

2024 Northern Ireland environmental BENCHMARKING survey REPORT



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An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

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THE SURVEY IN 2024

The NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey is Northern Ireland's leading environmental benchmarking exercise, attracting organisations from numerous industries. It is a free, annual, self-disclosure exercise open to members and non-members of Business in the Community.

Taking part enables an organisation to publicly demonstrate its commitment to being environmentally responsible and transparent. The surveying process and results allow organisations to examine and reflect on their environmental performance and compare themselves to other organisations to drive improvements.

Started 26 years ago by [George Dawson](#), the Survey is recognised as a positive influencer that is helping organisations throughout Northern Ireland to achieve more sustainable ways of doing business.

For a overview of the findings outlined in this report in video format, please click on the image below.



39

THE NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE TOP BAND, PLATINUM, INCREASED TO 39, A RISE OF 12

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE NI ENVIRONMENTAL BENCHMARKING SURVEY



THE RESULTS | BY ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL



TOP PERFORMER

Spirit AeroSystems

PLATINUM

ABP Food Group	↑
AG Paving and Building Products Ltd	↔
Almac Group Ltd	↑
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	↔ 25+
Belfast International Airport	↑ 25+
Breedon Group	↑
Collins Aerospace – Kilkeel	↔
Danske Bank	↔ 10+
Dunbia (UK)	↑
Encirc Glass	↔ 10+
Farrans Construction	↑ 20+
firmus energy	↔
Foyle Food Group	↔ 10+
GEDA Construction	NEW
George Best Belfast City Airport	↔ 20+
Gilbert-Ash Ltd	↑ 10+
GRAHAM	↔
Henry Brothers	↔ 25+
Heron Bros Ltd	↑ 10+
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta Ltd	↑
Hyster-Yale Group	
Kier Ltd	↑
Marcon Fit-Out Ltd	↑
McCue	↑
McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd	↑ 25+
Metal Technology Ltd	↑
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	↑ 10+
Moy Park Limited	↔ 25+
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	↔ 10+
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	↔
Northstone Materials Limited	↑
Openreach Northern Ireland	↔
Ove Arup & Partners Ltd	↔
Phoenix Energy Group Limited	↔ 25+
Queen's University Belfast	↔ 20+
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	↔ 25+
Spirit AeroSystems	↔ 25+
Translink	↔ 25+
Ulster University	↔ 20+

GOLD

A&L Goodbody Northern Ireland LLP	↑
Allstate Northern Ireland	↓
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	↓
Belfast City Council	↑
Belfast Metropolitan College	↔ 10+
Business in the Community NI	↔ 10+
Caterpillar (NI) Ltd	↔ 20+

GOLD

Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland	↓
Eakin Healthcare	NEW
Felix O'Hare & Co Ltd	↓
Fibrus	↔
Henderson Group Ltd	↓
JP Corry	↓ 10+
Kilwaughter Minerals Limited	↑
McAvoy	↑
Mutual Energy	↑
Northern Ireland Assembly	↑ 10+
Portview Fit-Out Ltd	↑
South West College	↑
Thompson Aero Seating	↑
Veolia	↑

SILVER

Ards and North Down Borough Council	↔
BiOPAX LTD	NEW
Campbell Contracts Ltd	↔
Ciena	↔
DAWSON-WAM Ltd	↓
Dowds Group	↔ 10+
Education Authority	NEW
Finnebrogue	NEW
Galgorm	↔
Haldane Group	↔ 25+
Irish Football Association	↑
ISS A/S	↔
Jenkins Group Ltd	↔
John Thompson & Sons Ltd	↔
Lidl	NEW
Mannok Build Ltd	↔
McAdam Design	↑
Mivan Ltd	↔
MSO Cleland Ltd	NEW
National Museums NI	↔
NI Co-Ownership Housing Association	↑
Power NI	↔
Public Prosecution Survey	↑
SlurryKat Limited	↔
SONI	↔
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	↔ 10+
Specialist Group	NEW
The Police Service of Northern Ireland	↔
The SHS Group	↔
Ulster Carpet Mills (Holdings) Ltd	↔
Unitrunk Ltd	↑
Viberoptix OPCO Lmt	NEW
Walter Watson Limited	NEW
Western Health and Social Care Trust	↔ 10+
Woven Housing Association Ltd	↑

BRONZE

ABM Ireland	NEW
AG Wilson Civil Engineering	NEW
Antrim Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Ltd	↔
Antrim Supplies Ltd T/A Work Wear Mallusk	↑
Carson McDowell	NEW
DHL Supply Chain	↓
Digestors, Silos & Tanks Ltd t/a Silotank	NEW
Learning Pool	NEW
Meridian Utilities Ltd	NEW
Morrow Contracts	NEW
MSM Contracts	NEW
Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority	↑
NovoGen Engineering Solutions Ltd	NEW
RiverRidge Recycling (Portadown) Ltd	NEW
Southern Regional College	NEW
Suki Tea Makers	↔
Titanic Belfast	↑
Visit Belfast	NEW
Woodside Logistics Group	NEW

