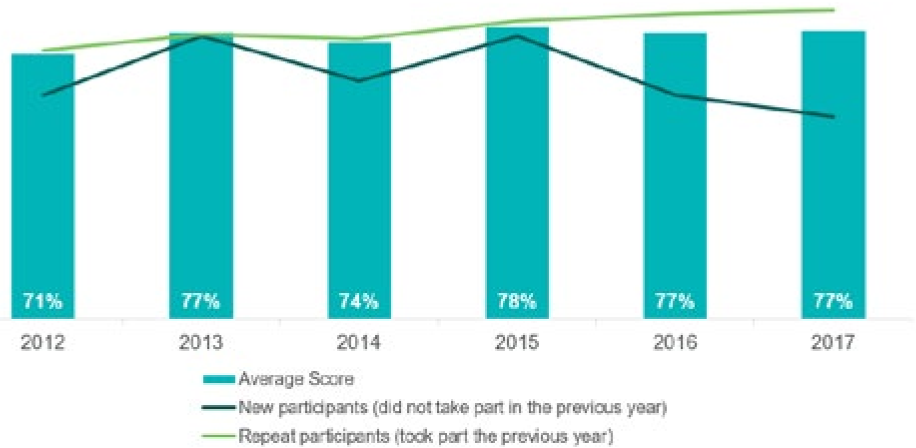
1. 90 organisations took part in the Survey, achieving an average score of 77%

This is just 1% below the record high achieved in 2015. Whilst the number of respondents and average score are similar to last year, delving deeper into the results tells a different story.

Over half of the 18 survey 'newcomers' (respondents that did not take part in the previous year's survey) achieved Silver, which is impressive. Despite this strong performance from some, the gap between newcomers' and repeat participants' scores widened to almost 30%. This is far from negative; in fact, it is encouraging to see organisations at an earlier stage in their environmental journey taking part in the Survey. Their commitment to rigour and transparency should be commended. Participants' scores tend to increase fairly consistently year-on-year, so newcomers have reason to be optimistic about their future performance in the Survey.

It is also worth noting that a majority of newcomers were introduced to the Survey process by another participant; the 'Bring a Supplier' section rewards nominating organisations for helping widen participation in the Survey. Ten repeat participants scored extra points in this way.

Average scores for new and repeat participants



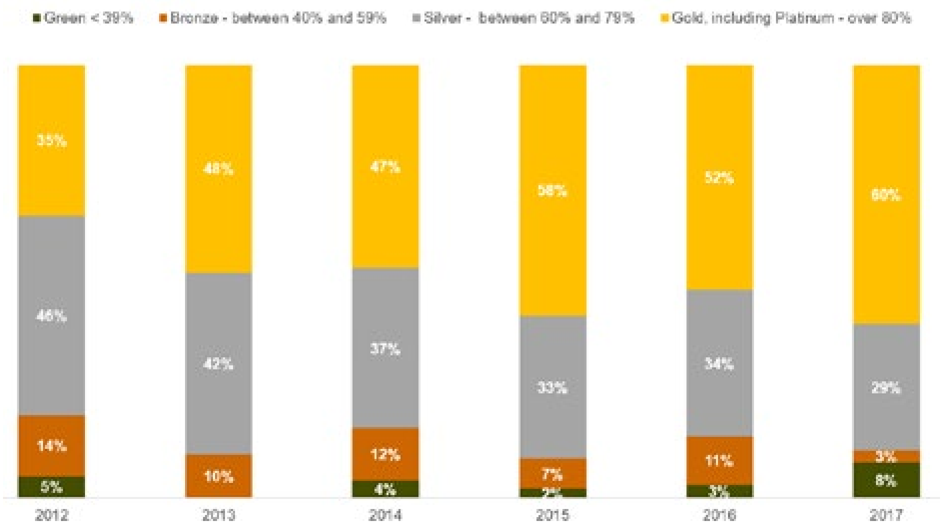
2. 60% of respondents achieved Gold or Platinum; the highest proportion in recent years

Many of last year's top performers secured further score increases this year. This is especially impressive when you consider that respondents must demonstrate continuous improvement to unlock top scores in the heavily-weighted performance section.

At the other end of the spectrum, the total proportion of respondents in Green or Bronze remained fairly consistent with previous years. The majority of respondents in Green are new to the Survey, and we look forward to seeing their performance improve as they continue to develop their environmental monitoring and management practices.

The proportion of respondents in Silver decreased, with nine organisations managing to move up from this band into Gold or Platinum.

