Sustainability Report 2025

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Our Journey So Far...

1990

Environmental Protection Act prioritises recycling, sets targets for reducing waste sent to landfill.

1992

Rio Earth Summit agrees targets for action on climate change - "think global, act local".

1995

Eco Composting Limited is founded (30th October 1995).

Green garden waste composting commences.

1999

Soil recycling established.

2003

Eco starts recycling Dorset County Waste wood.

In-Vessel Composting (IVC) facility opens at Eco Parley.

2006

Awarded PAS:100 Accreditation for compost soil improver.

2007

Company renamed Eco Sustainable Solutions Ltd.

2008

"Dorset Company of the Year" - Dorset Business Awards.

2012

AD facility opens near Dorchester.

2012

Street sweepings recycling plant constructed - 25,000t.

2015

AD facility expanded to 35,000 tonnes of food waste, producing 1.6MW of renewable energy.

2016

Solar installation completed - 77MW, enough to power 20,000 homes.

2018

Biomass CHP plant - Eco Park powered by 100% renewable energy.

Eco awarded "Pioneer of the Year" - Renewable Energy Association.

2023

Receive planning permision for Energy recovery facility.

Eco constructs a new aggregate washing facility at Parley.

2025

Second AD plant is constructed at Eco Parley.

2050

UK net-zero carbon emissions target date - based on 1990 levels.

... We look forward to the next 25 years and continuing to invest in local solutions.

Letter From Our MD

2025: 30 Years of Eco

Thirty years. It's hard to believe that what began in 1995 as a small green waste composting operation, with two people and a pitch fork, has grown into the business we are today — and what a year to mark the milestone.

Without question, the standout achievement of 2025 was the commissioning of our second Anaerobic Digestion facility at Chapel Gate Eco Park. From breaking ground last year to delivering a world-class plant capable of processing 100,000 tonnes of food and liquid wastes annually, converting it into more than 800m³ per hour of biomethane which is injected directly into the national gas grid, the project has been a tremendous team effort. Working with the team and witnessing a project which we received planning permission for nearly ten years ago, finally come to life, has been one of the proudest moments of my career. My thanks go to everyone who helped turn 12 years of learnings into something genuinely world-class.

Whilst not without their challenges, our existing energy assets continued to deliver. The team at our Piddlehinton AD facility delivered the mammoth, once every 5-year task of de-gritting the digestors, professionally and efficiently, still managing to achieve 78% of the facility's maximum annual capacity. Our Biomass CHP plant generated 4.5 GWh of renewable energy. Between them, they generated enough green electricity to power more than 5,700 homes. Only possible through the continued dedication of the teams running these operations around the clock, 365 days of the year.

Across our recycling operations, we prevented over 120,000 tonnes of CO_2e through the diversion of wastes from landfill — an increase on last year, despite handling slightly less overall waste. That reduction in throughput, alongside efficiency measures and tighter logistics, helped bring our Scope 1 and 3 emissions down. Plant shutdowns at both energy plants, meant that we had to import more power to run our recycling operations, pushing our Scope 2 footprint higher- a trend that should be reversed next year.

Having come so close to the 1,000-day milestone, we recorded two lost time accidents in 2025, one of which was reportable under RIDDOR. Both were thoroughly investigated, corrective actions implemented, and the learnings absorbed into our wider safety culture. We logged 85 near misses through the year, all reviewed and acted upon where required, and put every site manager who needed it through IOSH Managing Safely. Health and safety remains non-negotiable, and we will use this year as fuel to do better.

It has been another standout year for our people. The number of team training was up 5% on 2024, averaging 5.8 days per employee — with 5 formal qualifications gained and two more colleagues trained as Mental Health First Aiders.

Our connection to the community deepened too. A record £70,000 was raised for five local charities through our annual Christmas tree recycling initiative, with over 30 tonnes of trees turned into 60m³ of compost. We donated £30,000 into solar panels and battery storage for the West Parley Community Hub, helping safeguard a valued local facility for the long term, and gifted over 110 bags of compost, soil and bark to charitable projects across the local area.