GREEN

Arbour Housing	↓
Bann Joinery & Flooring Limited	NEW
BLK BOX Fitness	↓
CavanaghKely	NEW
Clearbox Communications	NEW
Dale Orr	NEW
Davison Quality Foods	NEW
Dolgan Ltd	NEW
Down Business Centre	NEW
Future Renewables	NEW
Heron Manufacture Ltd	NEW
Northern Ireland Authority For Utility Regulation	↔
Plastics 2000	NEW
Prestige Insurance Holdings Limited	NEW
Solmatix Ltd	↔
The Conservation Volunteers	NEW
TST Transport Ltd	↓

KEY

New to the Survey in 2024	NEW
Remained in the same band as 2023	↔
Moved up from 2023	↑
Dropped from 2023	↓
Participated for at least 10 consecutive years	10+
Participated for at least 20 consecutive years	20+
Participated for 25+ consecutive years	25



TOP PERFORMING SMALL BUSINESS

Digestors, Silos & Tanks Ltd t/a Silotank

BRONZE

Antrim Supplies Ltd T/A Work Wear Mallusk

Digestors, Silos & Tanks Ltd t/a Silotank

Meridian Utilities Ltd

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

NovoGen Engineering Solutions Ltd

Suki Tea Makers

GREEN

Bann Joinery & Flooring Limited

Clearbox Communications

Dale Orr

Davison Quality Foods

Dolgan Ltd

Down Business Centre

Future Renewables

Plastics 2000

Solmatix Ltd

The Conservation Volunteers



THE RESULTS | BY SECTOR



CONSTRUCTION

AG Wilson Civil Engineering	BRONZE
Antrim Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Ltd	BRONZE
Bann Joinery & Flooring Limited	GREEN
Campbell Contracts Ltd	SILVER
DAWSON-WAM Ltd	SILVER
Dowds Group	SILVER
Farrans Construction	PLATINUM
Felix O'Hare & Co Ltd	GOLD
Future Renewables	GREEN
GEDA Construction	PLATINUM
Gilbert-Ash Ltd / Gilbert-Ash Ireland Ltd	PLATINUM
GRAHAM	PLATINUM
Haldane Group	SILVER
Henry Brothers	PLATINUM
Heron Bros Ltd	PLATINUM
JP Corry	GOLD
Marcon Fit-Out Ltd	PLATINUM
McCue	PLATINUM
McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd	PLATINUM
Metal Technology Ltd	PLATINUM
Mivan Ltd	SILVER
MSM Contracts	BRONZE
Portview Fit-Out Ltd	GOLD
Solmatix Ltd	GREEN
Specialist Group	SILVER
Viberoptix OPCO Lmt	SILVER

EDUCATION

Belfast Metropolitan College	GOLD
Education Authority	SILVER
South West College	GOLD
Southern Regional College	BRONZE
The Conservation Volunteers	GREEN
Ulster University	PLATINUM

ENGINEERING

Caterpillar (NI) Ltd	GOLD
Hyster-Yale Group	PLATINUM
McAdam Design	SILVER
NovoGen Engineering Solutions Ltd.	BRONZE
Ove Arup & Partners LTD	PLATINUM
Spirit Aero Systems	PLATINUM
Unitrunk Ltd	SILVER
Walter Watson Limited	SILVER

FINANCIAL

CavanaghKelly	GREEN
Danske Bank	PLATINUM
Prestige Insurance Holdings Limited	GREEN

FOOD AND DRINK

ABP Food Group	PLATINUM
Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland	GOLD
Dale Orr	GREEN
Davison Quality Foods	GREEN
Dolgan Ltd	GREEN

FOOD AND DRINK

Dunbia (UK)	PLATINUM
Finnebrogue	SILVER
Foyle Food Group	PLATINUM
Galgorm	SILVER
Henderson Group LTD	GOLD
John Thompson & Sons Ltd	SILVER
Moy Park Limited	PLATINUM
Suki Tea Makers	BRONZE
The SHS Group	SILVER

GENERAL MANUFACTURING

AG Paving and Building Products Ltd	PLATINUM
Almac GroupLTD	PLATINUM
BIOPAX LTD	SILVER
BLK BOX Fitness	GREEN
Collins Aerospace - Kilkeel	PLATINUM
Digestors, Silos & Tanks Ltd t/a Silotank	BRONZE
Eakin Healthcare	GOLD
Encirc Glass	PLATINUM
Heron Manufacture Ltd	GREEN
Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta Ltd	PLATINUM
McAvoy	GOLD
MSO Cleland Ltd	SILVER
Plastics 2000	GREEN
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	PLATINUM
SlurryKat Limited	SILVER
Thompson Aero Seating	GOLD

