EARTHCHECK

BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENT REPORT

DESTINATION BENCHMARKING

REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DOS AÇORES
PONTA DELGADA, PORTUGAL



REPORT DATE: 30 October 2026

Benchmarking Data Collection Period: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025

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 (%) Percentagem de áreas marinhas protegidas (%)

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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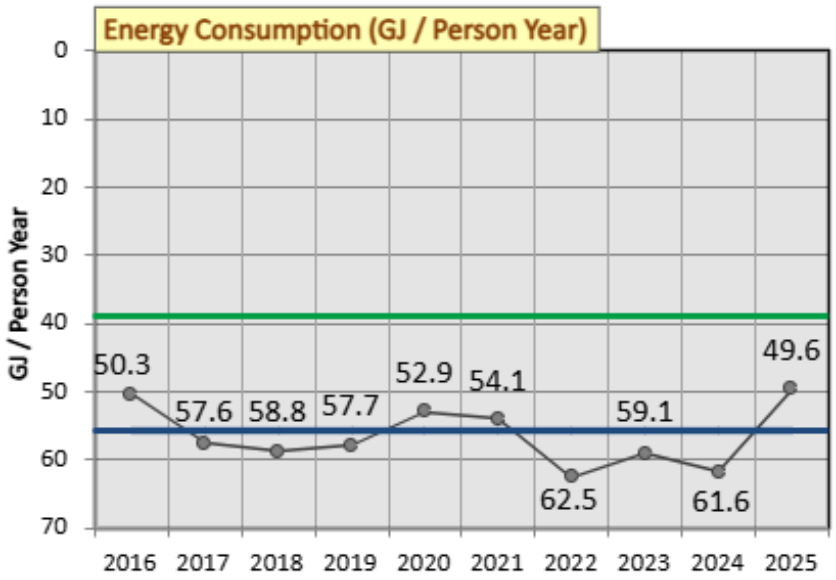
DESTINATION PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

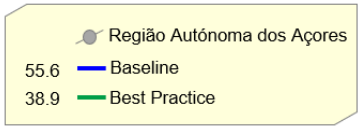
Current performance: *Below Baseline* ✖ *At or above Baseline* ✓ *At or above Best Practice* ★

1. Policy ★

2. Energy

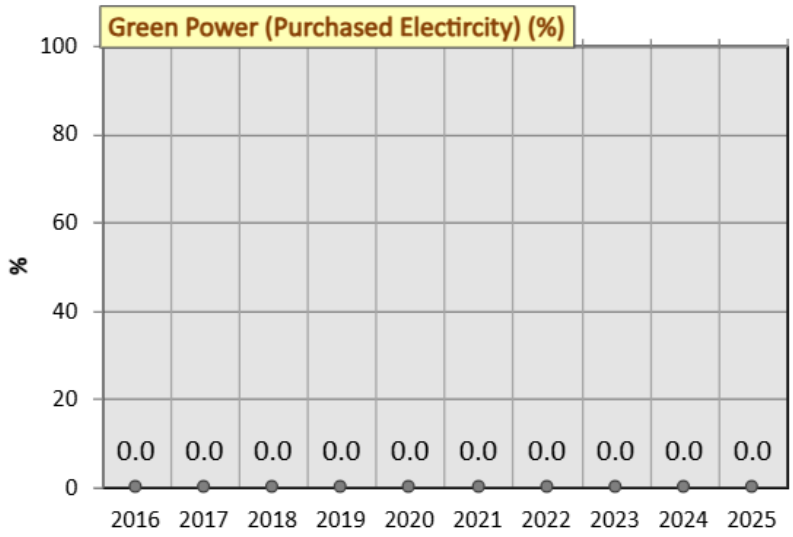
Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) ✓

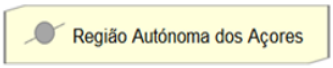




Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 49.6 GJ / Person Year, which was 10.8% better than the Baseline level.

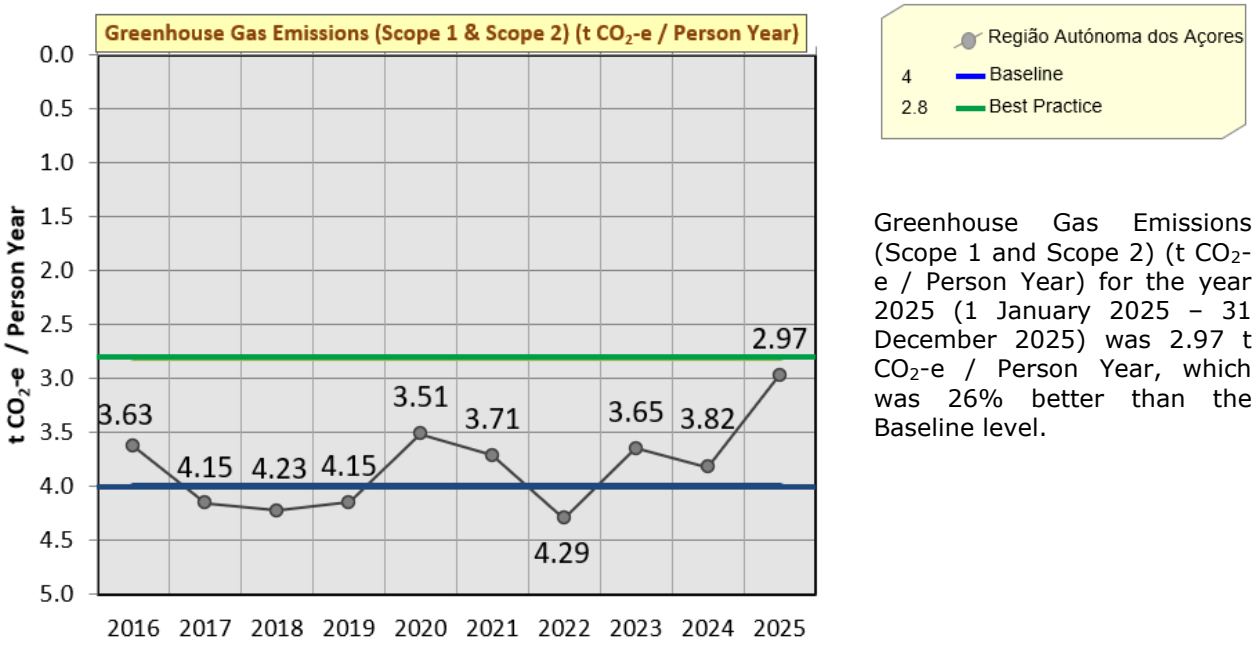
Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%)





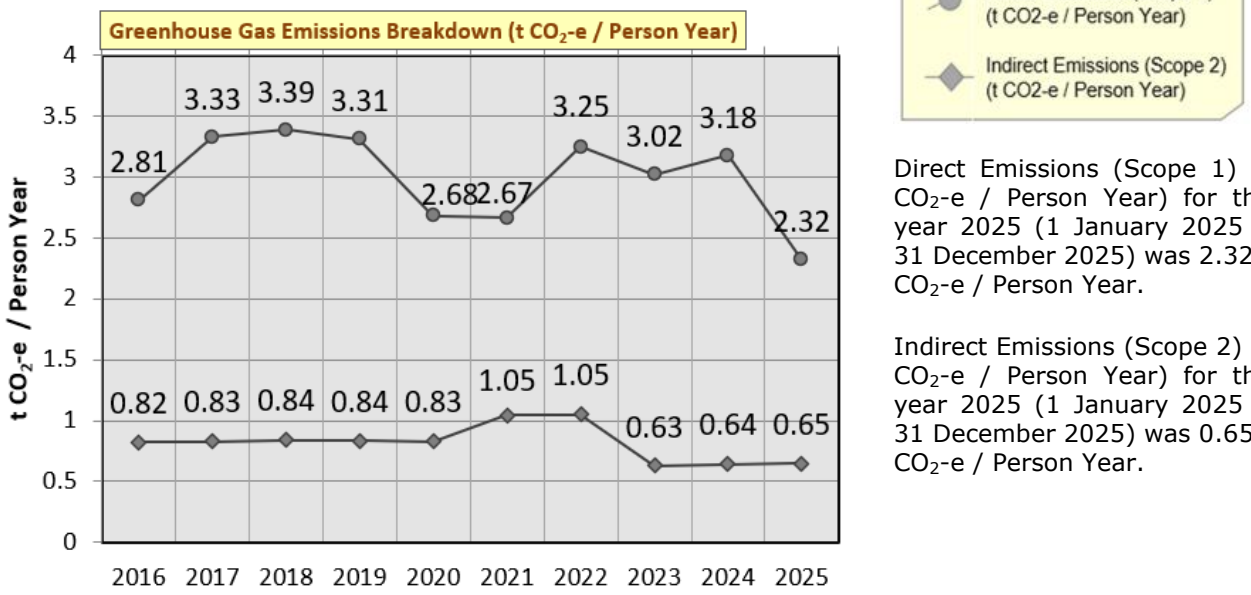
Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0%.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO_2-e / Person Year)



Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO_2-e / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 2.97 t CO_2-e / Person Year, which was 26% better than the Baseline level.

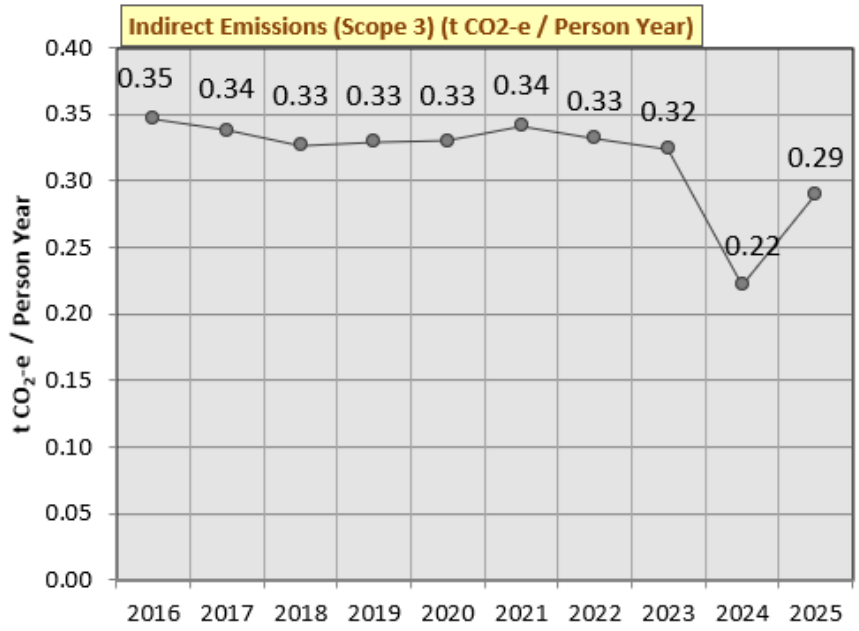
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown by Scope (t CO_2-e / Person Year)

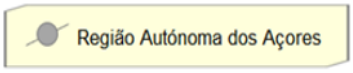


Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (t CO_2-e / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 2.32 t CO_2-e / Person Year.

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (t CO_2-e / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.65 t CO_2-e / Person Year.

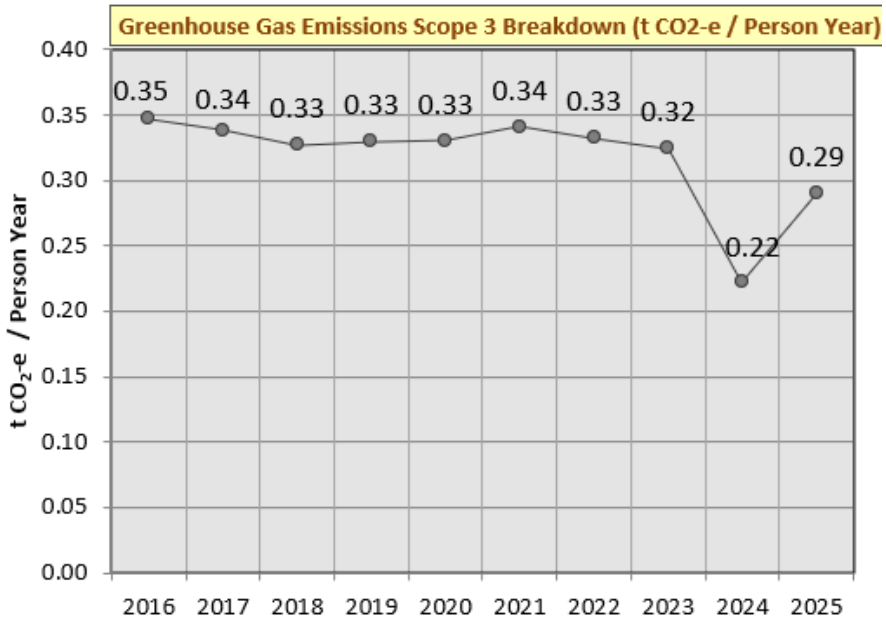
Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO_2-e / Person Year)

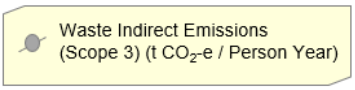




Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO_2-e / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.29 t CO_2-e / Person Year.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Scope 3 Breakdown (t CO_2-e / Person Year)





Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO_2-e / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.29 t CO_2-e / Person Year.

