HARDSCAPE GROUP

Environmental and Sustainability Policy & Report 2025

This Policy & Report includes:

- Foreword and Strategic Vision
- Hardscape Group Environmental Policy Statement
- Carbon Reduction Strategy
    - Strategic plan
    - Current Carbon Data
    - Progress so far
    - Plans and actions
- Sustainability
    - Sustainable Timber & Wood Policy
    - Waste Management
    - Water Sustainability
- Sustainability Projects 2024 / 2025
    - Innovation, Research, & Development
    - Active Travel Solutions
    - EPD improvement and industry knowledge
    - Dust and Fume Emissions
    - Paving Refresh
- Planned Sustainability Projects in 2025 / 2026
- References and Resources

Introduction & Foreword

Hardscape has been on an incredible journey over the last 30 years to become a responsible and sustainable supplier of natural and manufactured paving materials. Our commitment to our customers and the planet has changed the way we operate, as we have adapted to the changing face of our industry as it meets the challenges and opportunities associated with sustainability, environmental responsibility, and climate change.

Since 2019, we have significantly increased our focus on the environment, where we are now a leading voice within the industry for sustainability and environmental awareness. Our core principles align with the UN Sustainability goals, with the primary belief that we should leave the planet in a better condition than we found it.

We have made a clear commitment within our Carbon Reduction Strategy to be a Net Zero Company by 2038. We aim to do this by reducing our emissions by at least 75% against our 2019 baseline measurements and funding our own sustainability projects to offset the remaining emissions, preferred to offsetting through the purchase of carbon credits.

It is essential that we are honest, transparent, and careful with our environmental claims to ensure we demonstrate our efforts, progress, and commitments without being at risk of "Green-Washing". We will be objective and avoid the use of comparative claims or benchmarking to ensure trust and confidence in our commitments. We want our policy and report to act as evidence of our commitments, be used as a guide to others, and not be just a marketing tool, as this would be doing the work for the wrong reasons.

Our employees, suppliers, customers, and partners are all encouraged to support our actions, even if they do not fully share our beliefs. If stakeholders are focused on cost over the environment, struggle to break from convention, or deny the impact of man-made climate change, this does not alter our commitment to educate, support, and make the right choices to create the best spaces for people to enjoy, whilst minimising the impact on the planet.

Stephen Duce - Operations Manager
16th April 2025

Information, Guidance, and Support

We have followed the progress of national and international understanding of environmental impacts, taking action to ensure our business activities cause minimal environmental harm. We have gained valuable knowledge and developed our strategies based on scientific evidence and collective understanding from the following sustainability partners and information sources:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CfA Centre for Assessment ISO 14001 Environmental Management — UKAS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 0120

SCIENCE BASED TARGETS
DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

THE CLIMATE PLEDGE

SME Climate Hub COMMITTED 2024

bali.org.uk British Association Landscape Industries

GOLD SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY SCHOOL

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Landscape Institute
Inspiring great places

HARDSCAPE GROUP
Eagley House, Deakins Business Park, Egerton, Bolton BL7 9RP
01204 565 500 hardscapegroup.co.uk

Environmental Policy Statement

Hardscape Group Ltd, incorporating Hardscape Products Ltd & Hardscape Surfaces Ltd (furthermore known as Hardscape) offer a specialist service for the selection, specification, and supply of innovative, diverse, and high-quality hard landscaping products. We use high performance, cost effective, and ethically sourced products including paving, setts, cladding, artwork, and street furniture using materials such as Granite, Sandstone, Limestone, Porphyry, Slate, or manufactured concrete and clay products which may contain metal or wooden accessories and detailing.

Operating from offices throughout the UK, **Hardscape Products** has an extensive portfolio of supplying materials for prestigious hard landscaping schemes for urban, civic, public realm, commercial, and private projects.
Hardscape Surfaces is a manufacturing facility, capable of cutting, shaping, finish texturisation, and enhancement of multi-material hard surfaces utilising the latest hi-tec laser technology, mechanical processes, and artisan handcrafted techniques.

Hardscape is fully committed to being a sustainable business, and this commitment forms a fundamental part of our wider Corporate Social Responsibility strategy. We are committed to preventing pollution, promoting sustainable resource use, reducing harmful emissions, and to comply with all relevant UK environmental legislation, local regulations, and any other environmental responsibilities.
We will regularly evaluate the environmental impact of our activities, products, and services, and we will act to continually improve our environmental performance by maintaining an Integrated Management System that meets the requirements of ISO 14001:2015, whilst supporting PAS 2080 and other relevant environmental compliances. It is our policy to:

- Understand, record, and minimise the use of water, fossil fuels, and natural resources, and where we must use these, we will do so responsibly.
- Minimise waste through a hierarchy of prevention, re-use, recycling, or energy recovery processes. If we must dispose of waste, we will do so responsibly, safely, and legally.
- Avoid the use or disposal of environmentally hazardous materials, where practicable, and continually look to source more sustainable alternative products or processes.
- Use only environmentally responsible suppliers, monitor their certifications or sustainable activities, and support those suppliers who require guidance, knowledge, and encouragement.
- Prevent local, national, or global environmental damage and minimise nuisance factors such as excessive noise, water contamination, or air pollution.
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) or other emissions which have a negative effect on climate, biodiversity, or human health.