Band Movement

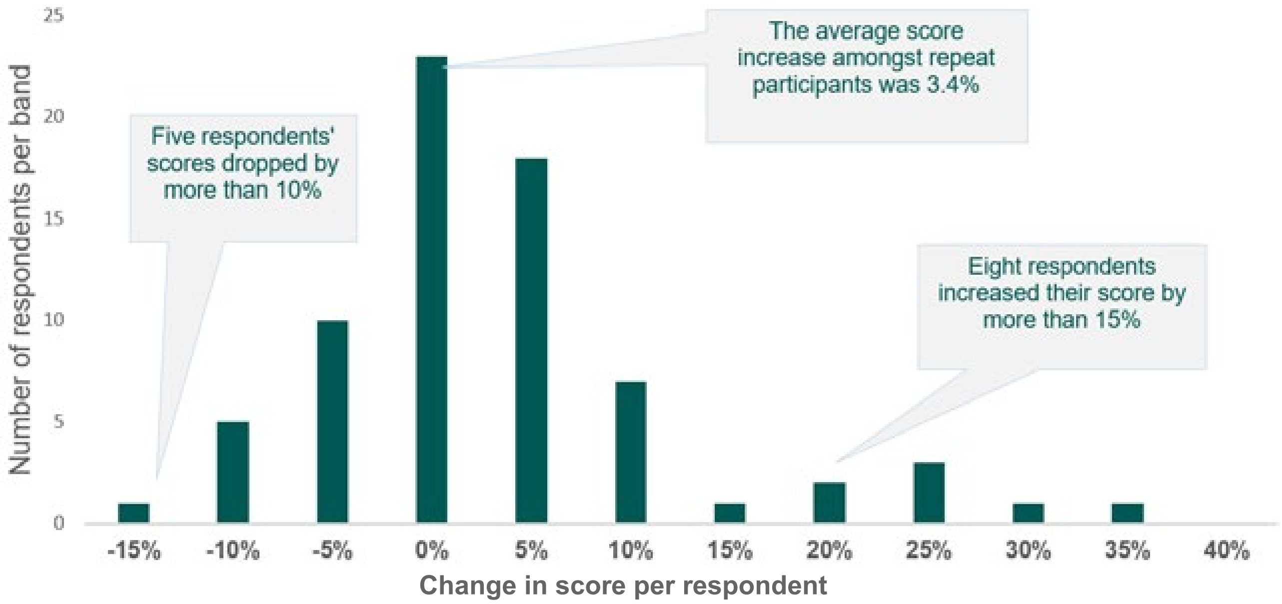


The Headlines

3. Consistencey is key: 20 Survey respondents moved into a higher band

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.

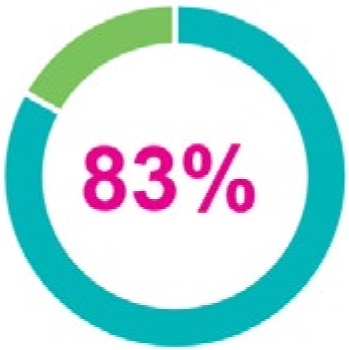
Score changes: 2017 compared with 2016



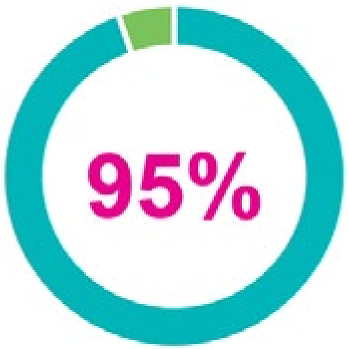
The Headlines

4. Strategy and governance is the bedrock of environmental performance

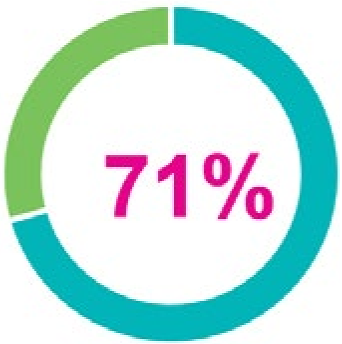
97% of respondents have assigned a main board member or senior manager with environmental responsibility, and 91% have set corporate objectives related to their significant environmental impacts. These are strong signs of organisational commitment. However, strategy and governance will only get organisations so far; resource efficiency is one of the Survey's critical goals, and 60% of the points are allocated in the performance section. This is the section with the most points still up for grabs.



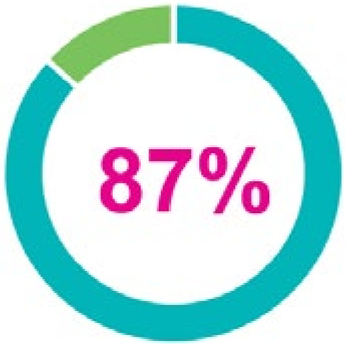
Corporate Strategy (24.2%)



Environmental Management (10.8%)



Environmental Performance & Improvement (60%)



Assurance (5%)

Marks achieved

Still available

Energy

Given that energy is a significant cost and has been at the centre of resource management for decades, it's perhaps unsurprising that 97% of respondents collect data on it. A slightly smaller proportion (93%) were able to submit energy usage data covering multiple years, allowing us to measure change against a base year. Over two thirds scored points by reducing their energy consumption – whether in absolute terms or proportional to employees, revenues or sites. For respondents with well-established energy strategies, further gains have become harder to achieve, and 23 organisations' energy consumption increased – a greater proportion than in the previous year. Is this a blip or a worrying trend? Whatever the reason, two thirds of respondents feel transparency is the best policy; public reporting remained constant at 68%.

