



Environmental, Social and
Governance Report

Groveswell Garden Centres

December 2024

ESG Report

1st Annual Report
2024

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Our Ethos

At the heart of Grovewell Garden Centre's approach is **transparency, accountability** and a commitment to continuous improvement.

By setting ambitious targets and regularly benchmarking our progress, we strive to drive **sustainable change**.

We believe in fostering strong relationships with our customers and local communities. By sharing our journey, challenges, and successes, we aim to inspire and empower others to adopt more sustainable practices.

**Together, we can nurture nature,
one garden at a time.**



Introduction

Reporting Specifics :

Reporting/organisational boundary:

Head Office (only added in the second year), Tenterden, Canterbury, Folkestone and Hamstreet operations.

Emission sources: Electricity, T&D losses, water, other fuels, on-site renewables, fleet, business travel, waste, paper, refrigerants, diesel and propane.

Principles: Relevance, quantitative, accuracy, completeness, consistency, comparable, transparency and understanding.

Data collection period: 1st February 2022 – 31st January 2023, 1st February 2023 – 31st January 2024.

Grovewell Garden Centres embarked on its journey towards environmental, social and governance (ESG) responsibility in February 2022. Recognising the urgent need for climate action at all scales, from individuals to governments. As highlighted by global initiatives like the Paris Agreement, Grovewell is committed to contributing to the transition towards a sustainable future (UNFCCC, 2019). Within the industry, Grovewell is also inspired by HTA initiatives like ‘Mission Green Growth’ which provides specific guidance for the horticultural sphere.

By partnering with Planet Mark, Grovewell has established a robust framework to measure, engage and communicate on our reported environmental impact. Prioritising accurate measurement enables benchmarking and goal setting tailored to Grovewell’s specific needs.

Year 2 (2023-24) is a baseline year for Grovewell’s carbon footprinting. Within the reporting boundary, carbon footprint calculations encompass emissions from electricity, T&D losses, on-site renewables, water, fleet, business travel, waste, paper, refrigerants, diesel, and propane. While there were minor variations between Years 1 and 2, the overall footprint remained relatively stable. In Year 2, Grovewell’s carbon footprint totalled 240 tCO₂e, with buildings the primary contributor.

This inaugural ESG report provides a comprehensive overview of Grovewell’s environmental, social, and governance impacts, setting the stage for future goals and ambitions.





Environment

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Grovewell Garden Centres has proactively engaged in measuring and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) across all scopes (1, 2, and 3) in partnership with Planet Mark since 2022. While still in the early stages of the sustainability journey, Grovewell prioritises accurate measurement and benchmarking to inform year-on-year progress, aligning with Planet Mark’s “measure, engage, communicate” framework.

Carbon Footprint Evolution

From 1st February 2022 to February 2024, the total measured carbon footprint increased from 226.0 t CO₂e to **240.9 t CO₂e** (location-based method). While this increase can be attributed to improved data recording, additional measured emissions (propane and refrigerants), and company expansion (Head Office), Year 2 is considered a more reliable baseline for future comparisons.

Carbon footprinting between Years 1 and 2 showed insignificant differences due to changes in reporting boundaries and emission sources. As a result, dependent on the normalisation factors used, the carbon footprint decreased or increased. For example, Grovewell’s carbon footprint per £m turnover decreased between Year 1 and 2 by **3.7% to 19.6t CO₂e**.

Subsequently, Grovewell’s carbon footprint will benchmark Year 2 for future annual comparisons.

Carbon Footprint per Employee

A slight increase in carbon footprint per employee was observed from 2023 to 2024, from **1.9 t CO₂e to 2.0 t CO₂e**.



Breakdown of Emissions

The following table provides a breakdown of emissions for 2023 and 2024:

Source	2022-23 (tCO2e)	2023-24 (tCO2e)
Buildings	199.1	215.1
Paper	0.4	0.5
Business travel	5.7	4.4
Fleet travel	21.5	13.5
Waste	9.6	3.2
Water	2.6	2.2
Total	239.0	239.0

Note: All rows and tables are rounded to one decimal place. This may lead to slight discrepancies in totals within the report.

Grovewell have proven strong decreases in both travel and waste however the overall emissions between Year 2023 and 2024 **remained the same**. This could be attributed to the Hamstreet expansion 2024 which produced a larger weighting toward buildings. This expansion could further impact Year 3 emissions due to construction creating a change in demand for resources and waste.



Buildings

Buildings emissions contribution breakdown

Buildings	2022-23 (tCO2e)	2023-24 (tCO2e)
Burning oil	4.9	-
Diesel fuel	5.6	7.5
Electricity	118.9	127.6
Petrol fuel	0.01	0
Propane	59.3	56.6
Transmission and distribution losses	10.4	10.4
Refrigerants	-	13.0
Total	199.1	215.1

Note: All rows and tables are rounded to one decimal place. This may lead to slight discrepancies in totals within the report.



Overall emissions associated with buildings **increased by 8.04%** during Year 2023 compared to Year 2024.

Electricity and diesel fuel have increased largely due to unexpected increases in labour and site extension at Grovewell's Hamstreet location. In addition to this, refrigerants were only first declared in Year 2 making the comparison inconsistent. This can be attributed to improved data collection, accuracy and transparency which are vital for delivering accurate goal-setting.

Travel

Factors Influencing Emissions

- **Fuel type:** The shift to diesel as opposed to petrol improves fuel use efficiency and lowers specific pollutants. However, there is still a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions both in scope 1 and scope 3 from more vigorous processing of the fuel itself.
- **Distance travelled:** Reducing the overall distance travelled for business purposes is a crucial factor in minimising emissions and encouraging car-share.
- **Vehicle technology:** Transitioning to renewable energy sources, such as electric vehicles or biofuels, is one of the most significant methods to lower travel emissions.

Business Travel

Grovewell Garden Centres has achieved a notable 22.9% reduction in business travel emissions during Year 2 compared to Year 1. This reduction is primarily due to an increased use of diesel-powered vehicles over petrol and car-share strategies for long-distance trips.



5.7 t CO₂e



4.4 t CO₂e

Business Travel reduced by 23.0%

Fleet Travel

Fleet travel has experienced a decline in emissions, predominately driven by a reduction in the overall distance travelled. While there was a minor increase in petrol fuel usage (for the fleet specifically), the overall decrease in fleet distance travel outweighed this impact.



21.5 t CO₂e



13.5 t CO₂e

Fleet Travel reduced by 37.1%

Water

The overall carbon footprint was reduced by 15.48% from Year 1 to Year 2.

For future progress, it is worth highlighting that consumption from supply increased, which could be attributed to the Hamstreet extension and targeted for action towards reduction in future.

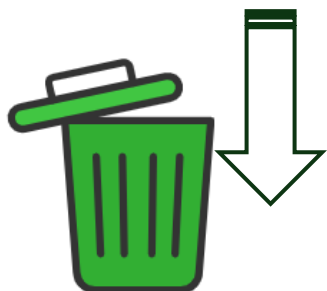
Water emissions contributions

Water	2022-23 (tCO2e)	2023-24 (tCO2e)
Water supply	0.8	1.2
Water treatment	1.8	1.0
Total	2.6	2.2

Note all rows and tables are rounded to one decimal place. This may lead to slight discrepancies in totals within the report.



15.48% reduction in water



66.8% reduction in waste

Waste

Grovewell Garden Centres achieved the most significant reduction in carbon footprint from waste, with emissions decreasing by 66.78% from 2023 to 2024. In 2024, all waste is diverted from landfills using Wynsdale Waste Management systems, one of the most significant changes we've made so far.

Waste emissions contributions

Waste	2022-3 (tCO2e)	2023-24 (tCO2e)
Anaerobic digestion	0.2	-
Energy from waste	0.9	1.9
Landfill	6.7	-
Recycled	1.8	1.3
Total	9.6	3.2

Note all rows and tables are rounded to one decimal place. This may lead to slight discrepancies in totals within the report.

A significant source of waste noted by Grovewell's sustainability champions is the battery and electronic waste. Spiking over winter months, this is an area for opportunity to recycle these precious and potentially harmful materials and switch to rechargeable over single use for both sustainable and long-term economic benefits.

Procurement

Paper procurement at Grovewell Garden Centres **increased by 18.9%** in 2024 compared to 2023, resulting in 17.78% increase in associated emissions.

Procurement emissions contributions between the years are shown below.

Paper	2022-23	2023-24
Paper primary content	0.4	0.5
Total	0.4	0.5

Note all rows and tables are rounded to one decimal place. This may lead to slight discrepancies in totals within the report.

To minimise its carbon footprint, Grovewell sources all paper products from Lyreco, a **UN Global Compact signatory**. This ensures the paper is either "Zero Carbon" or recyclable, and any additional office supplies are from their green product range. Lyreco were chosen as they were the first company in the office supplies industry to join the UN Global Compact (UNGC) reflecting a shared long-term commitment to sustainability as a business (Lyreco Group, 2020).

Despite procurement having a relatively small contribution to emissions overall, adoption of Head Office and diverted focus could have aided the increase in this category's emissions.



