

2022 Northern Ireland environmental BENCHMARKING survey REPORT



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THE SURVEY IN 2022

In 2022, we've continued to see rapid change in the advancing environmental agenda, and we've seen organisations move fast to react. Survey participants are making ambitious commitments that are unprecedented, and many are committing to net-zero emission targets through their own operations and supply chains.

This year, we've seen the bounce back of organisations, pushing forward with their environmental agendas after COVID. Improving environmental impacts after COVID is not without its difficulties, as emissions and energy usage may increase as workers return to offices, shops, ports, and other places of work. Nonetheless, organisations have responded well to the challenges faced, implementing technological solutions such as solar panels, which not only reduce emissions but protect businesses from the spiralling cost of energy.

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.

ABOUT THE SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY

The Small Business Survey is a reduced version of the main Survey, tailored to suit the context of smaller organisations. It gives businesses that employ fewer than 25 people the opportunity to demonstrate their environmental credentials alongside the major players in Northern Ireland.

BUSINESS ACTION ON CLIMATE

To date, 31 participants of the Survey have also signed the [Climate Action Pledge](#), publicly committing to an ambitious reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. The pledge is part of Business in the Community's collaborative climate campaign Business Action on Climate, which puts Northern Ireland organisations at the forefront of action on the climate emergency. For more information on Business Action on Climate click [here](#).

**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT THE NI
ENVIRONMENTAL
BENCHMARKING
SURVEY**





UPDATES TO THE SURVEY IN 2022

The 2022 Survey saw the introduction of new questions to reflect the evolving environmental agenda. Some of these new questions were scored, while others were unscored, to get a sense of how businesses are scaling up their ambition. The key changes that may have an impact on an organisation's score are outlined below:

11b Climate change data: Scope and boundaries

We increased the weight of these questions for the responses that relate to measuring emissions in the value chain. This is to reward companies that are measuring a wider footprint beyond their own organisational boundaries, and encourage more organisations to do the same.

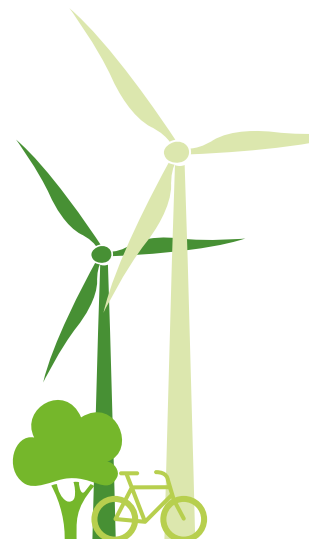
12e Recycling

The Survey has historically asked about the proportion of waste diverted from landfill, where companies can gain points regardless of whether waste is sent for energy recovery, recycling or re-use. As recycling is likely to have a higher impact than other ways of diverting waste from landfill (such as energy recovery), we are now rewarding companies that are recycling a higher proportion of their waste

14b Assurance

This question was re-worded to clarify what was meant by assurance in terms of scope and level of assurance. We realised that it was unfeasible for companies to have all information in the Survey externally assured, to achieve the full points. We now ask for confirmation (and evidence, for those who undertake a verification visit) that organisations have a management process that provides assurance that the environmental information provided is accurate, relevant, and reliable. Given that achieving points for this question is now more feasible to achieve, we have reduced its weighting and have incorporated it into the Environmental Performance section.

In addition, we introduced an unscored biodiversity section, asking participants about their commitments, policies, or actions in place to conserve or enhance biodiversity. There were also refinements to questions on circular economy, energy storage, climate-related risks, and carbon offsetting.



THE RESULTS | BY ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL



TOP PERFORMER

Spirit AeroSystems

PLATINUM

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	↔
Belfast Harbour	↔ 20+
Breedon	↔
Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Ltd.	↔
Danske Bank UK	↔
Encirc LTD	↔ 10+
Farrans Construction	↔
firmus energy	↔
Foyle Food Group	↔ 10+
George Best Belfast City Airport	↔ 10+
Gilbert-Ash Ltd	↑
GRAHAM	↔ 10+
Henderson Group LTD	↔
Henry Brothers	↔ 20+
Heron Bros Ltd	↔
Kier	↔
McCue	↑
McLaughlin and Harvey	↑ 20+
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	↔
Moy Park Ltd	↔ 20+
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	↔ 10+
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	↔
Openreach NI	↔ 10+
Ove Arup & Partners LTD	↑
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd	↔ 20+
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	↔ 20+
Spirit AeroSystems	↔ 20+
Translink	↔ 20+
Ulster University	↔ 10+

GOLD

ABP Food Group	↓
Allstate Northern Ireland	↔
Belfast Metropolitan College	↓ 10+
Biffa PLC	↔
Business in the Community NI	↔ 10+
Caterpillar (NI) Ltd	↔ 20+
Enisca Limited	↔
Felix O'Hare & Company Ltd	↔
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta Ltd	↑
Hyster-Yale Group	↓ 20+
JH Turkington and Sons Ltd	↔
JP Corry	↔
Marcon Fit-Out Ltd	↑
Northern Ireland Assembly	↔ 10+
Northstone (NI) Limited	↑
Queen's University Belfast	↓ 10+
Ulster Carpet Mills (Holdings) Limited	↑

SILVER

A&L Goodbody	↔
Ardmore	↔
Ards and North Down Borough Council	↔
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	↔
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	↔ 10+
Belfast International Airport	↓ 20+
Collins Aerospace – Kilkeel	↓
Combined Facilities Management Ltd	↑
Dowds Group	↔
Education Authority	↓
Fibrus	NEW
Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster)	↑
Haldane Fisher Ltd	↔
Harland & Wolff Group Holdings plc	NEW
Kilwaughter Minerals Limited	NEW
Lidl Northern Ireland	↔
Linamar Light Metals Belfast Ltd	↔ 20+
Mannok Build Limited	NEW
McKinstry Skip Hire Ltd	↑
Mutual Energy Limited	NEW
Power NI	↔
Public Prosecution Service	↔
Recon Waste Management Ltd	↑
RiverRidge Holdings Limited	↔
SONI Ltd.	↔
South West College	↔
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	↓
Stothers M&E Ltd	↔
The Police Service of Northern Ireland	↔
Western Health & Social Care Trust	↔ 10+

