



EARTHCHECK

BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENT REPORT

DESTINATION BENCHMARKING

MUNICIPIO DE GUIMARAES
GUIMARAES, PORTUGAL



REPORT DATE: 6 March 2025

Benchmarking Data Collection Period: 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023

The planet deserves more than half measures

OVERVIEW

This annual assessment of **Município de Guimarães** was undertaken against EarthCheck benchmarking indicators and checklists developed for EarthCheck and listed below. ¹ They have been carefully selected to track performance in key areas of environmental and social performance impact. EarthCheck benchmarking provides an organisation a vehicle for sustainability reporting and is based on the premise of continual improvement. By undertaking a Benchmarking Assessment an organisation meets the requirements of annual benchmarking which includes the collection and submission of benchmarking data to EarthCheck for review and completion of the Benchmarking Assessment Report. ²

Indicator Measure (Benchmark)		
1	Policy	Policy is produced and in place
2	Energy	Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%) ³ Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown by Scope (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Scope 3 Breakdown (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year)
3	Water	Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) Recycled / Captured Water (%) ³
4	Waste	Waste Sent to Landfill (m ³ / Person Year) Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) ³ Waste Sent for Incineration (m ³ / Person Year) ³
5	Sector Specific	Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) Water Samples Passed (%) Habitat Conservation Area (%) Green Space (%) Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%) Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%) Accredited Operations (%)
Lead Agency Performance		
6	Water Savings	Water Savings Rating (Points)
7	Waste Recycling	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
8	Paper	Paper Products Rating (Points)
9	Cleaning	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)

10 Pesticides Pesticide Products Rating (Points)

¹ Refer to the EarthCheck Sector Benchmarking Indicator (SBI) document for more information. For frequently asked questions (FAQs) about benchmarking or specific help, please log on to 'My EarthCheck' and visit your EarthCheck Benchmarking software.

² To meet the requirements stipulated in the EarthCheck Company Standard organisations are required to collect and submit Benchmarking data against each of the Core Benchmarking Indicators by way of annual Benchmarking Assessment, and have in place a repeatable system for accurately recording Benchmarking data including a methodology for calculating the organisation's Activity Measure for each consecutive year.

As a standard policy, all EarthCheck indicators are continuously reviewed, along with the performance levels which operators have to achieve in order to meet the requirements of the Company Standard. This review takes into account "business-as-usual" changes in practices and equipment, and is used to update where appropriate Baseline and Best Practice levels.

³ These indicators are for guidance only and do not affect the overall benchmarking evaluation.

⁴ There may be a slight variation between total figures presented in the energy table and the data summary due to unit selection and data rounding.

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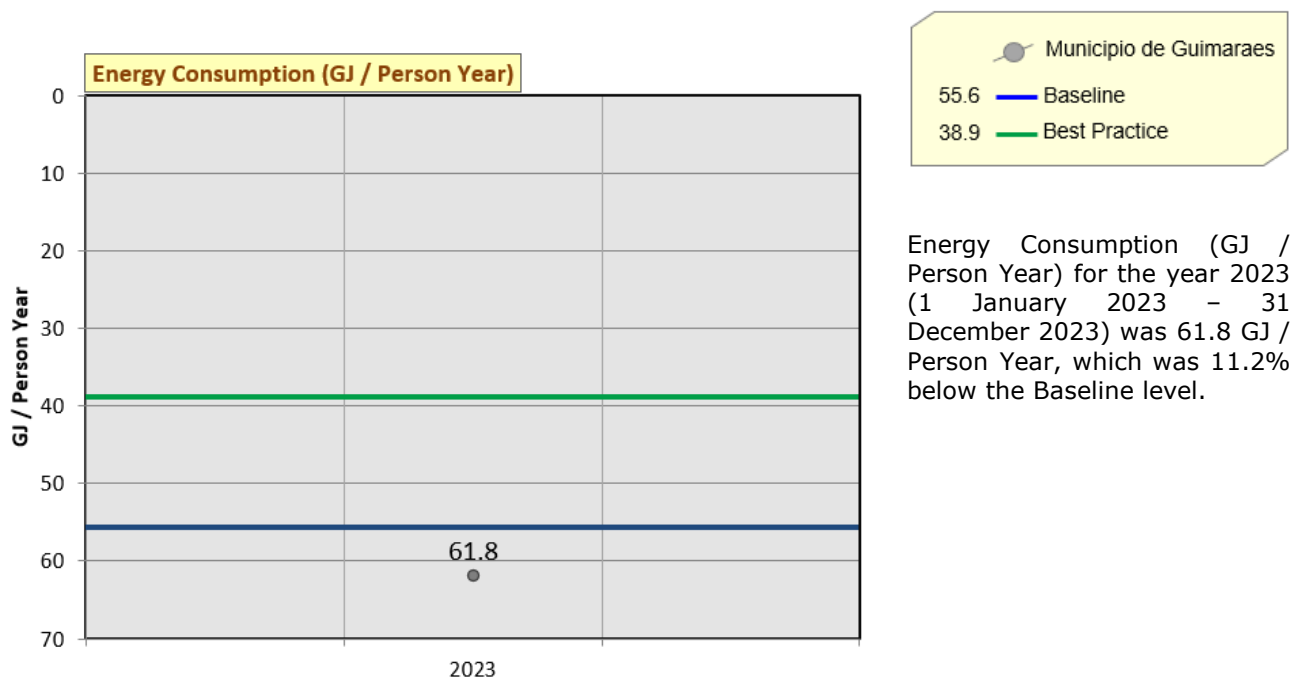
DESTINATION PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

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

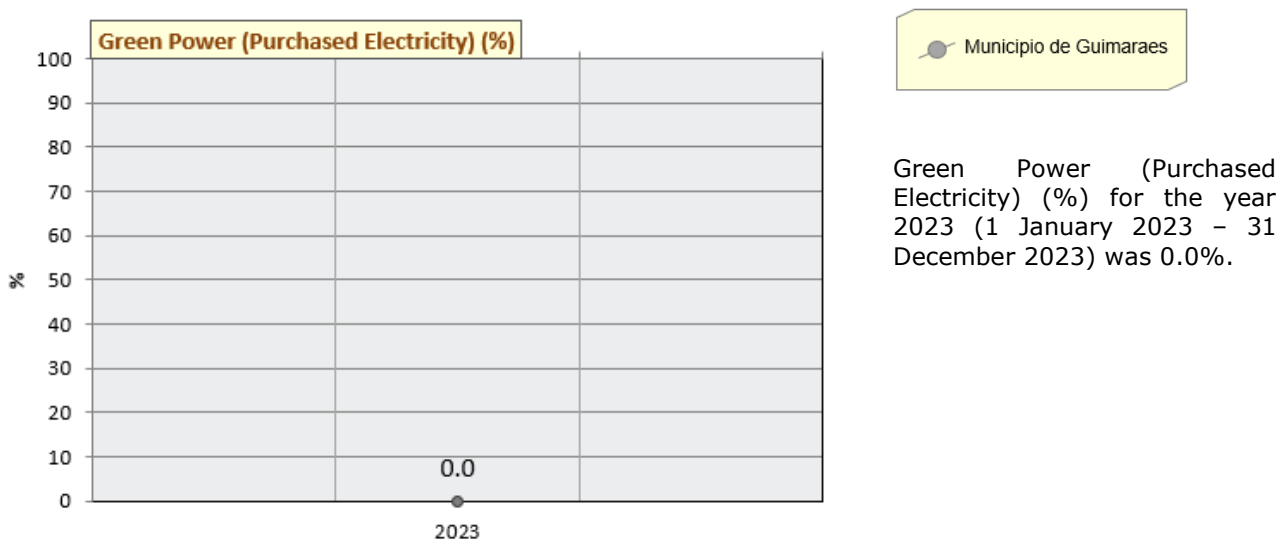
1. Policy ★

2. Energy

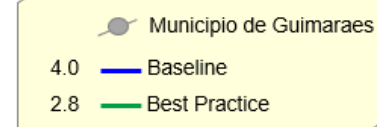
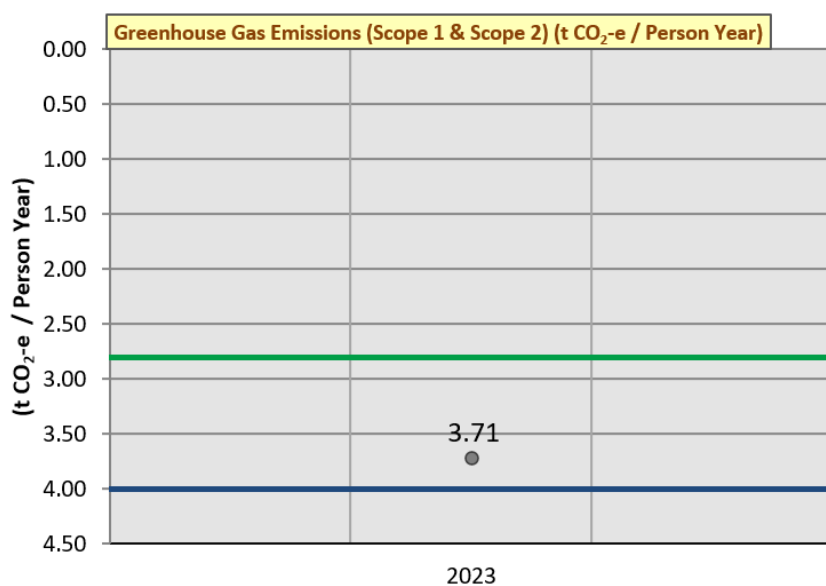
Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) ✖



Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%)

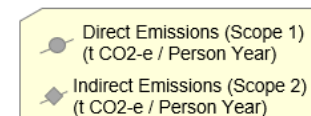
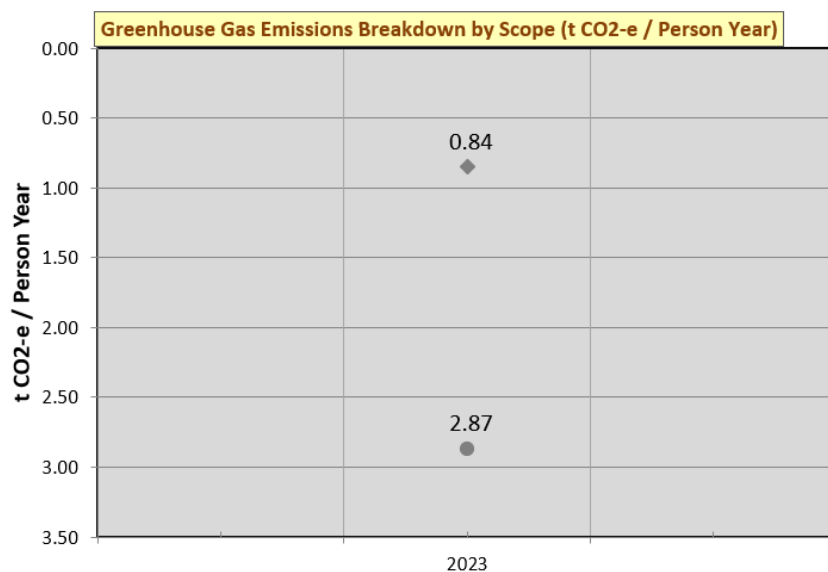


Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) ✓



Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 3.71 t CO₂-e / Person Year, which was 7.2% better than the Baseline level.

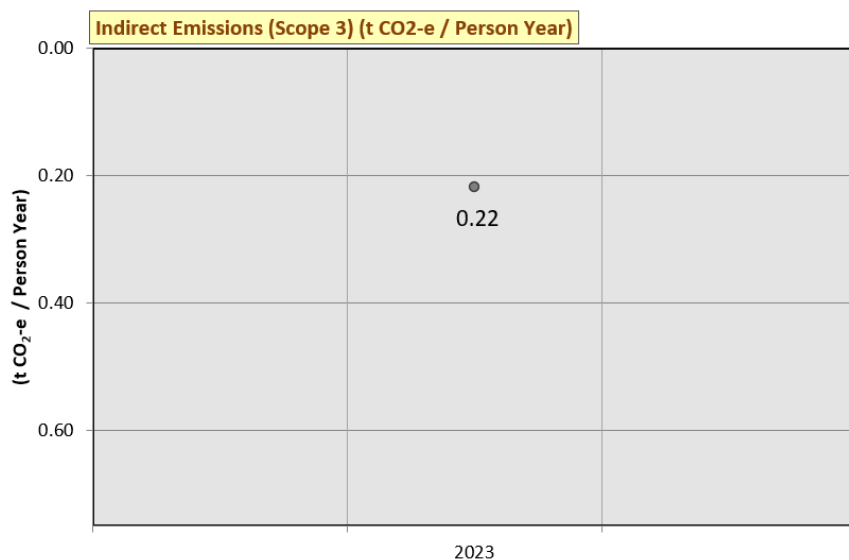
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown by Scope (t CO₂-e / Person Year)



Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 2.87 t CO₂-e / Person Year.

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 0.84 t CO₂-e / Person Year.

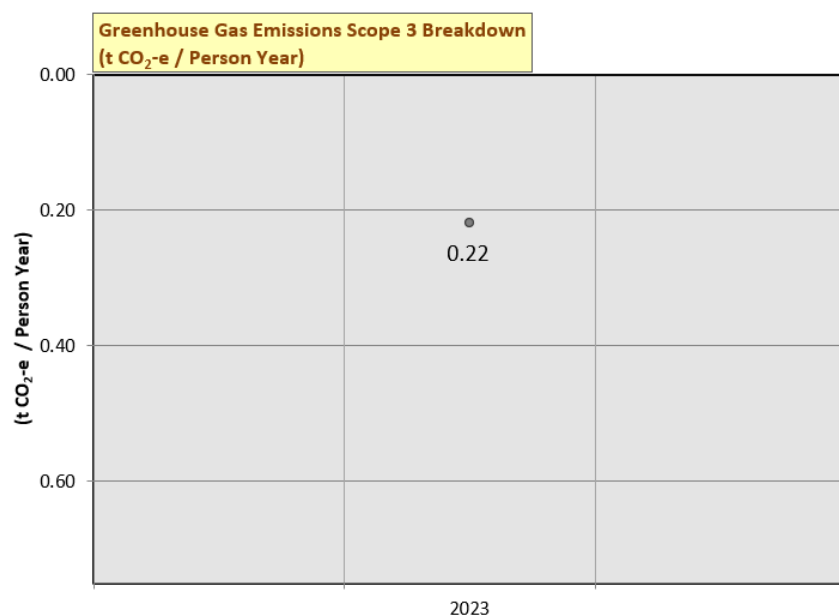
Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)



Município de Guimaraes

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 0.22 t CO₂-e / Person Year.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Scope 3 Breakdown (t CO₂-e / Person Year)



Waste Indirect Emissions
(Scope 3)
(t CO₂-e / Person Year)

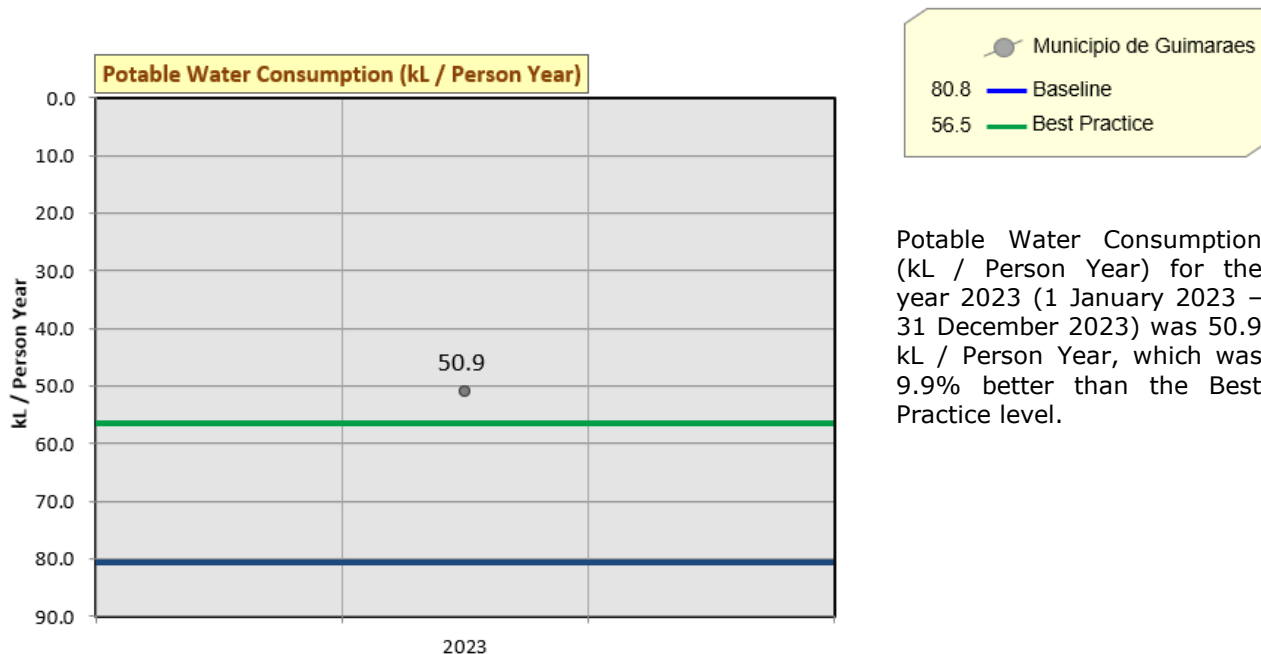
Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 0.22 t CO₂-e / Person Year.

