



Recorra 
Real Recycling

Impact Report

2024

Foreword

“

At Recorra, sustainability isn't just something we do, it's the very reason why we exist. From our beginnings collecting paper as Friends of the Earth 35 years ago, to becoming a leading force in ethical waste management today. We've always believed in doing the right thing, for the environment, for our customers, and for our communities.

Over the past year, we've continued to expand what Real Recycling can mean, ensuring businesses across London and the South East can recycle more, waste less, and cut their carbon footprint. We've expanded our electric fleet, trialled HVO fuel to reduce emissions, and introduced cutting-edge AI-powered sorting technology to improve recycling accuracy. We've also enhanced our data-driven reporting to give customers better insight into the environmental impact of their waste generation. We're here to help businesses turn their sustainability ambitions into real action.

But our mission goes beyond waste. Giving back is embedded in how we operate. We're proud to support impactful organisations like Plan Zheroes, Fareshare and Trees for Cities, charities who make a difference not just environmentally, but socially too. This year, we've expanded that reach globally while also rolling up our sleeves closer to home. Our Consultancy Team has led community clean-ups along the Thames and the South Coast, helping to prevent tonnes of plastic from entering our waterways.

This report reflects the progress we've made, and the challenges ahead. As new legislation comes into force and Net Zero targets grow ever closer, we'll continue to help businesses cut waste, stay compliant, and build a truly circular economy.



Bill Swan

Managing Director



Bill Swan, our Managing Director, at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

Contents

UN Sustainable Development Goals	4
Our 2024 impact at a glance	5
Our Carbon Footprint	9
Innovations	10
Driving Green Change	12
Workplace Supplies	14
Sustainability Consulting Team	17
Awards	18
Collaborations	20
Our People	23
Our ESG Team	24
Trade Associations and Corporate Memberships	25
Legislation Updates	26
Looking Ahead	27



Recorra vehicle outside one of our client sites, The Brighton Pavilion



Landmark signpost

UN Sustainable Development Goals

This year marks a decade since the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all members of the United Nations (UN). There are 17 ambitious, often interconnected goals, working towards shared peace and prosperity for people and planet, now and into the future.

Our environmental and social sustainability efforts align closely with the following SDGs in the following ways:



8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

Our commitment to decent work and paying the Living Wage remains as strong as ever, and we maintain our accreditation by the Living Wage Foundation.



9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

This year, we prioritised innovation by investing £3.3 million into cutting-edge technology that bolstered our infrastructure.



10 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

We collected and transported 89,216 tonnes of waste in 2024. Our industry-leading electric fleet reduced carbon tailpipe emissions by 67,622 kgCO₂e, the same amount absorbed by about 3,000 mature trees in a year.



12 - Responsible Consumption and Production Patterns

From waste solutions to emissions to resource use, our sustainability mission is closely integrated with SDG 12. We are adopting new technologies to develop circular, closed-loop products, using 100% recycled bins, and minimising the emissions across our entire supply chain.



13 - Climate Action

Taking action for the climate has been central to Recorra's mission since our founding in 1988. This year, we measured and audited our carbon emissions to the highest international standard: ISO 14064-1. We are driving towards Net Zero, targeting 2050.



15 - Life on Land

The benefits of responsible waste management extend to the protection of wildlife and ecosystems by saving resources to conserve the natural environment. Recorra saves 17 trees per tonne of paper and card recycled, equating to 154,581 trees saved in 2024.

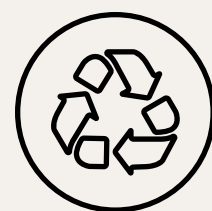


Our 2024 impact at a glance



307

staff across all sites



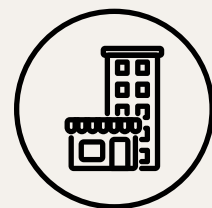
61%

recycling rate achieved
across all Recorra
customers



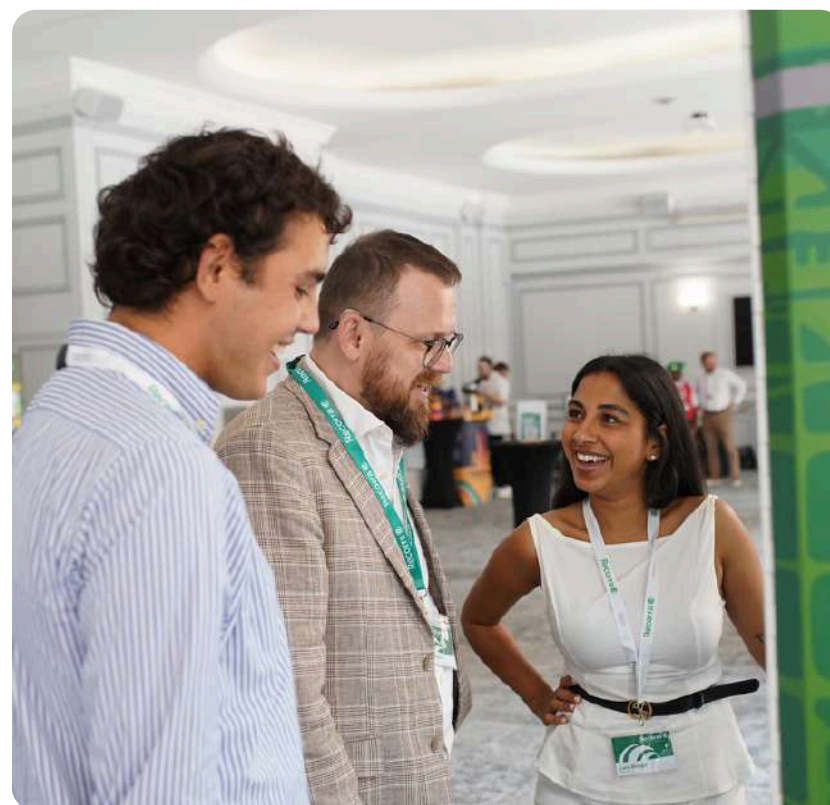
2,755

tutoring lessons donated
to the Children's Literacy
Charity



6,795

sites collected from



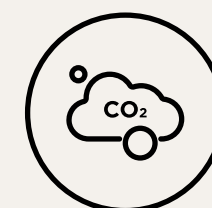
84

vehicles



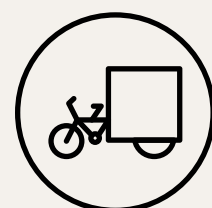
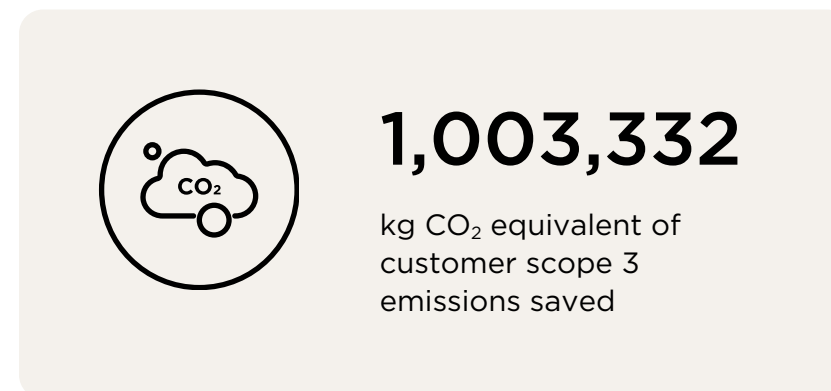
48,859

meals donated to food
redistribution charity



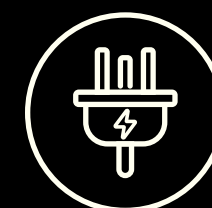
1,003,332

kg CO₂ equivalent of
customer scope 3
emissions saved



3,222

collections completed
through e-bike



8,213

number of homes that
could be powered for a
year using energy from
this 2024's waste (EfW)



415

customer waste
composition audits
completed



Our 2024 impact at a glance

Material Collected

With transparency and innovation at our core, using data to drive continuous improvement is essential to measuring our impact. This year, compared to 2022 and 2023, most of our recycling streams recorded increased collection weights, meaning more materials were diverted from waste, more resources were recovered, and more value was retained within the circular economy.