Waste

Performance on waste has been consistent for several years, but an emerging focus on the Circular Economy could revolutionise the way that this area is managed and reported. It's interesting to note that, this year, more respondents were able to demonstrate improvements in waste recovered than in the overall amounts of waste they generate. This may be down to organisations growing, increasing both output and waste, in absolute terms. Efficiencies in both measures are necessary to achieve top scores in this question. A third of respondents submitted waste generated as a proportion of a relevant factor such as total employees, revenues, production or sites, providing a more meaningful picture of their efficiency and reducing the impact of changing scale of production. We encourage more to do the same.

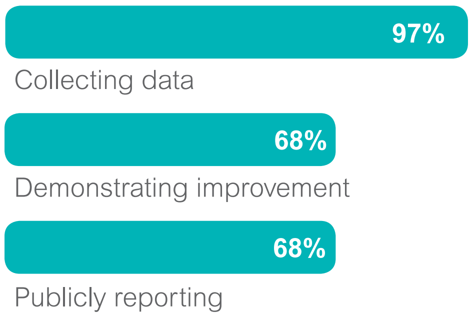
Water

Despite an increase in respondents collecting data on water, fewer are publicly reporting and able to demonstrate improvement. We have seen a lot of change in this area over recent years; in 2015, almost all respondents (98%) were collecting data, compared with 85% in 2016, and 87% this year. Not only that, but efficiency varies too – compared with last year's survey data, nearly 10% fewer organisations achieved top scores for reducing water consumption. These inconsistencies might be down to the difficulties of controlling water consumption, or because water is seen as a less important driver of costs in Northern Ireland.

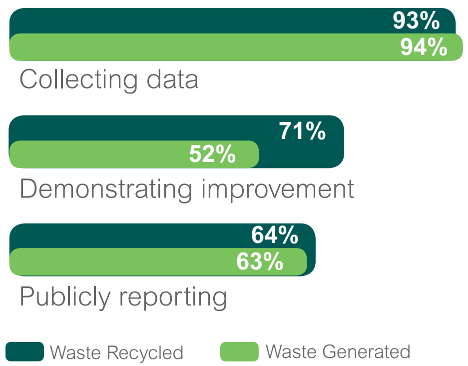
Transport

Following a steep rise in organisations collecting transport data over recent years, it's great to see the climb continue by a further 3%. The organisations able to demonstrate improvement and thereby accumulate points has also increased; almost half achieved the top score available. Interestingly, organisations choosing to report on commuter rather than business transportation data declined dramatically this year; only four organisations chose this option. This isn't concerning per se; organisations should determine their most material impacts and focus their efforts – and reporting – accordingly. However, the environmental impact of commuter travel shouldn't be overlooked just because it can be harder to measure and influence change.

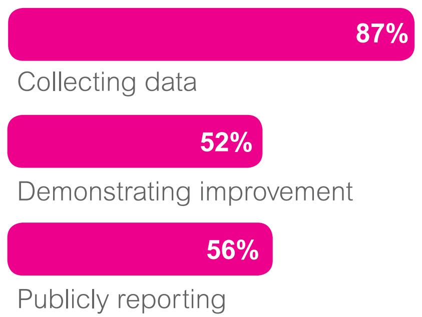
Energy Performance



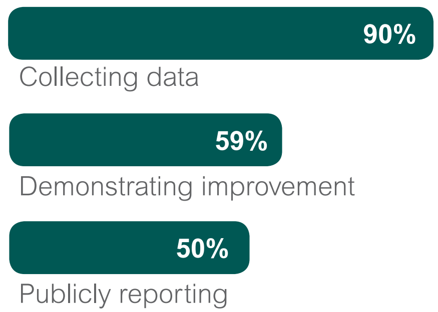
Waste Performance



Water Performance



Transport Performance



Additional Impacts

Almost two thirds of respondents increased their score by demonstrating improvement against a self-selected additional impact metric that is both material to their operations and distinct to energy, water, waste and transport. As with the other environmental performance measures, the survey compares performance data from the current year with a base year four years previous. Commonly used metrics related to key environmental impacts such as paper usage, pollution incidents and biodiversity initiatives in the community.

Performance

91%

Collecting data

64%

Demonstrating improvement

57%

Publicly reporting

Bring a Business

The Bring a Business initiative asks Survey participants to encourage one of their key suppliers or contractors to take part in the NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey, in an effort to challenge companies to work with their wider supply chains to improve their wider environmental impacts.

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

Previous participants	Business they brought
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Harvey Group Plc
Caterpillar (NI) Limited	Enva Northern Ireland Limited
Dunbia (Northern Ireland)	SAICA Pack
George Best Belfast City Airport	Robinson Services Ltd
Gilbert-Ash	Braham Electrical
Heron Bros Ltd	H.M. Electrics
Moy Park	Biffa Plc
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	Adman Civil Projects Ltd
Public Prosecution Service	KBS Group
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	Aramark

The Results

Top performer

Bombardier	

Platinum

Alpha Resource Management Ltd	↔
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	↔
Bombardier	↔
BT	↔
Caterpillar (NI) Limited	↔
Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Limited	↔
Compass Group UK & Ireland	↑
Farrans Construction trading as a division of Northstone (NI) Ltd	↔
Henderson Group	↑
John Graham Construction Ltd	↔
Lafarge	↔
Lagan Construction Group	↔
LE Pritchitt and Company Ltd	↑
Linden Foods Ltd	↔
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	↔
Moy Park	↔
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	↔
O'Hare & McGovern	↔
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	↔
Terex Dungannon	↑
Translink	↔
Ulster University	↑
Western Health and Social Care Trust	↑↑
Whitemountain Quarries Ltd	↔

