

Impact Report 2025

Recorra 
Real Recycling

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Real Recycling

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Innovating for Impact

This year's Impact Report reflects a period of real progress for Recorra. Across our operations, partnerships, and communities, we continued to show what responsible resource management can achieve when innovation and social purpose work together.

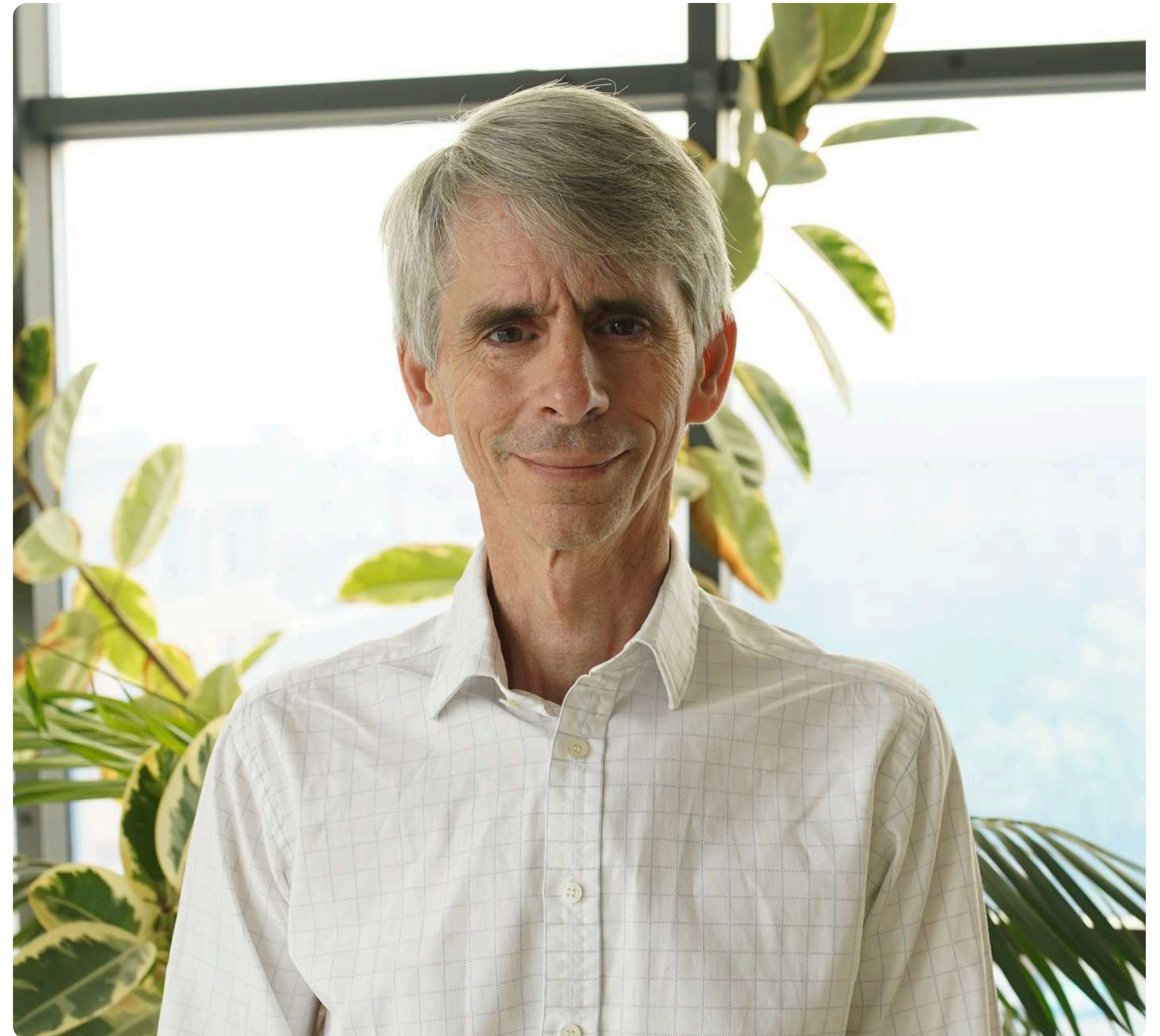
In 2025, we strengthened our role as a circular economy leader. We expanded closed-loop systems, invested in low-emission transport, and introduced new technologies that continue to improve material quality and staff safety. From the UK's first electric Roll-on Roll-off vehicle (eRoRo) by Scania to AI-powered robotics at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), these innovations demonstrate how our sector can move towards cleaner and more resilient waste systems.

Through long-standing charity partnerships, international community projects, and the work of our Sustainability Consulting Team, we supported education, delivered behaviour-change programmes, and helped communities around the world build long-term resilience.

We also continued to align our work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. New areas of focus included Gender Equality, Quality Education, and Life Below Water, strengthening our commitment to global environmental and social priorities.

As we look to 2026, we will build on this progress with deeper data analysis, smarter technology, and continued investment in our people and partnerships. Together, we are building a circular future that delivers lasting benefits for businesses and communities.

Bill Swan
Managing Director



Recorra at a Glance

248
Staff count



6,909
Unique sites visited

89
Vehicles in our fleet



76,109
Meals donated



9,013
Homes powered for a year

2,364
IT sessions sponsored



811,807 kgCO₂e
Scope 3 emissions saved



Commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

This year marks more than a decade since all United Nations (UN) member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a universal blueprint for people and planet. Recorra's 2025 activities demonstrate a deep and evolving commitment to these goals, from circular innovation and fleet electrification to data-driven recycling systems, social value programmes, and international community partnerships.

Our environmental and social initiatives align most closely with the following SDGs:



In 2025, our Sustainability Consulting team delivered over **2,500 hours of engagement** to help clients improve recycling, take steps towards net zero, and give back to their communities. Our South African partnership with the 10-month **Eco Youth Circle programme** expanded access to environmental education, youth development, and behaviour-change learning in the Rheenendal community.



Across our organisation, women are shaping decisions at the highest level. **Forty percent** of our board is made up of female directors, reflecting strong representation in governance. The waste and resource management sector has traditionally been male-dominated, yet Recorra stands out because we have a high proportion of women in non-manual support, technical, and managerial roles.

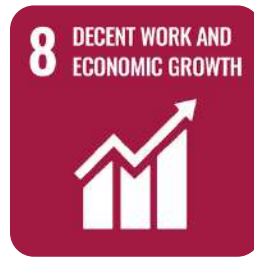
Our **Gender Pay Gap Report 2025** shows that across **266 employees**, Recorra maintains a **mean gender pay gap of just 5%**, a figure that underscores our commitment to equitable pay across the organisation. With female ownership, board representation, and women leading in key positions such as Operations, Compliance, Finance, HR, and Marketing, Recorra benefits from a diverse and influential base of female leadership.