Direct Emissions (Scope 1)							
Stationary Fuel Combustion							
2025							
Type	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Energy Consumption (MJ)**	**CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**
Heavy fuel oil	4,787,762	kilograms (kg)	203,623,517.86	14,972.4	54.2	30.8	15,057.4
Naphtha	178	litres (L)	6,419.89	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4
LPG	17,528,040	kilograms (kg)	872,721,111.6	49,561.8	110.0	20.8	49,692.6
		subtotal	1,076,351,049.35	64,534.72	164.12	51.57	64,750.42
Mobile Fuel Combustion (road)							
2025							
Type	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Energy Consumption (MJ)**	**CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**
Motor gasoline	56,317,195	litres (L)	1,930,949,861.34	127,124.1	1,284.1	3,888.9	132,297.1
Diesel	31,064,738	litres (L)	1,181,031,635.18	83,138.7	122.5	1,159.6	84,420.8
		subtotal	3,111,981,496.52	210,262.8	1,406.6	5,048.5	216,717.9
Mobile Fuel Combustion (air)							
2025							
Type	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Energy Consumption (MJ)**	**CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**
Jet Kerosene	90,496,687	litres (L)	3,318,676,406.33	225,421.1	44.1	1,671.0	227,136.2
Mobile Fuel Combustion (water)							
2025							
Type	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Energy Consumption (MJ)**	**CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**
Diesel	22,855,790	litres (L)	868,940,566.54	61,169.1	161.8	437.5	61,768.4
Heavy fuel oil	5,100,971	kilograms (kg)	216,944,296.63	15,951.9	40.4	109.2	16,101.5
		subtotal	1,085,884,863.17	77,121.0	202.2	546.7	77,869.9
Onsite Wastewater Treatment							
2025							
Type	**Number of people serviced by system per day**		**Number of days in use**	**CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**
Septic (BOD Unknown)	128,034		365	0.0	8,832.4	0.0	8,832.4
Aerobic (BOD Unknown)	113,588		365	0.0	4,701.5	0.0	4,701.5
			subtotal	0.0	13,533.9	0.0	13,533.9
Onsite Renewable Energy Generation							
2025							
Type	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Energy Consumption (MJ)**	**CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**	**Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)**
Wind	68,793,764	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	247,657,550.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hydro	34,823,529	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	125,364,704.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solar	5,293,588	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	19,056,916.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geo-Thermal	165,791,722	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	596,850,199.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
		subtotal	988,929,370.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

TOTAL (Scope 1)	9,581,823,186.17	577,339.62	15,350.92	7,317.77	600,008.32

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2)

Purchased Electricity

2025

Quantity	Unit	% Green Power	Provider	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)
899,945,041	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	0	Portugal	3,239,802,147.6	165,409.9	360.0	989.9	166,759.8

TOTAL (Scope 2)	3,239,802,147.6	165,409.9	360.0	989.9	166,759.8

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2)

GRAND TOTAL	9,597,486,194.47	1,520,615.82	32,450.52	17,676.37	1,570,742.52

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3)

Waste Sent to Landfill

2025

Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)
28,407	tonnes (uncompacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	0.0	34,088.4	0.0	34,088.4
3	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Paper and paper board	0.0	10.8	0.0	10.8
26	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Textiles	0.0	52.42	0.0	52.42
137	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Garden and park	0.0	230.16	0.0	230.16
58	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Food	0.0	73.08	0.0	73.08
1	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Concrete / metal / plastics / glass	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
685	tonnes (uncompacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Inert	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
25,004	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	0.0	30,004	0.0	30,004
3	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Wood and Straw	0.0	10.8	0.0	10.8
0	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Rubber	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
subtotal				0.0	64,469.78	0.0	64,469.78

Waste Sent for Incineration

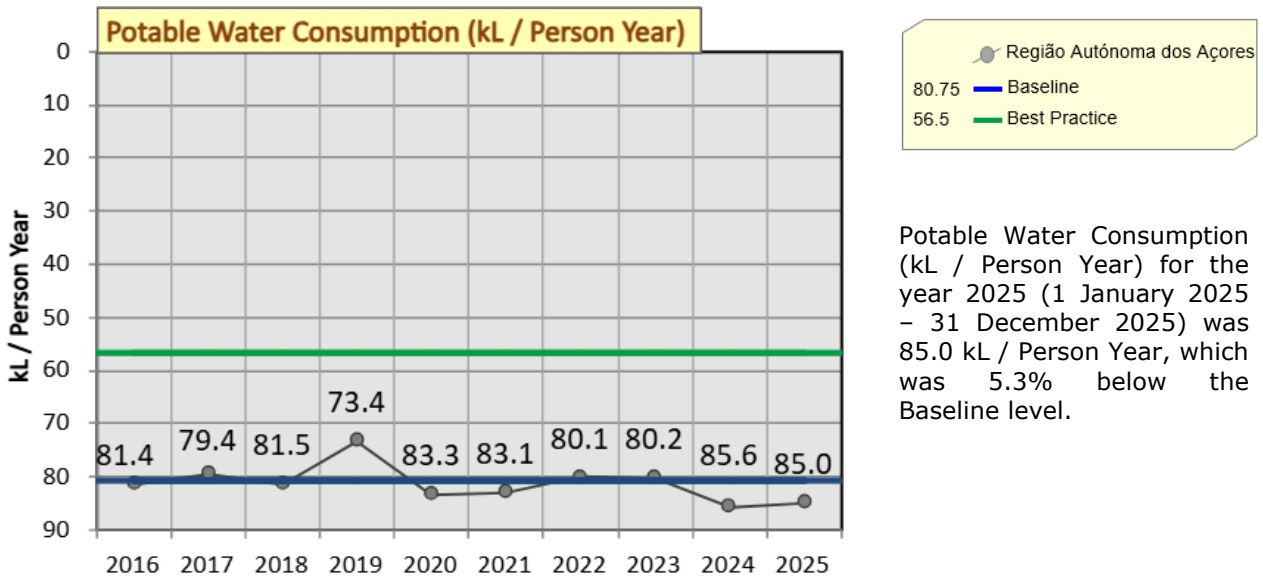
2025

Quantity	Unit	Type of Incineration Technology	Type of Waste	Source	CO_2 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	CH_4 Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	N_2O Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO_2-e)
2,557	tonnes (uncompacted)	Continuous Incineration - Stoker	Textiles	International	750.1	0.1	33.88	784.08
3,257	tonnes (uncompacted)	Continuous Incineration - Stoker	Plastics	International	8,956.75	0.2	43.16	9,000.09
3,059	tonnes (uncompacted)	Continuous Incineration -	Nappies	International	314.1	0.2	40.53	354.76

		Stoker						
29,005	pounds (compacted)	Continuous Incineration - Stoker	Unknown (mixed waste types)	International	3.9	0.0	0.1	4.04
				subtotal	10,024.72	0.5	117.74	10,142.97
				TOTAL	**10,024.72**	**64,470.28**	**117.74**	**74,612.75**

3. Water

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year)

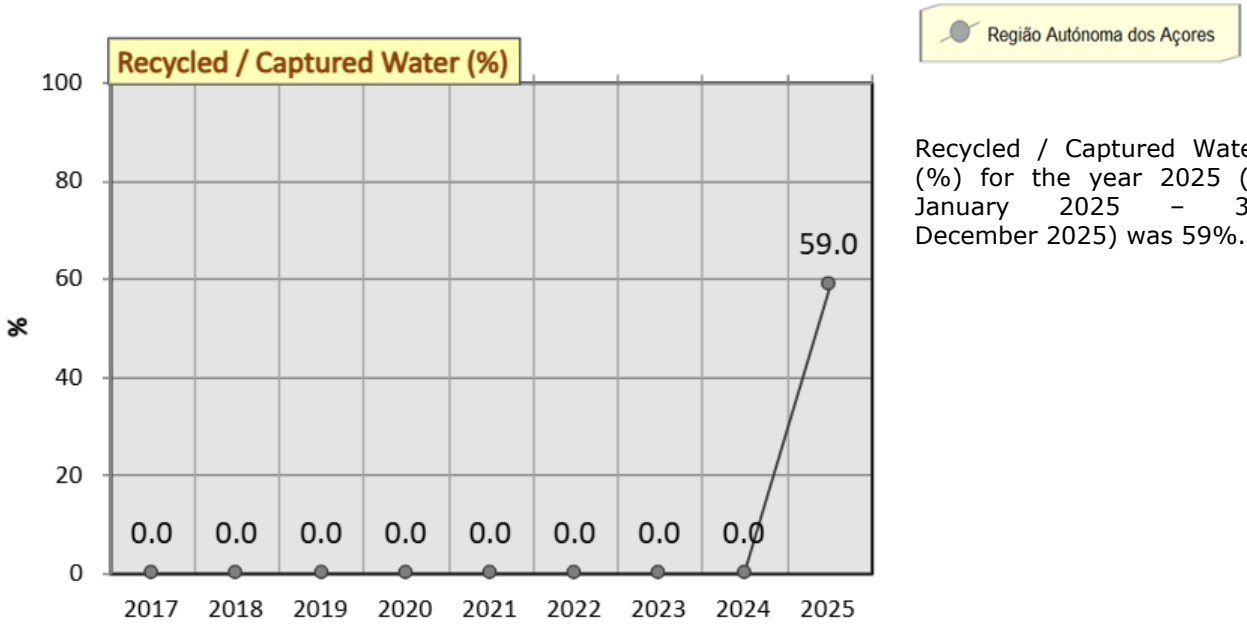


Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 85.0 kL / Person Year, which was 5.3% below the Baseline level.

2025

Quantity	Unit	Potable Water Consumption (kL)
21,958,025	cubic metres	21,958,025 kL
	TOTAL	**21,958,025 kL**

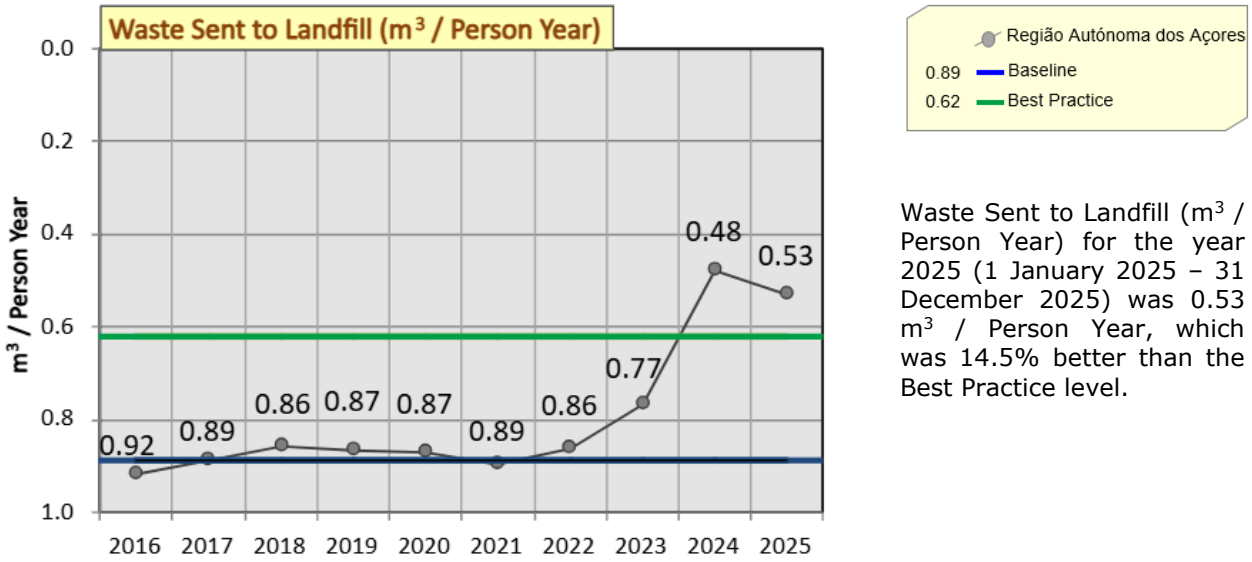
Recycled / Captured Water (%)



Recycled / Captured Water (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 59%.

4. Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year) ★

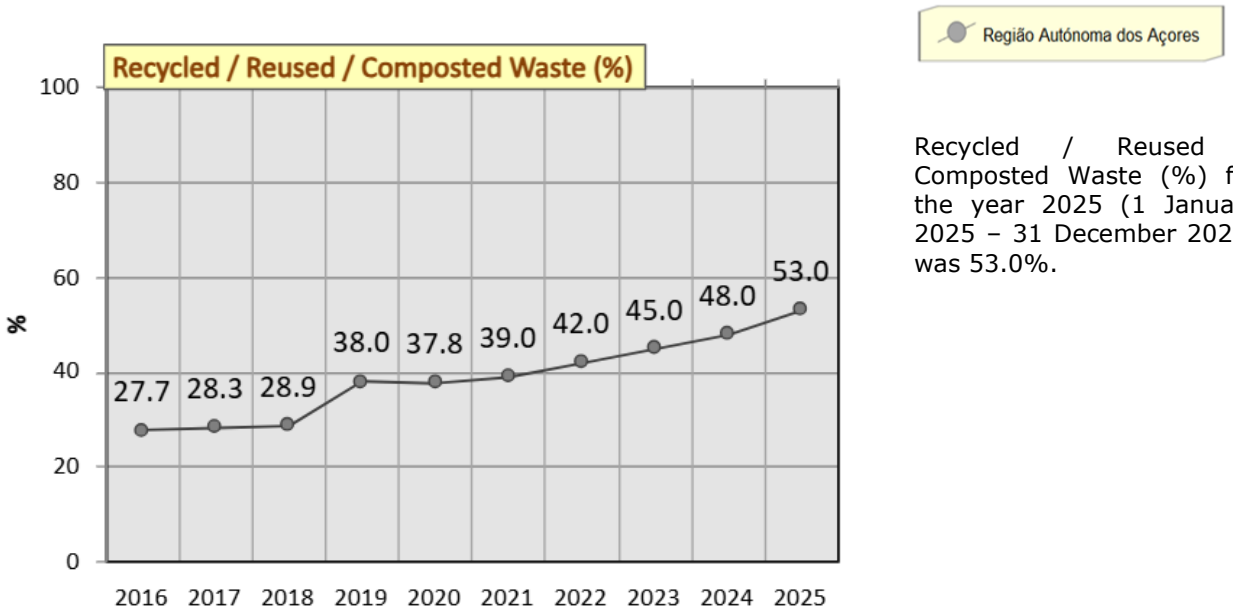


Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.53 m³ / Person Year, which was 14.5% better than the Best Practice level.

2025

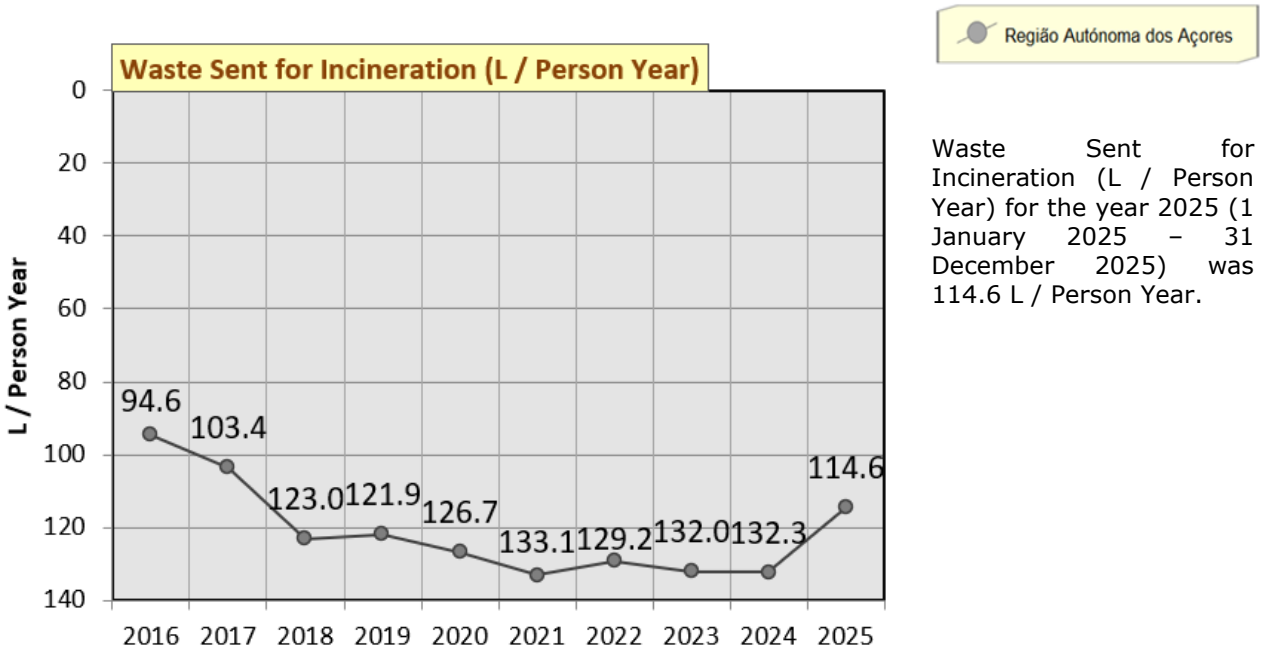
Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	Waste Sent to Landfill (m³)	
28,407	tonnes (uncompacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	94,690 m³	
3	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Paper and paper board	4.62 m³	
26	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Textiles	40 m³	
137	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Garden and park	210.77 m³	
58	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Food	89.23 m³	
1	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Concrete / metal / plastics / glass	1.54 m³	
685	tonnes (uncompacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Inert	2,283.33 m³	
25,004	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	38,467.69 m³	
3	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Wood and straw	4.62 m³	
0	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Rubber	0 m³	
				TOTAL	**135,791.8 m³**

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)



Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 53.0%.

Waste Sent for Incineration (L / Person Year)



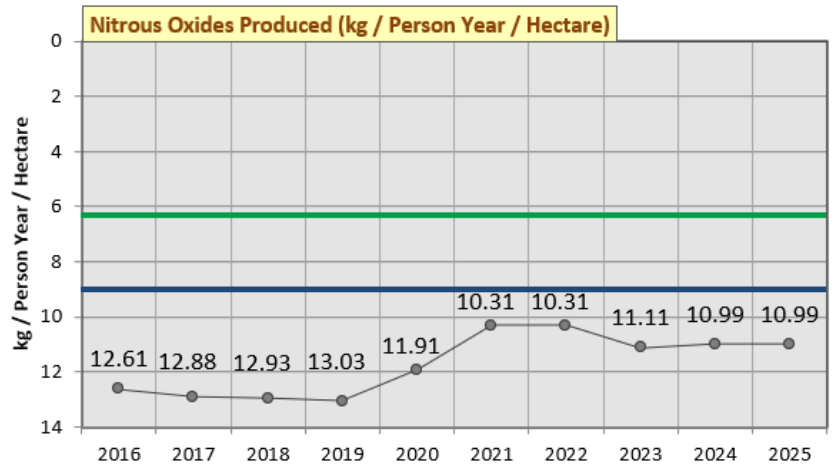
Waste Sent for Incineration (L / Person Year) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 114.6 L / Person Year.

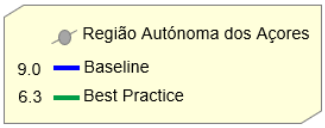
2025

Quantity	Unit	Type of Incineration Technology	Type of Waste	Waste Sent for Incineration (m^3)
2,557	tonnes (uncompacted)	Continuous Incineration - Stoker	Textiles	8,523.3 m^3
3,257	tonnes (uncompacted)	Continuous Incineration - Stoker	Plastics	10,856.7 m^3
3,059	tonnes (uncompacted)	Continuous Incineration - Stoker	Nappies	10,196.7 m^3
29,005	pounds (compacted)	Continuous Incineration - Stoker	Unknown (mixed waste types)	20.2 m^3
			TOTAL	**29,596,910 L**

5. Sector Specific

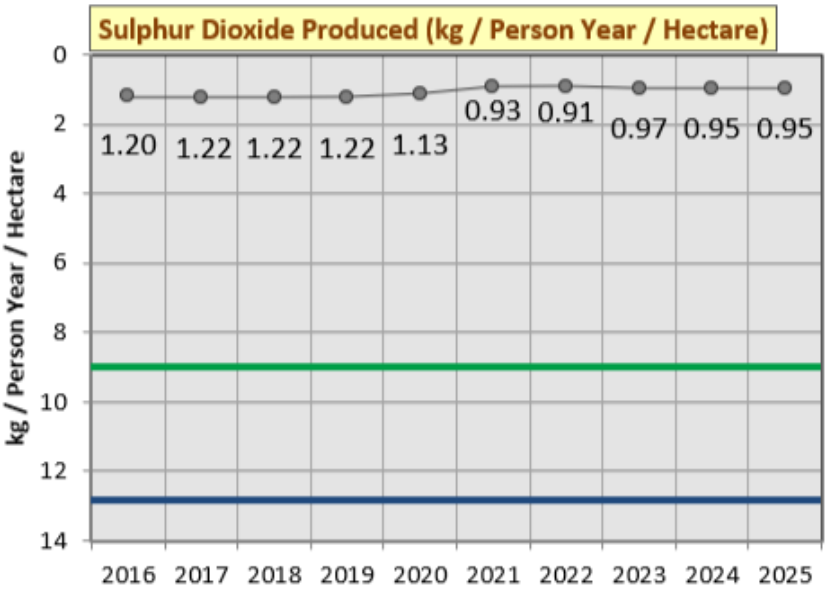
Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

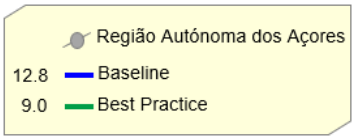




Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 10.99 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 22.1% below the Baseline level.