Gold

Ards and North Down Borough Council	↑
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	↑
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	↑
Belfast Metropolitan College	↓
Blackbourne Integrated M&E	↔
Business in the Community NI	↔
Coolkeeragh ESB	↔
Danske Bank UK	↔
Dunbia (Northern Ireland)	↔
Encirc Ltd	↑
Genesis Crafty	NEW
George Best Belfast City Airport	↔
Gilbert-Ash	↔
Greiner Packaging Ltd	↓
Henry Group NI Limited	↓
Heron Bros Ltd	↔
Hyster-Yale Group	↓
McLaughlin and Harvey	↔
McNicholas Construction Services Ltd	↑
Montupet UK Ltd	↔
Norbev Ltd	↑
Northern Ireland Assembly	↓
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd	↔
Queen's University Belfast	↔
RiverRidge	↑
RPS Ireland Ltd	↔
SGBD Ltd t/a JP Corry	↑
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	↓
Tayto Group Limited	↔
Ulster Supported Employment Limited	↔

Silver

Adman Civil Projects Ltd	NEW
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	↑
Baker & McKenzie Global Services NI Limited	↑
Belfast International Airport	↔
Biffa Plc	NEW
Carillion Energy Services	↑
Charles Hurst Group	↔
Clive Richardson Ltd	NEW
Enva Northern Ireland Limited	NEW
Finnebrogue Artisan	NEW
Foyle Food Group	↔
H. M. Electrics Ltd	NEW
Haldane Fisher Ltd	↔
Harvey Group Plc	NEW
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta	↔
JH Turkington and Sons Ltd	NEW
KBS Group	NEW
LacPatrick Dairies (NI) Ltd (Ballyrashane site)	NEW
McCue Crafted Fit	↔
McKinstry Skip Hire Ltd	↔
McQuillan Envirocare Ltd	↔
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	↓
Progressive Building Society	↔
Public Prosecution Service	↑↑
SPIE Ltd (Distribution & Transmission)	↑
Survitec Group – Dunmurry	↑

Bronze

McAvoy Group	↔
Precision Group	↔
SAICA Pack	NEW

Green

Aramark	NEW
Braham Electrical	NEW
Patrick Keenan	NEW
Riding for the Disabled Association (Coleraine & District Group) Ltd	NEW
Robinson Services Ltd	NEW
Suki Tea	NEW
Ulster Wildlife	↔

Key

Did not participate in 2016	NEW
Remained in the same band as 2016	↔
Moved up one band from 2016	↑
Moved up two bands from 2016	↑↑
Dropped one band from 2016	↓
Dropped two bands from 2016	↓↓

Sector Results

Construction

Farrans Construction trading as a division of Northstone (NI) Ltd	Platinum
O'Hare & McGovern	Platinum
Whitemountain Quarries Ltd	Platinum
John Graham Construction Ltd	Platinum
Lafarge	Platinum
Lagan Construction Group	Platinum
Heron Bros Ltd	Gold
Gilbert-Ash	Gold
Blackbourne Integrated M&E	Gold
SGBD Ltd t/a JP Corry	Gold
Henry Group NI Limited	Gold
McNicholas Construction Services Ltd	Gold
McLaughlin and Harvey	Gold
Haldane Fisher Ltd	Silver
McCue Crafted Fit	Silver
JH Turkington and Sons Ltd	Silver
H. M. Electrics Ltd	Silver
Clive Richardson Ltd	Silver
Adman Civil Projects Ltd	Silver
McAvoy Group	Bronze
Patrick Keenan	Green
Braham Electrical	Green

Education

Ulster University	Platinum
Queen's University Belfast	Gold
Belfast Metropolitan College	Gold

Engineering

Bombardier	Platinum
Caterpillar (NI) Limited	Platinum
Terex Dungannon	Platinum
Montupet UK Ltd	Gold
Hyster-Yale Group	Gold
Harvey Group Plc	Silver

Financial

Danske Bank UK	Gold
Progressive Building Society	Silver

Food and Drink

Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Limited	Platinum
LE Pritchitt and Company Ltd	Platinum
Compass Group UK & Ireland	Platinum
Moy Park	Platinum
Linden Foods Ltd	Platinum
Henderson Group	Platinum
Dunbia (Northern Ireland)	Gold
Tayto Group Limited	Gold
Genesis Crafty	Gold
Norbev Ltd	Gold
LacPatrick Dairies (NI) Ltd (Ballyrashane site)	Silver
Finnebrogue Artisan	Silver
Foyle Food Group	Silver
Suki Tea	Green
Aramark	Green

General Manufacturing

Seagate Technology (Ireland)	Platinum
Encirc Ltd	Gold
Greiner Packaging Ltd	Gold
Ulster Supported Employment Limited	Gold
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta	Silver
Survitec Group – Dunmurry	Silver
SAICA Pack	Bronze