Hardscape use a risk assessment model to evaluate our impacts based on likelihood of occurrence and severity of harm on a 5 x 5 risk matrix, helping us focus on those activities with the highest risks first. We will review, define, and publish environmental objectives, targets, and improvement actions of our significant environmental aspects. Following any developments, we will assess the effectiveness of the updated control measures to ensure the action has achieved the desired outcomes.
We are committed to providing training and promoting environmental awareness to employees, suppliers, customers, and external providers. We will implement processes to prevent environmental nonconformities and to ensure that we are prepared to deal with potential environmental emergencies quickly, effectively, and responsibly.

The Managing Director is ultimately responsible and accountable for reviewing, endorsing, and ultimately achieving the policies aims. This policy will be regularly reviewed then updated by the Operations Manager to take account of organisational priorities and changes, environmental legislation, and industry best practice. Managers then have the responsibility to administer this policy, enforce policies and procedures, and ensure appropriate training and awareness is carried out across the business and throughout our supply chains.

Alex Warren

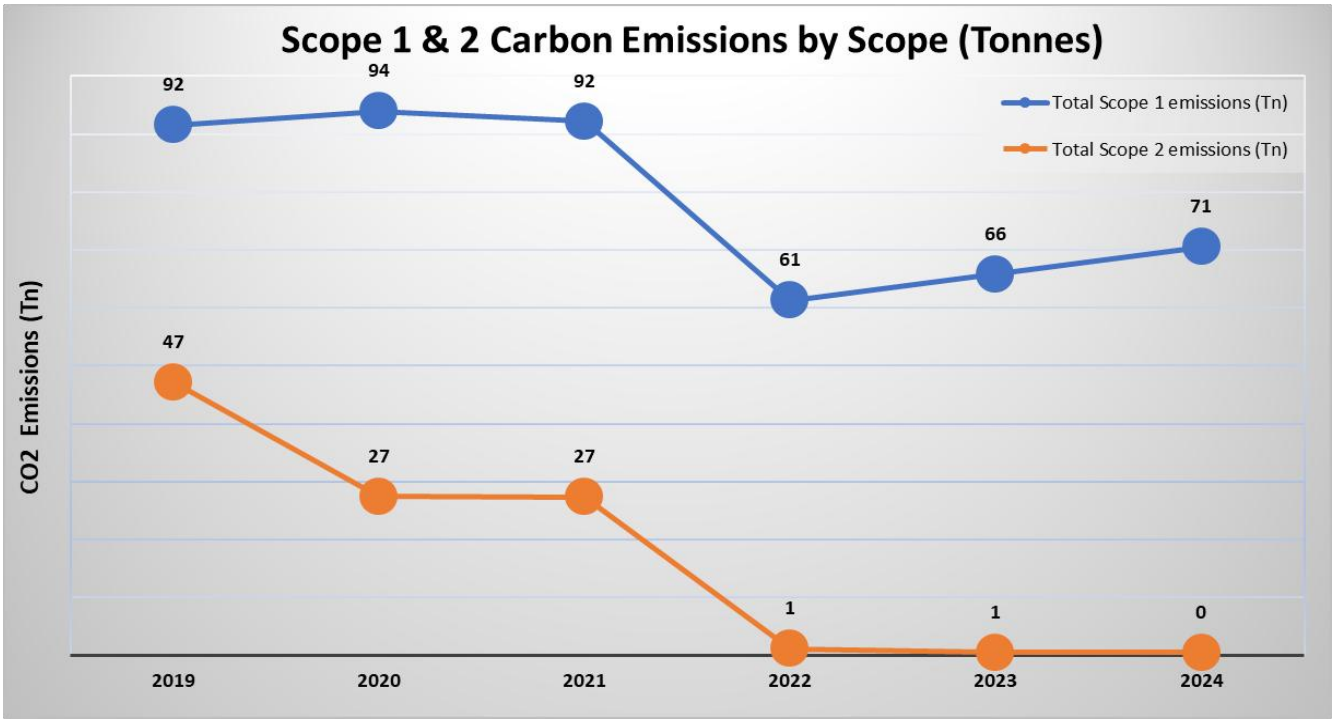
Alex Warren - Managing Director
Dated: 16th April 2025