Underlying this progress is a workforce shaped by Recorra's long-standing commitment to fairness. Our **Equal Opportunities Policy** sets clear expectations: to be treated with dignity and respect, with zero tolerance for discrimination, and with equal access to training, development, and advancement.



Commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our environmental and social initiatives align most closely with the following SDGs:



Our commitment to fair work remains unwavering. Recorra is a proud, fully accredited **Living Wage Foundation Employer**, ensuring every colleague is paid at least the real living wage. Unlike the lower legal minimum, this rate is independently calculated to reflect the true cost of living in London.

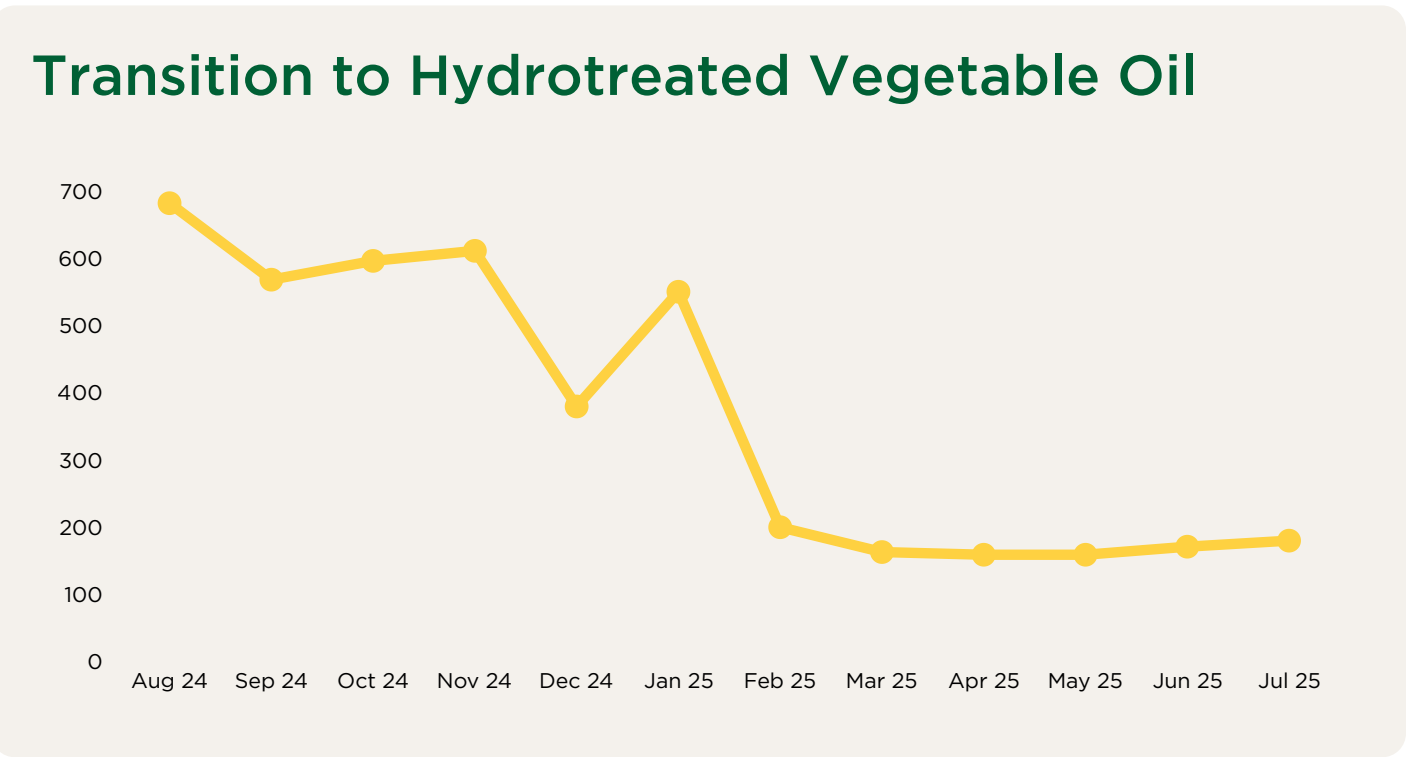
This commitment reflects Recorra's belief in fair and ethical employment. By embedding the London Living Wage across our operations, we contribute to a more inclusive, equitable, and resilient London economy.



Innovation is central to our mission. In 2025, we invested significantly in:

- AI-powered sorting at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
- The UK's first electric Roll-on Roll-off vehicle (eRoRo) by Scania
- The switch from diesel to biodiesel HVO for our fleet
- The expansion of our Paper Towel Recycling to include all brands
- Realizzato: the upcycling of spent coffee grounds into alcohol liqueur
- Flybox and Inspo: the upcycling of food waste into insect-protein systems

These investments enhance material recovery, reduce emissions, and accelerate the transition to a more circular, lower-carbon infrastructure.



Scope 3 emissions saved are equivalent to:

7 flights from London to New York
26,907 kms driven in a car

Commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Our environmental and social initiatives align most closely with the following SDGs:



Our partnerships in Rheenendal and Smutsville, South Africa, directly support underserved communities. Through **community clean-ups, nature-based learning, new waste-collection infrastructure, and digital access via new laptops**, Recorra is helping build safer, cleaner, and more resilient environments for communities facing economic and environmental challenges.

As part of Recorra's commitment to social sustainability, we proudly support **The Children's Literacy Charity**. We fund tutoring sessions for children who need additional learning support. Our work with Plan Zheroes helps **redirect surplus food straight to communities that need it most**, working towards a future without food waste or food poverty.



With **69 million kilograms of waste handled across thousands of customer sites**, our services help cities reduce waste, improve recycling rates, and prepare for legislation changes (Simpler Recycling, DRS, EPR, Digital Waste Tracking, etc.). Our low-emission fleet, including the **first eRoRo** by Scania, helps improve local air quality, reduce noise, and contribute to healthier urban environments.



Circularity is at the core of our operations. This year we expanded closed-loop solutions with 100% recycled-content bins, **secure textile recycling**, flexible-plastics readiness, **ITAD reuse**, and **coffee-ground upcycling** to help customers reduce waste, choose better materials, and comply with incoming resource-efficiency legislation. Our SmartAudit technology also provides transparent waste data and supports more sustainable decision-making across organisations.

Commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our environmental and social initiatives align most closely with the following SDGs:



We continued to measure our carbon footprint to **ISO 14064-1 standards** and accelerated fleet decarbonisation through electric vehicles and HVO-supported Scope 1 emissions reductions. These actions form part of our pathway to **net zero by 2050** and help customers decarbonise their own waste-related emissions.



Our **beach clean-ups** across Brighton Beach, river clean-ups on the Thames and in Rheenendal, and partnerships with coastal NGOs helped protect marine ecosystems from plastic pollution. Over **1,800kg of waste collected across 104 community clean-ups** contributed directly to healthier rivers, coastlines, and ocean systems in 2025.