20%

increase in all materials collected since 2023



22,145

cows worth of food composted



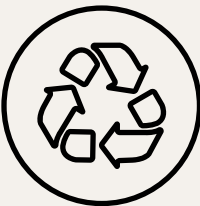
2,503

asian elephants worth of glass recycled



15.8%

increase in compostable packaging collected



20%

increase in recycled material collected since 2023



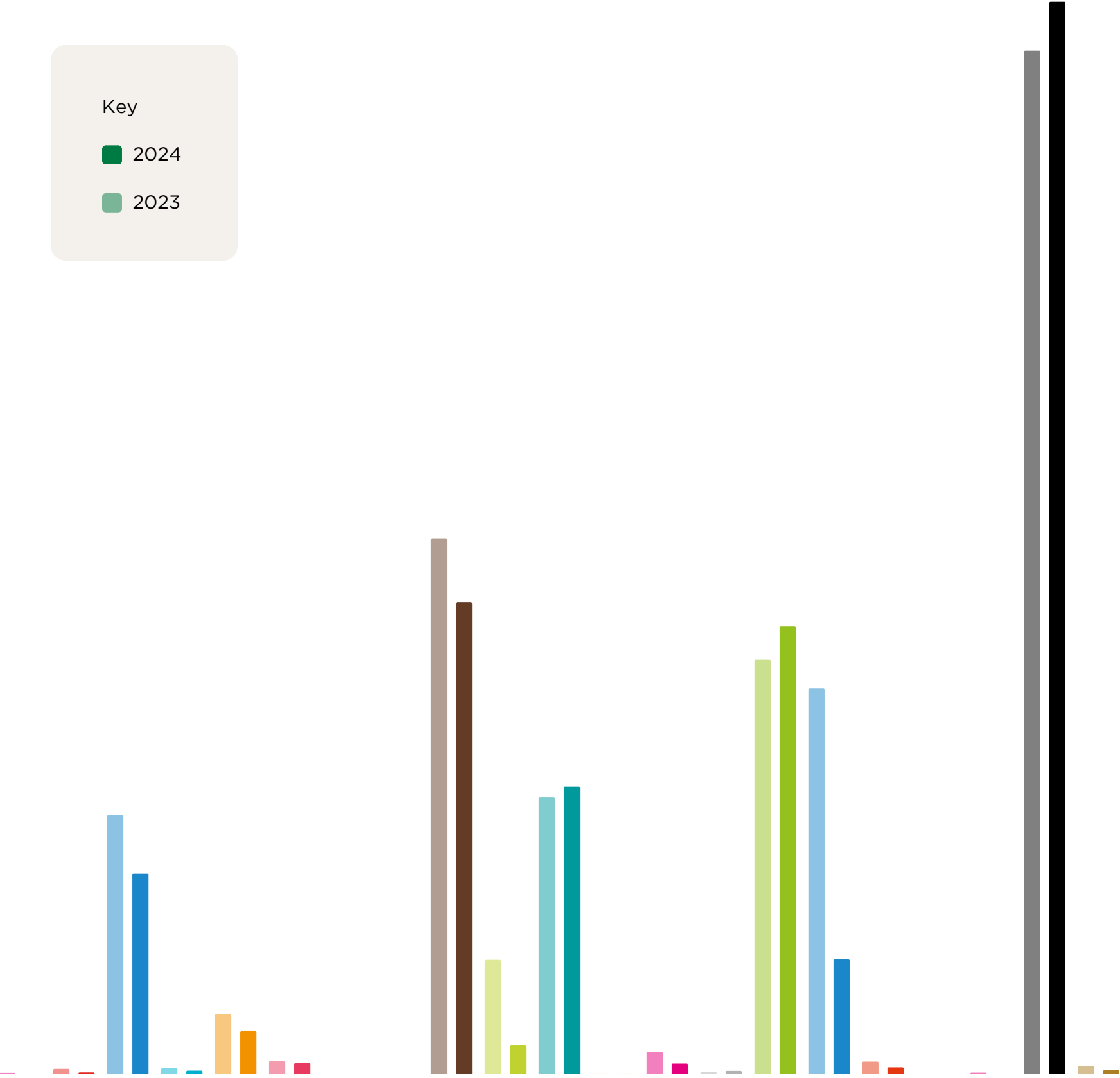
69

olympic swimming pools of water saved through cardboard and paper recycling



Material Stream	2023 (Kg)	2024 (Kg)	% difference
Batteries	6,676	4,371	-34.5%
Cans & plastics	56,128	49,099	-12.5%
Cardboard	5,872,975	6,384,671	+8.7%
Coffee cups	87,796	96,236	+9.6%
Coffee grounds	1,055,244	1,216,722	+15.3%
Compostables	263,923	313,396	+18.7%
Construction waste	9,140	-	-
Fluorescent tubes	1,824	1,780	-2.4%
Food	12,620,287	15,058,520	+19.3%
Furniture	340,148	658,466	+93.5%
Glass	7,303,152	9,586,138	+31.2%
Hazardous waste	15,153	21,213	+39.9%
IT equipment	380,312	288,163	-24.2%
Metal	32,295	94,450	+192.4%
Mixed recycling	13,053,377	16,465,270	+26.1%
Paper	3,220,713	3,085,272	-4.2%
Plastic	253,648	215,386	-15.0%
Textiles	4,445	7,239	+62.8%
Toners	14,462	14,314	-1.0%
Waste	29,601,337	35,532,060	+20.0%
Wood	140,222	116,478	-16.9%
Total	74,333,300	89,215,557	+20.0%
Material Recycled	44,707,627	53,662,284	+20.0%

Our 2024 impact at a glance



Material Stream	2023	2024
Batteries	436	154
Cans & plastics	1,712	649
Cardboard	83,906	74,225
Coffee cups	1,902	1,301
Coffee grounds	19,479	15,933
Compostables	4,269	4,082
Construction waste	90	0
Fluorescent tubes	32	25
Food	173,523	174,650
Furniture	37,091	10,742
Glass	89,612	106,550
Hazardous waste	242	245
IT equipment	7,222	3,917
Metal	678	1,211
Mixed recycling	134,210	165,839
Paper	124,931	42,533
Plastic	4,059	2,505
Textiles	85	97
Toners	508	197
Waste	331,556	396,976
Wood	2,674	1,501
Total	1,018,217	1,003,332

Carbon Emissions of Waste Collections

These are the emissions from burning fuel in our trucks while collecting waste, and the electricity required to sort those materials at our MRF. These are our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which our clients' report as their scope 3.

We provide this data as part of our commitment to transparency and calculated in line with ISO 14064-1. As the volumes of waste we collect grows, our job is to keep minimising the emissions from collections.

In 2024, we did just that, cutting our customers' total Scope 3 emissions by nearly 15,000 kg CO₂e. That's the same amount of emissions produced by the electricity use of an average UK household over 10 years.

Our 2024 impact at a glance

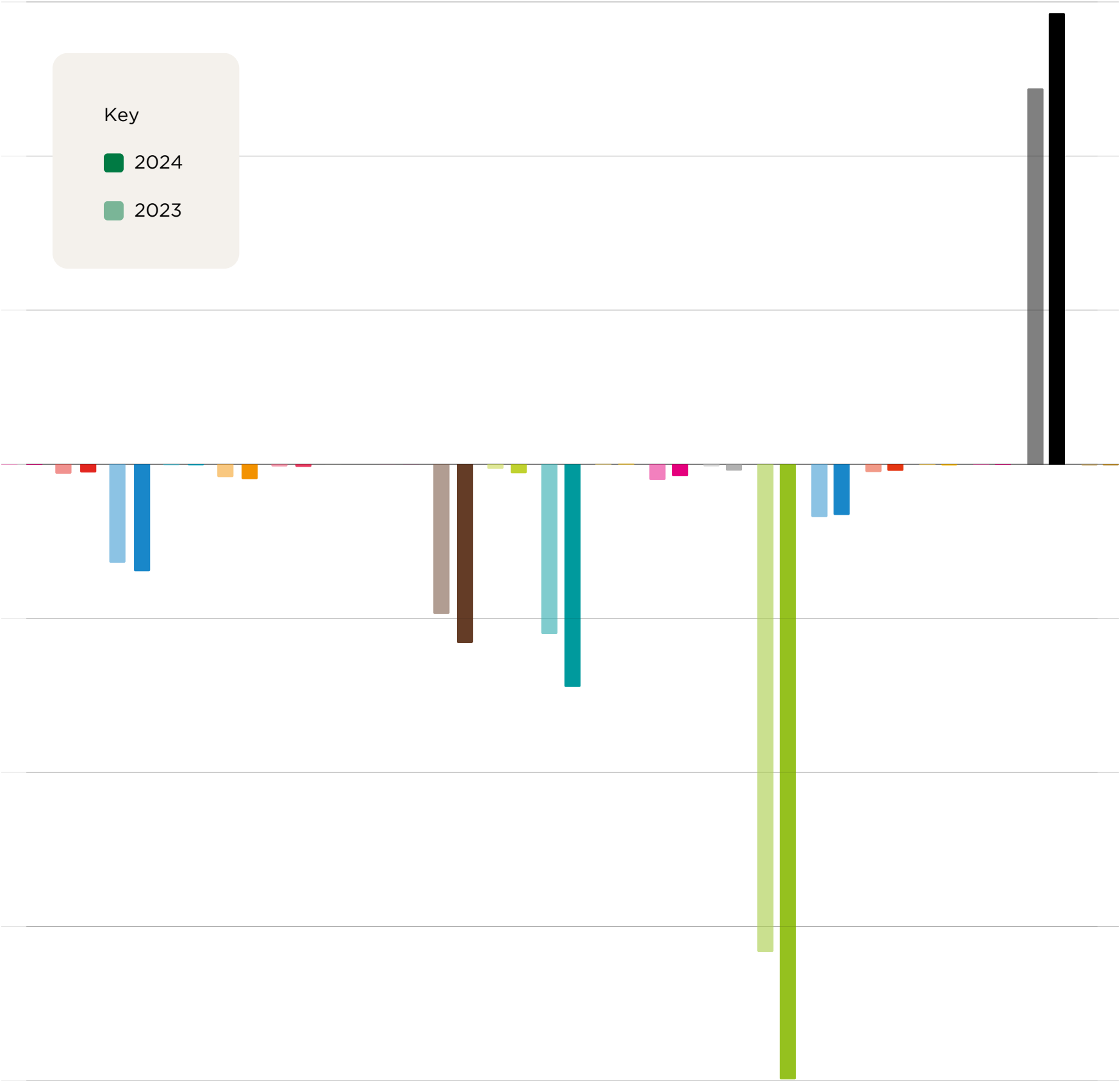
Net Avoided Emissions

Our net avoided emissions are the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions prevented from being released into the atmosphere by recycling rather than sending materials to landfill.

