

Purpose & Performance

A year of action, accountability and impact



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Chair's Introduction



This is our second Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Report – and an important one.

Last year, we set out the full scope of our ESG commitments for the first time. That report began a clearer and more structured way of showing our impact on these topics. It helped us measure progress and hold ourselves to account.

In 2024, we built on that foundation. We enhanced our reporting, deepened our analysis, and made tangible progress in many environmental and social projects. ESG is now embedded into our long-term planning and operational decision-making. It shapes our partnerships, informs our investments, and supports the delivery of our wider ambitions as a Trust Port.

We also made space to reflect. The close of our five-year strategy offered a natural moment to take stock of where we've come from and to prepare for what's next. That process reaffirmed the central role ESG plays – not just in how we

report, but in how we operate commercially while also delivering social value.

This report reflects that integration. It offers a balanced view of how we're managing key risks and opportunities – whether on climate, biodiversity, safety, or social impact. It also shows how we are continuing to collaborate with others to create lasting, meaningful change.

As a Trust Port, we are stewards of Belfast Harbour for the benefit of the economy and society. That comes with long-term responsibility. We act not just in today's interest, but in the interests of future generations. Our commitment to our ESG goals helps us meet that responsibility with transparency and intent.

Finally, I want to reaffirm that health and safety will always be a fundamental priority for Belfast Harbour. As a Board, we remain firmly focused on sustaining a safe and supportive environment for everyone who lives on, works on, or who visits the port and estate.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the progress captured in these pages. Our ESG performance is a shared responsibility. The engagement, insight, and leadership shown by our teams and partners continues to inspire confidence in our long-term direction.

Dr Theresa Donaldson
Chair of Belfast Harbour Commissioners

As a Trust Port, we are stewards of Belfast Harbour for the benefit of the economy and of society. That comes with long-term responsibility.

Chief Executive's Introduction



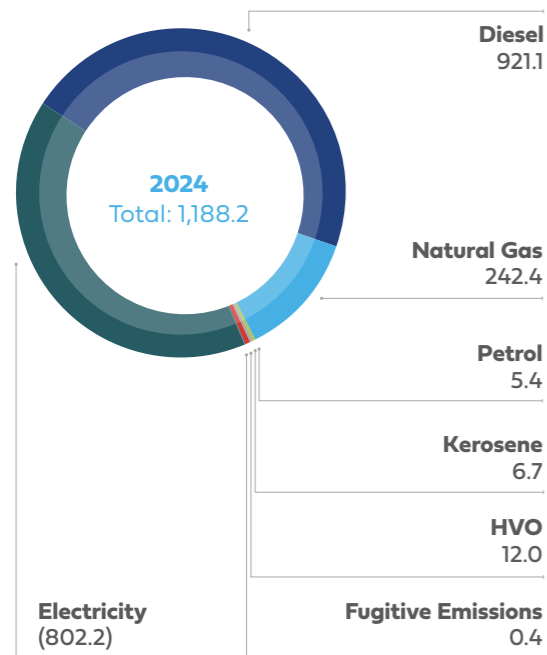
2024 also gave us the space to prepare for what's next. As we shape our new five-year strategy and our 2050 Masterplan, ESG will continue to guide our thinking.



Our ESG journey entered a new phase in 2024.

After a year when our ESG framework was first published, 2024 was about further embedding this in our day-to-day activities. We worked to turn long-term goals into measurable steps and to use data that tracks how we're doing. As a result, this year's report is more focused, more visual, and more operationally grounded. It shows the results of that shift.

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions in tCO2e



In 2024 our efforts in this area were independently recognised. Belfast Harbour once again received the Platinum level of the CORE Standard for Responsible Business, awarded by Business in the Community NI. This is a prestigious accreditation, awarded to only five organisations in Northern Ireland. It recognises our comprehensive commitment to responsible business practices in areas such as environmental stewardship, community engagement, and employee wellbeing. This was a huge achievement, and something our team can be proud of.

We continued to make great strides in our environmental goals. For the third year running, we reduced our carbon footprint. We expanded our electric vehicle fleet and invested in lower-emissions plant and machinery. Our new pilot boat, Hibernia, reflects our commitment to cleaner operations – with hybrid engines now in use. We started looking into renewable technologies and explored early-stage solutions for future maritime fuels.

We made progress in mapping our indirect Scope 3 emissions – a key step towards more complete reporting. That work will help us better understand emissions linked to freight, supply chains, and tenant activity across the estate.

We tested nature-based solutions and investigated biodiversity mapping. This included ongoing support for the native oyster reef restoration in Belfast Lough. It also involved early trials with sensor-based biodiversity tools using LiDAR technology. In time, these efforts will inform how we measure ecological value across our land and marine footprint.

We also strengthened our social impact. This included a strong year for community funding – we invested over £315,000 in initiatives across the wider region. We were recognised for our diversity and inclusion work, earning Silver in our Diversity Mark accreditation. And we continued to invest in apprenticeships, employee training, and career progression.

