



Arolygiaeth Ei Fawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Environmental report

July 2023

This report is also available in Welsh.

Environmental policy

Estyn is the office of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. It is independent of, but funded by, the National Assembly for Wales under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998. We are responsible for conducting statutory inspections and reporting on education and training providers in Wales. We also provide specific advice to the Welsh Government in response to an annual remit from the Minister.

During 2022-2023, we employed a total number of 164 people, including permanent and fixed term staff and secondees / agency staff. Estyn's environmental policy covers all organisational activities. Estyn is committed to the protection of the environment, continually improving its environmental management and performance, meeting environmental compliance and obligation (both regulatory and voluntary) and preventing pollution.

Estyn has identified that our main impacts on the environment arise from the consumption of energy, normally transport, and the generation of waste. We will seek to minimise our impact on the environment, including seeking to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems through a commitment to a comprehensive set of environmental objectives:

- 1 To continue to use energy efficiently and to monitor CO2 generation with the aim of further reducing our emissions contributing to the Welsh public sector net zero target by 2030.
- 2 In line with the Welsh Government (WG) "Towards Zero Waste" commitment, to maintain zero waste going to landfill.
- 3 In line with the WG "Towards Zero Waste" commitment, to reduce waste arisings by 1.2% year on year until 2050 (based on 2013-2014 figures).
- 4 To minimise the organisation's transport impact contributing to the CO2 reduction target (objective 1).
- 5 Communicate environmental initiatives and our commitment to wider sustainability to the public and staff.
- 6 Continue to embed environmental considerations into purchasing procedures.

This policy is shared with all staff who are asked for any thoughts on our environmental objectives and it is published on our website. The Lead Officer: Sustainability will review this policy at least annually.



Owen Evans
His Majesty's Chief Inspector
of Education and Training in Wales

04 July 2023

Who we are

Estyn is His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. Our mission is to support excellence for all learners in Wales. We do this by providing an independent, high-quality inspection and advice service to the Welsh Government and the citizens of Wales. We are independent of, but funded by, the Welsh Government (section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998).

[Our priorities](#) setting out our mission and vision, strategic objectives and values is available on our website. The [about us](#) section on our website further explains the work we do.

Climate change

We are still in the midst of a climate emergency: globally, we are experiencing unprecedented climate events; we are on track for temperature rises above 2°C; one million species are threatened with extinction due to climate change and the overexploitation of natural resources; and there is increasing evidence of the adverse impacts that plastic is having on the environment and living organisms.

Governments and organisations around the world continue to make ambitious commitments to reach net zero emissions. In 2019 the Welsh Government and the Senedd declared a climate emergency and has since set a legally binding target to deliver net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in Wales. In October 2021 the Welsh Government published the Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget (2021-2025), the second statutory decarbonisation plan. This sets out the policies and approaches to meet Wales' second Carbon Budget and further sets the ambition for the public sector to be collectively net zero by 2030 [Net zero carbon status by 2030: public sector route map](#). [Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales](#) is Welsh Government's climate change adaptation plan for Wales. Although the public sector only accounts for a small amount of Wales' emissions, it is uniquely placed to influence emissions in areas such as transport, energy and land use. This is Welsh Government's poster to show how they will reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 [commitment to tackling climate change: infographic](#).

The Welsh Government also have a commitment to reducing waste and unnecessary plastic, outlined in the [circular economy strategy, 'Beyond Recycling'](#), which aims to have a zero waste Wales by 2050. Our national recycling rate has reached over 65%, cementing Wales' place as one of the highest recycling nations in the World. The report also promotes the benefits of a more circular economy that keeps resources and materials in use for as long as possible and avoids all waste. This will mean moving away from the take-make-use-dispose culture.

At Estyn, we are committed to playing our part in addressing climate change and waste management, conducting our work in an environmentally responsible manner and embedding sustainability into the core of our operation. Our environmental objectives aim to achieve this.

Our senior management team is committed to influencing and promoting environmental responsibility within our operations, and through our core work – inspections and thematic reviews. The Green Dragon Environmental Standard is awarded to organisations that can demonstrate effective environmental management and that are taking action to understand, monitor and control their impacts on the environment. Thanks to the support of our staff, we have been reaccredited to level 3 of this standard since 2007.

2022-2023 saw a return to normal activities with central services staff returning to the office on a hybrid working basis. During 2022-2023, we conducted 391 core inspections (322 in 2019-2020) plus we continued to engage with providers through follow-up and other inspection activity. We also engaged with stakeholders in the preparation of thematic reports and in holding stakeholder events and training activity.

We see a return to more normal reporting pattern in 2022-2023.

Legislation

The Welsh Government has passed three Acts that discuss sustainability.

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 improves the existing planning process to ensure the right development is located in the right place.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 put into place the necessary legislation to enable the planning and management of the natural resources of Wales in a more sustainable, proactive and joined-up way.

The Act also includes an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the section 6 duty) for public authorities (including Estyn) in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. To comply with the section 6 duty we should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into our early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as our day to day activities.

We must publish a plan setting out what we propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience (our environmental policy). We must also, before the end of every third year after 2019, publish a report on what we have done to comply with the s6 duty (our environmental report). The reporting duty should form part of our ordinary reporting systems.

The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out a shared purpose to achieve a better and lasting quality of life for us all. The shared purpose is represented by an integrated set of seven wellbeing goals. The Act also puts in place a sustainable development principle.

We have been embedding the principle of sustainable development into the way we use our resources for many years. Although the duty does not apply to us (we are not a listed public body for the purposes of the Act), we nonetheless support the spirit of the Act and seek to build the necessary wellbeing components and sustainable

development principle into our planning, governance and operational delivery and into how we lead, communicate and involve our staff and stakeholders.