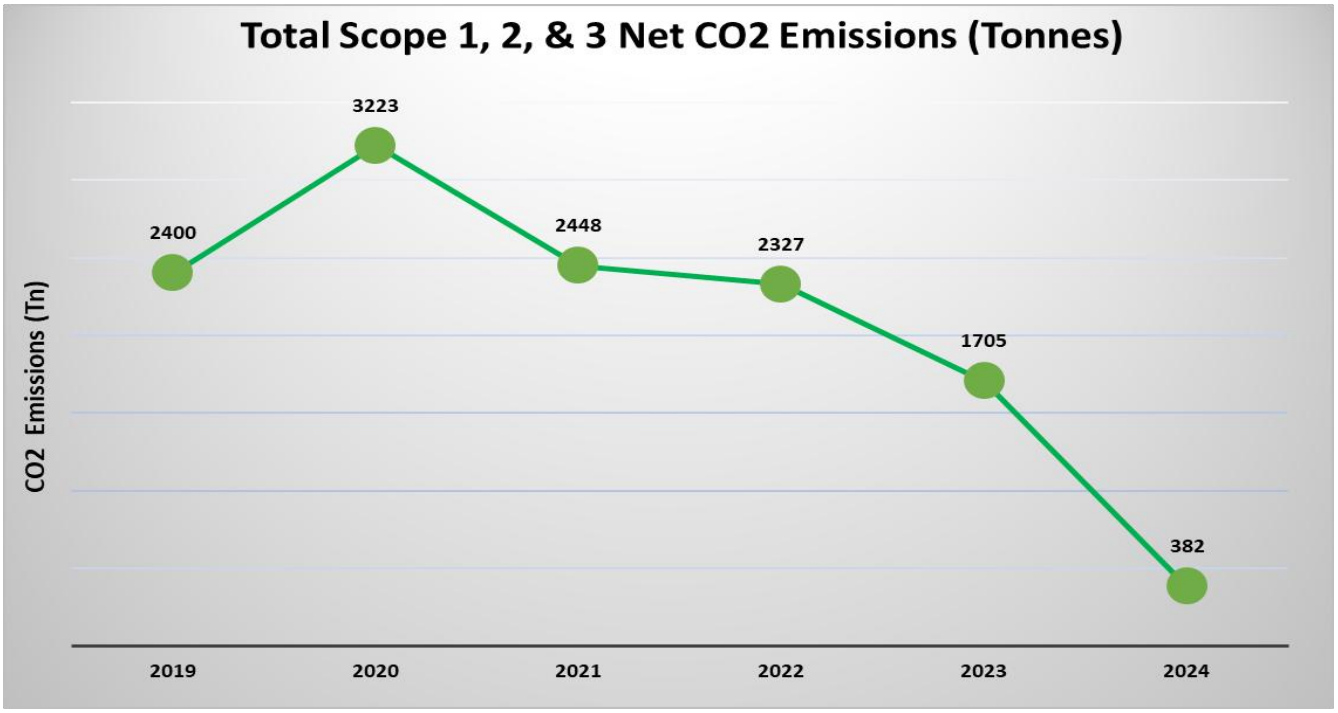
Carbon Reduction Strategy

To achieve our ambition to become net zero by 2038 and support the UK's Net Zero Carbon ambition for 2050, we have set ourselves challenging reduction targets to hit at various milestones.
We started fully recording emissions in 2019 which we have set as our baseline year. We have agreed on the following targets as a key business priority to tackling climate change:

1. Reduce Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions to 50% by 2025. **Achieved ✓**
2. Reduce Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions to Net Zero by 2030.
3. Reduce total corporate carbon emissions to Net Zero by 2038.

Our targets are ambitious but achievable with the collective determination and support of the whole business and supply chain. We will use existing and new technologies to achieve our goals, as well as closely controlling how we manage our existing operations. Our current progress towards net zero is shown in the data and graphs below.





Carbon Reduction Strategy History

Measures which have had a significant impact on reducing our emissions over the past years include:

2019-2020:

- Covid 19 Pandemic year. (Furlough scheme for some employees, working from home for office workers, severely limited travel, and limited purchases with deliveries.)
- Closing of Stratford Office and combining with Head Office or additional working from home.

2020-2021:

- Switching the electricity supply in our London office to use 100% renewable energy sources.
- Brochure and document printing schemes cancelled, reducing the delivery & processing emissions.

2021-2022:

- Closing Belfast office due to reduced business need and increased hybrid working availability.
- Reduced office opening days from 5 to 3 days, so staff work from home for 2 days each week.
- Lighting systems at Logistics North improvements including low energy LED bulbs and motion sensors to limit overuse and prevent lights remaining on if not manually turned off.

2022-2023:

- Switching our electricity supply in our factory and 2 of our offices to use only supply from sources that guarantee 100% renewable energy.
- Replaced our primary use diesel Forklift truck for a Lithium-Ion electric Forklift truck.
- Improvement project developed to expand the use of remote meetings, presentations, and audits.

2023-2024:

- Company fleet car renewals policy change, moving to Hybrid or Electric vehicles only.
- Created a Carbon Calculator that can show the lowest Embodied Carbon materials easily, which can be used during the specification process to advise on lowest CO2e value of appropriate materials.
- Better management and settings of factory temperature controls to allow for increased variability and limit activation times to reduce overall use of gas supply volumes.

2024-2025:

- Transferred waste recycling to a new local waste recycling partner to reduce transport, segregation, and handling emissions.
- Wood recycling partner changed to swap from a system which burned wood for energy regeneration to repurposing and reusing of wood without burning emissions.
- Complete recalculation of emissions to include new information about wood recycling partner historical burning of wood, improved understanding of scope 3 emissions, and improved emissions rate application to CO2 calculators.
- Closure of lower floor at head office, reducing requirement for Gas, Electric, and improving general efficiencies by removing duplication of tasks, consumable orders, and maintenance requirements.
- Shrink wrapping improvement project leading to reduced propane consumption.

Case Study – Wood Recycling

During an investigation into the destination of our wood materials waste streams, we discovered our wood recycling partner was burning all our waste wood for energy generation without our knowledge.

On review, the emissions generated from this was staggering, so we looked for an alternative system which repurposed and reused wood without burning, by chipping or making into other wood products.

Our average, the emissions of wood recycling were previously 2290t of Co2e which then reduced to just 63t in the first year – a saving of 2227t per year.

Carbon Reduction Strategy: Goals, Targets, & Actions

Total Net **Scope 1, 2, & 3 CO2e Emissions % Vs Baseline Year**										
Financial Year	April 19 - March 20	April 20 - March 21	April 21 - March 22	April 22 - March 23	April 23 - March 24	April 24 - March 25	April 25- March 26	April 26- March 27	April 27- March 28	April 29- March 30
Target **Vs. baseline**	Start point	**75%**	**65%**	**55%**	**50%**	***17%**	***15%**	***12%**	***10%**	***8%**
% reduction Actual	Start point	**134%**	**102%**	**97%**	**71%**	**16%**	-	-	-	-

In 2024, we found that our waste processing partner was burning our wood waste to generate energy. Although this may seem like an environmentally positive process, the carbon emissions from burning wood are incredibly high and the UK's largest annual single source of CO2 emissions is from a wood-burning power station. We had to completely recalculate our emissions data, which took our 2019 total emissions from 427 tonnes to 2355 tonnes. We switched our waste processing provider for one which turns wood to alternative products, such as refurbished pallets or wood chippings. This has significantly reduced our emissions below our original target, so we have realigned our targets to go further.