BRONZE

AG Paving and Building Products	↓
Antrim Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Ltd	↔
Briggs Equipment	NEW
CB Contracts (NI) Ltd	NEW
Co-Ownership	↔
Grant Thornton NI LLP	NEW
Mabbett & Associates Ltd	NEW
McAdam Design	↔
Mivan Ltd	NEW
Slurrykat	NEW
Suki Teahouse Ltd	↔
Technidrive Ltd	↑

GREEN

Antrim Supplies T/A Work Wear Mallusk	↔
Bangor Signage Print and Embroidery	NEW
Devenish Nutrition Ltd	NEW
Doyle Shipping Group (Belfast) Ltd	↔
Galgorm	NEW
Harkin's Pharmacy	NEW
Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority	↔
Skip Services Enniskillen LTD	NEW
The Pierce Partnership	NEW
Titanic Belfast Ltd	NEW
Tourism Northern Ireland	NEW
Volunteer Now	↔

KEY

New to the Survey in 2022	NEW
Remained in the same band as 2021	↔
Moved up from 2021	↑
Dropped from 2021	↓
Participated for at least 10 consecutive years	10+
Participated for at least 20 consecutive years	20+





TOP PERFORMING SMALL BUSINESS

Technidrive Ltd

BRONZE

Technidrive Ltd	Bronze	↑
Suki Teahouse Ltd.	Bronze	↔

GREEN

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority	Green	↔
Antrim Supplies T/A Work Wear Mallusk	Green	↔
Skip Services Enniskillen LTD	Green	NEW
Doyle Shipping Group (Belfast) Ltd	Green	↔
Bangor Signage Print and Embroidery	Green	NEW
The Pierce Partnership	Green	NEW
Harkin's Pharmacy	Green	NEW
Volunteer Now	Green	↔





CONSTRUCTION

Farrans Construction	PLATINUM
GRAHAM	PLATINUM
Heron Bros Ltd	PLATINUM
Gilbert-Ash Ltd	PLATINUM
McCue	PLATINUM
Henry Brothers	PLATINUM
McLaughlin and Harvey	PLATINUM
Marcon Fit-Out Ltd	GOLD
JH Turkington and Sons Ltd	GOLD
JP Corry	GOLD
Felix O'Hare & Company Ltd	GOLD
Stothers M&E Ltd.	SILVER
Combined Facilities Management Ltd	SILVER
Dowds Group	SILVER
Haldane Fisher Ltd	SILVER
Mivan Ltd	BRONZE
AG Paving and Building Products	BRONZE
CB Contracts (NI) Ltd	BRONZE
Antrim Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Ltd	BRONZE

EDUCATION

Ulster University	PLATINUM
Queen's University Belfast	GOLD
Belfast Metropolitan College	GOLD
Education Authority	SILVER
South West College	SILVER

ENGINEERING

Spirit AeroSystems	PLATINUM
Ove Arup & Partners LTD	PLATINUM
Caterpillar (NI) Ltd	GOLD
Hyster-Yale Group	GOLD
Enisca Limited	GOLD
Harland & Wolff Group Holdings plc	SILVER
Slurrykat	BRONZE
Technidrive Ltd	BRONZE
Briggs Equipment	BRONZE
Mabbett & Associates Ltd	BRONZE
McAdam Design	BRONZE

FINANCIAL

Danske Bank UK	PLATINUM
Grant Thornton NI LLP	BRONZE

FOOD AND DRINK

Henderson Group Ltd	PLATINUM
Foyle Food Group	PLATINUM
Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Ltd.	PLATINUM
Moy Park Ltd	PLATINUM
ABP Food Group	GOLD
Suki Teahouse Ltd.	BRONZE
Galgorm	GREEN

GENERAL MANUFACTURING

Seagate Technology (Ireland)	PLATINUM
Encirc LTD	PLATINUM
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta Ltd	GOLD
Collins Aerospace - Killeel	SILVER
Linamar Light Metals Belfast Ltd	SILVER
Devenish Nutrition Ltd.	GREEN

GENERAL SERVICES

Translink	PLATINUM
George Best Belfast City Airport	PLATINUM
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	PLATINUM
Belfast International Airport	SILVER
Ardmore	SILVER
Titanic Belfast Ltd	GREEN
Doyle Shipping Group (Belfast) Ltd	GREEN
Bangor Signage Print and Embroidery	GREEN
The Pierce Partnership	GREEN

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY

Public Prosecution Service	SILVER
The Police Service of Northern Ireland	SILVER
Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority	GREEN
Tourism Northern Ireland	GREEN

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST

Southern Health and Social Care Trust	SILVER
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	SILVER
Western Health & Social Care Trust	SILVER
Harkin's Pharmacy	GREEN

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Allstate Northern Ireland	GOLD
Fibrus	SILVER

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	PLATINUM
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	PLATINUM
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	PLATINUM
Northern Ireland Assembly	GOLD
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	SILVER
Ards and North Down Borough Council	SILVER

MINING AND QUARRYING

Breedon	PLATINUM
Northstone (NI) Limited	GOLD
Kilwaughter Minerals Limited	SILVER
Mannok Build Limited	SILVER

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

Business in the Community Northern Ireland	GOLD
A&L Goodbody	SILVER
Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster)	SILVER
Co-Ownership	BRONZE
Volunteer Now	GREEN

RETAIL

Lidl Northern Ireland	SILVER
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TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

Ulster Carpet Mills (Holdings) Limited	GOLD
Antrim Supplies T/A Work Wear Mallusk	GREEN

UTILITIES

Openreach NI	PLATINUM
firmus energy	PLATINUM
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd	PLATINUM
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	PLATINUM
Kier	PLATINUM
Power NI	SILVER
SONI Ltd.	SILVER
Mutual Energy Limited	SILVER