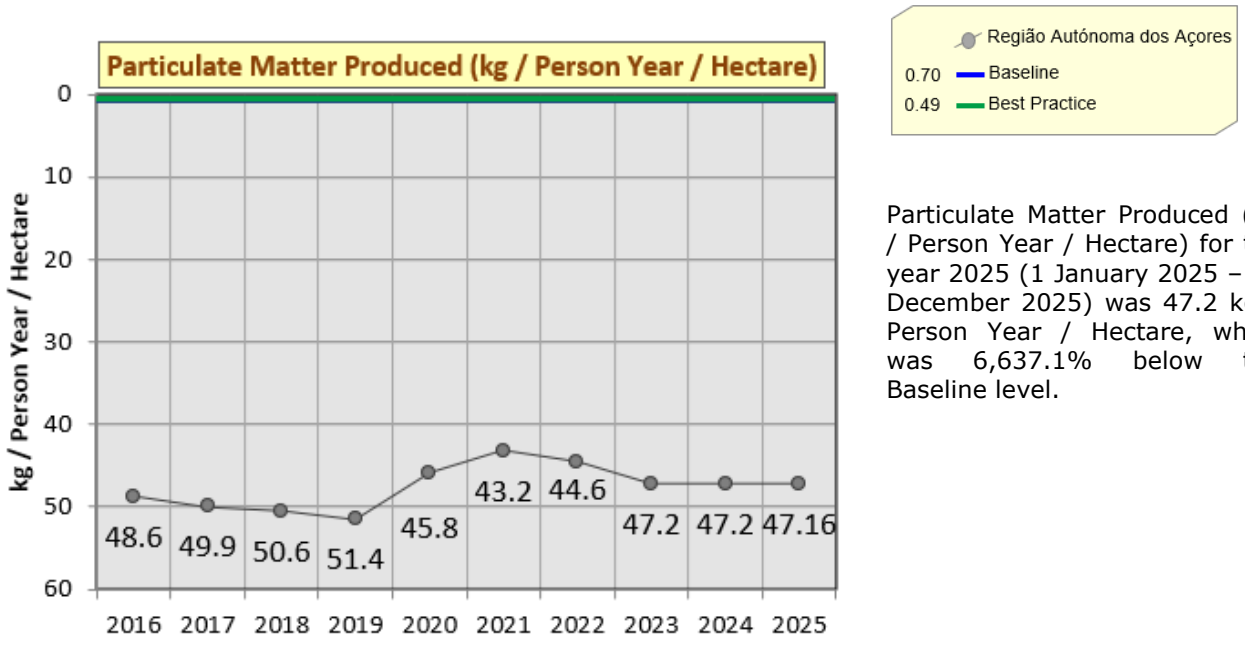
Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)





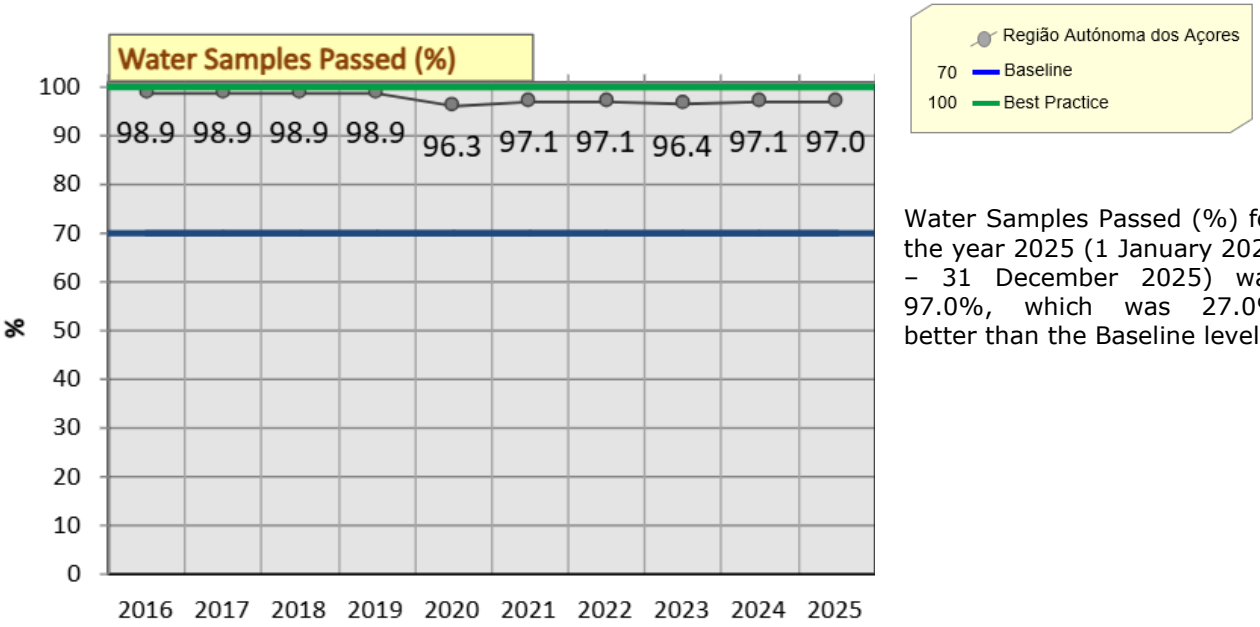
Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.95 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 89.4% better than the Best Practice level.

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



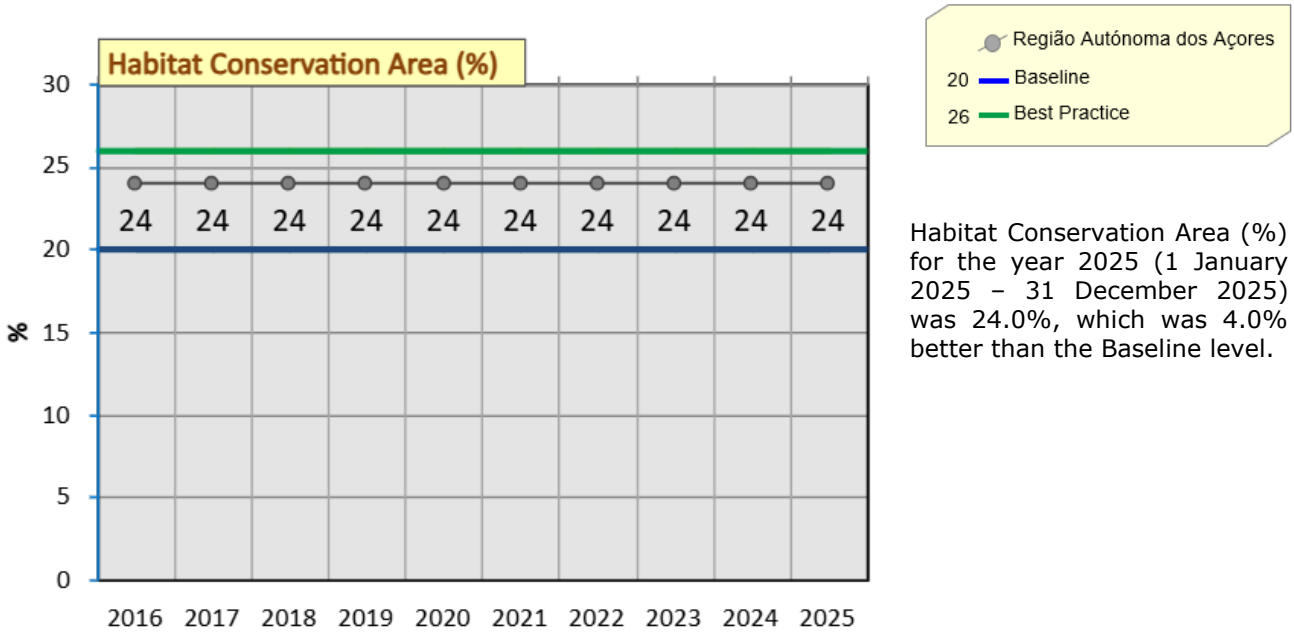
Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 47.2 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 6,637.1% below the Baseline level.

Water Samples Passed (%) ✓



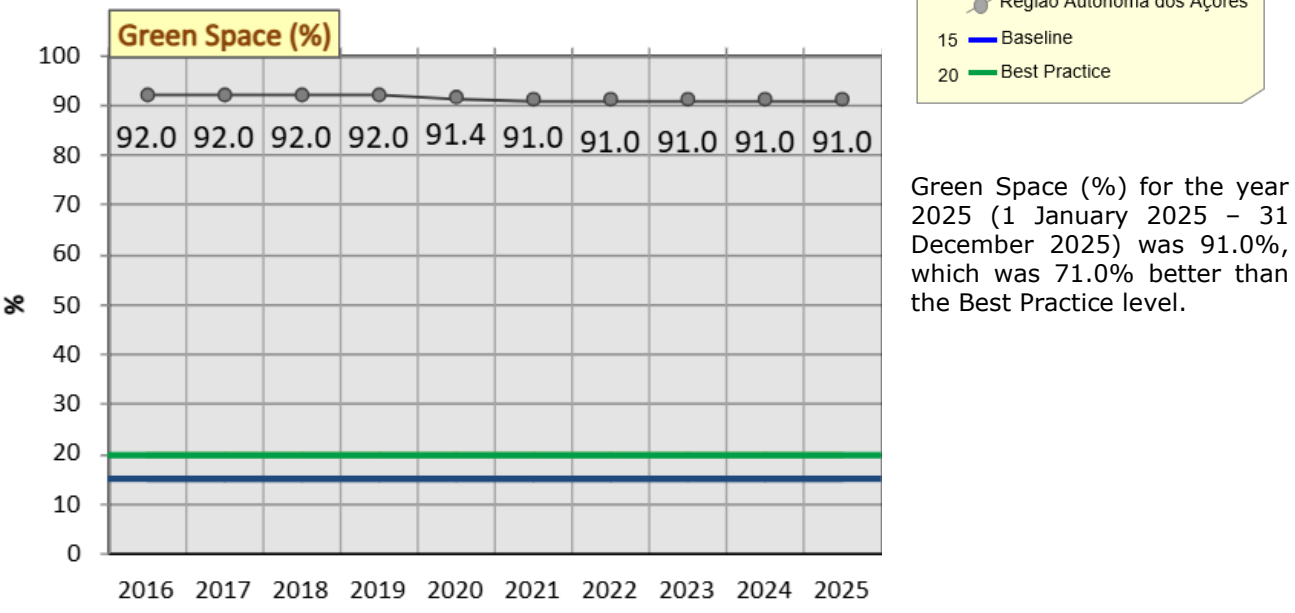
Water Samples Passed (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 97.0%, which was 27.0% better than the Baseline level.

Habitat Conservation Area (%)



Habitat Conservation Area (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 24.0%, which was 4.0% better than the Baseline level.

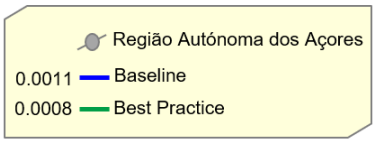
Green Space (%)



Green Space (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 91.0%, which was 71.0% better than the Best Practice level.

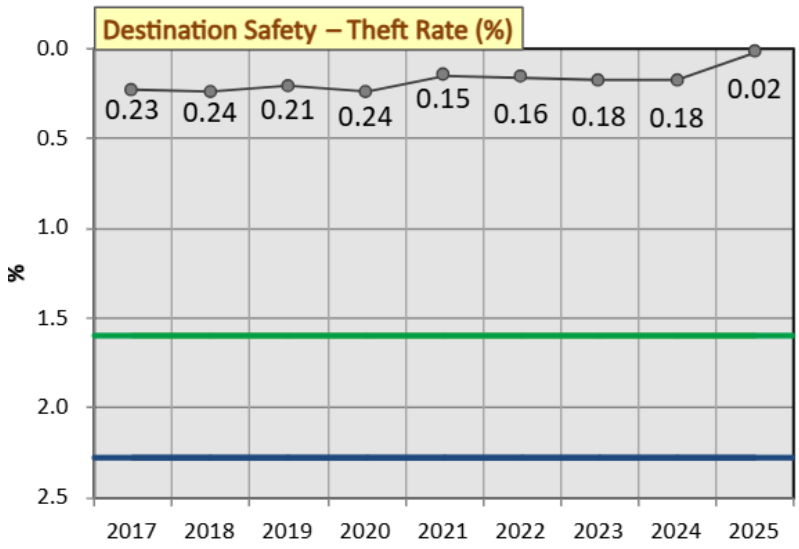
Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%)

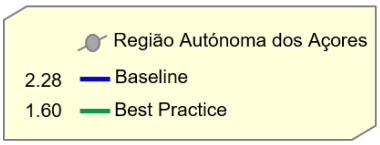




Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.011%, which was 0.010 % below the Baseline level.

