



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023

ecoTM
Sustainable Solutions

Letter from our MD

2023: A Year to be Proud of!

2023 has been a fantastic year for Eco, in so many ways. A real testament to all the effort and focus the team continue to dedicate across the business, and in particular, to our sustainability agenda.

With another full year passing without a reportable injury, we have further entrenched our commitment and resolve to ensure that, collectively, we have created, sustained and continually improve our working environment, where everyone who visits can do so informatively and safely. Creating this culture isn't easy, and often means taking the path least trodden and avoiding the easy option. The fantastic run we are currently on, will, inevitably, not last. But, as long as we continue in our steadfast commitment to improve and challenge ourselves, then we should celebrate.

Operationally, our Energy Assets have performed well, with ever increasing levels of efficiency, resulting in producing record amounts of green energy. We also significantly advanced the prospects of developing our second Anaerobic Digestion facility. Which, all being well, should go into construction during 2024, and will significantly increase the amount of energy, in the form of green-gas, we will generate to further decarbonise our own and our partners operations.

Our Sites and the team who operate them, continue to sit ever more sympathetically within their natural environments and it's with pleasure that we are able to not only see the improvements in biodiversity but measure it, as well. With a record amount of training days, both essential and development, it's fantastic to see team members taking advantage of the funding we allocate each year, which contributed to five team promotions in 2023!

It's with great pride that I'm able to reflect on all the initiatives and positive results which we can be extremely proud of. Not least because these are almost exclusively, initiatives which are conceived, promoted, and delivered by our fantastic Team at Eco. And, as I write this, early in 2024, we are extremely excited to keep challenging ourselves through the lens of our Sustainability Values; People, Planet, Process and Profit, with a good balance of focus and fun!

J Dampney



Justin Dampney
Managing Director

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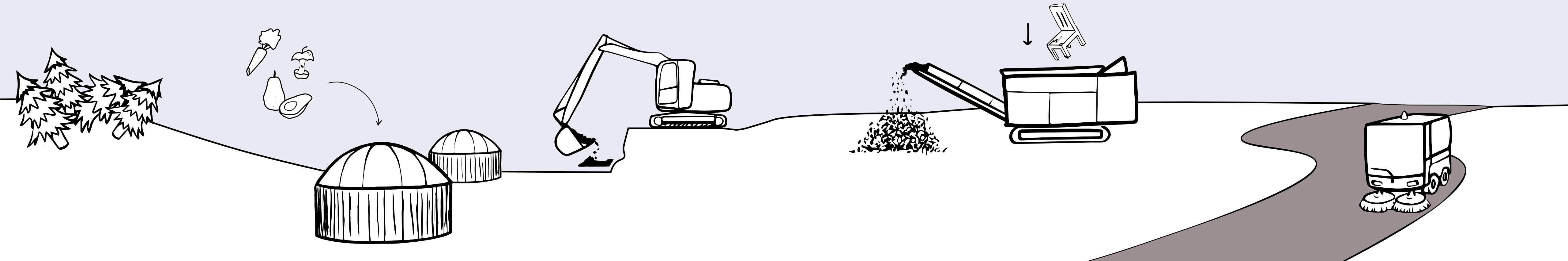
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REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

Reducing Carbon Emissions

2023 was another busy year for the team at Eco! Processing 10.5% more waste for our clients than in 2022.

We also commissioned our new wash-plant to recycle even more aggregates and street sweepings. Unfortunately, due to grid constraints, we had to power the facility using a diesel generator. Consequently, we saw a 27.8% increase in diesel usage in 2023, and thus were unable to meet our goal of reducing our Scope 1 carbon emissions by 5%.

