



2020 Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey Report

STEPPING UP TO PROTECT THE PLANET

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Chris Conway
Group Chief Executive,
Translink
Chair of Business in
the Community

Chris Conway

As the Chair of Business in the Community Northern Ireland, I am delighted to present the results of the 2020 Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey. Now in its 22nd year, the Survey plays a key role in ensuring environmental issues are on the agenda in boardrooms across Northern Ireland, and it serves as a way for organisations to demonstrate to their stakeholders, to their sector and to the general public that they are taking steps to become more sustainable.

I am very proud that my own organisation, Translink, is one of the 15 organisations to have taken part in the Survey for over 20 years. Additionally, 15 organisations have completed the Survey for the past 10 consecutive years or more. I'd like to thank each of these organisations for their continued commitment to the environment and taking part in the Survey.

In 2020, 103 organisations participated in the Survey. We welcome an impressive 25 'newcomers' to the Survey, in large part due to the 'Bring a Business' initiative, which continues to demonstrate the positive influence organisations can have on their stakeholders and suppliers, ensuring environmental improvement works throughout the value chain. I am also heartened that, in a challenging year, a commitment to sustainable business practice remains a priority for so many.

15 organisations with fewer than 25 employees have taken part in the Small Business Survey, which was introduced in 2019. This demonstrates that, regardless of size, every business has a responsibility to take action that's better for the environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the 2020 Survey participants and to thank you for your involvement. I hope that you will continue to participate, drive forward your environmental agenda, and encourage your key stakeholders and suppliers to get involved too.

2020 has been a difficult year for many, but COVID-19 has prompted organisations across the globe to reflect on how they can make the most of this unprecedented time to build back better. We are asking organisations in NI to go one step further: to build back responsibly from COVID-19 and to continue to reduce their environmental impacts. Now is possibly the most crucial time to take action on the climate emergency. According to the 2019 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on 1.5 degrees*, we have only this decade left – a rapidly closing window – to take sufficient action to reach net zero emissions and to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. To change everything, we need everyone. I urge all Survey participants to sign up to the BITC Climate Action Pledge, a cornerstone of the [Business Action on Climate campaign](#), and to set and work towards ambitious targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Through this campaign, organisations in Northern Ireland can demonstrate their commitment and willingness to collaborate and address this critical issue.

Finally, I would like to thank Moy Park and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for making the Survey possible through their invaluable and continued support.



Edwin Poots MLA
Minister of Department
of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural
Affairs

Edwin Poots

We are living through uncertain times, but as we continue to do business it is inspiring to see organisations of all sizes and across all sectors taking responsibility for improving their environmental impacts with great pride and positivity. Green issues are no longer optional for good business, an encouraging development as we all seek to protect and enhance our planet.

It is a responsible and sustainable approach to business that will build the foundations for a strong economy as we recover from the impact of COVID-19. The NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey has always been an important exercise for organisations in Northern Ireland to measure and compare their environmental performance and development, but it has never been more pertinent, as we aim to build back responsibly following a very challenging period.

I commend all the participants for their positive contribution to good environmental stewardship and for their commitment to reducing environmental impacts and managing resources efficiently.

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 organisations in Northern Ireland. The Survey is a powerful driver for improving environmental performance throughout the region.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is pleased to support the Survey once again. I am delighted to see that 103 businesses and public sector organisations participated in the Survey this year, making the commitment to ensure the highest standards of environmental performance.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the 25 'newcomers' to the Survey this year. It is very encouraging to see these organisations strive for better environmental practice, 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 for putting themselves forward to publicly demonstrate their 'green credentials'.

THE SURVEY

THE SURVEY IN 2020

In an unprecedented year, the Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey prevails.

Some fear that the pandemic will take attention away from the environmental agenda, while others are hopeful that this is the perfect time to take the opportunity to build back better. It may be too early to say what effect COVID-19 will have on our collective efforts to improve our environmental impacts, but we are encouraged by the Survey participation rate in 2020, despite the circumstances.

Pandemic notwithstanding, it has been another year of rapid change in advancing the environmental agenda. At the company level, organisations are making ambitious commitments with many committing to net-zero emissions through their own operations and supply chains.

This year, we were delighted to see participation in the Survey remain stable at just over 100 organisations, despite the challenging context we find ourselves in. It was the second year that we offered the Small Business Survey.

In the 2020 Survey, we introduced some additional questions to reflect the evolving landscape of environmental best practice. We continued to push the participants to measure greenhouse gas emissions, not just their energy and transport usage. We also asked questions about whether they were measuring any of their supply chain emissions, and whether they are considering and mitigating climate risks.

The Survey continues to attract companies at all stages of their environmental journey. It 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 free and 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. It is recognised as a positive influencer that is helping organisations throughout Northern Ireland to achieve more sustainable ways of doing business.

SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY

15 of Northern Ireland's small businesses participated in the Small Business Survey, a reduced version of the main Survey, which was introduced in 2019. The Small Business Survey offers businesses that employ fewer than 25 people the opportunity to demonstrate their environmental credentials alongside the major players in Northern Ireland.

UPDATES TO THE SURVEY

Each year, Business in the Community undertakes a review of the Survey, in order to make any necessary improvements to the process. Periodically, the opportunity is sought to introduce new elements to the Survey, aimed at maintaining its validity and level of challenge. This year, through consultation with some of the main stakeholders, the following changes were introduced:

- New 'Climate Emergency' section focusing on greenhouse gas emissions
- Three new, unscored questions around greenhouse gas emissions

BUSINESS ACTION ON CLIMATE

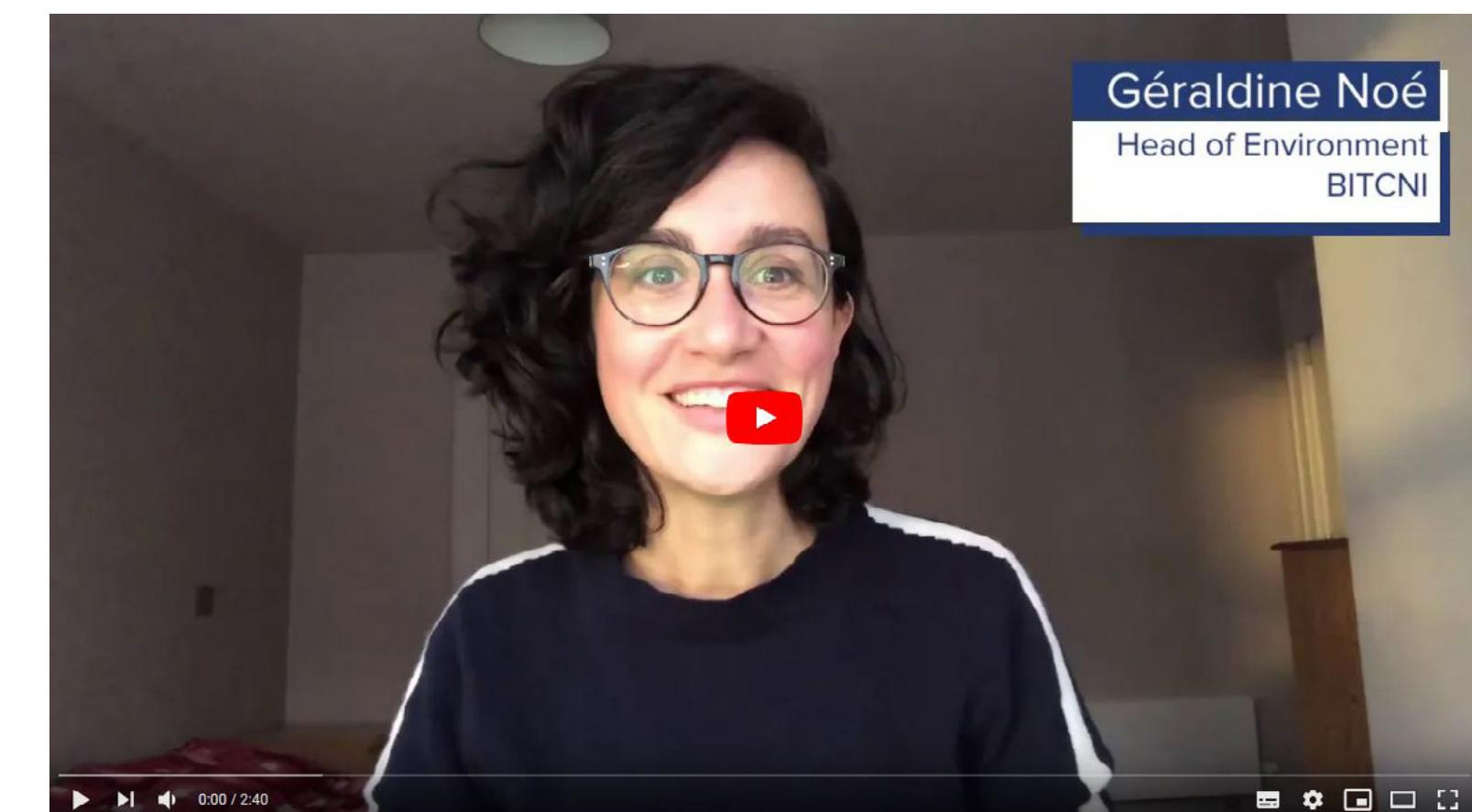
The content of the Survey is reviewed every year to include topics that emerge as environmental priorities, and to challenge participants to address them. In the past we've introduced Transport and Circular Economy and, more recently, the Climate Emergency. With ten years to act and reverse the current trend, humanity is faced with a unique challenge in which every business, no matter its size or sector, has a role to play.

To support organisations in Northern Ireland to address the climate breakdown, Business in the Community is leading the way through

the Business Action on Climate campaign, which challenges organisations to sign the Climate Action Pledge. Signatories commit to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 30% or 50% by 2030 and to report their emissions annually, to measure collective progress.

This is where the Survey and Business Action on Climate work together to invite action. Pledge signatories get support to accurately measure and reduce their emissions, which in turn should help them to improve their Survey score.

By aligning the agenda of the Climate Action Pledge and the Survey, we hope to make measuring an organisation's greenhouse gas emissions as painless a process as possible, demonstrating that action on climate is not only necessary but is also feasible.



THE SURVEY

WHY BENCHMARK?

The benchmarking process enables organisations to examine their performance and to compare themselves with similar organisations. It also provides valuable opportunities to share ideas and to learn from what others are doing. Effective environmental management provides a way for organisations to make tangible cost savings, while contributing to a more sustainable future.