*We have set a new interim target of a 92% reduction against the baseline emissions over 10 years, which incrementally decreased each year to maintain and drive further reductions. This is a bold and progressive target, as the reduction becomes increasingly difficult to obtain the lower your emissions become, year-on-year. Since we recalculated the data to add the wood burning to our scope 3 emissions, we have already achieved our target reduction for scope 1 and 2 emissions and are close to 90% reduction in total emissions.

Most of the easy wins and large ticket items have already been implemented, so the remaining developments may need significant investment, innovation, and management to get to net zero.

The main areas to focus on to reduce Carbon Emissions further in 2025-2026 will be:

- Reduction in emissions from company vehicle fuel use.
- Reduction in diesel use in forklift trucks.
- Increase in Carbon Offsetting measures through Photovoltaic Energy generation.
- Reduction in waste collection frequencies.
- Reduction in production materials embodied carbon emissions.

To do this we will:

- Organise our own internal Life Cycle emissions analysis or Carbon Calculation data to understand our key issues with support from external experts and specialists.
- Further promotion of EV car use, favouring public transport, or reducing unnecessary journeys for business travel from regular and occasional users.
- Purchase at least 1 other electric FLT to move away from diesel powered vehicles.
- Install PV Solar Panels on the roof of our Logistics North factory to reduce energy usage, generate energy to feed back into the national grid, reducing UK emissions, thus gaining Carbon Credits.
- Review our waste collection frequencies and move to call-off collections where practicable.
- Fully monitor our purchased material embodied carbon data to identify the worst offending materials and promote purchase of materials from suppliers with lower embodied carbon or shorter journeys.

These will form our primary actions that we need to focus on the ensure we drive the greatest reductions in our emissions. We will report on the progress of these monthly in the Directors and Management meetings to create actions, allow scrutiny, and ensure the whole company remains committed to achieving our targets.

HARDSCAPE GROUP
Eagley House, Deakins Business Park, Egerton, Bolton BL7 9RP
01204 565 500 hardscapegroup.co.uk

Sustainability: Sustainable Timber & Wood Policy

It is the policy of Hardscape to provide high quality, sustainable, and ethically sourced hard landscaping products, materials, and packaging to all our clients. We supply products that contain wood materials, such as benches and seating, artwork created on wood, or pallets and crates for packaging paving materials.
We commit to ensuring that our products and services meet our customers' expectations, our own high standards, and comply with all relevant regulations and contractual obligations. This includes the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain of Custody certification scheme, the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) due diligence (DD) requirements in international trade, ISPM 15 - Regulation of Wood Packaging Material (WPM), and the construction industry's PAS 2021:2012 guidance to support responsible sourcing of forest goods and sustainable forest management.

To help achieve this, we will maintain our Integrated Management System that meets the requirements of FSC certification and ISO 14001 standards, verified by accredited 3rd party assessment bodies, who assure independent and effective compliance with the required standards. We will work closely with our supply chain partners to ensure timber used in our products is sourced from sustainable and ethical forests and maintain a full chain of custody throughout.
We aim to supply WPMs used in pallets, crates, and dunnage from reused, repurposed, recycled, and sustainably sourced wood where possible. ISPM 15 states WPMs must be treated with approved phytosanitary measures prior to shipping to prevent the introduction of invasive pests or species which can damage wood and spread to natural habitats. WPMs sourced from the UK and Europe must first be de-barked and heat-treated as part of the manufacturing process. WPMs from Asia must be de-barked but may either be heat treated or treated with a pesticide, such as Methyl Bromide. Methyl Bromide is banned from use in Europe, but due to the prevalence of pest infestations in Asia, it is widely used as a fumigant. Wood treated with Methyl Bromide must be marked with MB and cannot be burned, as this releases toxic fumes into the atmosphere, which is hazardous to humans and animals.

Due Diligence

We will collect, record, and verify relevant timber information from our suppliers, from harvest, through our business, and on to our customers. We will review the reliability of the information, taking into consideration the complexity of the sourcing arrangements, prevalence of illegal harvesting, likelihood of corruption, and other pertinent concerns. We will carry out a risk assessment on all our supplier's information and management systems, regardless of the production of FSC certification. The risk assessment will involve the determination of the likelihood of illegal handling and the scale of the risk, giving us a risk profile score which may focus greater scrutiny on the highest risk supply chains.
We will implement measures to mitigate risk and reduce the likelihood or scale of the risk to a negligible level. This may include documentation checks, volume records verification checks, our own supplier audits, 3rd party verification audits, traceability checks, or specific measures that would support and encourage suppliers to maintain their own due diligence.
We will inform customers of the sourcing of our materials, especially highlighting of the use of WPMs containing Methyl Bromide and how to safely manage this. We have created a series of documents for each supply chain source giving details of what to expect and how to manage materials prior to delivery.

To ensure transparency, we will publish annual certificates and data on the FSC certification audits, our supplier compliance results and measures we have taken to mitigate risk. This will be included within our Environmental & Sustainability Policy and Report, which will be published on our website each year.