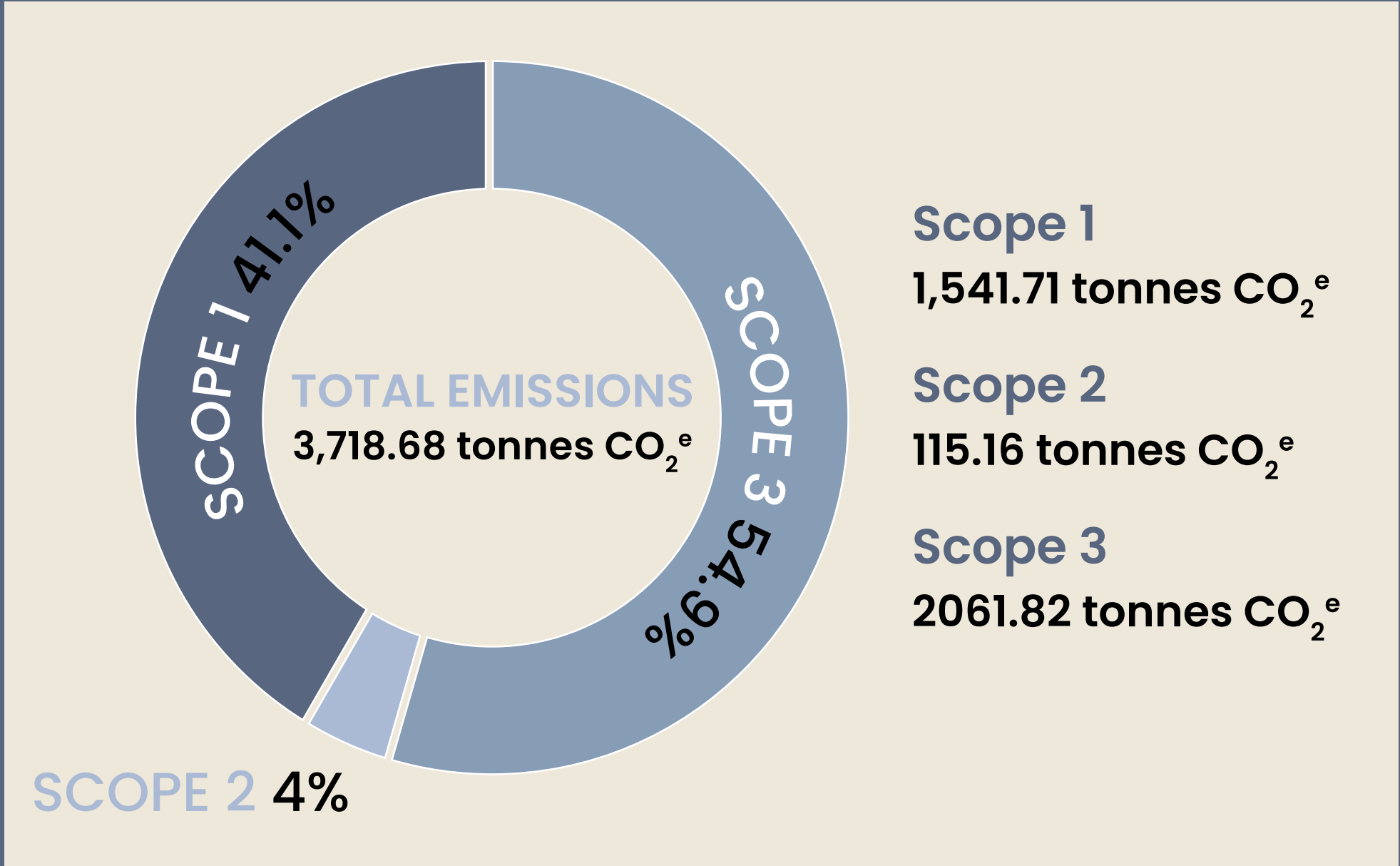
However, positively, carbon emitted per ton of waste handled reduced in key areas such as green shredding, green screening, and wood processing department, highlighting our efforts to streamline our production processes and improve efficiency where possible. We will continue to look for ways to reduce the carbon intensity of our production processes in 2024.

→ Biomass CHP & AD Performance

When combined, our anaerobic digestion (AD) and Biomass combined heat and power (CHP) renewable energy plants produced enough energy to power the equivalent of over 6200 homes¹ in 2023.

This is an increase from 2022, with the AD producing 3% more green electricity and the Biomass CHP increasing its output performance by over 5%. This increase is due to better further refinement of the waste wood fuel used in the Biomass plant, as well as the implementation of preventative maintenance measures which reduced periods of unplanned shutdown of both plants. We hope to extend this positive trend and keep improving the performance of our renewable energy plants in the years to come.

[1] Based on medium household electricity use of 2700 kWh per year (Ofgem 2024).



2023 Total Emissions

→ Investing in Electric

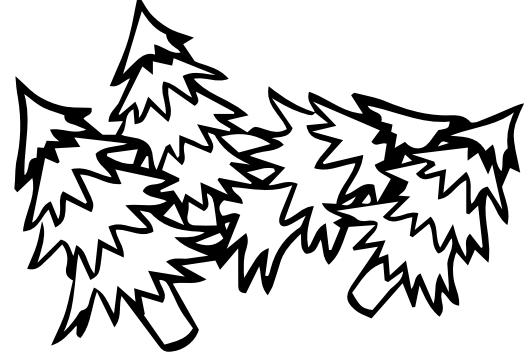
In 2023, we reduced the number of fossil-fuelled company vehicles we had, opting for less carbon-intense electric cars instead. At our Parley site, we now have five team members with company electric cars, of which they can charge up with renewable energy from our onsite CHP plant while they work.

Furthermore, two team members at our anaerobic digestion plant in Piddlehinton have been provided with electric vans, along with a charging point on site. Making small changes like this and embracing green alternatives is inherent to what we do here at Eco.