Our recycling services reduce pressure on forests and natural habitats by recovering valuable materials that would otherwise require virgin extraction. In London, our work with **Trees for Cities** allowed our customers to make a meaningful impact, with over 500 new trees planted through our long-standing partnership. In South Africa, our partnership with the **Milkwood tree mapping project** helped protect native tree species and involved communities in conservation.



Recorra's multi-stakeholder collaborations, including **FareShare, Trees for Cities, Plan Zeroes, Sustainable Freight Association, Umthombo Trust**, and industry partnerships across the UK, reflect SDG 17 in action. These partnerships extend our environmental and social reach and ensure our programmes create measurable community impact both locally and globally.



Our Carbon Footprint

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

At Recorra, we take our data very seriously. To ensure robust and accurate reporting, we measure and report all three scopes of our organisational carbon footprint, according to the greenhouse gas inventory management ISO 14064-1 standard. This standard is interchangeable with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHGP), the globally recognised benchmark for carbon accounting, and demonstrates the reliability of our data.

Because of the variations in methodologies, we make sure to report our emissions comprehensively and from multiple angles so that the impacts of our operations, and the benefits of our carbon interventions, can be appropriately understood. We publish reports for our Scope 3 and organisational carbon footprints to provide a clear breakdown of data for our clients.

What are ISO Standards?

The standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) are internationally recognised benchmarks that help organisations prove acceptable levels of competence in areas such as quality, safety, and efficiency, from occupational 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

30%
reduction in carbon intensity between 2019 and 2025

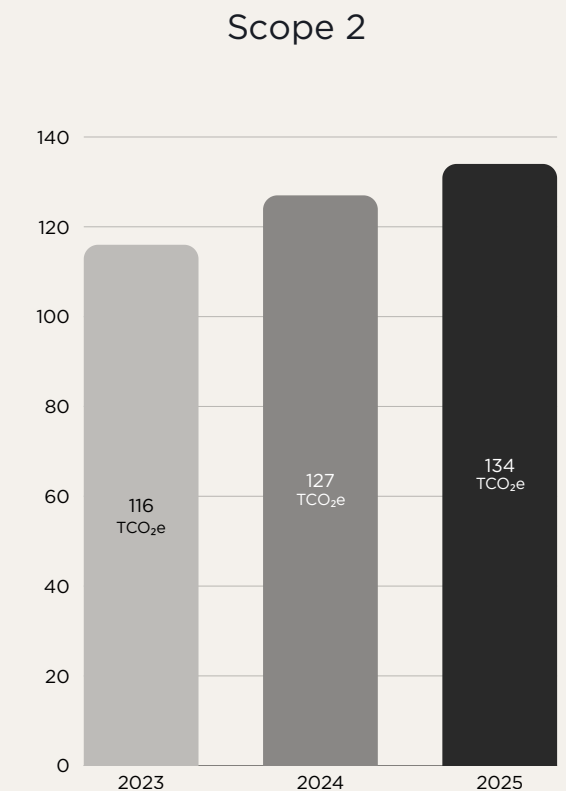
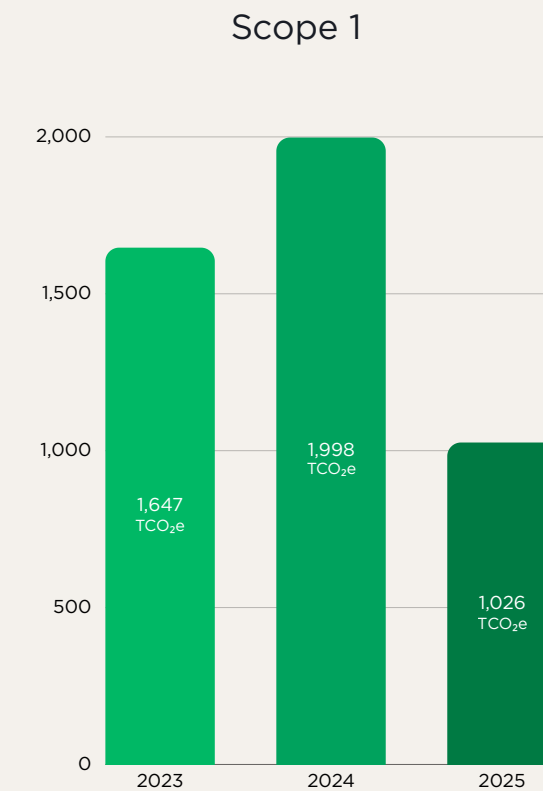


Scope Emissions

Scope 1
Direct emissions from activities such as burning diesel in our trucks' combustion engines

Scope 2
Emissions from the generation of electricity we purchase to power our offices and MRF

Scope 3
Indirect supply chain emissions from upstream and downstream activities, such as purchasing equipment and procuring services



The Future of Resource Recovery

Innovation for a Circular Future

A landmark year for Recorra, 2025 was marked by bold innovations that pushed the boundaries of resource recovery and circularity. From transforming coffee grounds into premium liqueur to converting food waste into insect protein and fertiliser, our initiatives demonstrated a commitment to doing more with our customers' end-of-life materials. Each solution - whether it was secure textile recycling, expanding paper towel recyclability, or delivering accurate and actionable waste insights through new technology - helped businesses reduce environmental impact, cut resource use, and strengthen sustainability credentials. These innovations not only raised the bar for our industry, but also empowered our customers to lead on climate action and embed circular practices into everyday operations.

Enhancing Security Through Secure Workwear Recycling

Our Secure Workwear Recycling addresses the challenge of disposing of branded uniforms and PPE responsibly. By shredding and recycling textiles into new raw materials such as insulation, this solution prevents identity fraud risks and supports circular textile streams.

Customers gain peace of mind on data security, reduce incineration dependency, and demonstrate leadership in sustainable practices.

Paper Towel Service Expansion

Traditionally considered unrecyclable, Recorra now recycles more paper towels than ever. In 2025, Recorra expanded its recycling capabilities to include paper towels from all brands. This breakthrough helps businesses significantly cut general waste volumes and improve recycling rates.

For our customers, the impact is immediate and measurable. Customers can benefit from cost savings, improved sustainability metrics, and alignment with zero-waste goals.

Introducing the First eRoRo

Recorra introduced the first eRoRo by Scania, marking a significant step towards decarbonising heavy waste transport. Designed for high-capacity collections and container movements, the eRoRo produces zero tailpipe emissions, reduces noise, and improves air quality in urban environments and customer loading bays.

This transition supports Recorra's wider decarbonisation strategy while helping customers immediately lower the carbon footprint of their waste services, contribute to local air quality goals, and demonstrate tangible progress towards net zero commitments.



The Future of Resource Recovery

Enhancing Security Through Secure Workwear Recycling

Our Secure Workwear Recycling addresses the challenge of disposing of branded uniforms and personal protective equipment (PPE) responsibly. By shredding and recycling textiles into new raw materials such as insulation, this solution helps prevent identity fraud and supports circular solutions.