Alex Warren

Alex Warren - Managing Director
16th April 2025

HARDSCAPE GROUP
Eagley House, Deakins Business Park, Egerton, Bolton BL7 9RP
01204 565 500 hardscapegroup.co.uk

Sustainability: Waste Management

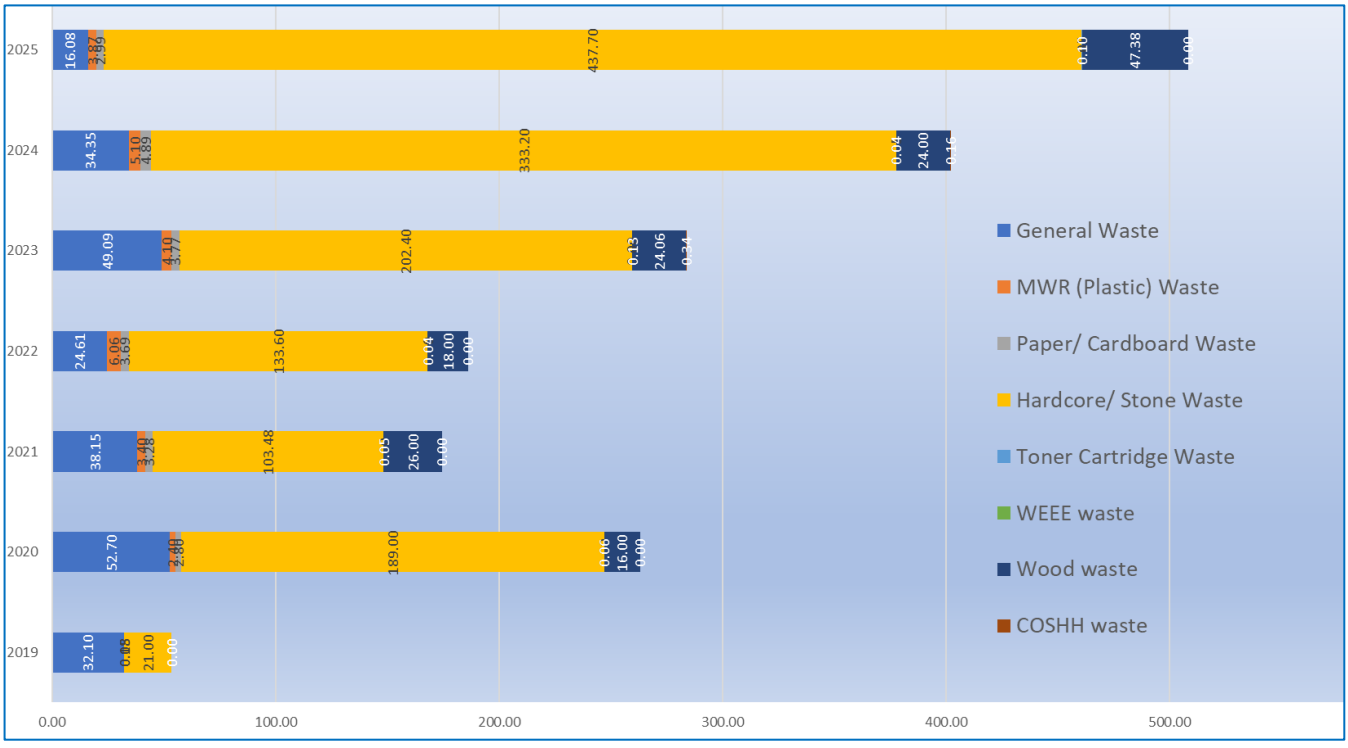
Hardscape endeavours to minimise and reduce our waste to the lowest practicable amount, as we understand the huge benefits this can have on improving our business efficiencies, limiting natural resource use, reducing impacts on the environment, and reducing our costs to improve profitability.

Our production and sales have consistently increased year-on-year, so reducing our waste has become increasingly difficult, however the percentage of waste to manufactured products has dramatically fallen.

Annual Waste Streams for 2025	Kgs Removed
General Waste for Energy Generation	16,080
Dry Mixed Recycling	3,870
Paper/ Cardboard Recycling	2,992
Hardcore/ Stone Waste for Recycling	437,699
Toner Cartridge Waste for Reuse	46
WEEE Waste for Reuse and Recycling	96
Wood Waste for Repurposing	47,380
COSHH Waste for Safe Disposal	-
Total Wastes Removed/ Recycled	**508,163**

We will continue to review our waste materials and processes to achieve the most desirable outcome from the waste heirarcy model shown. We can always do better and encourage suppliers to do more to avoid waste where we can and use all the information and resources available to minimise the impacts our business has to maximise sustainability.

Annual Waste in Tonnes per stream



Waste Status and Goals

Total Company Waste Kg / Manufactured Products Kg as a %						
Financial Year	April 19 – March 20	April 20 – March 21	April 21 – March 22	April 22 – March 23	April 23 – March 24	April 24 – March 25
% achieved	26.18%	18.53%	18.98%	12.42%	9.45%	11.83%
Financial Year	April 25 – March 26	April 26 – March 27	April 27 – March 28	April 29 – March 30	April 30 – March 31	April 31 – March 32
Target %	9.0%	8.5%	8.0%	7.5%	7.2%	7.0%

Waste Improvements

Waste % increased slightly this financial year to 11.83%. This was mainly due to lower production compared to previous years, caused by a large project that took up 6 months production time with shaping of large sculpture benches. We feel the targets will be met next FY, and this issue was an anomaly.