By Scope

The diagram below shows a breakdown of Grovewell Garden Centres' total carbon footprint (240.9 t CO₂e) by scope. Scope 2 emissions, primarily from purchased energy contribute the most (53.7%), followed by Scope 1 emissions (37.6%) and Scope 3 emissions (8.7%).

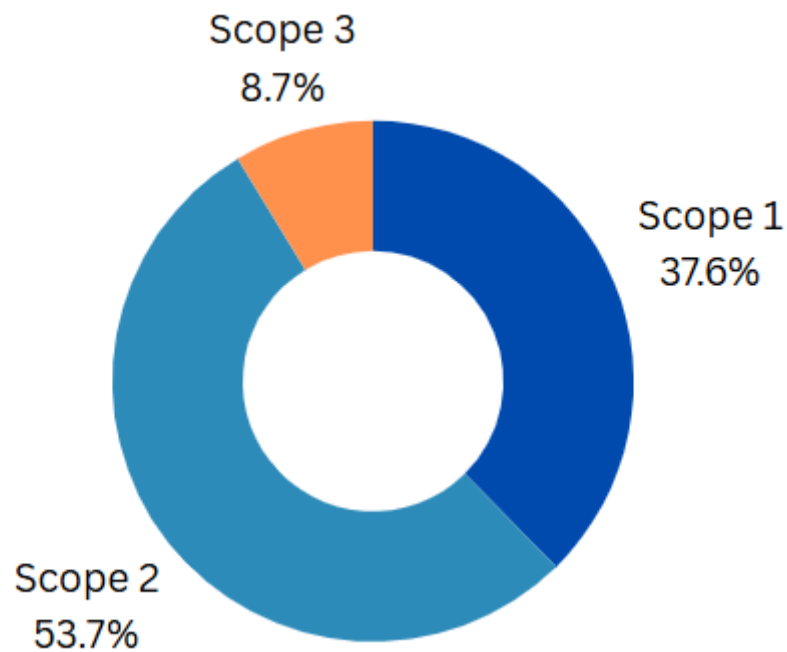


Figure 1 – Pie chart showing the carbon emission contributions dependent on the Scope within the reporting boundaries.



Material and Resource Efficiency

Water Efficiency

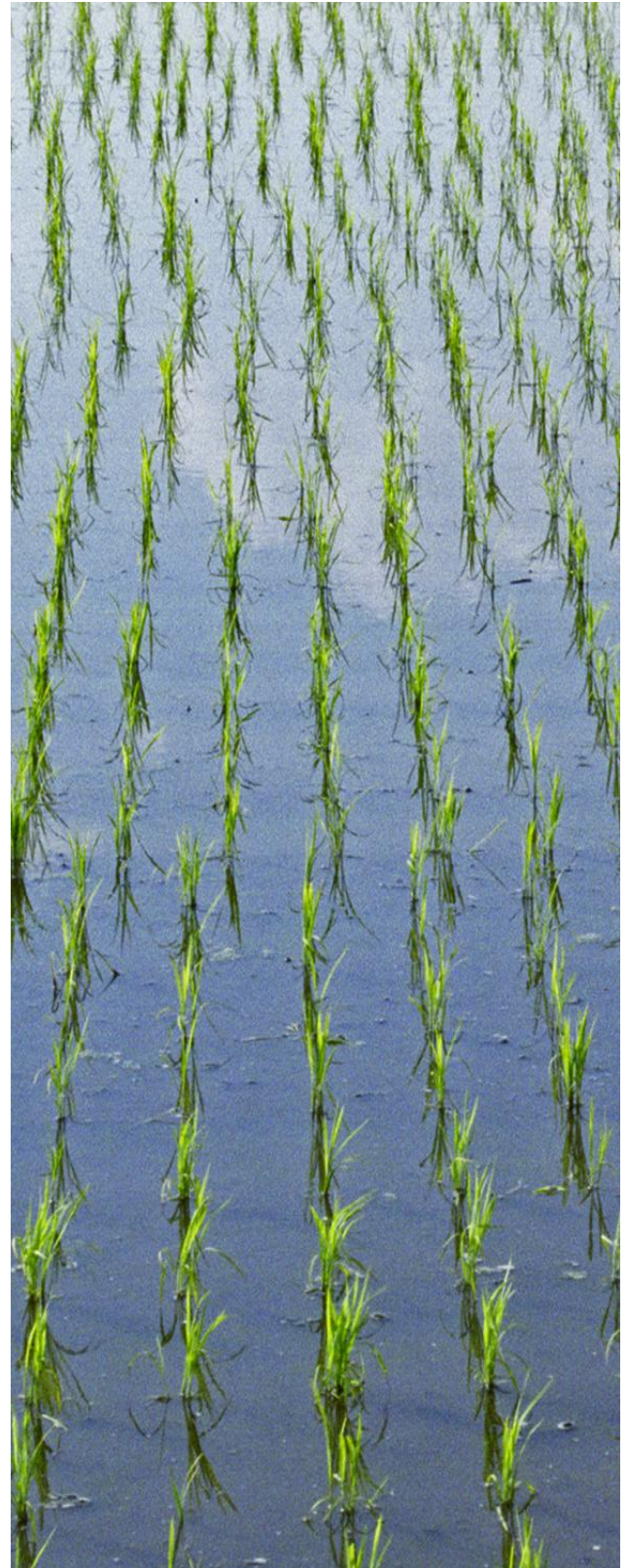
In Year 2, **247 litres were consumed per employee, and 30% of this consumption was recycled from large underground water tanks.**

Every site has rainwater harvesting tanks; Canterbury currently has two large tanks, followed by Tenterden and Folkestone with one tank each. Post the expansion operation at Hamstreet, it will also adopt two tanks. Water from these is recycled to feed the plants and reduce dependency and extraction from the mains supply.

The current systems in place to maintain and improve water use efficiency include waterless urinals, dual-flush cisterns in the store and kitchen at the Tenterden centre, sensor taps at both the Tenterden and Canterbury sites and rainwater harvesting at the Canterbury site.

Groveswell aims to have universal water-efficient technologies across all sites by the end of 2025. For example, waterless urinals at each site have the potential to **save up to 100,000 litres per urinal annually.**

Supporting fellow Planet Mark business Ecoprod, we partner with companies taking active responsibility for their business practices. As we expand, we must ensure reduction in consumption does not impede on customer experience in store and encourage further sustainable behaviour to all.



Waste Efficiency



Since 2023 Grovewell has been compliant with the UK Environmental Agency via PRNs and in 2024 with the Nation of Sale data (from which profit goes to further the development of infrastructure and capacity of recycling equipment) (GOV.UK, 2023). Grovewell's regulation compliance requires staying up-to-date on regulation changes and detailed observation of contribution to waste via packaging of imported and sold products. Grovewell further acknowledges their contribution and responsibility for this measuring due to the proportion of imports stocked across all centres. With active compliance, communication with suppliers and a look to ethical sourcing, this is a large area for potential growth.

100% of waste is diverted from landfill

Grovewell's waste management has been one of the **most significantly improved** categories. The most notable stride is, that 100% of waste produced since 2023 has been diverted from landfills and instead used as a source of energy, made possible in partnership with Wynsdale Waste Management.

Grovewell has steered towards conscious sourcing since the start of 2023. For example, all buyers **pledged at least 70% of all pots** sourced were taupe, this ensures a larger **carbon-free** and recyclable range.

Packaging

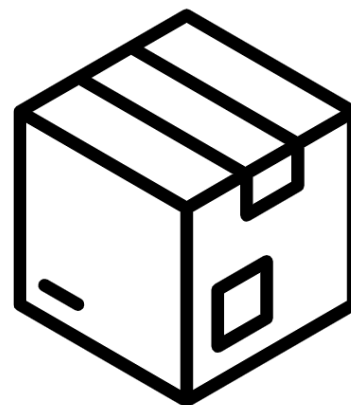
Grovewell Garden Centres is committed to complying with all UK packaging regulations. By partnering with Clarity, Grovewell ensures all packaging practices align with current guidelines.

In 2023 the total handled packaging weight production came to **69.8763 tonnes**.

Given Grovewell’s significant international imports, fluctuating regulations are closely monitored, including PRN (Packaging Recycle Note) requirements and Nation of Sale policies. Grovewell exceeded the annual threshold of 50 tonnes of packaging waste in 2021 and 2022, necessitating specific evidence and declarations.

Units Sold for Each Centre

Site Totals	Units Sold
Canterbury	411,249
Folkestone	267,506
Tenterden	327,714
Hamstreet	234,394



69.9 tonnes produced
2023-24

Grovewell is currently evaluating its Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), previously PRN, given the limited branding of its stocked products. While deadlines for packaging declaration are subject to change, Grovewell remains committed to annual declaration and allows ample time for accuracy checks as a company currently over the 50-tonne package handling threshold.

To comply and keep personal records with Nation of Sale regulations, Grovewell has been meticulously recording all packaging extended to consumers since 2022. This data allows the analysis of the types of materials used (plastic, aluminium, steel, glass, wood and paper) and the assessment of their sustainability and life cycles. By tracking this information, Grovewell can establish benchmarks for future packaging practices, strengthen transparency and make informed decisions about sustainable business practices.