GENERAL SERVICES

ABM IRELAND	BRONZE
Belfast City Airport	PLATINUM
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	PLATINUM
Belfast International Airport	PLATINUM
Carson McDowell	BRONZE
DHL Supply Chain	BRONZE
ISS A/S	SILVER
Jenkins Group LTD	SILVER
Titanic Belfast	BRONZE
TST Transport Ltd	GREEN
Visit Belfast	BRONZE
Woodside Logistics Group	BRONZE

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY

National Museums Northern Ireland	SILVER
NI Authority for Utility Regulation	GREEN
NI Fishery Harbour Authority	GREEN
Police Service of Northern Ireland	SILVER
Public Prosecution Service	BRONZE

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST

Southern Health and Social Care Trust	SILVER
Western Health and Social Care Trust	SILVER

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Allstate Northern Ireland	GOLD
Ciena	SILVER
Fibrus	GOLD
Learning Pool	BRONZE

LOCAL AUTHORITY

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

MINING AND QUARRYING

Breedon Group	PLATINUM
Kilwaughter Minerals Limited	GOLD
Mannok Build Ltd	SILVER
Northstone Materials Limited	PLATINUM

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

A&L Goodbody Northern Ireland LLP	GOLD
Arbour Housing	GREEN
Business in the Community NI	GOLD
Clearbox Communications	GREEN
Down Business Centre	GREEN
Irish Football Association	SILVER
NI Co-Ownership Housing Association	SILVER
Queen's University Belfast	PLATINUM
Woven Housing Association Ltd	SILVER

RETAIL

Lidl	SILVER
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TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

Antrim Supplies Ltd T/A Work Wear Mallusk	BRONZE
Ulster Carpet Mills (Holdings) Ltd	SILVER

UTILITIES

firmus energy	PLATINUM
Kier LTD	PLATINUM
Meridian Utilities Ltd	BRONZE
Morrow Contracts	BRONZE
Mutual Energy	GOLD
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks	PLATINUM
Openreach Northern Ireland	PLATINUM
Phoenix Energy Group Limited	PLATINUM
Power NI	SILVER
SONI	SILVER

WASTE/ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RiverRidge Recycling (Portadown) Ltd	BRONZE
Veolia	GOLD

BRING A BUSINESS



NEW BUSINESS IN 2024	REFERRAL BUSINESS
Dolgan Ltd	ABP Food Group
Southern Regional College	Belfast Metropolitan College
Digestors, Silos & Tanks Ltd t/a Silotank	Danske Bank
GEDA Construction	Farrans Construction
Viberoptix OPCO Lmt	Fibrus
MSO Cleland Ltd	Finnebrogue
Bann Joinery & Flooring Limited	Gilbert-Ash Ltd
Heron Manufacture Ltd	Heron Bros Ltd
Woodside Logistics Group	Huhtamaki Foodservice Delta Ltd
Woodside Logistics Group	Kilwaughter Minerals Limited
Morrow	Meridian Utilities Ltd
Plastics 2000	Metal Technology Ltd
Meridian Utilities Ltd	Morrow Contracts
The Conservation Volunteers	Northern Ireland Electricity Networks
Future Renewables	South West College
ABM Ireland	Spirit AeroSystems

BRING A BUSINESS

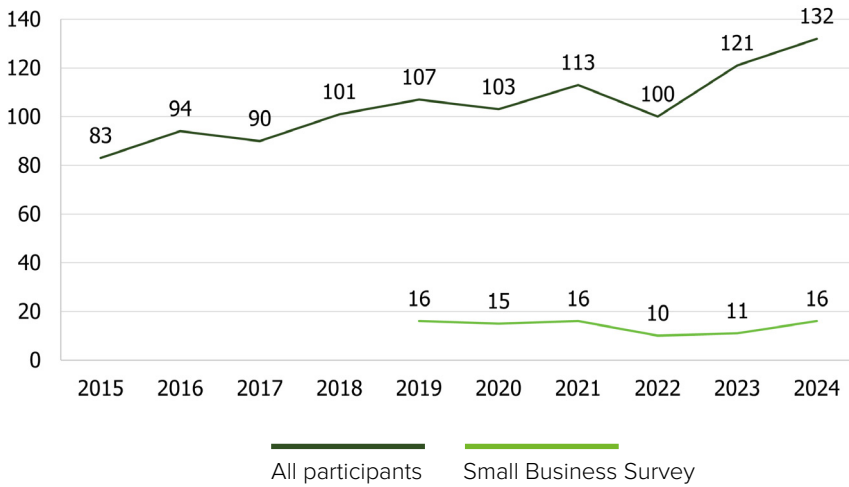
16

**ORGANISATIONS
DEMONSTRATED
ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP
BY INTRODUCING
ANOTHER
BUSINESS TO JOIN
THE SURVEY**