Our improvement projects this year which we have concluded have been:

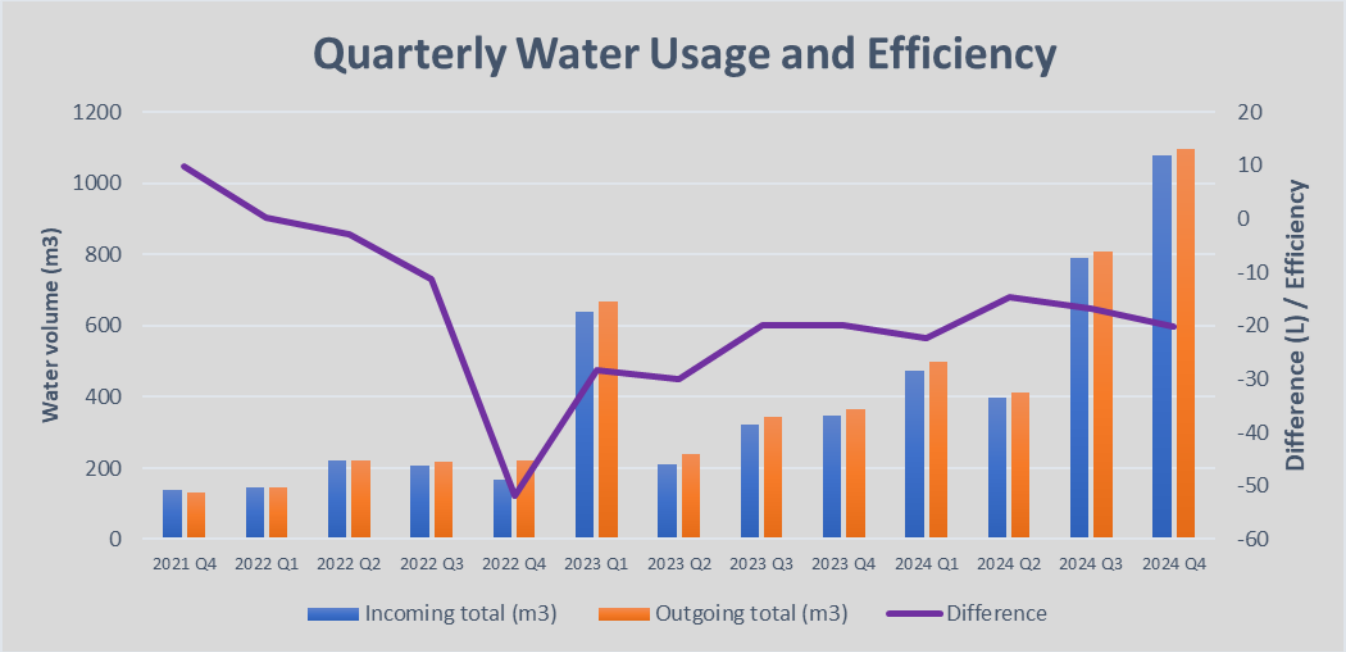
- All our waste streams now involve improved procedures to process higher up the waste hierarchy model. We recycle all wood, plastic, stone, slurry, paper, cardboard, toner cartridges, and WEEE waste. Our only other stream involves general waste which is burned to recover as fuel energy generation.
- We have improved the recycling CO2 emissions impacts of recycling paper and cardboard in our factory by improving our recycling filtering and segregation processes, compacting the materials, and storing securely until complete loads are available, so we can bulk ship to recycling centres with less vehicle journeys.
- Collaboration meetings and visits have been held with suppliers to discuss packaging minimisation and improvements to limit plastic use. We have made significant improvements to improve packing strength to limit paving material waste through damage, improve safety, and minimise excessive unnecessary packaging use.
- We switched to a new process of hazardous chemical and substance waste management, partnering with a new supplier in 2024. This has minimised the impacts of our hazardous waste, giving clear data on the types of waste we generate, how these are responsibly disposed, from advice and training on how to prevent or reduce hazardous waste from experts in this field.

Planned Waste Developments

- We are developing a potential avenue for waste stone, converting to bagged aggregates to sell on our own e-commerce platform, putting us in control of our own circular economy goals, and reducing the emissions by doing this all in-house. Initially this will be outsourced to a 3rd party to review viability and logistic costs and practicality where we can evaluate if purchasing our own crusher and bagging machine would be a suitable and sustainable alternative.
- We are further targeting reductions with our general waste management by promoting better segregation, by increasing recycle bin availability, management checks, and positive feedbacks to staff.
- We will publish waste data on internal Social Media platforms to advise staff of the importance of waste management and demonstrate the impacts and improvements each month.
- From 31st March 2025, all workplaces in England will be required to separate their waste into Dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal, glass), Paper and card, Food waste, and Black bin or residual waste. This applies to most facilities on construction sites, including kitchens, canteens, offices, changing rooms, and welfare spaces. We will review all wastes to ensure this obligation is met and staff are aware of their responsibilities to support us in our efforts to adhere to this. Further information and guidance from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) website in conjunction with The Department for Environment, Food, & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) here https://businessofrecycling.wrap.ngo/

Sustainability: Water Management

Climate change is primarily a water crisis. We see and feel its impacts through worsening floods, rising sea levels, shrinking ice fields, wildfires, and droughts, however, water can fight climate change. Sustainable water management is central to building the resilience of societies and ecosystems and to reducing carbon emissions. Everyone has a role to play – actions at industry, business, individual, and household levels are vital.
Hardscape will always aim to limit its use of water as a critical commodity and value it as such to ensure our business practices use water sparingly, recycle water internally where possible, and prevent contamination of watercourses, rivers, or sewers.