WASTE/ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Biffa PLC	GOLD
RiverRidge Holdings Limited	SILVER
Recon Waste Management Ltd	SILVER
McKinstry Skip Hire Ltd	SILVER
Skip Services Enniskillen LTD	GREEN

THE HEADLINES



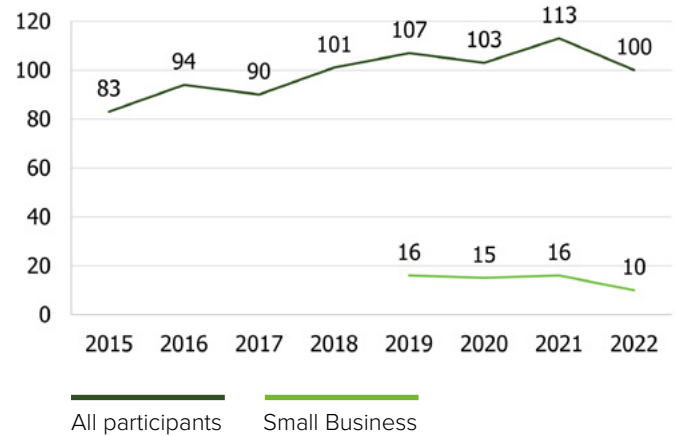
100 ORGANISATIONS TOOK PART IN THE SURVEY IN 2022

Two years on from the pandemic, interest in the 2022 Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey has remained steady, with a slight decrease to 100 participants from 113 in 2021. Although participant levels were slightly below the previous year, we welcomed 22 new participants to the Survey, signifying that environmental issues are still on the radar of organisations, despite the challenges that organisations faced last year. We heard from participants that higher energy prices and the wider cost-of-living crisis created huge challenges for organisations, but that their commitment to the environment continued. This was our fourth year offering the Small Business Survey, which is open to organisations in Northern Ireland with fewer than 25 employees. In 2022, small business participants represented 10% of the Survey cohort, including four who participated for the first time.

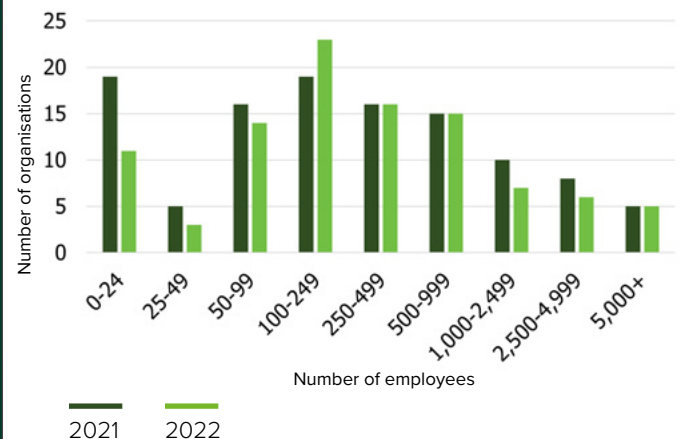
The top three highest-performing organisations in 2022 were as follows:

1. Spirit AeroSystems
2. Openreach NI
3. Seagate Technology (Ireland)

NUMBER OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS BY YEAR



SURVEY PARTICIPANTS BY ORGANISATION SIZE



THE HEADLINES



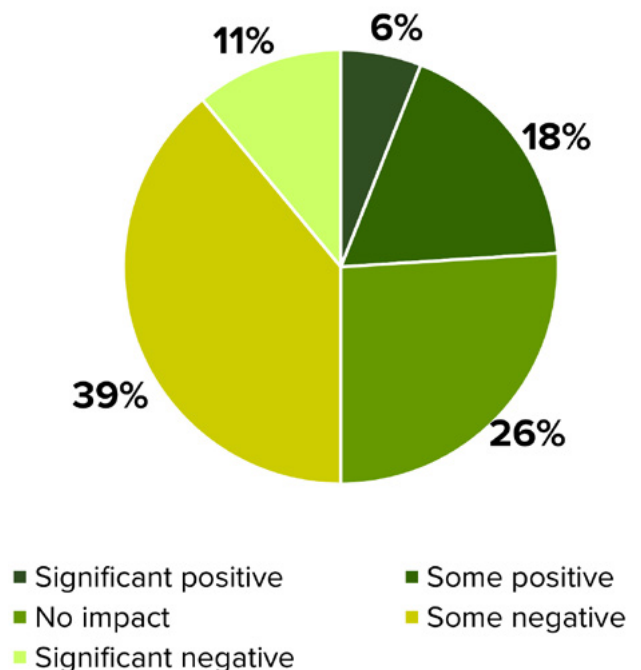
AVERAGE SCORES REMAINED CONSISTENT, BUT THE NUMBER OF COMPANIES ACHIEVING PLATINUM LEVEL DECREASED

The average 2022 Survey score continued to increase, with a 2% increase from 2021. This reflects the growing focus on environmental sustainability for businesses in Northern Ireland despite many participants reporting that the impacts of the pandemic are still having an impact on their programmes. However, we did notice a shift in the proportion of participants in each band. The proportion of those awarded Platinum decreased by two percentage points, and we saw slight increases in both those awarded Silver and Bronze.

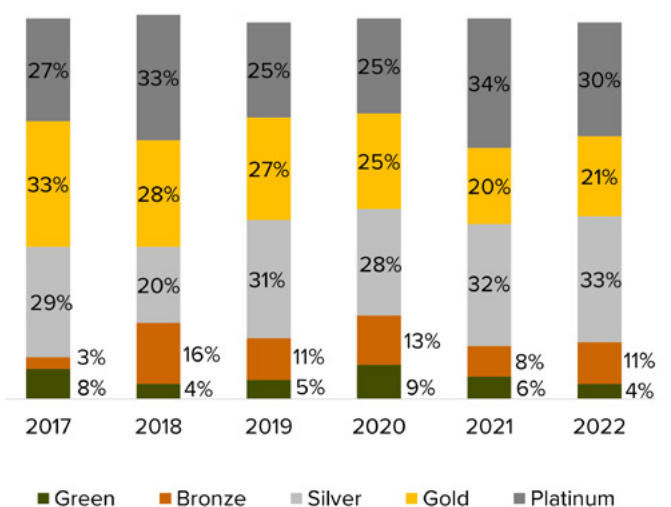
There were several changes to the Survey questions this year, scored and unscored, to continue to challenge participants. Some of the changes designed to stretch participants, such as the increased focus on measuring and reporting on value chain (scope 3) emissions – helps to explain the reduction in the proportion of Platinum participants. We also asked new questions, such as the proportion of generated waste recycled (scored) and what were the barriers to increasing your company's recycling rate (unscored). This showed that over half (55%) of participants recycled over 75% of their generated waste, with 23% recycling between 50-74%.