Sector Results

General Services

Alpha Resource Management Ltd	Platinum
Translink	Platinum
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Platinum
George Best Belfast City Airport	Gold
Business in the Community NI	Gold
RPS Ireland Ltd	Gold
RiverRidge	Gold
McKinstry Skip Hire Ltd	Silver
Carillion Energy Services	Silver
Belfast International Airport	Silver
Charles Hurst Group	Silver
McQuillan Envirocare Ltd	Silver
Baker & McKenzie Global Services NI	Silver
KBS Group	Silver
Precision Group	Bronze
Ulster Wildlife	Green
Riding for the Disabled Association (Coleraine & District Group) Ltd	Green
Robinson Services Ltd	Green

Government Dept and Agency

Northern Ireland Assembly	Gold
Public Prosecution Service	Silver

Health & Social Service Trust

Western Health and Social Care Trust	Platinum
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	Gold
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Gold
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	Silver

Local Authority

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

Utilities

BT	Platinum
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	Platinum
Coolkeeragh ESB	Gold
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd	Gold
SPIE Ltd (Distribution & Transmission)	Silver
Biffa Plc	Silver
Enva Northern Ireland Limited	Silver

Sector Analysis

Sector	Participants in 2017	Participants in 2016	Sector average scores[1] 2017	2016	2015	2016-17 Movement	Participants in 2017
Education	3	3	89%	89%	84%	83%	- 0%
Engineering	6	5	86%	83%	87%	81%	+ 3%
Local Authority	4	5	84%	70%	85%	80%	+ 15%
Health and Social Services Trust	4	4	83%	81%	77%	67%	+ 2%
Utilities	7	7	81%	75%	73%	66%	+ 6%
Food & Drink	15	11	78%	84%	82%	79%	- 6%
Construction	22	16	77%	84%	77%	74%	- 7%
General Manufacturing	7	11	76%	75%	80%	76%	+ 2%
Government Department & Agency	2	4	74%	67%	81%	75%	+ 7%
Financial	2	3	71%	70%	69%	59%	+ 1%
General Services	18	21	70%	71%	75%	70%	- 1%

There was considerable change in some of the largest sectors. The Food & Drink sector's average score may have dropped, but the sector attracted several new participants and repeat participants actually improved their scores. Meanwhile Construction made up almost a quarter of total survey submissions. Environmental commitment is perhaps to be expected from an industry with significant and visible impacts as well as increasingly robust regulatory requirements, but is commendable nonetheless. We hope the Construction sector will return to its 2016 high score next year.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Highest sector score	89%	89%	87%	82%	88%
Lowest sector score	70%	67%	60%	58%	63%
Gap	20%*	22%	27%	24%	25%

**the difference is down to rounding*

Commendations should go to Education and Engineering; both sectors have held leading Survey positions for several years consecutively. The organisations in each sector are near-identical to 2016, supporting a hypothesis that **regular survey participants perform better year-on-year**. It's great to see Northern Ireland's further and higher education institutions leading the way on sustainability; we would like to encourage more colleges and universities to take part in the Survey next year.

It's fantastic to see significant improvements from public sector respondents after a dip in 2016. Local Authority achieved the highest sector score increase (15%), with most moving up a band. Government Department and Agencies, and Health & Social Services Trusts also improved their scores, with noteworthy improvement by the Public Prosecution Service. However, only a small proportion of public sector organisations take part in the Survey; it would be great to see more demonstrating their commitment to the environment by participating in the Survey.

The Retail sector is notable in its absence from the sector listing. Of the four respondents that took part last year, only one took part in 2017. This is disappointing given the sector's importance to the Northern Ireland economy and we hope more retailers will take part next year.

Overall, the gap between sector scores is narrowing, with the lowest performing sectors steadily improving performance whilst the top performers appear relatively stagnant. With just 20% separating the top and bottom, it's looking increasingly feasible for any sector to make a challenge for the top spot in 2018.

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 does it work?

The Survey is split into four sections:

Corporate Strategy **(24.2%)**	Environmental Management **(10.8%)**	Environmental Performance & Improvement **(60%)**	Assurance **(5%)**
Decision Making	**Environmental Management Systems**	**Measuring and Reporting**	**Data Assurance**
Stakeholder Engagement	**Policies**	**Scope of Information**	
Employees	**Compliance**	**Quality of Information**	
Leadership	**Objectives**	**Environmental Performance & Improvement**	
Stewardship	**Targets**	**Renewable Projects**	
		Additional Projects	

The Benchmarking Process

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.

Number of participants in each band

Bands	Participants
Platinum (>90%)	24
Gold (80-89%)	30
Silver (60-79%)	26
Bronze (40-59%)	3
Green (<40%)	7