Justin Dampney
Managing Director

As I look back on 30 years of Eco and ahead to what comes next, I'm reminded that everything we've built has been built together. Our Sustainability Values — People, Planet, Process, Profit — remain as prominent as ever, and the team's drive to innovate, improve, and enjoy the journey is what continues to make the company what it is.

Here's to the next 30 years.

J Dampney

Reducing Carbon Emissions

120,436

tonnes of CO_2^e prevented from entering the atmosphere...

...by diverting waste from landfill

Renewable Energy Generating Assets

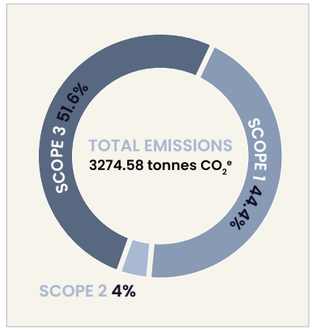
Our Biomass Combined Heat & Power Plant demonstrated solid operational performance in 2025, delivering a total annual production of 4.5 GWh. The system maintained an average of 72.8% of maximum output across the year, reflecting consistent generation despite routine equipment wear. In addition to energy production, the CHP contributed significantly to sustainability goals, achieving carbon emission savings of 745 tonnes CO_2e through the use of renewable fuel sources.

Our Piddlehinton AD facility generated 10.9 GWh in 2025 while continuing to operate effectively across the year. Planned maintenance activities, including tank degritting, alongside an isolated engine issue later in the year, were managed as part of ongoing asset care and reliability improvements. Despite this, the plant maintained an average output of 78% of maximum capacity, demonstrating stable performance overall.

Importantly, the AD operation delivered substantial environmental benefits, preventing 1,933 tonnes of CO_2e emissions by converting food waste into renewable energy. This highlights the continued value of the facility in supporting both energy generation and carbon reduction objectives.

Eco's Carbon Footprint 2025

A carbon footprint is broken down into three scopes based on the origin of the emissions created. f



Scope 1 - direct emissions from our processes, e.g., diesel consumption. In 2025, our Scope 1 emissions were 8.3% lower than in 2024. This reduction was largely due to 6.4% less waste being brought into site than in 2024, meaning less fuel was required for waste processing.

Scope 2 - indirect emissions derived from the purchase of electricity and gas. Compared to 2024, we increased our Scope 2 footprint by 64% in 2025 after various shutdowns and equipment stoppages at both our energy plants meant we required more electricity from the national grid.

Scope 3 - lifecycle emissions from up and downstream our value chain, e.g., emissions from waste disposal, businesses flights, fuel use off site. In 2025, our Scope 3 emissions reduced by 3.5% when compared to 2024, caused by less waste being transported between our sites.

Eco's Renewable Energy Production

Anaerobic Digestion:

10.93 GWh
4,050 Homes
worth of electricity

Combined Heat & Power:

4.50 GWh
1,668 Homes
worth of electricity

Renewable energy from Anaerobic Digestion & Biomass offers a reliable, year-round supply.

Key Achievements

56,777 tonnes
green waste recycled

52,363 tonnes
excavated soils recycled

33,942 tonnes
food waste recycled

57,686 tonnes
wood waste recycled

20,307 tonnes
street sweepings recycled
17,801 tonnes of aggregate output

Investing in our Future

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Plant – 2025 Delivery

In 2025, we successfully completed construction of our new Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility at Chapel Gate Eco Park, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to sustainable operations and circular resource management. The plant was developed as a response to the governments Simpler Recycling policy which aims to divert more food waste from landfill.

The facility has the capacity to process **up to 10,000 tonnes of food & liquid waste** from the local area each year, supporting regional waste diversion and reducing reliance on landfill. Through a controlled biological process, this feedstock is converted into biomethane, with the plant capable of producing approximately 1,200m³ of gas per hour.

