



EARTHCHECK

BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENT REPORT

DESTINATION BENCHMARKING

REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DOS AÇORES

PONTA DELGADA, PORTUGAL



REPORT DATE: 24 September 2025

Benchmarking Data Collection Period: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024

The planet deserves more than half measures

OVERVIEW

This annual assessment of **Região Autónoma dos Açores** was undertaken against EarthCheck benchmarking indicators and checklists developed for EarthCheck and listed below.

¹ They have been carefully selected to track performance in key areas of environmental and social performance impact. EarthCheck benchmarking provides an organisation a vehicle for sustainability reporting and is based on the premise of continual improvement. By undertaking a Benchmarking Assessment an organisation meets the requirements of annual benchmarking which includes the collection and submission of benchmarking data to EarthCheck for review and completion of the Benchmarking Assessment Report.²

Indicator Measure (Benchmark)		
1	Policy	Policy is produced and in place
2	Energy	Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%) ³ Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown by Scope (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Scope 3 Breakdown (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year)
3	Water	Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) Recycled / Captured Water (%) ³
4	Waste	Waste Sent to Landfill (m ³ / Person Year) Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) ³ Waste Sent for Incineration (L / Person Year) ³
5	Sector Specific	Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare / Hectare) Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare / Hectare) Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare / Hectare) Water Samples Passed (%) Habitat Conservation Area (%) Green Space (%) Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%) Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%) Accredited Operations (%)
Lead Agency Performance Indicator Measure		
6	Water Saving	Water Savings Rating (Points)
7	Waste Recycling	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
8	Paper	Paper Products Rating (Points)

9	Cleaning	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)
10	Pesticides	Pesticide Products Rating (Points)
Optional Benchmarking Indicators		
11	Selected Indicators	Renewable Energy (%)
12	Specific Indicators	Nº beneficiários de RSI nos Açores (nº)
		Taxa de abandono escolar precoce nos Açores (%)
		Taxa de risco de pobreza nos Açores (%)

¹ Refer to the EarthCheck Sector Benchmarking Indicator (SBI) document for more information. For frequently asked questions (FAQs) about benchmarking or specific help, please log on to 'My EarthCheck' and visit your EarthCheck Benchmarking software.

² To meet the requirements stipulated in the EarthCheck Company Standard organisations are required to collect and submit Benchmarking data against each of the Core Benchmarking Indicators by way of annual Benchmarking Assessment, and have in place a repeatable system for accurately recording Benchmarking data including a methodology for calculating the organisation's Activity Measure for each consecutive year.

As a standard policy, all EarthCheck indicators are continuously reviewed, along with the performance levels which operators have to achieve in order to meet the requirements of the Company Standard. This review takes into account "business-as-usual" changes in practices and equipment, and is used to update where appropriate Baseline and Best Practice levels.

³ These indicators are for guidance only and do not affect the overall benchmarking evaluation.

⁴ There may be a slight variation between total figures presented in the energy table and the data summary due to unit selection and data rounding.

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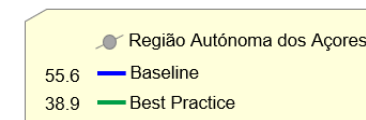
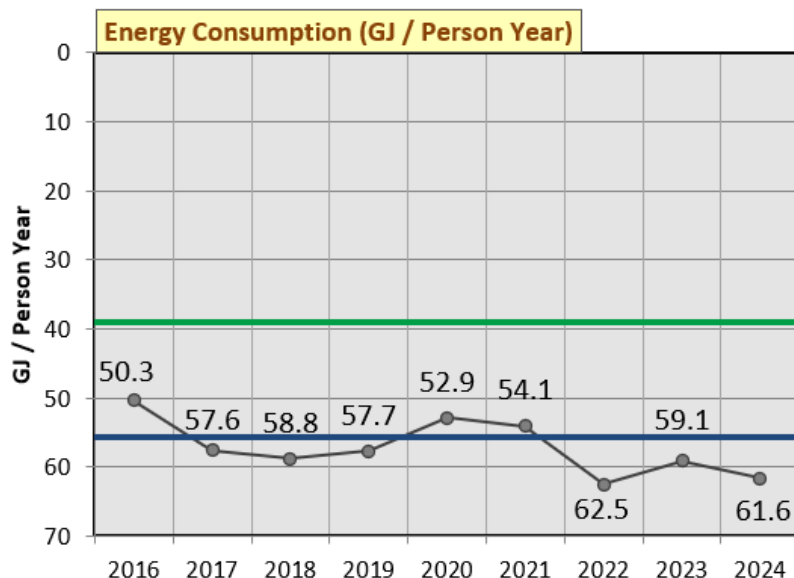
DESTINATION PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

Current performance: Below Baseline ✖ At or above Baseline ✔ At or above Best Practice ★

1. Policy ★

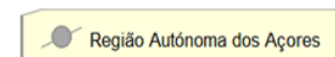
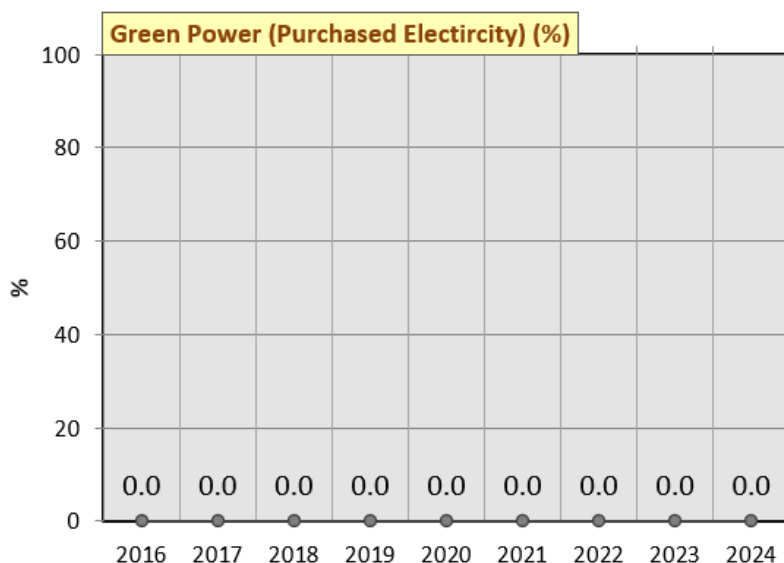
2. Energy

Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) ✖



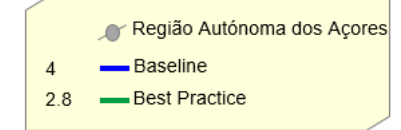
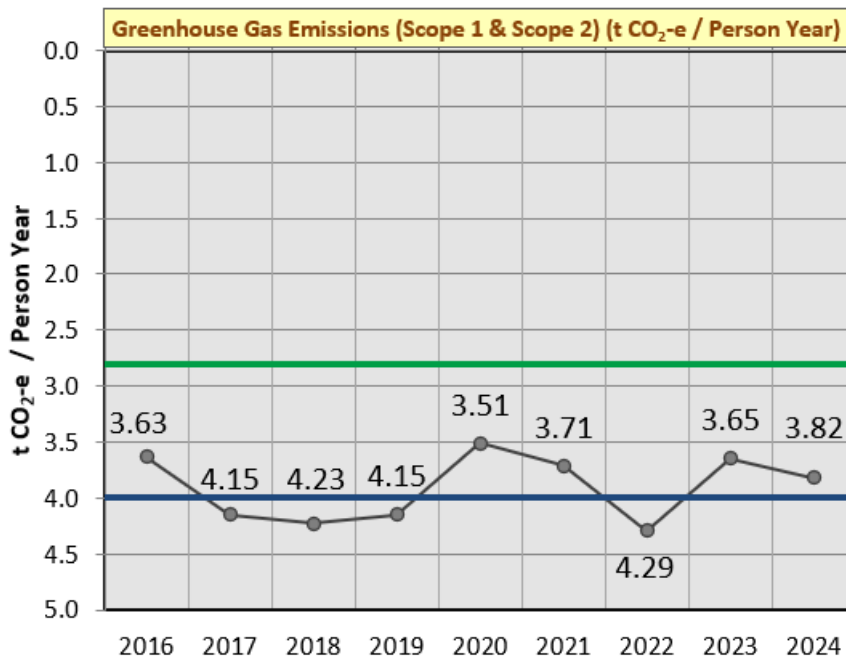
Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 61.6 GJ / Person Year, which was 10.9% below the Baseline level.

Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%)



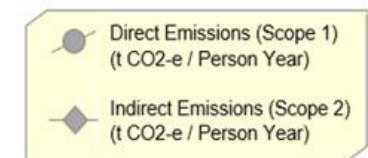
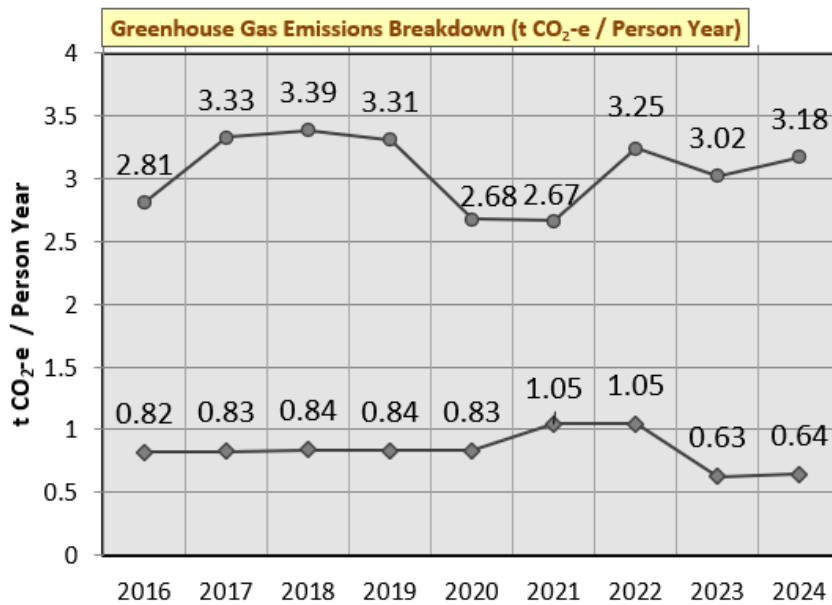
Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0%.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) ✓



Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 3.82 t CO₂-e / Person Year, which was 4.5% above the Baseline level.

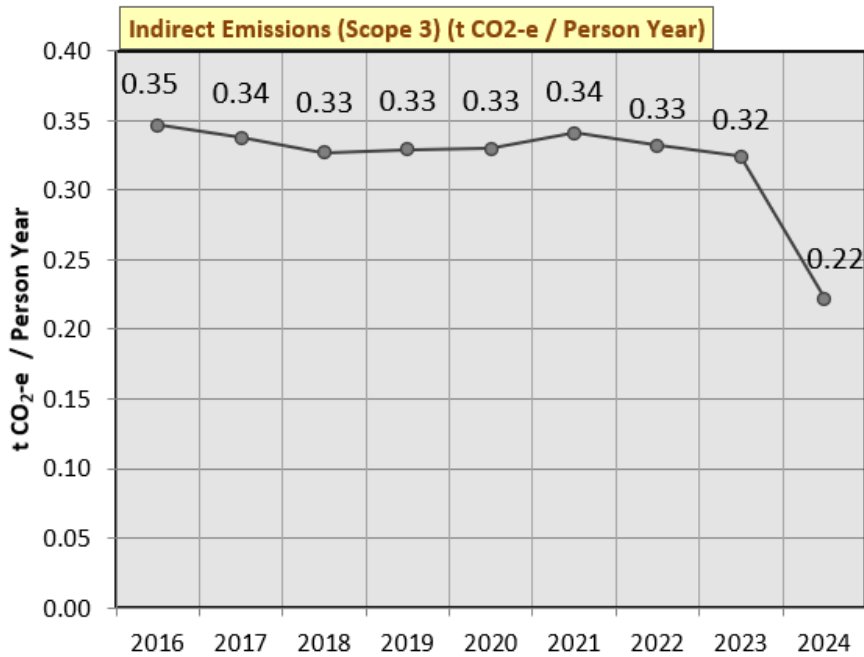
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown by Scope (t CO₂-e / Person Year)



Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 3.18 t CO₂-e / Person Year.