We welcomed 22 new main Survey participants. As in previous years, the average scores of these new participants were naturally lower than the overall average. This gives these newcomers a clear roadmap for improvement in future years.

IMPACT OF COVID ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

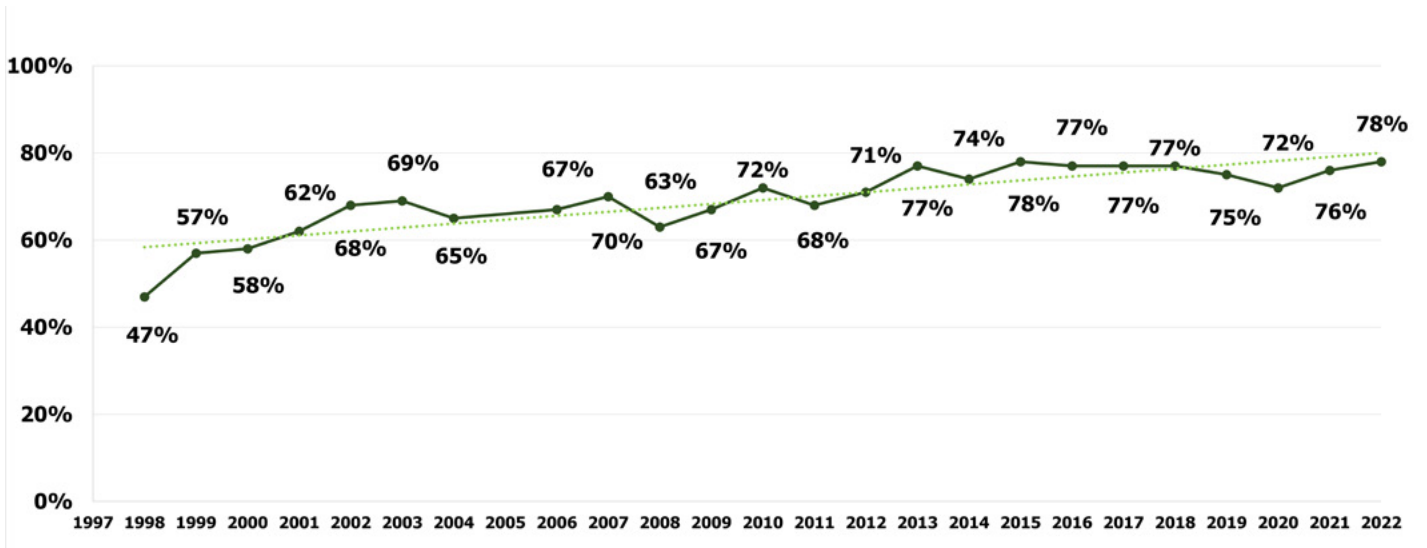


PROPORTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH BAND





SURVEY SCORES OVER TIME



THE HEADLINES



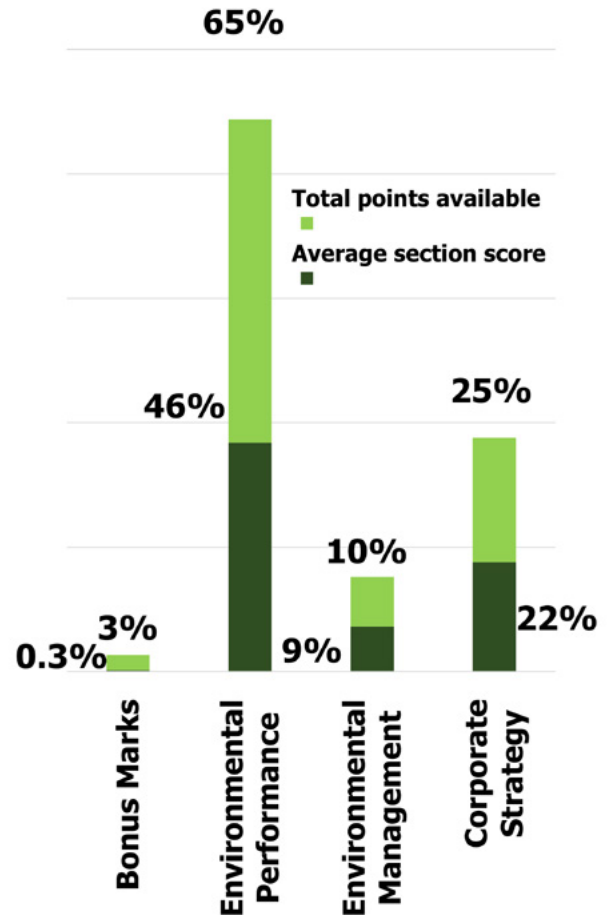
THE SURVEY'S FOCUS IS ON AN IMPROVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The Survey responses tell us that many participants have strong environmental strategies and management procedures in place. With the fundamentals established, the next step is to translate this into action by: kicking off improvement projects; improving data quality; realising performance improvements; and reporting on environmental impacts. We understand this can be a challenge, which is why the majority of the points are allocated in this section.