Links to the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP) objectives

As recommended in the guidance on the section 6 duty, our activities are aligned with the relevant objectives in [the Nature Recovery Plan for Wales](#) (NRAP). These reflect the strategic goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is the key international agreement on biodiversity to which the UK Government is a signatory. The guidance indicates that organisations that occupy an office building only and whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management should link with objectives 1, 4 and 6.

- Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

We have indicated in our reporting where our actions contribute to the relevant NRAP objective.

Biodiversity is the variety of life found on earth. Mainstreaming biodiversity activity in organisations not involved in land management tends to focus on tackling the pressure on species and habitats, for example by climate change mitigation / decarbonisation, including procuring locally and from sustainable sources and reducing, reusing and recycling resources.

Environmental objectives 2023-2024

We have identified that our main impacts on the environment arise from: transport, the consumption of energy, and the generation of waste.

We will seek to minimise our impact on the environment, including seeking to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems through a commitment to a comprehensive set of environmental objectives:

- 1 To continue to use energy efficiently and to monitor CO2 generation with the aim of further reducing our emissions contributing to the Welsh public sector net zero target by 2030.
- 2 In line with the Welsh Government (WG) “Towards Zero Waste” commitment, to maintain zero waste going to landfill.
- 3 In line with the WG “Towards Zero Waste” commitment, to reduce waste arisings by 1.2% year on year until 2050 (based on 2013-2014 figures).

- 4 To minimise the organisation’s transport impact contributing to the CO2 reduction target (objective 1).
- 5 Communicate environmental initiatives and our commitment to wider sustainability to the public and staff.
- 6 Continue to embed environmental considerations into purchasing procedures.

Our performance 2022-2023

- 1. To continue to use energy efficiently and to monitor CO2 generation¹ with the aim of a 10% reduction over the next five years (based on 2017-2018 figures).**

CO₂ emissions:

Estyn Baseline	2017 - 2018	153,727 kg CO ₂
Target by	2022 - 2023	138,354 kg CO₂
Actual	2018 - 2019	102,660 kg CO ₂
	2019 - 2020	120,709 kg CO ₂
	2020- 2021	9,819 kg CO ₂
	2021-2022	60,068 kg CO ₂
	2022-2023	92,588 kg CO ₂

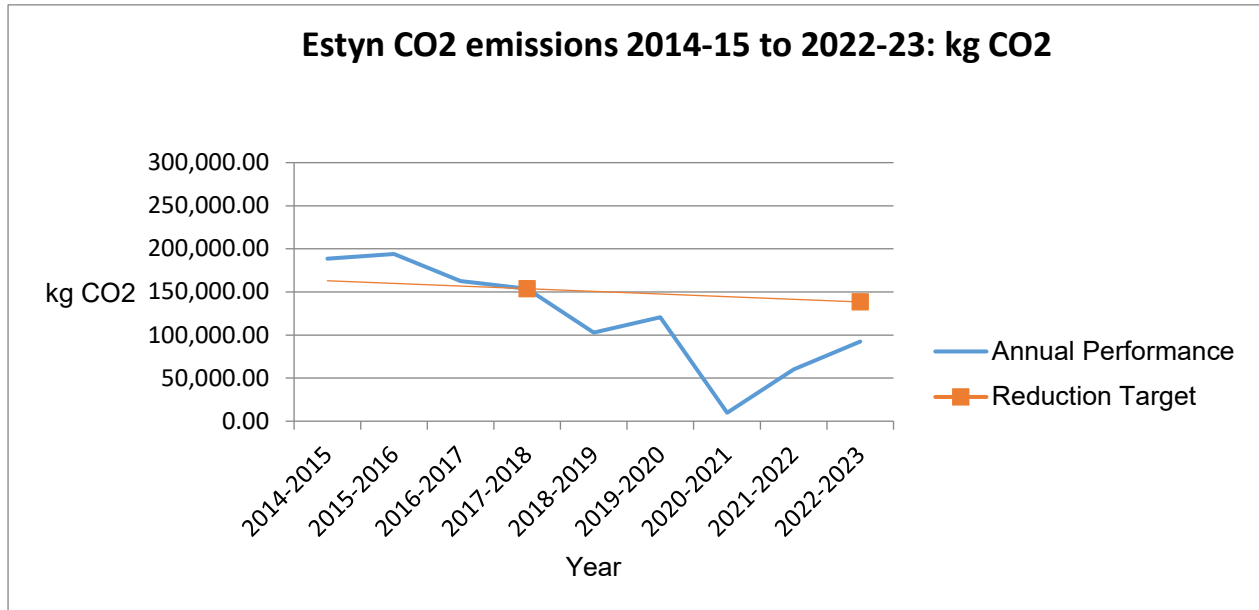
We have far exceed our original target to see a 10% reduction in CO2 emissions over the next five years (based on 2017-2018 figures). We have actually reduced emissions by 40% during this period. Travel schemes, procurement initiatives, energy planning, office activities, innovations in technology and influencing behaviours have all contributed. We have downsizing our office space, moved to hybrid working for central services staff, encouraged active travel and green car schemes, increased online activity and reduced paper through innovations in technology and procurement processes and raise awareness of sustainability through inspection processes.

Our emissions target for 2023-2024 has been revised to reflect our progress and our continued plans to contribute to the Welsh public sector net zero target by 2030:

- To continue to use energy efficiently and to monitor CO2 generation with the aim of further reducing our emissions contributing to the Welsh public sector net zero target by 2030.

