Northern Ireland environmental BENCHMARKING survey

The NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey is an annual environmental management self-disclosure exercise open to businesses of all sizes and from all sectors in Northern Ireland.

Taking part is free and enables an organisation to publicly demonstrate its commitment to being environmentally responsible and transparent, and the process and results allow organisations to examine and reflect on their environmental performance to compare themselves to others and to drive improvements. Participating organisations are scored and the results, trends and findings – which provide an insight into environmental action in Northern Ireland – are shared via an annual report.



> The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has consistently supported BITC's environmental and climate initiatives and is inspired and encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of businesses across Northern Ireland. This demonstrates the shared responsibility we all have for environmental stewardship. We are particularly impressed by the top 40 performers of the Survey, whose exceptional engagement and commitment to environmental action and public accountability reflect a real dedication to integrating environmental responsibility into the heart of their business practices.
>
> Minister Andrew Muir, DAERA



(L>R) Kieran Harding, Managing Director, BITC; Minister Andrew Muir, DAERA; Grainia Long, Chief Executive, NI Housing Executive.

FEATURED TOP 40 PERFORMERS

ABP's sustainability strategy DoingMoreWithLess encompasses its entire supply chain. Outcomes are aligned to clear and tangible science-based targets. Investment in people development, technology and innovative solutions empowers ABP's sustainability leaders to champion continuous improvement across all facets of sustainability and to drive a decarbonisation plan for the entire ABP Food Group.

As part of our environmental strategy, Almac is committed to the responsible management of energy, water, and waste, continually striving towards improvements aligned with our committed targets. We're dedicated to achieving net zero emissions and have recently taken a significant step towards this goal through our virtual power purchase agreement.

Belfast City Airport is committed to sustainability, addressing key environmental challenges such as carbon reduction, waste management, and resource efficiency. By continually improving our operations and working with the community, the airport aims to minimise its environmental impact while driving meaningful progress toward a greener, more sustainable aviation future.

Belfast Harbour is playing a leading role in promoting sustainable development and is committed to environmental excellence, reducing our impact through the use of alternative fuels and electrification, supporting the local clean energy transition with targeted investment into renewable technologies, and adapting to the physical impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions.

Belfast International Airport, as part of the VINCI Airports global network, has been accelerating major environmental improvements over the last few years, in line with VINCI Airports' global commitment to achieve Net Zero Emission by 2050. We are working with stakeholders and regulators to achieve this goal.

At Dunbia, sustainability has been central to our business plan for over 20 years. Plan Four Zero is our blueprint for building a more sustainable food system. Grounded in science, the plan outlines how we will reduce emissions, protect nature and restore biodiversity, inspire sustainable farming and support our communities.

Encirc, part of the Vidrala group, is a market leader in glass container design, manufacturing, bottling and logistics solutions for the UK, Irish and European food and beverages industries. With almost 2,000 employees, it operates from its three purpose-built sites: Derrylin, Co Fermanagh; Elton, Cheshire and Avonmouth, Bristol. The company produces more than 3 billion glass bottles and other containers annually and can fill up to 400 million litres of bulk shipped beverages every year.

GRAHAM is committed to adopting sustainable practices to deliver positive, lasting impact. By adopting innovative low carbon designs and materials, reducing whole life carbon, implementing circular economy initiatives and enhancing biodiversity we are resolute that all of our projects and activities will contribute toward a more sustainable future.

HBL are delighted to achieve a Top 40 position in the NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey! This recognition highlights our dedication to environmental sustainability and responsible practices. HBL efforts positively impact the community and set a high standard for others. We are delighted to be part of the survey which helps in promoting a greener future! By participating in the NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey detailing our progress and impact, is offering transparency and accountability in our commitment to sustainability.

As a company, MCLH have embedded sustainability and the environment within all aspects of our business, striving to maintain our positive impact environmentally, socially and economically. In 2024, we have diverted from landfill 98% of construction waste across the entire business, where over 30% of all waste consisted of plastic waste. As a business, we are always trying to improve our performance year by year. Therefore, we have engaged with Responsible Plastic Management Programme in order to address plastic pollution crisis in construction industry and improve our performance in this matter.

Metal Technology has collaborated with suppliers to introduce ground-breaking, low carbon aluminium options in its product range. Innovation, employee engagement and investment in areas including solar, electric vehicles, and packaging, resulted in being ahead of its target to reduce Scope 1&2 emissions by 50% by 2030, and gaining NIEBS24 Platinum.

NIE Networks is the owner of the electricity transmission and distribution networks in Northern Ireland, transporting electricity to 920,000 customers, including homes, businesses and farms. There are 2,300 km of transmission network, 47,000 km of distribution network and 340 major substations, including 60 serving large wind farm sites in Northern Ireland.

The Housing Executive have committed to reaching Net Zero by 2050 across all its operations and we firmly believe that everyone should be able to live in an affordable, sustainable and decent home that is appropriate to their needs, in a safe, attractive, and climate-resilient place.

Operating in an environmentally responsible manner is a core principle of how we do business. As we continue to drive environmental performance, both internally and across our customer base it is great to be able to benchmark with likeminded organisations and be recognised as a leader in this space.

Spirit is committed to investing in innovative technologies and skills to support the transition to net-zero flight. We are designing structurally efficient aerostructures to help reduce aircraft fuel burn and focusing on environmentally responsible manufacturing processes to decrease our energy consumption and waste, while harnessing more sustainable power.

Ulster University are tackling today's critical sustainability challenges by placing the UN Sustainable Development Goals at its core. Through our people-centred approach, we drive transformative change with tangible local and global impact. We deliver real-world solutions across campuses, operations, outreach, teaching, and research to build a sustainable future for communities and the planet.

To see the full list of top 40 performers and access the Survey report, visit www.bitcni.org.uk/niebs

SPOTLIGHT ON KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

40% of respondents
have a strategic plan in place to support biodiversity but 25% of businesses aren't considering biodiversity as part of their environment initiatives

89% of businesses
have identified major risks to their business as a result of climate change

62% of businesses
have been affected by extreme weather events in the last five years

66% of respondents
are measuring scope 1, 2 & 3 greenhouse gas emissions. 4% do not measure any emissions

71% of organisations
are publicly reporting on at least one scope greenhouse gas emission

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