Our production volumes have been increasing rapidly over the last few years, so our efforts to improve our water management systems needs to continually improve with this to minimise our water resource use.
Over the last year we have:

- Invested in a 2nd Water Management and recirculation system, capturing wastewater, filtering, and reusing it on our cutting machines, to reduce water use, reduce risk of deposits entering the watercourses, and improving the safety for staff and neighbours by significantly reducing dust and silica emissions.
- Begun to track our water use monthly, which will give us valuable insights into the processes or equipment that may use the highest volumes of fresh water. This will support our future development projects and actions.

Future Water Developments

We are planning to review how we can effectively target year-on-year improvements in water efficiency, by working with our water utility provider to understand our usage and effluence data better. We aim to generate new KPI's to implement this coming financial year. Our continual water management project aims to recycle more water, reduce loss of water through run-off, and limit water loss within the water recirculation system. We will do this by:

- Reviewing the captured rainwater system to ensure it is using its full capacity and storage capabilities to maximise the water redirected from our roof and guttering. We will then review if additional infrastructure or equipment could increase rainwater captured and avoid freshwater use.
- Installing control measures and equipment to toilets and sinks to reduce excess wastewater by using push button taps, flush reduction setting adjustments, and improve leak monitoring controls.
- Increasing the use of water containment equipment to ensure water is redirected through our recirculation system using gap sealing, water diversion barriers, and spray control screening.

Sustainability: Projects in 2024 / 2025

We have carried out many development projects in areas other than Carbon reduction which have significant reductions in impacts or risk to the environment and improvements in sustainability.

Product Innovation

- We have been working with our suppliers to promote and encourage development of their low-carbon products, such as Kellen Cero and natural stone products with low emission to strength ratios and demonstrating to customers and specifiers the benefits of using these products partially or wholly on schemes.
- Promoting materials which allow less paving and more plant or soil retention and conservation, such as Hydro Lineo, GreenBrick, and Green Paving Solutions.
- Promoting and supporting the benefits of water management solutions such as Drainjoint, Kellen H2O, Clima-Pave, and EcoGranite Aquaflow in decreasing flood risk, minimising soil erosion, and limiting contamination of watercourses.
- We aim to further support these environmentally beneficial products through CPD events, improved Marketing resources and promotion, and through additional product training for our Sales Managers to support in their understanding and accurate application of these materials.

Active Travel Kerbs and Active Travel solutions

Following unprecedented levels of walking and cycling across the UK during the pandemic of 2020, the UK Government, influenced by the Dutch, has fast-tracked statutory guidance, indicating local authorities should reallocate road space for significantly increased numbers of cyclists and pedestrians.
Even more advanced than just localised LTN improvements, the research, specification, and implementation of Hardscape's Active Travel Kerbs (ATKs) is very much a part of our integral DNA and ESG ambitions and is the natural next step for specifiers and planners to re-design how cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicle users share and interact with the urban environment more equitably and safely.

Last year, we embarked on a bold journey to significantly increase the awareness and understanding of how ATKs can be implemented in the correct way to reduce community emissions, encourage walking and cycling, and improve road safety. This included marketing events, social media campaigns, and comprehensive internal training.

Our most ambitious campaign event was an Active Travel Roadshow, which brought together 180 leading decision makers and industry experts in Manchester, Edinburgh, and London to bring the subject to life and put it at the forefront of any future civic development plans.

Our commitment has led to the appointment of a new National Active Travel Sales Manager to focus solely on the new Active Travel projects, to ensure the full benefits of these schemes are realised through adopting the right solutions, using the right materials

Environmental Product Declaration Improvement & Promotion

Our work on understanding and using Environmental Product Declarations to support customers' choices regarding the selection of materials has led to our inclusion as collaborators and co-authors of the Landscape Institute's ground-breaking "Landscape and Carbon Report" launched in March 2024. Our Operations Manager, Stephen Duce, was integral in the accuracy and practical actions created through this report, and was panellist for the launch events, seen by hundreds of industry decision makers and landscape architects.

Working and steering groups have been created to further promote the report but also to drive forward the key 8 recommendations. Stephen has contributed to all the groups and led developments through the steering group to create materials that will be used by Landscape architects, specifiers, contractors, and suppliers to better understand embodied and operational carbon emissions and how to get projects to net zero emissions as soon as possible.

1 **Agree a carbon assessment process** Agree a carbon assessment and management process for the UK landscape sector, and refine the process as new techniques develop.	5 **Build understanding** Work closely with other UK built environment professionals and ensure that the role and importance of the landscape sector in carbon reduction is recognised.
2 **Use standard data and tools** Agree a standard for the collection and assessment of data to enable the creation of a set of tools to calculate carbon outcomes.	6 **Improve education and training** Work with HR, training and development professionals to identify all necessary educational materials and build carbon into wider CPD programmes.
3 **Work with suppliers** Call on manufacturers, suppliers and assessors to provide Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for all landscape products with fully specified data.	7 **Promote landscape solutions** Promote the carbon storage potential of landscapes to policy makers and the wider public, and highlight the contribution which landscapes play in addressing the climate emergency.
4 **Support landscape practitioners** Consider the needs of BALI and LI members, and all landscape practitioners, particularly SMEs, and support their work to deliver net zero projects.	8 **Create a cross-sector action plan** Create a cross-sector action plan to achieve net zero projects, with timescales for delivery. Assign tasks to organisations.

Stephen has also been accepted as part of the BSI Working Group (SES/1/5 "Environmental Management - Life cycle tools and techniques") as a technical expert on behalf of the Landscape Industry to advise on the update to the BS Standard for EPDs and Environmental Labelling. This will help improve the standards to include the needs of the Landscape sector and ensure the future standards will be practical, relevant, and fit for purpose.