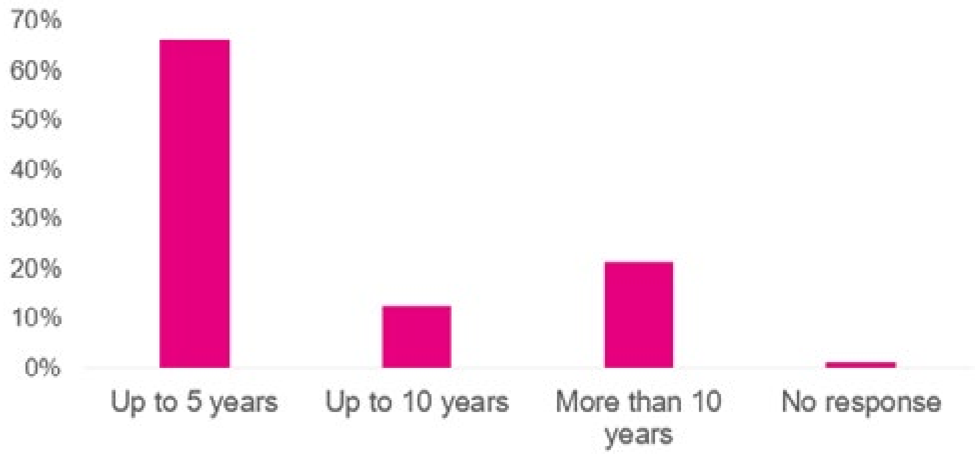
Circular Economy Analysis

This year we began to explore organisations' engagement with the Circular Economy (CE) through a set of unscored questions looking at a number of conditions, behaviours and aspirations which provide the foundation for adopting a circular approach. These were generally well received with every Survey participant taking part in all or some of the optional questions. Reflections and highlights include:

1. **Long-term views.** One in five respondents already have environmental strategies covering a period of more than ten years. *Accelerating progress towards a circular economy will require organisations to take into account the full life-cycle of their impacts. In some cases, investment in new technologies and business models will be necessary to achieve long-term pay-offs.*

2. **Developing partnerships.** 81% of survey respondents have developed ongoing relationships with their supply chain to reduce environmental impacts. 56% are developing ongoing relationships with customers; for example, through recovering end of life materials from customers, providing service-based alternatives to product sales, working together to optimise transport efficiencies or share resources. *Circular approaches cannot be achieved in isolation, so it is encouraging to see organisations already collaborating with others across their value chains. This will be critical for a circular economy.*

Time horizons of environmental strategy



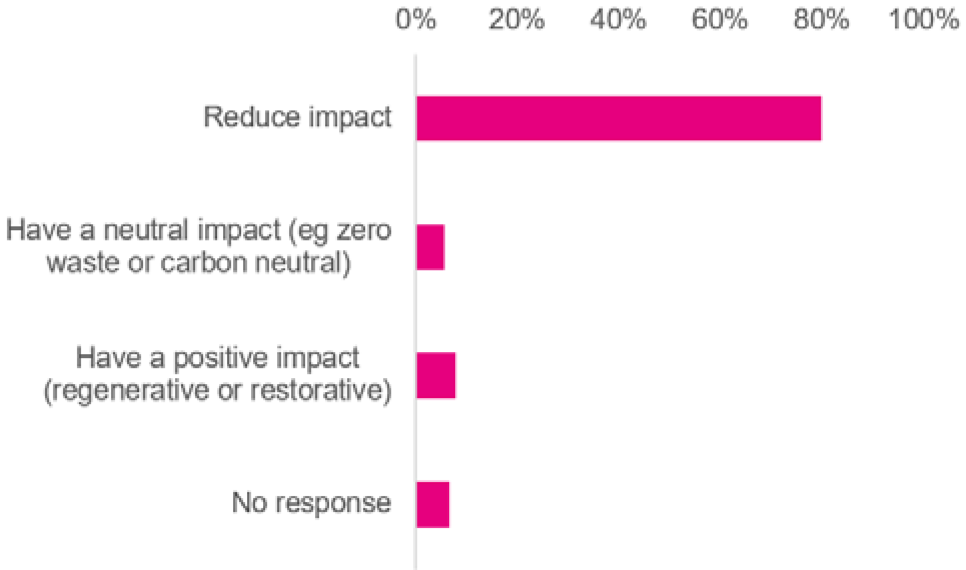
Addressing environmental impacts through ongoing stakeholder relationships