It gives us an idea of how effective each of our streams is at reducing emissions.

Growing our net avoided emissions year on year is vital to our Net Zero mission.

Material Stream	2023	2024
Batteries	-9,584	-15,337
Cans & plastics	-306,782	-268,363
Cardboard	-3,195,085	-3,473,464
Coffee cups	-35,282	-38,674
Coffee grounds	-418,093	-482,071
Compostables	-72,663	-86,284
Construction waste	-691	0
Fluorescent tubes	-1,421	-1,387
Food	-4,858,186	-5,796,785
Furniture	-151,026	-292,359
Glass	-5,505,209	-7,226,153
Hazardous waste	12,507	17,510
IT equipment	-513,041	-388,732
Metal	-71,043	-207,772
Mixed recycling	-15,820,693	-19,955,907
Paper	-1,716,293	-1,645,961
Plastic	-252,887	-214,739
Textiles	-25,853	-42,103
Toners	-14,024	-13,880
Waste	12,195,751	14,639,209
Wood	-47,099	-39,124
Total	-20,806,697	-25,532,376

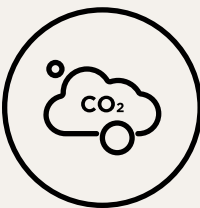
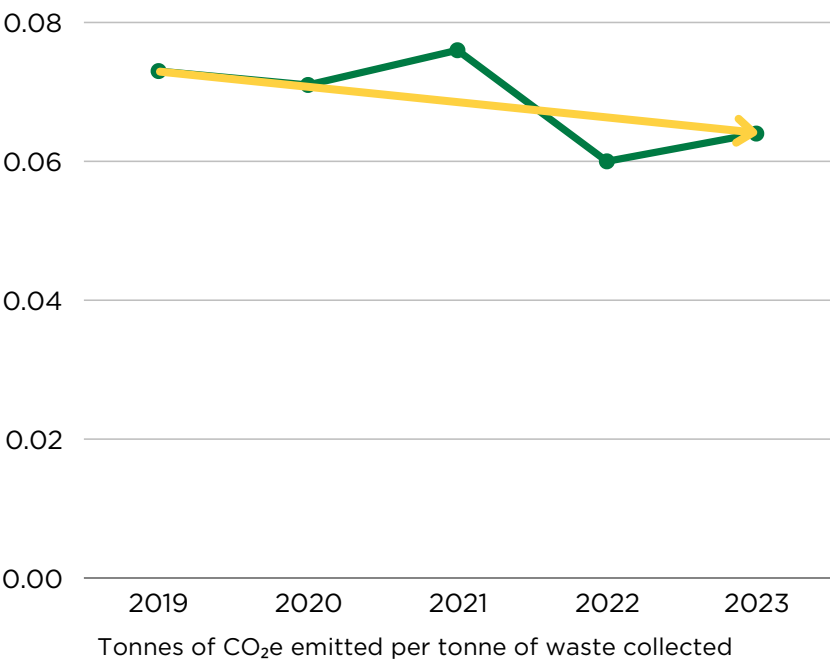


Our Carbon Footprint

The field of calculating carbon footprints (known as carbon accounting) is still in its infancy. Varying calculation methods make it difficult to effectively compare results across different businesses.

At Recorra, we take our data very seriously. This year, to ensure robust and accurate reporting, we measured and audited our emissions to the highest international standard and achieved the ISO 14064-1 certification.

This standard is largely transferable with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHGP), the globally recognised benchmark for carbon accounting and demonstrates the reliability of our data.



13%

decrease in carbon intensity since 2019

“

‘We measure and audit our company emissions to the highest international standard: ISO 14064-1’

Kirsten Zoe Smith

Environmental / Net Zero Strategist

Scope Emissions

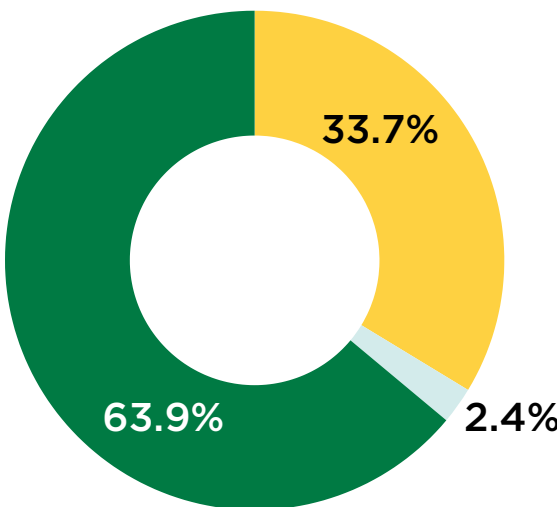
- Scope 1: Direct emissions from activities such as burning diesel in our trucks’ combustion engines
- Scope 2: Emissions generated by the electricity purchased to power our offices and MRF.
- Scope 3: Indirect supply chain emissions from upstream and downstream activities

2024 Scope Emissions

Scope 1

Scope 2

Scope 3



What is ISO?

The standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), are internationally recognised guidelines that help organisations improve quality, safety, and efficiency in various fields, from quality management to environmental protection.

ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organisation.

- ISO 9001: Quality management systems
- ISO 14001: Environmental management systems
- ISO 45001: Occupational health and safety management systems.

Mountain range surrounded by forrests

Innovations

Our drive for progress

The mission of the Product & Innovation Department at Recorra is to find environmentally conscious and economically viable ways to recycle as many materials as possible. This year has been no different!

We have been working hard to find even more circular processes that extend the lifespan of materials, all while taking action to reduce carbon emissions.

Our attitude is that there is always more that can be done and we'll continue on this trajectory in 2025.



James George

Head of Product, Innovation & Circularity

With over a decade of experience across sustainability, energy and innovation, James specialises in developing new and exciting recycling services for London and the South East's businesses. Passionate about reducing waste and carbon, increasing recycling levels and maximising resource usage; he turns ideas into deliverable commercial solutions for our customers.

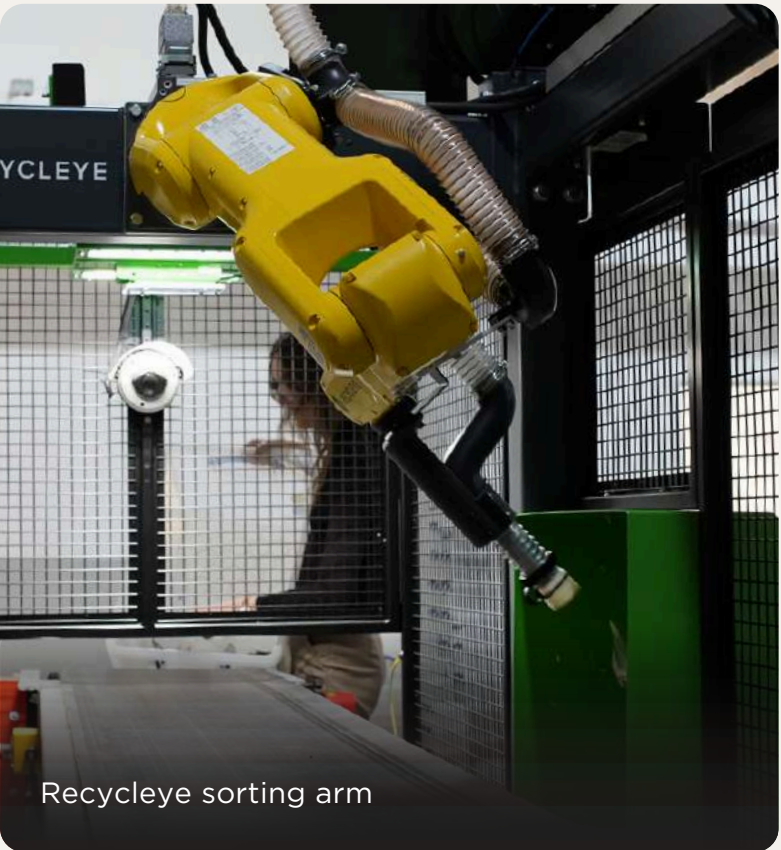
Technology & Operations Innovations

AI-Powered Robotic Sorting Arm

This year, we invested in a cutting edge AI-powered sorting arm for our materials recovery facility (MRF), developed by Recycleye.