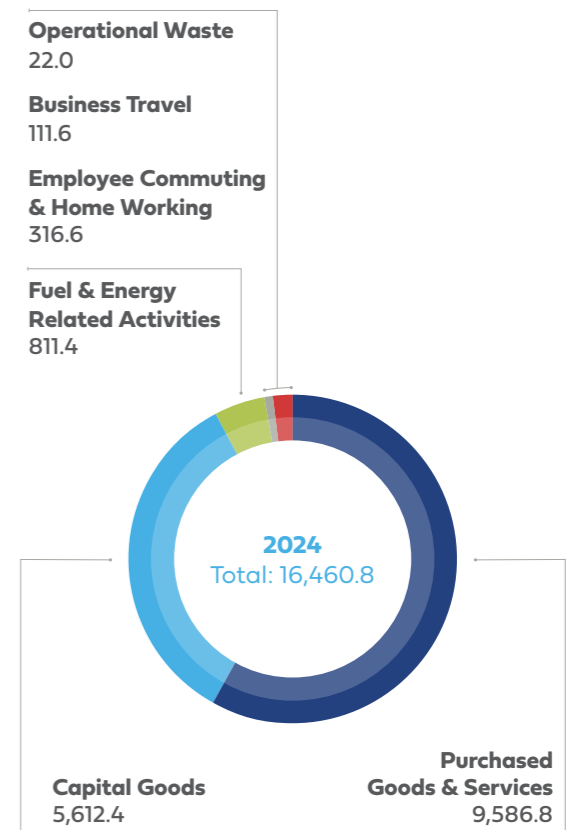
Safety remains our top priority, and our robust performance on this theme throughout 2024 reflects a shared focus. From updated risk management to enhanced staff engagement, a strong safety culture is truly embedded in all that we do.

2024 also gave us the space to prepare for what's next. As we shape our new five-year strategy and our 2050 masterplan, ESG will continue to guide our thinking. We've engaged with partners, listened to stakeholders, and reflected on the changing policy and regulatory landscape.

This report shares a clear view of where we stand, where we're improving, and where we need to go further. It highlights our efforts and the partnerships that make change possible. It also confirms our commitment to a fairer, cleaner, and more resilient future.

Joe O'Neill
Chief Executive, Belfast Harbour

Scope 3 Emissions in tCO2e 2024



ESG Highlights 2024

Planet

Blue Flag status awarded to Belfast Harbour Marina




Partnerships

Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme completed in partnership with DfI and Belfast City Council




People

£315,000 invested in local communities in 2024


Place

Planning permission granted for 256 New homes in City Quays 4



People

Silver Diversity Charter Mark awarded in 2024, progressing towards Gold



Planet

Marine Gas Oil fully replaced by Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)

Place

Planning permission granted for 69 affordable homes at Pilot Street




Partnerships

Partnering PortXchange & Positive Planet to track and publish emissions in Belfast Harbour Estate

Planet

71% reduction in GHG emissions since 2015, while doubling business turnover



Place

£3.65 million invested in City Quays Gardens - the first One Planet Living public realm project in Northern Ireland



Partnerships

Ulster Wildlife

Oyster reef restoration project with Ulster Wildlife continues in Belfast Lough



Partnerships

CACHE NET ZERO



Satellites, sensors, and smart data to monitor port emissions and air quality

People

1 of 5 Platinum CORE Standard for Responsible Business in NI

People


750 'good-spot' safety observations logged – up 163 from 2023



Place

BLUEWAY TRAIL

Blueway Trail now complete from Titanic Quarter to Sailortown




Planet

ZERO operational waste to landfill: 30% recycled, 70% recovered for energy



Protecting our environment and accelerating to net zero

Cutting emissions through cleaner fuels and electrification

In 2024, we continued to lower emissions, use resources wisely, and invest in cleaner operations. It was a year of strong environmental progress – driven by data, guided by science, and focused on action.

Our total Scope 1 and 2 emissions were 1,188 tCO₂e, down 35% from 2023. That's a 71% reduction since 2015, achieved while doubling business turnover in the span of those nine years. These results reflect sustained investment in decarbonisation and modernisation.

Alternative fuels played a central role, as we eliminated Marine Gas Oil from our fuel mix. In its place, we used 341,594 litres of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), a renewable, low-emission fuel. This cut emissions from our marine fleet to just 12 tCO₂e. On hybrid vessels like the Hibernia, HVO also improved performance. The new pilot boat delivers 12% better fuel efficiency, with 6% linked to cleaner combustion. All these gains support local air quality, and we will keep monitoring this through our EarthSense Zephyr sensor network.

Electrification of our ground fleet also progressed. Today, 30% of our vehicles are electric. We developed a charging strategy with Royal Haskoning and partnered with Weev to accelerate uptake. Installation works on new charging infrastructure will start in 2025.

Switching to renewable energy

All electricity used across the estate is from REGO-certified renewable sources. This mitigated 802 tCO₂e in Scope 2 and helped reduce 2,756 tCO₂e in Scope 3 emissions from tenant energy use.

To build on this, we completed a solar feasibility study with ARUP. We assessed options for generating, storing, and redistributing renewable energy. Our first rooftop solar installation begins at the AC Marriott Hotel in 2025. We also explored virtual Power Purchase Agreements (vPPAs), although technical and regulatory barriers will need to be resolved before roll-out.