7 Company Vehicles Powered By Renewable Energy



Recycling & Recovery Operations



66,908

tonnes of green waste recycled

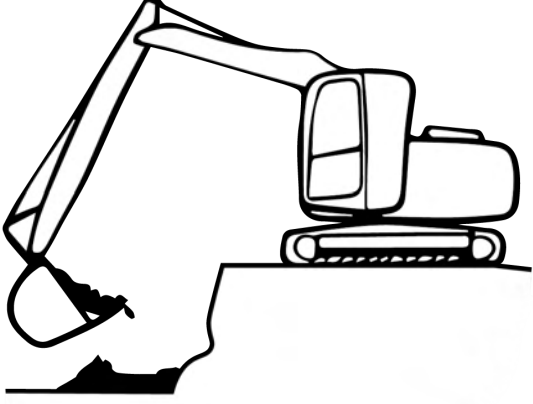


122,000

tonnes of CO₂^e prevented from entering the atmosphere by diverting waste from landfill

84,082

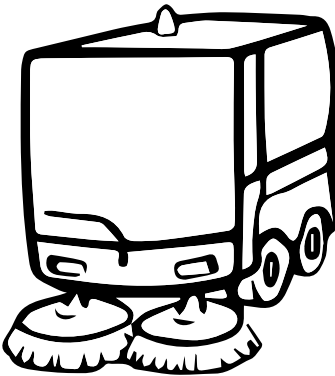
tonnes of excavated soils recycled



40,676

tonnes of food waste recycled

4,412
homes worth of electricity



18,392

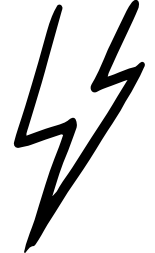
tonnes of street sweepings recycled

10,554 tonnes of aggregate output

55,019

tonnes of wood waste recycled
35,534 tonnes of wood for Energy Recovery off site
11,291 tonnes of wood for Energy Recovery on site

4,972 MWh
of electricity produced



A close-up photograph of several purple flowers with five petals and dark purple veins, set against a background of green foliage and grass. The text 'ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity Enhancement

After the success of our 2022 efforts to improve biodiversity around our sites, we wanted to continue this trend in 2023. Here's what we got up to:

→ Reptile Relocation

As part of the ongoing infrastructure investments our Parley site, we are constructing additional lagoon system. The 10ha area allocated for this project, while at first glance presented as neutral grassland, was, in fact home to several protected reptile species including slow worms, adders, grass snakes, and smooth snakes. These species are vitally important in our local ecosystems, as well as being iconic animals native to Dorset.

In the spring of 2023, we employed the expertise of a chartered ecologist to obtain a reptile license and set to work relocating reptiles into the hibernacula we had made for them in 2022. In total, we relocated 75 slowworms, three adders, three smooth snakes, two grass snakes, and one sand lizard. We are excited to see these animals again as they emerge from hibernation this spring and summer.

→ Tree Planting

Spring of 2023 saw our nearby public bridleways planted with 50 native tree and hedgerow saplings. These were planted as part of The Conservation Volunteers' 'I Dig Trees' initiative, and so were part of the three million trees that have been donated for planting in public spaces. Trees are essential in the fight against the climate crisis as they sequester CO₂ and provide food, habitat and shelter to a variety of different mammals, birds, and insects. The more the better!

→ Wildflowers at Weymouth

We sowed 200m² of wildflowers at our Weymouth transfer site. We are really pleased with the biodiversity boost these flowers have provided – by the time summer arrived, the bund they were planted upon was brimming with bird and insect activity, and the injection of colour to the facility was very welcomed by our customers and team members.

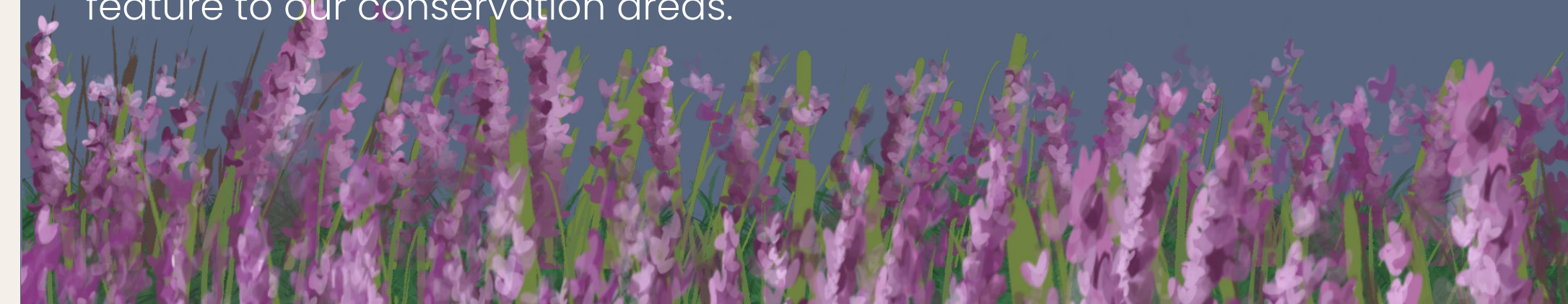


Shetland Cows Grazing at Eco Parley

→ Cows in Conservation Compartments

As part of our project to restore the heathland in the environmental compartments adjacent to our Parley site, we have employed nature's own land management team – cattle. In the spring and summer, a small number of cows owned by a local farmer graze the grass and willow saplings in the compartments, creating space for heathland species such as heather, gorse, and wildflowers such as orchids to grow in their place.