Capable of sorting up to 60 items per minute, this £300,000 investment will improve levels of safety, efficiency, and accuracy by automating the sorting process. We will also gain real-time waste data through an online dashboard.

Due Summer 2025, come and visit our MRF once it's installed!



Recycleye sorting arm



The Smarter Way to Weigh

Weight data is an essential part of our operations and is increasingly important to our customers.

Over 2024 we continued to develop our ground-breaking SmartWeigh system, working alongside Limetrack to assist with their patent-pending solution for self-weighing bins.

With Limetrack, customers can measure volumes across areas of their operations, including multi-tenanted buildings. Following rigorous testing, we aim to launch this later in 2025.

Closed Loop Bins

“Closing the loop” in the circular economy means using products made from recycled materials. This year, we extended this to our bins.

In 2024, we partnered with ESE and Wessex Recycling to recycle our old bins into all-new bins.

Our bins are made from up to 100% post-consumer recycled material (PCR). Compared with processing virgin high-density polyethylene (HDPE), the production of PCR saves 100% of raw oil, 65% of CO₂e, and 88% of energy.



Mixed recycling wheeled bin

Innovations

Carbon Reduction

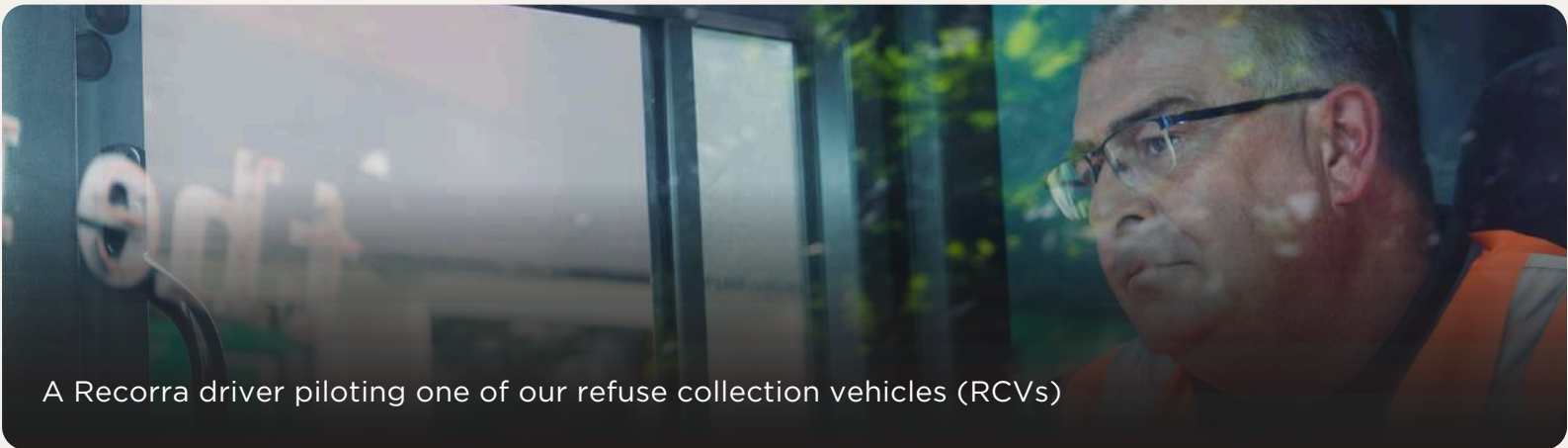
HVO Fuel

In 2024, we made the decision to adopt hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel in our trucks. This biofuel is derived from waste oils and fats and will decrease each of our vehicles emissions by around 85% compared to fossil diesel.

HVO emissions are considered biogenic and have a neutral impact on the climate; they simply cycle through the carbon system.

This special type of biofuel is manufactured to be chemically identical to diesel. This means it can act as a direct replacement to diesel and performs in much the same way. Keep your eyes peeled in 2025 for further updates.

HVO will decrease each of our vehicles emissions by around 85% compared to fossil diesel.



A Recorra driver piloting one of our refuse collection vehicles (RCVs)

Electric Vehicles Update

We are transitioning our fleet of vehicles to fully electric models as part of our Net Zero mission. In 2024 the total number of electric collection vehicles grew to five. We're driving towards 2040, where we aim to have a zero-emissions fleet.

In 2025, we will introduce a further two new electric vehicles to our fleet: an electric box truck, and an electric roll-on roll-off (Ro-Ro), which will be the first of its kind in the UK, made by industry leading manufacturer, Scania.

These additions will increase the proportion of electric vehicles in our road fleet by 22% year over year.



Green waste at Broadgate

Service Innovations

Green Waste

This year we launched our green waste service to collect garden waste, such as flower trimmings, leaves, grass, and branches.

This service enables customers, particularly those in the public realm or with estate teams, to compost garden waste at a local green waste facility. This sustainable process turns green waste into high-quality soil.

Secure Workwear Recycling

In 2024, we undertook a trial of our secure workwear recycling service for customers for branded workwear and uniforms. This service enables our customers to securely send their branded clothing to us for confidential shredding.

Items with over 40% natural fibre can be turned into an insulation construction material. Lower grade fibres are sent for energy recovery.

We will fully launch this service in 2025.

Aluminium Composite (Dibond) Recycling

This niche stream is a solution for aluminium composite (Dibond), a material used in signage and model making. We continue to establish niche recycling solutions, finding innovative processes that genuinely add value for our customers.

“

“We continue to establish niche recycling solutions for our customers, finding genuine and value-adding recycling processes.”

James George

Head of Product, Innovation & Circularity



Oliver Swan, Senior Portfolio Manager, and Sam White, Commercial Support Executive, on a floor walk