40%

of main Survey participants have considered investing in energy storage such as batteries or thermal stores

25%

of main Survey organisations are investing in carbon offsets as part of their GHG emissions reduction strategy

48%

of main Survey participants have set environmental targets that align with the science of climate change

BENCHMARKING PROCESS

HOW ORGANISATIONS ARE SCORED

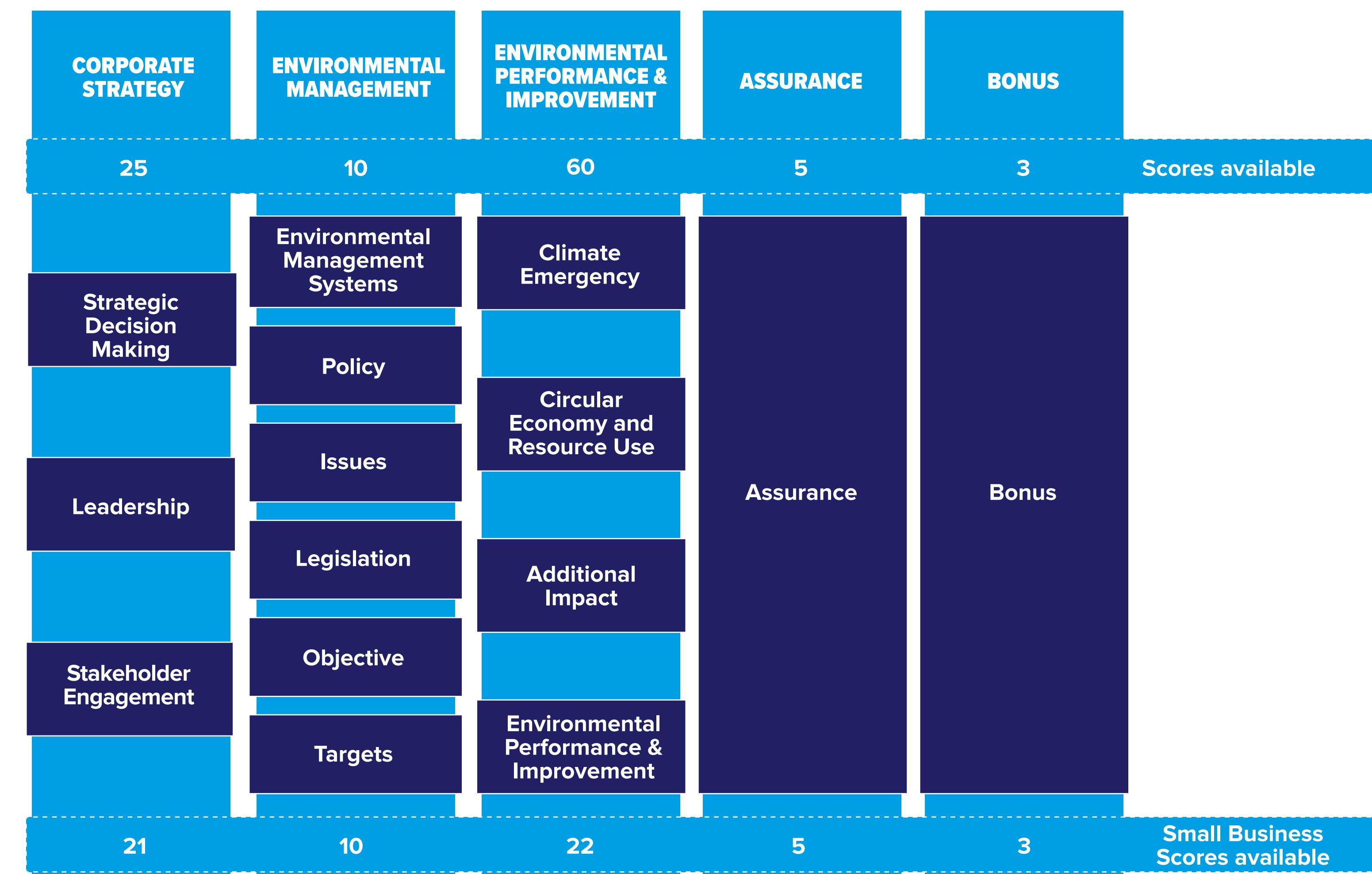
Participating organisations are ranked by level: Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze or Green. The higher the overall score, the higher the organisation will rank. There is no limit on the number of organisations that can fall into any one 'band'.

The first two sections of the Survey relate to environmental management rather than performance improvement. For organisations to increase their score and advance up the rankings, they need to have well-established management systems and must be able to demonstrate performance improvement, as most marks available are in this section (60%). Investing in improving environmental performance in the impact areas will also increase marks for each business. Participants that show an ongoing performance improvement over several years will perform best, so those wishing to rise towards a higher band level must focus their efforts on continual improvement.

Participants of the Small Business Survey can achieve Silver, but tend to achieve Bronze or Green level ranking.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Survey is split into the following sections:



THE RESULTS

TOP PERFORMER

Spirit AeroSystems, Belfast

Organisations ranked in alphabetical order within band.

PLATINUM

Anglo Beef Processors	↑↑
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	↔ 20+
Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Ltd.	↔
Danske Bank UK	↔
Encirc Ltd	↔
Foyle Food Group	↑↑ 10+
George Best Belfast City Airport	↑ 10+
GRAHAM	↔ 10+
Henry Group	↔ 20+
Hyster-Yale Group	↑ 20+
Interface	↔
JH Turkington and Sons Ltd	↔
Kier Integrated Services	↑
Lakeland Dairies Newtownards	↔ 20+
Moy Park Ltd	↔ 20+
NI Assembly	↑ 10+
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	↔ 10+
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd	↑ 20+
Queen's University Belfast	↔ 10+
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	↔ 20+
Spirit AeroSystems, Belfast	↔ 20+
Translink	↔ 20+

GOLD

Belfast International Airport	↑ 20+
Belfast Met College	↔ 10+
Biffa Waste Services	↔
Business in the Community NI	↔ 10+
Caterpillar (NI) Limited	↔ 20+

GOLD (CONTINUED)

Dunbia (Northern Ireland)	↔ 10+
Enisca Limited	↑
Farrans Construction trading as a division of Northstone (NI) Ltd	↓ 20+
firmus energy	↔
Gilbert-Ash	↓
Henderson Group LTD	↓
Heron Bros	↓
Linden Foods	↔ 10+
Marcon Fit-out Ltd	↔
McCue Crafted Fit	↑
McLaughlin and Harvey	↓ 20+
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	↔
Musgrave	NEW
Patrick Keenan	↑
SGBD Ltd t/a JP Corry	↔
Tayto Group Limited	↔ 10+
Ulster University	↓ 10+

SILVER

Adman Civil Projects Ltd	↔
Allstate Northern Ireland	↑↑
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	↔
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	↓ 10+
Ciena Corporation	↔
Citibank	↔
Education Authority	↓
Felix O'Hare & Company Ltd	NEW
Haldane Fisher Ltd	↔ 20+
HM Revenue and Customs	NEW

SILVER (CONTINUED)

Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta Ltd	↔ 10+
ISS Facilities Services	NEW
Montpetet UK Ltd	↓ 20+
Morrow Contracts	NEW
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	↔
Northstone (NI) Limited	NEW
Ove Arup & Partners LTD	NEW
Pinsent Masons	↔
Power NI	NEW
Public Prosecution Service	↔
Ready Egg Products Ltd	↑
South West College	↔
Terex Materials Processing, Omagh	↔
Ulster Wildlife	↔
Western Health & Social Care Trust	↓↓ 10+

BRONZE

Aramark	↑
BHC Ltd	↓
Calor	NEW
Co-Ownership	↔
Dalzell Landscape Company Ltd	NEW SBS
Dowds Group	↔
Horizon Engineering Solutions Ltd	↑ SBS
KPMG	NEW
McAdam Design	↑
McKinstry Skip Hire	↔
ReCon Waste Management Ltd	↓↓ SBS
SONI Ltd	NEW
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	↓ 10+
Stothers M&E Limited	NEW
TOMI & DOT	↑ SBS

GREEN

A&L Goodbody Northern Ireland	NEW
Alchemy Technology Services Ltd	NEW
Ambipar Response Ltd	NEW
Antrim Supplies T/A Work Wear Mallusk	NEW SBS
Ballygarvey Eggs Limited	NEW
Chip Ahoy	↔ SBS
Doyle Shipping Group (Belfast) Ltd	↔ SBS
Environmental Chemical Engineering Services Ltd	NEW SBS
Fish City	NEW SBS
Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd	NEW
H. M. Electrics Ltd	↓ SBS
McCormack Demolition	↓ SBS
Okotech Ltd t/a heatboss	NEW SBS
Olenick Global Ltd	↔ SBS
Plaswire Limited	↓ SBS
Positive Futures	NEW
Process Automation and Calibrations Ltd	NEW
Suki Tea	↔ SBS
The Consumer Council	NEW

KEY

Small Business Survey	SBS
New to the Survey	NEW
Remained in the same band as 2019	↔
Moved up one band from 2019	↑
Moved up two bands from 2019	↑↑
Dropped one band from 2019	↓
Dropped two bands from 2019	↓↓
Participated for at least 10 consecutive years	10+
Participated for at least 20 consecutive years	20+

THE RESULTS

TOP PERFORMING SMALL BUSINESS

ReCon Waste Management LTD

SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY

Dalzell Landscape Company Ltd	Bronze
Horizon Engineering Solutions Ltd.	Bronze
Recon Waste Management Ltd	Bronze
TOMI & DOT	Bronze
Antrim Supplies T/A Work Wear Mallusk	Green
Chip Ahoy	Green
Doyle Shipping Group (Belfast) Ltd	Green
Environmental Chemical Engineering Services Ltd	Green
Fish City	Green
H. M. Electrics Ltd	Green
McCORMACK DEMOLITION	Green
Okotech Ltd t/a heatboss	Green
Olenick Global Ltd	Green
Plaswire Limited	Green
Suki Tea	Green



SECTOR RESULTS

Organisations ranked by score within sector.