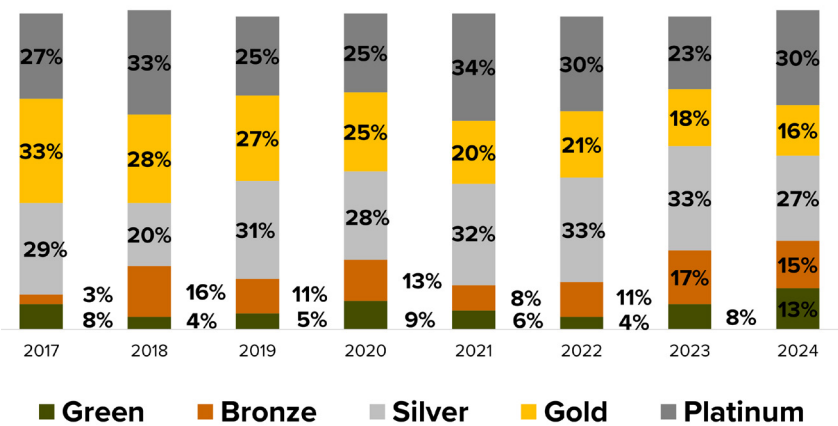
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS



16

SMALL BUSINESSES PARTICIPATED IN THE SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY AND A TOTAL OF 132 ORGANISATIONS TOOK PART IN 2024 – A 9% INCREASE ON 2023

PROPORTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH BAND

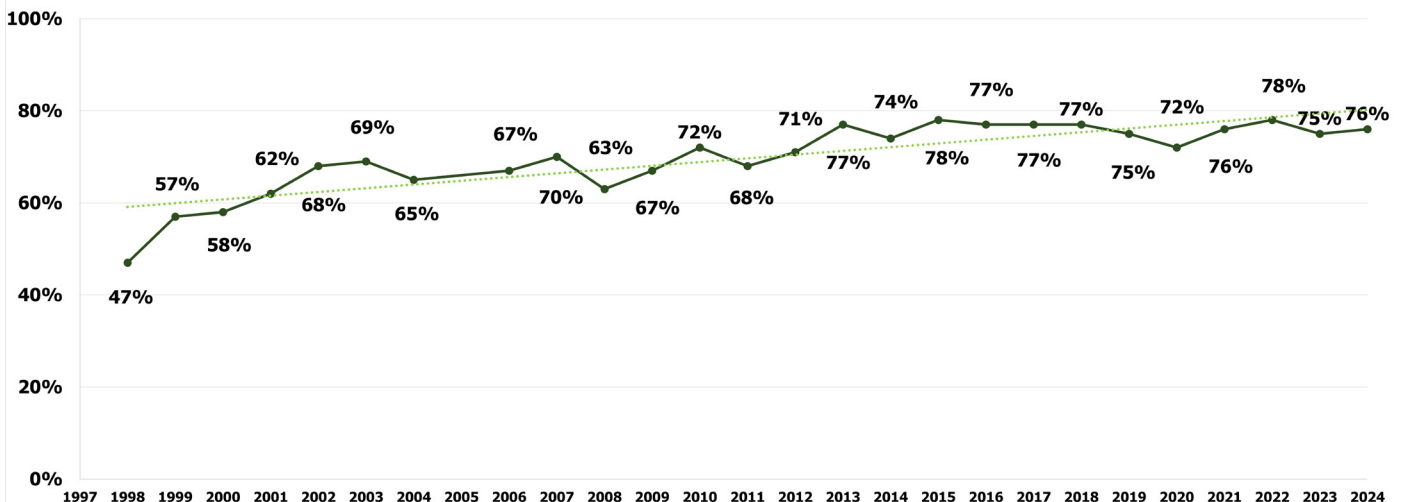


THE AVERAGE SCORE IS

76%

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY WAS THE HIGHEST SCORING SECTOR, WITH UTILITIES A CLOSE SECOND

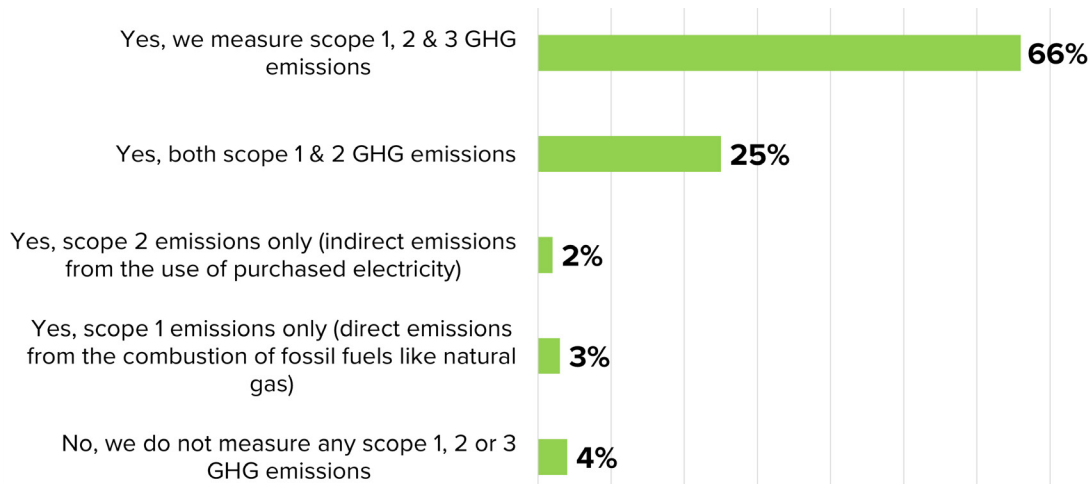
SURVEY SCORES OVER TIME



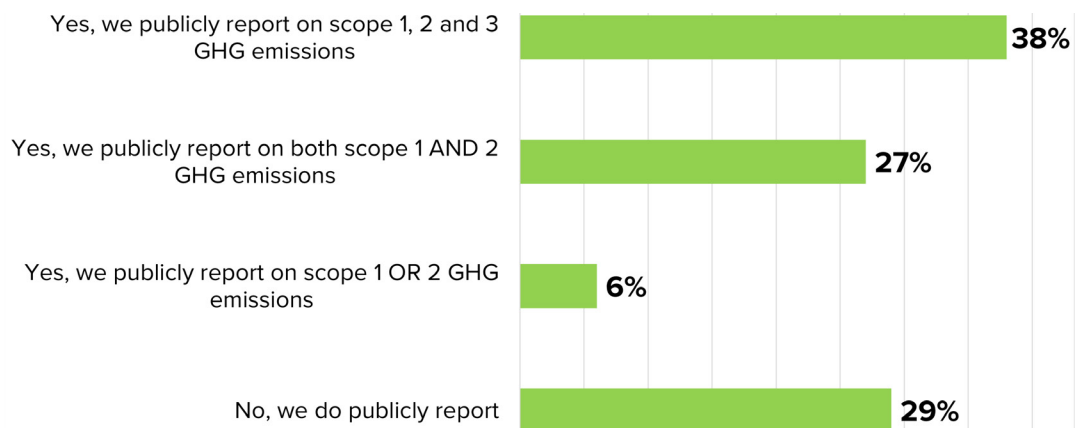


GHG EMISSIONS MEASURING AND REPORTING

MEASURING AND REPORTING ON GREENHOUSE GASES (GHG)



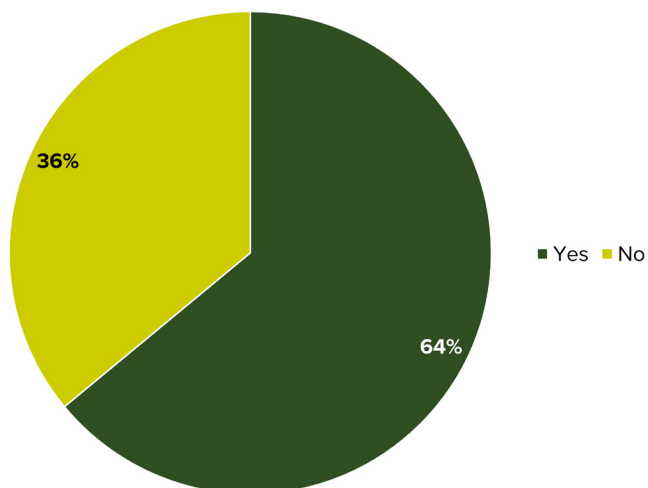
DO YOU PUBLICLY REPORT ON YOUR GHG EMISSIONS?





SCOPE 3 MEASURING AND REPORTING

DO YOU HAVE TARGETS TO REDUCE SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS?

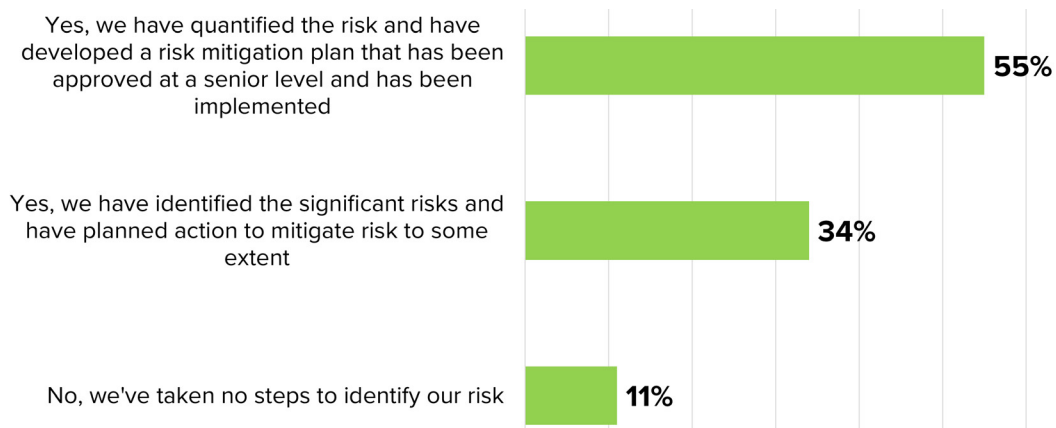


For companies not measuring Scope 3 emissions, the following barriers have been reported:

- Scope 3 emissions are tracked, but the biggest challenge is the reliance on the supply chain to provide accurate data in a timely matter, such as environmental product declarations
- No capacity to fulfil the reporting requirements for scope 3 emissions. However, there are plans to employ relevantly skilled employee(s) to report/measure scope 3 emission on behalf of the company
- Plan to prioritise scope 1 and scope 2 before dealing with scope 3
- Beginning to measure scope 3 emissions but are not at the stage to report on these emissions

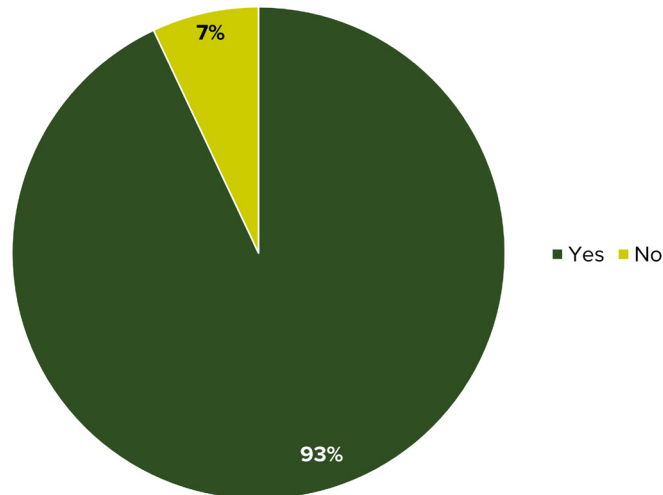
CLIMATE RISK

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED THE POTENTIAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT RISKS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE FOR YOUR ORGANISATION?

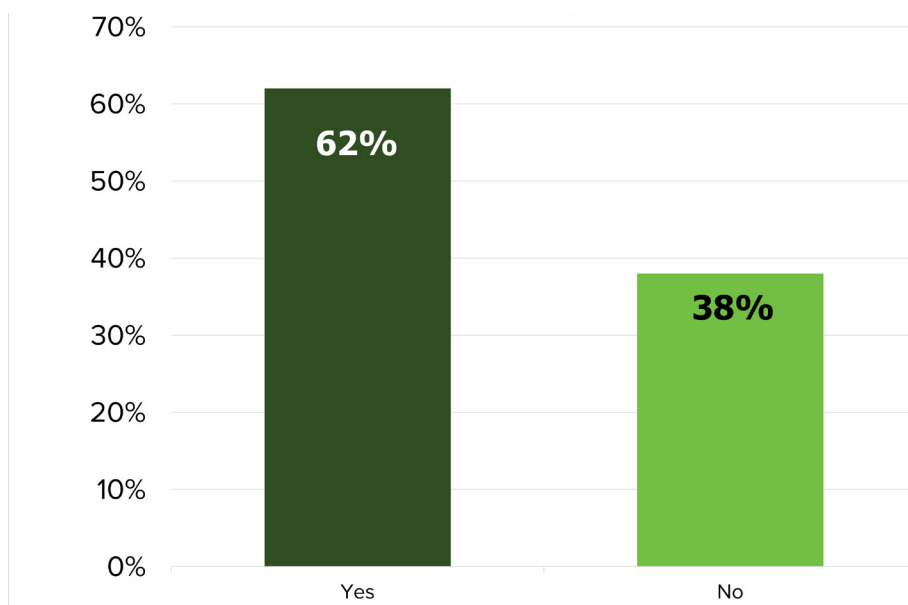




IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO THE ABOVE, ARE THESE CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS ON YOUR ORGANISATION'S RISK REGISTER?



IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, HAVE YOU OBSERVED ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER OR CLIMATE CHANGE ON YOUR BUSINESS?



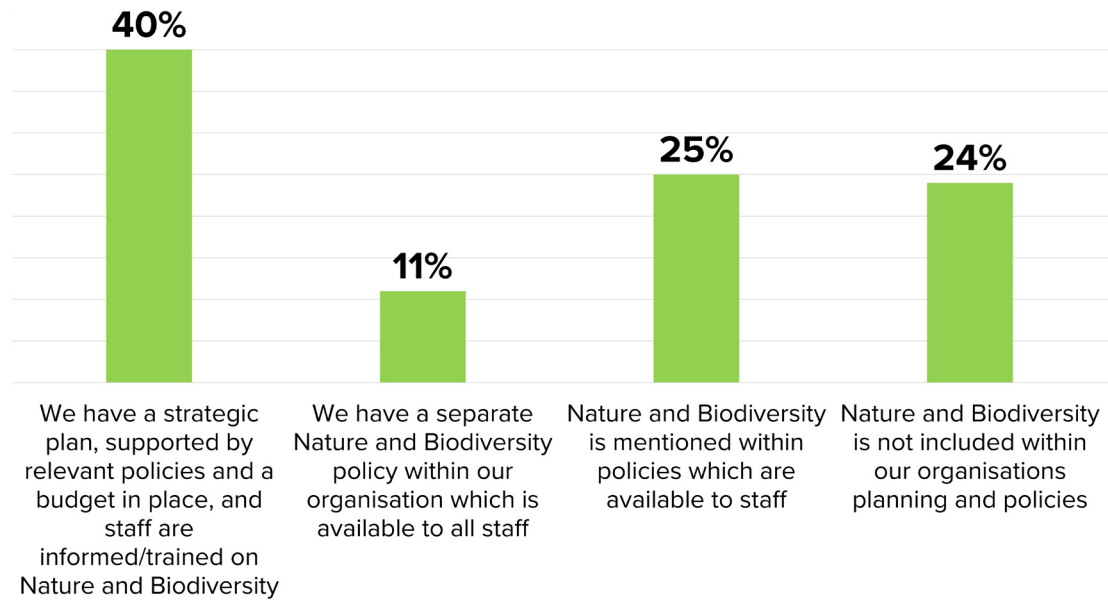
Examples of direct or indirect impacts reported:

- Customer demand for sustainability is driving changes, such as reducing plastic packaging
- Extreme weather (storms, flooding) has directly impacted the supply chain, leading to delays, road closures, and suspension of production for several days
- Insurance premiums are increasing due to climate-related risks, prompting more focus on climate impacts in insurance assessments

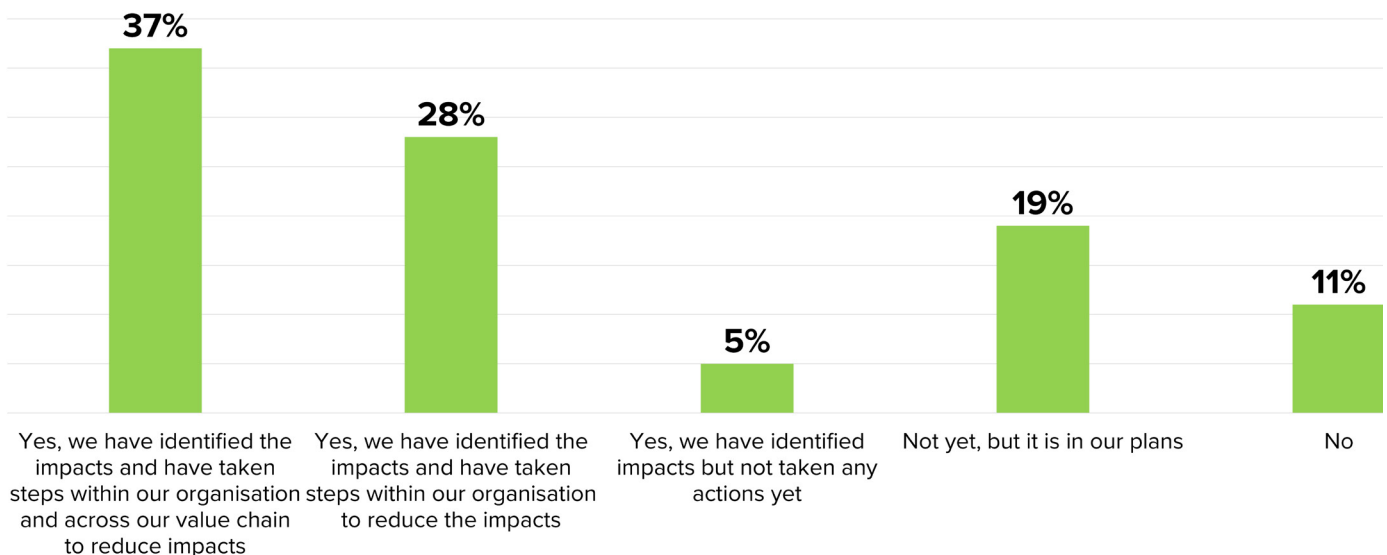


NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

HAS YOUR ORGANISATION INCLUDED NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY IN ITS STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICIES?



HAS YOUR ORGANISATION TAKEN ANY ACTIONS TO IDENTIFY/ REDUCE ITS IMPACT ON NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY WITHIN THE ORGANISATION AND/OR ACROSS ITS VALUE CHAIN?