¹ Annual Defra conversion factors have been used to calculate CO₂ emissions throughout this report.

The graph below illustrates the emissions trend over the last nine years:

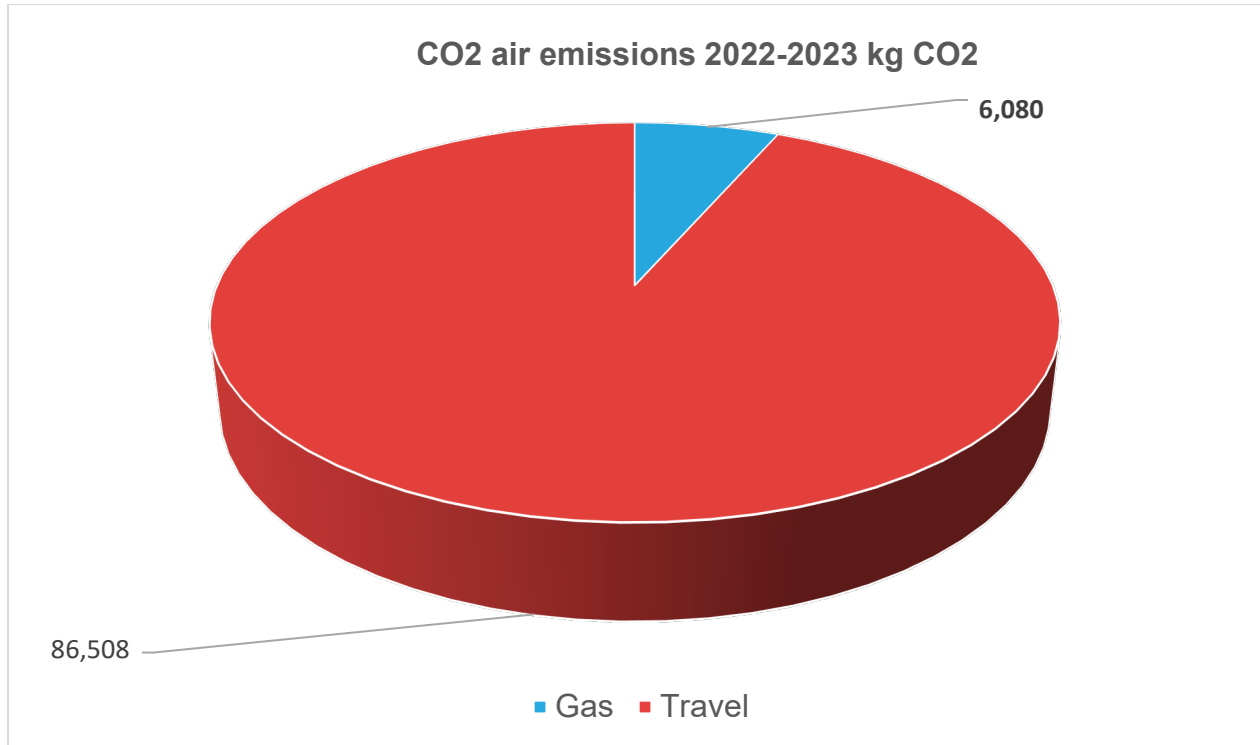


Total overall CO₂ emissions in 2022-2023 were 92,588 kg CO₂. 2021-2022 total emissions were 60,068 kg and in the previous year, total emissions were 9,818 kg. This shows a return to Estyn's business operations and office use (now hybrid working) following the impact of the Covid -19 pandemic. Our emissions figures continue to be based on our office environment and our move to a hybrid working arrangement for our office based staff from February 2022.

A more typical year for comparison of emissions would be 2019-2020 when total emissions were 120,709 kg CO₂.

Regarding electricity, this is our fifth year of using clean energy and as confirmed by the Green Energy Centre, our scope 2 emissions for electricity drawn from the national grid can be reported as zero. Estyn's 100% renewable energy tariff is backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO).

The proportion of CO₂ emissions generated from gas and travel for the period is illustrated below:

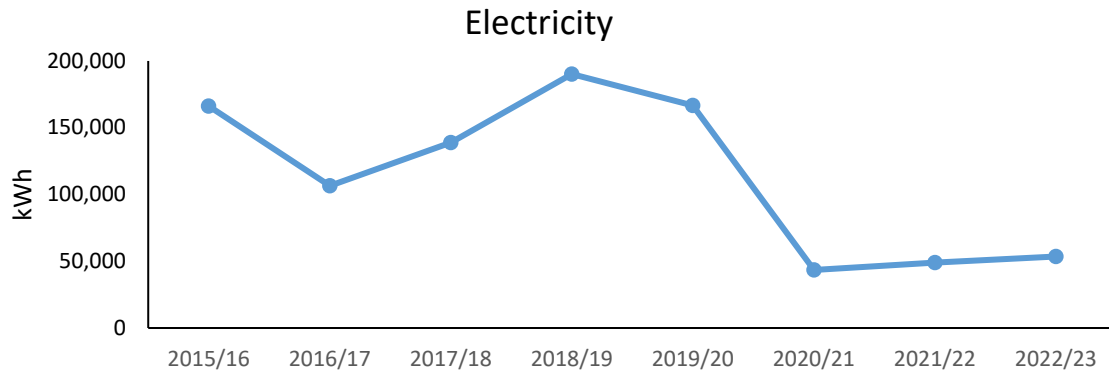


The initiatives we promote to support a reduction in our transport CO₂ emissions are noted in further detail in section 4 below.