CONSTRUCTION

GRAHAM	Platinum
Henry Group	Platinum
JH Turkington and Sons Ltd	Platinum
Farrans Construction trading as a division of Northstone (NI) Ltd	Gold
Gilbert-Ash	Gold
Heron Bros	Gold
Marcon Fit-out Ltd	Gold
McCue Crafted Fit	Gold
McLaughlin and Harvey	Gold
Patrick Keenan	Gold
SGBD Ltd t/a JP Corry	Gold
Felix O'Hare & Company Ltd	Silver
Haldane Fisher Ltd	Silver
Northstone (NI) Limited	Silver
BHC Ltd	Bronze
Dowds Group	Bronze
Stothers M&E Limited	Bronze

EDUCATION

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

ENGINEERING

Spirit AeroSystems, Belfast	Platinum
Hyster-Yale Group	Platinum
Caterpillar (NI) Limited	Gold
Enisca Limited	Gold
Adman Civil Projects Ltd	Silver
Montupet UK Ltd	Silver
Ove Arup & Partners LTD	Silver
Terex Materials Processing, Omagh	Silver
McAdam Design	Bronze
Process Automation and Calibrations Ltd	Green

FINANCE

Danske Bank	Platinum
Citibank	Silver
KPMG	Bronze

FOOD AND DRINK

Anglo Beef Processors	Platinum
Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland	Platinum
Foyle Food Group	Platinum
Lakeland Dairies Newtownards	Platinum
Moy Park Ltd	Platinum
Dunbia (Northern Ireland)	Gold
Henderson Group LTD	Gold
Linden Foods Ltd	Gold
Tayto Group Limited	Gold
Ready Egg Products Ltd	Silver
Aramark	Bronze
Ballygarvey Eggs Ltd	Green

GENERAL MANUFACTURING

Encirc Ltd	Platinum
Seagate Technology	Platinum
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta	Silver

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Allstate Northern Ireland	Silver
Ciena	Silver
Alchemy Technology Services Ltd	Green

LOCAL AUTHORITY

NI Assembly	Platinum
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Gold
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	Silver
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Silver

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

Business in the Community NI	Gold
Ulster Wildlife	Silver
Co-Ownership	Bronze
A&L Goodbody Northern Ireland	Green
Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd	Green
Positive Futures	Green

GENERAL SERVICES

Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Platinum
George Best Belfast City Airport	Platinum
Translink	Platinum
Belfast International Airport	Gold
ISS Facilities Services	Silver
Pinsent Masons	Silver

GOVERNMENT DEPT AND AGENCY

HM Revenue and Customs	Silver
Public Prosecution Service	Silver
The Consumer Council	Green

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE TRUST

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Silver
Western Health & Social Care Trust	Silver
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	Bronze

SECTOR RESULTS

RETAIL

Musgrave	Gold
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TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

Interface	Platinum
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UTILITIES

Kier Integrated Services	Platinum
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	Platinum
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd	Platinum
Biffa Waste Services	Gold
firmus energy	Gold
Morrow Contracts	Silver
Power NI	Silver
Calor	Bronze
SONI Ltd	Bronze

WASTE/ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

McKinstry Skip Hire	Bronze
Ambipar Response Ltd	Green

STAKEHOLDERS, SUPPLIERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC INCREASINGLY CONSIDER SUSTAINABILITY TO BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AND THE SURVEY IS A WAY FOR ORGANISATIONS TO PUBLICLY DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO A GREENER FUTURE.

Chris Conway, Chair of Business in the Community NI and Group Chief Executive of Translink

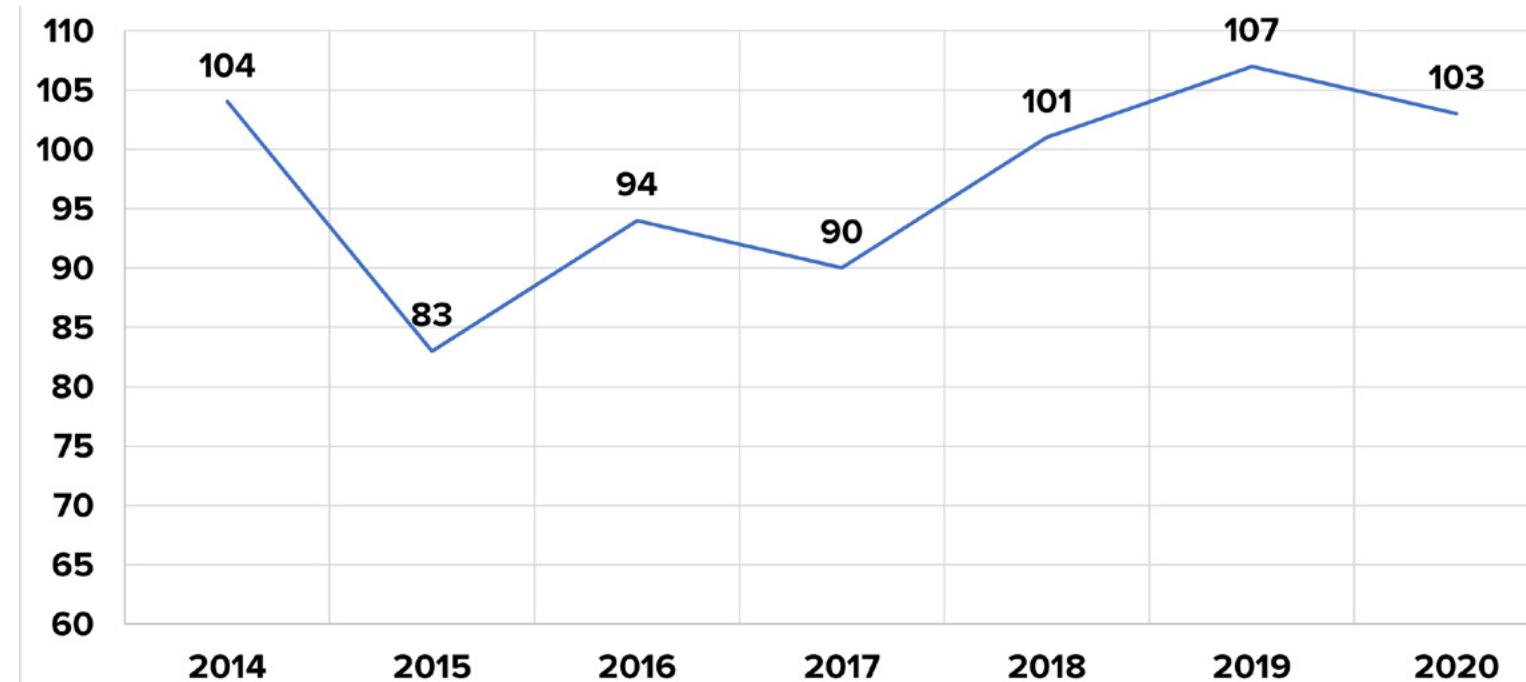
THE HEADLINES

PARTICIPATION HELD STEADY, DESPITE A TURBULENT YEAR

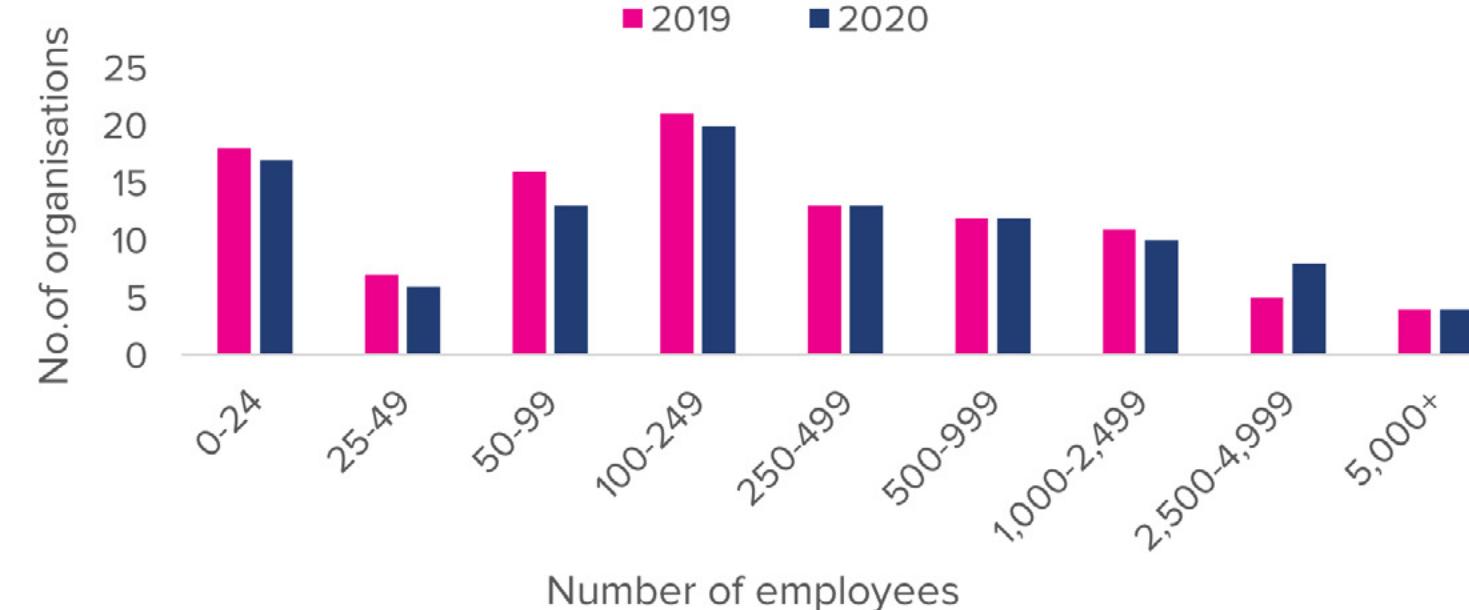
We were delighted that 103 organisations participated in the Survey this year, including 25 new participants, signifying that environmental issues are still on the radar, despite the current uncertainty.

This was our second year offering the Small Business Survey, which is open to organisations with fewer than 25 employees. In 2020, small business participants represented 15% of the Survey cohort, including five who participated for the first time.