Driving Green Change



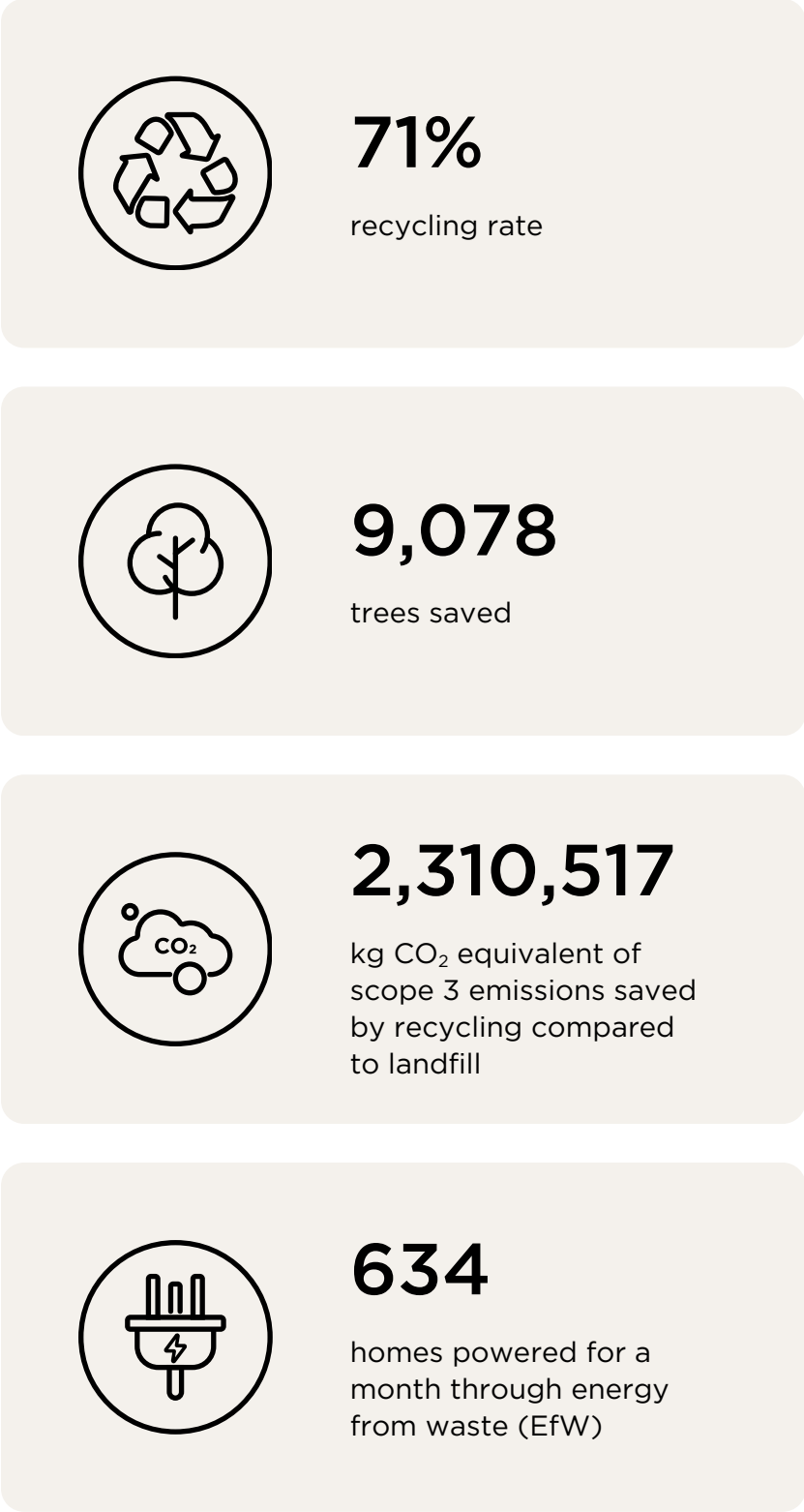
Landsec

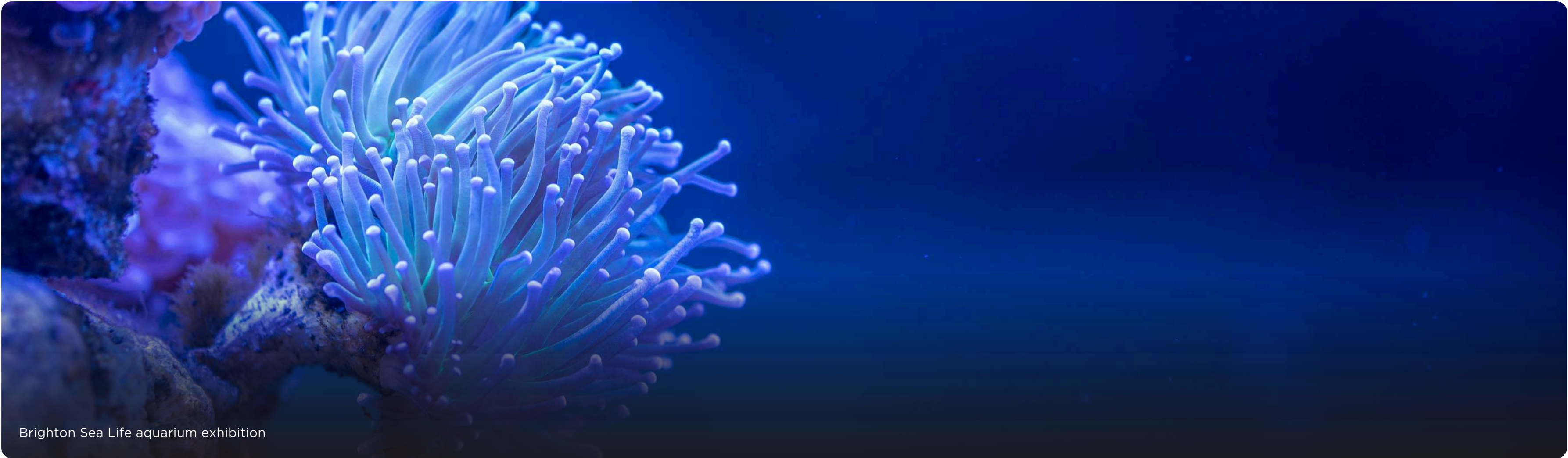
Landsec is the UK's largest commercial property development and investment company, with 20 sites across Victoria and the City of London. We began the partnership in April 2024 and have already achieved several significant milestones:

- We have introduced our Green Waste Recycling stream, which won the Innovation Award at the 2024 Landsec Aspire awards.
- At selected sites, we rolled out our dedicated coffee cup and coffee grounds recycling, resulting in the creation of over 9,000 coffee logs in just 8 months!
- Lansec and their service partners were a trial customer for our secure textiles recycling services, introducing yet another recycling service, both protecting security and finding another way to recycle.
- Up to 40% of Landsec's collections were completed using Electric Vehicles each month
- As well as contributing to tutoring sessions through the Children's Literacy Charity, old laptops collected from Landsec's sites were donated to their chosen charity Caxton Youth.

This year, our Sustainability Consulting Team held multiple waste awareness days with Landsec and led tours of our MRF for employees, giving them first-hand experience of the recycling process.

Landsec has achieved:





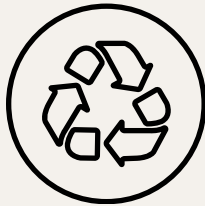
Brighton Sea Life aquarium exhibition

Driving Green Change



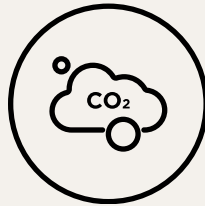
Sea Life Brighton is home to 5,500 aquatic animals and has long been dedicated to protecting sea life. A plastic-free ocean is one of their biggest aspirations, and with Recorra’s help, they are reducing their plastic use across the site while raising public awareness of the dangers of plastic waste.

Their biggest challenges included issues with public engagement, difficulty reducing their reliance on plastic within everyday activities, and finding space for multiple bins. By conducting waste audits, Recorra was able to find solutions for all of these challenges. The volume and sources of plastic waste were identified, custom bin stores and signage were designed, and comprehensive waste and recycling management was enacted with clear and thorough reporting.



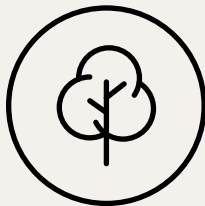
61%

recycling rate, up from 51% in January 2024



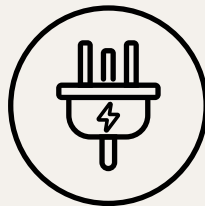
12,886

kg CO₂ equivalent of scope 3 emissions saved



12

trees saved



34

homes powered for a month through energy from waste (EfW)

Workplace Supplies



Jamie Cullen

Head of Circular Economy Products and Services

Jamie is one of our resident circular economy experts with over 20 years of experience in the industry. He has been with Recorra for the past 12 years, playing a key role in developing sustainable office solutions that help businesses reduce their carbon footprint.

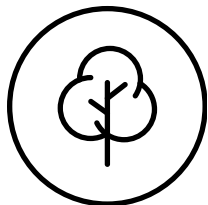
Our Office Supplies and Sustainable Procurement department was born as a solution for our customers wanting to buy back their recycled materials as new office supplies, closing the loop on waste.

This year our department has seen an increase in demand across products, from our fully circular paper to sustainable workwear and office furniture.



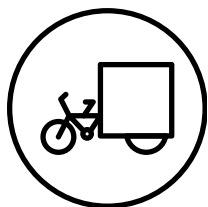
3,028

deliveries made



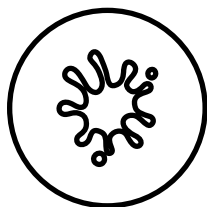
515

trees saved through buying recycled paper



73%

of deliveries completed by E-Bike



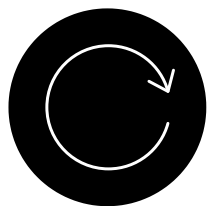
888,531

litres of water saved through buying recycled paper



3,332

sustainable products available



12%

increase in sustainable product purchases





National Theatre Bankside site

Workplace Supplies

National Theatre

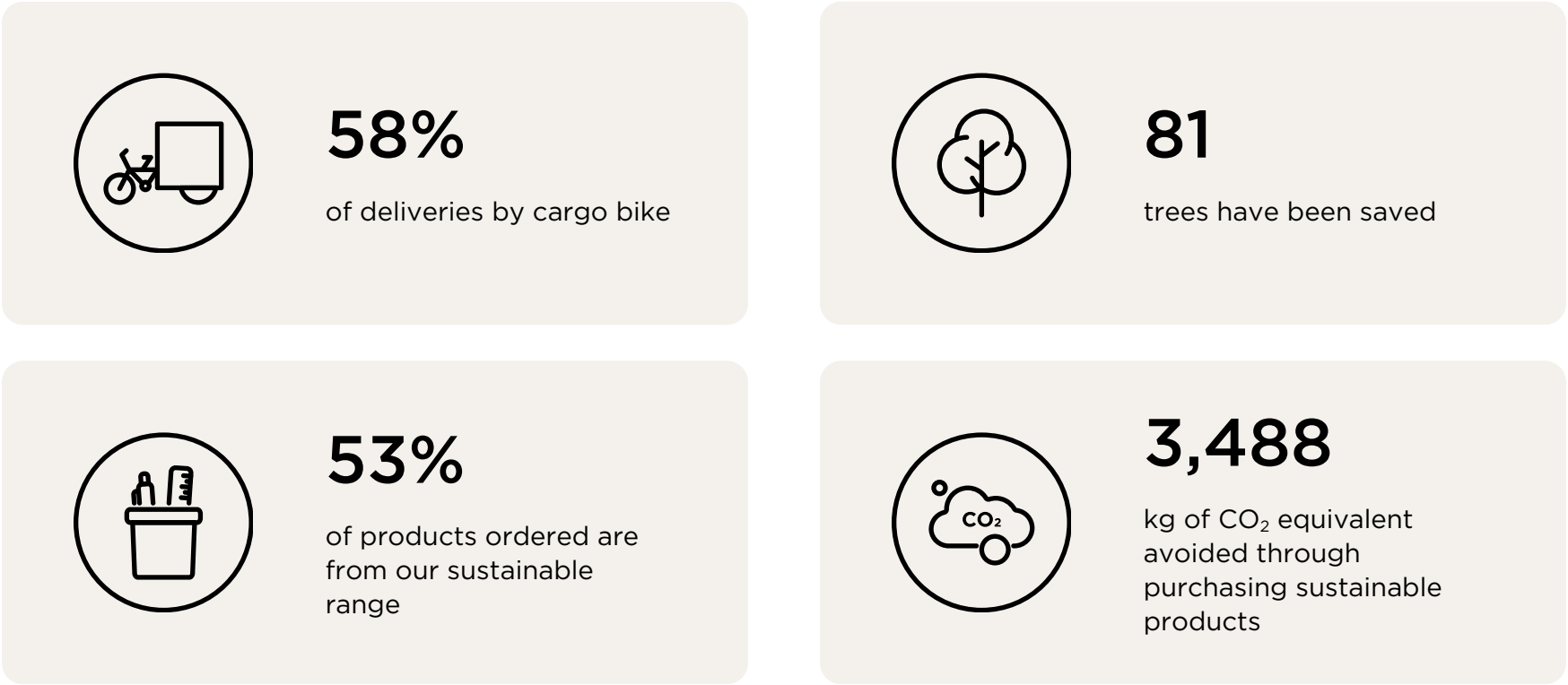
Recorra has been recycling with the National Theatre for the past 20 years, and this year, we have started supporting them with their sustainable procurement.