Energy consumption:

Payment for gas usage within the building is apportioned by the landlord between the tenants and included in our service charge. Downsizing our office has impacted our gas usage as has central services staff now following a pattern of hybrid working. CO₂ emissions from gas usage was 6,080 kg CO₂ in 2022-2023 compared to 10,731 kg CO₂ in 2019-2020.

Turning to electricity, the impact of the air conditioning system being switched off during the pandemic resulted in significantly reduced electricity usage during that period and downsizing the office and hybrid working more recently has led to a continued reduction in 2022-2023. A 68% reduction since 2019-2020.



This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

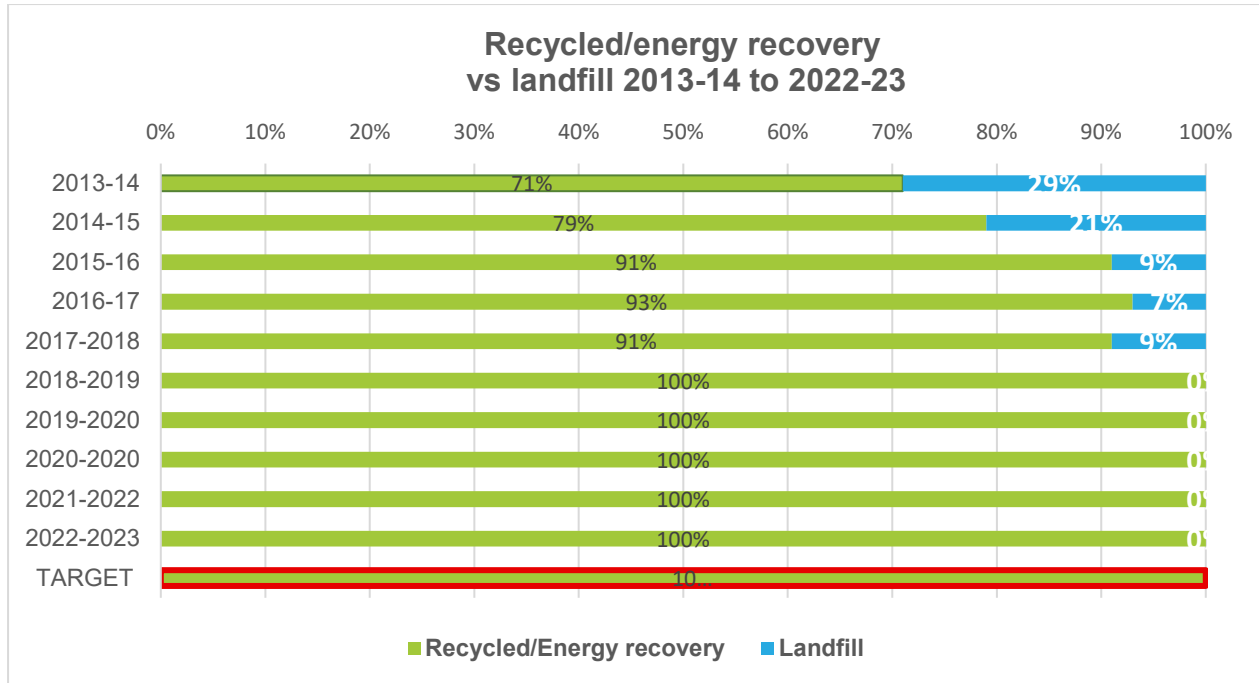
2. In line with the Welsh Government (WG) “Towards Zero Waste” commitment, to maintain zero waste going to landfill.

Since 2018-19 we have had zero waste going to landfill and our aim is to maintain this standard.

We have in place a number of recycling/energy recovery² disposal channels for a varied range of waste streams:

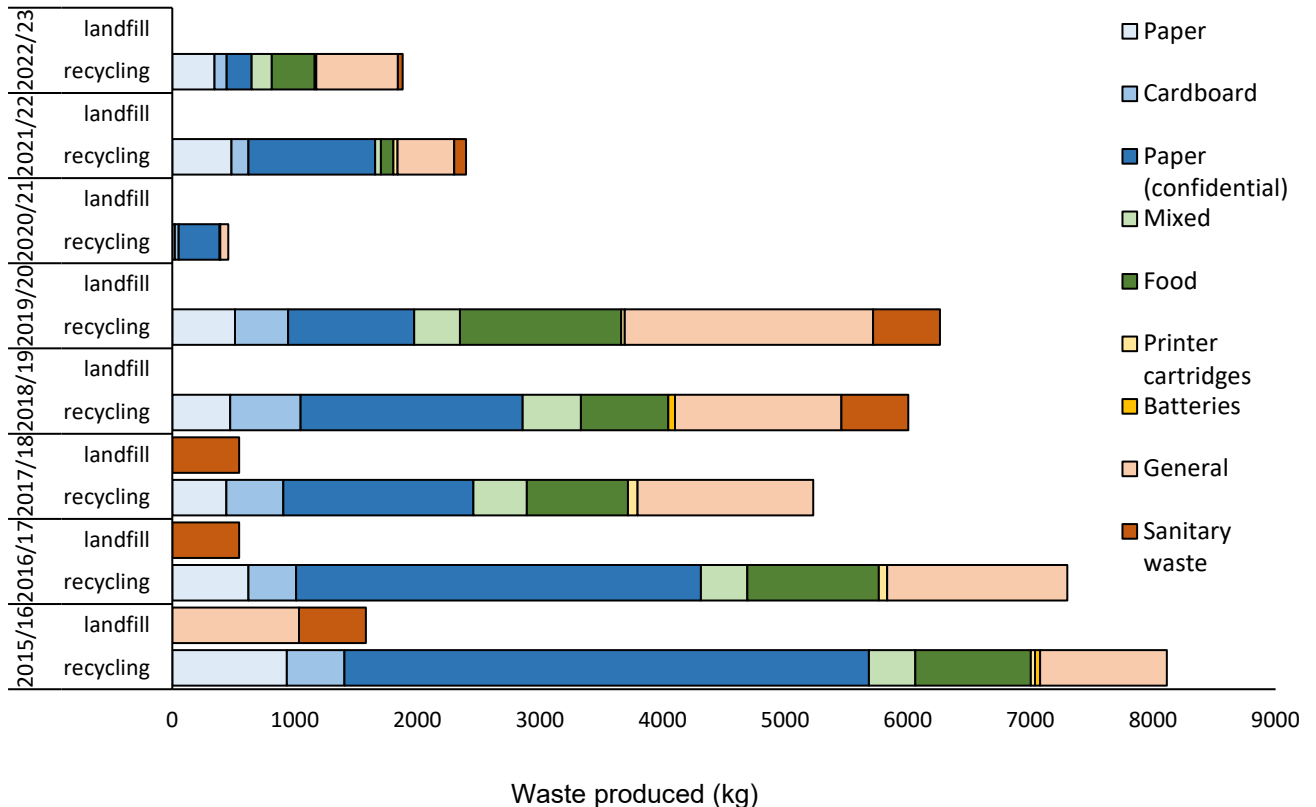
- paper, aluminium cans, plastic bottles and food waste is recycled using council services
- IT equipment is recycled using local small enterprise, ECycle
- our ‘black bag waste’ is incinerated at the Viridor Trident Park incinerator, with energy recovery
- sanitary waste – in 2017-2018 we reported that sanitary waste was our last remaining waste stream going to landfill and that during that year, our service provider, PHS, had introduced their patented sustainable waste management process whereby energy is recovered from the waste in the form of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF).

² Estyn recycling/energy recovery based on weight in kg of waste



The chart below illustrates in more detail the proportion of waste going to landfill versus each of our recycled waste streams over the eight year period:

Proportion of each waste stream recycled vs landfill 2014-2015 to 2022-2023



Office waste continues to reduce. The relative increase in confidential waste volumes and paper recycling in 2021-2022 is mainly due to the office downsizing exercise which took place September to December 2021.

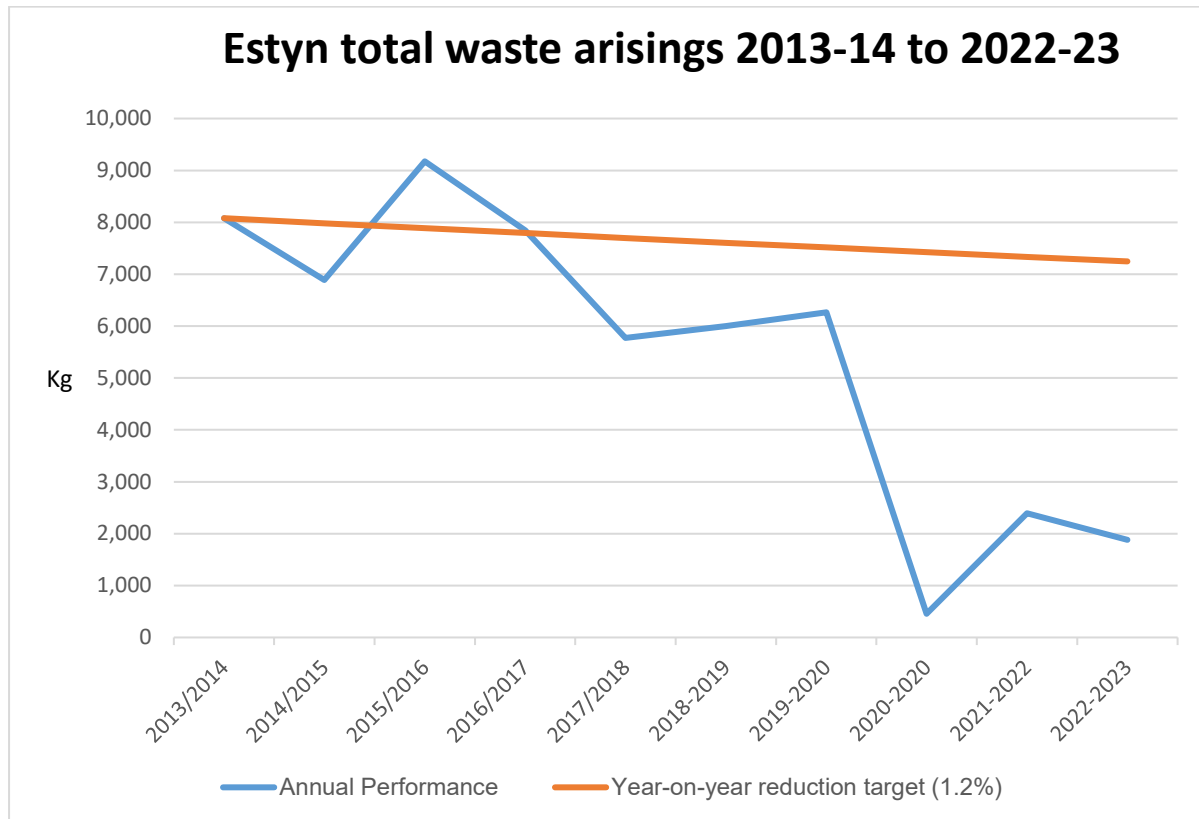
This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

3. In line with the WG “Towards Zero Waste” commitment, to reduce waste arisings by 1.2% year on year until 2050 (based on 2013-2014 figures).