On-site Renewables

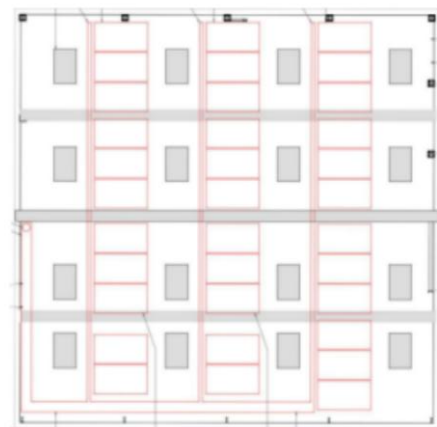


In 2015, Grovewell installed its first 30 kWh on-site solar photovoltaic system at Canterbury, followed by another 30 kWh system at Tenterden and a 15 kWh system (located above the aquatics centre).

In 2023, Grovewell's solar renewables produced a total of 52, 409.29 kWh.

Implementing innovative technology like these reduces reliance on the national grid, which can be sourced from nuclear power and reduces fluctuations in prices of energy.

Grovewell Garden Centres is committed to sustainable growth. To support the expansion of its Hamstreet location and supplement increased consumption, Grovewell will install a 22 kWh photovoltaic system. This is funded in partnership with Ashford Borough Council through the Green Business Grant. By incorporating a renewable energy system with a local SME, Grovewell has been recognised for its efforts in the community to adopt sustainable practices, improve community resilience and reduce environmental impact. Once installed, this has the potential to **offset up to 22.6 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year.**



Solar panel system proposal with EcoEnergy

Renewable Generation Progression

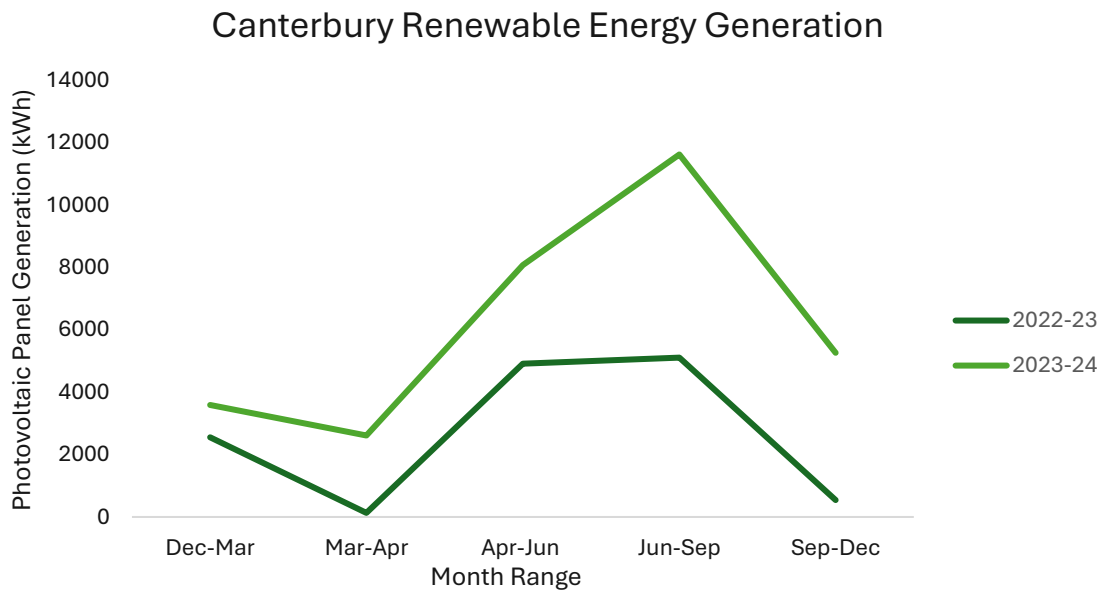


Figure 2 – Displays Canterbury’s renewable energy generation over monthly ranges between the years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

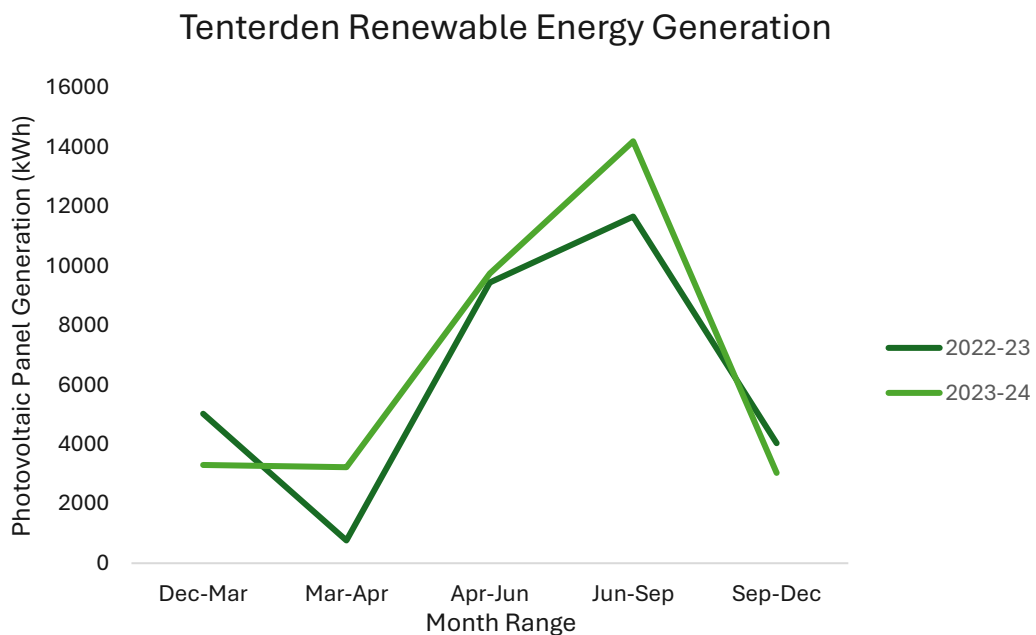


Figure 3 – Displays Tenterden’s renewable energy generation over monthly ranges between the years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Energy Systems

Grovewell Garden Centres currently relies on a combination of electric and gas boilers to heat our four locations.

A consistent daytime temperature of **21 degrees Celsius** is maintained during opening hours. Outside of these hours, temperatures are lowered to above-freezing overnight.

Breakdown by location;

Tenterden: An electric boiler is used, with additional air conditioning for temperature control and two solar systems (45 KWh).

Canterbury: Gas boilers are installed in all zones, controlled from a central location, and a solar system (30KWh).

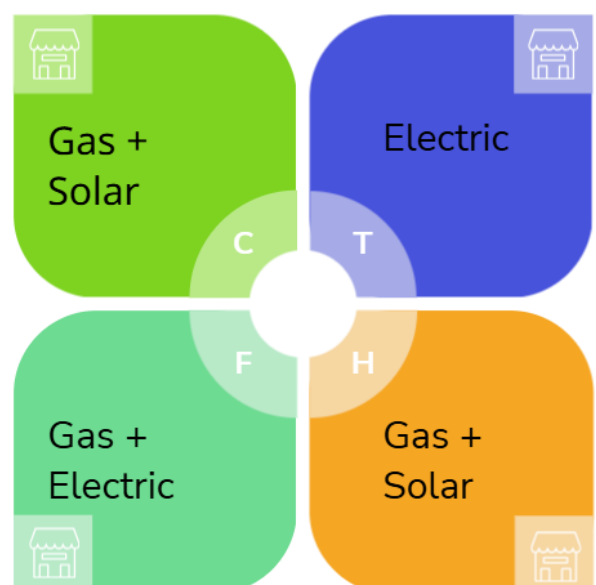
Folkestone: An older system with gas radiant heaters is used throughout the store, supplemented by electric air conditioning.

Hamstreet: The original site uses gas radiant heaters, while the new expansion area incorporates electric air conditioning, mapped ventilation and a 22 KWh solar system.

Grovewell’s current electricity contracts across all centres utilise Engie’s standard fuel mix, as detailed in the table below. Grovewell is actively seeking competitive opportunities to transition to more renewable energy sources (in addition to solar energy generation), as this would significantly reduce carbon emissions across the company.