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0.64 t CO₂-e / Person Year.

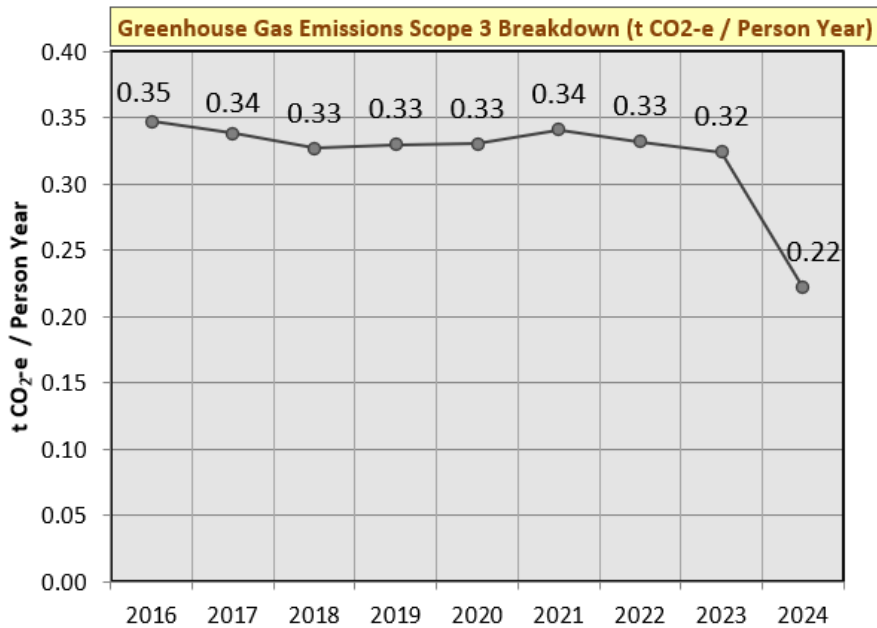
Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)



Região Autónoma dos Açores

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0.22 t CO₂-e / Person Year.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Scope 3 Breakdown (t CO₂-e / Person Year)



Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

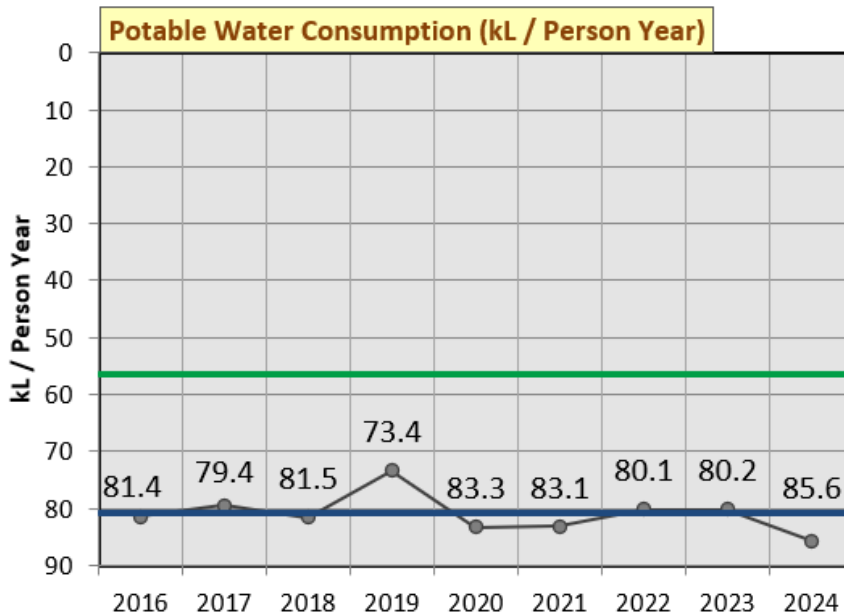
Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0.22 t CO₂-e / Person Year.

Direct Emissions (Scope 1)							
Stationary Fuel Combustion							
2024							
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (GJ)	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)
Heavy fuel oil	21,158,687	kilograms (kg)	897,551.5	65,997.0	242.3	134.6	66,373.9
Naphtha	1,145	litres (L)	41.3	2.9	0.01	0.006	2.9
LPG	19,547,655	kilograms (kg)	1,017,064.5	57,759.1	132.2	20.3	57911.7
subtotal			1,914,657.3	123,758.9	374.6	155.0	124,288.5
Mobile Fuel Combustion (road)							
2024							
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (GJ)	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)
Motor gasoline	55,192,622	litres (L)	1,887,724.5	124,278.3	1,255.3	3,801.9	129,328.0
Diesel	87,097,168	litres (L)	3,303,247.2	232,532.1	343.5	3,243.8	236,116.1
subtotal			5,190,971.7	356,810.4	1,598.9	7,045.7	365,444.1
Mobile Fuel Combustion (air)							
2024							
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (GJ)	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)
Aviation gasoline	1,470	litres (L)	48.5	3.2	0.0005	0.02	3.3
Jet Kerosene	86,771,964	litres (L)	3,174,200.8	215,607.6	31.7	1,587.1	217,242.3
subtotal			3,174,249.4	215,610.8	31.7	1,587.1	217,245.6
Mobile Fuel Combustion (water)							
2024							
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (GJ)	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)
Diesel	27,875,917	litres (L)	1,057,222.0	74,423.1	200.9	528.6	75,147.3
Heavy fuel oil	3,450,000	kilograms (kg)	146,349.0	10,761.0	27.8	73.2	10,862.0
subtotal			1,203,571.0	85,184.2	228.7	601.8	86,009.4
Onsite Wastewater Treatment							
2024							
Type	Number of people serviced by system per day		Number of days in use	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)
Septic (BOD Unknown)	145,780		365	0.0	10,056.6	0.0	10,056.6
Aerobic (BOD Unknown)	95,842		365	0.0	3,967.0	0.0	3,967.0
subtotal				0.0	14,023.6	0.0	14,023.6
Onsite Renewable Energy Generation							
2024							
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (GJ)	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)
Wind	66,020,426	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	237,673.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hydro	32,533,645	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	117,121.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solar	3,963,378	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	14,268.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geo-Thermal	177,557,510	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	639,207.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

subtotal				1,008,269.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL (Scope 1)				12,491,719.3	781,364.3	16,257.5	9,389.6	807,011.2
Indirect Emissions (Scope 2)								
Purchased Electricity								
2024								
Quantity	Unit	% Green Power	Provider	Energy Consumption (GJ)	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)
880,913,613	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	0	Portugal	3,171,289.0	161,911.9	352.4	969.0	163,233.3
TOTAL (Scope 2)				3,171,289.0	161,911.9	352.4	969.0	163,233.3
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2)								
GRAND TOTAL				15,663,008.3	943,276.2	16,609.9	10,358.6	970,244.5
Indirect Emissions (Scope 3)								
Waste Sent to Landfill								
2024								
Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	
36,350	tonnes (uncompacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	0.0	43,620.0	0.0	43,620.0	
Waste Sent for Incineration								
2024								
Quantity	Unit	Type of Incineration Technology	Type of Waste	Source	CO2 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N2O Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)
3,202	tonnes (uncompacted)	Open Burning	Textiles	International	544.8	582.8	1,272.8	2,400.3
3,930	tonnes (uncompacted)	Open Burning	Plastics	International	6,268.4	715.3	1,562.2	8,545.8
2,953	tonnes (uncompacted)	Open Burning	Nappies	International	175.8	537.5	1,173.8	1,887.1
subtotal					6,989.0	1,835.5	4,008.8	12,833.2
TOTAL					6,989.0	45,455.5	4,008.8	56,453.2

3. Water

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) ✕



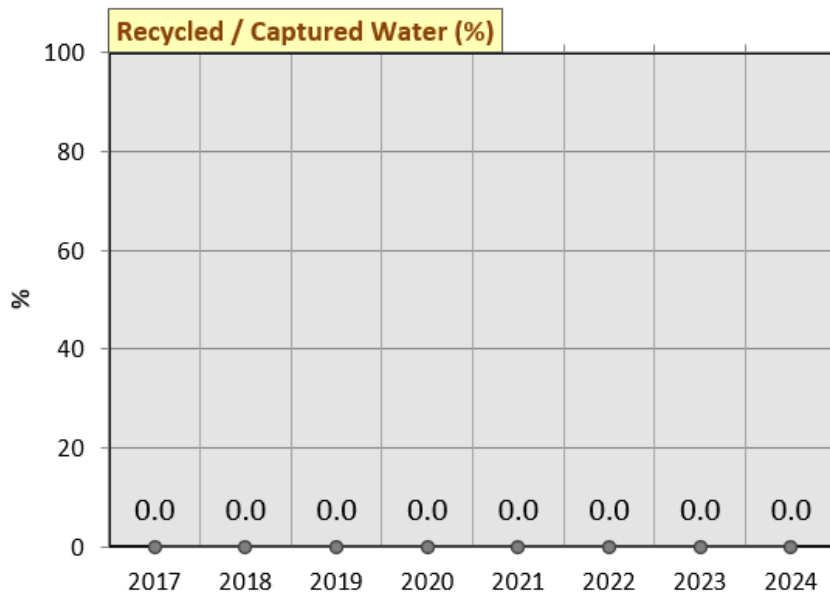
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80.75 Baseline
56.5 Best Practice

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 85.6 kL / Person Year, which was 6.0% below the Baseline level.