Baseline 2013-2014: 8,080 kg of annual waste arising (R-5,767 kg/L-2,313 kg)

Target: 1.2% reduction year on year until 2050.

2014-2015:	6,891 kg (R-5,456 kg/L-1,435 kg)
2015-2016:	9,175 kg (R/ER-8,319 kg/L-856 kg)
2016-2017	7,847 kg (R/ER 7,301 kg/L 546 kg)
2017-2018	5,774 kg (R/ER 5,228 kg/L 546 kg)
2018-2019	6,003 kg (R/ER)
2019-2020	6,263 kg (R/ER)
2020-2021	456 kg (partially estimated R/ER)
2021-2022	2,395 kg (partially estimated R/ER)
2022-2023	1,879 kg (R/ER)



Note that the volume of waste arising during the period 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 was estimated based on limited staff presence in the office. We continue to reduce our waste in 2022-2023. Downsizing the office and hybrid working for central services staff have been key factors in reducing our total waste.

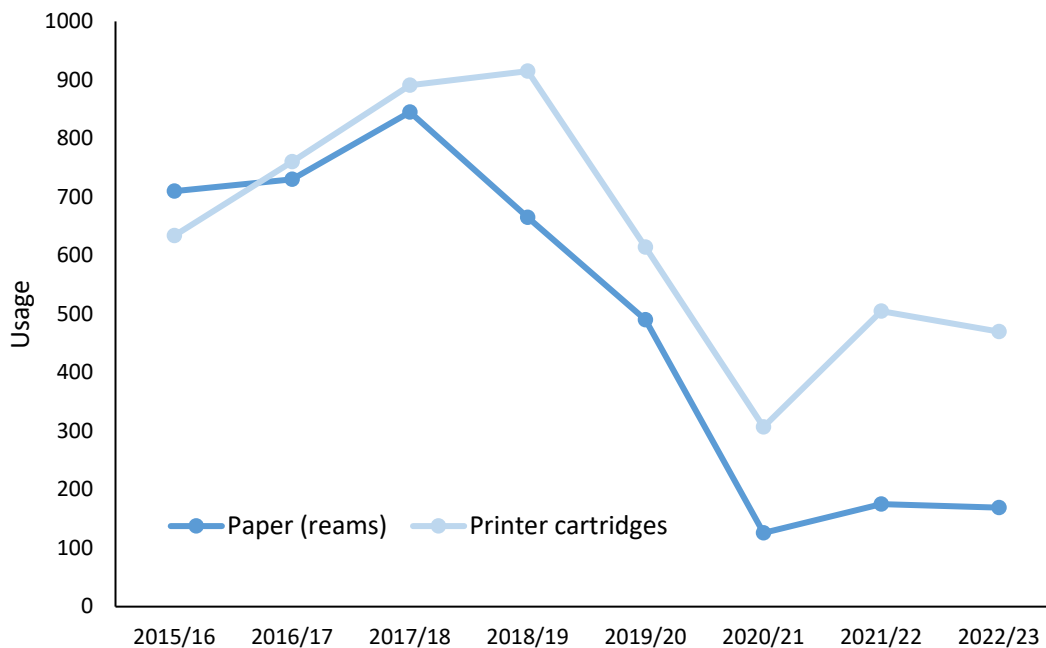
We have also evidenced consistent commitment to waste reduction in our recruitment and procurement processes; conducting all campaigns electronically; and have further increased our use of electronic communication on external publications and in the provision of training materials to external inspectors.

Our other embedded initiatives include:

- Microsoft SharePoint, a platform for our ICT that supports collaborative working and includes a virtual inspection room for sharing inspection information between providers and Estyn
- electronic distribution of inspection reports to Members of the Senedd and providers
- electronic distribution of online internal and external newsletters; and
- electronic issue of our corporate documents and remit reports instead of printing hard copies

All 11 stakeholder events were held online and of 41 training events, 30 were held online and a further 11 held in person. This also goes some way to contributing to reducing our CO₂ emissions.

The chart below illustrates the gradual decline in paper and print cartridge use since 2015-2016 as we have moved to a paperless working environment:



The total expenditure on waste in 2022-2023 was £3,705.33 (£2,918.00 in 2019-2020) - this is comprised of local council and specialist 'off-site sensitive waste' recycling services.