35%

Operational emissions cut year-on-year

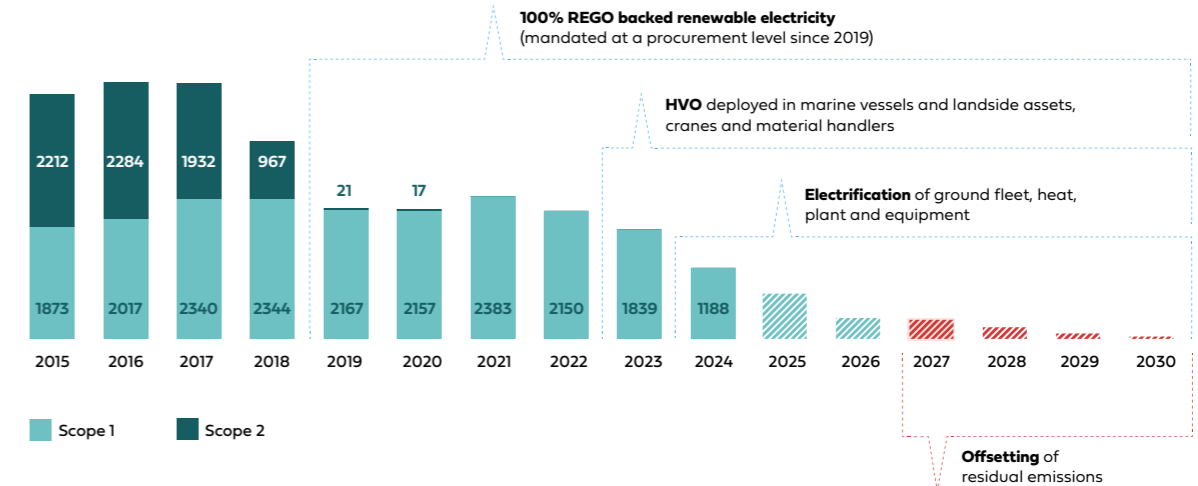
71%

Scope 1 and 2 emissions down since 2015

100%

electricity from REGO-certified renewable sources

Net Zero 2030 Pathway



Tracking emissions and reducing waste

Work to improve Scope 3 emissions reporting also continued. These emissions relate to our wider value chain, including goods, services, and tenant activity. In 2024, we began a detailed review to identify key sources such as freight, commuting, and waste. We partnered with Positive Planet and PortXchange to develop data systems for transparent, estate-wide tracking.

We also used resources efficiently – Zero operational waste went to landfill. Of this, 30% was recycled and 70% was recovered for energy. We continue working with tenants and contractors to reduce waste and promote circular practices.

Monitoring air quality and supporting biodiversity

Our EarthSense Zephyr sensor network ran throughout the year. These real-time insights guide decisions on site layout, traffic, and port activity. Their independent data confirms that air quality at the port was consistently better than national standards.

Nature-based solutions remained a priority. We continued our partnership with Ulster Wildlife to restore native oyster reefs in Belfast Lough. This supports biodiversity, improves water quality, and is one of the largest reef restoration projects in Ireland.

By 2027 we expect to have reduced our emissions by over 93% against our 2015 baseline — our Net Zero.

We also piloted LiDAR technology to assess the carbon sequestration potential of our land-based biodiversity. This data will help establish a baseline, and guide future land use decisions. We now know that the existing cover from our 33,815 trees is estimated to sequester 394 tCO₂e per year. At this rate, projected residual emissions could be offset within two years.

Adapting to climate change

Work on climate adaptation advanced. We collaborated with Belfast City Council and the Department for Infrastructure on tidal flood mitigation works. These efforts support long-term resilience for the port, and the city as a whole, in the face of extreme weather and sea-level rise.

Certifications and performance recognition

Recognition for our environmental performance continued. Belfast Harbour Marina earned Blue Flag status for the first time. This confirms high standards in environmental safety, education, and management. We also retained ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certification. Finally, this year, we earned Platinum status in the BITC Environmental Benchmarking Survey – the 16th year in a row we've achieved this standard. You can read more about BITC's recognition of our wider commitment to being a responsible business in the People section.

Looking ahead

Looking ahead, we will expand our EV fleet, pilot rooftop solar, and support others to develop large-scale renewable energy. Our direction is clear. We remain committed to long-term, science-led decarbonisation – shaping an estate that works in harmony with its environment.



People

Investing in our people and local communities



Building a safe, supportive workplace

In 2024, we continued to invest in our people and to build a workplace that is safe, inclusive, and supportive. We grew our community partnerships and deepened our focus on long-term social impact.

Safety remained our top priority. We recorded 750 'good spot' safety observations, up from 587 in 2023. Our leadership team also completed 87 structured safety walks across the estate, in addition to quarterly tours made by our Board. These personal interactions reinforce a culture of accountability and care.

Our 'Safety Through People' approach is guided by three themes: Lead & Engage, Involve & Inform, and Support. These pillars help embed safety at all levels – through dialogue, training, and the right systems. These themes are embedded and enabled across all our departmental safety meetings. The Comet Safety Healthcheck also helped us to gather feedback and to update our Health & Safety Action Plan.

We involved both internal and external stakeholders in our safety process. This included regular reviews led by our senior management team. The Stevedore Forum and Quarterly Stevedore Reviews also helped our site safety by listening to these key partners.

We maintained ISO 45001 certification for occupational health and safety. Our Assure platform remained central to safety management. This supports audits, risk assessments, and contractor oversight. In 2024, we expanded it to develop permit-to-work tracking and compliance monitoring.