Number of Survey participants by year



Survey participants by number of employees



OVERALL AVERAGE SCORES FELL, BUT THERE IS STILL A STRONG GROUP OF LEADERS ACHIEVING HIGH SCORES

2020 saw a small decrease in the overall average scores, but we continued to see around a quarter of participants achieve the Platinum band. This decrease is due to an update to the Survey questions in 2020 and an increase in the number of new organisations participating in the main Survey. Some of the main updates are outlined below:

Switching from measuring energy and transport use to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

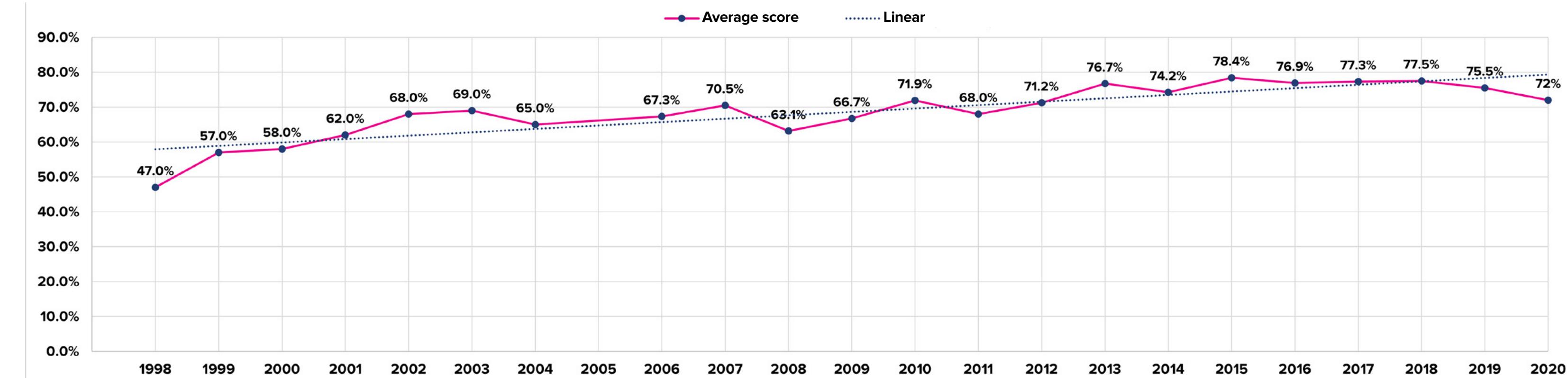
Due to the increasing focus on climate, we combined the energy usage and transport sections of the Survey to reward participants for measuring their greenhouse gas emissions. This allows organisations to combine different impacts (eg transport miles and energy usage) into one overall figure. Also, recognising that emissions in the supply chain can often dwarf a company's own emission, we think this is an important issue for all organisations to have a handle on. We allocated all the points from the previous transport and energy section to this new section in 2020, meaning there are significant gains available for those organisations measuring and improving GHG emissions.

Climate risks

We have asked unscored questions about climate risks in the past, and with the climate emergency high on the agenda, we felt it was pertinent that we added this into the scoring criteria. More information on this can be found in the 'Spotlight On' section of this report.

In 2020, we were delighted to welcome 20 new main Survey participants. This is positive, but history tells us that newer participants tend to start in the lower bands and work their way up. New participants in 2020, on average, scored 47% (down from 54% in 2019), which also helps to explain why the 2020 average is slightly lower.

Survey scores over time



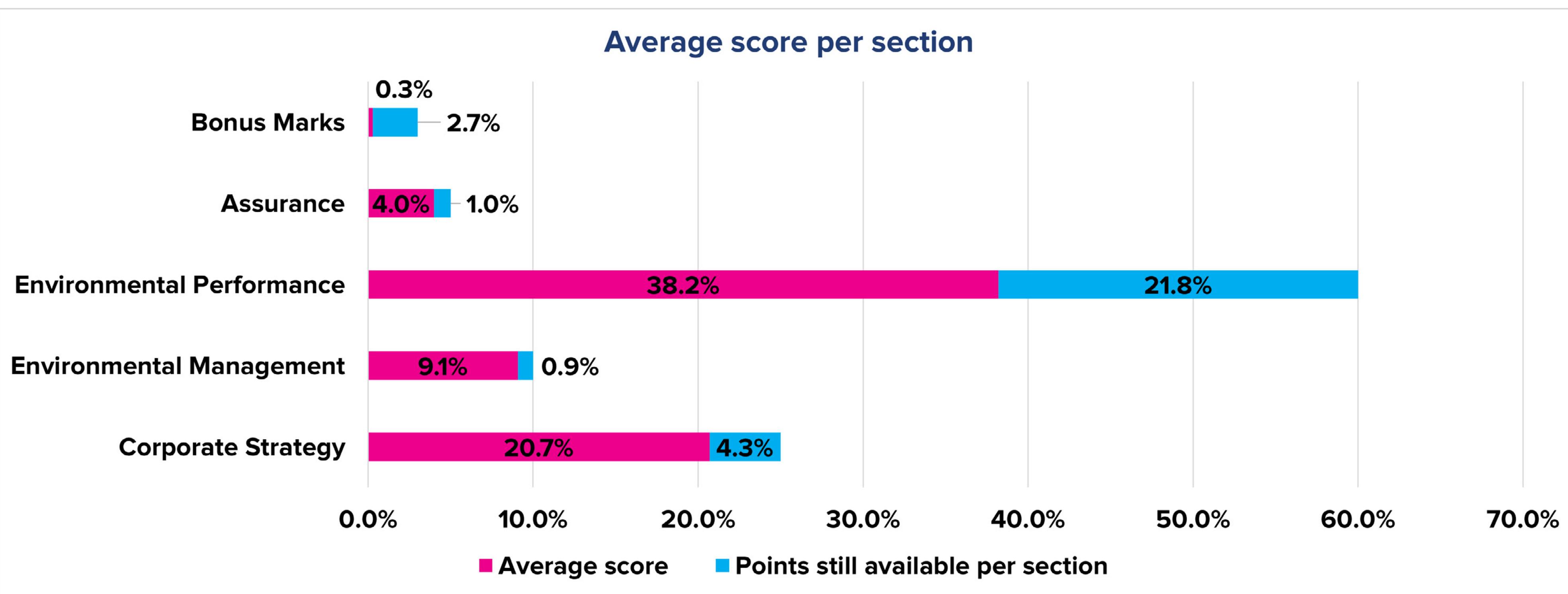
THE HEADLINES

THE SURVEY'S FOCUS IS ON AN IMPROVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

As in previous years, organisations seeking to improve their score should explore ways to drive tangible environmental performance improvements, as this is where the most points are still available.

The Survey responses have told us that many participants have strong environmental strategies and management procedures in place. With the fundamentals in place, the next step is to translate this into action, to improve performance, and to report on environmental impacts. We understand this can be a challenge, which is why most points are allocated in this section.

We are impressed by how many organisations are measuring their performance, have put initiatives in place and are taking action. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement by publicly reporting performance data and innovating to demonstrate improvements.



66%

of participants have an EMS in place that is externally certified to ISO 14001, EMAS, BS8555 or equivalent standard

81%

of main Survey participants have identified potential climate-related risks to their organisation

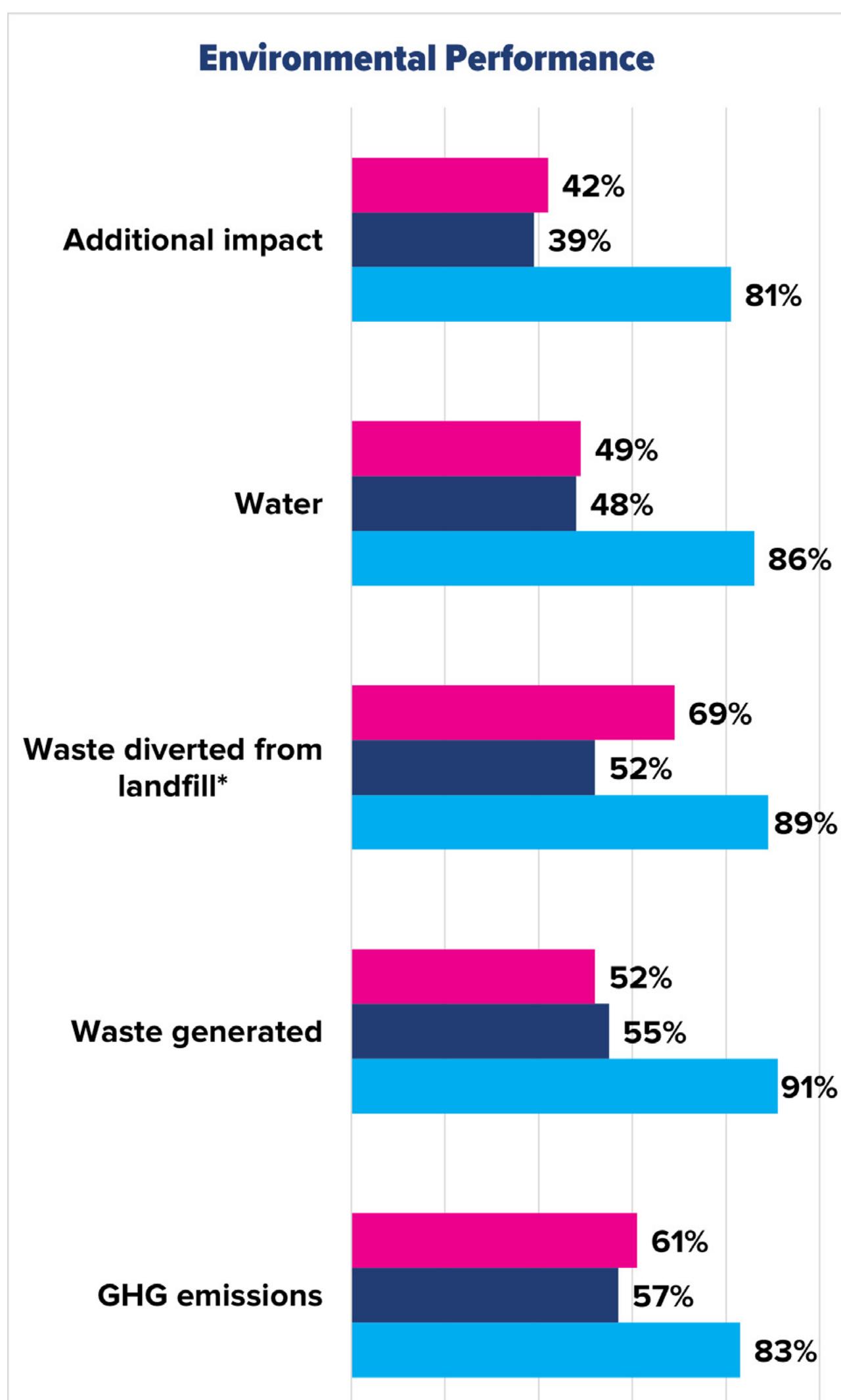
THE HEADLINES

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE SECTION IS WHERE PARTICIPANTS HAVE MOST ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

This is also the most heavily weighted section of the Survey, focusing on measuring, managing and demonstrating tangible improvements in environmental performance, such as a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions consumption or waste produced. This is both important and challenging as it requires companies to maintain a persistent focus on environmental improvements, gathering robust data, actively seeking out opportunities, and ultimately demonstrating improvements year-on-year.

Looking at the environmental performance section, we see that a majority of organisations are measuring their environmental performance data. However, there is still room for participants to improve their score by publicly reporting this data, for example, through an annual sustainability or corporate responsibility report, or on their website. Currently, only around half of participants are doing this. More points are also available to participants that can demonstrate that they are achieving tangible improvements.

We encourage organisations that are collecting credible environmental data to share this publicly where possible. This can help organisations demonstrate their genuine commitment to environmental performance to all stakeholders.