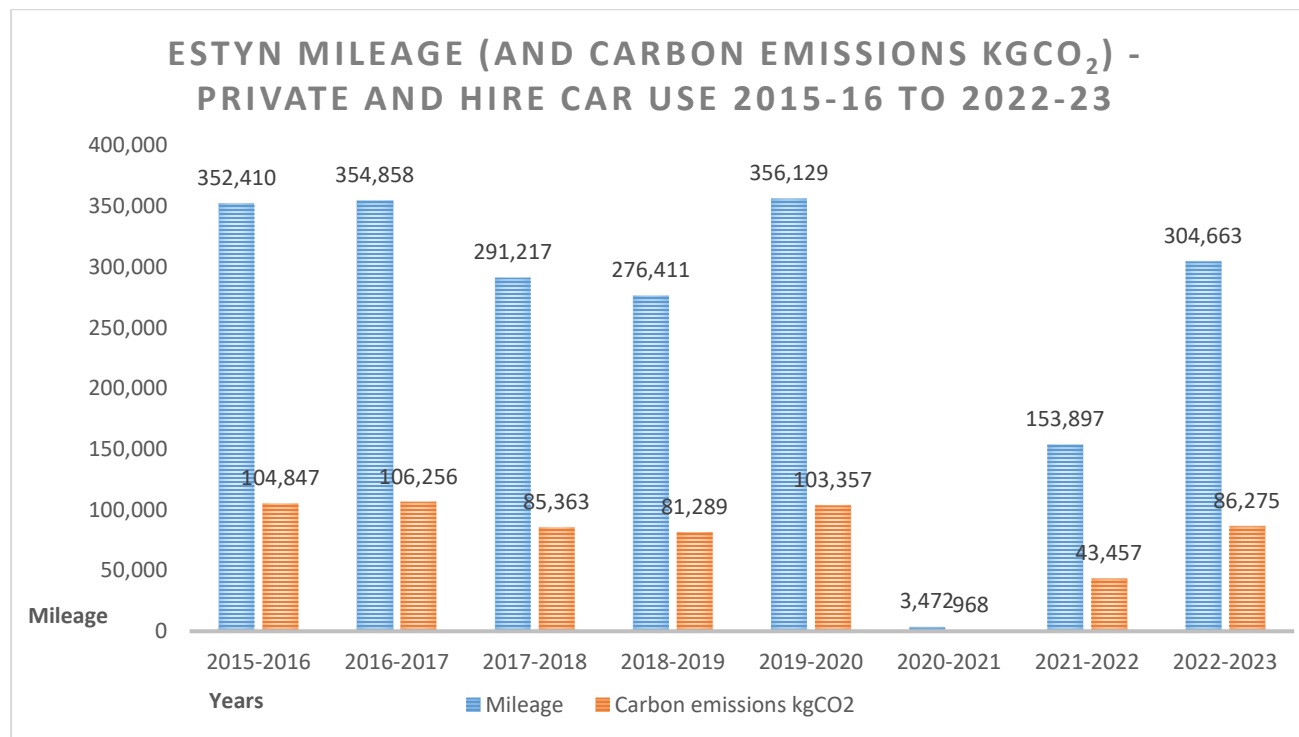
This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

4. To minimise the organisation’s transport impact contributing to the CO₂ reduction target (objective 1).

Our main impact on the environment arises from transport CO₂ emissions when our inspectors visit education and training providers. Business activity resumed back to normal levels in 2022-2023.

Estyn mileage reduced in 2022-2023 overall compared to 2019-2020 levels. Within this, personal car use increased slightly and car hire use reduced. As a result, our total emissions from car use were 86,275 kg in 2022-2023 (103,357 kg in 2019-2020) with 304,663 miles travelled during the period, compared to 356,129 miles in 2019-2020.

See the chart below.

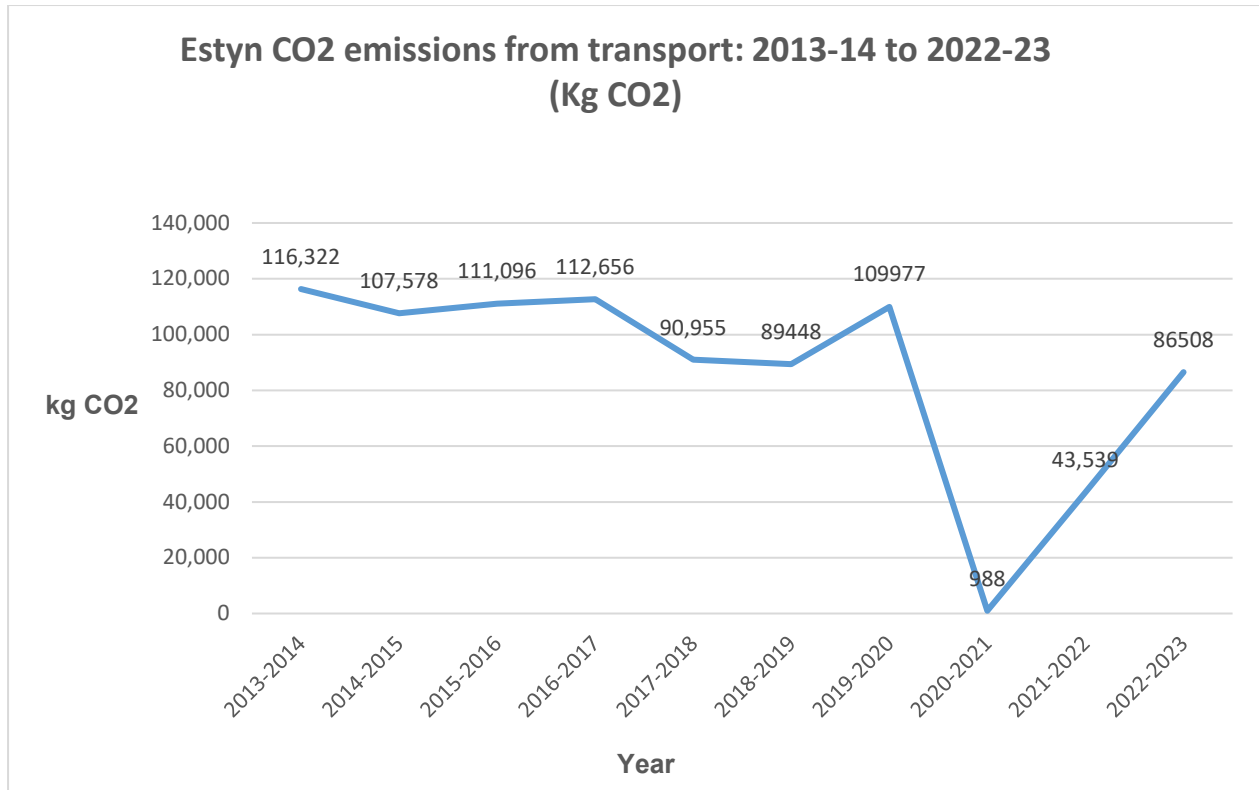


Note : there is an additional small element of petrol hybrid mileage at 899 miles in 2022-2023 (0.3% of total mileage).