Recognition for responsible business

In 2024, we were reassessed by Business in the Community NI for the CORE Standard for Responsible Business. Belfast Harbour currently holds Platinum status, and this was reaccredited at year-end. We are one of only five organisations in Northern Ireland with the Platinum standard. Our leadership and community engagement were praised as outstanding and transformative. BITC also commended our clear and tailored approach. We value this external validation and will keep striving to sustain and improve our performance.



750

Safety observations recorded in 2024

87

Leadership safety walks completed

£315,000

Community grants awarded

Supporting employee voice and wellbeing

Our internal voice grew stronger in 2024. Belfast Harbour Voice – our employee forum – met quarterly to share feedback and shape internal improvements. Our employee app, Gateway, enabled more participation, learning, and communication between departments.

We also deepened our commitment to wellbeing. We sustained and monitored our enhanced Adoption and Neo-Natal leave, Menopause and Fertility policies, first introduced in 2023. A new group of Mental Health First Aiders was trained in 2024. They will now offer peer support and run awareness events throughout the year.

Developing talent and inclusive leadership

We welcomed new apprentices, interns, and trainees as part of our long-term talent strategy. These new roles support our growth in the areas of engineering, operations, planning, and digital transformation.

Diversity and inclusion remained central to our people strategy. We achieved Silver accreditation from Diversity Mark, reflecting our strong progress across gender, disability, and workplace accessibility. We also received the 'Advancing Diversity' award at the Women in Business Awards.

Inclusion highlights in 2024

- Expanding our LGBTQIA+ and Neurodiversity forums
- Building on our dedicated Menopause and Fertility policies
- Becoming a Disability Confident Employer
- Continuing our Women in Leadership programme to support career progression and develop future leaders across the organisation.

- Introducing a Schoolgirl Mentorship Programme to inspire young women in underrepresented sectors
- Enhancing our Adoption, Maternity, Paternity and Neo-Natal leave in line with our People and Culture Strategy

Looking ahead, we will continue to invest in training, leadership, mentoring and inclusion. The progress made in 2024 reflects our shared commitment and sets a strong foundation for what comes next.

Backing community partnerships

We continued to invest in our communities. In 2024, we awarded grants worth £315,000. This included funding through the Belfast Harbour Community Awards, which received a record number of applications. Projects supported inclusion, skills, learning disabilities, and environmental improvement.

We maintained our partnerships to fund and support several charities. They include the King's Trust, Active Communities Network, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Lagan Search and Rescue, and Belfast Giants Community Outreach. These partnerships help deliver long-term social impact well beyond the estate.

Engaging across sectors

In 2024, we strengthened our engagement efforts. We built cross-sector partnerships and promoted inclusive growth across the region. We also engaged with government, academia, and industry to guide our long-term planning. This included work on the upcoming Strategy and Masterplan. Finally, we used community programmes and strategic forums to keep local voices and shared priorities at the heart of our actions and plans.

Shaping a greener, more connected waterfront

Greener spaces and climate-conscious design

In 2024, we made major progress in creating a greener, more connected waterfront. Our projects focused on sustainable property, public realm, and regeneration. These developments are shaping the next phase of Belfast Harbour's transformation.

This year saw work commencing on City Quays Gardens, our new urban park project. This £3.65 million green space connects the Harbour Office to the waterfront. It will include open lawn areas, reclaimed cobble paving, restored railings, and planting designed around the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The project was designed to keep as many trees as possible, to boost biodiversity, and has a bespoke rainwater harvesting system.

City Quays Gardens is also the first public realm project in Northern Ireland to be accredited under the One Planet Living framework. Our design has achieved the Global Leader certification under this initiative. This is a model for urban greening, creative placemaking and climate-conscious design. We aim to open this new park in summer 2025.

Housing, offices and inclusive development

Close to this, City Quays 4 received planning approval for 256 build-to-rent apartments and 69 affordable homes in Sailortown. And in mid-2024, planning was also approved for City Quays 5 – a 160,000 sq. ft, nine-storey mixed-use building. City Quays 5 will offer Grade A offices, retail space and public exhibition areas. It also features a rooftop hospitality venue with stunning views of Belfast Harbour, overlooking the new gardens. It is being designed to achieve BREEAM Outstanding and NABERS 5.5 ratings. This would set a new standard for office development in Northern Ireland.



£3.65m

Invested in City Quays Gardens

325

New homes approved at City Quays 4

10km

Continuous waterfront route in development

Maritime Mile Blueway Trail



Click here to link to the full map: bit.ly/Blueway_Map

We also continued looking to the future at Clarendon Wharf, where we are working on ambitious placemaking plans. This site will include homes, pedestrian areas, and better connections to surrounding neighbourhoods. We also commissioned a specialist study in 2024 to explore what makes a successful urban neighbourhood. The findings from this study will inform design principles for this and future sites.

Creating an inclusive and inviting waterfront

Public recognition of our work came as Blue Flag status was awarded to Belfast Harbour Marina. This international standard recognises environmental safety, environmental education, and management. The Blue Flag status supports our wider ambitions for accessible and inclusive waterfront spaces.