% of Survey participants

- *Demonstrating improvement
- Publicly reporting
- Measuring data

* organisations that divert 100% of waste from landfill were also counted as demonstrating improvement.

THE HEADLINES

SMALL BUSINESSES FINDINGS

Now in its second year, the Small Business Survey continues to be relevant to even the smallest businesses wanting to engage with the environmental agenda.

The Small Business Survey is a shorter version of the main Survey, tailored to be relevant for businesses that may not have the resources, processes, and personnel of larger organisations.

The top three highest-performing small businesses in 2020 were:

1. ReCon Waste Management Ltd
2. Horizon Engineering Solutions Ltd
3. TOMI&DOT

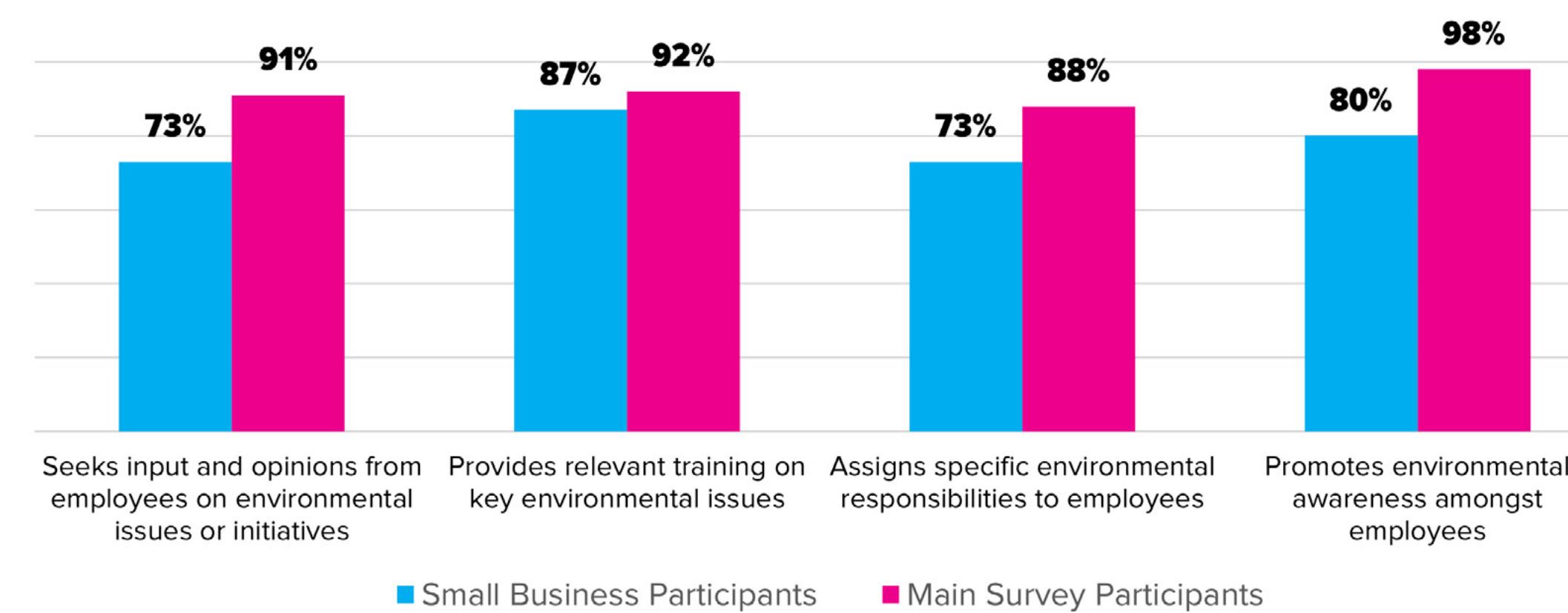
Many small businesses performed well in terms of environmental management, but fewer were measuring their environmental impact. For many, this may be about becoming more mature in their approach to measurement, but we would encourage these businesses to make a start by tracking the consumption of fuel, as well as invoices from your energy suppliers, for example.

87%

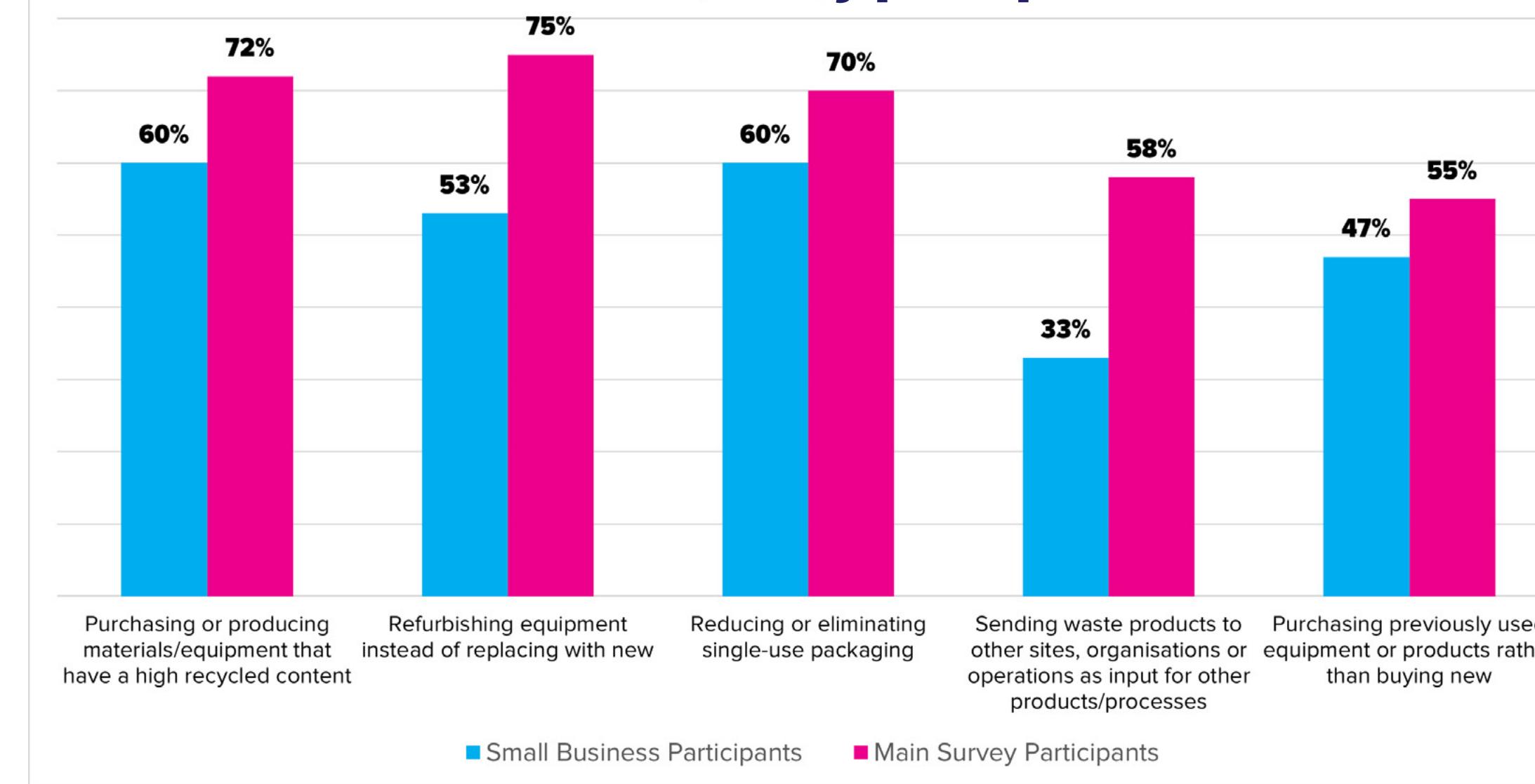
of small businesses provided training for their employees on environmental issues

While the Survey may be more challenging for smaller businesses with fewer resources, there are still some areas where small businesses score almost as high as the main Survey cohort. Small business participants were particularly strong on areas such as employee engagement and the circular economy.

How organisations are engaging employees on environmental issues



How organisations are implementing circular economy principles



THE HEADLINES

PARTICIPANTS ARE SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING OTHER ORGANISATIONS WITH THE SURVEY PROCESS

Thank you to all of the organisations that encouraged others to participate in the Survey.

Each year, we recognise organisations that help grow the Survey by introducing another organisation to take part. In 2020, ten participants successfully brought another business on board through the 'Bring a Business' initiative.

What's even more encouraging is that the relationship often extends beyond the Survey, with more experienced environmental managers supporting their peers to progress. Nine participants supported a business to complete the Survey or have an ongoing mentoring relationship with another business.

The table below recognises those organisations that introduced new businesses to the Survey. We encourage all participants to invite new organisations of any size to participate and to share their environmental expertise, helping them on their environmental journey.

REFERRING PARTICIPANT	NEW PARTICIPANT
South West College	Calor Gas
Heron Bros	Omagh Aluminium
Gilbert-Ash	Stothers (M&E) Ltd
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	Morrow Contracts
Bombardier Aviation, Shorts Brothers PLC	PAC (Process Automation and Control)
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Ambipar Response Ltd
GRAHAM	Workwear Mallusk
Danske Bank UK	ISS Facilities Services
Power NI	Heatboss
Farrans Construction trading as a division of Northstone (NI) Ltd	Northstone Materials

IF YOU'VE TAKEN PART IN THE SURVEY, IF YOU ALREADY MEASURE YOUR EMISSIONS, OR EVEN IF YOU'RE STARTING ON YOUR CLIMATE JOURNEY – BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY CAN SUPPORT YOU TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY. TO CHANGE EVERYTHING, WE NEED EVERYONE.

**Geraldine Noe, Head of Environment,
Business in the Community NI**

SECTOR ANALYSIS

Splitting the results by sector is a great way for organisations to compare their scores to their peers. We can also see which sectors are performing well in terms of environmental performance.

While it can be useful to compare participants in each sector, it is important to note that some sectors are very small, and the participants usually change each year. Therefore, it is not always a like-for-like comparison between the years.

General Manufacturing was the highest-performing sector this year with an average score of 86%, showing an increase of 13%. The Local Authorities sector, which previously held the top position, has dropped to second with a score of 83%.

There was a decrease in scores across most sectors, in line with an overall decrease in the average score. As well as the changes in questions, this can be attributed to the participation of organisations from a range of sectors that are new to the Survey. New participants tend to score lower as they are not yet accustomed to the Survey. For example, the Government Departments and Agencies sector – which has seen the largest decrease in average scores – had 66% new participants in 2020, with some of the higher scorers in 2019 not participating in 2020.