They have switched to our circular economy paper, saving the equivalent of 98 trees, 4,185kg of co2, 10,988kwh of energy, 168,176 litres of water since beginning this switch.

Through our waste audits, we identified multiple ways to maximise recycling and minimise waste.

With changing sets and new pieces constantly coming in, sustainable procurement and carbon-efficient deliveries have been an important part of Recorra’s partnership with the National Theatre. The theatre recycles over 20 waste streams and its carbon emissions from waste have fallen by an estimated 16,000kg.

By working together, we achieved:



Workplace Supplies



Located in the heart of London is the towering Ropemaker Place, one of Recorra's customers. Through our work together, Ropemaker has experienced incredible success with their waste management, achieving a recycling rate of 87% in 2024.

This year, Recorra have provided Ropemaker with 100% recycled hi-vis vests, created from plastic bottles

Created by Leo Workwear, these hi-vis vests are made from 100% recycled post-consumer plastic bottles! As ready-to-use workwear, these conform to the ISO 20471 standard, guaranteed as long-lasting and high-performance industrial workwear.

Through their EcoViz brand, Leo Workwear is responsible for saving over one million plastic bottles and 100 million litres of water from going to waste compared to using virgin plastic.



Hi-vis made from 100% recycled plastic bottles

Sustainability Consulting Team

In 2024 our sustainability team evolved into the Sustainability Consultancy Team, reflecting our shift towards delivering expert guidance and tailored sustainability strategies as we embrace a future-focused approach.

Behind the Behaviour Change

Behaviour change is the foundation for improving recycling rates and achieving meaningful environmental progress. Beyond recycling services, we provide education, awareness and engagement as the key to driving lasting change.

Our team works closely with clients to empower businesses to make informed decisions, reduce waste, maximise recycling rates, and stay compliant with evolving legislation.

The Results?

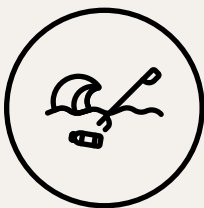
Aiding the transition to a circular economy is just the start. We help cut our customers waste management costs, increase profitability and demonstrate dedication to sustainability to enhance your company's reputation.

Sustainability Pathways

Our Sustainability Pathway is a comprehensive, bespoke plan created by our consultants to enhance recycling rates, optimise waste management, and increase on-site education for every client.

These have been revitalised, now incorporating an accelerated six-month strategic plan to support our customers in achieving their long-term sustainability objectives.

A year in numbers:



1,150

kg waste collected from beach cleans



1,918

hours of engagement completed on site



1,061

webinar attendees



1,724

improvement strategies



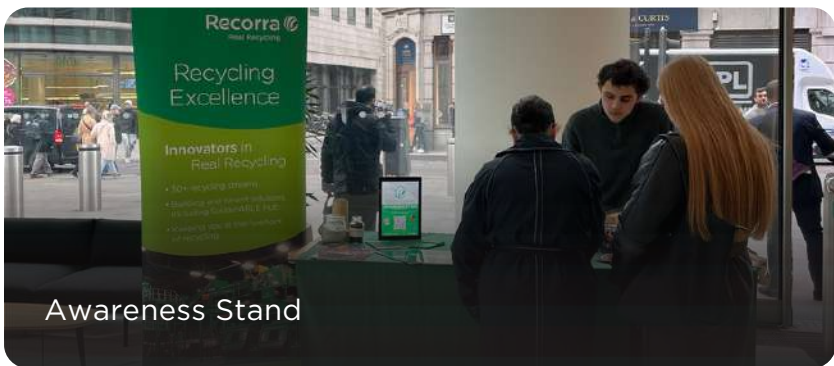
Awareness Stand



Sustainability Consulting Team



Annual Zoo event



Awareness Stand



MRF Tour



Beach Clean

Customer Awards

Throughout 2024, Recorra and our customers celebrated many award wins.

These accolades reflect our and our customers' ongoing mission to lead the way in sustainable waste management, helping businesses reduce their environmental impact while driving positive change.



Principle Cleaning Green Apple Award



The Green Apple Awards honor excellence in sustainability and environmental innovation, recognising individuals and organisations for outstanding eco-friendly initiatives.

Winners in partnership with Recorra

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Peartree Springer Nature | Brookfield Properties |
| Atlas FM: Paramount Global | Avison Young |
| Kings Cross | National Theatre |
| Principle Cleaning Services: Park House Oxford Street and 48 Pall Mall | |
| Derwent London | |



Brookfield Properties Green Apple Award



Peartree Springer Nature Green Apple Award



Avison Young Green Apple Award



The Global Good Awards celebrate businesses, NGOs, and social enterprises driving sustainability and positive change worldwide. Established in 2015, they recognise impactful, ethical leadership across various sectors. Recorra was awarded in partnership with the National Theatre for our collaborative efforts in reducing waste and promoting sustainability.

- Bronze Waste Reduction and Minimisation



National Theatre at Global Good Awards night

Awards



The National Sustainability Awards celebrate excellence in sustainable business practices, innovation, and environmental stewardship, recognising the significant impacts individuals and organisations have made. In partnership with Tork/Essity, Recorra won an award for our industry-first paper towel recycling scheme, which has successfully recycled over 65,000 kg of paper towels.

Gold - Circular and Recycling Award for Product Recycling



National Sustainability Awards night

Company and Employee

Recorra and our employees have also been recognised for excellence in service innovation, ethical business practices, and supporting our clients in maximising the value of their waste.

Build Magazine - Facilities Management Awards
Best Commercial Recycling & Waste Management Firm in Southern England

Every Day Giving
Excellence Award

SME Business Awards
Gold - SME of the Year

Office Friendly 30th Conference 2024
Social Sustainability Award

Let's Recycle Waste World Cup
Waste World Cup Winners

Nominations and Finalist Recognitions

In addition to our wins, Recorra was a 2024 finalist for several prestigious awards.

Edie Awards Finalist
Lloyds Bank Sustainable Business of the Year

MRW National Recycling Awards Shortlist
Team of the Year with Battersea

MRW National Recycling Awards Shortlist
Recycling Excellence - Site Management with Brookfield

MRW National Recycling Awards Shortlist
Recycling Excellence - Site Management with Citypoint

MRW National Recycling Awards Shortlist
Recycling Excellence - Site Management with 8 Bishopsgate



SME Business Awards 2024



Office Friendly Awards 2024



Waste World Cup 2024

Collaborations

Charities

Choosing Recorra means choosing a commitment to giving back to local communities. We make a genuine impact on the environment and communities within our company programs. We have donated over £550,000 to our selected charities, including Trees for Cities, FareShare, Plan Zheroes, London Zoo, Friends of the Earth and the Children’s Literacy Charity. The update for each of our partners is detailed below.



Recorra staff volunteering for PlanZheroes



Plan Zheroes facilitates the donation of surplus food directly to communities in need, working towards a future free from both food waste and food poverty.

At Recorra, we’re proud to support this mission by donating the equivalent of one meal to Plan Zheroes for every food waste collection we complete in London. In 2024, this equalled 48,860 meals!

Our staff also participated in multiple volunteering sessions with Plan Zheroes at Borough Market this year, helping collect surplus food from vendors one day and cooking meals at a community centre in Elephant and Castle the next day.