We also supported the launch of the Maritime Mile Blueway Trail – a major new addition to Belfast's waterfront. Developed in partnership with the Maritime Belfast Trust, the trail runs from City Quays to Titanic Hotel Belfast. It features interpretation panels that explore maritime heritage, biodiversity and local ecology. Designed as a family-friendly experience, the trail engages residents, visitors and schools with the city's shoreline and history. This work supports a longer-term vision. We are working towards a 10km continuous promenade around the waterfront. This project will be delivered with Belfast City Council, Maritime Belfast Trust and other partners through the Waterfront Task Group. This new, active travel network will link neighbourhoods, reduce transport emissions and promote low-carbon lifestyles.

Creative industries

At Belfast Harbour Studios, we celebrated the completion of a BREEAM 'Excellent' expansion. The enlarged campus now includes 107,000 square feet of sound stages. In October, the site hosted Northern Ireland's first Screen Industry Sustainability Showcase. The event brought together production companies, suppliers and policy leaders to explore sustainable approaches in film and TV.

Clean, autonomous mobility

We also advanced Project Harlander, our pilot for electric autonomous shuttle transport. After successful testing in Coventry, the first vehicle is due to arrive in 2025. The project will show how zero-emission, digitally managed mobility can support cleaner transport across the estate.

Placemaking with long-term value

Taken together, these investments show how Belfast Harbour is delivering long-term value through placemaking. We are creating places that are inclusive, walkable and climate ready. And as we do this, we set new standards in how urban regeneration supports social, economic and environmental goals.



Partnerships

Collaborating to drive innovation, inclusion and climate action

Partnering for port decarbonisation

Belfast Harbour grew and strengthened our partnerships in 2024. We worked with government, industry, and third-level institutions. Together, we facilitate climate action, biodiversity, innovation, and community engagement.

We were proud to serve as lead demonstration partner in Clean Air Clean Harbour Energy (CACHE) Net Zero. This is a European Space Agency-backed project to help ports decarbonise. The project uses Earth Observation satellites, AI and air quality sensors to track emissions from port operations in real time. In September, we hosted ESA's inaugural Ports Decarbonisation and Environmental Sustainability Workshop. This welcomed port operators and innovation partners from across Europe.

CACHE Net Zero delivers three core benefits: air quality and emissions audits, renewable energy audits, and real-time emissions monitoring. These help ports and their communities better measure and manage carbon reduction and clean air goals. The project will also guide planning, efficiency measures, and potential tariff adjustments for cleaner vessels.

CACHE is built on an open, knowledge-sharing platform. This helps port operators and local authorities benchmark performance, co-develop solutions, and collaborate. We use this work to better connect air quality data with energy planning and regulatory requirements.

Restoring biodiversity and blue carbon

We also advanced our long-standing partnership with Ulster Wildlife. In 2024, we co-developed Northern Ireland's first sub-tidal oyster reef restoration project. The site near Kinnegar aims to boost biodiversity, enhance water quality, and support carbon capture. We are also part of a project called Building Resilient Irish Coasts through Oyster Restoration: A Nature-Based Solution for Enhancing Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystems (BRICONS). This project is an all-Ireland initiative to restore native oyster reefs. It aims to develop standardised methods for biodiversity monitoring and habitat restoration.