SECTOR	2020 SECTOR AVERAGE	2019 SECTOR AVERAGE	CHANGE
General Manufacturing	86%	74%	↑ +13%
Local Authority	83%	87%	↓ -4%
Education	79%	82%	↓ -3%
General Services	74%	72%	↑ +2%
Utilities	74%	83%	↓ -9%
Construction	72%	75%	↓ -3%
Health and Social Services Trust	71%	79%	↓ -8%
Food and Drink	67%	86%	↓ -18%
Financial	66%	84%	↓ -18%
Engineering	62%	74%	↓ -12%
Government Department and Agency	51%	75%	↓ -24%
Information and Communications Technology	44%	37%	↑ +7%
Non-Governmental Organisation	43%	62%	↓ -19%

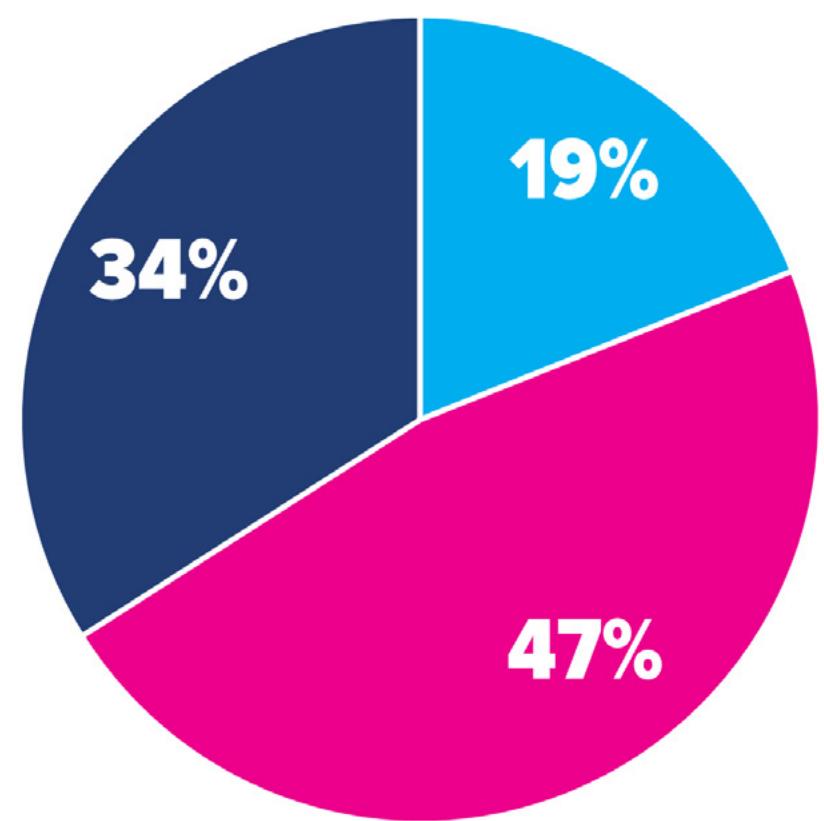
*Sectors with less than three participants and Small Business participants have been excluded from the table above

SPOTLIGHT ON ...

... EVALUATING CLIMATE RISKS

The Survey has traditionally looked at the impact that companies are having on the environment and climate. But what about the impact of climate change on companies?

Climate risks are those risks that organisations face due to the implications of climate change – be that disruptions in operations or supply due to extreme weather events, changes in customer preferences, increasing prices, or policy changes in response to climate change. The impacts of each organisation are likely to be different, and this year's Survey told us that many participants are already thinking about such risks.



How are participants approaching climate risk?

- No climate risk assessment to date
- Climate risks identified, with some mitigation planning
- Climate risks identified, with an approved risk-mitigation in place



Climate & Human Rights 'It Seems' emphasis

... SCIENCE-BASED EMISSIONS TARGETS

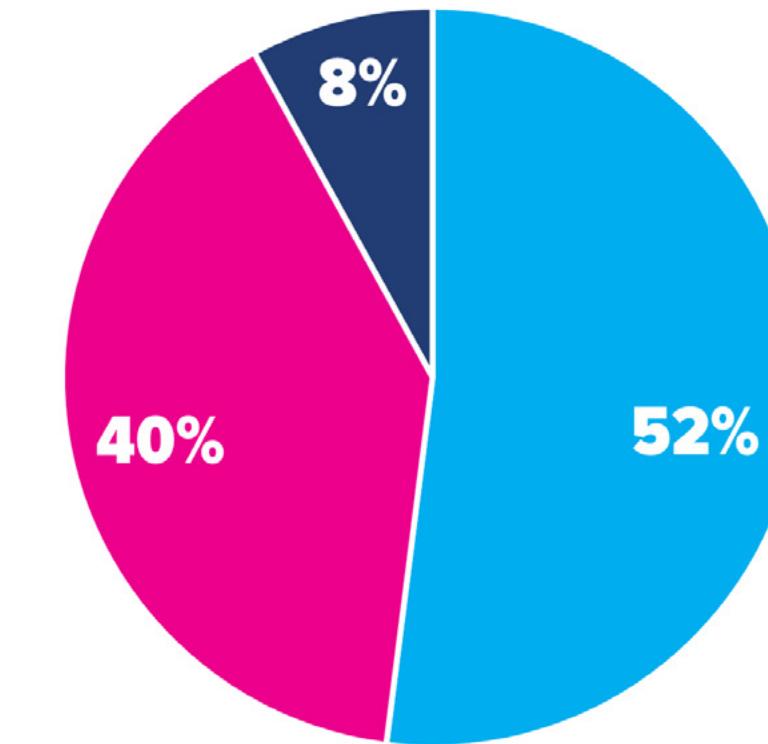
While many organisations set targets for their environmental performance, the question we're often asking is this: what makes a credible target? The opportunity now exists for organisations to set targets to reduce their emissions in line with reductions required to limit global warming to 1.5C, as stated in the Paris Agreement.

This year, we asked an unscored question on whether whether organisations were setting greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets that were aligned with what the science is telling us, and 42 participants told us that they were.

As an additional layer of rigour, organisations can get their science-based target approved by the Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi).

Seven participants told us that they have had their targets approved by the SBTi, which is quite impressive given that – as of writing this Survey – only 485 companies globally have had their targets approved¹.

Have you developed GHG emissions reduction targets that align with science?



41%

of Survey participants are setting GHG emissions reduction targets based on science

- No
- Yes: we have set targets that align with the science but have NOT been approved by the SBTi
- Yes: we have set targets, and these been approved by the SBTi

¹<https://sciencebasedtargets.org/companies-taking-action/> (accessed 09.10.2020)

SPOTLIGHT ON ...**... MEASURING VALUE-CHAIN EMISSIONS**

In 2020, we included more detailed questions on whether organisations were measuring the emissions associated with their extended value chain (scope 3 emissions) and what types of such emissions they are measuring.

40% of participants told us that they are measuring scope 3 emissions, with 60% specifically measuring their emissions linked to transport: business travel, third-party product distribution and/or commuting.

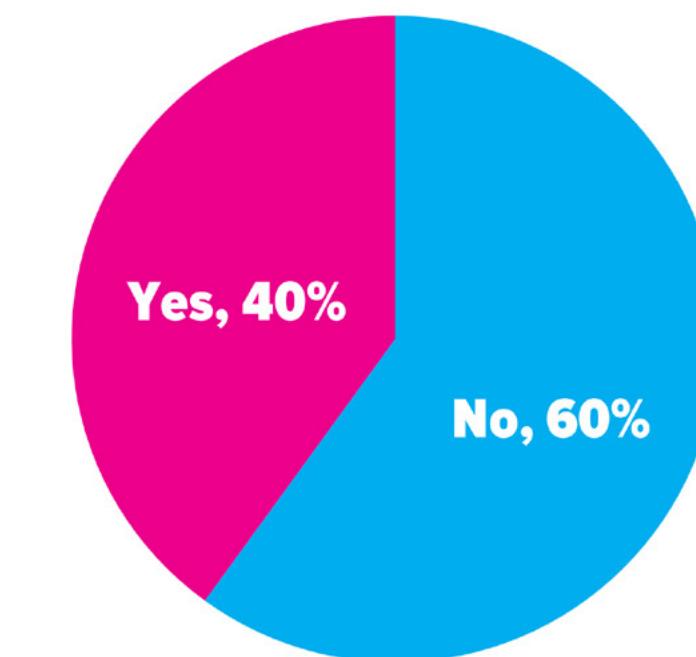
A key part of driving change is bringing others along, collaborating and sharing ideas. We observe that directly in the Survey, where organisations invite other participants to join the Survey and support them to complete their submission. Beyond the Survey and through our verification meetings, we notice the same spirit of collaboration along the value chain. The first step in this collaboration is sharing emissions data with their customers, so they can in turn understand their 'hot spots' for driving emissions reductions.

For organisations just starting to think about their own value-chain emissions, we suggest you start with business travel: how many emissions are associated with your air and overland travel, excluding company vehicles? This data is often easy to access via expense claims and is the category where your organisation may have the most control.