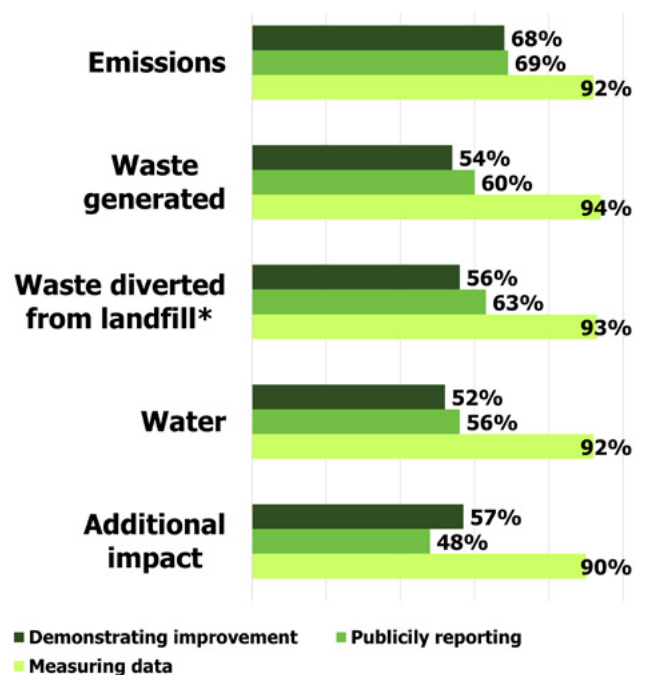
We are impressed by how many organisations are measuring their performance and by how many have implemented initiatives to take action. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement, by publicly reporting performance data and by innovating to demonstrate improvements in this area. Organisations seeking to improve their scores should explore ways to drive tangible environmental performance improvements.

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

AVERAGE SCORE PER SECTION



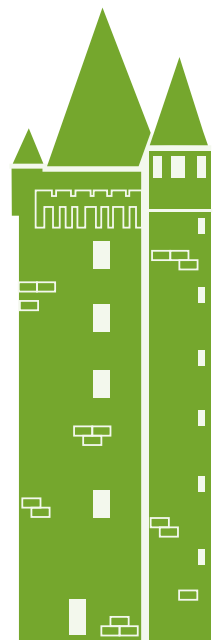
ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE



THE HEADLINES

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We are impressed by how many organisations are measuring their performance and by how many have put initiatives in place to take action. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement, by publicly reporting performance data and by innovating to demonstrate improvements in this area. Organisations seeking to improve their scores should explore ways to drive tangible environmental performance improvements.



THE HEADLINES



SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY

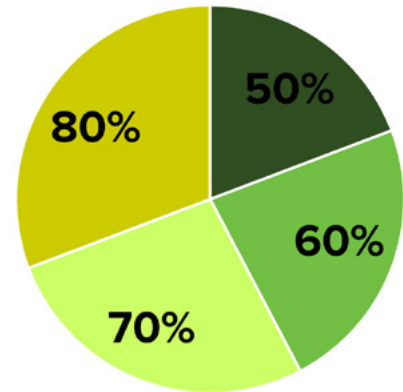
The top three highest-performing small businesses in 2022 were as follows:

1. Technidrive Ltd
2. Suki Teahouse Ltd
3. Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Many small businesses performed well in terms of environmental management, however, as has been the case in the past, fewer measure their environmental impact. For many, this may be about developing their approach over time. We would encourage these businesses to make a start by tracking the consumption of fuel, as well as the bills from suppliers. While the Survey may be more challenging for smaller business with fewer resources, there are still some areas where small businesses scored almost as high as the main cohort. Small business participants were particularly strong in areas such as employee engagement and the circular economy.

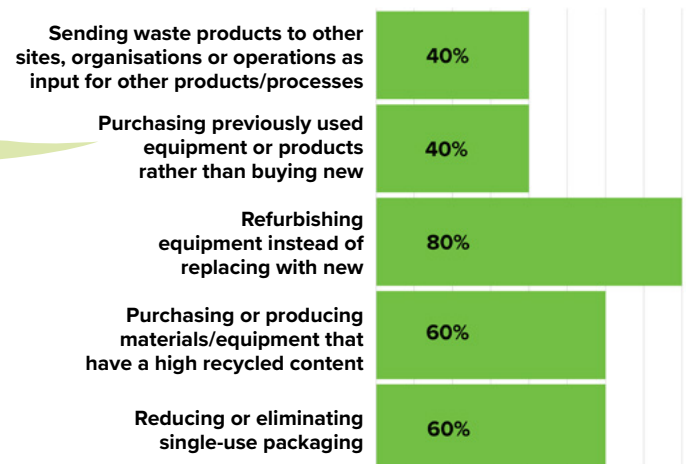


HOW SMALL BUSINESSES ARE ENGAGING EMPLOYEES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



- Promoting awareness
- Assigning employees responsibility
- Providing training
- Seeking input from employees

HOW SMALL BUSINESSES ARE IMPLEMENTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES



THE HEADLINES



THANK YOU TO ALL ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE ENCOURAGED OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY

Each year, we recognise organisations that demonstrate environmental leadership and help to grow the Survey by introducing another organisation to take part. In 2022, nine participants successfully brought another business on board through the ‘Bring a Business’ initiative, which earns a referring participant bonus points.

What’s even more encouraging is that the relationship often extends beyond the Survey, with more experienced environmental managers supporting their business contacts to progress.

The table (right) recognises those who introduced new businesses to the Survey.

9

PARTICIPANTS MENTORED ANOTHER BUSINESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, HELPING THEM TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

REFERRING PARTICIPANT	NEW PARTICIPANT
Danske Bank UK	Grant Thornton NI LLP
Encirc LTD	Skip Services
Farrans Construction	Northstone Materials
Gilbert-Ash Ltd	CB Contracts NI
JH Turkington and Sons Ltd	SlurryKat
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	Mabbett & Associates Ltd
Openreach NI	Morrows Contracts
Spirit AeroSystems	Briggs Equipment
Translink	Confidential



SECTOR ANALYSIS



Splitting the results by sector is a useful way for organisations to compare their scores to their industry peers. It also allows us to 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.