2024

Quantity	Unit	Potable Water Consumption (kL)
21,745,897	cubic metres	21,745,897.0 kL
TOTAL		21,745,897.0 kL

Recycled / Captured Water (%)

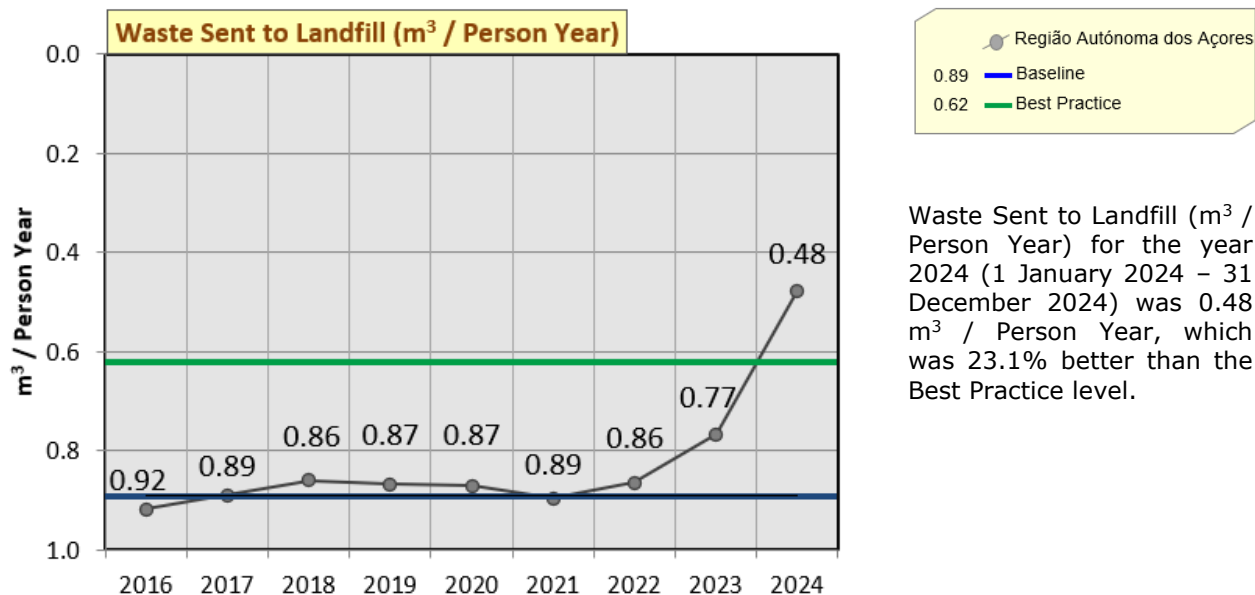


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Recycled / Captured Water (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0%.

4. Waste

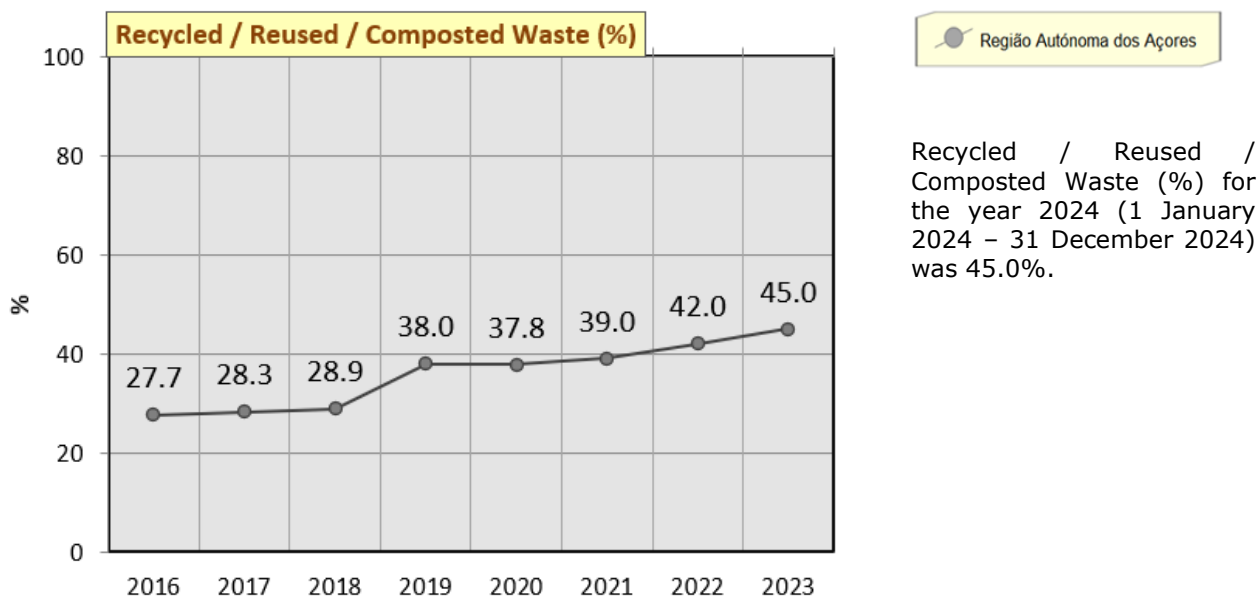
Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year) ★



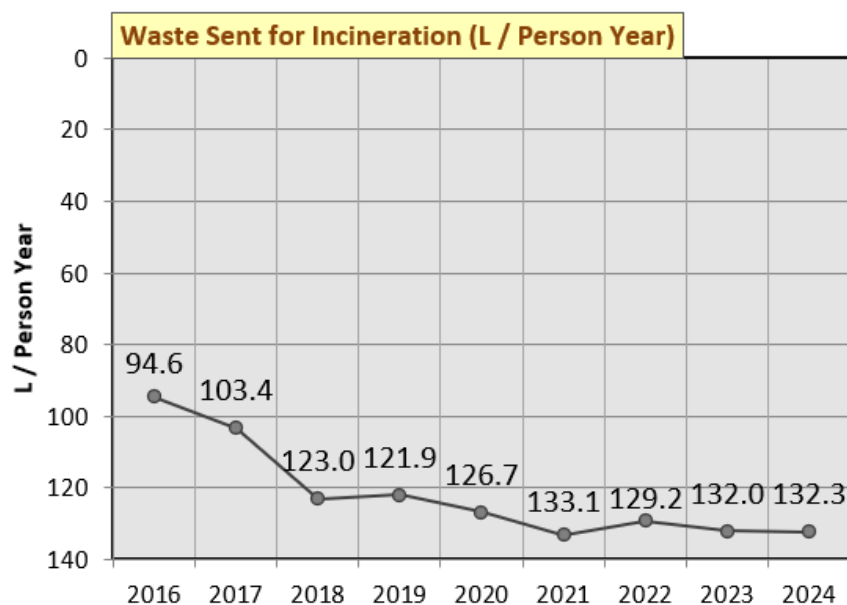
2024

Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	Waste Sent to Landfill (m ³)
36,350	tonnes (uncompacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	121,166.7
			TOTAL	121,166.7 m³

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)



Waste Sent for Incineration (L / Person Year)



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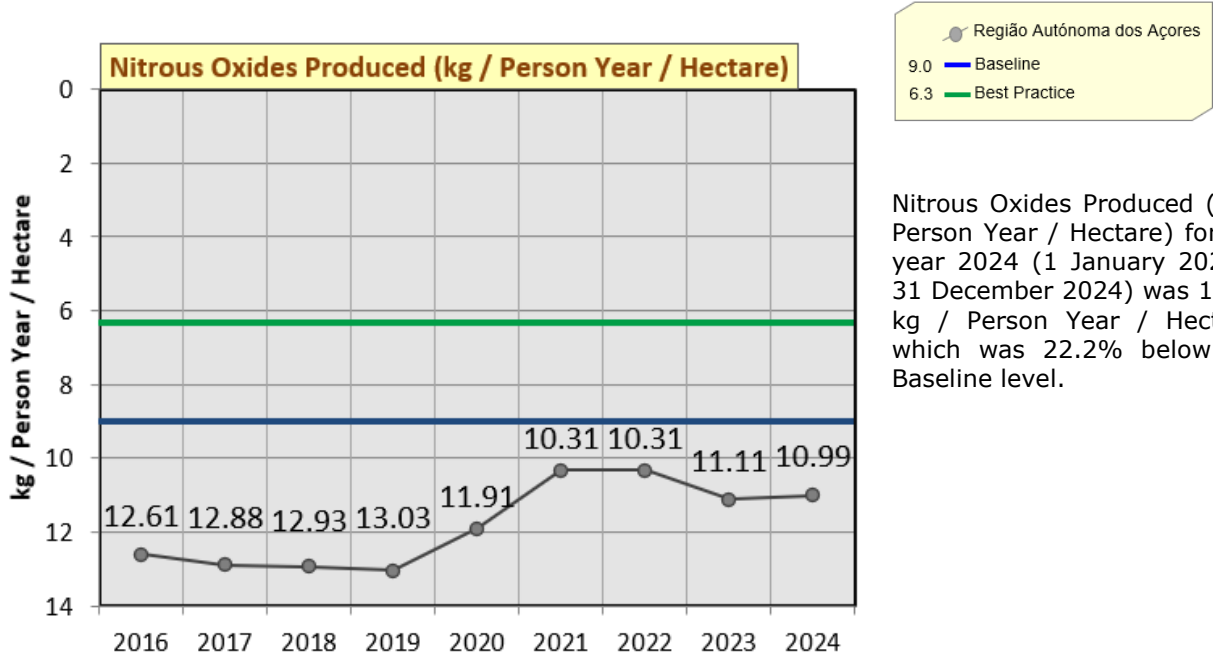
Waste Sent for Incineration (L / Person Year) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 132.3 L / Person Year.

2024

Quantity	Unit	Type of Incineration Technology	Type of Waste	Waste Sent for Incineration (m ³)
3,202	tonnes (uncompacted)	Open Burning	Textiles	10,673.3 m ³
3,930	tonnes (uncompacted)	Open Burning	Plastics	13,100.0 m ³
2,953	tonnes (uncompacted)	Open Burning	Nappies	9,843.3 m ³
			TOTAL	33,616,666.7 L