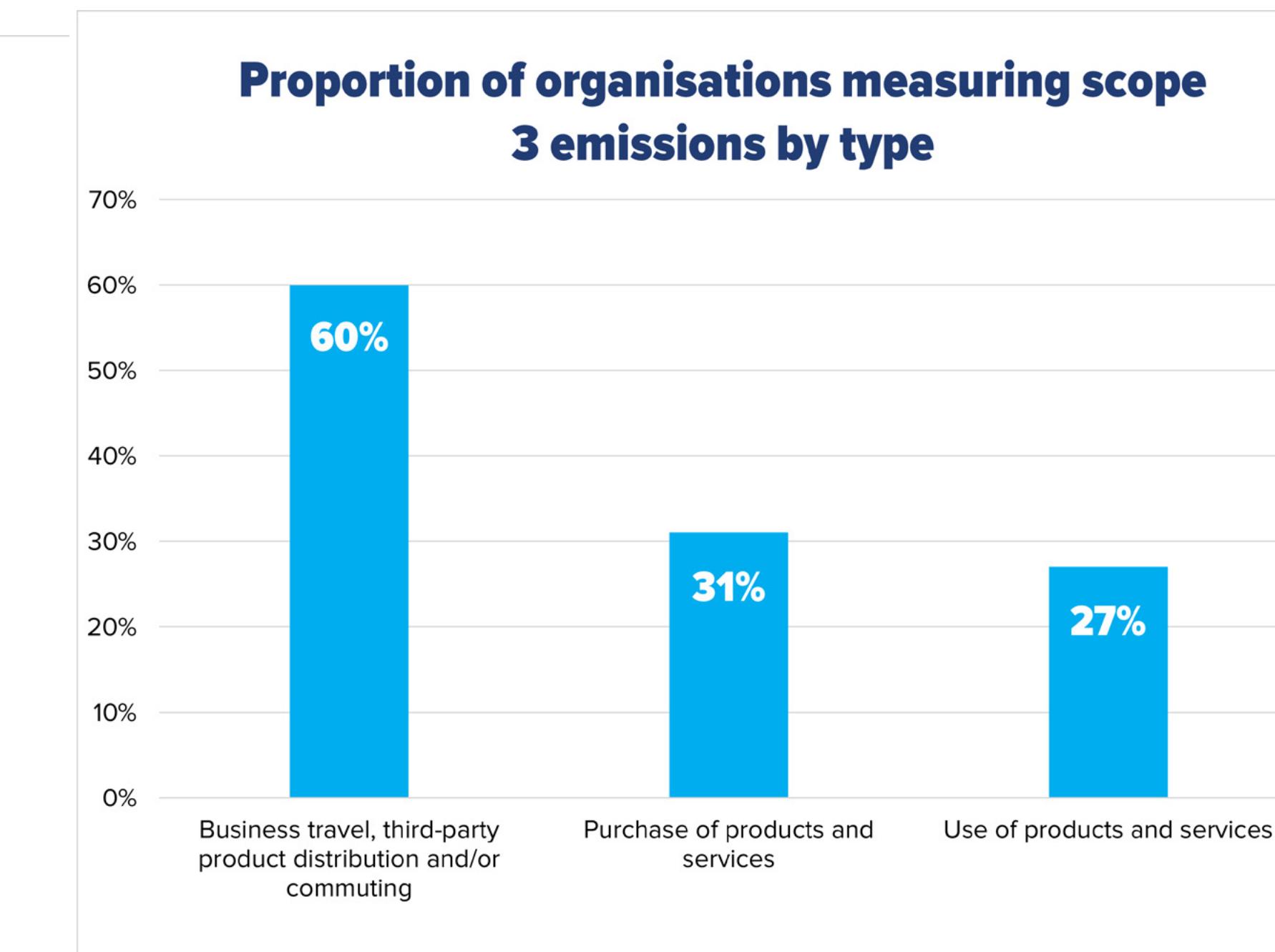
29%

of participants are sourcing more than half their energy from renewables

Proportion of Survey participants measuring value-chain (scope 3) emissions?



Proportion of organisations measuring scope 3 emissions by type



IT IS A RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO BUSINESS THAT WILL BUILD THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A STRONG ECONOMY AS WE RECOVER FROM THE IMPACT OF COVID-19.

Edwin Poots MLA, Minister of Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

SPOTLIGHT ON ...

... ADDITIONAL IMPACTS

In addition to GHG emissions, water consumption and waste, organisations are asked to report their performance of an additional environmental impact that is relevant to their business.

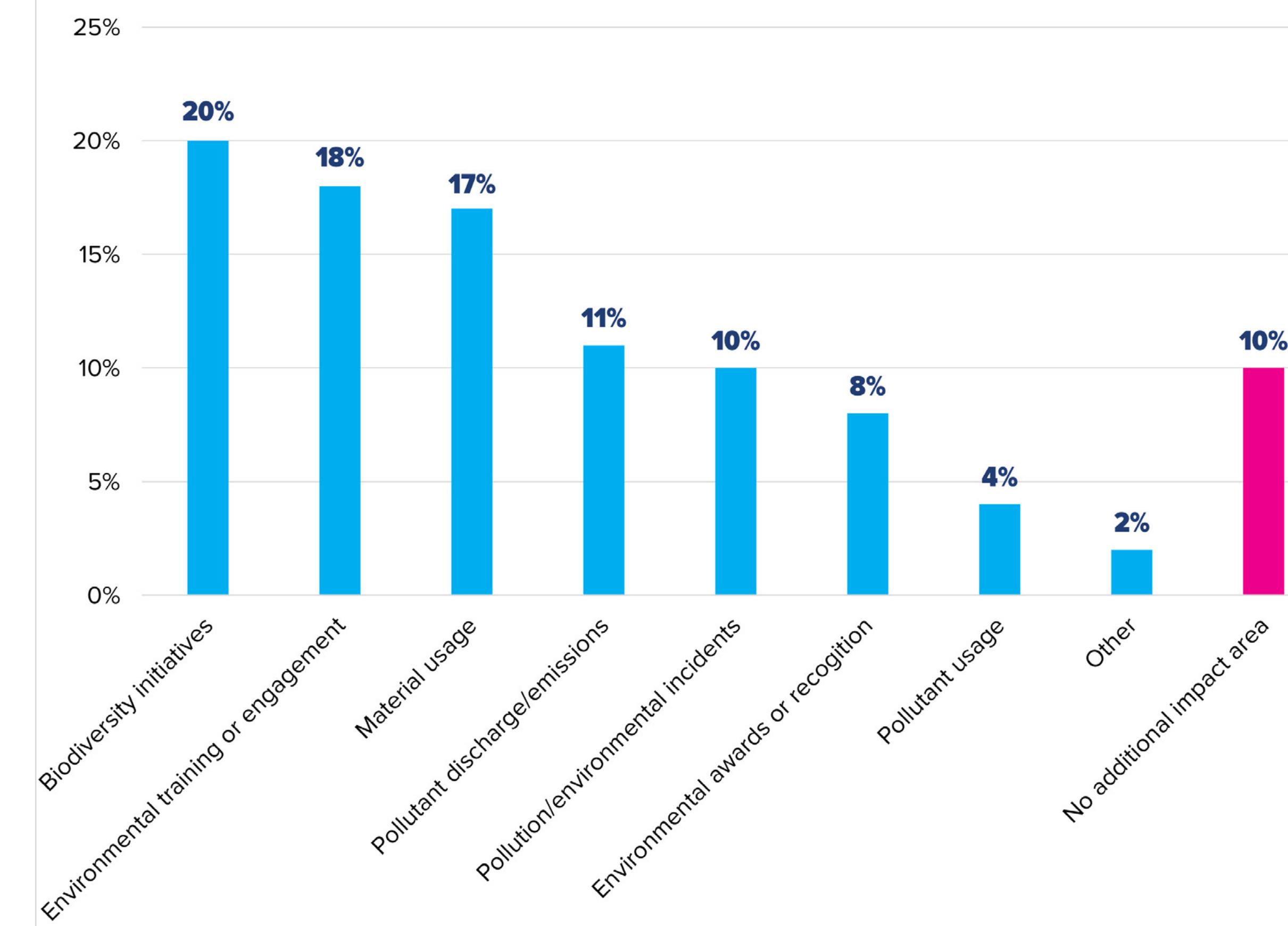
The responses told us that 90% of participants were tracking an additional impact. Reporting on additional impacts gives participants an opportunity to showcase another way in which they are making a positive impact on the environment – or how they are limiting any negative impacts.

One in five participants reported that their additional impact was related to biodiversity initiatives. Biodiversity initiatives ranged from small-scale actions like planting wildflowers, to engaging with entire supply chains on improving their own biodiversity impacts. With recent high-profile documentaries and research highlighting biodiversity loss and the associated risks², it is encouraging to see Survey participants taking action in this area.

Other additional impacts reported included environmental training or engagement, selected by 18% of participants. This indicated a positive trend of organisations educating both their employees, external stakeholders, and the wider community about environmental issues and what can be done to address them.

We encourage participants to choose their additional impact by considering which environmental impacts align closely with the nature of their operations. This is where organisations have the most scope for change. We also encourage participants to choose impacts that can be measured and ultimately that can demonstrate improvements over time.

Proportion of Survey participants reporting on additional impacts by type



² See, for example, Sir David Attenborough and the BBC's documentary [Extinction: The Facts](#) or WWF's Living Planet Report 2020

TROPHIES

The trophies for Platinum Level organisations, the top-performing Small Business, and the George Dawson Award were made by a local producer, [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, restored back to their original condition by David.

The wood used in the making of the 2020 Platinum trophies and the Small Business trophy is quite interesting. Going left to right, or smallest step to highest:

- Step 1 Oak from an old broken church pew. Origin: Belfast
- Step 2 Pine from a broken bed frame. Origin: Ballymoney
- Step 3 Iroko that was a bench top in a school science lab. Origin: Belfast
- Step 4 Old growth yellow pine that was the ceiling of a factory built in the 1930s. Origin: Randalstown
- Step 5 Sapele that used to be a park bench. Origin: Dundalk



David Keys Sustainable Woodworking

Email: d.keys01@gmail.com



David Keys Sustainable Woodworking



2020 Platinum Level Trophy



2020 Top Performing Small Business Trophy

GEORGE DAWSON AWARD

This recognition award celebrates the significant contribution a businessperson has made to improving the environmental performance of his or her organisation, and it recognises the impact of that contribution on the environment and on the wider community. The award was established in 2008 to pay tribute to the memory of George Dawson, former Director of ARENA Network, Business in the Community.

George passed away in 2007, following a short illness. He was with Business in the Community for nine years. During that time, he developed the ARENA Network (now Environmental Sustainability) programme into a highly respected and successful driver for corporate environmental improvement in Northern Ireland, and he started the Environmental Benchmarking Survey

The 2020 George Dawson Award recipient is Diarmuid Mullan, Site Manager from Heron Bros.



The 2020 George Dawson Award is made from a fallen elm tree from Carnlough Forest and finished with local homemade beeswax and pure flaxseed oil polish

CASE STUDIES

NIE NETWORKS

Background

Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) Networks has 1,200 employees based in 15 locations across Northern Ireland. More than half of these employees are working in the local environment every day building or repairing its network, surveying overhead lines or planning for new connections. This can involve working on other people's land. As such, the company is committed to minimising its environmental impact.

Part of this commitment is to ensure that its employees are able to identify wildlife and better understand the environment they come in contact with daily.

What NIE Networks did

In 2019, the company rolled out a major education process with its employees and contractors, making the safeguarding of wildlife a priority and ensuring its work has minimal impact on the local landscape and natural habitats.

NIE Networks collaborated with Ulster Wildlife to develop a bespoke Wildlife Aware Guide and associated training programme for its employees. In addition, the company organised a tailored 'Biodiversity Walk & Talk' training session for its patrol and survey employees with wildlife experts. The session was designed to help them protect and identify wildlife and to better understand the environment they come in contact with daily.

As well as identifying and protecting biodiversity, NIE Networks has also established a biodiversity information-sharing relationship with the Centre of Environmental Data & Recording.

This two-way agreement helps NIE Networks, and other utilities and organisations who use these maps, to maintain accurate mapping systems with the location of biodiversity. The company shares detailed and unique information from environmental impact assessments carried out as part of its work. As NIE Networks surveys long, narrow corridors of land (sometimes up to 30



NIE Networks Wildlife Aware Guide

kilometres) for overhead line planning, this provides a unique snapshot of biodiversity information.