We expanded this service in 2025 to provide customers with peace of mind on data security, reduce their dependency on incineration, and demonstrate their leadership in sustainable practices.

Data-Driven Breakthroughs with SmartWeigh

SmartAudit is a digital waste auditing tool developed by Recorra that provides deeper, more accurate insights into waste generation and segregation performance for our customers. By leveraging data analytics, it turns complex operational data into insights that enable businesses to identify inefficiencies, optimise collections, and track progress against sustainability targets.

Customers enjoy actionable intelligence, reduced operational costs, and enhanced transparency for ESG reporting.



Smarter Sorting With AI

Recorra continued to invest in advanced materials recovery technology with the introduction of our AI-powered robotic sorting at our Purfleet MRF. Using optical recognition and machine learning, the robot identifies and captures targeted recyclable materials with a level of accuracy and consistency beyond manual sorting.

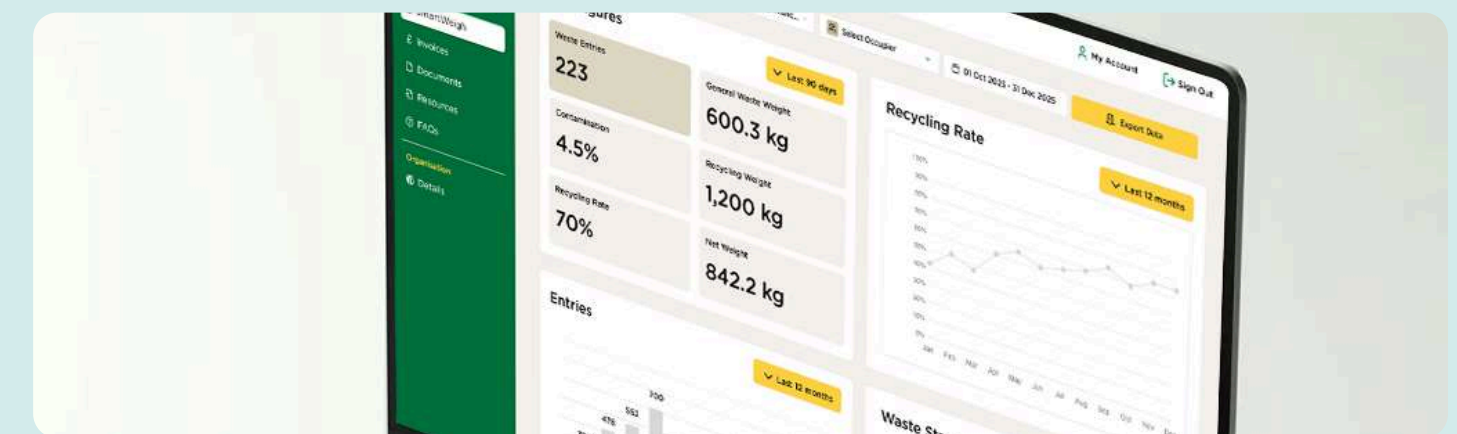
This innovation improves material quality, increases capture rates, and supports safer working conditions by reducing manual picking on fast-moving lines. For customers, MRF robotics deliver higher recycling performance, better end-market outcomes, and greater confidence in the integrity and transparency of their recycling service.

From Food Waste to Fuel

We continue to push the boundaries of resource recovery by partnering with organisations that are pioneering new approaches to food waste. Flybox and Inspro, among others, convert unavoidable food waste into high-value insect protein and organic fertiliser.

This solution maximises value from materials over traditional food waste solutions such as anaerobic digestion (AD) and composting. It supports regenerative agriculture and sustainable animal feed production.

For customers, these solutions deliver measurable environmental impact, compliance with food waste regulations, and a compelling narrative for ESG reporting.



The Future of Resource Recovery

What's in Store for 2026

Recorra is accelerating its innovation pipeline with a focus on smarter systems, richer data, and practical solutions that help customers stay ahead of change. Key developments include the rollout of reverse vending machines (RVMs) to support the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), alongside new and improved ways to collect and recycle flexible plastics in readiness for the early 2027 Simpler Recycling requirements.

Investment in automation continues, with more robots and AI-integrated solutions planned across our operations to improve material quality, efficiency, and transparency. Customers will also gain access to deeper, more actionable data about their recycling performance, enabling better decision making and stronger ESG reporting.

Complementing this technology-led approach, 2026 will also see the launch of a dedicated Impact Consultancy arm, designed to bring bespoke solutions, tailored initiatives, and strategic support that will help organisations go beyond compliance and deliver measurable circularity and sustainability impact.



Case Study

Elevating Impact at Broadgate

Broadgate is a 32-acre campus next to Liverpool Street Station, home to a diverse mix of occupiers. Our partnership is built on a shared commitment to zero waste and circularity. Broadgate is working towards net zero by 2030, supported by Recorra's low-carbon waste solutions, improved bin infrastructure, and the use of electric vehicles to reduce emissions.

When we began working together, Broadgate faced challenges with inconsistent data, shared compactors, mixed occupiers, ineffective signage, and high contamination, particularly in their glass collections.

Since then, we have improved the estate's bin infrastructure by installing standardised weighing machines for each building and adding bin presses. This has reduced the need for collections and vehicle movements, lowering emissions. The use of our electric fleet has accelerated this even further.

Our teams have expanded the Broadgate waste system to include more than 20 dedicated recycling streams. Together, we have even created London's first commercial green-waste composting service.

Education has been central to our partnership. We have delivered more than 150 hours of consultancy, trained 99% of cleaners, and supported tenants through floor walks, lunch-and-learns, and waste reviews. We've worked together to implement social value programmes for local school groups and students, including inviting schoolchildren to Broadgate to learn about the importance of recycling.

These efforts have allowed Broadgate to achieve an 81% recycling rate, cut carbon emissions, and protect resources through reuse and specialist recycling.



Case Study

Rethinking Waste With The Depot Cinema

The Depot Cinema in Lewes is an environmentally focused community hub. Recorra has worked closely with them to tailor a waste and recycling service that fits their unique space and sustainability ambitions.

From the outset, we adapted our approach to meet the challenges of the site's narrow access road and limited bin storage, creating a bespoke setup that allowed the Depot to maintain its high environmental standards without compromising operations.

To give the Depot deeper insight into their waste production, we introduced innovative collection vehicles with on-board weighing and set them up with our online portal for real-time reporting. Our team carried out waste composition analyses and annual audits, helping the Depot identify opportunities for targeted improvements.

When analysis revealed high volumes of snack packaging, we collaborated with them to creatively introduce flexible plastics recycling using the Recorra Circular Box. We also revamped on-site communication with clear, colour-coded signage and added a dedicated coffee-cup bin, making recycling intuitive for visitors.