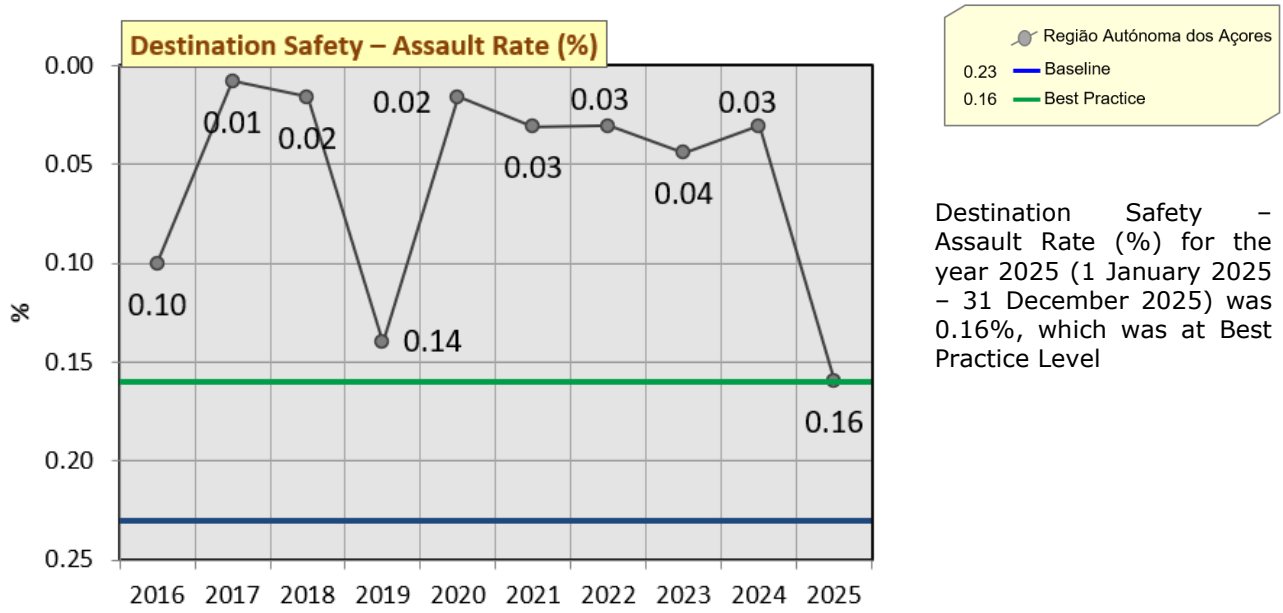
Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%)





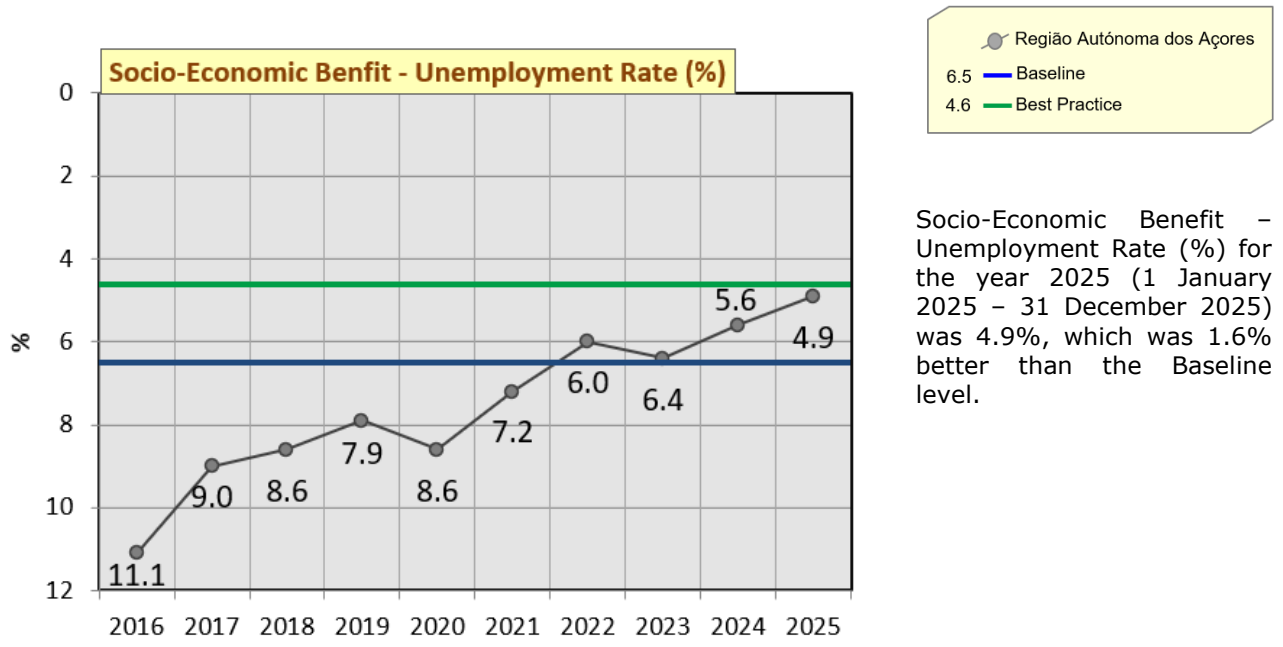
Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.02%, which was 1.58% better than the Best Practice level.

Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) ★



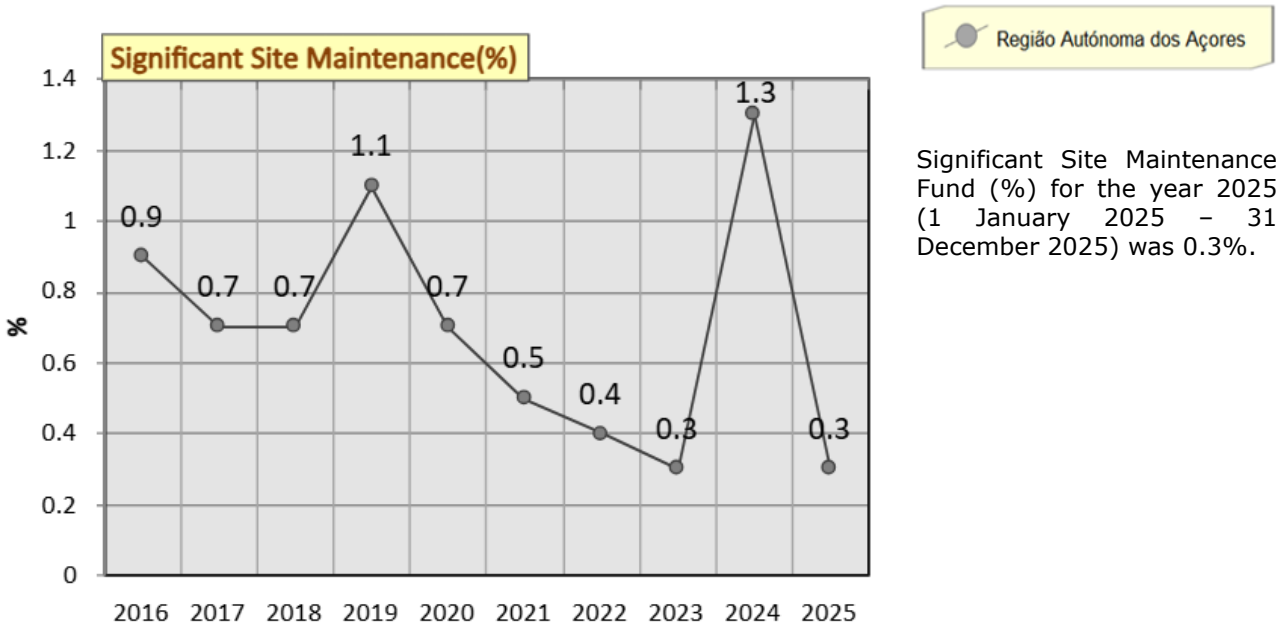
Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.16%, which was at Best Practice Level

Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%) ✓



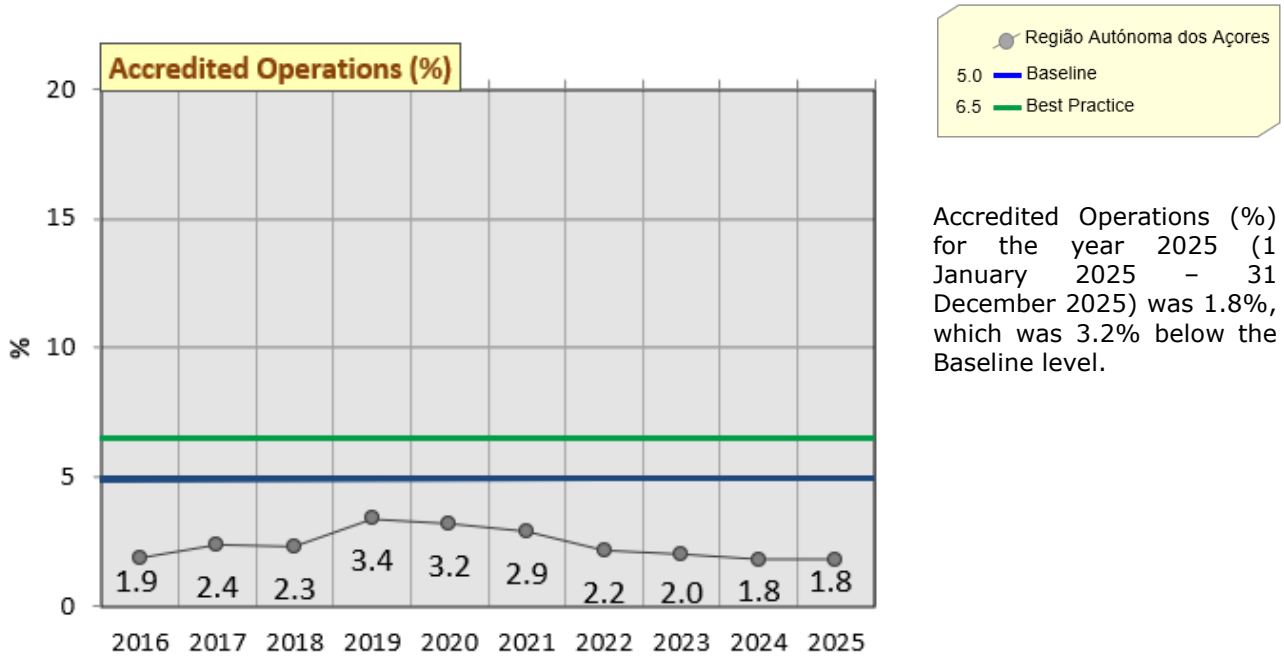
Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 4.9%, which was 1.6% better than the Baseline level.

Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%)



Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 0.3%.

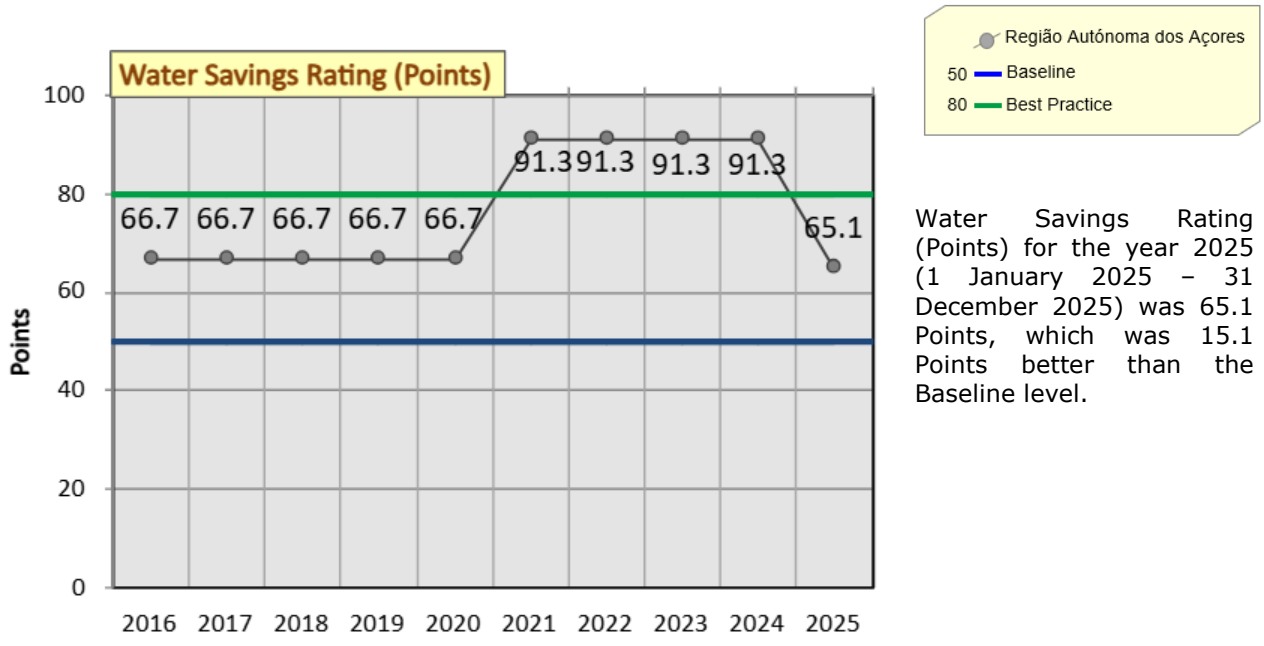
Accredited Operations (%) ✘



Accredited Operations (%) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 1.8%, which was 3.2% below the Baseline level.