Impacts and Outcomes

- First company in Northern Ireland to gain an Ulster Wildlife 'Wildlife Aware' accreditation for the efforts to improve staff awareness of biodiversity
- Delivery of a 'Wildlife Aware' guide and training for the company's 1,200 employees
- Specific 'Walk & Talk' training to identify signs of wildlife for critical patrol and survey employees
- The identification of a nesting Barn Owl nesting site, which our employees had identified and shared. The Barn Owl is one of Northern Ireland's priority species with only four other nests identified previously



NI Environmental
Benchmarking
Survey 2020
Platinum

RECON WASTE MANAGEMENT LTD

Background

ReCon Waste Management Limited specialises in increasing the options available when it comes to disposal of difficult waste streams and in offering new innovative solutions to local waste producers.

ReCon understands the importance of how an improved environmental area can have a positive impact on the lives and wellbeing of local residents, and the company has supported several local community projects, enabling it to give something back to the community as well as creating a useful outlet for its recycled products.

What ReCon Waste Management Ltd did

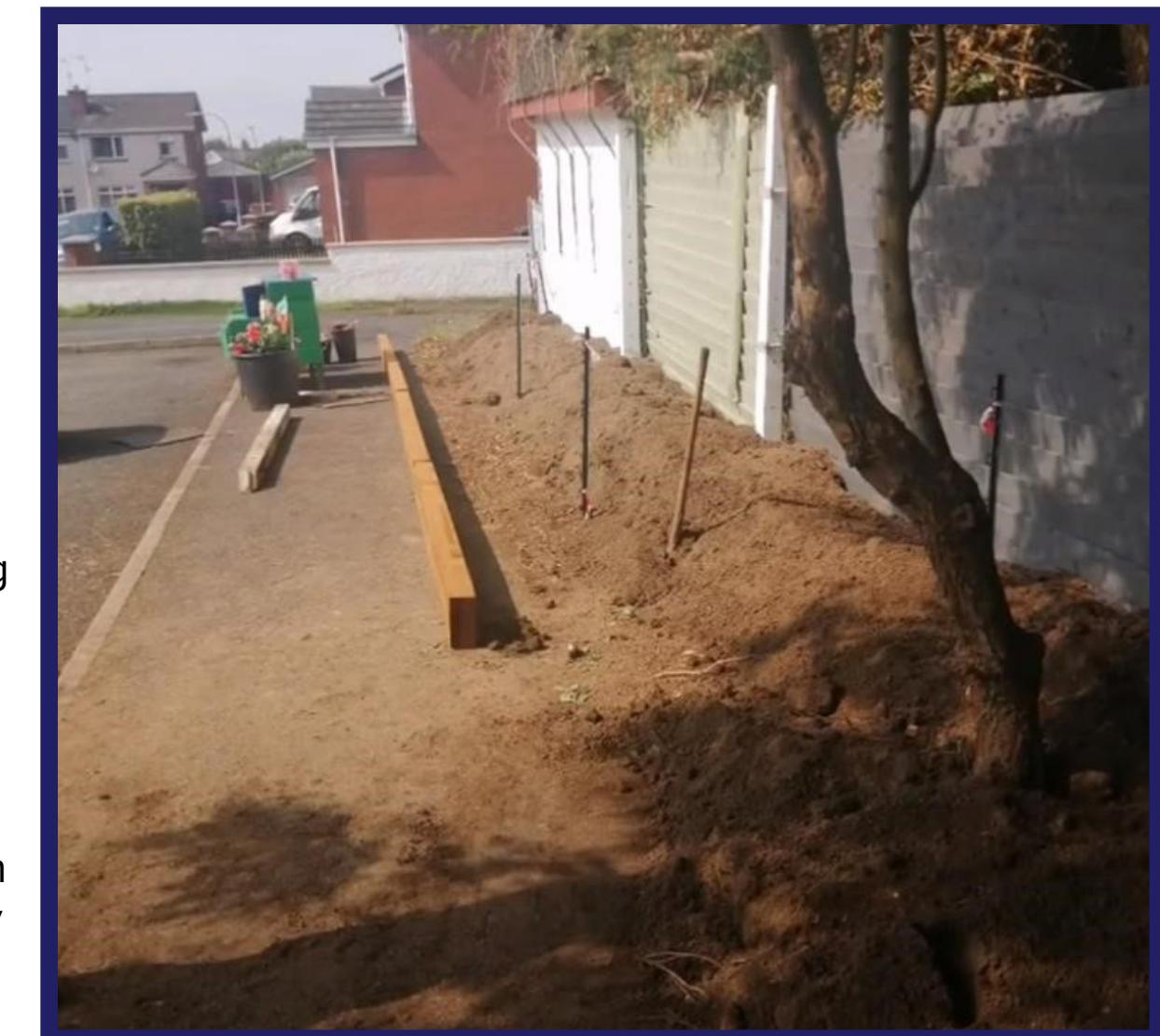
One such project was The Legacy Garden. During lockdown associated to the COVID-19 pandemic, children in a housing estate in Derrymacash created a Community Group called the The McGreavy Residents Group.

Initially the children developed unique play ideas and outdoor cinema evenings to brighten up their lockdown experience. Then they focused their idea on somewhere to play. The children knew there was an idle piece of land on the edge of the estate and, so an enterprising young resident, Emma Hylands, set up a GoFundMe page to raise money to turn the waste ground into a play area. Jenny also produced a video to highlight the importance of their request, when they were turned down for funding by local Councils.

This is where ReCon came in. Jenny and the other residents needed soil to transform the area and to make the garden a reality. ReCon promptly reacted to Jenny's request and donated 10 tonnes of recycled topsoil, and with other local businesses and tradesmen helping out, their garden started to become reality.

The children spent their summer lockdown fundraising and working hard in the garden they created.

ReCon also sourced peat from Forkers Garden Products, which also generously donated 700 litres of quality compost.



Impacts and Outcomes

The project got residents outdoors, working together and positively impacted the mental health and stress levels of both children and adults during a challenging period.

The McGreavy Residents have transformed the environment in which they live into a bright and vibrant garden and have created a safe and welcoming space for their children to play for generations to come.

[Watch more about the project on YouTube.](#)



NI Environmental
Benchmarking
Survey 2020
Bronze

CASE STUDIES

PHOENIX NATURAL GAS

Background

Phoenix Natural Gas is the largest gas distribution business in Northern Ireland, operating a distribution network across the Greater Belfast, Larne and East Down areas, with more than 225,000 customers.

Natural gas has become a fuel of choice with a key driver being the environmental and energy efficiency benefits associated in making the switch to natural gas.

Since 1996, customers switching to natural gas has resulted in 12m tonnes of CO₂ being removed from the atmosphere. Each year, householders using natural gas continue to save on CO₂ emissions, equating to the removal of 675,000 cars from the road each year.

What Phoenix Natural Gas did

Environmental responsibility at Phoenix Natural Gas goes far beyond the environmental credentials inherent in its product: it's also ingrained through its corporate strategy and is realised through its business operations, its people and in its community engagement activities, which it demonstrates through the following:

Responsibility in its work – identifying new ways to minimise the impact of its operations on the environment, working collaboratively with construction partners. This has seen a continued focus on reducing waste generation from site works along with continuing to recycle and reuse as many raw materials as possible.

Responsibility in its people – empowering and educating colleagues on the sustainable changes they can make to be environmentally responsible citizens. From focussed internal events driving awareness of the impact of water and paper waste, through to having electronic car charging points and increased cycle facilities onsite, Phoenix Natural Gas encourages colleagues to be part of the company's environmental achievements.

Responsibility in the community – working with community organisations, schools and local charities to make positive social impacts, from supporting tree-planting initiatives, to beach cleans along the coast and delivering safety and sustainability sessions to schools, Phoenix Natural Gas actively seeks to make a positive difference for the communities in which it operates.

Impacts and Outcomes

In its people:

- Reduction of 27% of water usage per employee, achieved over a three-year period
- 1.1 tonnes reduction in paper purchased in 2019, and a 1.4 tonne reduction in paper shredded across the business
- Installation of six electric charging points onsite
- Enhanced secure cycle storage facilities installed, encouraging colleagues to utilise the Bike to Work scheme, capacity for 10 bikes

In its communities:

- Publication of a Natural Gas: Delivering a Lower Carbon Future Report, shared with communities and stakeholders, demonstrating the continued opportunity for carbon reduction through the future utilisation of the natural gas network
- 100 hours of employee volunteering for biodiversity and environmental community projects, from beach cleans to tree planting and landscape management
- 730 pupils across 11 schools received a Phoenix Natural Gas safety and sustainability presentation



NI Environmental
Benchmarking
Survey 2020
Platinum



Eco Committee representatives



Beach clean

CARNSTONE'S VERIFICATION STATEMENT

William Pickett
Partner, Carnstone Partners Limited
www.carnstone.com

Since the Survey's inception, Carnstone has provided assurance that the results published in this report are accurate. While the Survey is self-reported, it is our job to check that organisations are being scored correctly and fairly based on the information they provided in their submissions.

We conducted our verification in two stages: first, we analysed the raw data from the Survey, looking for inconsistencies, unusual changes in organisations' responses year-on-year, and missing data. Second, we took a sample of organisations to be verified via one-hour interviews, also collecting documented evidence in advance. In September 2020, we met with ten organisations, covering approximately 10% of Survey participants – a proportion of participants consistent with previous years. The main difference in 2020 being that the visits were held remotely, to minimise risks associated with COVID-19.

The verification meetings are light-touch – and do not constitute limited or reasonable assurance – 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. For Carnstone and Business in the Community Northern Ireland, it is an opportunity to engage with the Survey participants and to gain their feedback.

The process was well managed by Business in the Community, and overall participants responded well and within the deadline. While we were generally satisfied that the responses provided by participants were complete and 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 from the verification visits, we asked for explanations and corrections.

Most of the inaccuracies we found were in the environmental performance data section (Question 14 of Section 3 – Environmental Performance). 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 performance data in future Surveys, to ensure that their commitment and achievements are accurately reflected by their score.

carnstone
partners llp

Overall, we continue to be impressed by the commitment of organisations in Northern Ireland to the Survey, their willingness to disclose information, and their dedication to continual improvement in their environmental performance, especially in such unprecedented times.

William Pickett, Partner, Carnstone Partners Limited



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland

Business in the Community stands for responsible business. Set up in Northern Ireland in 1989, we now have over 210 members and are the largest business-led coalition dedicated to corporate responsibility.

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