Through this partnership-driven approach, the Depot now recycles 75% of its waste and has achieved national recognition for its sustainability performance, including the Creative Green Highest Achievement for Commitment prize and a four-star certification from Julie's Bicycle. Over the past year, they recycled 46,680kg of waste, saved 18 trees and prevented over 15,000kg of CO₂ emissions. Together, we continue to push forward, working towards an 80% recycling rate and expanding into new recycling streams, demonstrating what can be achieved through flexibility, creativity, and true collaboration.



Recorra 
**Workplace
Supplies**

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.

Jamie Cullen 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 13 years, playing a key role in developing sustainable office solutions that help businesses reduce their carbon footprint.



Case Study

Closing the Loop at the British Academy

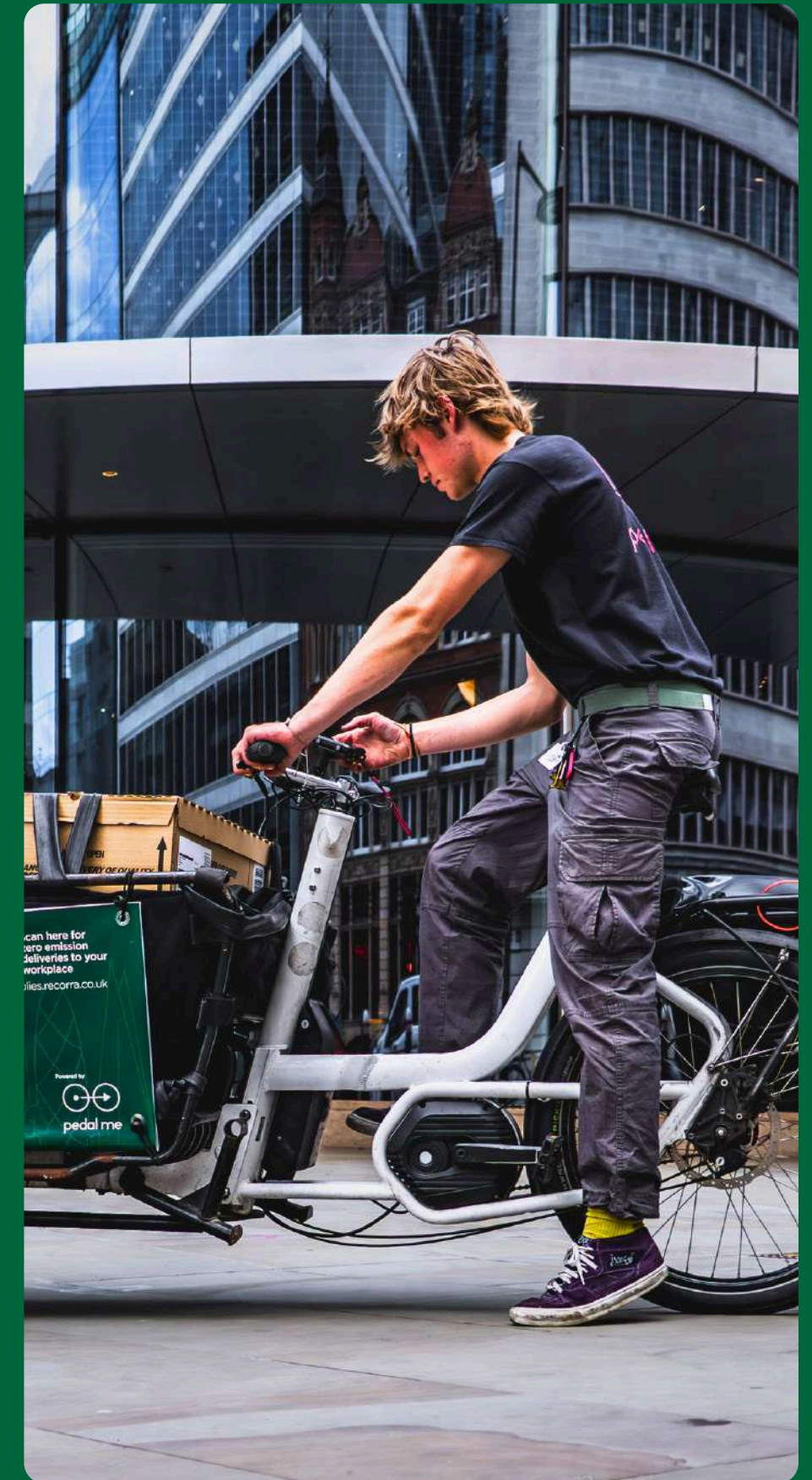
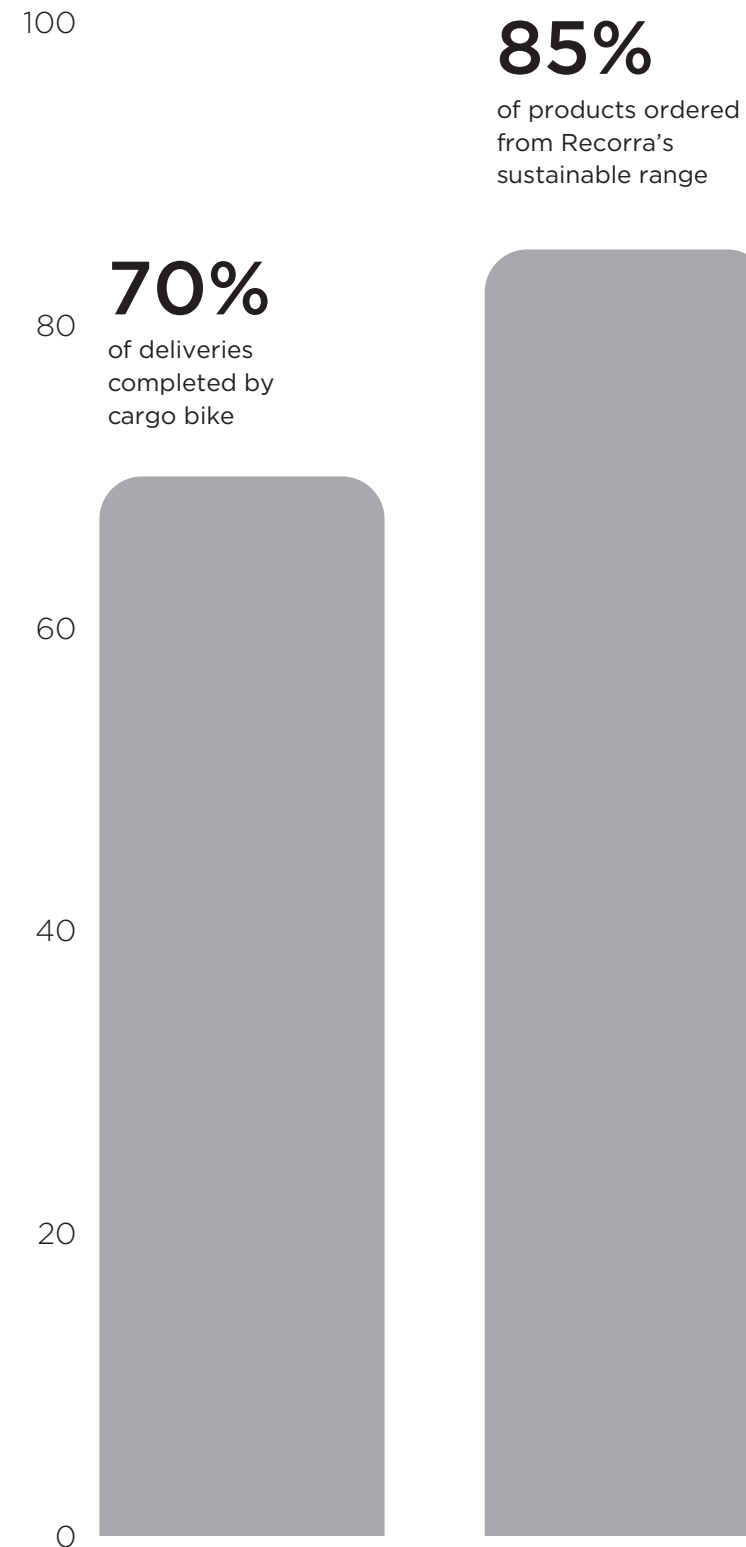
Recorra began working with the British Academy in March last year, supporting them as they looked to consolidate their workplace services and take a more comprehensive approach to sustainability.