6. Water Savings

Water Savings Rating (Points)

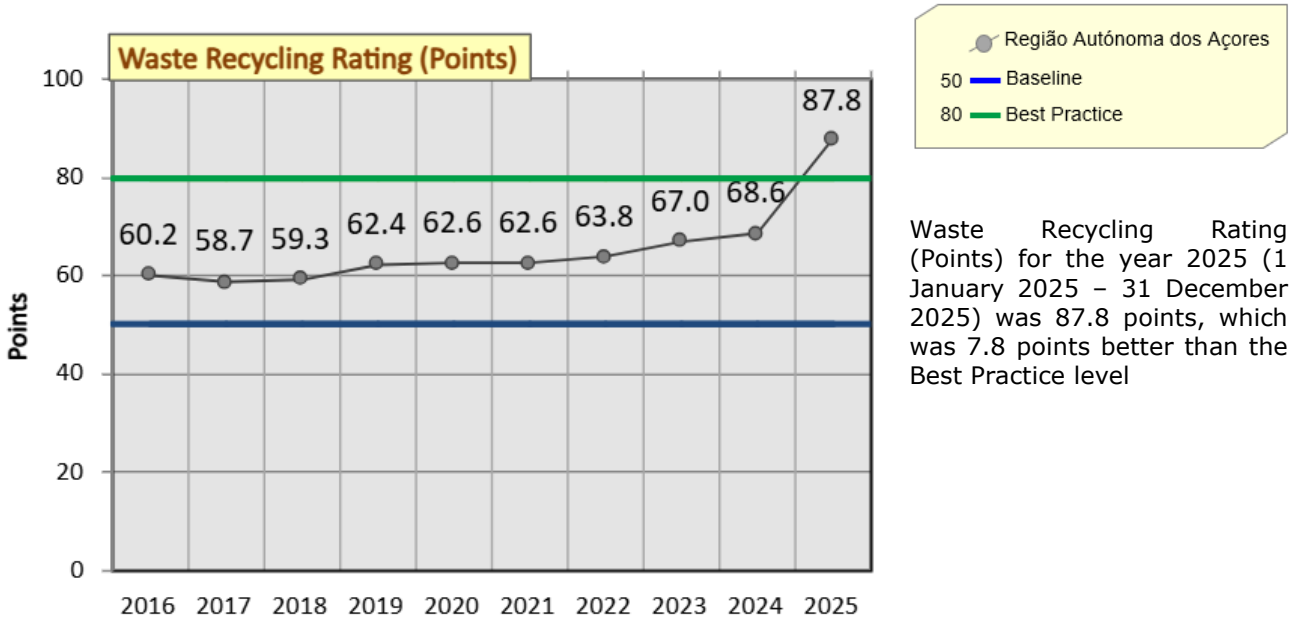


Water Savings Rating (Points) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 65.1 Points, which was 15.1 Points better than the Baseline level.

Water Savings Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Water Savings Rating (Points)
Check for leaks	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Low/dual flush toilets	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Low flow tap fittings	Not Relevant / Not Available	
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	40-59%	65.1 Points
	Overall Rating:	**65.1 Points**

7. Waste Recycling

Waste Recycling Rating (Points) ★

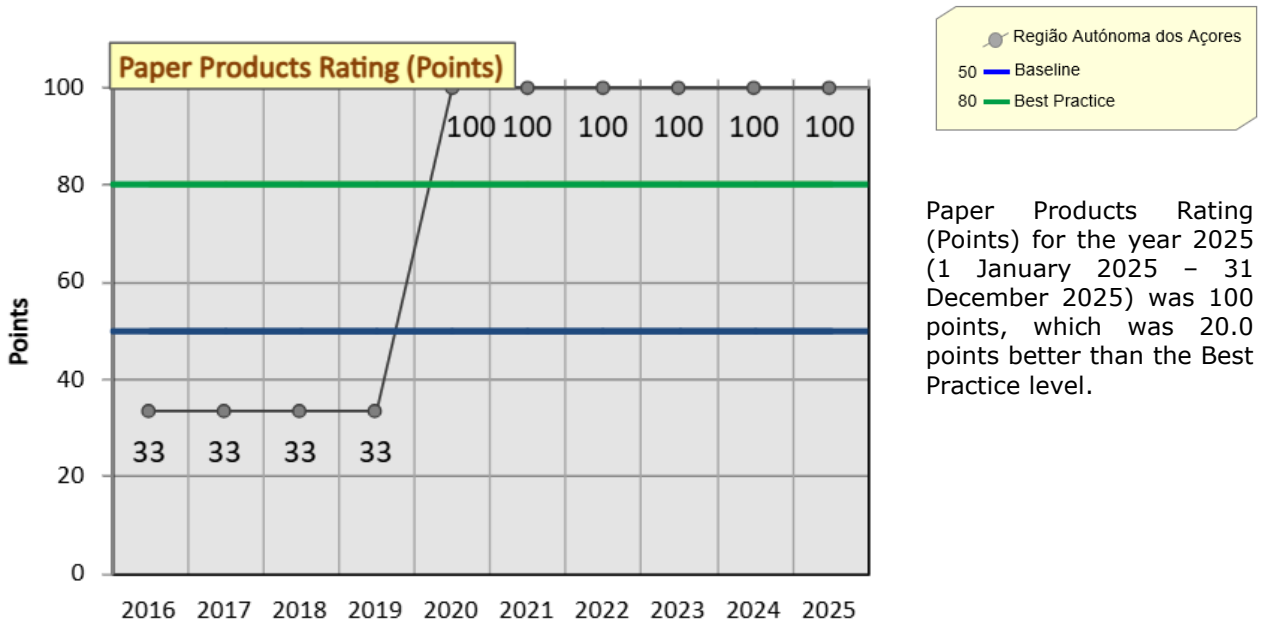


Waste Recycling Rating (Points) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 87.8 points, which was 7.8 points better than the Best Practice level

Waste Recycling Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
Glass	100%	100.0 Points
Paper/card	80-99%	88.9 Points
Iron & steel (ferrous metals)	80-99%	88.9 Points
Other metals (non-ferrous)	80-99%	88.9 Points
Plastics	60-79%	73.9 Points
Rubber	60-79%	73.9 Points
Green waste	100%	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	**87.8 Points**

8. Paper

Paper Products Rating (Points) ★

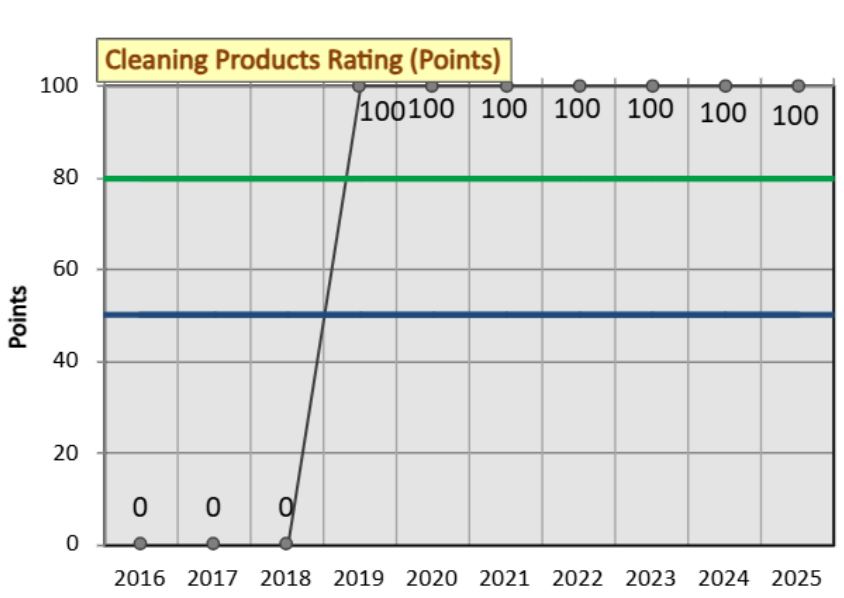


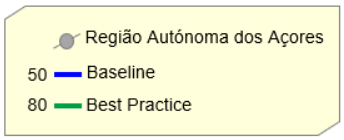
Paper Products Rating (Points) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 100 points, which was 20.0 points better than the Best Practice level.

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	100%	100.0 Points
Paper towels	Not Relevant / Not Available	
	Overall Rating:	**100.0 Points**

9. Cleaning

Cleaning Products Rating (Points) ★





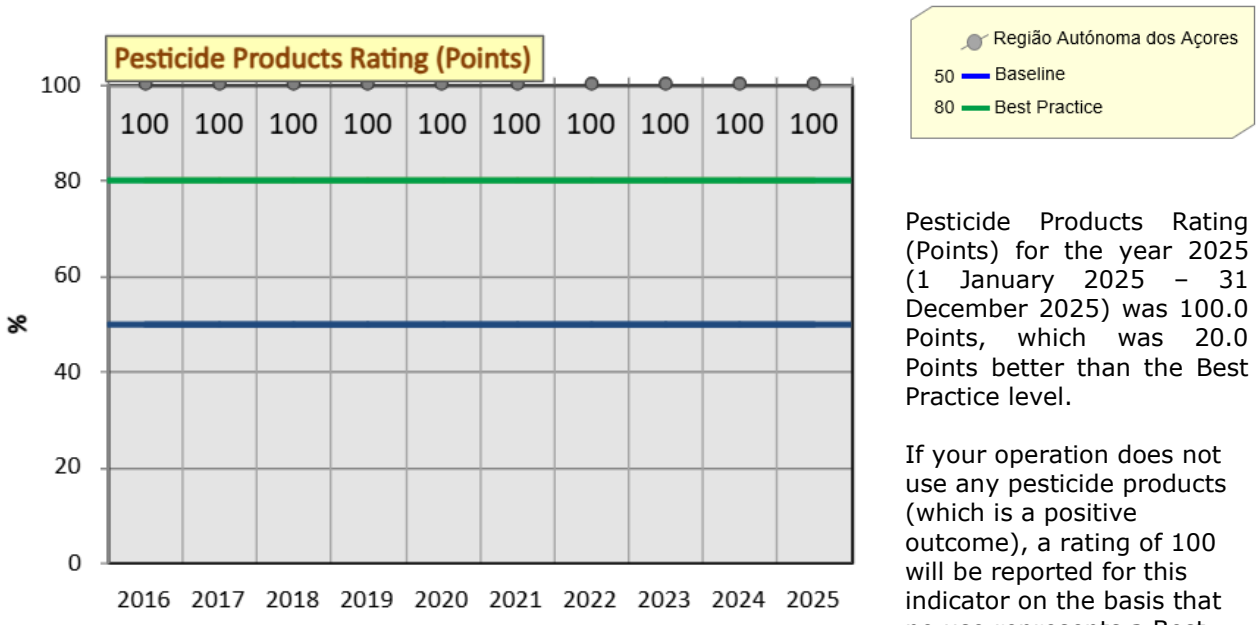
Cleaning Products Rating (Points) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

If your operation does not use any cleaning products (which is a positive outcome), a rating of 100 will be reported for this indicator on the basis that no use represents a Best Practice achievement.

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 Rating (Points) for the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

If your operation does not use any pesticide products (which is a positive outcome), a rating of 100 will be reported for this indicator on the basis that no use represents a Best Practice achievement.

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**

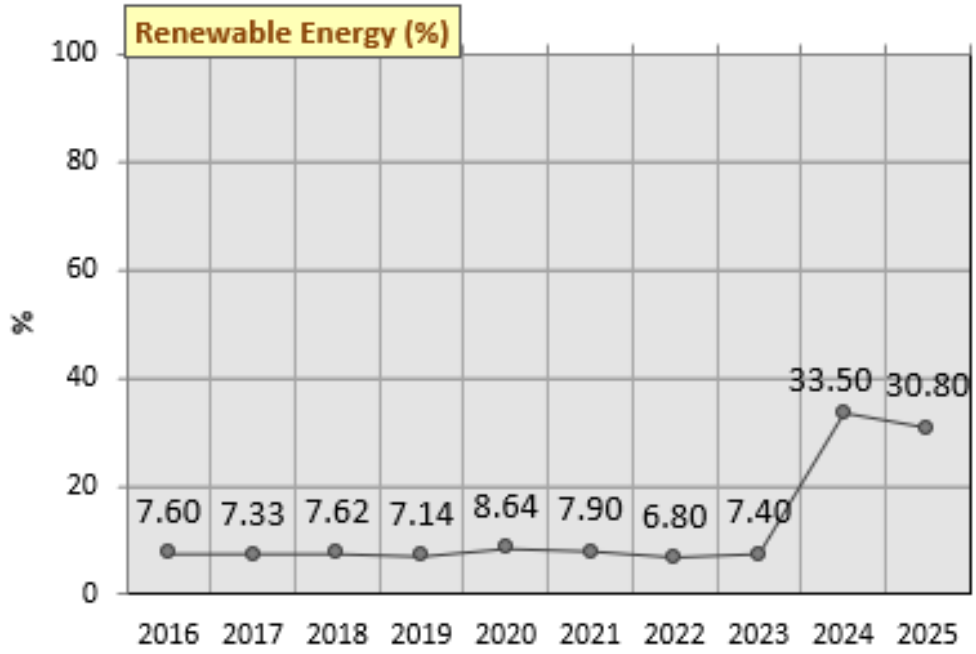
Optional Benchmarking Indicators

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.