600

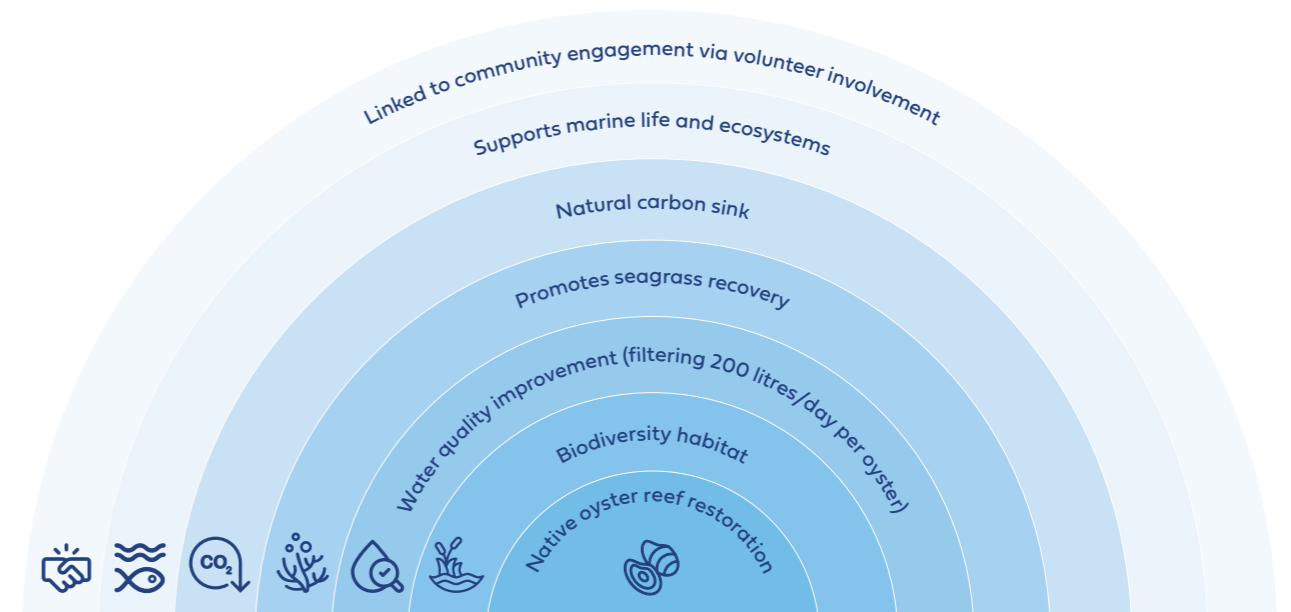
Native oysters now thriving

£168m

Potential flood damages mitigated

60+

Coastal events for communities in 2024



Oyster Reef & Blue Carbon Restoration Benefits

The oyster nursery installed in 2023 continues to thrive. It now supports 600 native oysters at a pontoon near the AC Marriott Hotel. These oysters clean pollutants from the water, promote seagrass recovery, and build reef habitats for marine species. One oyster can filter up to 200 litres of water per day. This improves clarity, supports biodiversity, and contributes to long-term blue carbon storage.

Strengthening tidal flood resilience

Our climate adaptation efforts also progressed and are key to climate change resilience. Working with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi), we supported the Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme. This will deliver permanent and temporary flood defences along the River Lagan from Belfast Harbour to Stranmillis Weir. Now completed, this scheme could prevent over £168 million in damages in its 100-year design life.

Scaling innovation through clean-tech pilots

We continued to collaborate with innovative clean-tech companies through UK government-supported projects. These include:

- **CATAGEN:** testing the commercial viability of producing e-diesel and e-fuels for port equipment and marine vessels
- **Artemis Technologies:** developing the EF-12 Pilot, a 100% electric foiling pilot boat with advanced stability and zero emissions
- Assessing autonomous Terminal Tractors to reduce fuel use and optimise logistics at the Belfast Container Terminal

Leading on zero-emission transport

In 2024, we also prepared for the arrival of Harlander – the UK's first autonomous shuttle. The nine-seater vehicle will provide free, low-carbon transport around Queen's

Island. This project is funded by Innovate UK and supported by a consortium including BT, HORIBA MIRA, eVersum and Oxa. It will create last-mile connections from public transport hubs to destinations across Titanic Quarter and Queen's Island.

Engaging communities and supporting wellbeing

Our partnerships also delivered impact through environmental education and community engagement. We supported Live Here Love Here's Healthy Oceans, Healthy Minds campaign for a fourth year. In 2024, the programme ran over 60 events across Northern Ireland's coastline – from snorkelling and kayaking to beach yoga and citizen science. The campaign promotes stewardship, mental wellbeing and inclusive access to blue spaces, especially for underserved communities.

Supporting citywide climate and social initiatives

We also played an active role in the Community Planning Partnership's 'Our Planet' Board, in support of the Belfast Agenda. This helps shape a citywide approach to climate mitigation and adaptation. In 2024, we maintained our Member status in the Belfast Business Promise and continued to support its goals. The initiative promotes fair wages, inclusive recruitment, environmental sustainability, and active community engagement. We strongly back this programme and continue to support its aims of inclusive economic growth and a resilient, sustainable city.

Delivering shared value through partnership

These partnerships are central to how we deliver positive impact as a Trust Port. They help us trial new ideas, scale solutions, and share knowledge. Most importantly, they bring people together to deliver long-term benefit – for Belfast Harbour, the city, and the wider region.

Governance

Ensuring integrity, oversight and sustainable performance.

A foundation built on transparency

Strong governance is the foundation of Belfast Harbour's long-term success. It ensures financial integrity, stakeholder trust, and sustainable performance. Our approach is based on transparency, accountability and ethical decision-making. This applies at every level of the organisation.

Legal structure and guiding framework

The structure and constitution of our Board are defined under the Belfast Harbour Order (Northern Ireland) 2002. We align with the UK Corporate Governance Code and draw on best practice guidance. This includes the Department for Transport's Ports Good Governance Guidance (2018).

Ethical leadership embedded in practice

Acting ethically is not just a principle. It strengthens operations and enhances our ability to deliver value to all stakeholders. Good governance is fully embedded in our decision-making and operational practices.

Oversight of sustainability strategy

Sustainability governance remains a key focus. The Board integrates sustainability into strategic decisions, supported by a dedicated ESG Committee. This committee brings together expertise in public policy, science and risk. It provides structured oversight of our environmental and social responsibilities. ESG issues are regularly reviewed at Board, leadership and senior management levels. This ensures consistency in direction. It also embeds sustainability in how we set strategy and measure performance.

Decentralised responsibility and alignment

Responsibility is shared across teams. We use a decentralised approach to management. This makes sustainability part of each function, with clear accountability.

This approach integrates sustainability into our long-term plans and daily operations. It also supports policy development and ensures our ESG strategy is future-focused and data-driven.

Risk management and materiality assessments

We maintain a robust approach to risk. Our Risk Management Framework enables us to identify, assess and mitigate risks proactively. It supports resilience and strategic focus.

We maintain both a Corporate Risk Register and individual Directorate Risk Registers. The former takes a top-down view of risks. The latter addresses departmental risks at source. Together, they give a full and consistent picture of risk exposure.