From the outset, the British Academy chose to onboard Recorra's recycling and Workplace Supplies services at the same time, creating a closed-loop system where the materials they recycled helped inform and support the products they bought.

This commitment to circularity has been central to our partnership and has enabled more transparent reporting and resulted in clearer environmental impact across their operations.

By working with Recorra, the British Academy has significantly increased the proportion of sustainable products purchased, while also reducing the carbon impact associated with deliveries. Cargo bike deliveries now account for the majority of their Workplace Supplies deliveries, helping cut emissions and congestion in central London.

As the partnership continues, Recorra and the British Academy are working collaboratively to increase sustainable product uptake even further and to maximise the environmental benefits of running both services together.



Sustainability Consulting Team

In 2025, our Sustainability Consultants continued to drive strong results across every sector we support. Their work helped organisations boost recycling, cut contamination, and make meaningful progress towards net zero.

As Recorra's services develop, we are delivering even more tailored guidance, deeper engagement, and smarter strategies that create lasting behavioural change. With our expanding suite of services and activities, we are better placed than ever to engage building occupiers and key stakeholders to turn ambition into measurable progress.

Real Benefits for Your Business

Our support doesn't just drive environmental progress; it delivers clear business value. We help our customers reduce waste management costs, improve operational efficiency, and demonstrate a genuine commitment to sustainability.

This results in stronger environmental performance, increased profitability, and an enhanced reputation among stakeholders, customers, and employees alike.

Behaviour Change That Delivers Results

Positive behaviour change is the central mission of the Sustainability Consulting team. This is the driving force behind improving recycling performance and creating long-term environmental impact. Working alongside Recorra's core services, our Consultants take organisations beyond core recycling services.

We work closely with our clients to deliver targeted education, engagement, and on-site awareness programmes, helping businesses understand their waste and embed better practices across their operations. Our team supports informed decision making, improved compliance, and measurable improvements in recycling performance.

Our Sustainability Pathway

We launched an accelerated, six-month strategic plan for our clients in 2025, called the Sustainability Pathway. This is a bespoke, end-to-end roadmap designed by our team to support every client's unique sustainability journey. It combines strategic infrastructure changes with engaging activities, helping to improve recycling rates, optimise waste systems, and increase on-site engagement and education.

2,508 hours of engagement



104 community clean ups across the Thames, Regents Canal, & Brighton Beach, clearing more than 1,800kg of waste



Award-Winning Impact

With nearly 40 award nominations in 2025, we are proud to have been recognised across sustainable business leadership, waste reduction, recycling performance, emissions reduction, and wider business excellence. These achievements reflect the collective impact of our teams and the organisations we support.



edie Awards:

- Winner: Recorra & St. Botolph Building (CBRE)
- Finalist: Bill Swan for Business Leader of the Year
- Finalist: Recorra for Supply Chain Sustainability Project of the Year



PFM Awards

- Finalist: Recorra & Ropemaker Place



National Recycling Awards

- Finalist: Recorra & Ropemaker Place
- Finalist: Recorra & 20 Fenchurch Street
- Finalist: Recorra & Broadgate
- Finalist: Recorra & Kings Cross Estate



National Sustainability Awards:

- Winner: Recorra & Borough Market for Circular and Recycling Program Award
- Finalist: Recorra & King's Cross Estate for Team of the Year



Global Good Awards

- Finalist: Recorra & Ropemaker Place



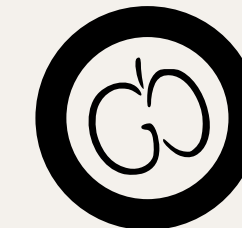
Women in Green Business

- Finalist: Rising Star of the Year: Kirsten Zoe Smith
- Finalist: Marketing Professional of the Year: Sioned Thomas



Awards for Excellence

- Finalist: Recorra & British Land
- Finalist: Recorra & 20 Fenchurch Street
- Finalist: Recorra & Broadgate Estate



Green Apple Awards

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 America Square (CBRE) • 1 Southampton Row • 20 Fenchurch • Ashdown Philips • Borough Market • Cannon Place (Savills) • Exchequer Court (Savills) • Investec • Llyods of London • London Wall Place • Minister Building (CBRE) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park House (REM) • The Helicon (CBRE) • The Post Building (Savills) • The Shard (REM) • The Walbrook (CBRE) • White City Place (Savills) • White City Place Gateway • White City Place Westworks |
|---|---|