Our electricity standard fuel mix source with Engie is;

Current Engie standard fuel mix	UK average fuel mix	Engie Power Limited
Coal - 15%	6.3%	0%
Natural Gas - 68%	35%	0%
Nuclear - 11%	12.7%	0%
Renewable - 0.5%	43.2%	100%
Other 7%	2.8%	0%



Electricity Consumption Progression

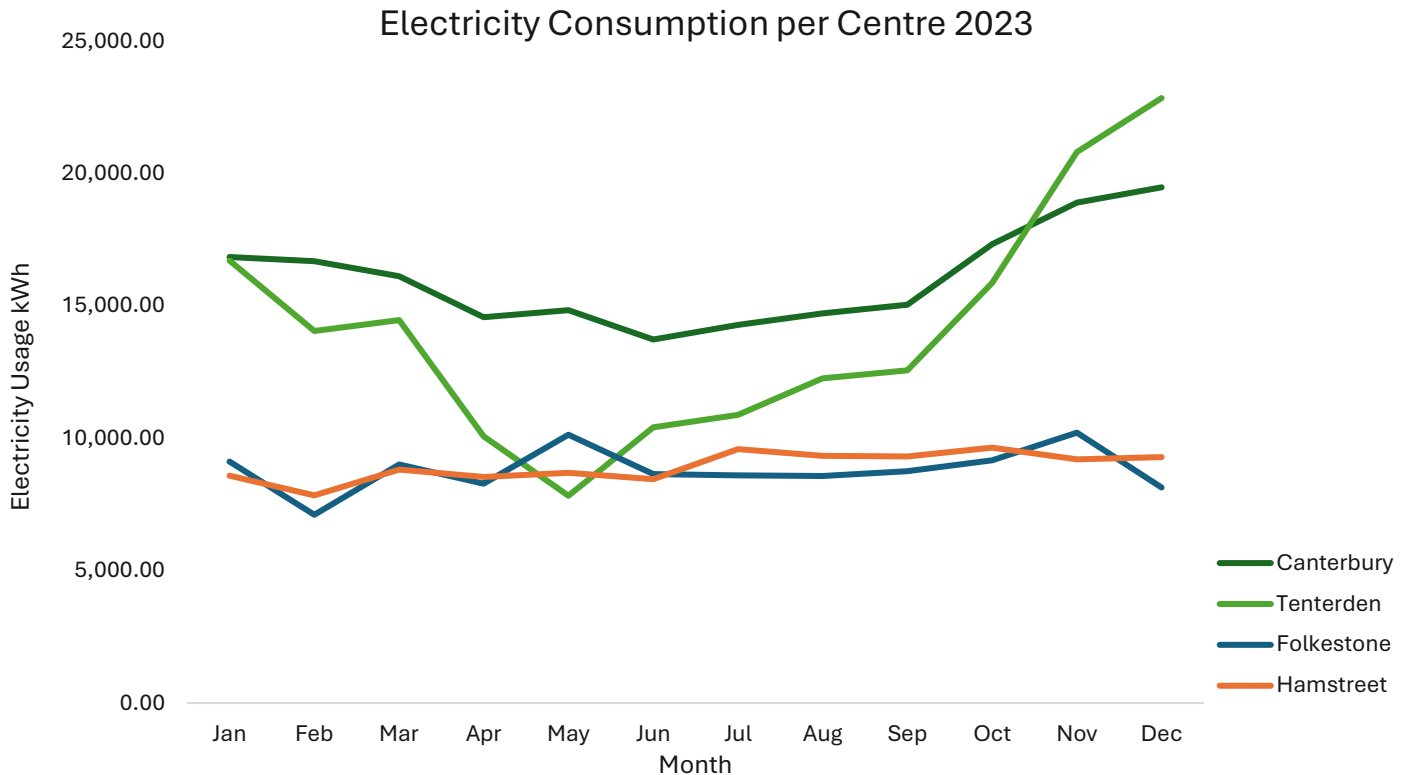


Figure 4 – Displays the electricity usage in kilowatts per month in 2023 for each centre; seasonal fluctuations are largely observed with higher usage correlating with larger centres.

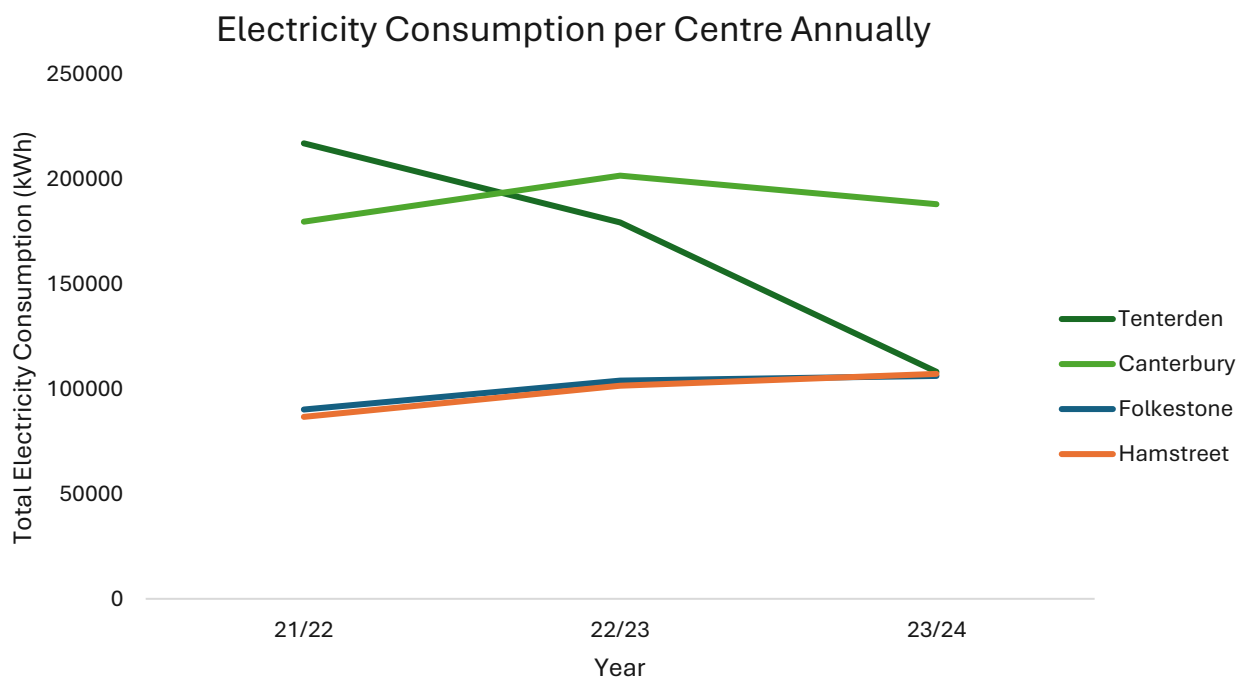


Figure 5 – Displays the total electricity consumption in kilowatts each year from 2021 to 2024; significant decline at the Tenterden centre contrasts with no to little reductions in consumption across the other three centres.

Green EV Charging Ports

Grovelwell is committed to improving itself and encouraging others toward the adoption of renewable energy. Compliant with the UK's drive for green transport, Grovelwell plans to install **ten green parking bays by March 2025** at the Hamstreet location. These bays will feature five twin pedestal-mounted **11kW chargers** controlled by a load-balancing unit to optimise efficiency.

Additionally, Grovelwell aims to install green parking bays at the Tenterden location by the end of 2025. These initiatives support customers' and employees' transition to green energy.



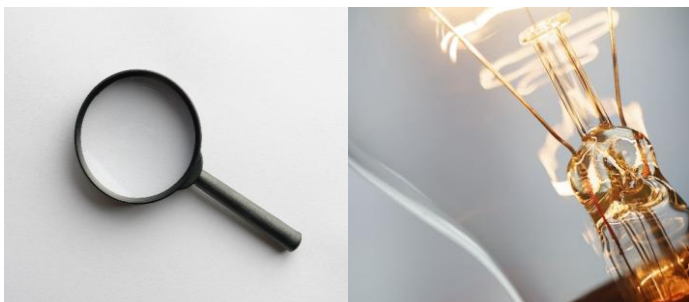
Construction

To reduce Grovelwell's environmental impact during building and expansion projects, such as the Hamstreet extension, Grovelwell prioritises the use of sustainable materials like **hydraulically bound materials (HBM)** for resurfacing and construction work. HBM is a recycled material that forms a solid surface when mixed with cement, eliminating the need for sub-base and **reducing soil removal and carbon emissions**.



Meter Reading Initiative

Since the start of 2024, Grovewell has aimed to reduce their 'estimated' data collection by taking monthly recordings of both water and electricity consumption at each location by **manual meter readings**. This not only improves data quality for carbon measurements but also allows the tracking of consumption more accurately considering factors such as weather, centre-specific footfall and events.



Lighting

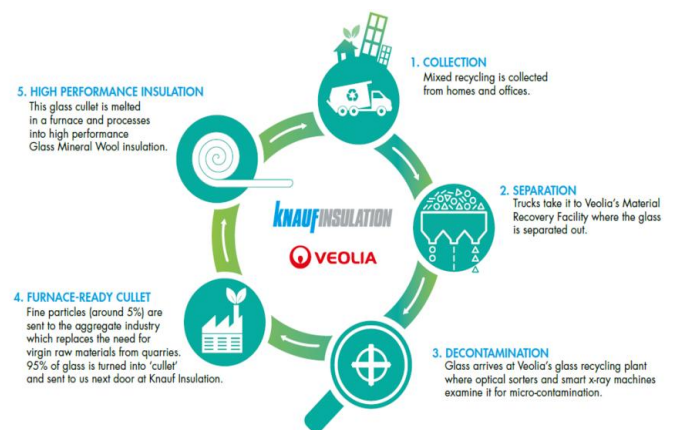
Grovewell are steadily working towards **universal LED lighting** using a mixture of timers and sensors across all four centres aiding energy efficiency and reducing electric consumption. Grovewell is looking to prioritise this complete transition by the end of 2025.

Circular Economy

Currently, Grovewell's direct contributions to a circular economy are limited due to the small scale of an own-brand product range. However, where possible, Grovewell remains open to exploring opportunities.