Circular Economy Analysis

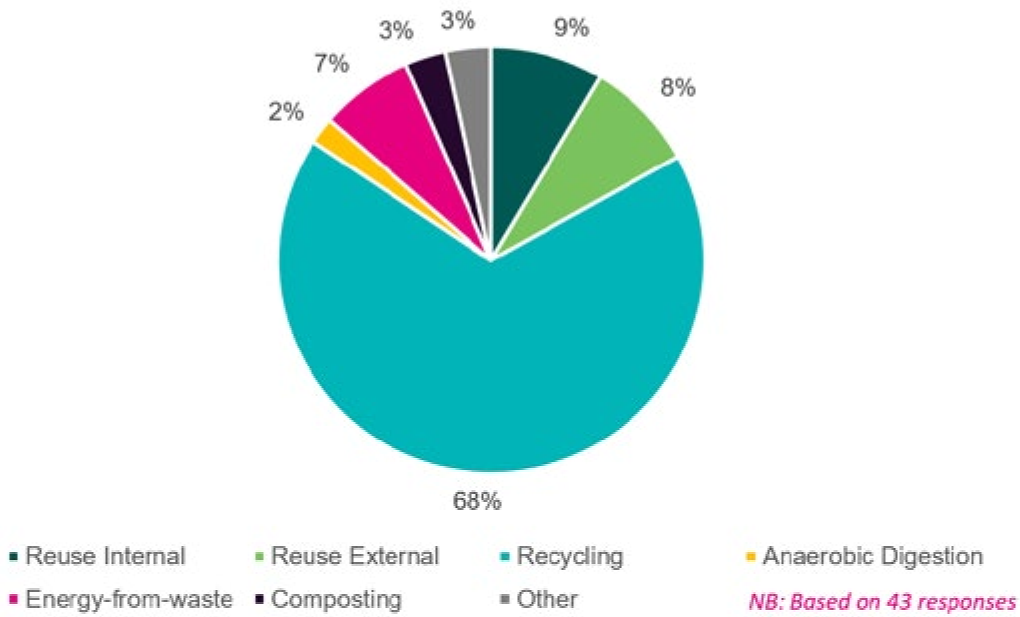
3 **Not just reducing, but improving.** Whilst the majority of respondents have set targets to reduce their environmental impacts, only a few are aiming for neutral or positive impacts overall. 13% of respondents have set environmental objectives or targets that aim to either eliminate their environmental impacts (eg zero waste or becoming carbon neutral) or to have a positive impact (becoming restorative or regenerative). *Setting ambitious targets can be an important step in creating transformational changes; our analysis suggests Northern Ireland business should set bolder targets to drive forward a circular approach.*

4 **Necessary complexity.** Developing a truly circular approach requires environmental issues to be considered across the lifecycle, from design to disposal. Almost half of respondents (43) provided extra detail on this area. Typically, two thirds of recovered waste is recycled, with the rest reused, composted, or transformed via energy-from-waste or anaerobic digestion processes. *Circular approaches to waste management require complex solutions, so it's positive that many respondents are monitoring treatment of waste. Even more granular approaches may be necessary in order to achieve a circular approach.*

Environmental objectives and targets



Treatment of waste recovered

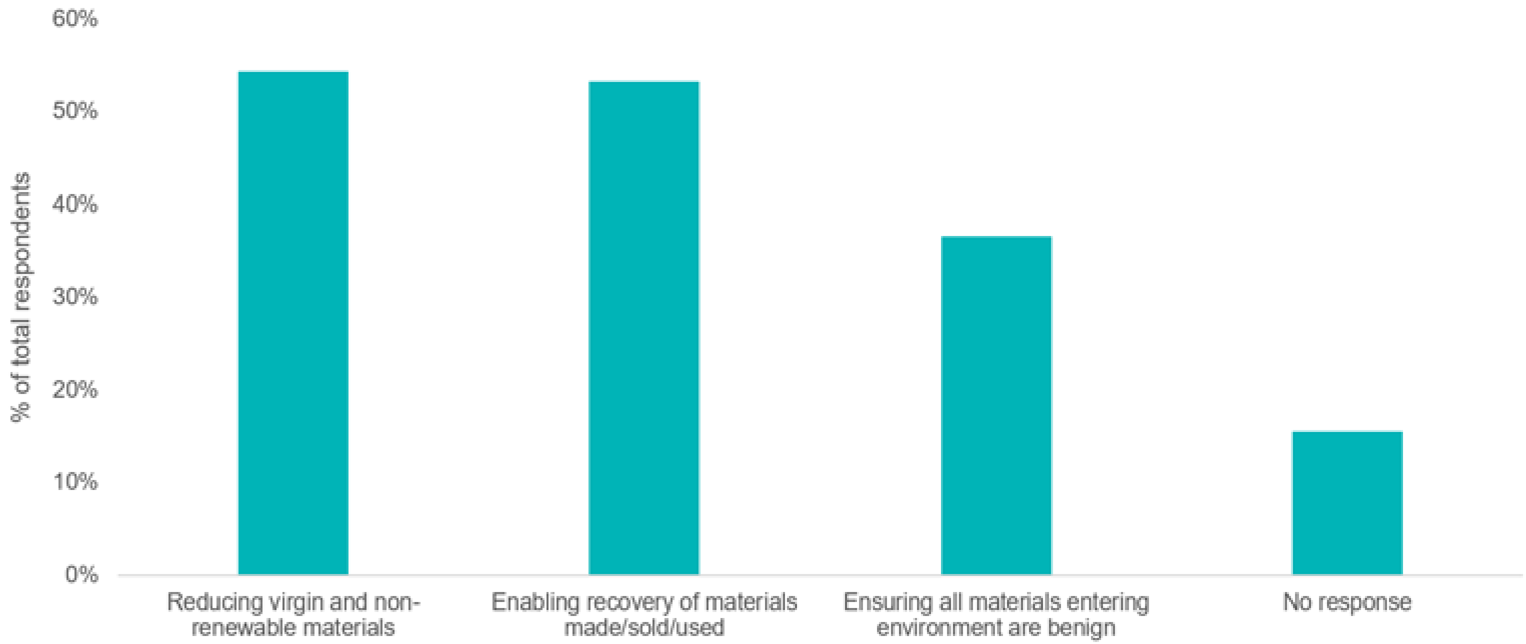


NB: Based on 43 responses

Circular Economy Analysis

5 **Work in progress.** More than half of respondents are working towards reducing the use of virgin and non-renewable materials, or enabling the recovery of materials they make, use or sell. Ensuring only benign materials enter the natural environment – at any stage in the value chain – is complex. So, it's encouraging that over a third of organisations are already working to achieve this. *There are promising signs of Northern Ireland organisations managing less obvious and indirect environmental impacts, but we have much further to go. Partnerships will play a vital role in unlocking efficiencies throughout the product or services lifecycle.*

Resource aspirations respondents are working towards



Carnstone Assurance Statement

carnstone partners llp

Carnstone Partners LLP was asked to provide assurance that the results published in this report are accurate. In September 2017, interviews with c.10% of survey participants were undertaken to test the accuracy of the data provided, assessing the underlying processes for data collection and reviewing the quality of submissions.