ZSL conducts groundbreaking research in wildlife conservation, producing world-leading studies in biodiversity science.

In 2022, thanks to our customers’ support, we contributed an additional £15,000 to ZSL London to fund conservation projects for critically endangered species.



Trees for Cities is the only UK charity dedicated to large-scale urban tree planting, making a lasting impact on city landscapes. In 2024, we saw 500 trees planted on behalf of our customers through trees for cities.

Our journey began with waste paper collection from businesses in Central London, instilling a deep appreciation for tree conservation in our ethos. For nearly three decades, we’ve proudly supported Trees for Cities in their mission to keep our urban spaces green and thriving.



FareShare redistributes surplus food to charities and communities in the UK. For over nine years, our South East team has participated in FareShare volunteering days and donated the equivalent of one meal for every food waste collection we make.

FareShare is passionate about sustainability, and we have seen an impressive increase in their recycling rate for the past year: 88% to 96%.



As part of Recorra’s commitment to social sustainability, we support the Childrens Literacy Charity.

Between 2024 and 2025, we donated £4,935 on behalf of our customers towards tutoring sessions through the Children’s Literacy Charity. Thanks to their BigGive campaign, this donation was doubled, meaning nearly 500 children received support through our partnership this year!

We also donate one tutoring session for every 15 computers we collect to the Children’s Literacy Charity, and we have recently surpassed 1,200 tutoring sessions.





Broadgate team collecting Green Waste ready for collection

Collaborations

Partnerships

BROADGATE

Upon initiating our partnership with Broadgate, we identified a significant challenge: a substantial volume of greenery and landscaping waste was being sent for incineration due to the absence of a viable commercial composting stream. In collaboration with the on-site landscaping team, Q&S Ltd, and campus management, we developed an innovative solution - our Green Waste Stream.

Since July 2024, the landscaping team has been collecting all plant, tree, and hedge trimmings at two designated locations on campus, totalling 3,598kg (from July 2024 – January 2025).



Recorra have had the pleasure of collaborating with Restaurants Brighton in the South East, partnering on their 'Sustainability toolkit' which focuses on 5 key factors:

- Water
- Energy
- Food waste
- General waste
- Social sustainability

The aim of this toolkit is to help the Brighton hospitality industry to recycle more, moving materials from their general waste to recycling streams! With this toolkit, we expect to see a substantial increase in the recycling rates of restaurants in Brighton.

We have also sponsored the Plant Champions' category at the Restaurants Brighton BRAVO awards, with the previous winner of this category being a Recorra customer!



In 2020, Recorra began our partnership with Vegware to transform clients' compostable packaging into closed-loop compost and fertiliser. Together with WRAP, we commissioned the first sorting line in the UK to sort Vegware Compostables. This allowed us to upscale our service and provide a consistently high-quality product free from contamination.

Compostable packaging is sent for in-vessel composting at EnVar, where it is transformed into a peat-free PAS 100 compost to be used as a soil improver in local agriculture.



Collaborations

Events



Recorra's South East Managing Director, Darren Hedges, took the stage at the 2024 'How Circular is Brighton and Hove' event.

He gave insights into the importance of responsible waste management to the circular economy and showcased Recorra's closed loop recycling solutions demonstrating how businesses can turn waste into valuable resources and drive real environmental change.

IEMA Transforming the world to sustainability

As part of our ongoing commitment to knowledge development and sharing, we were delighted to present at the IEMA Circular Cities: Advancing Waste Solutions event at The Crown Estate.

Sioned Thomas, Head of Marketing & Content, and Matthew McVeigh, Head of Engagement, presented on Circular Cities, highlighting innovative strategies to help cities like London transition toward a circular economy.

Challenges

Landsec's Snowdon 360 Challenge

Our team members embarked on Landsec's Snowdon 360 Challenge. This 29-mile trek across Snowdonia was embarked upon to raise money for Caxton Youth Organisation, a specialist youth club based in Westminster for learning disabled and autistic young people.

Colliers Extreme 5k Mudathon

Under torrential rain, our team took part in the Colliers Extreme 5k Mudathon to help raise awareness for charities such as Breast Cancer Now, Scoliosis Support and Research, and My Time for Young Carers.

100 Bishopsgate Challenge

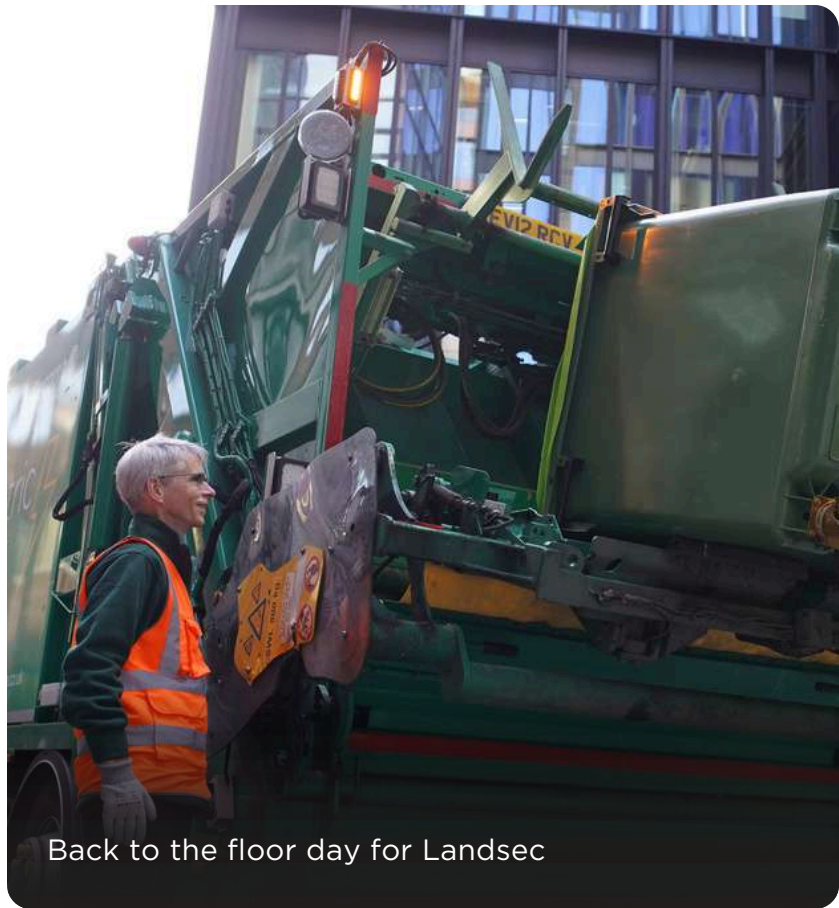
Racing up 41 flights of stairs equalling the height of Mount Everest, our team raised over £10,650 for the charity Every Life Has A Purpose. This charity does incredible work facilitating adventure and nature play opportunities for young people with disabilities and complex needs.

Abseiling Down St.Thomas' Hospital

In support of the amazing work achieved through the Guys' and St.Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, our team abseiled 160 feet down the front of the hospital.

Back to the floor day for Landsec

Our Managing Director, Bill Swan, took part in Landsec's 'Back To The Floor Day', dedicated to getting top executives back on the front line. This gave Bill the opportunity to connect with colleagues from different departments and continue to gain valuable insights into the operational running of our Material Recovery Facility as well as being on the road with our collection operatives.