Dust and Fume Emissions

We have invested in a "Waterwall" dust extraction system to be used where dry-stone grinding is required over water-fed grinding. The Waterwall pulls atmospheric dust into the waterfall and into filters above the machine. The water bath and filters can be safely cleaned, removing hazardous dusts from the atmosphere, which can cause silicosis or other lung health conditions. The general feedback from staff has been positive and a marked reduction in gathering dust has been reported.

We have identified a potential hazard from the use of Methyl Bromide in the fumigation process of wood imported from India and China. This is banned in Europe, but the import of these materials following fumigation is allowed. This is a poisonous gas which when burned is released, putting people at risk at the point of incineration, rendering the wood unfit for recycling or reuse if the chain of custody following removal cannot be managed. We encouraged our suppliers to switch to Heat Treatment for all our pallets and where required, the use of non-hazardous treatments for fumigation of containers.
We also have communicated this to all our customers within new Delivery Information Sheets, which detail the expectations for our deliveries including Health & Safety advice, Environmental considerations, Quality advice, and details of how to raise concerns.

We have purchased a state-of-the-art monitoring device which can detect dusts, fumes, CO2 emissions, and other particulates in the air, and carried out 2 comprehensive and detailed tests on air quality in multiple locations within the factory and offices. We will publish this data in the next annual report and show how we have used this information to guide our actions and make improvements to the air quality which may cause harm to our workers, visitors, or the environment.

Paving Refresh & Resurfacing

Hardscape have developed and promoted our paving refresh services to offer cost effective and environmentally low impact solutions to improving the appearance and quality of paving materials in situ, to avoid replacements and heavy construction works.
The cleaning and maintenance services may extend the service life of materials, ensuring they achieve the maximum longevity and reduce the frequency of replacements. This also includes addition of protective treatments, using non-environmentally harmful chemicals which protect surfaces.

Our paving resurfacing service uses vacuum-assisted diamond grinding processes to grind between 1mm and 5mm off the top surface of stone paving, creating a new surface that looks as good as the first day it was laid.
We promote this as:

- **Cost effective solution** to revitalising aged natural stone paving.
- **Quick and easy**, most surface treatments allow processing of up to 150m2 per day.
- **Environmentally friendly**, typically 1% of the carbon footprint compared to supply & install of new natural stone paving.
- **Minimal site disruption** with none of the usual paving replacement 'construction site' issues.

The process is also a perfect solution to improve accessibility for wheelchairs, pushchairs, and bicycles on cobbled areas, creating a more level surface that complies with modern standards for urban development.

We carried out resurfacing work in 2024 on Worthing Station Redevelopment Project, refreshing 220m^2 of Yorkstone paving. This saved an estimated 15.5 tonnes of Co2e in emissions and maintained the stone in place which had been there for 50 years previously.

We aim to further expand and promote these services in 2025, highlighting the cost and environmental benefits to clients. We have created a new website page specifically for the service, accompanied with a digital brochure which shows the 2 types of service and how they can benefit projects for customers and the environment.

Planned Sustainability Development Projects in 2025 / 2026

- We have been working with local community groups (Friends of Cutacre Park and Over Hulton Community Group) to establish which projects in the local area we may support with to improve biodiversity and restore nature to the area. We plan to plant trees, bushes, and shrubs at the local park to connect woodlands, allowing the safe passage for birds and wildlife to thrive in this area impacted by the development on the land which we now operate from.
- We are working with Greater Manchester City of Trees, to create an employee "Away Day" where we plan to plant trees, remove invasive species, and identify opportunities to improve and extend local woodlands.
- We have set up a new business – Hardscape Warehouse – where we will aim to sell clearance stock to small businesses, contractors, or merchants. We will also offer a matching service for supplying replacement materials to schemes so customers will not require excessive spare materials to be purchased, and we can minimise those material supplies to just what is required.
- We plan to create new Material COSHH and Technical Datasheets which will contain vital information about the Embodied Carbon emissions of products, strength data, Safety information, and we will publish these on our website. They will be easier to understand, comprehensive, and allow customers to make better informed choices about materials, taking into consideration all environmental factors.
- We plan to improve our management and stock control of Hazardous Substances, especially paints, grouts, and cleaning agents. We often discard part or full containers which go out-of-date, dry out, or get damaged. Better management of volumes, stock rotation, date marking, and storage locations will be reviewed and implemented to minimise waste and safety hazards.

References and Resources

Affiliated companies and supporting partners:

1. **IPCC Climate Report**: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/ (Summary for Policymakers is excellent)
2. The **L.I. Landscape and Carbon Report**: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/landscape-and-carbon/
3. **Active Travel Kerbs** information available on our website here https://hardscape.co.uk/inspire/active-travel-kerbs/ and through the Dutch Cycling Embassy here: https://dutchcycling.nl/.
4. **The Supply Chain Sustainability School** has a wealth of information and is completely free to use. You can sign up for a company or personal account here: https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/
5. The **Science Based Targets Initiative** https://sciencebasedtargets.org/
6. The **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** for a circular economy: https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/
7. The **SME Climate Hub:** https://smeclimatehub.org/
8. **The Climate Pledge:** https://www.theclimatepledge.com/
9. The **UN Global Compact** network of companies: https://unglobalcompact.org/
10. The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (**DEFRA**): https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

Other agencies and resource guidance used:

1. The 2015 Paris Accords and subsequent Conference Of Parties (COP) agreements
2. The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
3. The European Environment Agency
4. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
5. The Carbon Trust
6. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
7. Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD
8. Alliance for Sustainable Building Products (ASBP)

End of document