The cattle (a mixture of Belted Galloways, British Whites, and North Devons) also help recycle nutrients into the soil by treading dead plant matter and their own waste back into it where it can support future plant growth. What's more, this dung can bring in dozens of insects and fungi, boosting biodiversity further. We love hosting these animals; they are a welcomed feature to our conservation areas.



Our Commitment in 2024

Another year means another opportunity for continuous improvement. At Eco, we always strive to build on what we do and make it better – it is important to our company ethos that we maintain and keep pushing our environmental efforts where we can. This is what we've got planned in 2024:

→ Create Additional Wildflower Bund at our Weymouth Site

After the success of last year's mini wildflower meadow at our Weymouth site, we plan to sow a further 200m² of wildflower seeds upon the opposing bund to double down on the positive impact they brought to the site in 2022.

→ Tree Planting at Site Border

To increase biodiversity on site we plan to replace sparsely populated willow scrub on our site perimeter with a mix of native trees and bushes such as blackthorn, dogwood, holly and hawthorn to produce a species diverse hedgerow.

This will provide better habitat for reptiles, small mammals, birds and insects. Planting will take place in late 2024 and will form a key part of our ongoing redevelopment.

→ Building on our Biodiversity Projects

Land management and biodiversity enhancement takes more than just initial implementation; it requires care and continuous monitoring to ensure the desired outcomes are achieved. Therefore 2024 will be largely a year of managing our projects – wildflower bunds, reptile hibernacula, bird boxes, tree planting – to make sure their positive environmental impacts provide the long-term benefits we want them to.

Alongside active management, this will include reviewing our Land & Ecological Management Plan to highlight the establishment of protected reptile species in our conservation areas and to ensure sympathetic management methods are implemented as far as practicably possible.



Example of a bug hotel

→ Bug Hotel

In the summer of 2024, we will build a 'bug hotel' for our Parley site's conservation area. A bug hotel is a manmade habitat for invertebrates – ours will be created from old wooden pallets, logs with holes drilled in them, dried out scrub, foliage, branches, rocks, and old bricks.

This warm, dry space should attract various insects, and maybe even frogs and hedgehogs over the colder, wetter months. It is important we protect all our local species, no matter how small!



OUR PEOPLE



People

→ Safety Culture

2023 was a successful year for Health and Safety and we met our aspirational target of zero RIDDOR reportable injuries. We are committed to offering a Safe and Healthy environment for all our valued employees, contractors, and visitors. We encourage and incentivise engagement on health and safety issues seeing this as a critical element of our success and we will continue to build on our strong safety culture in the coming years.

→ Improved Benefits

In 2023, we saw some fantastic additions to our benefits package, with a focus on employee well-being. One 'fruitful' example is our fully stocked fruit bowls providing free fruit for the team. This promotes healthy choices and fuels energy levels for a positive, productive work environment.

Furthermore, recognising the growing importance of mental health, we introduced an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). This program provides valuable resources and support to help employees navigate any mental health challenges they may face.

→ Team Training

During 2023 our team undertook 68 days of health, safety, or environmental training and 144 days of learning & development training, averaging at 4 days per employee. The training covered a wide range of areas including IOSH Managing Safely and Leading Safely, Confined Space entry, and First Aid. As a result of our teams continual development, we had 5 internal promotions!

In 2024, we are committed to achieving ISO45001 certification. This would certify our occupational health and safety management system to an internationally recognised standard to match both our environmental and quality management systems.



Dorset Community Action at The Centre, Ferndown

→ Helping the Local Community

Throughout 2023, Eco donated over 109 bulk bags of product to over 9 different organisations, including BCP's annual compost giveaway, Dorset Community Action, and Grounded Community.

We fostered a team spirit that extends to giving back. The annual "Miles for Macmillan" event saw our team racking up a massive 1,158 miles by walking, running, or cycling for a month. This impressive feat raised a fantastic £432 for the Macmillan Caring Locally unit in Christchurch.

In 2023 we assisted not one, not two but three charities in their Christmas tree collection schemes! Through this, we recycled 27 tonnes of trees and a total of £57,788 was raised by the charities!



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