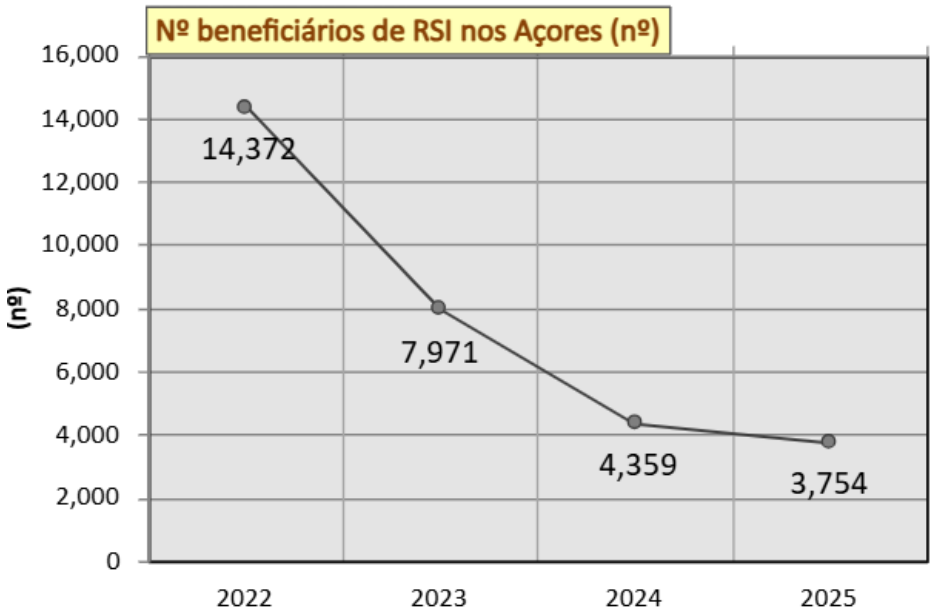
Renewable Energy



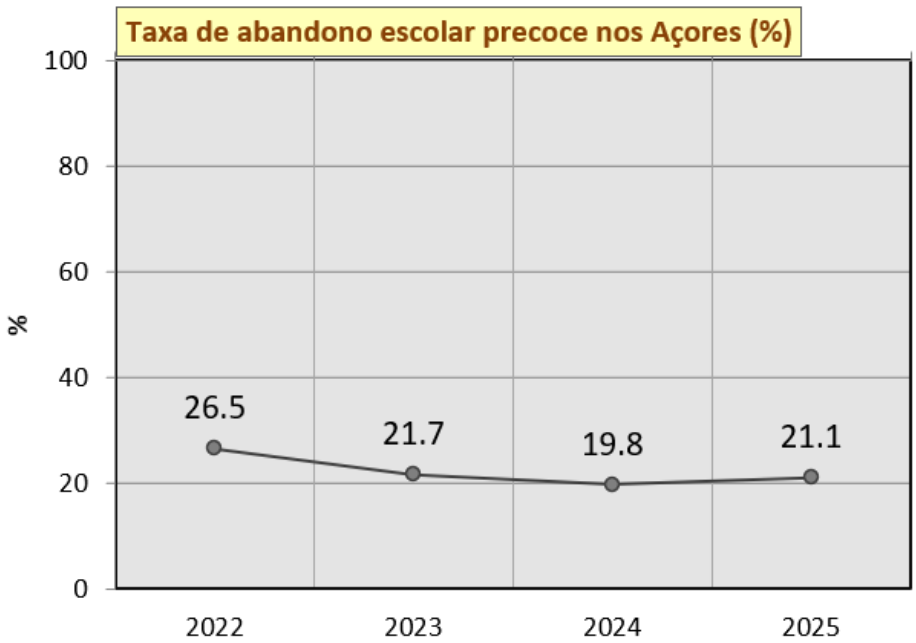
12. Specified Indicators

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

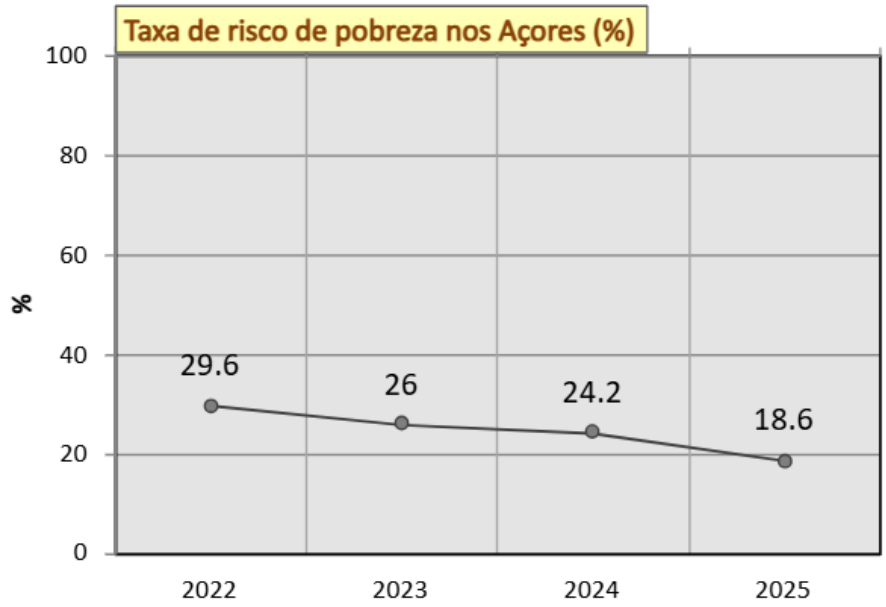
Nº beneficiários de RSI nos Açores



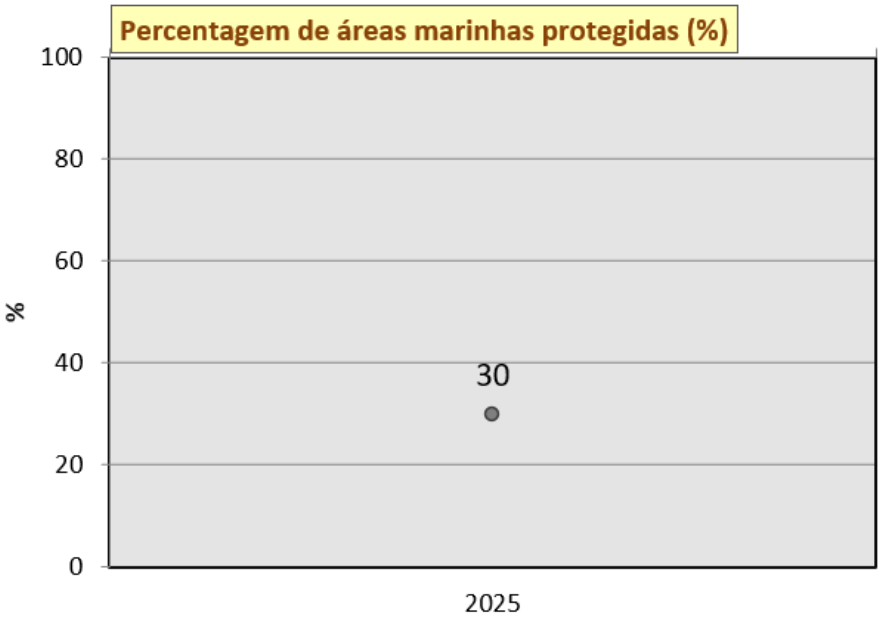
Taxa de abandono escolar precoce nos Açores



Taxa de risco de pobreza nos Açores



Percentagem de áreas marinhas protegidas (%)



*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, 15 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, Waste Recycling Rating, Destination Safety – Theft Rate, Destination Safety – Assault Rate, Paper Products Rating, Cleaning Products Rating, and Pesticide Products Rating,* are at or above the Best Practice level.

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

Potable Water Consumption was 5.3% below the Baseline performance level. Região Autónoma dos Açores is encouraged to investigate opportunities to reduce potable water consumption and continue to improve water-use efficiency across the destination.

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 0.009% 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 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

CLEANING PRODUCTS

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding all Cleaning Products indicators being reported as "Not Relevant / Not Available".

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

> *"There was a misunderstanding by the new team, as these indicators were initially interpreted as being applicable mainly to hotels and tour operators.*
>
> *Regarding the Azores DMO, our team is small and occupies a single office room, with very limited use of cleaning products and therefore a negligible environmental impact. For this reason, we have maintained the response as "Not Relevant / Not Available.""*

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data reported.

MOBILE FUEL COMBUSTION (AIR)

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the Aviation Gasoline no longer being reported.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

> *"Regarding Mobile Fuel Combustion (Air), specifically Aviation Gasoline (L), we confirm that the correct value for 2025 is zero, as reported in the platform.*
>
> *Aviation gasoline was no longer used in 2025 at Santa Maria Airport, the only airport in the Azores where it had previously been reported.*
>
> *As supporting evidence, we are providing an extract from the data supplied by the Regional Customs Authority regarding the consumption of petroleum products in the Azores."*

2025	Ilha	Produto (Litros)	AVIAÇÃO COMERCIAL - PRODUTOS REEXPORTADOS												
			JAN	FEV	MAR	ABR	MAI	JUN	JUL	AGO	SET	OUT	NOV	DEZ	Total
NAVEGAÇÃO AÉREA	S. Miguel	JET A1	3 556 695	3 143 874	4 092 363	6 018 434	6 360 213	8 223 420	8 925 390	9 069 195	7 912 975	4 730 519	3 894 756	3 763 679	**69 691 513**
	Santa Maria	JET A1	205 203	120 463	187 786	108 926	150 506	255 819	235 887	194 735	165 164	170 215	113 856	218 230	**2 126 790**
		Gasolina Aviação	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	Terceira	JET A1	960 424	915 990	1 159 576	1 364 602	1 240 897	1 656 079	1 878 129	1 744 508	1 422 728	811 919	1 058 262	897 048	**15 110 162**
	Faial	JET A1	87 186	87 847	163 872	210 338	288 620	347 352	356 222	376 023	245 396	152 430	84 351	130 081	**2 529 718**
	Pico	JET A1	20 376	20 888	82 646	101 369	96 636	135 918	172 653	168 378	77 362	73 795	49 979	38 504	**1 038 504**

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data reported.

MOBILE FUEL COMBUSTION (ROAD)

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the decrease in Diesel.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

> *"Regarding Mobile Fuel Combustion (Road), specifically Diesel (L), we confirm that there was a data entry error. The correct value for 2025 is 31,064,738 litres, not 7,515 litres.*

We kindly ask that the 2025 value be corrected accordingly, as reflected in the summary table provided below."

EARTHCHEK			
Stationary Fuel Combustion	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
LPG (Kg)	17 210 209	19 547 655	17 528 040
Heavy fuel oil (kg)	20 516 506	21 158 687	80 720 400
Naphta (litro)	1 679	1 145	178
Mobile Fuel Combustion (road)	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Diesel (litro)	83 076 465	87 097 168	31 064 738
Motor gasoline (litro)	51 004 254	55 192 622	56 317 195
Mobile Fuel Combustion (air)	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
JET A1 (litro)	77 978 889	86 771 964	90 496 687
Aviation Gasoline (l)	3 032	1 470	0
Mobile Fuel Combustion (water)	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Diesel (litro)	29 567 366	27 875 917	22 855 790
Heavy fuel oil (kg)	4 484 993	3 450 000	5 100 971

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data accordingly.