Direct Emissions (Scope 1)							
Onsite Renewable Energy Generation							
2023							
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)
Solar	40,713,363	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	146,568,106.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Stationary Fuel Combustion							
2023							
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)
Natural Gas Liquid - Butane	929	tonne	43,226,370.0	2,497.6	10.8	6.1	2,514.9
Natural Gas Liquid - Propane	2,593	tonne	120,652,290.0	6,971.3	30.2	16.9	7,019.6
Diesel	892	tonne	40,273,800.0	2,835.1	10.9	6.0	2,851.8
Heavy fuel oil	969	tonne	41,104,980.0	3,022.4	11.1	6.2	3,039.7
Naphtha	78	tonne	3,644,940.0	253.8	1.0	0.5	255.3
Natural Gas	61,078,000	cubic meters	2,448,699,480.0	123,634.8	318.3	49.0	124,001.8
subtotal			2,697,601,860.0	139,215.0	382.3	84.7	139,683.1
Mobile Fuel Combustion (road)							
2023							
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)
Diesel	76,366	tonne	3,447,924,900.0	242,716.7	358.6	3,385.9	246,457.7
Motor gasoline	18,905	tonne	879,460,600.0	57,899.3	584.8	1,771.2	60,251.8
LPG	660	tonne	34,339,800.0	1,950.2	53.6	1.6	2,005.4
subtotal			4,361,725,300.0	302,566.1	997.1	5,158.7	308,715.0
Onsite Wastewater Treatment							
2023							
Type	Number of people serviced by system per day		Number of days in use	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)
Septic (BOD Unknown)	10,796		365	0.0	744.8	0.0	744.8
Aerobic (BOD Unknown)	147,968		365	0.0	6,124.5	0.0	6,124.5
subtotal				0.0	6,869.3	0.0	6,869.3
TOTAL				7,205,895,266.8	441,781.1	8,248.7	5,243.4
455,267.4							
Indirect Emissions (Scope 2)							
Purchased Electricity							
2023							
Quantity	Unit	% Green Power	Provider	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)
722,295,083	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	0	Portugal	2,600,262,298.8	132,757.8	288.9	794.5
133,841.3							
TOTAL				2,600,262,298.8	132,757.8	288.9	794.5
133,841.3							
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2)							

GRAND TOTAL				9,806,157,565.6	574,538.9	8,537.6	6,037.9	589,108.7
Indirect Emissions (Scope 3)								
Waste Sent to Landfill								
2023								
Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	CO₂ Emission Estimate (t CO₂-e)	CH₄ Emission Estimate (t CO₂-e)	N₂O Emission Estimate (t CO₂-e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO₂-e)	
28,947	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	0	34,736.4	0	34,736.4	
TOTAL				0.0	34,736.4	0	34,736.4	

3. Water

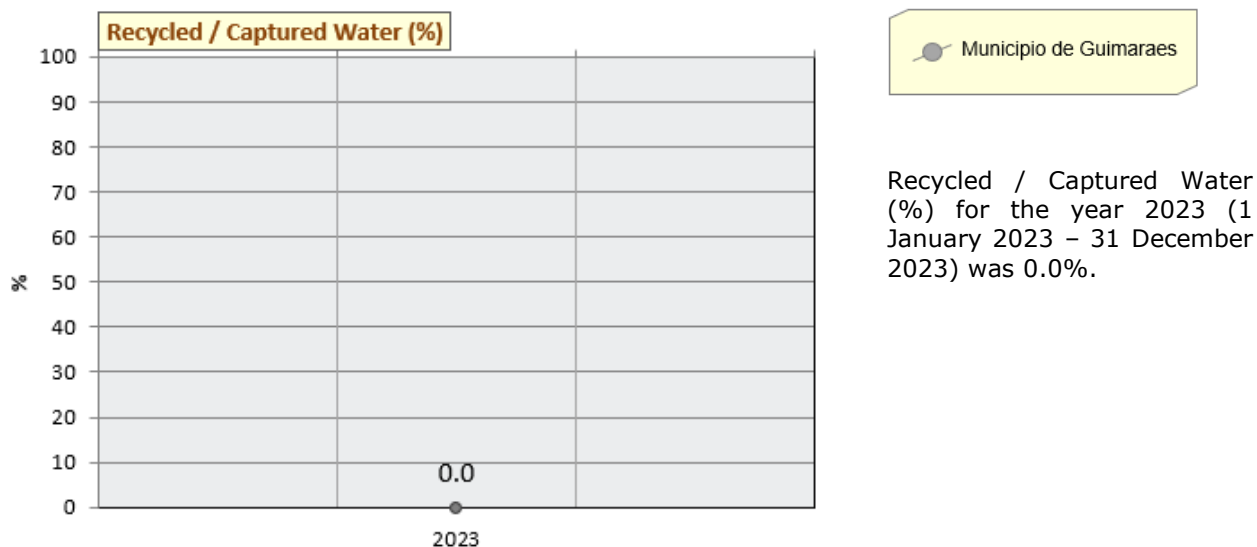
Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) ★



2023

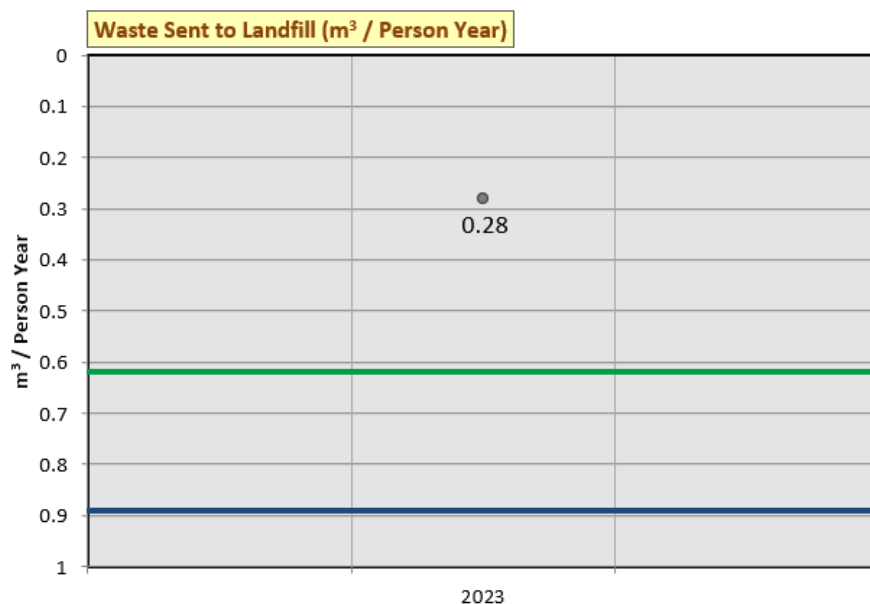
Quantity	Unit	Potable Water Consumption (kL)
8,086,673	kilolitres (kL)	8,086,673.0 kL
	TOTAL	8,086,673.0 kL

Recycled / Captured Water (%)



4. Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year) ★

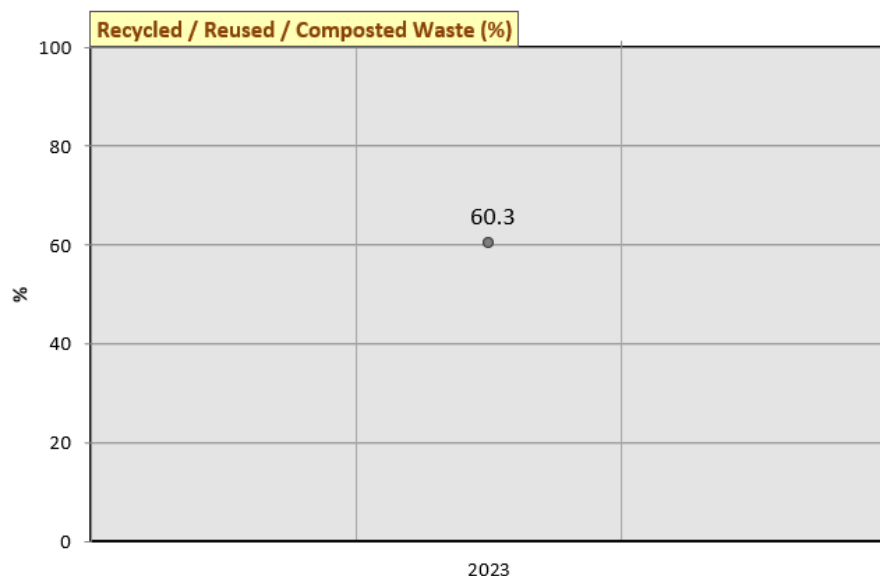


Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 0.28 m³ / Person Year, which was 54.8% better than the Best Practice level.

2023

Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	Waste Sent to Landfill (m ³)
28,947	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	44,533.8 m ³
			TOTAL	44,533.8 m³

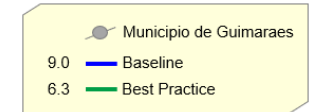
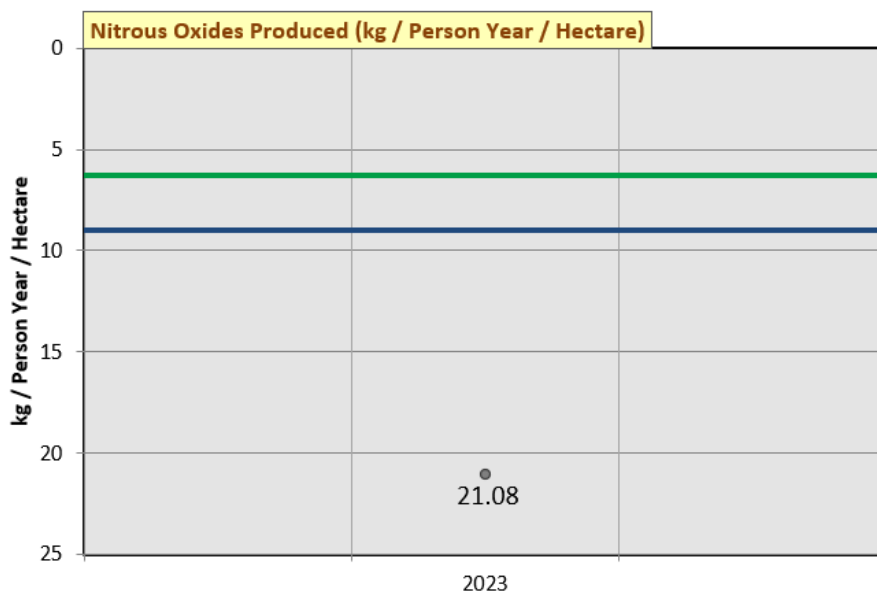
Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)



Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 60.3%.