For example, waste cooking oil is recycled into ISCC compliant biodiesel and collected at the same time as delivery to minimise carbon emissions.

Another example is made possible in our partnership with Wynsdale Management, where all mixed recycled waste is collected and converted into insulation. This process diverts waste from landfills and supports retrofitting and energy efficiency in buildings. The diagram below outlines the process;



(source: www.wynsdale.co.uk)

Processes like this repurpose an otherwise wasted and polluting product and aids the reduction of vehicle carbon emissions. Looking forward, buyers are increasingly prioritising ethically responsible brands for import, balancing environmental concerns with economic considerations to support our business growth and sustainability goals.

Peat-Free Commitment

Grovewell prioritises environmental responsibility by preparing peat-free product ranges and supplying alternative options, aligning with the upcoming UK ban. This commitment not only reduces Grovewell’s contribution to carbon release into the atmosphere and mitigates climate change but also protects rare UK wildlife outside of the company’s organisational boundaries.

Currently, **80% of Grovewell’s range is already peat-free.**

Strategies to support our customers transition include prioritising ethically responsible suppliers. For example, our buyers have sourced companies such as Rocketgro, a British company utilising innovative sustainable technology to achieve a circular economy business model.



All peat-free products are clearly marked with this icon.

PEAT FREE

This commitment allows Grovewell to contribute to;

Preserving healthy peatlands and the protection of vital carbon sinks.

Supporting the conservation of rare UK wildlife that rely on peatland habitats.

Partnering with alternative UK-based businesses that share our commitment to environmental responsibility.

Compliance with UK regulations and bans.



Biodiversity

Biodiversity Metric



Using recent documentation on ‘Measuring Business Impacts on Nature’ published by the University of Cambridge, each site has its biodiversity metric based on location and size, then normalised through profits sold from each location.

The UK has a lower biodiversity rarity range compared to other countries however each site is relatively intensive. Areas like nature trails, wild meadows and conservation areas can offset this metric.

This metric can be used annually to create a benchmark for future years.

Biodiversity Impact per Centre

Site	Land area (m ²)	Proportion of biodiversity lost	Biodiversity importance	Biodiversity impact metric	Impact/employee (x10 ⁻⁵)
Tenterden	1855	0.9	0.43	0.00072	1.46
Canterbury	2266.4	0.9	0.43	0.00088	1.69
Folkestone	1095.5	0.9	0.43	0.00042	1.31
Hamstreet	1153.5	0.9	0.43	0.00045	1.36
Head Office	391.3	0.9	0.43	0.01513	168

Biodiversity impact of each centre is normalised using an average number of employees between February 2024 to December 2024.

Normalisation factors indicate that Head Office has the largest environmental impact per employee. However, this analysis does not account for the significant environmental impact of visitor traffic at the garden centres. These include factors like disturbance, air pollution, and the lack of recent construction or changes to the Head Office site as a rental property.

Plant Sourcing and Chemical Supply

Grovetwell Garden Centres demonstrate a strong commitment to local British biodiversity by sourcing **over 90% of its plants from UK** suppliers, prioritising hardy, resilient and long-lived varieties. This approach reduces the need for external inputs like fertilisers, insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides by us and customers, reducing our impact on local ecosystems.

Following the advice of the [Royal Horticultural Society \(RHS\)](#) and the ‘[Wild About Gardens](#)’ initiative, Grovetwell emphasises cultivation methods and garden hygiene as the most effective ways to prevent disease and minimise environmental impact. The use of fungicides, even organic ones, can negatively affect soil health and biodiversity on a broader scale and is therefore not recommended by the HTA (Fungicides for Home Gardeners, 2024; www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk, 2013).

To support customers, Grovetwell offers both inorganic and organic chemical products due to demand. One example is Roseclear, which is an RHS and government-approved insecticide and fungicide product containing fatty acids and sulphur.

Six of Grovetwells’ products are approved by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). However, Grovetwell sells one active neonicotinoid ingredient, acetamiprid, that can be found in specific products; Bugclear Ultra Gun/Weevil Killer, Roseclear gun and concentrate.

To address the environmental concerns associated with neonicotinoids, Grovetwell Garden Centres offers [an organic product range](#). By providing better education and promoting its popularity among customers, Grovetwell aims to increase the demand for organic products and reduce reliance on chemical-based options. This shift will contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to gardening and eventually **phase out these synthetic chemicals**.

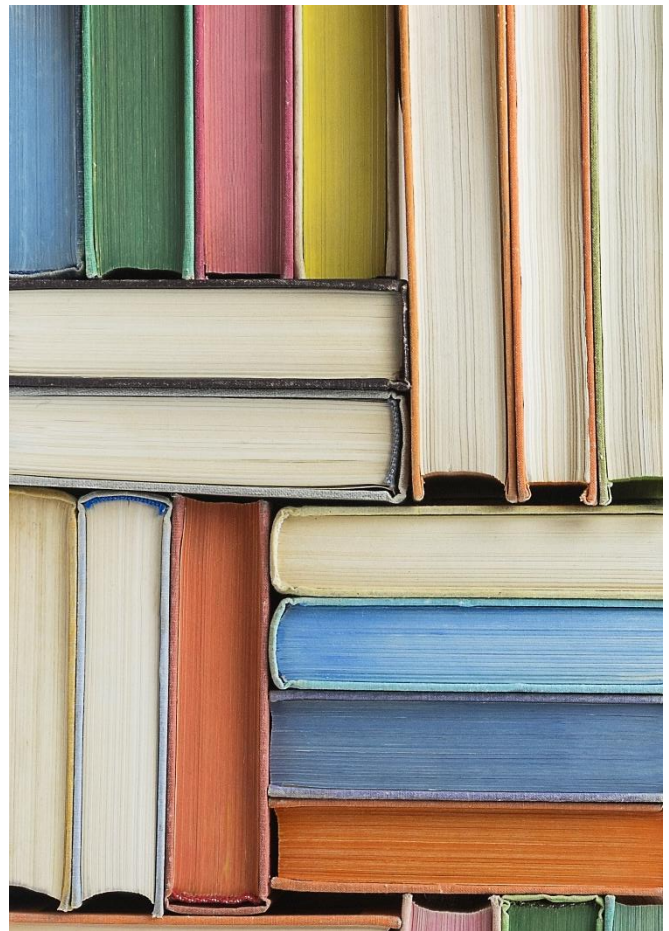


Source: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/wild-about-gardens>

Seed Supply

The majority of Grovewell Garden Centres' seed range is uncoated, particularly fruit and vegetable seeds to minimise the risk of pollutant pathways through ingestion by humans or animals.

It should be noted that some grass seeds may have an aqua-gel coating to enhance germination, these coatings can contain fungicides that pose a potential threat to wildlife and birds. However, the risk of fatal ingestion is low due to the low levels of fungicide present. Moreover, coated grass seeds are generally less appealing to birds due to their faster germination rates and bad taste, further reducing the risk of consumption (Carl Broadbent, 2021).



Staff Education

Grovewell Garden Centres ensures all staff undergo annual training conducted by suppliers. This training equips staff with the knowledge and expertise to advise and guide customers in making informed decisions about their chemical garden use. By promoting organic and less environmentally-taxing options, Grovewell aims to steer customers towards more sustainable practices.