The **biogas generated is upgraded and injected directly into the national gas grid** ("gas-to-grid"), providing a reliable source of renewable energy for homes and businesses. This approach not only displaces fossil fuel use but also contributes to greater energy security and resilience. In addition, the digestion process produces nutrient-rich digestate, which is utilised as a natural fertiliser, supporting sustainable agriculture and reducing the need for synthetic alternatives.

Throughout the project lifecycle, we prioritised environmental performance, safety, and operational efficiency. The plant incorporates advanced monitoring and control systems to optimise digestion conditions, maximise energy yield, and minimise emissions. Careful consideration was also given to odour management, transport logistics, and community impact to ensure the facility operates responsibly within its local environment.

The completion of the AD plant strengthens our role in the transition to a low-carbon economy. By diverting organic waste from landfill and recovering value from it, we are reducing emissions associated with waste disposal while creating a renewable energy source that supports the wider energy system.

Looking ahead, the plant provides a scalable platform for future growth. We will continue to explore opportunities to increase feedstock diversity, improve process efficiency, and expand capacity in line with evolving sustainability targets.

This project demonstrates our ability to deliver complex infrastructure that aligns environmental responsibility with long-term business value, reinforcing our commitment to sustainable innovation

Chapel Gate Eco Park: Biogas Generation Facility

Supporting Our Soils


Case Study: Ashmore Manor

By just looking at soil, you wouldn't think it was particularly complicated, but the reality is quite the opposite. Soil is a complex ecosystem filled with a variety of microorganisms, providing the foundation for much of life on Earth – it supports plant life, **producing 95% of our food**, regulates water cycles, stores carbon, and filters out pollutants. However, our soils are in trouble – intensive farming practices have degraded them and created the need for carbon and chemical intensive fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides which in turn have further damaged our farmland. This is where our products come in – made from 'waste', **our compost and digestate help to rebuild soil health** using the very organic matter that was once grown from it, removing the need for harmful chemicals and closing the natural ecosystem circle.

Digestate

Digestate is a nutrient-rich by-product of the anaerobic digestion process which can be applied to farmland as an alternative to chemical fertiliser. As the digestate is made from food waste, it is packed with nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, which are essential for healthy soils and plant growth. Additionally, due to digestate's organic matter content, it enhances the soil structure, in turn improving its ability to both retain and drain water where needed.

By creating products through a circular process that support the healthy functioning of soils without harmful chemicals, we are futureproofing the farming and horticultural industries and protecting our vital environmental systems.

Powering Up the Local Community

We invested £30,000 to support the installation of solar panels and battery storage at the West Parley Community Hub!

This funding has enabled the site to generate its own renewable electricity, reducing reliance on grid energy and lowering ongoing operational costs. The addition of battery storage allows energy generated during the day to be stored and used when demand is higher, improving efficiency and resilience. This investment not only supports the transition to renewable energy at a local level, but also helps safeguard the long-term sustainability of a valued community facility by reducing energy expenditure and exposure to rising energy prices.

Biodiversity Enhancements

Conservation Area Wildflowers

During our checks of the conservation area, we take the time to survey the ground to see what wildflowers were growing. In the summer of 2025, many different species were spotted, from common flowers such as centaury, cuckooflower and vetch to increasingly uncommon species like sweet violets and protected plants including the charismatic bee orchid.

Spaces like our conservation compartments are vital in maintaining healthy ecosystems – for example, the common bird's-foot trefoil, which is found widely across our compartments during the summer months, is a food plant for 160 species of insects, which in turn supports mammals and birds (WWF 2025). Our work is therefore contributing towards supporting an increasingly scarce but essential part of the UK landscape.