MOBILE FUEL COMBUSTION (WATER)

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the decrease in Diesel, and the increase in Heavy Fuel Oil.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

"Regarding Mobile Fuel Combustion (Water), we confirm that the reported figures are correct: diesel consumption decreased, while heavy fuel oil consumption increased in 2025.

According to information provided by the Regional Directorate for Mobility, the number of calls by large vessels, particularly cruise ships, increased from 855 in 2024 to 912 in 2025, which helps explain the increase in heavy fuel oil consumption.

On the other hand, the fishing fleet in the Azores has been declining, as documented in the attached 2025 Annual Report on the Portuguese Fishing Fleet (page 6), which helps explain the decrease in diesel consumption."

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data reported.

ONSITE RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the increase in Solar.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

"Regarding Onsite Renewable Energy Generation, we confirm that the reported solar energy generation figures are correct.

The increase reflects the continued expansion of photovoltaic installations in the Azores, supported by Regional Government incentive programmes. As these incentives have been reinforced, further growth in solar energy generation is expected.

Please see the attached news article as supporting information."

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data reported.

PAPER PRODUCTS

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding all Paper Products indicators being reported as "Not Relevant / Not Available".

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

> *"Regarding paper products, the limited amount of paper used by the Azores DMO for printing is 100% recycled and Ecolabel-certified. The toilet paper used in our facilities is also recycled.*
>
> *Due to the very limited quantities used, we initially considered this indicator not relevant. However, after reviewing the previous reporting approach, we confirm that the correct response should be 100%.*
>
> *We would therefore like to amend our response from "Not Relevant / Not Available" to 100%."*

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data accordingly.

PESTICIDE PRODUCTS

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding all Pesticide Products indicators being reported as "Not Relevant / Not Available".

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

> *"Regarding pesticide products, we initially followed the same interpretation that these indicators were mainly applicable to hotels and tour operators.*
>
> *However, in this case, "Not Relevant / Not Available" is correct, as the Azores DMO does not use pesticides, including insecticides, rodenticides or similar products, in its office facilities. Therefore, we confirm the response provided."*

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data reported.

STATIONARY FUEL COMBUSTION

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the decrease in LPG and Naphtha, and the significant increase in Heavy Fuel Oil.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

> *"Regarding Stationary Fuel Combustion, we confirm that the reported values for LPG (kg) and Naphtha (L) are correct. The decrease reflects the ongoing electrification of households and household appliances in the Azores.*
>
> *However, we identified an error in the Heavy Fuel Oil (kg) value reported for industry. The correct value for 2025 is 4,787,762 kg, instead of 80,752,400 kg.*
>
> *We kindly ask that this value be corrected accordingly."*

TABELA RESUMO			2023	2024	2025
Combustível	Combustível EC	Tipo	Quantidade	Quantidade	Quantidade
Gasolina	Gasoline (l)	Rodoviário	51 004 254	55 192 622	56 317 195
Petróleo iluminação (litro)	Naftha (l)	Estacionário	1 679	1 145	178
Fuelóleo Indústria	Heavy Fueloil (kg)	Estacionário	20 516 506	21 158 687	4 787 762
Gasóleo rodoviário	Diesel (l)	Rodoviário	60 462 031	64 389 299	8 210 512
Gasóleo Colorido e Marcado Agricultura	Diesel (l)	Rodoviário	22 614 434	22 587 275	19 058 717
Gasóleo Colorido e Marcado Pescas	Diesel (l)	Marítimo	4 529 955	4 570 360	3 795 509
JET A1 (litro)	JET A1 (l)	Aéreo	185 900	351 755	232 183
GPL garrafas + rede (Kg)	GPL (kg)	Estacionário	17 210 209	19 547 655	17 528 040
JET A1 (l)	JET A1 (l)	Aéreo	77 792 989	86 420 209	90 496 687
Gasolina Aviação (l)	Aviation Gasoline (l)	Aéreo	3 032	1 470	0
Gasóleo marítimo (l)	Diesel (l)	Marítimo	25 037 411	23 305 557	19 060 281
Fuel marítimo (kg)	Heavy Fueloil (kg)	Marítimo	4 484 993	3 450 000	5 100 971

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data accordingly.

TOTAL DESTINATION AREA

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the change in figure reported.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the additional response for clarification:

> *"Regarding the Total Destination Area, we confirm that the 2025 figure is correct. The information was obtained from an official and reliable source, the Portuguese National Statistics Institute (INE), and is also supported by data from the Azores Regional Statistics Service (SREA), as provided in the attached Excel file.*
>
> *We were unable to identify the source used for the 2024 figure reported by the previous team. Therefore, we consider the 2025 figure to be the correct value and kindly ask that it be maintained."*

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data reported.

WASTE SENT FOR INCINERATION

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the Unknown (mixed waste types) being newly reported, decreases in Textiles and Plastics, and changes in the reported type of incineration.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

> *"Regarding Waste Sent for Incineration, we confirm that the incineration technology used in the Azores is Continuous Incineration – Stoker. The "Open Burning" classification reported in previous years was incorrect. This has now been confirmed by the engineer responsible for incineration operations in the Azores, Sónia Silva, whose email is attached.*
>
> *Unknown (mixed waste types) is now reported because the Regional Department responsible for waste management is currently able to provide this information.*
>
> *The decrease in textiles and plastics sent for incineration reflects increased waste separation for recycling, supported by greater community awareness and improvements in waste treatment operations, including Mechanical and Biological Treatment on São Miguel Island. Please refer to the attached Annual Report on Urban Waste Management in the Azores for supporting information."*

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data accordingly. Open Burning was replaced with Continuous Incineration - Stoker for all relevant waste streams in both reporting periods.

WASTE SENT TO LANDFILL

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the newly reported waste streams, Rubber being reported as 0 in 2025, and unit changes.

Região Autónoma dos Açores provided the following response for clarification:

> *"Regarding Waste Sent to Landfill, we confirm that the reported 2025 figures are correct.*
>
> *Additional waste categories are now reported because more detailed data became available from the Regional Department responsible for waste management in the Azores.*
>
> *For further supporting information, please refer to the previously mentioned 2025 Annual Report on Urban Waste Management in the Azores and to the table below, provided by the Regional Department responsible for waste management."*

Key Indicators (ENTER MY DATA Yearly)		Unidade	DATA (valores totais) - 2025
Waste | resíduos	Waste Sent to Landfill | Resíduos enviados para aterro	Toneladas	28 407
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Paper and paper board | Resíduos enviados para aterro	Toneladas	3
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Textiles | Resíduos enviados para aterro: Téxteis	Toneladas	26
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Wood and straw | Resíduos enviados para aterro: Madeira e palha	Toneladas	3
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Garden and park | Resíduos enviados para aterro: Jardins	Toneladas	137
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Food | Resíduos enviados para aterro: Comida/alimentos	Toneladas	58
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Rubber | Resíduos enviados para aterro: borracha	Toneladas	0
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Concrete/metal/plastics/glass | Resíduos enviados para aterro: Betão/metal/plástico/vidro	Toneladas	1
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Inert | Resíduos enviados para aterro: inertes	Toneladas	685
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Unknow (mixed waste types) | Resíduos enviados para aterro: desconhecidos/misturas	Toneladas	25 004
	Waste Sent to Landfill: Other | Resíduos enviados para aterro: outros	Toneladas	2 490
	Waste Sent for Incineration | Resíduos enviados para incineração	Toneladas	37 878
	Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste | Resíduos reciclados, reutilizados ou enviados para compostagem	%	0
	Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste | Resíduos reciclados, reutilizados ou enviados para compostagem	Toneladas	75 174
	Resíduos reciclados fora RAA + compostados	Toneladas	
	Resíduos compostados	Toneladas	12 510
	Resíduos Totais Produzidos	Toneladas	153 969
	Incineration - Textiles | Téxteis Incinerados	Toneladas	2 557
	Incineration - Rubber and Leather | Borracha e pele Incinerados	Toneladas	0
	Incineration - Plastics | Pláricos incinerados	Toneladas	3 257
	Incinerations - Nappies | Fraldas incineradas	Toneladas	3 059
	Recycled - Glass | vidro reciclado	Toneladas	6 029
	Recycled - Paper / Card waste | Papel e cartão reciclado	Toneladas	9 944
	Recycled - Iron and steel (ferrous) metals waste | metais ferrosos reciclados	Toneladas	3 770
	Recycled - Total other metals (non-ferrous) waste | Totais de outros metais não ferrosos reciclados	Toneladas	
	Recycled - Total plastic waste | Total de plático reciclado	Toneladas	4 922
	Recycled - Total rubber waste | Total de borracha reciclada	Toneladas	
	Recycled - Total green waste (including kitchen and garden waste) | Total de resíduos verdes reciclados	Toneladas	44 433

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the original data reported.



Benchmarks Assessed by EarthCheck

Summary Of Supplied Benchmarking Data

Activity Measures

Person Years	258,275
Total Destination Area	232,196

Supplied Benchmarking Data

Energy

Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year)

Supplied	12,821,625.3 GJ
Calculated	49.6 GJ / Person Year
Baseline	55.6 GJ / Person Year
Best Practice	38.9 GJ / Person Year
Difference	10.8% better than Baseline level

Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO_2-e / Person Year)

Supplied	766,768.1 t CO_2-e
Calculated	2.97 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	26% Better than Baseline level

Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (t CO_2-e / Person Year)

Supplied	600,008.3 t CO_2-e
Calculated	2.32 t CO_2-e / Person Year

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (t CO_2-e / Person Year)

Supplied	166,759.8 t CO_2-e
Calculated	0.65 t CO_2-e / Person Year

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO_2-e / Person Year)

Supplied	74,612.8 t CO_2-e
Calculated	0.29 t CO_2-e / Person Year

Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO_2-e / Person Year)

Supplied	74,612.8 t CO_2-e
Calculated	0.29 t CO_2-e / Person Year

Water

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year)

Supplied	21,958,025.0 kL
Calculated	85.0 kL / Person Year
Baseline	80.75 kL / Person Year
Best Practice	56.53 kL / Person Year
Difference	5.3% below the Baseline level

Recycled / Captured Water (%)

Supplied	59%
Calculated	59%

Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (m^3 / Person Year)

Supplied	135,791.8 m^3
Calculated	0.53 m^3 / Person Year
Baseline	0.89 m^3 / Person Year
Best Practice	0.62 m^3 / Person Year
Difference	14.5% better than the Best Practice level

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)

Supplied	53%
Calculated	53%

Waste Sent for Incineration (L / Person Year)

Supplied	29,596,910 L
Calculated	114.6 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	22.1% 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	6,637.1% below the Baseline level

Water Samples Passed (%)

Supplied	97%
Calculated	97%
Baseline	70 %
Best Practice	100 %
Difference	27% 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	0.011%
Calculated	0.011%
Baseline	0.0011%
Best Practice	0.0008%
Difference	0.01% below the Baseline level

Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%)

Supplied	0.02%
Calculated	0.02%
Baseline	2.28%
Best Practice	1.60%
Difference	1.58% better than the Best Practice level

Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%)

Supplied	0.16%
Calculated	0.16%
Baseline	0.23%
Best Practice	0.16%
Difference	At the Best Practice Level

Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%)

Supplied	4.9%
Calculated	4.9%
Baseline	6.5%
Best Practice	4.6%
Difference	1.6% better than the Baseline level

Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%)

Supplied	0.3%
Calculated	0.3%

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	65.1 Points
Calculated	65.1 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	15.1 Points better than Baseline

Waste Recycling

Waste Recycling Rating (Points)

Supplied	87.8 Points
Calculated	87.8 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	7.8 points better than the Best Practice 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	30.8 %
Calculated	30.8%

Specified Indicators

Nº beneficiários de RSI nos Açores (nº)

Supplied	3,754.0
Calculated	3,754.0

Taxa de abandono escolar precoce nos Açores (%)

Supplied	21.1 %
Calculated	21.1 %

Taxa de risco de pobreza nos Açores (%)

Supplied	18.6%
Calculated	18.6%

Percentagem de áreas marinhas protegidas (%)

Supplied	30%
Calculated	30%

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 (m^3) or litres (L)). These are: 1 kg (uncompacted waste) = 0.00333333 m^3 or 3.33333 L and 1 kg (compacted waste) = 0.00153846 m^3 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).