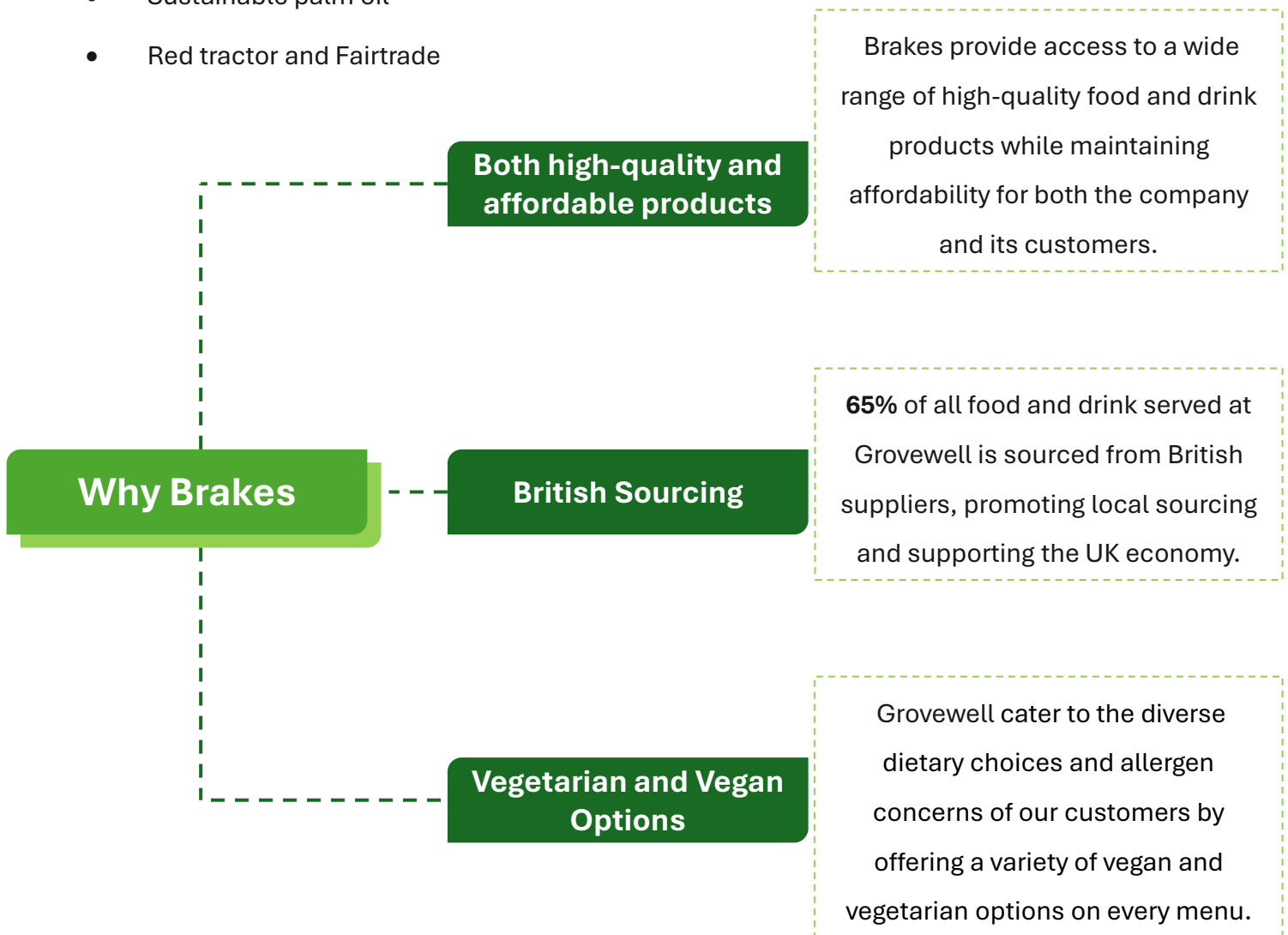
Grovewell also supports employees completing NVQs to fund their qualification and career progression. For example, to date, **338 hours** were completed for 'Hospitality Supervisor Level 3 NVQ' and **66 hours** for 'Production Chef Level 2 NVQ' (12/2024).



Restaurant Sourcing

Grovewell Garden Centres partners with Brakes for its restaurant supplies at every centre. Brakes have a strong commitment to sustainability, which is evident in their environmental initiatives and accreditations. This partnership ensures food served by Grovewell is accredited by the following certifications.

- Sustainable fish and seafood
- Sustainable palm oil
- Red tractor and Fairtrade



Overall, Grovewell’s partnership with Brakes contributes to their commitment to sustainability by ensuring that their food sourcing practices are aligned with ethical and environmentally responsible standards. More information can be found on the Brakes website at the following link. <https://www.brake.co.uk/why-brakes/sustainability> Brakes | Brakes Foodservice

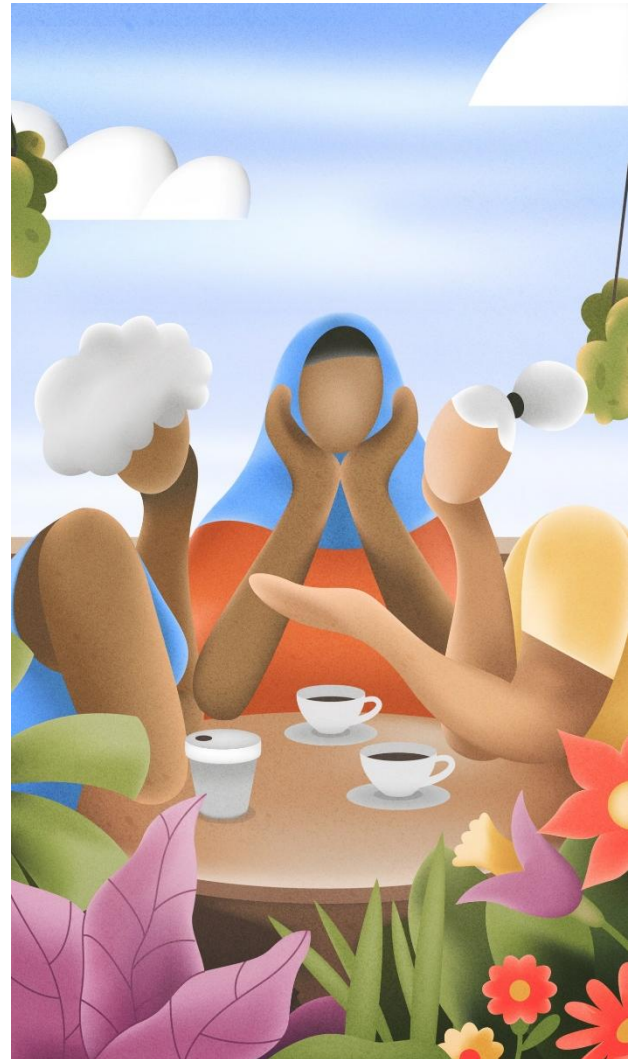
Coffee Sourcing

Grovewell sources all coffee from Puro, a Fairtrade and carbon-neutral company.

To date, sourcing has protected over **212,000 square meters of rainforest**, equivalent to **13,568 trees**. This has offset our carbon emissions by **20,422 tonnes of CO2e** (as of 9/10/2024).

As family-run businesses, both Grovewell and Puro share a commitment to Fairtrade, social responsibility, and sustainability. Inspired by Puro's ethos, Grovewell is actively transitioning to more ethical and sustainable sourcing practices.

More on Puro's story and initiatives can be seen through the following link;
<https://mikocoffee.co.uk/puro-coffee/#:~:text=Puro%20Fairtrade%20Coffee,roasting%20coffee%2C%20welcome%20to%20Puro.>



Between February 2023 to February 2024, through Grovewell's coffee purchase, **37,654m²** of rainforest has been protected. This is equivalent to 2,373 trees and offsets 3,549 tonnes of carbon. This will continue to be tracked for consistent carbon footprinting for the next reporting period, February 2024 to February 2025 with Planet Mark.



Innovative Technology and Digitalisation

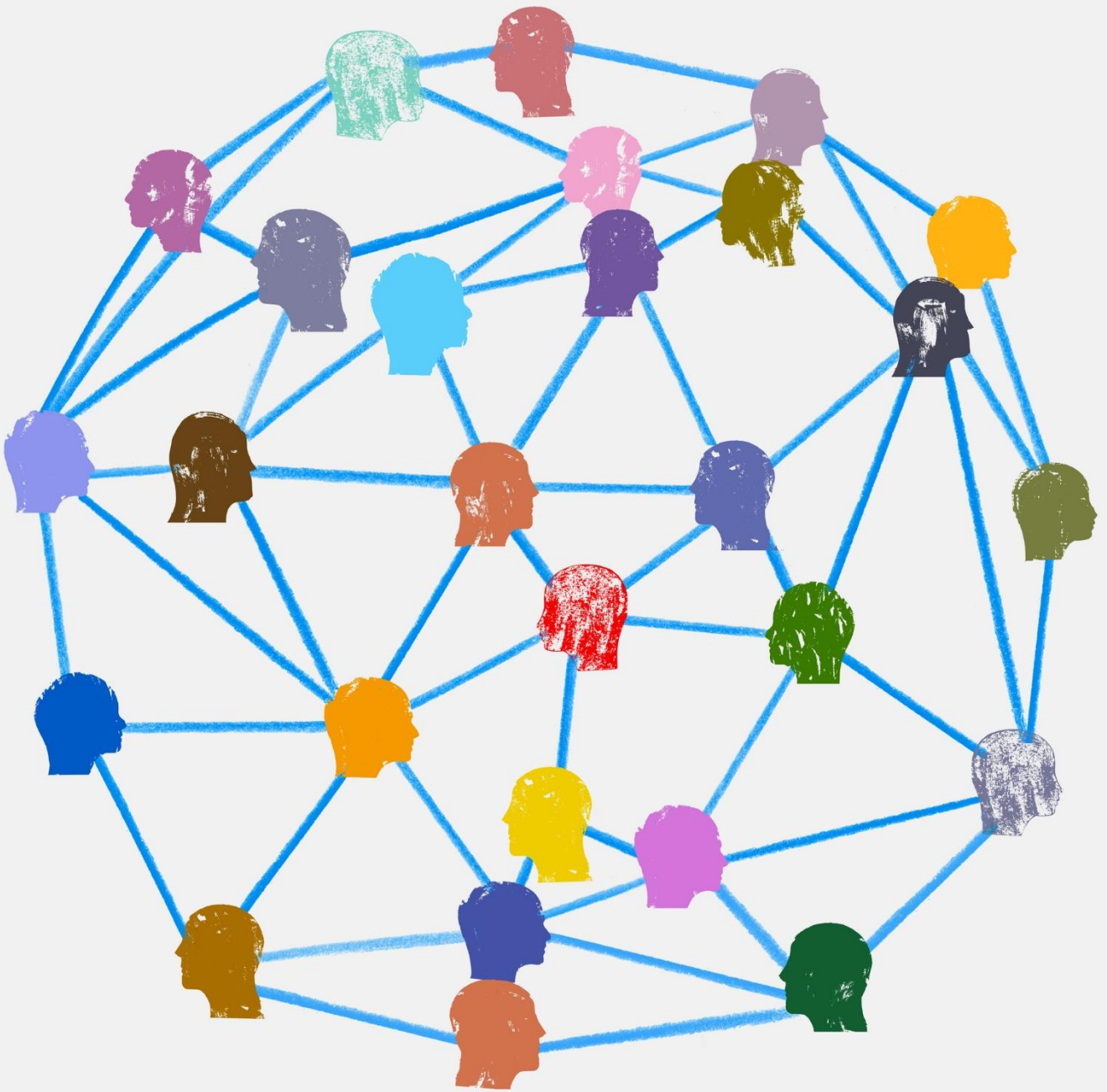


Grovwel App Launch
April 2024

A key component of Grovwel's sustainability strategy is embracing and adapting to new innovative technologies. In April 2024, the launch of the Grovwel app allowed enhancement of customer communication, engagement and rewards, helping to evolve alongside a changing world.