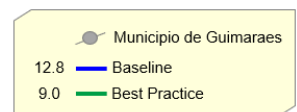
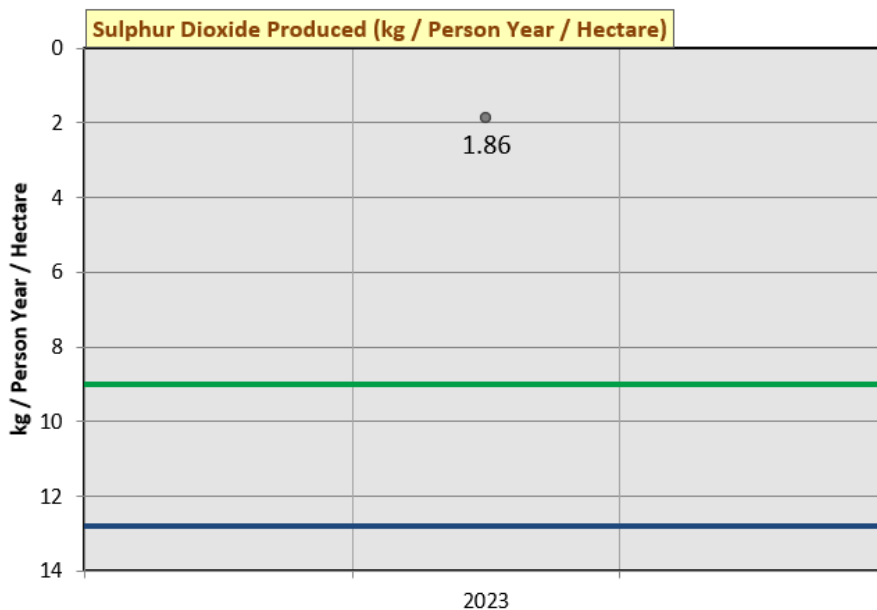
5. Sector Specific

Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ✕



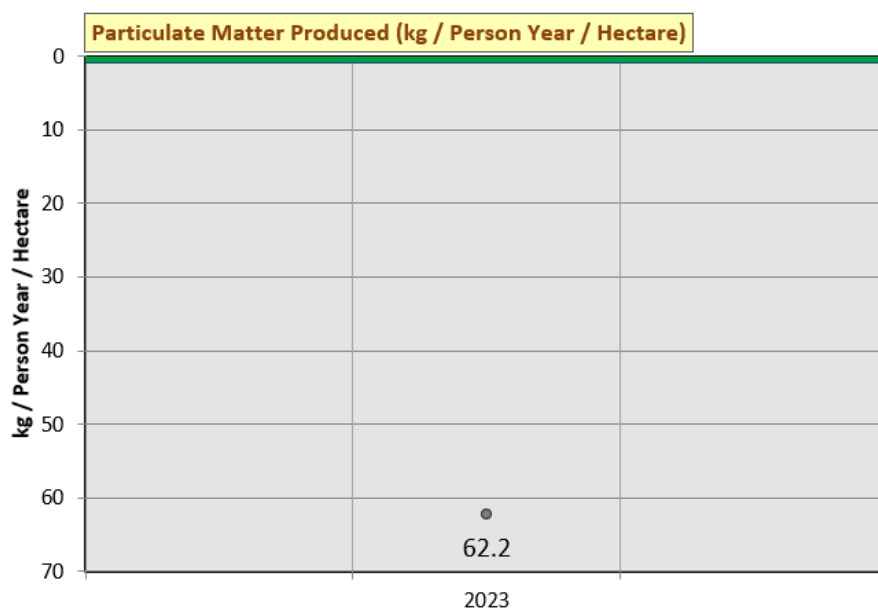
Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 21.08 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 134.3% below the Baseline level.

Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ★



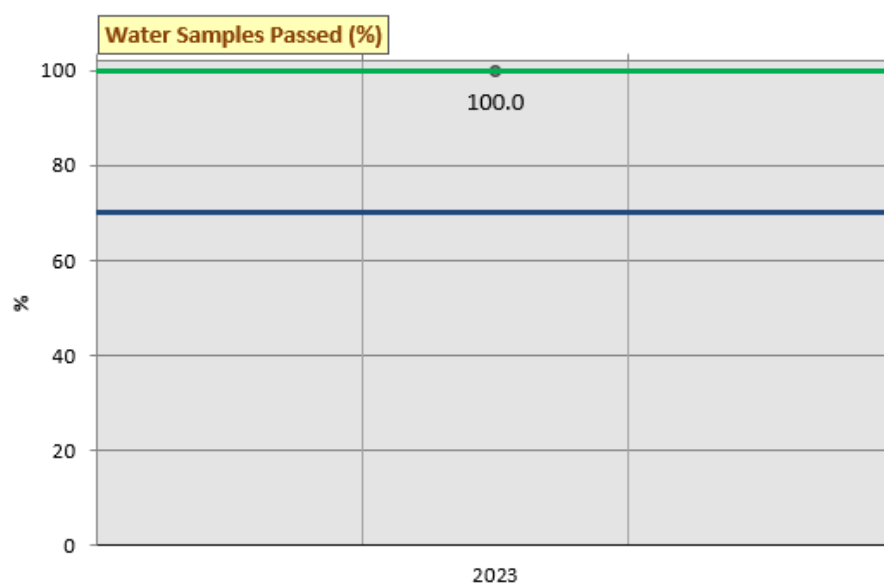
Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 1.86 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 79.3% better than the Best Practice level.

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



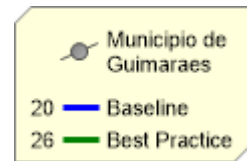
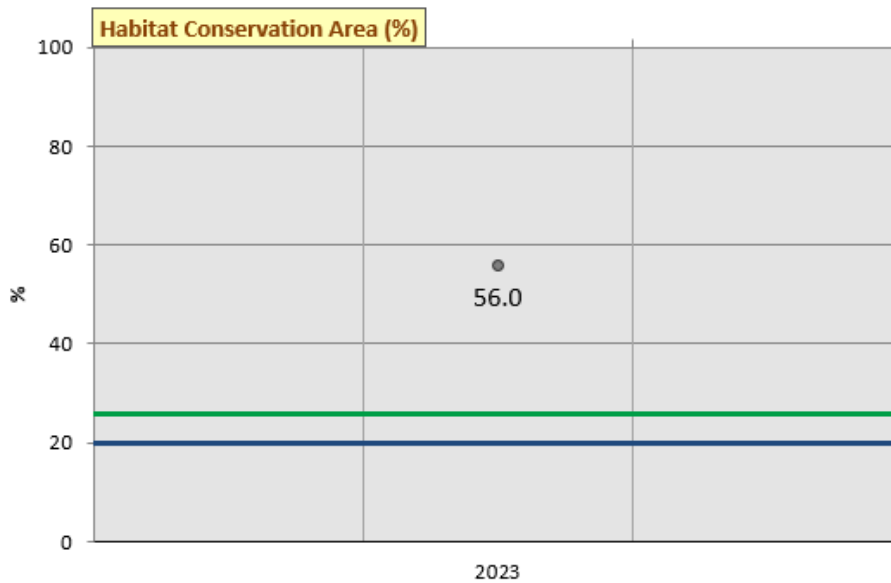
Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 62.2 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 8,791.6% below the Baseline level.

Water Samples Passed (%) ★



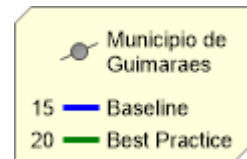
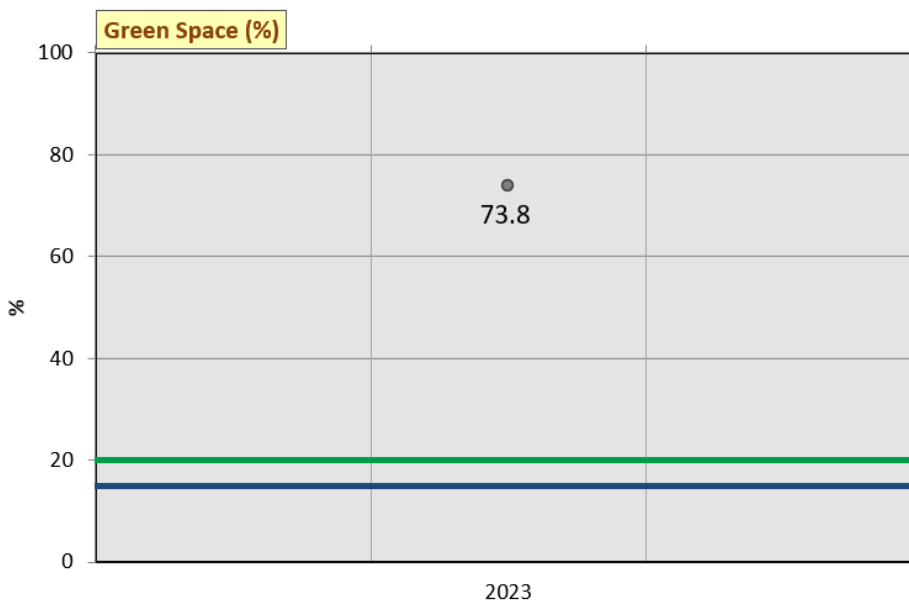
Water Samples Passed (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 100%, which was at the Best Practice level.