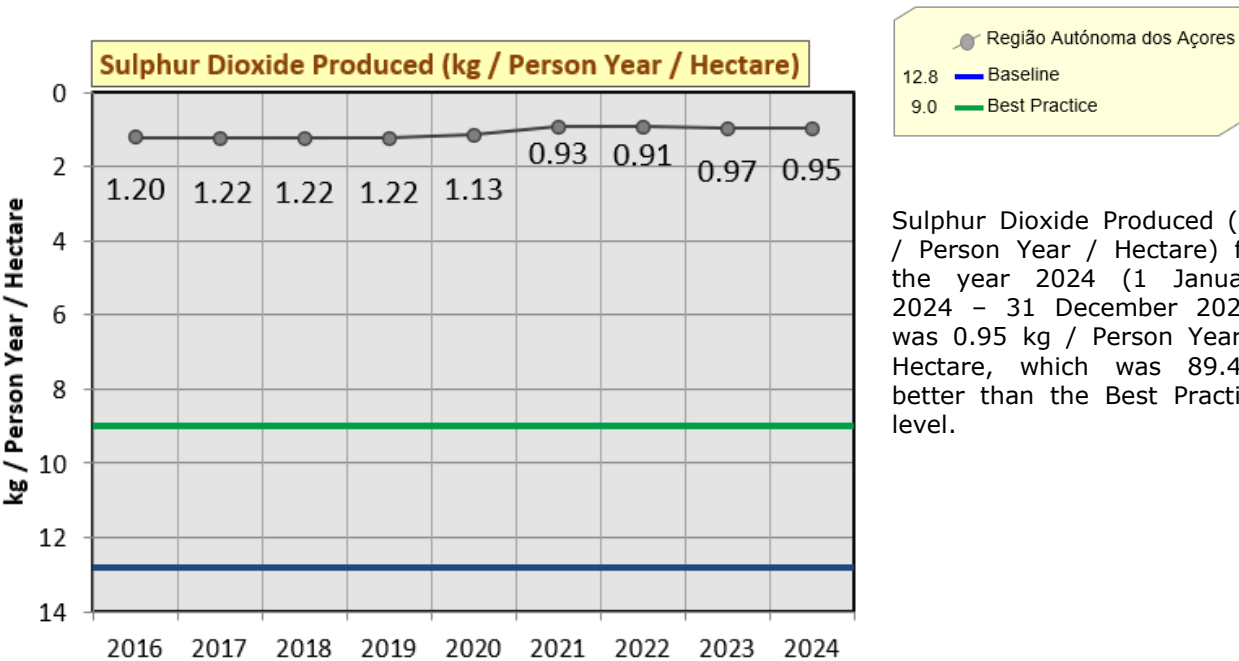
5. Sector Specific

Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ✕



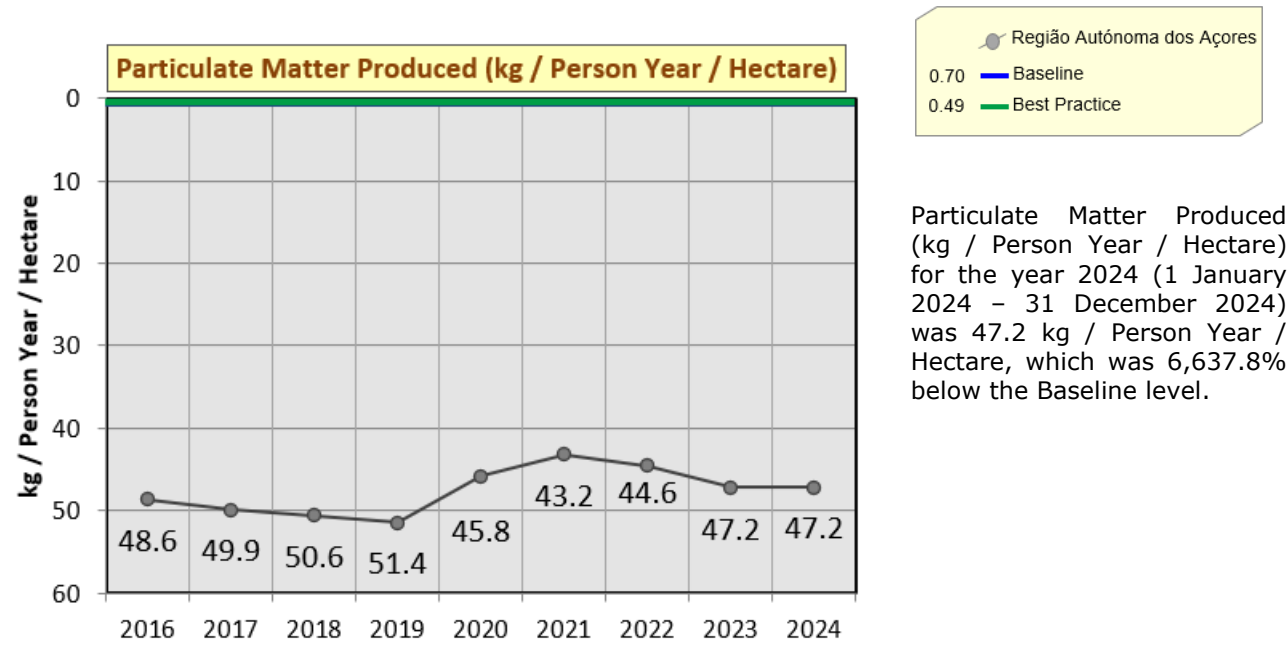
Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 10.99 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 22.2% below the Baseline level.

Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ★

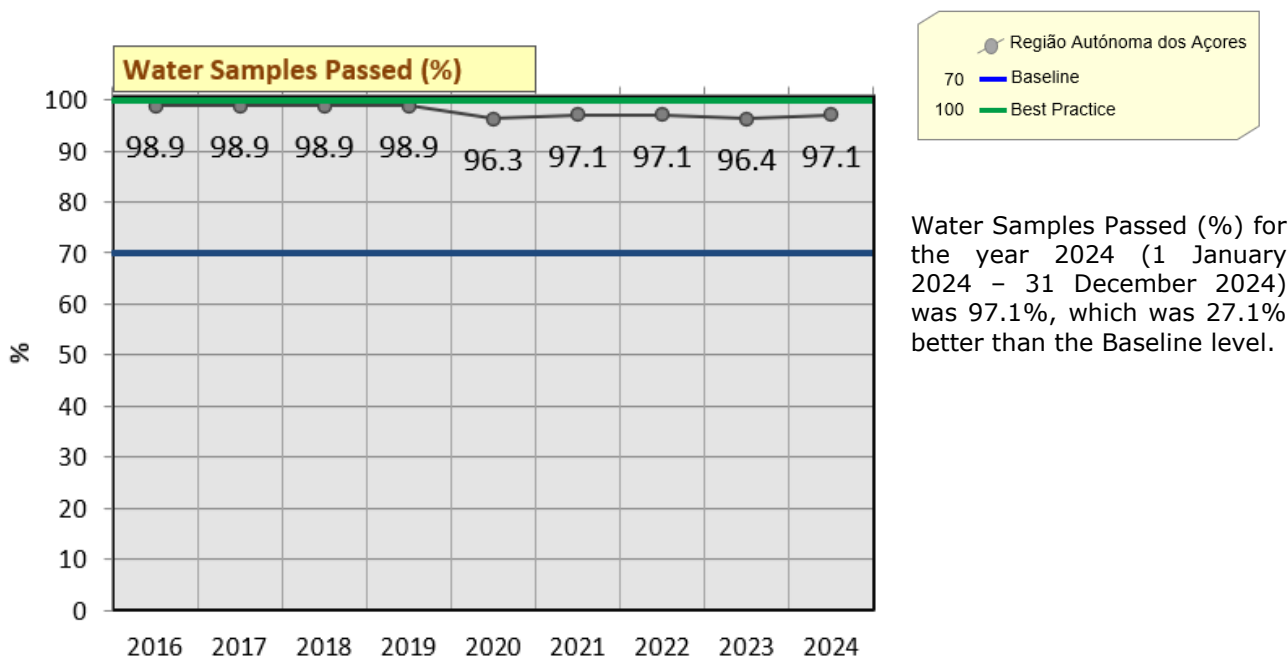


Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0.95 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 89.4% better than the Best Practice level.

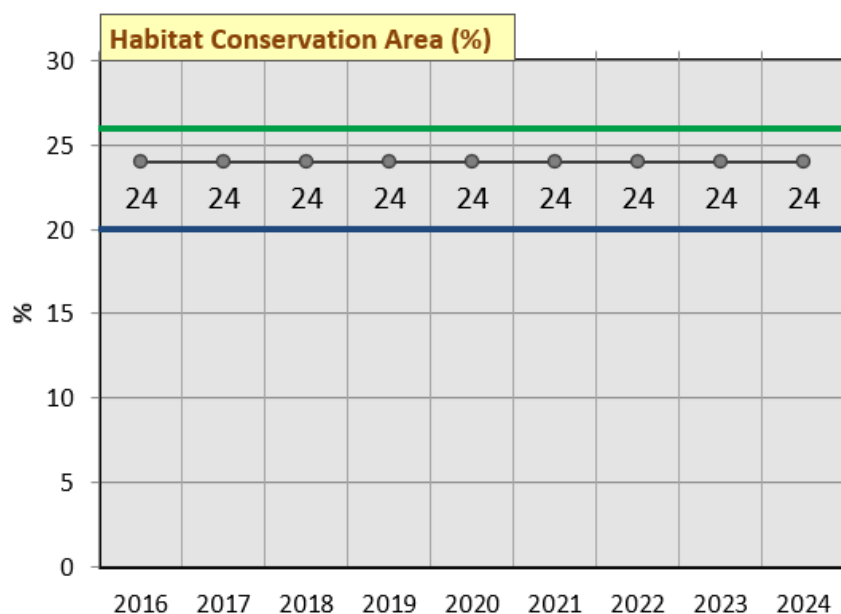
Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ✖



Water Samples Passed (%) ✔



Habitat Conservation Area (%) ✓



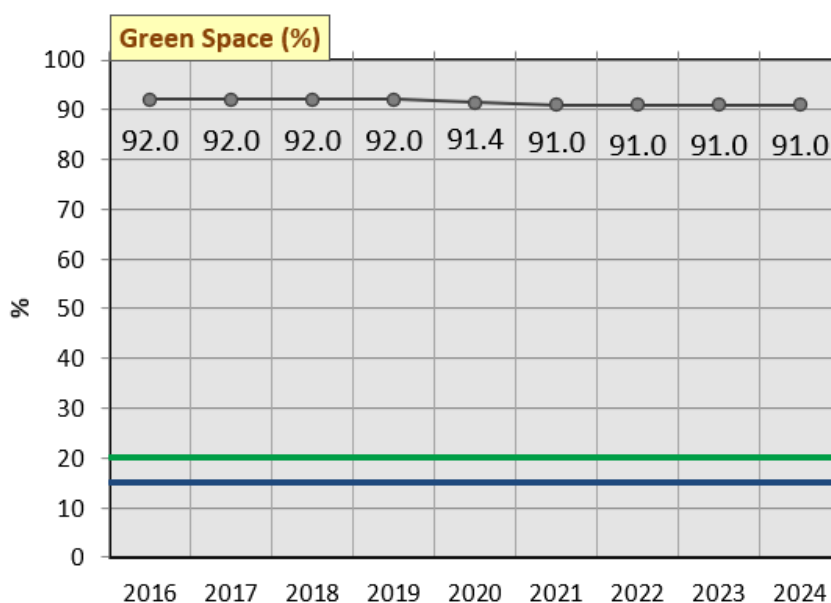
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20 Baseline

26 Best Practice

Habitat Conservation Area (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 24.0%, which was 4.0% better than the Baseline level.

Green Space (%) ★



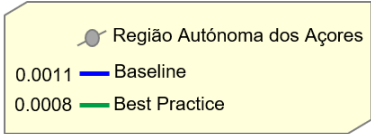
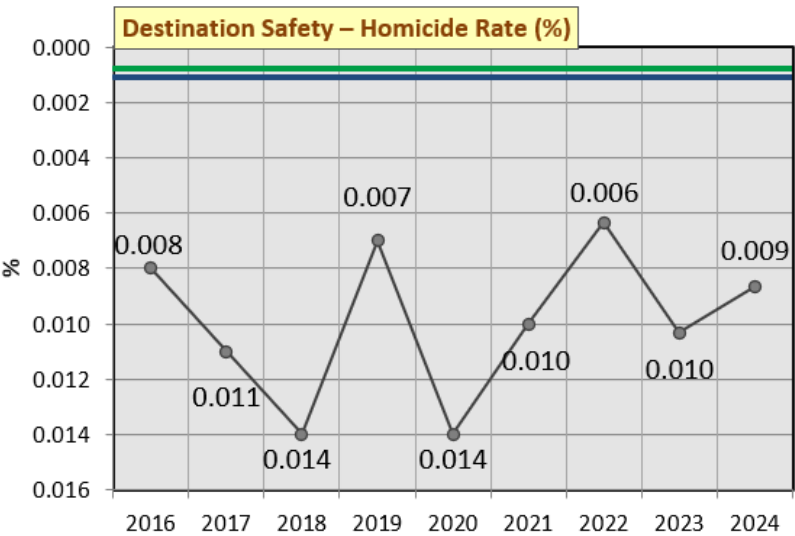
Região Autónoma dos Açores

15 Baseline

20 Best Practice

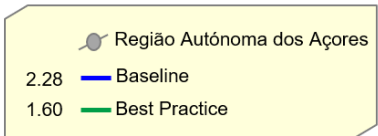
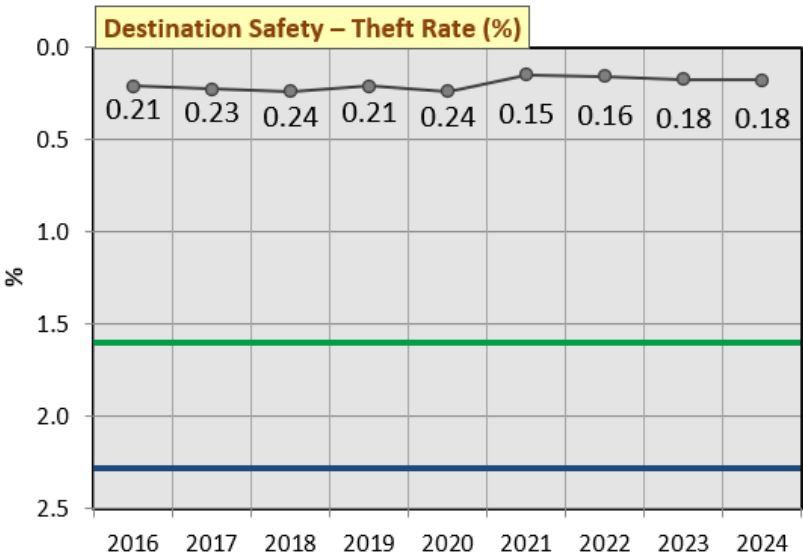
Green Space (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 91.0%, which was 71.0% better than the Best Practice level.

Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) ✕



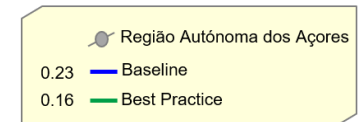
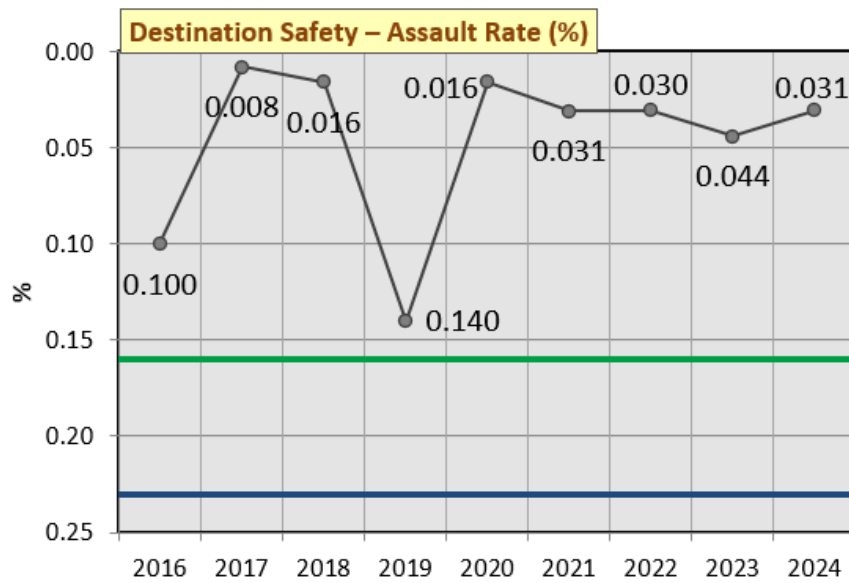
Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0.009%, which was 0.008 % below the Baseline level.

Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) ★



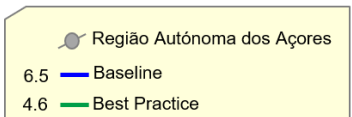
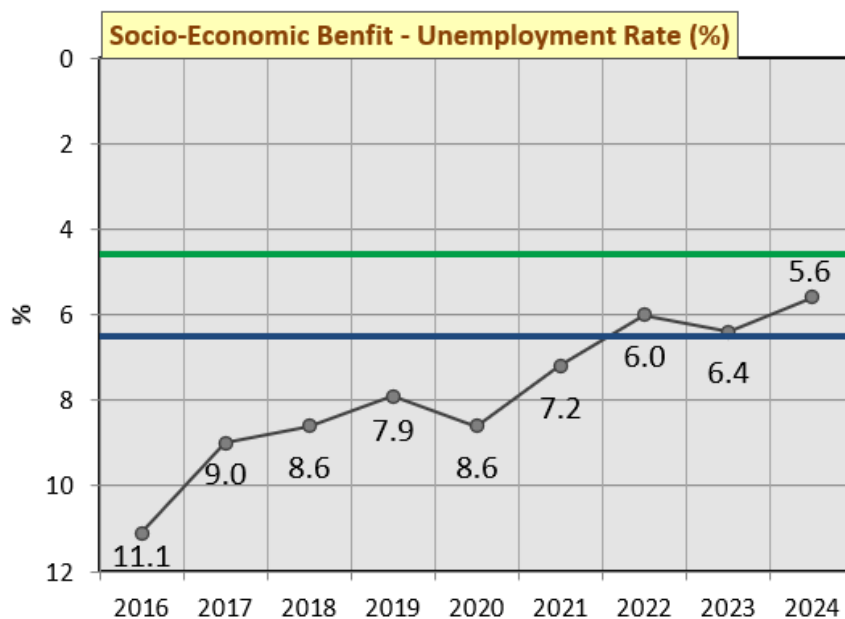
Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0.18%, which was 1.42% better than the Best Practice level.

Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) ★



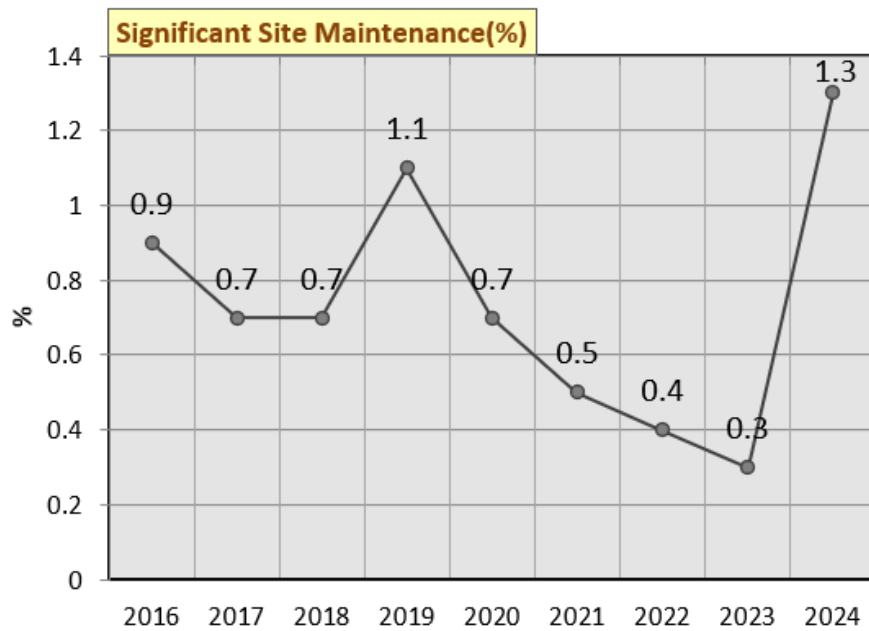
Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 0.031%, which was 0.129% better than the Best Practice level.

Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%) ✓



Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 5.6%, which was 0.9% better than the Baseline level.

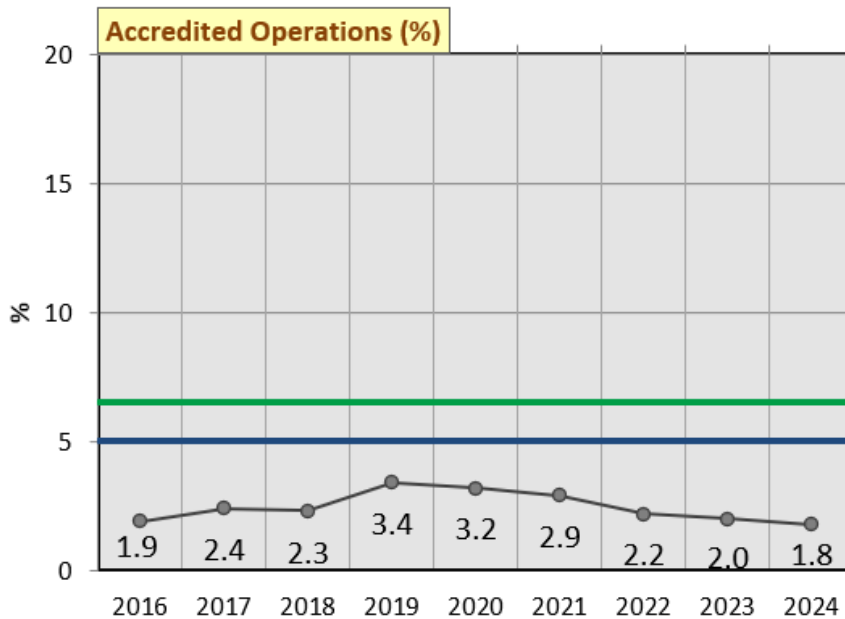
Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%)



Região Autónoma dos Açores

Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 1.3%.

Accredited Operations (%) ✕



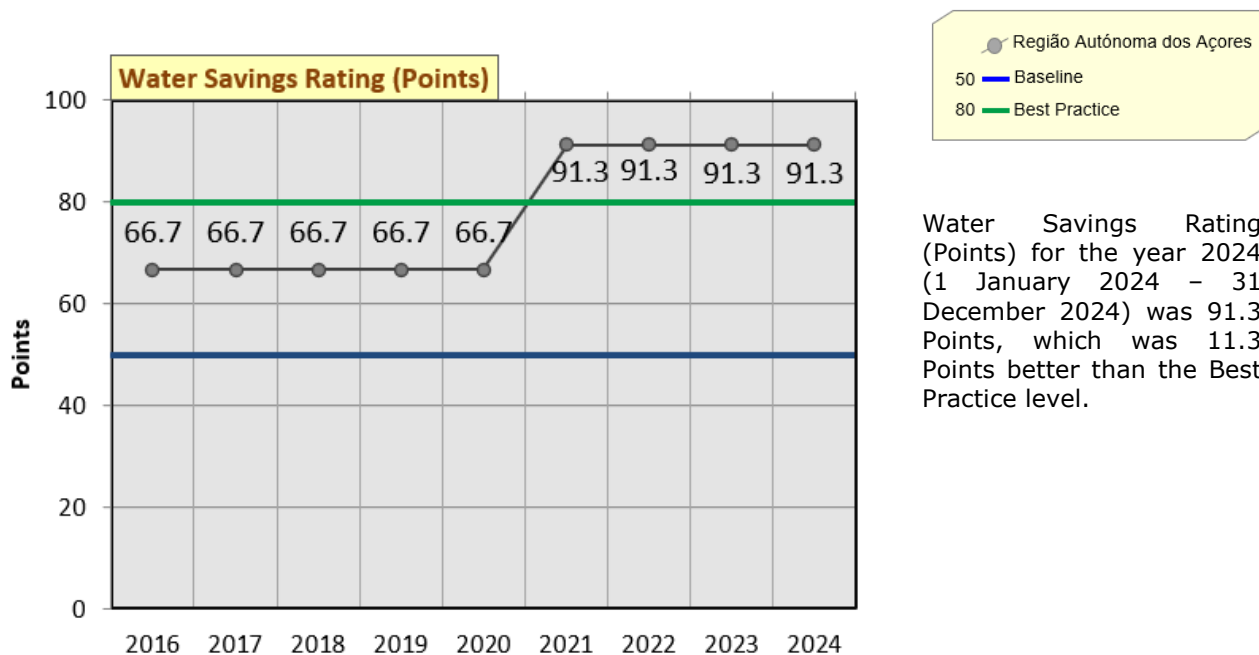
Região Autónoma dos Açores

5.0 Baseline
6.5 Best Practice

Accredited Operations (%) for the year 2024 (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) was 1.8%, which was 3.2% below the Baseline level.