Our materiality assessment process is another vital tool. It is conducted regularly to capture and prioritise the issues that matter most – to stakeholders and to our business. It includes engagement with external stakeholders and helps shape the focus of our ESG reporting and management.

Addressing climate-related risk

Climate risk is fully integrated into our risk processes. In 2024, we continued to assess both the physical and transitional risks linked to climate change. A key priority is to strengthen how we assess long-term climate impacts across our value chain. This will support robust mitigation and adaptation plans.

Standards, audits and assurance

We uphold international standards through our ISO-certified Management Systems. These frameworks support consistent improvement. They also give stakeholders confidence that our practices meet global benchmarks.

In 2024, we completed our three-year audits for Environmental Management and Business Continuity. We maintained certification across four key ISO standards:

- ISO 14001: Environmental Management
- ISO 22301: Business Continuity Management
- ISO 45001: Occupational Health and Safety
- ISO 50001: Energy Management

We also maintain an Information Security Management System, aligned with ISO 27001:2022. This provides assurance around digital resilience and operational security.

Governance as a public responsibility

Good governance helps us balance performance with responsibility. It ensures we make decisions in the long-term public interest and remain accountable to the communities we serve. In every aspect of our work, it reinforces Belfast Harbour's role as a responsible Trust Port.

Conclusion

“We have deepened partnerships, supported innovation, and protected marine habitats.”

This report reflects a year of strong progress, shared effort, and clear direction. Across every section – Planet, People, Place and Partnerships – Belfast Harbour has taken practical, measurable steps towards our ESG goals.

We have reduced emissions, improved reporting, and delivered strong environmental performance. We have deepened partnerships, supported innovation, and protected marine habitats. We have invested in people, places, and delivered public value. We have maintained the highest standards of governance.

This work matters. It helps us create long-term benefit for our region, our economy, and our environment. It supports the delivery of our responsibilities as a Trust Port. And it ensures we make progress in ways that are credible, inclusive and accountable.

In 2025, this momentum will continue. A new five-year strategy will set the direction. A 25 year masterplan will guide our future growth. Both will be underpinned by the values and frameworks captured in this report.

Thank you to those who contributed to progress made in 2024, both inside and outside Belfast Harbour. We are proud of what we've achieved together, and confident in the direction ahead.

Appendix: Data & Disclosures 2024

Supporting transparency, comparability, and continuous improvement

To ensure full transparency and accountability, Belfast Harbour is publishing its detailed ESG data tables as a standalone Excel file, linked to this report. This spreadsheet contains the full set of quantitative metrics that underpin the narrative presented across the Planet, People, Place, Partnerships, and Governance sections.

The tables provide a breakdown of key environmental and social data, including greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, waste management, and climate risk assessments. They are structured to align with relevant international standards, and they reflect our commitment to sharing decision-useful, comparable, and verifiable information.

Emissions Inventory

In 2024, we partnered with Positive Planet and PortXchange to improve the transparency of our greenhouse gas emissions reporting. This collaboration reflects our commitment to evidence-based, data-driven climate action.

We report emissions across all three GHG Protocol scopes:

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions from company-controlled assets, including marine vessels, vehicles, and landside equipment.
- **Scope 2:** Indirect emissions from electricity consumption.
- **Scope 3:** All other indirect emissions across the value chain, including capital projects, waste, and water.

In-Port Vessel Emissions: Reported separately for transparency, as these emissions fall outside traditional Scope 3 categories.

Scope 1 and 2

Since 2019, we have committed to achieving Net Zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030. In 2024, our Scope 1 and 2 totalled 1,188 tCO₂e, a 35% reduction from 2023. This was largely due to continued fleet decarbonisation and the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in place of Marine Gas Oil.

All our purchased electricity is REGO-backed, confirming it is sourced from renewable generation. In 2024, this mitigated 802 tCO₂e of Scope 2 emissions and offset an estimated 2,756 tCO₂e of Scope 3 emissions from commercial tenants.

- While energy consumption remained steady, our shift towards electric-powered equipment continues to decouple energy use from emissions intensity.

Scope 3

Our Scope 3 emissions are calculated using an operational control approach. In 2024, these emissions totalled 16,460.8 tCO₂e, highlighting our role in Northern Ireland's vital freight and logistics supply chains.

Primary Scope 3 sources include:

- Capital works and infrastructure development
- Purchased goods and services

In-Port Vessel Emissions

We continue to track emissions from ocean-going vessels entering the port, even though we do not control these operations directly. This enhances transparency and helps prepare for future changes in maritime fuels and regulatory frameworks.

Emissions are modelled using AIS (Automatic Identification System) data, engine and fuel profiles, and activity-based emission factors. Our methodology is aligned with the IMO GHG framework and validated by TNO, a leading Dutch research institute. Emissions cover the Victoria Channel up to the port limits. In 2024, in-port vessel emissions totalled 99,189 tCO₂e

Methodological Updates

To ensure accuracy and consistency, we have applied updated emissions factors from DESNZ (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero). This includes retrospective updates to previous years' calculations, where relevant. The most significant updates are:

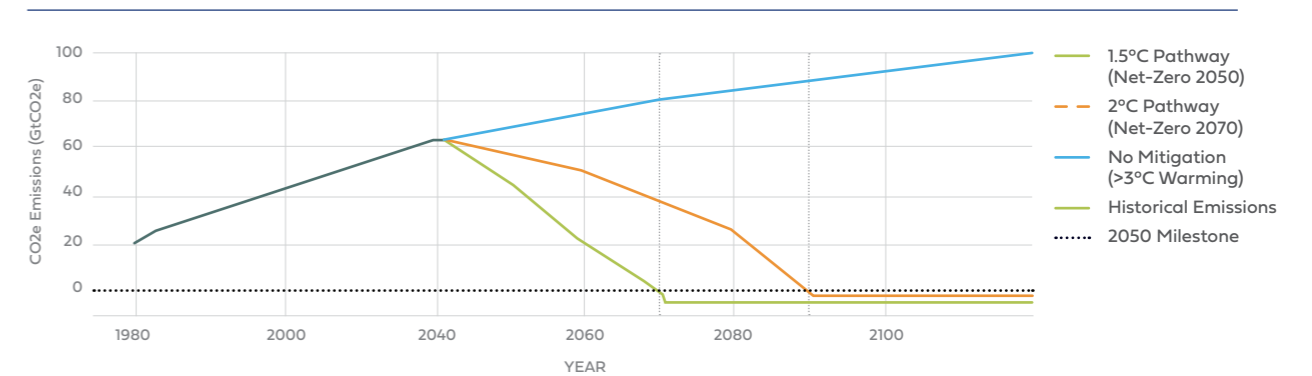
- Revised import proportion assumptions in spend-based emissions factors
- Corrections to transportation-related factors in waste calculations
- Adjusted homeworking emissions based on seasonal heating assumptions
- These changes are fully explained in the footnotes of the linked Excel file, along with source references and links to DESNZ publications.

Climate Change

Climate action is central to our ESG strategy. In 2024, we continued to align our disclosures with best practice, including the IFRS Sustainability Standards, which now incorporate the recommendations of the former Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

We reaffirm our support for the Paris Agreement and the Belfast Agenda. Our Climate Action Strategy guides how we manage both physical and transitional climate risks.

CO₂e Emissions Trajectories Under Climate Scenarios



Climate Scenario Planning

We modelled three future climate pathways:

- **High emissions scenario:** Business-as-usual, >3°C warming by 2100
- **2°C scenario:** Gradual transition, net zero by 2070
- **1.5°C scenario:** Immediate action, net zero by 2050

Each scenario considers the operational and strategic implications for the port and its value chain.

Risk and Opportunity Assessment

In 2024, we completed an in-depth climate risk review, identifying:

- Physical risks from extreme weather and sea level rise
- Transitional risks linked to policy, regulation, and markets
- Opportunities for resilience, innovation, and new technologies

Climate change is now integrated into our risk management framework and subject to regular Board oversight.

IFRS Climate Disclosure Summary

IFRS Recommendation

Governance

Understanding the governance processes, controls, and procedures used to monitor, manage, and oversee sustainability-related risks and opportunities.

Strategy

Understanding the strategy for managing sustainability-related risks and opportunities. This includes current and anticipated effects of these risks and opportunities, and the resilience of the business strategy and financial position.

Risk Management

Understanding the processes used to identify, assess, prioritise, and monitor sustainability-related risks and opportunities. This includes how these are integrated into the overall risk framework.

Metrics and Targets

Understanding performance in relation to sustainability-related risks and opportunities, including progress toward voluntary or required targets.

Belfast Harbour Disclosure

Belfast Harbour's Board has oversight of climate risk. This is supported by: The Environmental, Social & Governance Committee, The Audit and Risk Committee and The Safety, Environment & Security Committee. Day-to-day responsibility for climate risk sits with the Leadership and Senior Management Teams.

In 2024, we completed a climate risk review. This included analysis of three climate scenarios and helped us better understand both physical and transition risks. The review was aligned to IFRS recommendations. We also continue to monitor new legislation and reporting standards to ensure we stay ahead of future requirements.

Climate risks are built into our Risk Management Framework. We review both the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers throughout the year. Corporate risks are reported to the Board and to the Audit and Risk Committee twice a year. Climate risks are also reviewed annually by the ESG Committee.

We report Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions in this ESG Report. We also publish a voluntary Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report (SECR) in our Annual Report. In 2019, we set a Net Zero target for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030. This is aligned with the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) framework.

About this Report

This ESG Report covers the activities of Belfast Harbour Commissioners during the 2024 financial year (1 January – 31 December 2024). It includes impacts and initiatives associated with our landlord model, covering owned sites, infrastructure, operations, and staff.

Our reporting aligns with the IFRS standards and draws from the GRI Universal Standards (2021) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We recognise the growing importance of integrated reporting and will continue to evolve our approach in line with emerging expectations.

Accessing the ESG Data Tables

All emissions and ESG data tables are available in an accompanying Excel file linked to this report. These tables provide full transparency over our environmental performance, disclosures, and methodologies.

We encourage readers and stakeholders to refer to the spreadsheet for a detailed breakdown of our ESG metrics, data sources, and emissions calculations.

→ [Click here for our ESG Data Tables: bit.ly/BH_ESG_2024](https://bit.ly/BH_ESG_2024)



Harbour Office
Corporation Square, Belfast
Northern Ireland, BT1 3AL

+44 (0)28 9055 4422

Sustainability@Belfast-Harbour.co.uk