Habitat Conservation Area (%) ★



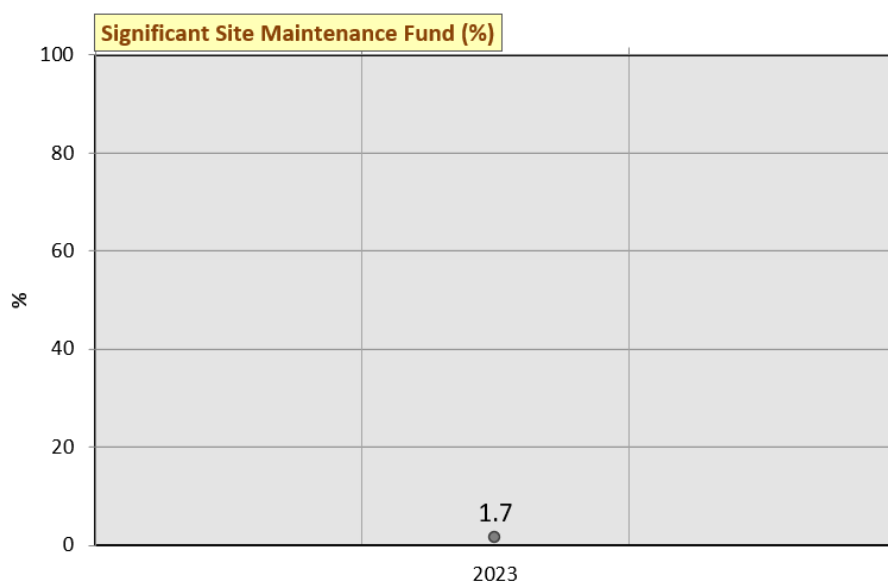
Habitat Conservation Area (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 56.0%, which was 30.0% better than the Best Practice level.

Green Space (%) ★



Green Space (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 73.8%, which was 53.8% better than the Best Practice level.

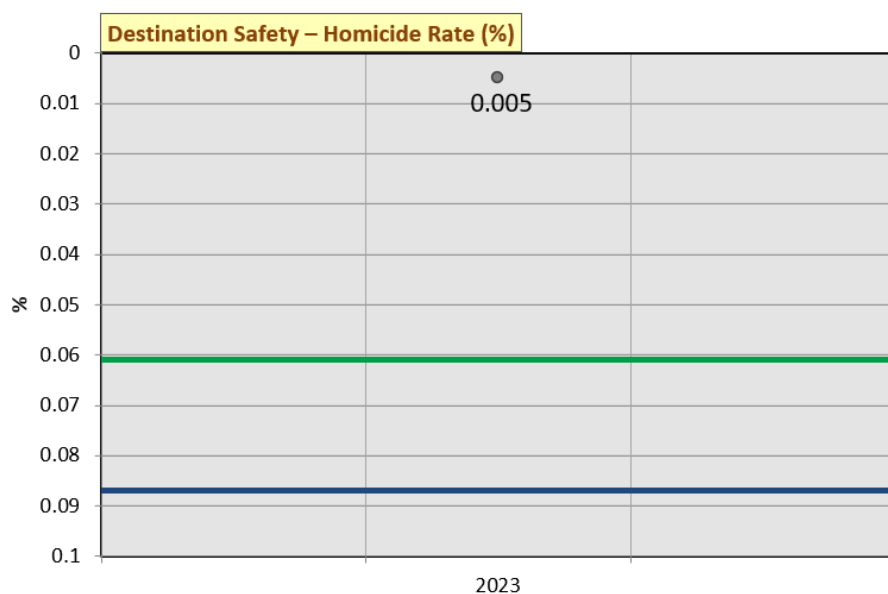
Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%)



Município de Guimarães

Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 1.7%.

Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) ★



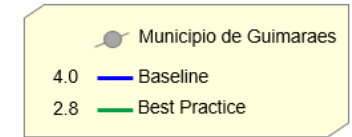
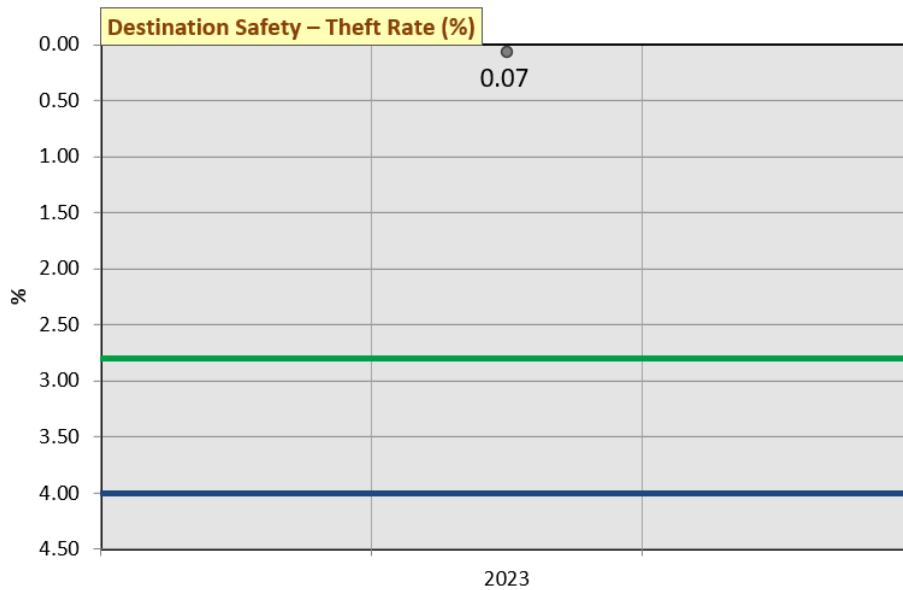
Município de Guimarães

0.087 Baseline

0.061 Best Practice

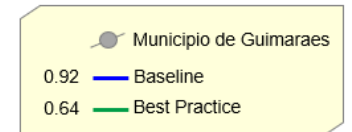
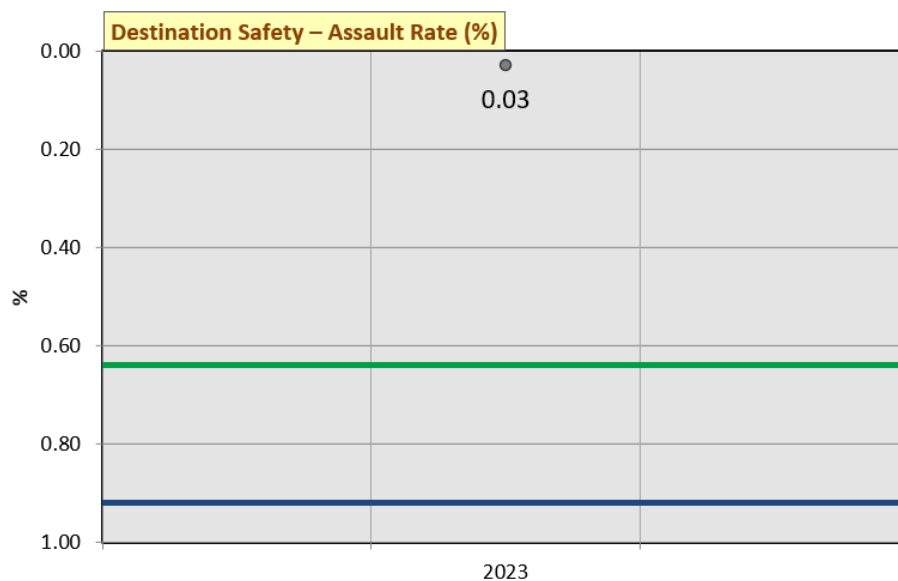
Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 0.005%, which was 0.056% better than the Best Practice level.

Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) ★



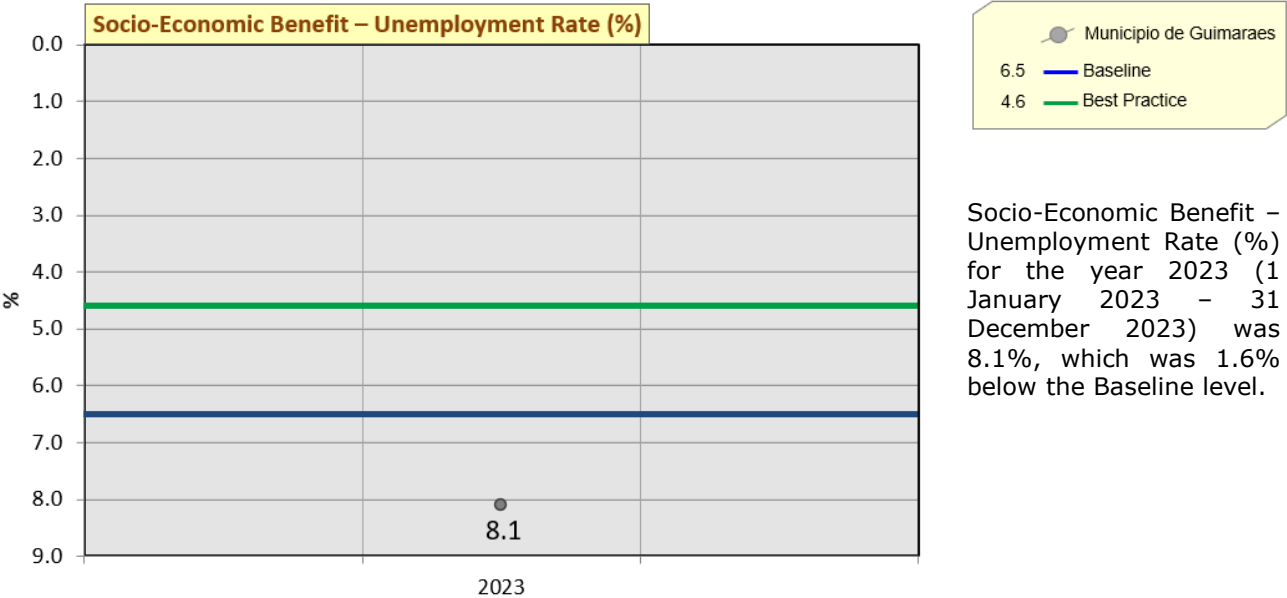
Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 0.07%, which was 2.73% better than the Best Practice level.

Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) ★



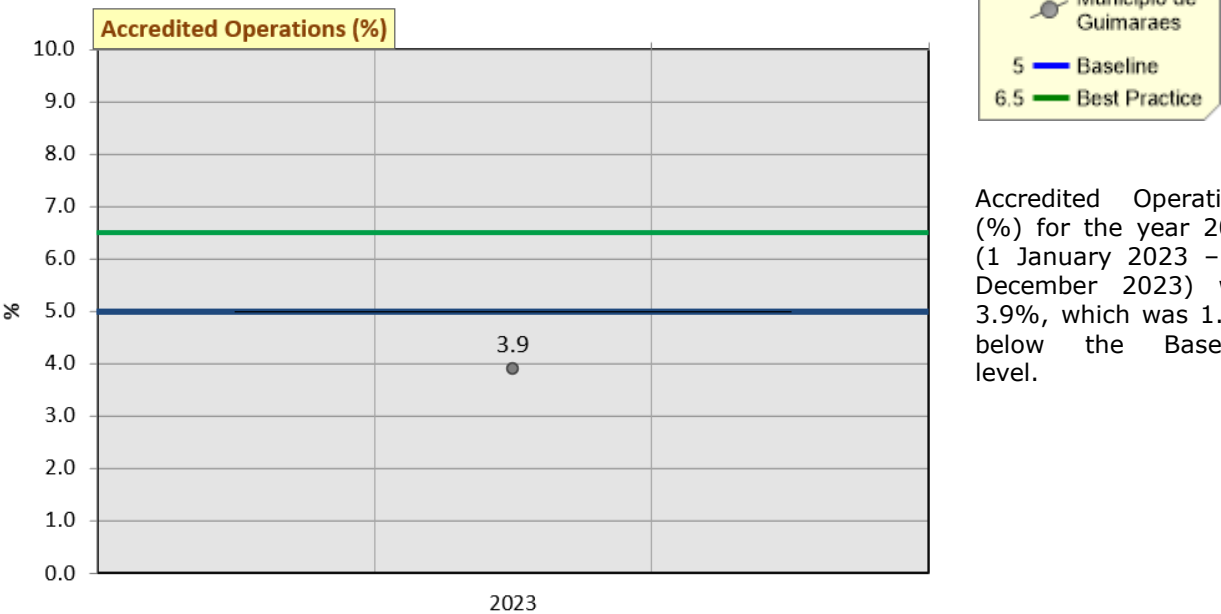
Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 0.03%, which was 0.61% better than the Best Practice level.

Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%) ✖



Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 8.1%, which was 1.6% below the Baseline level.

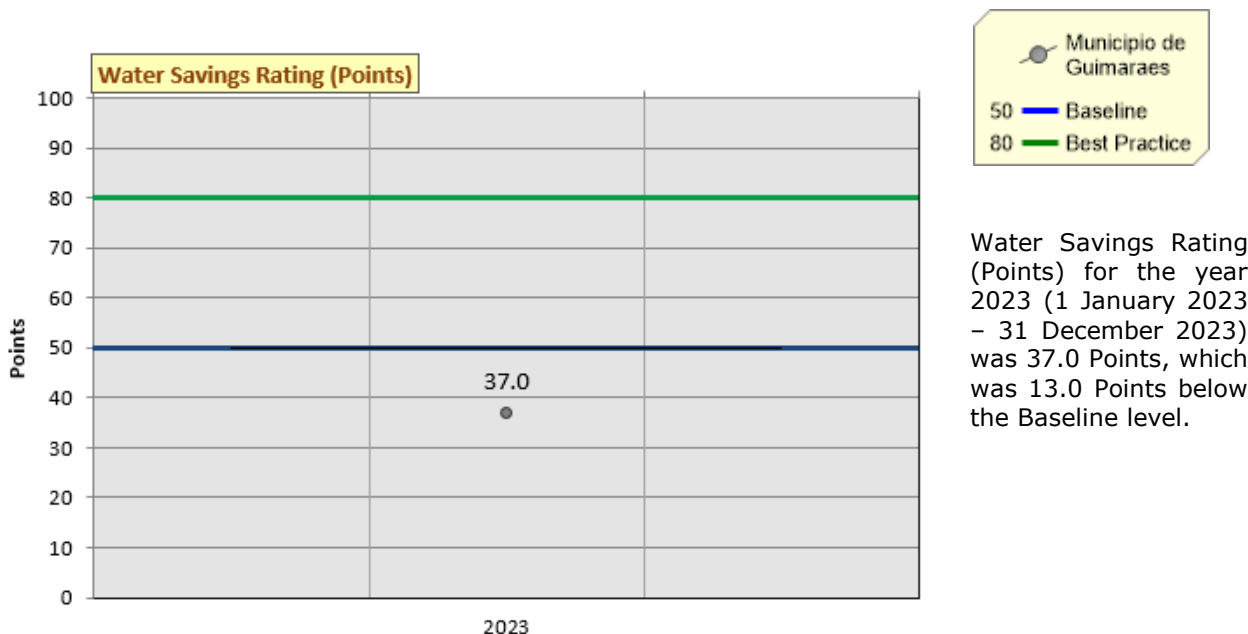
Accredited Operations (%) ✖



Accredited Operations (%) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 3.9%, which was 1.1% below the Baseline level.

6. Water Savings

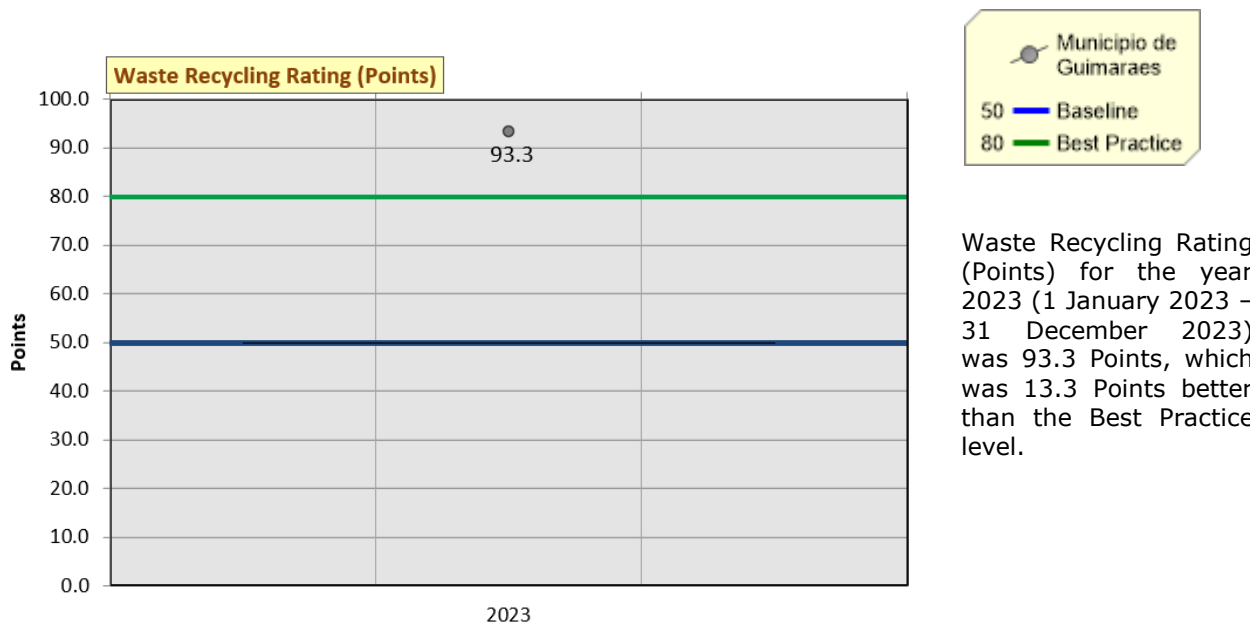
Water Savings Rating (Points) ✕



Water Savings Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Water Savings Rating (Points)
Check for leaks	Every 6 months	58.8 Points
Low/dual flush toilets	0%	0.0 Points
Low flow tap fittings	0%	0.0 Points
Low flow shower fittings	0%	0.0 Points
Water sprinklers used after dark	100%	100.0 Points
Minimal irrigation landscaping	100%	100.0 Points
Use of recycle/grey/rain water	0%	0.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	37.0 Points