6. Water Savings

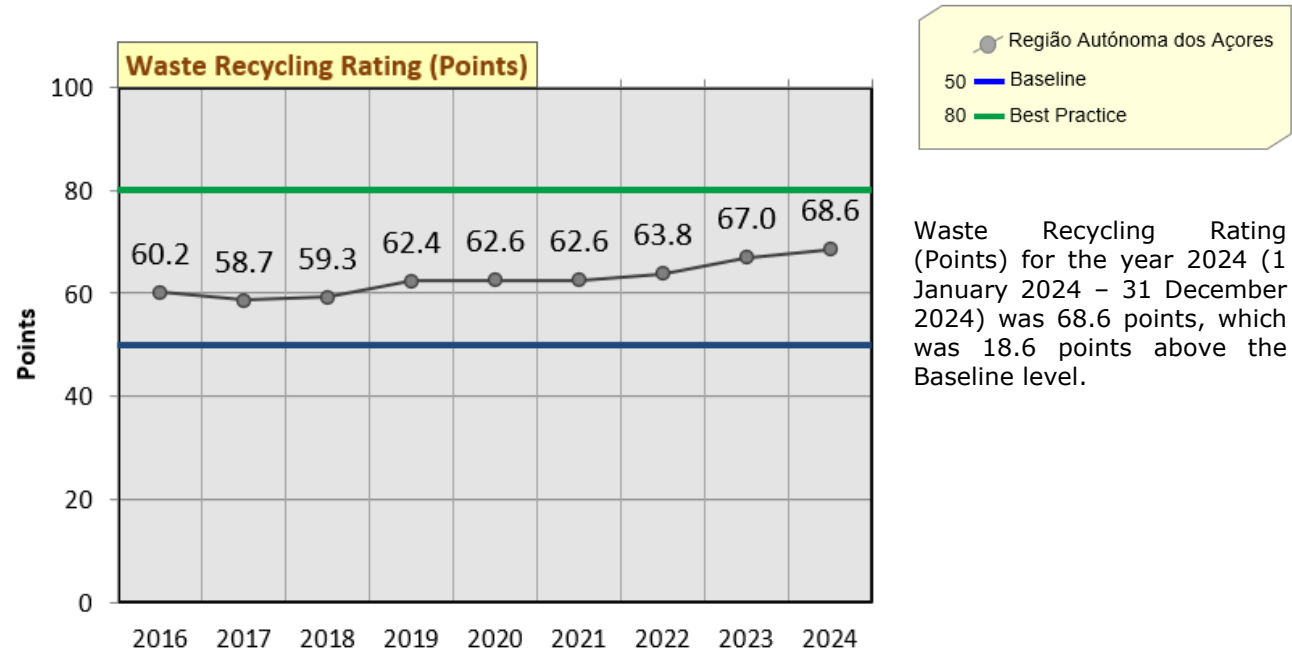
Water Savings Rating (Points) ★



Water Savings Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Water Savings Rating (Points)
Check for leaks	Every month	73.9 Points
Low/dual flush toilets	100%	100.0 Points
Low flow tap fittings	100%	100.0 Points
Low flow shower fittings	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Water sprinklers used after dark	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Minimal irrigation landscaping	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Use of recycle/grey/rain water	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Overall Rating:		91.3 Points

7. Waste Recycling

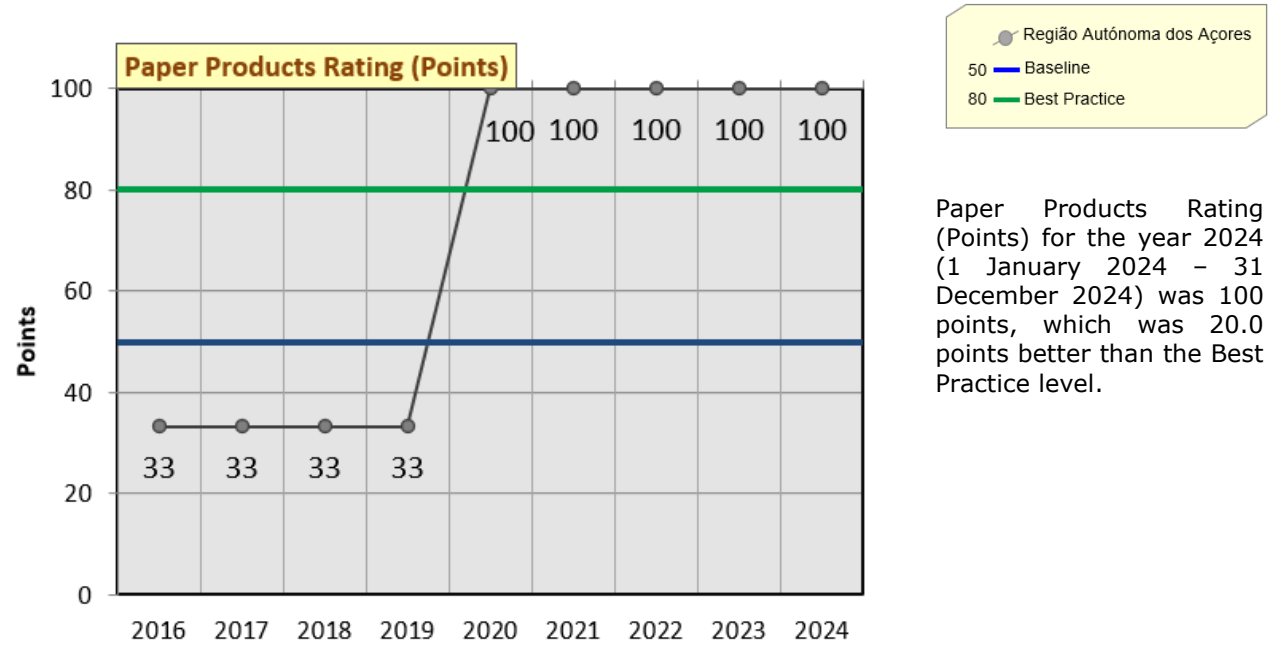
Waste Recycling Rating (Points) ✓



Waste Recycling Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
Glass	40-59%	65.1 Points
Paper/card	40-59%	65.1 Points
Iron & steel (ferrous metals)	60-79%	73.9 Points
Other metals (non-ferrous)	60-79%	73.9 Points
Plastics	40-59%	65.1 Points
Rubber	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Green waste	Not Relevant / Not Available	
	Overall Rating:	68.6 Points

8. Paper

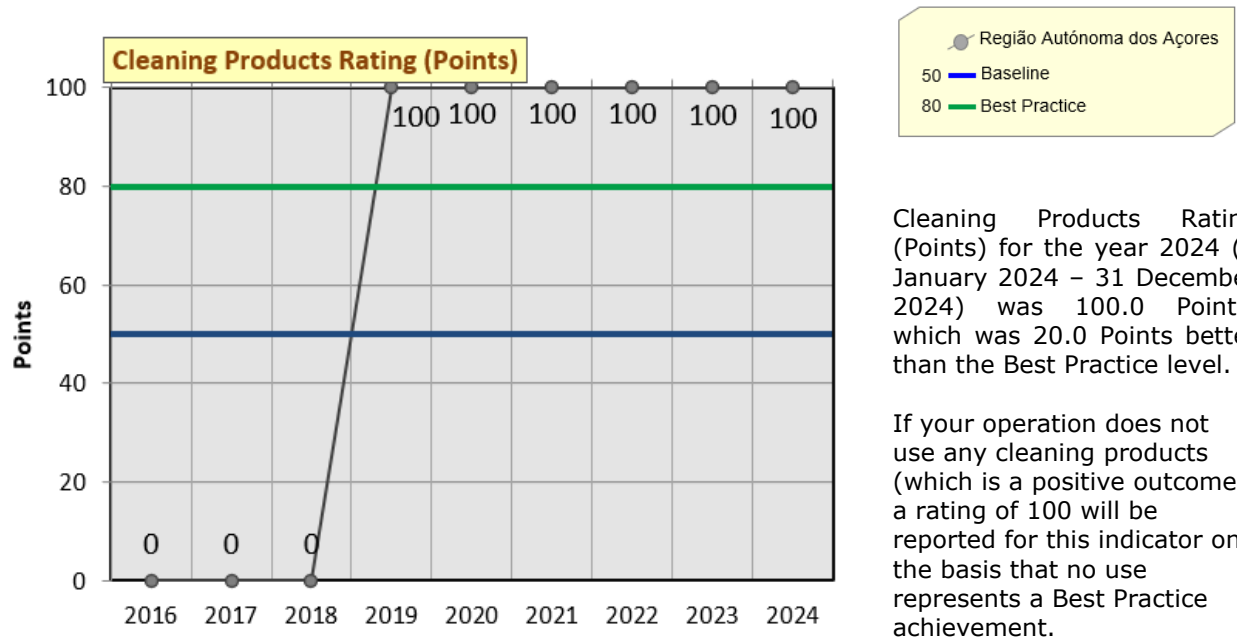
Paper Products Rating (Points) ★



Paper Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Paper Products Rating (Points)
Office paper	100%	100.0 Points
Serviettes	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Tissues	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Toilet tissue	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Paper towels	Not Relevant / Not Available	
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

9. Cleaning

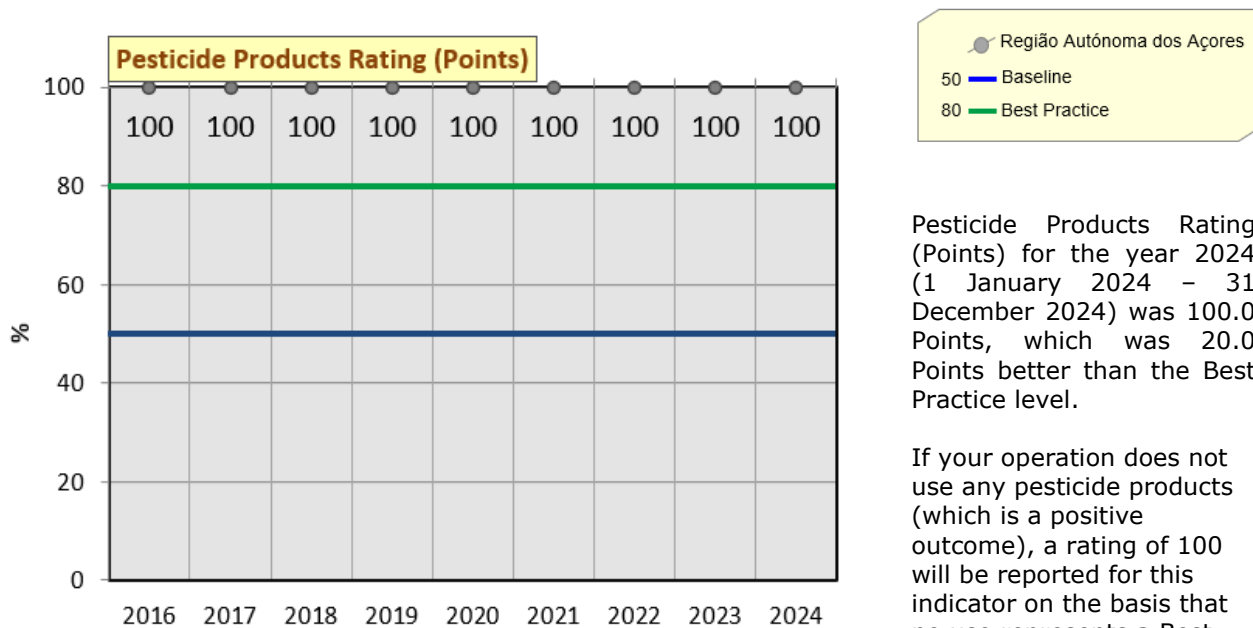
Cleaning Products Rating (Points) ★



Cleaning Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)
Hard floor cleaners	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Carpet cleaners	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Interior surface cleaners	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
External surface cleaners	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Glass cleaners	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Detergents	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Personal hygiene	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