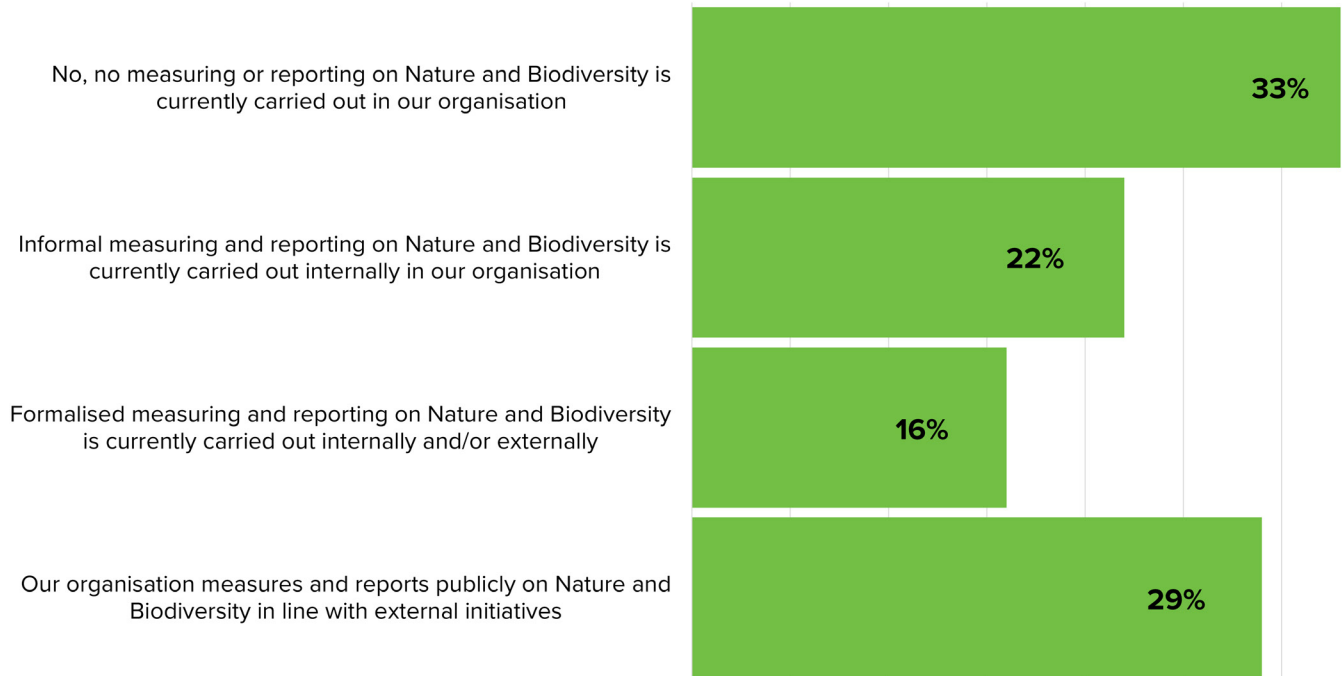


Examples of actions taken:

- Preservation and enhancement of local biodiversity is a fundamental element in our ESG strategy focusing on “Acting as an environmentally responsible business by supporting biodiversity projects and initiatives within the community that we serve.”
- Whilst we understand that planting trees is important, we are very aware of the need to support nature by helping to maintain an ever-decreasing population of insects. We are looking at this as part of our green assets plan.
- Regular Toolbox Talks (TBT) with our sub-contractors that include impacts on nature and biodiversity in order to educate the sub-contractors working on our sites
- Engaging with our sub-contractors and the local community and school cleaning up the local garden area, providing bird boxes, planters, soil and wildflower seeds



DOES YOUR ORGANISATION MEASURE AND REPORT ON NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY?



Participants reported the following challenges in addressing Nature and Biodiversity:

- Some pushback on the introduction of wildflower areas because of a perception that they look "untidy"
- Difficulty acquiring suitable budgets each year to adequately maintain nature and biodiversity projects
- The big challenge is quantifying the impact in projects to enhance biodiversity



ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE BASELINE YEAR V CURRENT YEAR

64%

OF RESPONDENTS
CAN DEMONSTRATE
REDUCTION IN GHG
EMISSIONS

52%

OF RESPONDENTS
CAN DEMONSTRATE A
REDUCTION IN WASTE
PRODUCED

42%

OF RESPONDENTS
CAN DEMONSTRATE A
REDUCTION IN WATER
CONSUMPTION

60%

OF RESPONDENTS
CAN DEMONSTRATE
AN IMPROVEMENT
IN WASTE DIVERTED
FROM LANDFILL

54%

OF RESPONDENTS
CAN DEMONSTRATE
AN IMPROVEMENT IN
THEIR ADDITIONAL
IMPACT AREA

23%

OF RESPONDENTS
CAN DEMONSTRATE
AN IMPROVEMENT
ACROSS **ALL** IMPACT
AREAS



BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY

Business in the Community stands for responsible business. Set up in Northern Ireland in 1989, we now have over 270+ members and are the largest business-led coalition dedicated to corporate responsibility.

www.bitcni.org.uk

E: environment@bitcni.org.uk

BELFAST

Bridge House
Paulett Avenue
Belfast, BT5 4HD
T (028) 9046 0606
E: info@bitcni.org.uk

NORTH WEST OFFICE

BEAM Centre
INVISTA House
Third Street, Maydown
Derry/Londonderry
BT47 6TH
T (028) 7186 1550
E: info@bitcni.org.uk

Registered Details

137 Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7RQ.

Registered Charity No: 297716. Company Limited by Guarantee No: 1619253