7. Waste Recycling

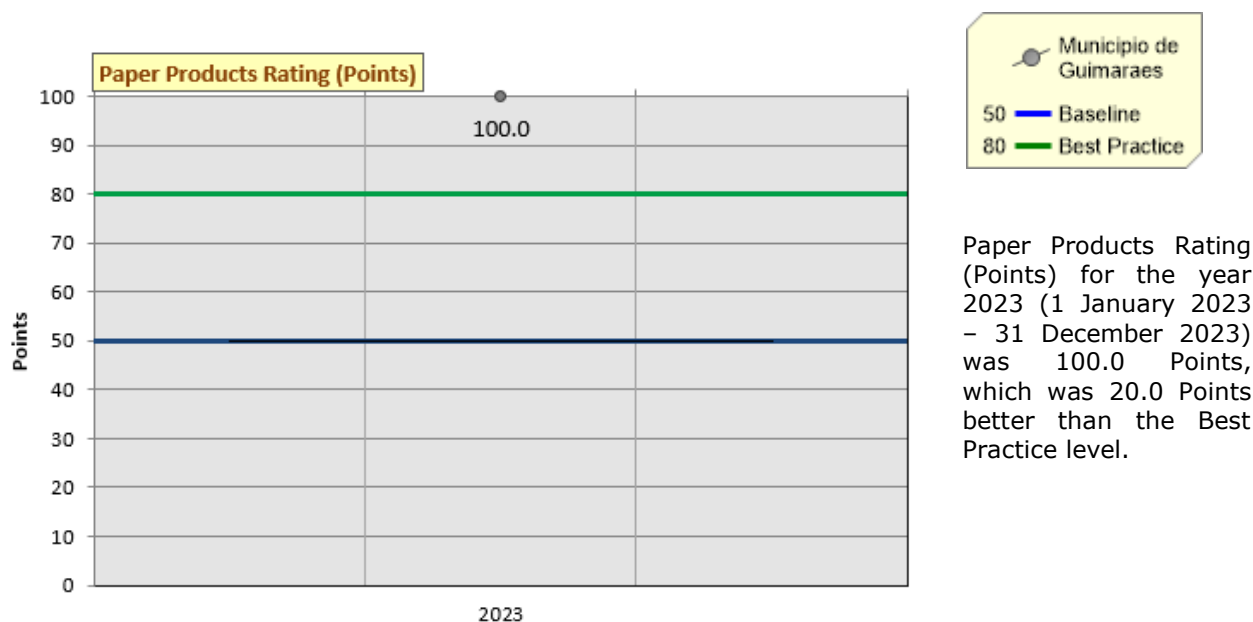
Waste Recycling Rating (Points) ★



Waste Recycling Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
Glass	100%	100.0 Points
Paper/card	80-99%	88.9 Points
Iron & steel (ferrous metals)	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Other metals (non-ferrous)	80-99%	88.9 Points
Plastics	80-99%	88.9 Points
Rubber	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Green waste	100%	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	93.3 Points

8. Paper

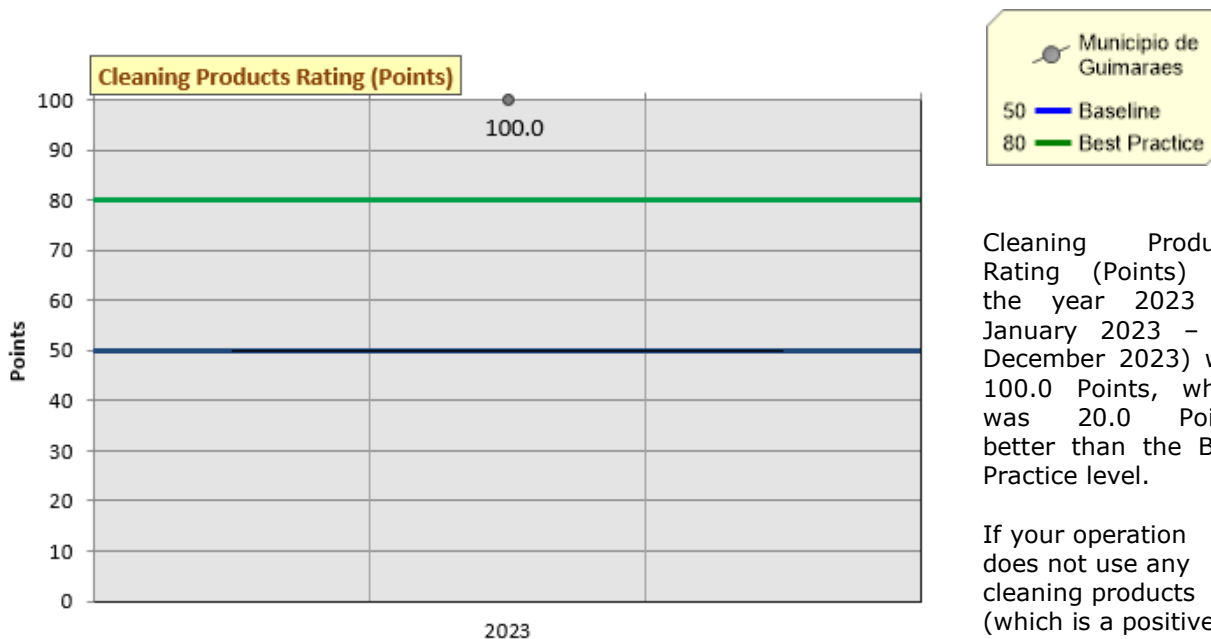
Paper Products Rating (Points) ★



Paper Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Paper Products Rating (Points)
Office paper	100%	100.0 Points
Serviettes	100%	100.0 Points
Tissues	100%	100.0 Points
Toilet tissue	100%	100.0 Points
Paper towels	100%	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

9. Cleaning

Cleaning Products Rating (Points) ★



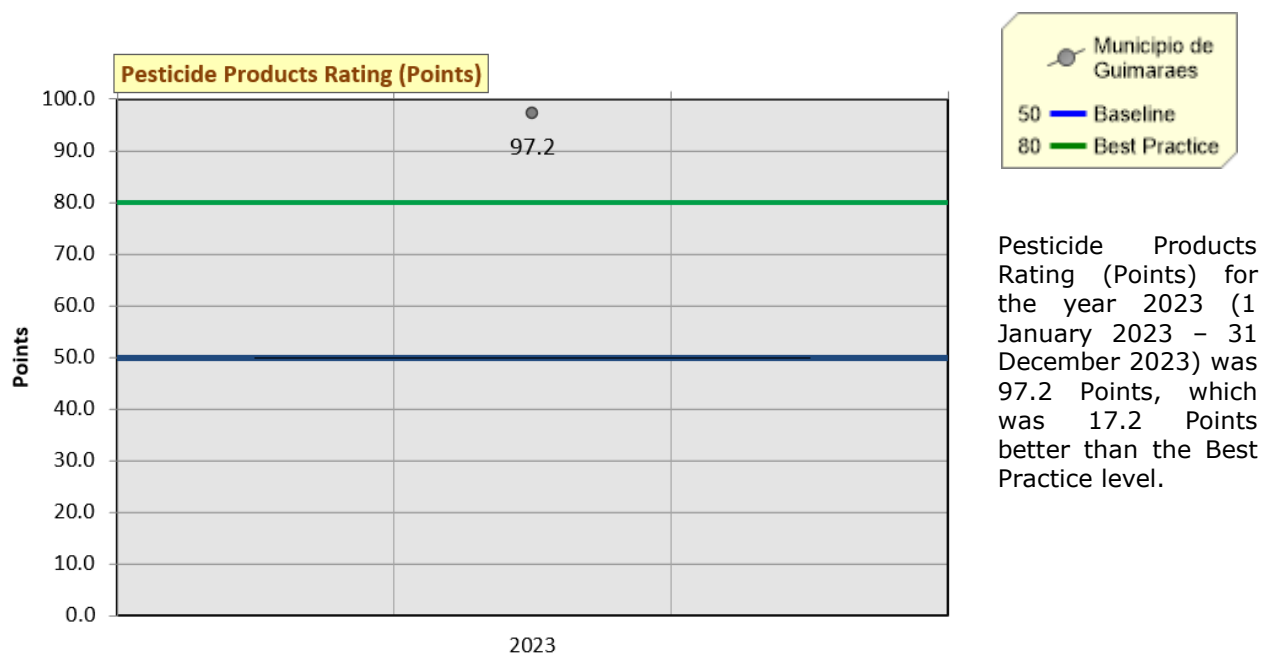
Cleaning Products Rating (Points) for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

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

Cleaning Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)
Hard floor cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
Carpet cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
Interior surface cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
External surface cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
Glass cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
Detergents	100%	100.0 Points
Personal hygiene	100%	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

10. Pesticides

Pesticide Products Rating (Points) ★



Pesticide Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Pesticide Products Rating (Points)
Weed killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Fungal killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Rodent killers	100%	100.0 Points
Insect killers	80-99%	88.9 Points
	Overall Rating:	97.2 Points

The supplied data has been compiled by **Município de Guimarães** in the prescribed manner, authorised by a senior executive of the company and submitted for an annual assessment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Congratulations, **Município de Guimarães** has met the requirements to be recognised as an EarthCheck Benchmarked Destination.

In addition to having a Sustainability Policy in place, 15 of the assessed EarthCheck indicators are at or above the Baseline level.