We have introduced a Green Car Scheme (electric vehicle leases). Welsh Government have established the scheme which allows their staff and Estyn staff (as part of our payroll arrangements with Welsh Government) to make use of the scheme. Eleven Estyn colleagues have taken advantage of the scheme that went live on in June 2021

(had the car delivered). There are more who are in the process of accessing the scheme but we don't have confirmed numbers.

Annual transport emissions (car, rail and air) for the inspectorate over the last few years is shown below. You will see that total CO₂ emissions for transport in 2022-2023 was 86,508 kg CO₂ including car, air and rail.



As noted above, transport emissions continued to be the greatest proportion of our CO₂ emissions – 93% in 2022-2023.

The proportion of CO₂ emissions across all transport streams over the last eight years was as follows:

	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Petrol</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Air</u>
2015-16	54.6%	39.7%	1.4%	4.3%
2016-17	56.0%	38.3%	1.8%	3.9%
2017-18	54.2%	39.7%	1.8%	4.4%
2018-19	47.2%	43.6%	1.8%	7.3%
2019-20	49.0%	44.9%	1.0%	5.0%
2020-21	54.6%	43.5%	1.9%	0.0%
2021-22	45.1%	54.7%	0.2%	0.0%
2022-23	42.4%	57.3%	0.2%	0.1%

Our transport impact is significant as we are an inspectorate covering the whole of Wales

This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

5. Communicate environmental initiatives and our commitment to wider sustainability to the public and staff.

Governance and support

Our Strategic Management Group (SMG), chaired by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales, is responsible for sustainability and compliance with the biodiversity duty. The Assistant Director Inspection and Central Services is a member of SMG and is the Assistant Director with responsibility for sustainability, including the biodiversity duty. She is supported by the Head of Governance who is the Lead Officer: Sustainability.

Our Office Services Officer works with the Lead Officer: Sustainability to oversee our environmental management systems. The Office Services team maintain Estyn's environmental management systems on a day to day basis, for example waste logs, paper and stationery logs and energy consumption logs. In addition, the Procurement team manage staff travel logs and continue to embed sustainability considerations into purchasing procedures.

The Service Delivery Group is a forum for discussing operational business issues including environmental improvement objectives and targets; this will include any actions identified under the section 6 duty. The group is chaired by the Inspection and Central Services Assistant Director and membership includes corporate services staff at HEO grade and above.

This activity relates to NRAP objective 6.

Awareness raising

During 2022-2023, Estyn has continued to conduct core inspections across all sectors using updated guidance documents. Our inspection processes consider how well schools develop pupils' understanding of sustainable development and global citizenship as they develop their approach to Curriculum for Wales. Generally, schools plan worthwhile opportunities for pupils to develop as ethical, informed citizens, for example through their awareness of sustainability and children's rights. Inspections also consider how well schools or pupil referral units (PRUs) plan and deliver learning outside the classroom and how providers help pupils to develop an understanding of identity, heritage and culture and the needs and rights of others both locally and as members of a diverse world.

The Chief Inspector's annual report 2021-2022 published in January 2023, includes examples and cameos of effective practice. Sector reports for non-maintained nurseries and primary schools emphasise the considerable benefits of learning in the outdoor environment. For example:

- Nearly all non-maintained nurseries placed a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for children to play and learn outdoors.
- Many primary schools implemented programmes to support pupils' experiencing emotional stress, and a few introduced activities such as daily exercise in the outdoor environment.

Strong practice to develop pupils' understanding of sustainable development and global citizenship include:

- schools which strongly focussed on their locality, including the environment to make links to the wider context of Wales and beyond when designing curriculum
- support for pupils to reflect on global issues such as sustainability, reducing the carbon footprint, global warming and the environment
- opportunities for pupils to contribute to groups and committees such as an Eco committee and groups which promote rights and citizenship
- opportunities for pupils to contribute to extra-curricular activities such as gardening, caring for animals and bee-keeping.

This activity relates to NRAP objective 1.

6. Continue to embed environmental considerations into purchasing procedures.

Estyn is committed to socially responsible procurement with the aim of improving economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being. These matters are considered throughout the procurement and contract management processes when purchasing goods and services.

We conduct all procurement activity electronically – when sourcing goods and non-inspection services we endeavour to use NPS or other government approved

frameworks in the first instance. Suppliers sourced via this route will have already evidenced their commitment to improving the environment for inclusion in tender lots.

In the absence of an appropriate framework, or where a full tender is not required, suppliers are sourced via Sell2Wales, thereby prioritising support for small and medium Welsh enterprises and engagement with local suppliers where possible.

We include (for relevant goods and services) environmental considerations in our tender evaluation scoring model and invite suppliers to evidence in their bids how they can support us to meet our environmental objectives, encouraging them to use our Environmental policy (available on our website) for guidance.

When procuring inspection services, we invite Estyn endorsed Contracted Additional Inspectors (CAIs) to submit their tender rates electronically via a secure portal. Contract offers are also made through this secure route. This method has proved to be an effective tool for managing the resourcing and deployment of CAIs and has removed the need to issue contract offer letters, eliminating printing requirements for both parties.

This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.