Utilities was the highest-scoring sector this year, with an average score of 86.3%, increasing by 6.1% from 2021. It was the third highest performer in

2021, with only the Local Authority and Education sectors above it (these two moved to second and third respectively in 2022). Information and Communications Technology saw the largest increase in average score, with a 66% increase.

Across the board, eleven of the seventeen sectors saw an increase in score, which is reflected in the overall average score growth for all participants. Significant changes to average sector scores can often be attributed to new participants that tend to score lower while they get accustomed to the Survey. We saw this in the Health and Social Services Trust sector, which decreased by 22.7% from 2021 to 2022.

SECTOR	2022 AVERAGE	2021 AVERAGE	CHANGE	% CHANGE
Utilities	86.3%	81.4%	↑	6.1%
Local Authority	86.1%	87.0%	↓	-1.1%
Education	83.1%	86.8%	↓	-4.3%
Mining and Quarrying	79.3%	80.6%	↓	-1.7%
Construction	78.9%	68.5%	↑	15.1%
Food and Drink	77.9%	77.6%	↑	0.5%
Information and Communications Technology	77.4%	46.6%	↑	66.0%
General Manufacturing	75.3%	74.3%	↑	1.3%
Financial	75.1%	54.0%	↑	39.0%
Retail	72.4%	62.7%	↑	15.5%
Engineering	71.1%	69.7%	↑	2.1%
Waste/Environmental Services	65.7%	62.4%	↑	5.3%
General Services	61.0%	62.0%	↓	-1.6%
Health and Social Services Trust	59.9%	77.5%	↓	-22.7%
Textiles and Clothing	58.6%	59.6%	↓	-1.7%
Non-Governmental Organisation	57.8%	47.8%	↑	21.0%
Government Department and Agency	49.5%	47.7%	↑	3.8%

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .



...RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCING

We asked organisations about the proportion of their energy consumption that is from renewable sources. Impressively, 86% of respondents told us that they are sourcing at least some proportion of their energy from renewable sources.

Almost half (44%) of participants are sourcing more than half their energy from renewables, a 9% increase from the 2021 survey (35%). We're also seeing participants go further with their renewable sourcing as one fifth (20%) use over 95% renewable energy.

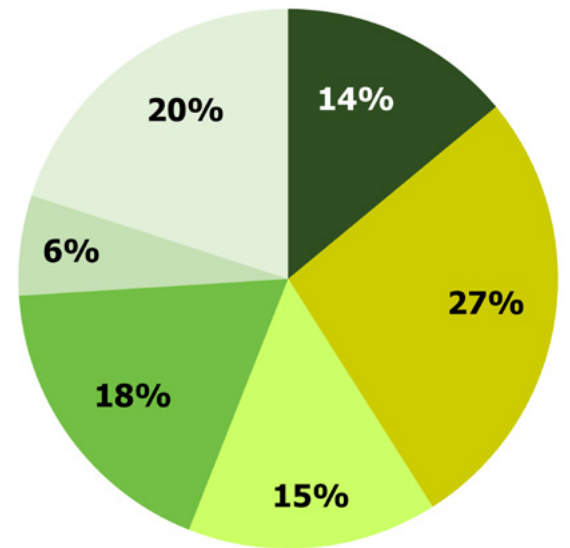
Switching to a 100% renewable electricity tariff or generating your own electricity onsite with renewables are two great methods that organisations could consider when aiming to reduce emissions.

...THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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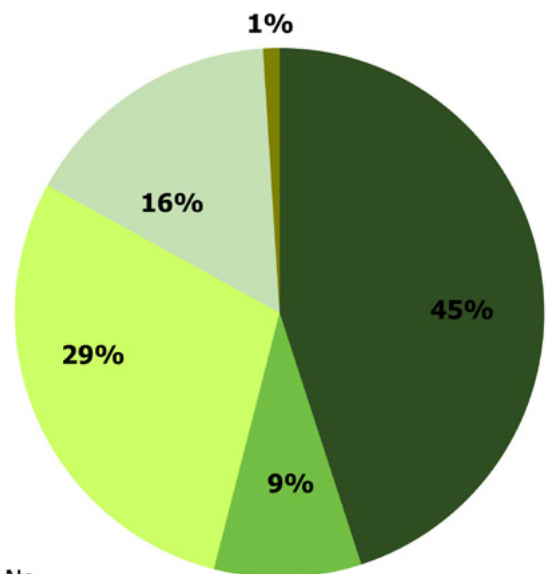
% OF RENEWABLE ENERGY



- 0%
- 1%-25%
- 26%-50%
- 51%-75%
- 76%-94%
- >95%

These percentages refer to the proportion of renewable energy sourced by participants (0% to >95%).

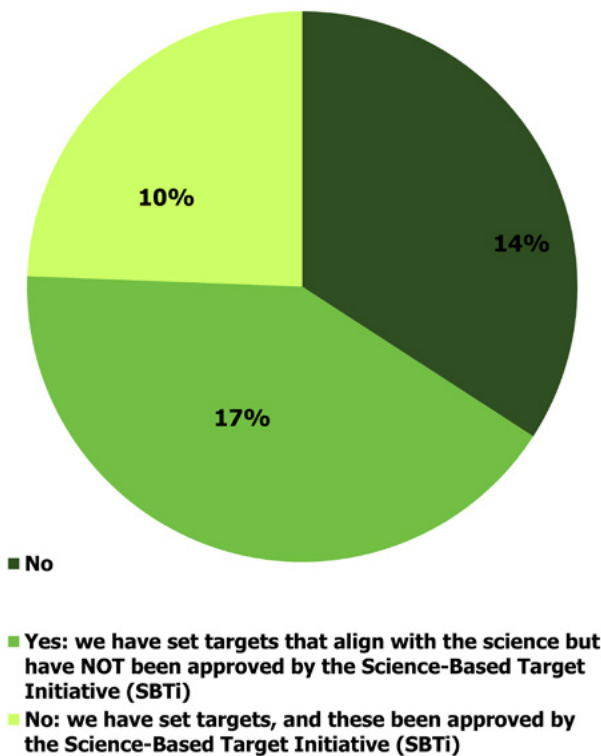
HAS YOUR BUSINESS MADE ANY CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN AREAS THAT WILL ALLOW IT TO TRANSFORM ITS APPROACH TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY, OR DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE ANY SUCH INVESTMENTS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?