Other partnerships include fellow PlanetMark business Ecoprod to implement waterless urinals. This innovative technology helps to conserve water year-round while maintaining high hygiene standards.

Grovwel continues to explore new technologies to support its sustainable business development.



Social

Social Value

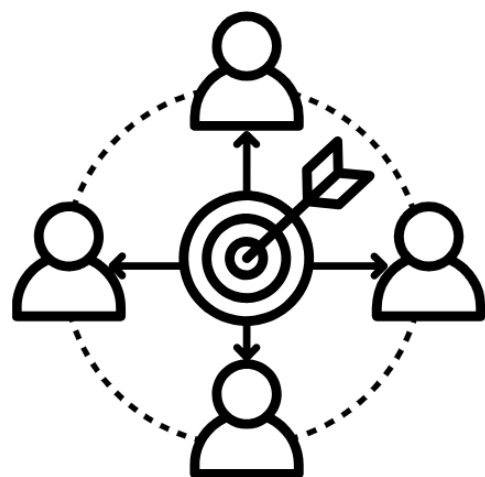


Grovewell Garden Centres contribute a significant social value of £20,188 between 2022 to 2023 which equates to £172 per employee.

The following year from 2023 to 2024, Grovewell Garden Centres is actively recording and declaring all donations and money raised to be able to increase this year on year. Grovewell will also continue to declare this to Planet Mark to enable a social value calculation and annual comparisons.

Sustainability Champions

In 2023, Grovewell Garden Centres introduced sustainability champions for all four centres to implement universal uptake of environmental initiatives. Virtual team meetings are held for opportunities to review progress and give feedback and suggestions for each centre and minimise travel. This allows each centre to be approached unique to their size, location and needs whilst reporting to one central Environmental Lead to create a collaborated approach and plan. The champions all receive a set handbook as part of training and have contributed to ideas that are both environmentally and economically beneficial.



Sustainability Champion coordination

Community Engagement

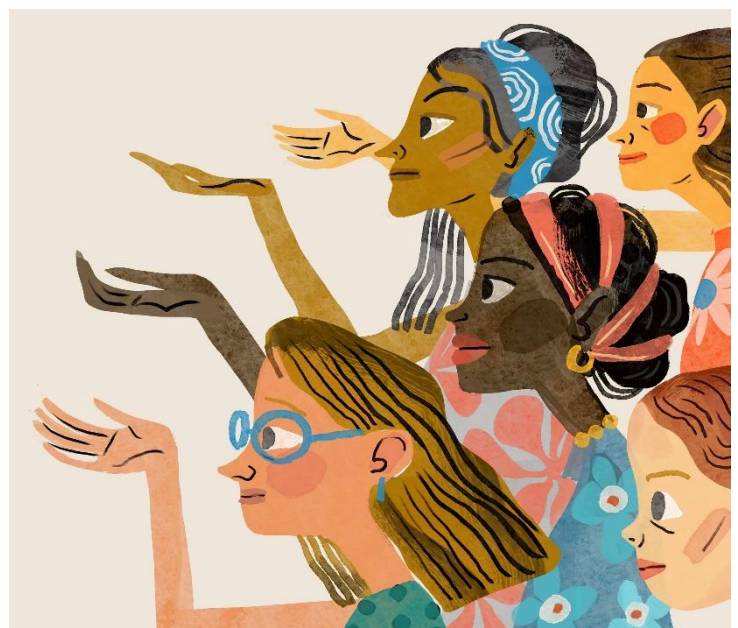
Grovewell actively participates in community and volunteering activities to promote engagement and social value. It should be highlighted that this is the first published recording of social contributions therefore 2023 is our set benchmark for future years. There is also a slight discrepancy between the deadlines for each year, carbon footprinting with Planet Mark is from February to February whereas these social donations are calculated from the 1st of January to the 31st of December of the same year. However, this is not an issue if this remains consistent compared to annually.

Total donations **increased by 27%** (£1,482) from 2024 to 2025, exceeding Grovewell's goal of year-on-year growth in charitable contributions.

Grovewell also values community engagement, particularly with schools. Between 2023-24, we conducted various activities, including cooking classes, origami seed packet making, cress head growing, recycled bird feeder construction, vegetable hulling, and seed saving and planting. These activities promote environmental stewardship, and self-sufficiency, and foster a vital connection with nature in young people.

Total Charity and Social Contributions based on Year

Social Contribution	2023-24	2024-25
Vouchers donated to charities/groups	£1,355	£1,650
Charity donations	The Big Wrap - £1,500 Eden Project - £2,555	The Big Wrap - £1,677 Greenfingers Charity - £1000 Eden Project - £2,555
Primary School Visit	4 (one per term)	Not viable due to Hamstreet extension
Total Donations	£5,390	£6,912



Sponsorships/Partnerships

Through sponsorships and charitable donations, Grovewell aims **to create diverse social value** across various areas, including gardening, biodiversity, rewilding, older adult nonprofits, climate action and education. This holistic approach allows Grovewell’s impact to reach a wider audience whilst making a positive impact on our local community.



2023-24

- Folkestone Council Tenants Gardening Competition
- Canterbury City Council Plant Competition
- Canterbury District Wildlife Project
- Wildwood Rewilding Project
- Tenterden Cricket Club
- Team Ben Hammond
- Age UK Folkestone Oct '23 – Oct '24
- Gardening societies; Elham, Beltinge, Tenterden & District Horticultural Society
- Flower Shows; Appledore, St Mildred's
- Newchurch festival of trees
- Tenterden District Horticultural Society

2024-25

- Woodchurch Carnival
- Folkestone & Hythe District Council Gardening Competition
- Reculver & Beltinge Memorial Hall – Village Open Gardens Event
- Hawkinge Scarecrow Trail
- Age UK Folkestone Oct 23rd – 24th
- Horticultural Therapy Programme for the Parkinson's Centre for integrated therapy
- Team Ben Hammond
- Pilgrims Hospice Summer Fair
- Canterbury City Council Plant Competition
- Pilgrims Hospice Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme
- Folkestone Leas Cliffe Theatre & The Sinden Theatre (Tenterden Panto)
- Gardening societies; Elham, Beltinge, Tenterden & District Horticultural Society
- Flower Shows; Appledore, St Mildred's
- Tenterden District Horticultural Society

SDG Contributions

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interrelated goals set by the United Nations. They cover a broad range of social and economic development issues.

Grovewell Garden Centres has made measurable contributions to several SDGs, addressing 14 targets across 7 goals (shown by the bottom 7 SDG blocks). Grovewell also has the potential to contribute to Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (9) and Life Below Water (14), according to Planet Mark.

This reflects Grovewell’s commitment to contributing to sustainability on all scales and aligning with global collaborative initiatives.