Case Study

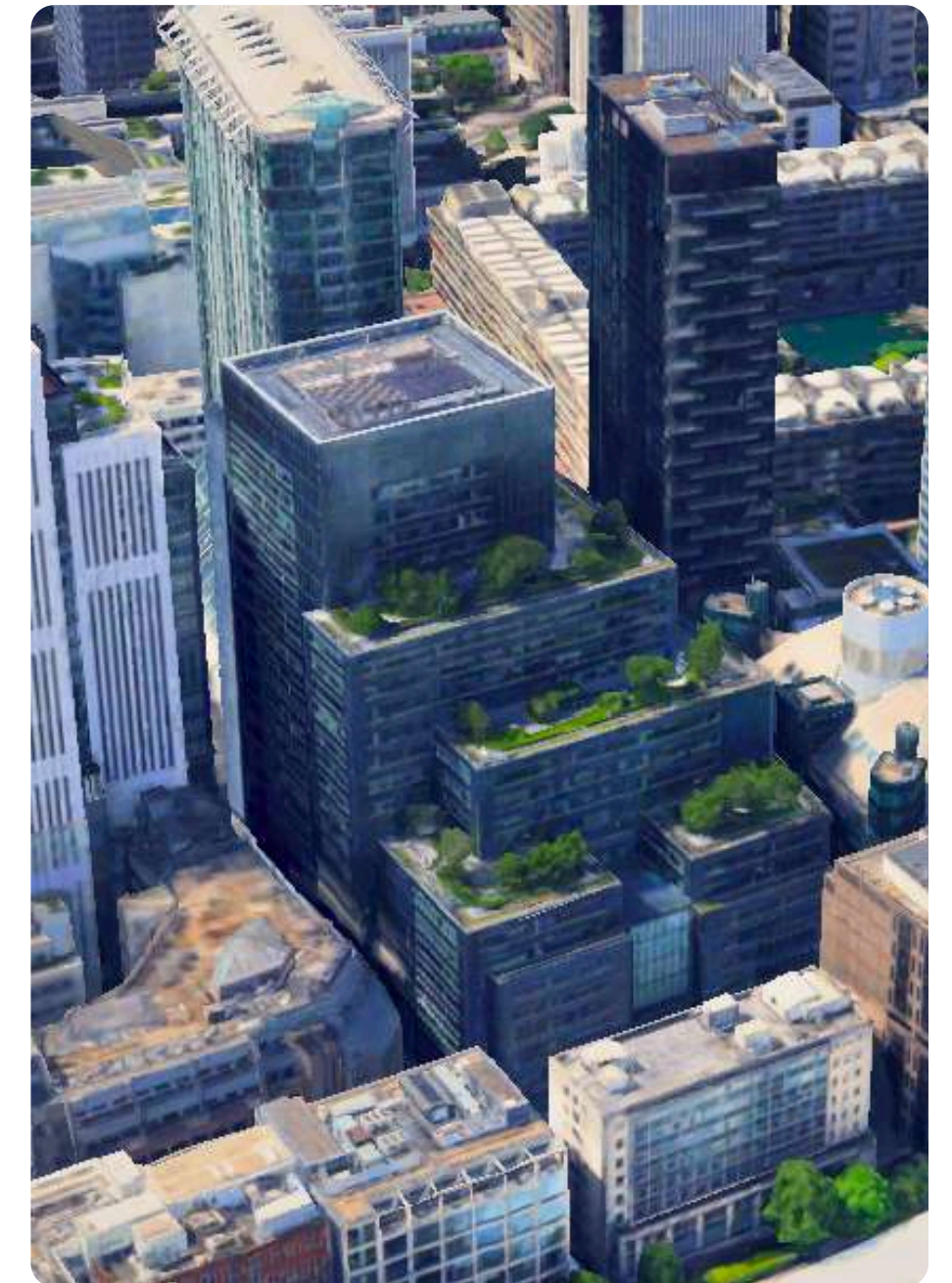
Ropemaker Place: A Four-Time Standout in 2025

As Ropemaker Place's long-term service partner, we are proud to have supported the building on the journey that led to four major award nominations in 2025: the PFM Awards, Global Good Awards, National Recycling Awards, and the Green Apple Awards. These nominations recognise the site as one of the most pioneering and high-performing buildings in the UK.

Working together, we transformed a constrained loading bay into a high-efficiency Recycling Hub, installing a baler, bin press, and the UK's first sorting table made from recycled flexible plastics. This enabled Ropemaker Place to recycle 17 different materials and drastically reduce contamination in their recycling.

We also helped implement innovative, closed-loop systems, including returning certain compostables as rooftop-garden compost, converting waste cooking oil into low-carbon HVO fuel for our fleet, and returning waste paper as new office paper. With training for staff, multilingual engagement, and occupier-specific reporting, we created a zero-waste culture.

Together, we helped Ropemaker Place reach an outstanding 93% recycling rate, far exceeding its 80% target and Savills' 75% benchmark. These achievements are why the site stood out nationally as a multi-award-nominated sustainability leader.



Partnering for Change

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 programmes. 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 Zoological Society of London (ZSL) carries out groundbreaking wildlife conservation research, delivering world-leading studies in biodiversity science. Thanks to the support of our customers, in 2025 we contributed an additional £10,000 to ZSL London, helping to fund vital conservation projects that protect some of the world's most critically endangered species.



As part of Recorra's commitment to social sustainability, we proudly support The Children's Literacy Charity. Between 2025 and 2026, we donated nearly £5,000 on behalf of our customers to fund tutoring sessions for children who need additional learning support. Thanks to the charity's Big Give campaign, this donation was doubled, enabling nearly 500 children to receive vital literacy support through our partnership this year.

Our impact doesn't stop there. For every 15 computers we collect for reuse or recycling, we donate one tutoring session to The Children's Literacy Charity. We are delighted to have recently surpassed 1,200 donated sessions, helping create meaningful, long-term opportunities for young learners.

Over
£550,000
donated



Partnering for Change



Plan Zheroes helps redirect surplus food straight to the communities that need it most, working towards a future without food waste or food poverty. At Recorra, we're proud to help them champion this mission. For every food waste collection we complete in London, we donate the equivalent of one meal to Plan Zheroes. In 2025, this added up to over 56,000 meals.

Our commitment goes beyond donations. This year, Recorra staff took part in several volunteering sessions with Plan Zheroes by collecting surplus food from traders at Borough Market and preparing meals for the community at a centre in Elephant and Castle. This hands-on work strengthens our partnership and our impact.



Trees for Cities is the UK's only charity dedicated to large-scale urban tree planting, creating lasting, positive change in city environments. In 2025, our customers helped make a meaningful impact, with 500 new trees planted through our long-standing partnership.

Our connection with Trees for Cities runs deep. Recorra's journey began with waste-paper collections across central London. This work shaped our appreciation for tree conservation and sustainable resource use. Nearly three decades on, we remain proud supporters of Trees for Cities and their mission to keep urban spaces green, healthy, and thriving.



We were proud to support FareShare Sussex and Surrey through our ongoing food bin collections in 2025. For every food bin collected on our own wheels, we donated 25p directly to the charity.

Thanks to this initiative, we contributed enough funding to help provide almost 10,000 meals to community groups across Sussex and Surrey. This partnership reflects our continued commitment to supporting local communities and tackling food waste.

Global Giving

Umthombo Trust & Eco Youth Circle

Recorra's partnership with the Umthombo Trust has helped create a transformative year for the Eco Youth Circle (EYC) in Rheenendal, South Africa. The 10-month programme, designed by Cultural Connections NPO, supports young people living in a low-resource community through trauma-informed, nature-based learning that builds confidence, curiosity, and emotional resilience. With Recorra's £5,000 donation, the EYC expanded outings, improved waste-collection infrastructure, and secured resources such as a new laptop for youth research and facilitator administration.

The year's experiences were shaped by time outdoors. Across bush camps, estuary visits, coastal outings, and forest sessions, the youth explored their connection to the natural world while learning about ecosystems, water systems, and environmental challenges. A visit to see the last remaining Knysna-forest elephant prompted intense discussions about conservation and biodiversity loss, reinforcing why rewilding and environmental protection matter.