10. Pesticides

Pesticide Products Rating (Points) ★



Pesticide Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Pesticide Products Rating (Points)
Weed killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Fungal killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Rodent killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Insect killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

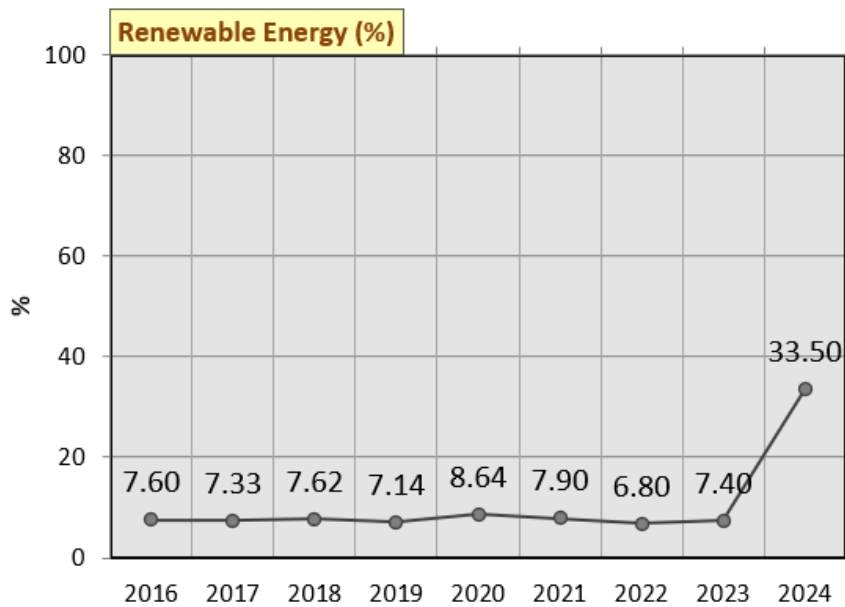
OPTIONAL BENCHMARKING INDICATORS

Região Autónoma dos Açores has also nominated optional Operation Selected and Specified Indicator/s that they consider relevant to their specific operation and locality. The Operation Selected and Specified Indicator/s do not form part of the formal annual benchmarking exercise.

11. Selected Indicators

Selected Indicators are from a supplied list of EarthCheck indicators.

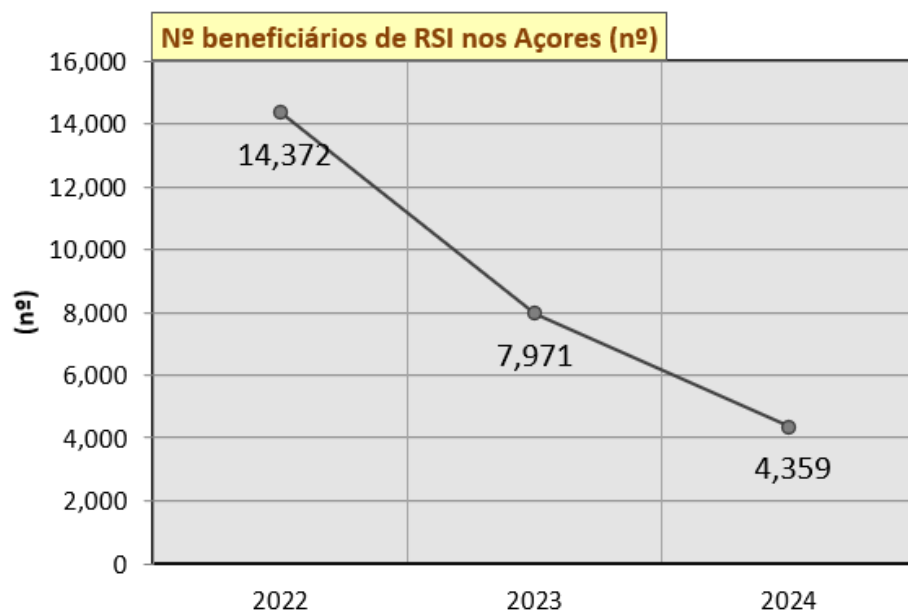
Renewable Energy



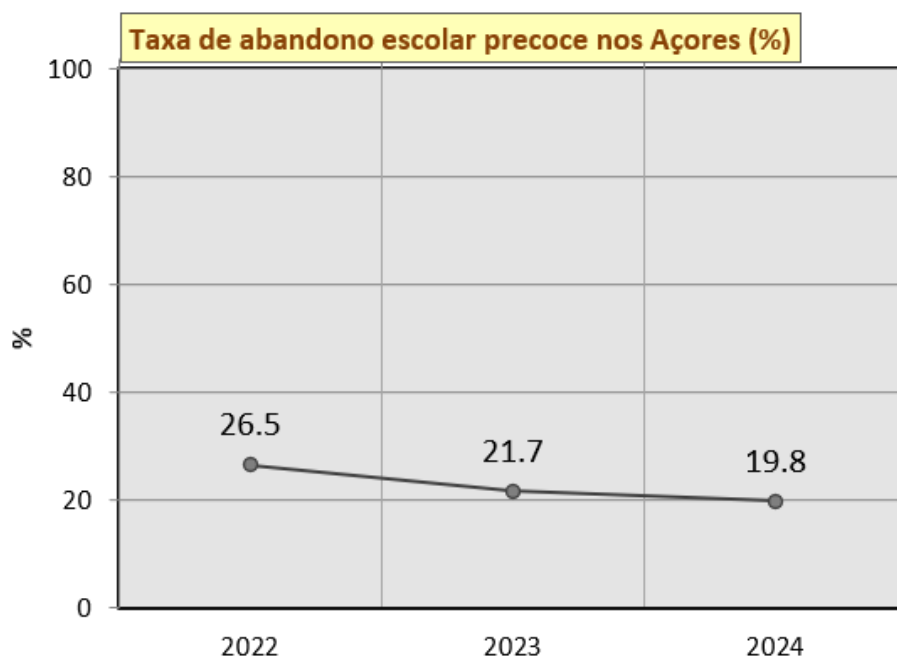
12. Specified Indicators

Specified Indicators are devised by the operator for local and/or internal performance assessment.

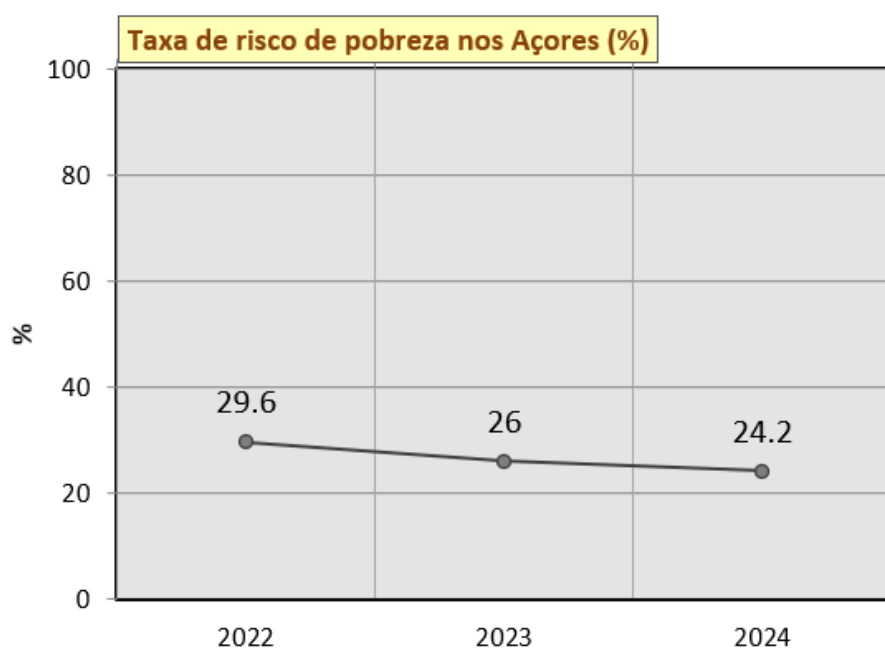
Nº beneficiários de RSI nos Açores



Taxa de abandono escolar precoce nos Açores



Taxa de risco de pobreza nos Açores



The supplied data has been compiled by **Região Autónoma dos Açores** in the prescribed manner, authorised by a senior executive of the company and submitted for an annual assessment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Congratulations, **Região Autónoma dos Açores** has met the requirements to be recognised as an EarthCheck Benchmarked Destination.

In addition to having a Sustainability Policy in place, 14 of the assessed EarthCheck indicator(s) are at or above the Baseline level.

From the benchmarking data provided, nine indicators, *Waste Sent to Landfill, Sulphur Dioxide Produced, Green Space, Destination Safety – Theft Rate, Destination Safety – Assault Rate, Water Savings Rating, Paper Products Rating, Cleaning Products Rating, and Pesticide Products Rating*, are at or above the Best Practice level.

The six indicators that fell below the Baseline level were *Energy Consumption, Potable Water Consumption, Nitrous Oxides Produced, Particulate Matter Produced, Destination Safety – Homicide Rate, and Accredited Operations*.

The value for Nitrous Oxides Produced and Particulate Matter Produced was below the Baseline. **Região Autónoma dos Açores** is encouraged to promote the use of public transport within the destination and to investigate opportunities of switching to cleaner and more efficient combustion fuels (e.g. renewables, LPG) and processes.

The percentage of Homicide Rate is 0.008% below the Baseline. **Região Autónoma dos Açores** is encouraged to work with the local hotel and tourism association to identify common threats and how they could assist the community in providing more support to the police in reporting of crime.

The value for Accredited Operations was 3.2% below the Baseline. **Região Autónoma dos Açores** is encouraged to promote environmental accreditation to hotels, restaurants and other business within the destination

The **Região Autónoma dos Açores** is encouraged to continue to make improvements in the above indicator/s and to ensure that any indicator/s below baseline is addressed in the organisation's risk assessment and long term sustainability approach.

Improvements in all the EarthCheck indicators will not only help the environment, but can also help reduce operational costs. Due to the positive commitment that **Região Autónoma dos Açores** has demonstrated to the environment, the assessors are confident that they can maintain or improve performance, where appropriate and practical, in all indicators. In particular over the next 12 months, the **Região Autónoma dos Açores** is encouraged to ensure that Energy Consumption, Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2), Potable Water Consumption, and Accredited Operations are at Baseline performance or better. In line with EarthCheck Policy this would enable the **Região Autónoma dos Açores** to continue to meet the benchmarking requirements of the EarthCheck program.

APPENDIX

ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding Aerobic treatment and Number of People Served being not reported

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

"We received this data on the 28th July and didn't have the chance to upload it on time for the Benchmarking submission. Please find the correct values below:"

Onsite Wastewater Treatment	2023		2024	
	Number of people serviced per day	Number of days in use	Number of people serviced per day	Number of days in use
Septic	160,093	365	145780	365
Aerobic	92,700	365	95842	365

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data accordingly.