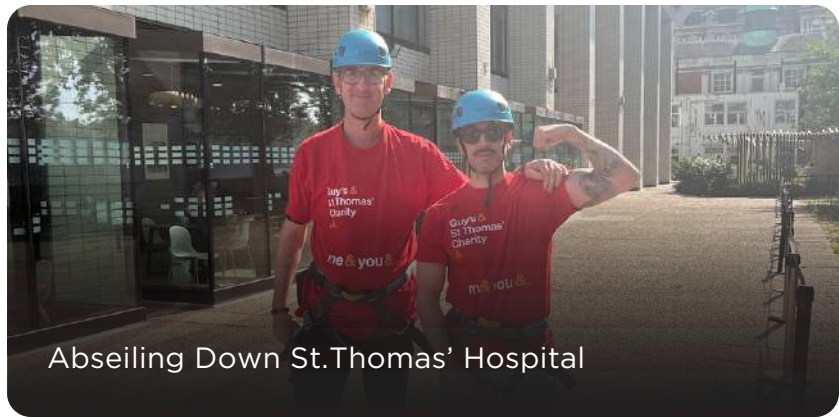
Back to the floor day for Landsec



100 Bishopsgate Challenge



Colliers Extreme 5k Mudathon



Abseiling Down St.Thomas' Hospital



Recorra at IEMA Circular Cities



Landsec's Snowdon 360 Challenge



Waste World Cup Team



Recorra Staff Party



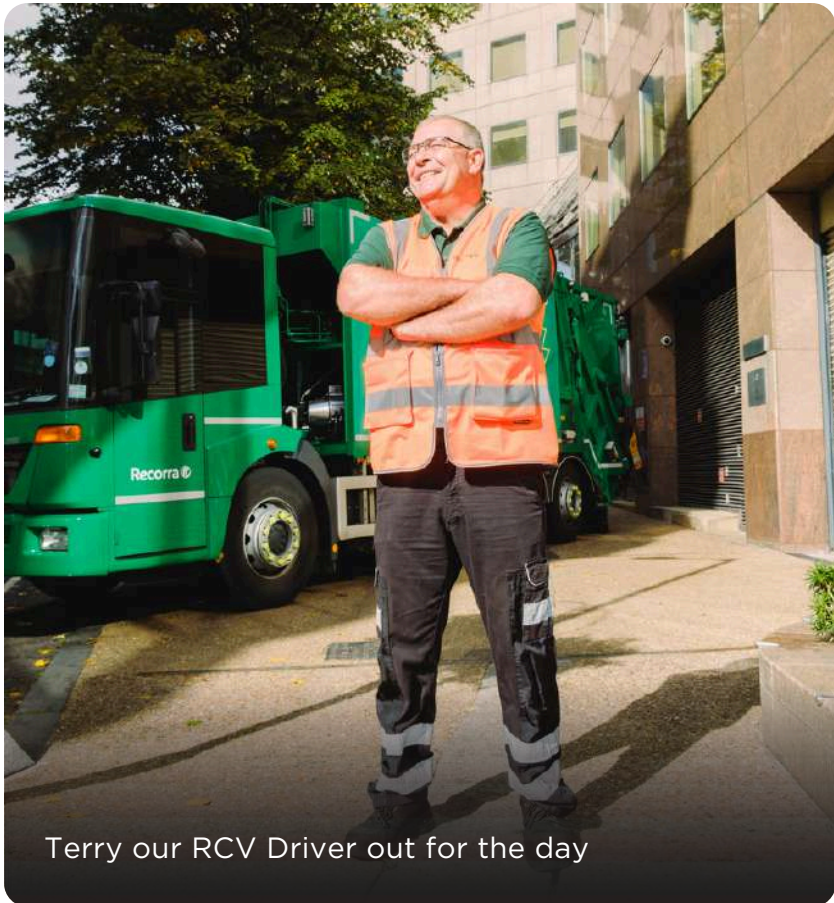
Brighton Staff



Recorra Summer Party



Battersea Power Station Team onsite



Terry our RCV Driver out for the day

Our People

Our People Team is dedicated to attracting, developing and supporting top talent. Throughout this year, our people team have helped grow our company to where we are now with well over 300 staff.

Anita Polec, our Head of People, and Johanna Svensson, our In-House Recruiter and Training Consultant, work to build a thriving workplace where everyone can grow, succeed and feel valued. Together, they ensure we hire passionate individuals who share our commitment to sustainability and excellent customer service.



Anita Polec

Head of People

Anita has been with Recorra since June 2024, drawn by its strong focus on sustainability. The best part? Seeing the direct impact of the work in making her city, London, cleaner.



Johanna Svensson

In-house recruiter and training consultant

Johanna has been with Recorra since May 2024, driven by a passion for sustainability and the environment. Seeing the impact of recycling firsthand is a rewarding experience.

Our ESG Team

With Recorra growing, we saw the need to expand our ESG team to ensure that we continue to grow sustainably. The fantastic four have been working together throughout 2024 to ensure that we continue to make a positive impact to people and planet, through our operations. Covering all aspects of Environmental and Social governance, from our Net Zero strategy, to community outreach all the way from South Africa, our team have been busy!



Ed Van Reenen

ESG Projects Lead

This year, we took our ESG projects all the way to South Africa! We welcomed Ed Van Reenen as our ESG Project Lead in Knysna. He brings 15 years of recycling and sustainability experience to the team.

Ed has been busy fostering our connection with our new charity partners in South Africa, driving positive environmental impact across the world. His practical expertise, paired with a passion for creating real community impact, positions him to drive meaningful change. We're excited to see the difference he'll make as he leads our efforts on the ground.



Kirsten Zoe Smith

Net Zero Strategist

Kirsten is Recorra's Net Zero Strategist. Initially joining our sustainability department in 2024 after having studied at the University of Oxford, Kirsten handles our climate compliance, carbon reduction planning and reporting.

She is helping lead Recorra's way to Net Zero, and this year completed our ISO 14064-1 audit, wrote both our Sustainability Stocktake and Carbon Footprint reports, and leads us in finding innovative technology such as HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) which we are trialling in 2025.



Jessica Swan

Senior Data Analyst

Jess is the Senior Data Analyst at Recorra, responsible for both customer and internal reporting. Jess first joined Recorra in 2018 as a Customer Service and Accounts Assistant, before leaving us to study Natural Sciences at the University of Exeter in 2020. Since graduating, she rejoined us in 2023 as our Data Analyst.

Jess provides vital support to all our teams, but has been a key part of our Net Zero strategy, supporting in completing our ISO 14064-1 audit, Sustainability Stocktake and Carbon Footprint reports.



Gabriel Marriage

Junior Data Analyst

Gabriel is our Junior Data Analyst at Recorra. He recently joined us in 2024 after having studied Chinese Studies at the University of Manchester, before enrolling in the Codeanywhere bootcamp.

He assists Jess with customer reporting and works with our Account Managers to visualise large portions of our data. This is a fundamental aspect of our service, delivering transparency and accurate data to our customers.



Paddington Square revamped bin store

Trade Associations and Corporate Memberships



Legislation Updates

Simpler Recycling legislation aims to standardise and increase recycling across the country. With this focus, more upcoming legislation is being introduced to support recycling rates as well as directly tackle waste-associated emissions.

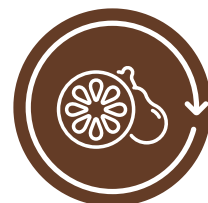
Built on real recycling and guided by experts, Recorra is perfectly positioned to help our customers stay compliant with upcoming legislation changes.

Simpler Recycling

Simpler Recycling legislation was rolled out from the 31st of March 2025, introducing mandatory recycling for businesses. Under this new legislation, all businesses with 10 or more employees are required to recycle food, glass and mixed recycling (*segregating paper and card where possible). We’ve been working hard to support our customers in becoming compliant.

The biggest impact for our customers is the implementation of mandatory food waste recycling. Here we have a range of services to help all businesses, big or small, stay compliant.

In 2027, more changes under Simpler Recycling will see these changes rolled out for all businesses, including those with under 10 employees, as well as all businesses also required to recycle plastic film.



Food



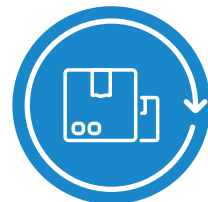
Mixed Recycling



Glass



Paper*



Cardboard*

Find out more about how Recorra is helping our customers get Simpler Recycling ready on our website [here](#).

Upcoming Legislation Changes

Beyond Simpler Recycling, further legislation changes are on the horizon which aim to reduce waste, increase recycling and reduce emissions from the waste industry. At Recorra, we’ll continue to keep our customers updated and help you prepare for upcoming changes.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - 2025

Effective from the 1st of January 2025, the UK introduced new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations. These regulations place responsibility on producers for the entire lifecycle of their packaging, including collection, recycling, and disposal. The aim is to encourage the design and use of packaging that is easier to recycle, as well as to reduce waste.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) - schedule October 2027

The government is introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) to boost recycling rates for drinks containers. Under the scheme, a small deposit will be added to the price of drinks sold in bottles and cans, which consumers can reclaim by returning the empty containers. By placing a financial value on recycling, the DRS aims to reduce litter, increase recycling rates, and support a more circular economy.

Energy from Waste (EfW) and Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) - anticipated 2028

Energy-from-Waste (EfW) is a form of general waste management that avoids landfill through incineration. The energy produced from the process is fed back to the national grid. While this method of waste management has benefits compared to landfill, including lower total related emissions and less physical-environmental impacts, this is still far from ideal.

This is why Recorra offers 38 different recycling streams, providing solutions that get as many materials out of general waste as possible.

The government is introducing stricter standards for new incinerators and plans to extend the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to include Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities in 2028. Under the ETS, a cap will be set on total emissions for the sector, and operators will need to purchase emissions allowances (or "credits") for their carbon output, effectively making EfW more expensive. These changes aim to incentivise recycling and waste reduction over incineration and other forms of residual waste disposal.



Looking Ahead

This year, we've made major strides, launching innovative recycling streams, investing in cutting-edge technology, and advancing significantly on our journey to Net Zero.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to roll out our long-awaited AI-powered robotic arm at the MRF, expand the use of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel across our fleet (cutting vehicle emissions by up to 85%) and launch a brand-new customer reporting portal to provide even greater transparency and insights.

The introduction of Simpler Recycling legislation in April marks an exciting opportunity for our customers to significantly increase recycling rates. As we enter a period of major change in waste legislation, Recorra remains committed to guiding our customers through every step.

Looking ahead, we will continue to champion progress towards a circular economy, supporting our customers not just to adapt, but to lead the way.



Electric RCV onsite at National Theatre

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