This process has been supported by detailed desk-top evaluation and analysis of the raw data, including comparison with previous years' submissions. The data and inferences drawn from them, as well as substantive statements made in this report are materially accurate and supported by evidence. Based on our sample-based verification, we concluded that participants' responses to the Survey represent a true and fair reflection of environmental activity.

The process was well managed by Business in the Community and participants generally responded well and within the deadline. While we were generally satisfied that the responses provided by participants were materially correct, we did observe a number of inaccuracies relating to performance data provided. These related to both the quality and consistency of information submitted.

Where inaccuracies were observed, most participants were quick to respond, provide additional data when necessary and willing to correct their submission. In most cases, these were simple misunderstandings relating to the question requirements. However, in some cases there was a lack of understanding of how to effectively measure, record and report performance data and how to normalise that data appropriately. This was particularly observed with regards to the waste performance data. We would encourage all participants to pay particular attention to the quality and robustness of their data to ensure this is accurate.

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
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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.

Our trophies are made from reclaimed wood made out of floorboards that were being thrown out during a house restoration in Kesh, and an old hemlock beam from a house in Cullybackey. The glass inlays are made from recycled wine bottles.

David Keys Sustainable Woodworking

Email: d.keys01@gmail.com

David Keys Sustainable Woodworking

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 2017 George Dawson Award recipient is **Laura Duggan, George Best Belfast City Airport**.

Case Studies

Genesis Crafty

Genesis Crafty is one of the top performing new participants in the Survey this year. The company has undertaken a number of activities to manage environmental improvement during a period of significant business growth.

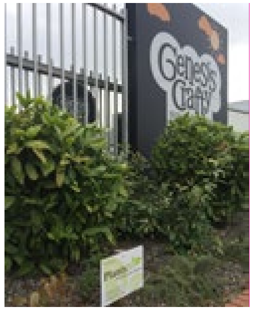
Genesis Crafty completed a full internal environmental review, which led to the expansion and improvement of its existing BS 8555 Environmental Management System (EMS), in combination with identifying and implementing several environmentally focussed projects which have helped to steer the company towards a more sustainable future.

Waste

Through improving segregation activities onsite, instilling a 'lean manufacturing' culture, upgrading waste management infrastructure (compactors & balers) and adopting working relationships with competent and innovative waste management contactors, the company is achieving ZERO waste to landfill, with recycling and animal feed re-use rates typically at 98%.

Wastewater

The company has made a concerted effort to reduce the concentrations of effluent being discharged to sewers from the bakery site by investing in its effluent treatment infrastructure, combined with staff awareness training and improved maintenance programmes.



Energy

Various energy saving projects have also been implemented, such as VSD compressed air, LED lighting with movement sensors, efficient LPG water heating, mechanical heat recovery ventilation (MHRV), as well as automated utility monitoring through a software based Energy Management System.

Impacts

- Zero Waste to Landfill
- Increased recycling rebates
- BS 8555 EMS certification
- Marks & Spencer Plan A 'Silver' approved site
- Improved wastewater discharges and subsequent cost savings
- Energy savings eg LED lighting project – saving 134,785 KWh electricity/year
- Future-proofed utility and equipment infrastructure

Coca-Cola HBC NI Ltd

Coca-Cola HBC has reduced CO_2 emissions at its Knockmore Hill site through a variety of initiatives including the use of LED lighting, ensuring equipment powers down when not in use, and conserving heat through the use of oven doors on production lines. Using their onsite combined heat and power (CHP) plant has also reduced emissions, with over 90% of electricity used generated by the onsite CHP plant.

Zero waste to landfill

Coca-Cola HBC has introduced new lightweight Deep Riverrock 500ml bottles – using 16% less PET plastic. All waste generated from the production process is reused, recycled or sent for energy recovery.

Successful community engagement initiatives

Coca-Cola HBC is committed to Business in the Community's Sustainability Leadership Programme and is also active in local community planning partnership programmes. The company shares best practice with local businesses, offers free educational visits to its Knockmore Hill site, and invests in community initiatives such as *Clean Coast* and *Adopt a Spot*.

Positive impact on Biodiversity

Coca-Cola HBC undertook a biodiversity audit at its Knockmore Hill site with support from NIEA. It found it currently provides a good habitat for a range of species and an action plan to enhance wildlife potential is being developed.

5% reduction in water use

Coca-Cola HBC has reduced the water used within manufacturing and ancillary processes by 26 million litres, enough to fill almost 11 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

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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.

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