PURCHASED ELECTRICITY

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the newly reported Green Power.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

"Regarding the energy supply, as in previous years, we have selected "Portugal". EarthCheck should apply the emission coefficients specific to the Azores. Below you will find the data provided by our Energy Supplier, which includes the values for renewable energy."

Purchased Electricity	2023	2024
Portugal (kWh)	5,874,425	6,480,077
Green Power %	0	33.5 (should be zero)

Produção de Energia Eléctrica kWh)			
Açores	2023	2024	Renovável?
Biogás	1 391 559	1 390 803	Sim
Central das Ondas	0	0	Sim
Eólica	56 038 360	50 022 626	Sim
Fuel	488 134 357	519 382 231	-
Gasóleo	61 809 045	66 601 881	-
Geotérmica	183 774 534	177 557 510	Sim
Hídrica	30 842 999	32 533 645	Sim
Ind. - Eólica	16 966 644	15 997 800	Sim
Ind. - Fotovoltaica	2 061 727	2 061 727	Sim
Ind. - Resíduos	13 410 200	13 463 739	Sim
Micro - Eólica	0	0	Sim
Micro - Fotovoltaica	787 068	1 820 651	Sim
Mini - Eólica	0	0	Sim
Mini - Fotovoltaica	84 919	81 000	Sim
Térmica Fuel Adq. (SINAGA)	0	0	-
Total	855 301 412	880 913 613	

Renweable energy	305 358 010	294 929 501
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% Renewables	35,7%	33,5%
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Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated Green Power as 0%. The Electricity grid was maintained as Portugal, as per previous years.

SIGNIFICANT SITE MAINTENANCE FUND

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the significant change of percentage.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

*"Yes, that is correct. We reviewed the Regional Government's budget for the Azores (attached), and the values match the chart below.
If you divide the total budget by the site maintenance fund, the result is 1.30%."*

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFIT – UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the significant increase in unemployment rate.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

"The value is 5.6, and not 56. The Azorean economy's traditional sectors—namely public services, tourism, agriculture, industry, and expanding fields such as renewable energy—have supported job creation. Regional Government programmes, such as CONTRATAR program, are responsible for social and professional integration."

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data accordingly.

WASTE SENT TO LANDFILL

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the significant decrease in landfilled waste.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

*"Yes, the data provided below is correct. Please find below the data provided by the Regional Secretariat of Environment and Climate Action:
The main reason for the change is the fact that the island of São Miguel now has a new Mechanical and Biological Treatment Plant. Mixed municipal waste undergoes both manual and mechanical sorting, during which part of the recyclable materials are recovered. The organic fraction is sent to anaerobic composting, allowing for the utilization of biogas. This system has increased both material and organic recovery from waste."*

Type Waste	2024
	Uncovered and/or managed landfill
	Uncompacted waste
Paper and paper board (ton)	0
Textiles (ton)	17
Wood and straw (ton)	9
Garden and park (ton)	0
Food (ton)	0
Rubber (ton)	
Concrete/metal/plastics/glass (ton)	114
Inert (ton)	643
Unknow (mixed waste types) (ton)	27 369
Other (ton)	8 198
Total waste sent to landfill (ton)	36 350

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data.

WASTE RECYCLING

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding Waste Recycling not being reported.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

Waste Recycling	2023	2024
What was the percentage of total glass waste produced by your operation that was recycled and/or reused?	40-59%	40-59%
What percentage of total paper / card used by the organisation is recycled / reused / composted?	40-59%	40-59%
What was the percentage of total iron and steel (ferrous) metals waste produced at your operation that was recycled and/or reused?	60-79%	60-79%
What was the percentage of total other metals (non-ferrous) waste produced at your operation that was recycled and/or reused?	60-79%	60-79%
What was the percentage of total plastic waste that was produced by your operation that was recycled?	20-39%	40-59%
What was the percentage of total rubber waste produced by your operation that was recycled and/or reused?	Not Relevant / Not Available	Not Relevant / Not Available
What was the percentage of total green waste (including kitchen and garden waste) produced by your operation that was reused and/or composted?	40-59%	Not Relevant / Not Available

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data accordingly.

PAPER PRODUCTS

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding Paper Products not being reported.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

Paper Products	2023	2024
What percentage of total office paper used was from recycled sources and/or is ecolabelled?	100%	100%

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data accordingly.



EARTHCHECK

Benchmarks Assessed by EarthCheck

SUMMARY OF SUPPLIED BENCHMARKING DATA

Activity Measures

Person Years	254,107
Total Destination Area	232,655

Supplied Benchmarking Data

Energy

Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year)

Supplied	15,663,008.3 GJ
Calculated	61.6 GJ / Person Year
Baseline	55.6 GJ / Person Year
Best Practice	38.9 GJ / Person Year
Difference	10.9% below the Baseline level

Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	970,244.5 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	3.8 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Baseline	4 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Best Practice	2.8 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Difference	5.0% above the Baseline level

Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	807,011.2 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	3.2 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	163,233.3 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	0.6 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	56,453.2 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	0.2 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	56,453.2 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	0.2 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Water

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year)

Supplied	21,745,897.0 kL
Calculated	85.6 kL / Person Year
Baseline	80.75 kL / Person Year
Best Practice	56.53 kL / Person Year
Difference	6.0% below the Baseline level

Recycled / Captured Water (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year)

Supplied	121,166.7 m ³
Calculated	0.48 m ³ / Person Year
Baseline	0.89 m ³ / Person Year
Best Practice	0.62 m ³ / Person Year
Difference	23.1% better than the Best Practice level

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)

Supplied	48.4%
Calculated	48.4%

Waste Sent for Incineration (L / Person Year)

Supplied	33,616,666.7 L
Calculated	132.3 L / Person Year

Sector Specific

Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Supplied	10.99 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Calculated	10.99 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	9.0 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Best Practice	6.3 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	22.2% below the Baseline level

Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Supplied	0.95 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Calculated	0.95 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	12.8 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Best Practice	9.0 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	89.4% better than the Best Practice level

Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Supplied	47.16 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Calculated	47.16 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	0.70 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Best Practice	0.49 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	6,637.8% below the Baseline level

Water Samples Passed (%)

Supplied	97.1%
Calculated	97.1%
Baseline	70 %
Best Practice	100 %
Difference	27.1% better than the Baseline level

Habitat Conservation Area (%)

Supplied	24.0%
Calculated	24.0%
Baseline	20 %
Best Practice	26 %
Difference	4.0% better than the Baseline level

Green Space (%)

Supplied	91.0%
Calculated	91.0%
Baseline	15 %
Best Practice	20 %
Difference	71.0% better than the Best Practice level

Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%)

Supplied	0.009%
Calculated	0.009%
Baseline	0.0011%
Best Practice	0.0008%
Difference	0.008% below the Baseline level

Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%)

Supplied	0.2%
Calculated	0.2%
Baseline	2.28%
Best Practice	1.60%
Difference	1.4% better than the Best Practice level

Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%)

Supplied	0.03%
Calculated	0.03%
Baseline	0.23%
Best Practice	0.16%
Difference	0.13% better than the Best Practice level

Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%)

Supplied	5.6%
Calculated	5.6%
Baseline	6.5%
Best Practice	4.6%
Difference	0.9% better than the Baseline level

Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%)

Supplied	1.3%
Calculated	1.3%

Accredited Operations (%)

Supplied	1.8%
Calculated	1.8%
Baseline	5 %
Best Practice	6.5 %
Difference	3.2% below the Baseline level

Lead Agency Performance

Water Savings

Water Savings Rating (Points)

Supplied	91.3 Points
Calculated	91.3 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	11.3 Points better than the Best Practice level

Waste Recycling

Waste Recycling Rating (Points)

Supplied	68.6 Points
Calculated	68.6 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	18.6 points better than the Baseline level

Paper

Paper Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	100.0 Points
Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points

Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

Cleaning

Cleaning Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	100.0 Points
Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

Pesticides

Pesticide Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	100.0 Points
Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

Selected Indicators

Renewable Energy (%)

Supplied	33.5 %
Calculated	33.5 %

Specified Indicators

Nº beneficiários de RSI nos Açores (nº)

Supplied	4,359
Calculated	4,359

Taxa de abandono escolar precoce nos Açores (%)

Supplied	19.8 %
Calculated	19.8 %

Taxa de risco de pobreza nos Açores (%)

Supplied	24.2%
Calculated	24.2%

DETERMINATION OF BASELINE AND BEST PRACTICE LEVELS

General

The values for the Baseline and Best Practice levels for each indicator are derived from extensive worldwide research into available and appropriate case studies, industry surveys, engineering design handbooks, energy, water and waste audits, and climatic and geographic conditions.

National and regional data for per capita energy use, greenhouse gas and other emissions, wastes to landfill and water consumption, where available provide background data for normalisation of the expected performance values for per customer or employee, and/or overall performance of an enterprise being benchmarked. They are used to gauge the regional or national situation and environmental performances that an enterprise is based in, and hence what are reasonable levels to expect the enterprise to achieve.

A benchmarking result at, or above, the Baseline level demonstrates to all stakeholders that the enterprise is achieving above average performance. A result below the Baseline level indicates that an enterprise can and should carry out actions that will make beneficial improvements in performance.

Consideration of Climate

A major determinant of energy consumption in some sectors, primarily those centred on buildings such as accommodation, visitor centres and administration offices will be the dominant climatic conditions in which the enterprise is located. In general, to maintain the same level of indoor comfort, enterprises operating in hot or cold climates will consume more energy than those in temperate climates.

Similarly, it is recognised that in certain sectors a major determinant of potable water consumption will be the climate in which an enterprise is located, in particular those with large grounds and/or significant water-based facilities or activities. That is, enterprises located in hot climates are more likely to consume more potable water than equivalent ones located in cooler climates. Factors that are likely to lead to a higher level of potable water consumption, for example in the accommodation sector, include increased evaporation rates of swimming pools, personal bathing and irrigation demands of grounds. In consideration of this factor, Baseline and Best Practice levels can vary in relation to country location.

Waste Sent to Landfill

The benchmark indicator used for Waste Sent to Landfill is given in litres as waste bins are usually calibrated by volume, and it has been found that the majority of operations do not have access to the weight of material disposed of. However, if a weight is supplied, standard factors are used to convert from weight (e.g., kilograms (kg)) to volume (e.g., cubic metres (m³) or litres (L)). These are: 1 kg (uncompacted waste) = 0.00333333 m³ or 3.33333 L and 1 kg (compacted waste) = 0.00153846 m³ or 1.53846 L.

Operations should make note of the level of compaction when submitting data for assessment by EarthCheck.

Review of Performance Levels

The Baseline and Best Practice performance levels for EarthCheck indicators are continuously reviewed and are likely to change over time. This review by a team of international experts, takes into account "business-as-usual" changes in practices, equipment and facilities, as well as regulations and general improvement trends in performance and procedures. This review is used to update the levels of Baseline and Best Practice, and provides useful feedback to the user of the indicators.

The list below summarises the basic generic rules used to determine Baseline and Best Practice levels for EarthCheck indicators.

- If relevant enterprise sector specific case studies are not available for a type of activity in a designated region, then national averages will be used to ascertain the Baseline level. In this case, the Best Practice level will be set at a minimum of 30% better performance than the Baseline.
- If case study or national data are not available for a specific indicator, then the first enterprise that benchmarks will have its results set as 15% better than Baseline (i.e., half way between Baseline and Best Practice).