From the benchmarking data provided, 13 indicators, *Potable Water Consumption, Waste Sent to Landfill, Sulphur Dioxide Produced, Water Samples Passed, Habitat Conservation Area, Green Space, Destination Safety - Homicide Rate, Destination Safety - Theft Rate, Destination Safety - Assault Rate, Waste Recycling Rating, Paper Products Rating, Cleaning Products Rating, and Pesticide Products Rating*, are at or above the Best Practice level, which is an achievement to be very highly commended.

The six indicators that fell below the Baseline level were *Energy Consumption, Nitrous Oxides Produced, Particulate Matter Produced, Socio-Economic Benefit - Unemployment Rate, Accredited Operations, and Water Savings Rating*.

The value for Energy Consumption was 11.2% below the Baseline. **Município de Guimarães** are encouraged to review all its existing energy consumption and demand patterns for both facilities (e.g. use of low wattage, energy saving light fittings and timers to switch-off lights) and vehicles (e.g. reducing the number of journeys).

The values for Nitrous Oxides Produced and Particulate Matter Produced were below the Baseline. **Município de Guimarães** is encouraged to promote the use of public transport within the destination and to investigate opportunities of switching to cleaner and more efficient combustion fuels (e.g. renewables, LPG) and processes.

The value for Accredited Operations was 1.1% below the Baseline level. **Município de Guimarães** is encouraged to promote environmental accreditation to hotels, restaurants and other businesses within the destination.

The value for Water Saving was 13.0 Points below the Baseline level. **Município de Guimarães** are encouraged, therefore, to review current on-site water use and the possibility of increasing on-site recycling and reuse (e.g. using non-hazardous rain water and/or grey water for watering plants and washing exterior surfaces). **Município de Guimarães** are also encouraged to regularly check for possible leaks, and fitting (where appropriate) water saving devices such as low-flow shower heads and dual flush toilet cisterns.

Município de Guimarães is encouraged to continue to make improvements in the above indicator/s and to ensure that any indicator/s below baseline is addressed in the organisation's risk assessment and long term sustainability approach.

Improvements in all the EarthCheck indicators will not only help the environment, but can also help reduce operational costs. Due to the positive commitment that **Município de Guimarães** has demonstrated to the environment, the assessors are confident that they can maintain or improve performance, where appropriate and practical, in all indicators. In particular over the next 12 months, **Município de Guimarães** is encouraged to ensure that Water Savings Rating, Accredited Operations are at Baseline performance or better. In line with EarthCheck

Policy this would enable **Município de Guimarães** to continue to meet the benchmarking requirements of the EarthCheck program.

APPENDIX

STATIONARY FUEL COMBUSTION

Município de Guimaraes requested to add Natural Gas consumption into Stationary Fuel Combustion.

The following information is provided:

“the natural gas consumption in Guimarães in 2023 was 61,078 10³ Nm³. Given the significance of this figure, could you please review this aspect of the report?”

Therefore, the Benchmarking Assessors updated the data as 61,078,000 cubic meters.



EARTHCHECK

Benchmarks Assessed by EarthCheck

SUMMARY OF SUPPLIED BENCHMARKING DATA

Activity Measures

Person Years	158,764
Total Destination Area	24,095

Supplied Benchmarking Data

Energy

Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year)

Supplied	9,806,157.6 GJ
Calculated	61.8 GJ / Person Year
Baseline	55.6 GJ / Person Year
Best Practice	38.9 GJ / Person Year
Difference	11.2% below the Baseline level

Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	589,108.7 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	3.71 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Baseline	4.0 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Best Practice	2.8 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Difference	7.2% better than the Baseline level

Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	455,267.4 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	2.87 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	133,841.30 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	0.84 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	34,736.40 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	0.22 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	34,736.40 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	0.22 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Water

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year)

Supplied	8,086,673.0 kL
Calculated	50.9 kL / Person Year
Baseline	80.75 kL / Person Year
Best Practice	56.53 kL / Person Year
Difference	9.9% better than the Best Practice level

Recycled / Captured Water (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year)

Supplied	44,533.8 m ³
Calculated	0.28 m ³ / Person Year
Baseline	0.89 m ³ / Person Year
Best Practice	0.62 m ³ / Person Year
Difference	54.8% better than the Best Practice level

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)

Supplied	60.3%
Calculated	60.3%

Sector Specific

Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Supplied	2,923,302.86 kg
Calculated	21.08 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	9.0 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Best Practice	6.3 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	134.3% below the Baseline level

Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Supplied	257,828.81 kg
Calculated	1.86 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	12.8 kg / Person Year / Hectare

Best Practice	9.0 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	79.3% better than the Best Practice level

Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Supplied	8,630,265.50 kg
Calculated	62.24 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	0.70 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Best Practice	0.49 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	8,791.6% below the Baseline Level

Water Samples Passed (%)

Supplied	100%
Calculated	100%
Baseline	70 %
Best Practice	100 %
Difference	at the Best Practice level

Habitat Conservation Area (%)

Supplied	56.0%
Calculated	56.0%
Baseline	20 %
Best Practice	26 %
Difference	30.0% better than the Best Practice level

Green Space (%)

Supplied	73.8%
Calculated	73.8%
Baseline	15%
Best Practice	20%
Difference	53.8% better than the Best Practice level

Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%)

Supplied	1.7%
Calculated	1.7%

Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%)

Supplied	0.005%
Calculated	0.005%
Baseline	0.087%
Best Practice	0.061%
Difference	0.056% better than the Best Practice level

Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%)

Supplied	0.07%
Calculated	0.07%
Baseline	4.0%
Best Practice	2.8%
Difference	2.73% better than the Best Practice level

Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%)

Supplied	0.03%
Calculated	0.03%
Baseline	0.92%
Best Practice	0.64%
Difference	0.61% better than the Best Practice level

Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%)

Supplied	8.1%
Calculated	8.1%
Baseline	6.5%
Best Practice	4.6%
Difference	1.6% below the Baseline level

Accredited Operations (%)

Supplied	3.9%
Calculated	3.9%
Baseline	5 %
Best Practice	6.5 %
Difference	1.1% below the Baseline level

Water Savings

Water Savings Rating (Points)

Supplied	37.0 Points
Calculated	37.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	13.0 Points below the Baseline level

Waste Recycling

Waste Recycling Rating (Points)

Supplied	93.3 Points
Calculated	93.3 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	13.3 Points better than the Best Practice level

Paper

Paper Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	100.0 Points
Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

Cleaning

Cleaning Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	100.0 Points
Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

Pesticides

Pesticide Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	97.2 Points
Calculated	97.2 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	17.2 Points better than the Best Practice level

DETERMINATION OF BASELINE AND BEST PRACTICE LEVELS

General

The values for the Baseline and Best Practice levels for each indicator are derived from extensive worldwide research into available and appropriate case studies, industry surveys, engineering design handbooks, energy, water and waste audits, and climatic and geographic conditions.

National and regional data for per capita energy use, greenhouse gas and other emissions, wastes to landfill and water consumption, where available provide background data for normalisation of the expected performance values for per customer or employee, and/or overall performance of an enterprise being benchmarked. They are used to gauge the regional or national situation and environmental performances that an enterprise is based in, and hence what are reasonable levels to expect the enterprise to achieve.

A benchmarking result at, or above, the Baseline level demonstrates to all stakeholders that the enterprise is achieving above average performance. A result below the Baseline level indicates that an enterprise can and should carry out actions that will make beneficial improvements in performance.

Consideration of Climate

A major determinant of energy consumption in some sectors, primarily those centred on buildings such as accommodation, visitor centres and administration offices will be the dominant climatic conditions in which the enterprise is located. In general, to maintain the same level of indoor comfort, enterprises operating in hot or cold climates will consume more energy than those in temperate climates.

Similarly, it is recognised that in certain sectors a major determinant of potable water consumption will be the climate in which an enterprise is located, in particular those with large grounds and/or significant water-based facilities or activities. That is, enterprises located in hot climates are more likely to consume more potable water than equivalent ones located in cooler climates. Factors that are likely to lead to a higher level of potable water consumption, for example in the accommodation sector, include increased evaporation rates of swimming pools, personal bathing and irrigation demands of grounds. In consideration of this factor, Baseline and Best Practice levels can vary in relation to country location.

Waste Sent to Landfill

The benchmark indicator used for Waste Sent to Landfill is given in litres as waste bins are usually calibrated by volume, and it has been found that the majority of operations do not have access to the weight of material disposed of. However, if a weight is supplied, standard factors are used to convert from weight (e.g., kilograms (kg)) to volume (e.g., cubic metres (m³) or litres (L)). These are: 1 kg (uncompacted waste) = 0.00333333 m³ or 3.33333 L and 1 kg (compacted waste) = 0.00153846 m³ or 1.53846 L.

Operations should make note of the level of compaction when submitting data for assessment by EarthCheck.

Review of Performance Levels

The Baseline and Best Practice performance levels for EarthCheck indicators are continuously reviewed and are likely to change over time. This review by a team of international experts, takes into account "business-as-usual" changes in practices, equipment and facilities, as well as regulations and general improvement trends in performance and procedures. This review is used to update the levels of Baseline and Best Practice, and provides useful feedback to the user of the indicators.

The list below summarises the basic generic rules used to determine Baseline and Best Practice levels for EarthCheck indicators.

- If relevant enterprise sector specific case studies are not available for a type of activity in a designated region, then national averages will be used to ascertain the Baseline level. In this case, the Best Practice level will be set at a minimum of 30% better performance than the Baseline.
- If case study or national data are not available for a specific indicator, then the first enterprise that benchmarks will have its results set as 15% better than Baseline (i.e., half way between Baseline and Best Practice).