- No
- Have made capital investments in CE (with the assistance of grant funding)
- Have made capital investments in CE (without of grant funding)
- Considering - regardless of grant funding
- Considering - with the assistance of grant funding



SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS



SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Switching to a 100% renewable electricity tariff or generating your own electricity onsite with renewables are two great methods that organisations could consider when aiming to reduce emissions. The circular economy will be vital to all organisations in the shift to a more sustainable operating model. Not only is it good for reducing waste, but more efficient use of resources may also provide cost savings. For more inspiration on the circular economy, please visit [WRAP](#) and the [circular economy](#) and the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) website.

. . . SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS

While many organisations set targets for their environmental performance, the question we need to ask 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 and 2022 Climate Change Act NI.

We asked an unscored question on whether organisations were setting greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets that were aligned with what the science is telling us, and 41 participants out of 100 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).

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .



...PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

In 2022, we included an unscored question on biodiversity, asking organisations if they have any commitments, policies, or actions in place to conserve or enhance biodiversity. Over half of participants (55%) have a formal commitment and 41% have biodiversity targets in place.

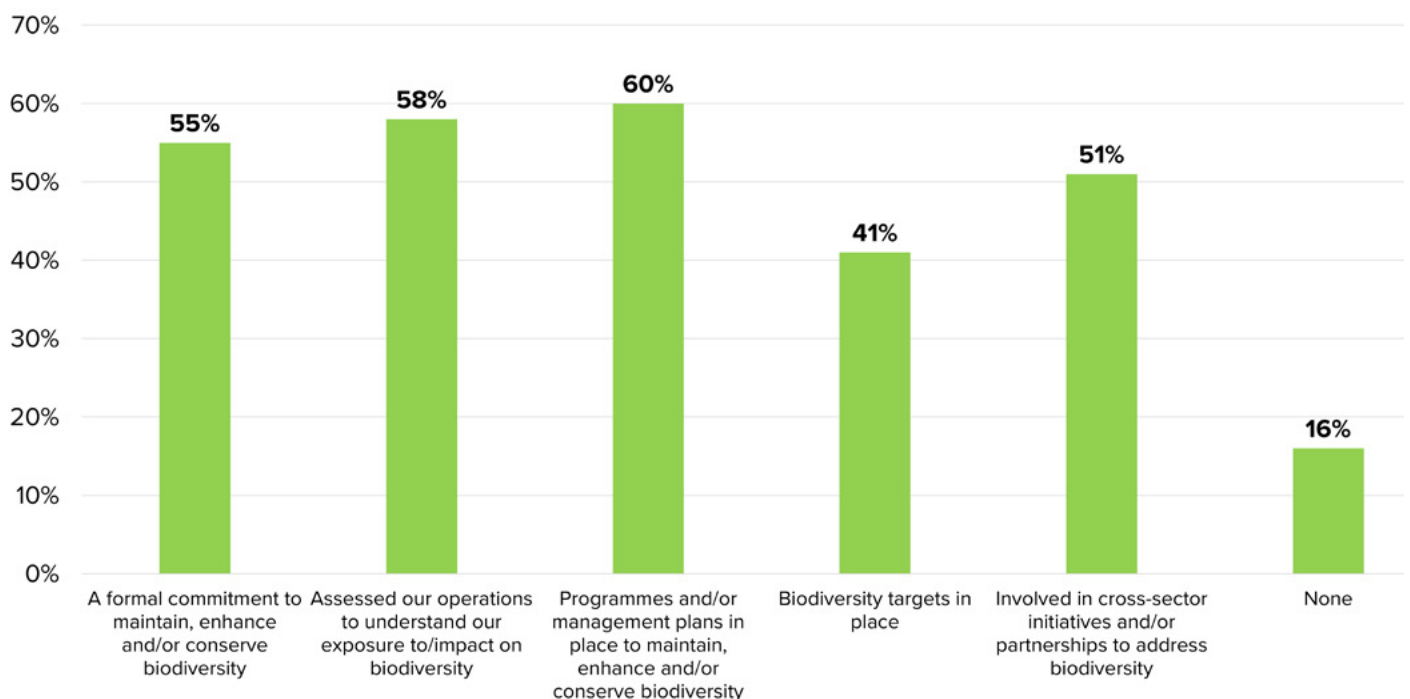
Feedback from organisations has shown how valued biodiversity is in Northern Ireland, and this is reflected in the results. 60% of organisations have programmes and/or management plans in place to support biodiversity, with

nearly the same number of organisations (58%) assessing their operations to understand their exposure to/impact on biodiversity.

After the pandemic, there has been a renewed focus on protecting biodiversity, and we expect that organisations will continue to respond and will look for ways to preserve biodiversity.

Click [here](#) to read more about Business in the Community's Business & Biodiversity Charter, in partnership with Ulster Wildlife, a framework for businesses to engage with biodiversity.

DOES YOUR ORGANISATION CURRENTLY HAVE ANY COMMITMENTS, POLICIES OR ACTIONS IN PLACE TO MAINTAIN, ENHANCE AND/OR CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY?



SPOTLIGHT ON . . .