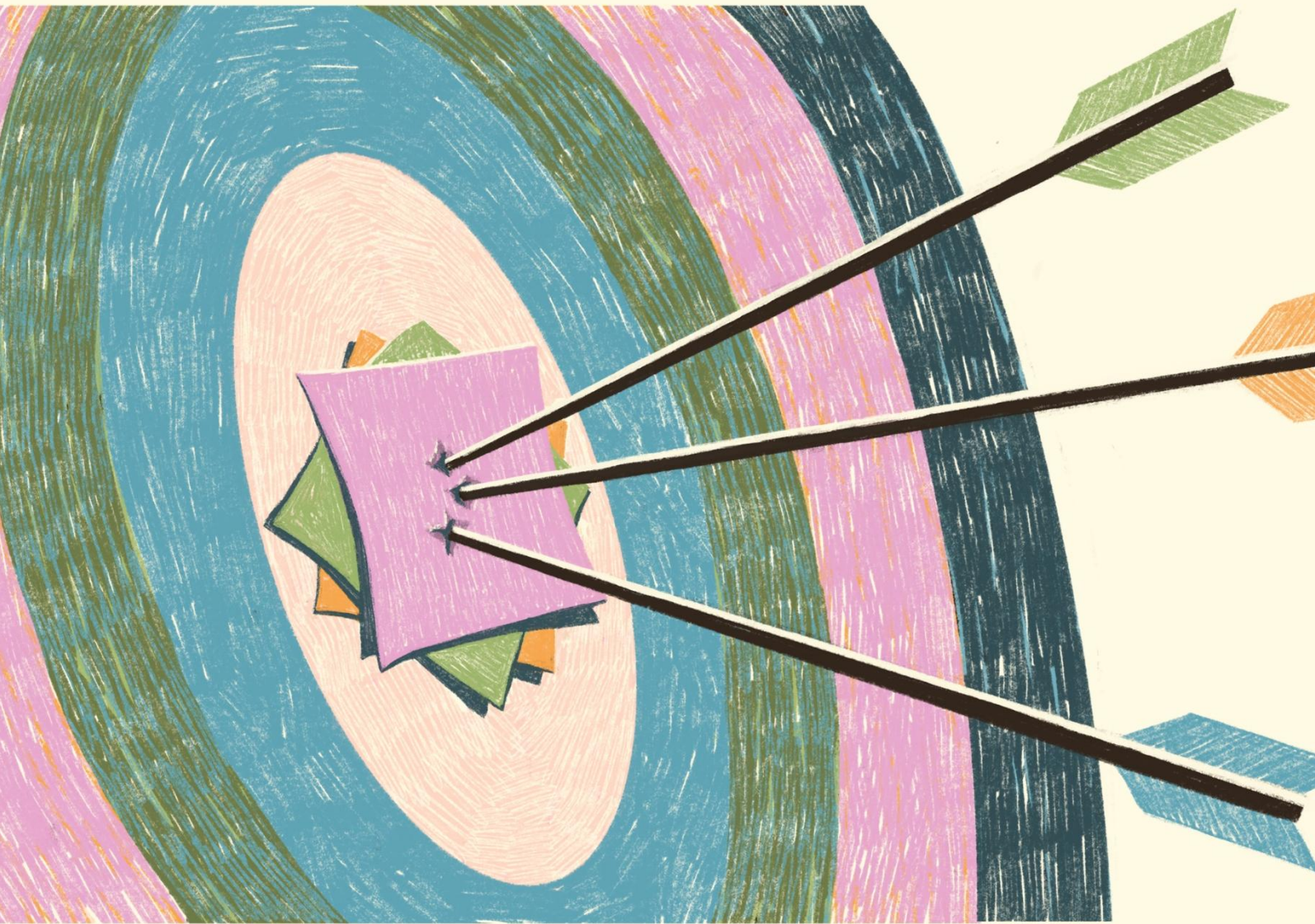


Governance

Grovewell Garden Centres is committed to ethical business practices and fair governance. Key aspects of our governance framework include:

- **Membership with GCA:** Active member of the Garden Centre Association, adhering to their set standards.
- **Mandator Training:** All employees are required to complete comprehensive training on company handbooks, safety protocols, and specific policies related to floor work.
- **Comprehensive Policies:** Grovewell's policies cover a wide range of topics, including data protection, corruption, safeguarding, anti-slavery and human trafficking.
- **Employee Handbook:** The handbook provides detailed information about company rules, policies, and procedures.
- **Data Protection:** Committed to complying with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and have implemented appropriate policies and procedures.
- **Equal Opportunities:** Committed to providing equal opportunities for all employees and prohibiting discrimination in the workplace.
- **Social Media:** Clear guidelines are established for employee use of social media to protect the company's reputation.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** We ensure compliance with all relevant national standards and regulations, and stay updated on new policies, training and legislation within, between and beyond our centres to maintain a high level of governance.

By adhering to these governance principles, Grovewell aims to create a positive and ethical work environment for our employees and contribute to the sustainability of our business.

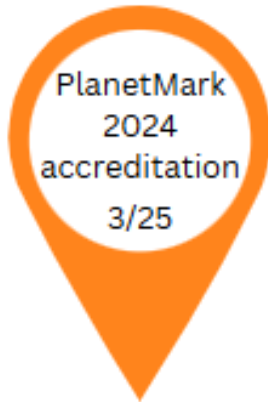


Future Steps

	Current	Target	Aspiration
Renewable energy sources	<p>Mix of self-generating, gas and electric (non-renewable fuel mix).</p> <p>Hamstreet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gas <p>Canterbury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30kWp PV solar panel system - Gas <p>Tenterden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electric (non-renewable fuel mix) <p>Folkestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gas - Electric supplementation <p>Continue to track and record the efficiency of electric generation systems annually.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By June 2025 Grovewell aims to have an operating 22kKWh PV solar panel system at Hamstreet to supplement the increased energy demand. - Electric charging ports <p>Green designated bays for electric charging at Hamstreet centre by March 2025 and Tenterden by the end of 2025.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For all electricity supply across all centres to meet the UK average fuel mix or transition to fully renewable.
Vehicle fleet	Universal diesel powered van fleet.	No current plan to transition.	For replace our fleet with hybrid / electric vehicles
Water efficiency	<p>Rainwater harvesting tanks at each site</p> <p>Canterbury – 2</p> <p>Folkestone – 1</p> <p>Tenterden – 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By the end of 2025 all toilets across all centres will have an ecoprod waterless urimat. - By January 2025 Hamstreet will have 2 rainwater harvesting tanks. 	Further rainwater harvesting tanks to be implemented at Tenterden and Folkestone in line with the remainder of the business
Electric efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current gradual transition to LEDs across all centres. - Monthly manual meter recordings for personal records of resource consumption to avoid estimations for records and carbon footprinting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By the end of 2025 all centres to have universal LED lighting installed. - Energy audit of each centre to be carried out in 2025. - By 2025 we aim to have a sustainable approach to battery waste either through recharging or recycling centres. 	For all energy audits of buildings to meet or exceed a ‘good’ grade across all centres.

Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduced organic chemical range to encourage customers to transition their product choice and reduce contribution to the presence of synthetic chemicals in the environment. - Implemented a biodiversity metric to enable quantifiable and comparative analysis of Grovewell's biodiversity impact and progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce our biodiversity metric year-on-year, reviewing each December. - By the end of 2025 create and organise nature walks, wildflower meadows and seeds to encourage both environmental stewardship of customers, better wellbeing and a new visiting experience. 	
Local sourcing	More than 90% of our plants are sourced from the UK.	No current plans in place.	To introduce a local farm shop range at each centre to support local, individually owned businesses to support community outreach to surrounding areas and reduce import-related carbon footprint.
Charity and donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raised and donated a total of £2,927 for the local community and environmental charities. - Aim to increase total charitable donations year-on-year. 	Raise school engagements and environmental stewardship initiatives for 2025.	<p>Lead, inspire and empower staff to participate in, team up and fundraise for various causes in charity events.</p> <p>Also, due to our older demographic, create more targeted initiatives such as befriending schemes.</p>
Environmental Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published Grovewell's first public ESG (environmental, social and governance) report. - Recruited sustainability champions at each centre for individual feedback and implementation of sustainable strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have monthly meetings with sustainability champions to hear feedback at each centre and engage customers with new changes to improve both individual and environmental wellbeing. - 2024-25 track all Work From Home commuting miles saved and Carpooling efforts. 	To install water refill stations and adopt a reusable cup scheme to reduce water consumption, and single-use packaging and encourage environmental responsibility to customers across all centres.

Timeline Going Forward



Glossary

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)	A naturally occurring gas, CO ₂ is also a by-product of burning fossil fuels , biomass, of land-use changes (LUC) and of industrial processes. It is the principal and reference GHG against which other GHGs are measured.
Carbon Footprint	A measure representing the total amount of CO ₂ and other equivalent GHGs that are associated with and individual, product, person or country.
Circular Economy	A business model that aims to minimise waste and promote a sustainable use of natural resources, through smarter product design, longer use, recycling and regenerate nature (in contrast to the common linear economy model).
Corporate Social Responsibility	(CSR) An ethical ideal that a business has a responsibility to the society that exists around it.
Fossil Fuels	Coal, oil and gas, non-renewable resources that when burned, produce energy and release GHG emissions.
GHG	Greenhouse gas
LED	Stands for a light-emitting diode, a semiconductor device that emits light commonly used due to their high energy efficiency.
Market-based method	Introduced in 2015, the market-based method allows companies to reflect the emission from their electricity use that they have specifically chosen to procure or generate on-site (different to average emissions generated by the local grid).
Neonicotinoid	A class of neuroactive systemic insecticides derived from the natural toxin nicotine, first discovered in 1990s there are currently 4 generations.
Photovoltaic System	Photovoltaic (PV) materials convert sunlight into electrical energy ranging on almost any scale.
Reporting/organisational boundaries	Refer to which facilities (sites, offices, centres) are to be included for GHG emissions and removals which you have financial or operational control over.
Renewable Energy	Energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed.
Scope 1 emissions	Encompassing direct emissions from company-owned resources.
Scope 2 emissions	All indirect emissions from purchased energy.
Scope 3 emissions	Indirect value chain activities.
Social Value	The net social and environmental benefit an organisation generates to society through its corporate and community activities.
Location-based method	A carbon footprint methodology using the average emissions intensity of grids on which energy consumption occurs (uses a grid-average emission factor data).
t CO₂ e	stands for the carbon dioxide equivalent, the standard common unit for any quantity and type of GHG. The term represents the amount of carbon dioxide which would have the equivalent contribution to global warming.

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