WWF (2025) Why we need wildflowers. Available at: https://www.wwf.org.uk/wildflowers/why-we-need-wildflowers [accessed: 12/2025]


Chapel Gate Eco Park Window Boxes

Nature Moves In

This year we found evidence that the owl box we installed in 2022 is being used. Owl pellets – the undigested part of an owl's food, such as bones and fur, regurgitated in small balls – were discovered at the base of the tree where the box is located, suggesting owls have taken it up as their home. We are delighted the box is being used and is supporting these iconic Dorset species.

Reptiles are here to stay!

The reptile hibernacula that we built in 2021 have proven to be a successful and valuable component of our site's habitat enhancement strategy. Designed using a combination of natural materials such as logs and soil, these features have provided essential shelter and overwintering opportunities for native reptile species.

Recent reptile surveys have demonstrated clear evidence of success, with the presence of juvenile smooth snakes, adders, and slow worms recorded in proximity to the hibernacula. The observation of juveniles is particularly significant, as it indicates not only habitat use but also successful breeding and recruitment within the local reptile population. This suggests that the hibernacula are functioning effectively as both refuge and nursery habitats, supporting multiple life stages of these species. Such outcomes highlight the importance of targeted habitat creation in reversing local declines and enhancing biodiversity.

Overall, the positive survey results reinforce the value of continued investment in reptile conservation measures across the site. Ongoing monitoring will be essential to track population trends and inform adaptive management, but the early indicators are highly encouraging. The success of the hibernacula demonstrates how relatively low-impact interventions can yield meaningful ecological gains, contributing to broader sustainability objectives and the long-term resilience of native wildlife populations.


Juvenile Slow Worm


Owl Pellet

Living Our Values

People Planet Process Profit

Team Wellbeing

We are committed to supporting the wellbeing of our team and making a positive contribution to the communities in which we operate. During the year, we continued to focus on maintaining an inclusive and supportive working environment, encouraging open communication and engagement across the business. **Our team satisfaction survey recorded a positive overall score of 80%,** reflecting strong levels of engagement and team morale.

Community Support

A record £70,000 was raised for five local charities through the annual Christmas tree recycling initiative. More than 30 tonnes of trees were collected from homes and businesses across Dorset and Hampshire and delivered to our Parley site.

We supported the initiative by accepting and processing the trees free of charge, enabling all funds raised by the charities to go directly towards their vital work. In total, we recycled the trees into 60m^3 of organic compost—equivalent to around 1,200 wheelbarrow loads.

During the year, we also donated over **110 bags of compost, soil and bark to local organisations and community projects**, supporting a wide range of environmental and community-focused initiatives.

A Paw-sitive Workplace!

We became a dog-friendly office in 2025. The initiative has been warmly received by our team and visitors, with our four-legged visitors quickly becoming a valued part of the team and contributing to improved morale and social interaction throughout.

Safety Culture

Health and safety remains a core priority across our waste management operations, where employees work with heavy vehicles, plant equipment, and potentially hazardous materials. We promote safe working practices through training, risk assessments, site inspections, and open engagement on safety issues across the business.

During the reporting year, we recorded two lost time accidents, one of which was reportable under RIDDOR. Both incidents were fully investigated, and corrective actions were implemented. Aside from these events, overall safety performance during the year was strong.

Near miss reporting remains a key focus in preventing incidents. In 2025, 85 near misses were reported and reviewed, with actions taken where necessary to address risks and improve controls. This proactive approach supports continuous improvement and encourages employees to identify hazards and share learnings.

Training also remained a priority. All site managers who had not previously completed IOSH Managing Safely undertook the training, alongside six employees receiving first aid training and behavioural safety training delivered to site-based teams.

We will continue to promote open reporting, learn from incidents and near misses, and reinforce safe behaviours to protect our workforce, contractors, and the communities in which we operate.

312 Training Days

5.8 days avg. per employee

5% on 2024

5 Qualifications Gained!

CIM ilm nebosh CMI

2 Additional Mental Health First Aiders Trained

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Silver

ISO 9001 ISO 14001 ISO 45001

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