...PROPORTION OF WASTE RECYCLED

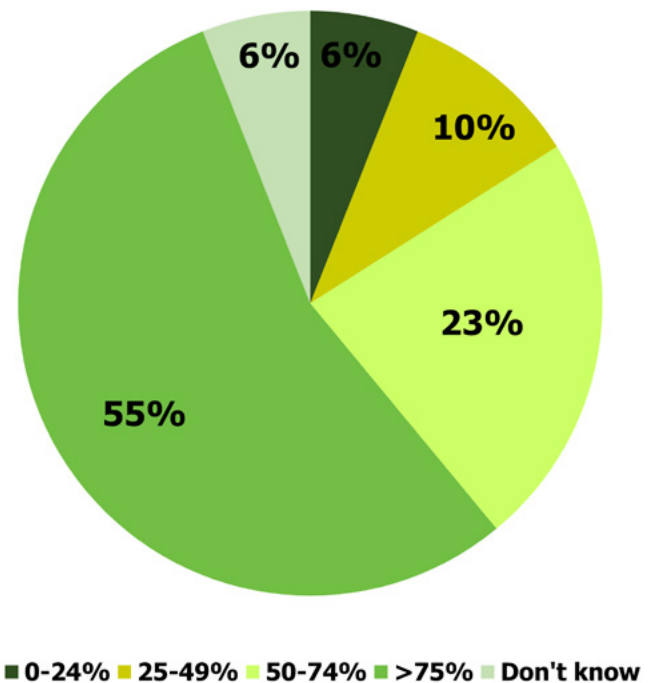
Introduced in the 2022 Survey, we asked participants what proportion of their waste generated is recycled, and over half (55%) of participants told us that they recycle over 75% of waste generated. Just under a quarter of participants (23%) recycle 50-74% of their waste and 10% recycled between 25-49%.

Recycling plays an important role in the circular economy and can help drive down emissions and prevent harm to the natural environment. When organisations are exploring opportunities to reduce the waste sent to landfill, we would suggest prioritising action based on the waste hierarchy: first by preventing the use of raw materials, then by reducing it, reusing it, and finally recycling it. For some materials that are hard to recycle, we would encourage businesses to explore partnering with your waste management provider, suppliers and/or other business to innovate in addressing the barriers for recycling or repurposing these waste streams.

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

The responses told us that 93% 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.

WHAT PROPORTION OF YOUR WASTE GENERATED IS RECYCLED?



SPOTLIGHT ON . . .



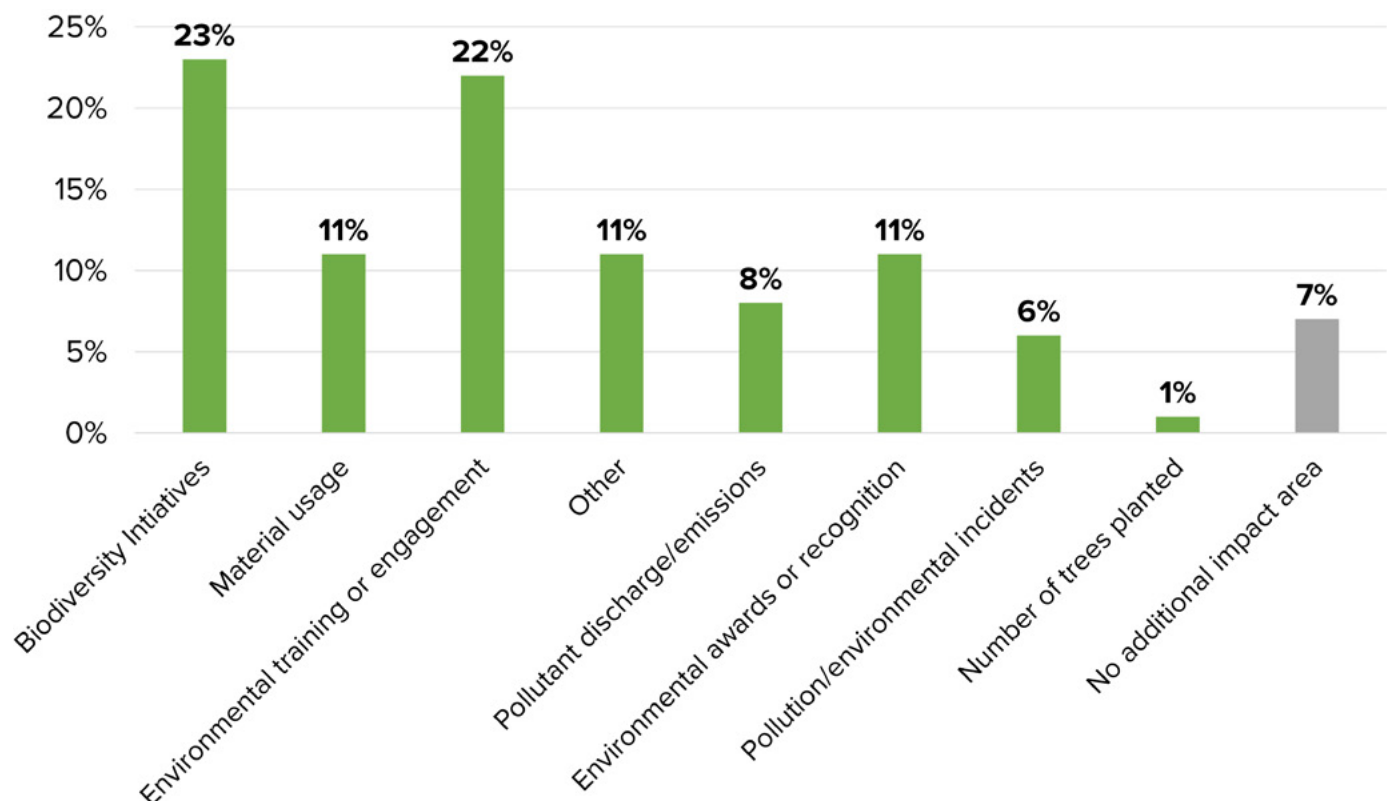
Nearly a quarter (23%) of participants reported that their additional impact was related to biodiversity initiatives. Biodiversity initiatives ranged from small-scale actions like planting wildflowers, to engaging with entire supply chains on improving their own biodiversity impacts. With recent high-profile 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 22% 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 that can ultimately demonstrate improvements over time.

² See, for example, Sir David Attenborough and the BBC's documentary [Extinction: The Facts](#) or [WWF's Living Planet Report 2022](#)

TYPES OF ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS REPORTED IN SURVEY RESPONSES





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 230 members and are the largest business-led coalition dedicated to corporate responsibility.

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