To celebrate Youth Day, the EYC joined Dunes and Their People on a challenging dune-and-forest hike that included 45 local teenagers. The steep terrain demanded teamwork and provided opportunities for learning about local vegetation, leadership, and environmental responsibility. Engagement with the local councillor also opened conversations about future recycling collaborations.

The programme also strengthened community action. When the youth chose to clean the river that supplies Rheenendal's drinking water, facilitators supported their initiative with a litter clean-up along the Homtini Forest. Equipped with high-visibility vests sent from Recorra's London headquarters, the group safely navigated the steep forested road, collecting sacks of litter and recyclables while discussing how river pollution affects both their taps and the nearby ocean. The strong bonds formed through earlier camps were evident as the group worked together, having fun and demonstrating commitment.



Global Giving

Smutsville Community & Environmental Projects

Our ESG Project Lead, Ed van Reenen, worked on a number of environmental projects in the township of Smutsville, Knysna, South Africa throughout 2025. The culmination of the year's activities was a major community-led clean-up that mobilised up to 85 volunteers each day. Together, residents filled over 4,000 sacks of waste, removing an estimated 40 tonnes of rubbish which ranged from plastics and electronics to garden waste. Recyclable PET bottles were separated and delivered to a local recycler, while Knysna Municipality supported final waste disposal. Alongside the clean-up, new wooden waste containers - 'donkeys' and cages - were built and installed, providing safer, more formalised collection points across the neighbourhood.

Recorra also partnered with Dunes and Their People to launch a community-driven effort to identify, map and protect Milkwood trees, South Africa's Arbor Day species. Residents adopted trees, learned about biodiversity and erosion, and contributed to a growing geographic information system database – fostering pride, curiosity, and conservation awareness in an under-resourced area.



Global Giving

The Bike Project

In 2025 Recorra was proud to work with The Bike Project, which helped us rescue, recycle, refurbish, and reuse bicycles that had been abandoned at client sites. Many of these bikes were still in usable condition, ready to be loved again by someone in need, or had valuable parts. We supported Landsec and London Bridge City in removing abandoned bikes from their sites. Between the two sites, a total of 32 bikes were collected.

Here's what happened to them:

- The majority of the bikes were refurbished and immediately donated to refugees and people seeking asylum.
- Some bikes were sold through The Bike Project's online shop, generating revenue that directly funds:
 - Workshops teaching refugee women to cycle for the first time
 - Programmes addressing transport poverty, isolation, and limited access to essential services
- The rest of the bikes were recycled for parts, saving them from landfill, cutting the need for new stock, and supporting a circular approach to bike refurbishment.

CO2e savings: According to European Cycling Federation estimates, the combined collections helped save approximately 1.03 tonnes of CO2e - the same amount produced by driving 2,600 miles in a car fueled by petrol.



Saved
1.03
tonnes
of CO2e

Trade Associations and Corporate Memberships

Operations & Management



LOGISTICS UK

Environment



Waste Management Industry



Health & Safety



Labour



Sustainability



What's Next?

Say 'Hello' to Impact Consultancy at Recorra

Recorra's Impact Consultancy will launch in 2026. This team unites our expert advisory services in one place. Led by three specialist consultants, it will focus on sustainable projects for waste management using on-the-ground understanding of the industry. Our solutions are designed to accurately and reliably solve problems around circularity, social value, and climate impact.

Export Restrictions on Plastic Waste

Although not strictly UK legislation, changes under the EU Waste Shipments Regulation from May and November 2026 will restrict exports of plastic waste to non-OECD countries. As the UK market adapts in response to tightened global exports, demand for domestic reprocessing capacity is expected to surge. For Recorra's customers, this means even greater pressure to improve segregation quality and reduce contamination while domestic recycling collection and processing services become more vital and potentially more expensive.

Get Ready for Legislation Changes

Recent and upcoming legislation is reshaping the UK's waste system more profoundly than at any point in the last two decades, accelerating the shift towards higher recycling rates, reduced contamination, and more transparent material flows.

Simpler Recycling is now fully operational for businesses and extending to households in 2026. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is rolling out alongside mandatory digital waste tracking. As the effects of rising landfill tax and tightening export rules take hold, the regulatory landscape is becoming more demanding and more data driven.

These reforms collectively increase the cost of inaction, push producers and waste generators towards better material choices, and reward organisations that can demonstrate strong segregation, reuse, recycling performance, and credible reporting.

For Recorra customers, this means a year of adaptation, but also a major opportunity to lead in circularity, reduce environmental impact, and enact long-term operational efficiencies.



UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

The UK ETS now requires Energy-from-Waste (EfW) incineration operators to hold carbon allowances, with sites entering voluntary monitoring in 2026 ahead of mandatory inclusion in 2028. As carbon-related costs increase, incineration and general waste disposal will become more expensive. This will encourage businesses to cut residual waste and increase recycling and reuse, supporting more circular waste practices.

Landfill Tax Reform

Landfill tax increases in April 2026 will raise disposal costs, especially as exemptions may be removed and lower rates phased out. Although Recorra never sends waste to landfill, higher landfill costs will push more material towards incineration, increasing EfW demand and costs. This strengthens the financial case for reducing residual waste and investing in recycling, segregation, and reuse solutions.

What's Next?



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

EPR for packaging shifts the cost of managing packaging waste from local authorities to producers, incentivising sustainable design.

From 2026, fee modulation will link charges to recyclability, rewarding businesses that use easily recyclable materials. For Recorra's customers, this means packaging choices will directly affect compliance costs, creating pressure to adopt recyclable formats and reduce unnecessary packaging.

Simpler Recycling

In April 2025, Simpler Recycling legislation created a single national framework for separating food waste, paper and cardboard, and dry recyclables. This will be extended to households in April 2026.

From April 2027, the new Simpler Recycling legislation will require separate collection of plastic film and bags, extending current obligations beyond businesses with 10 or more employees to all premises. Customers will need updated collection systems, including flexible plastics segregation. Though it adds complexity, this reform supports higher recycling rates, reduces contamination, and aligns with EPR incentives.

Digital Waste Tracking

Digital Waste Tracking makes electronic waste movement records mandatory, replacing paper transfer notes. Permitted receivers must comply by October 2026, with wider rollout in 2027.

While businesses will need accurate data and system integration, the shift reduces administrative burdens and improves transparency. Customers working with Recorra will continue to receive compliant reporting, traceability, and compliance assurance.

Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT)

From April 2026, PPT increases to about £228.82 per tonne for packaging with less than 30% recycled content. Producers and importers will face higher costs unless they use more recycled material. The hope is that this will increase demand for high-quality recycled plastics and accelerate the adoption of new technologies like chemically recycled inputs.

Recorra's customers will want to ensure their packaging meets recycled-content thresholds. Otherwise, they may be at risk of absorbing passed-on increased tax liabilities, as well as limiting their resource use.

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