

Supplier Engagement Survey 2026 Analysis

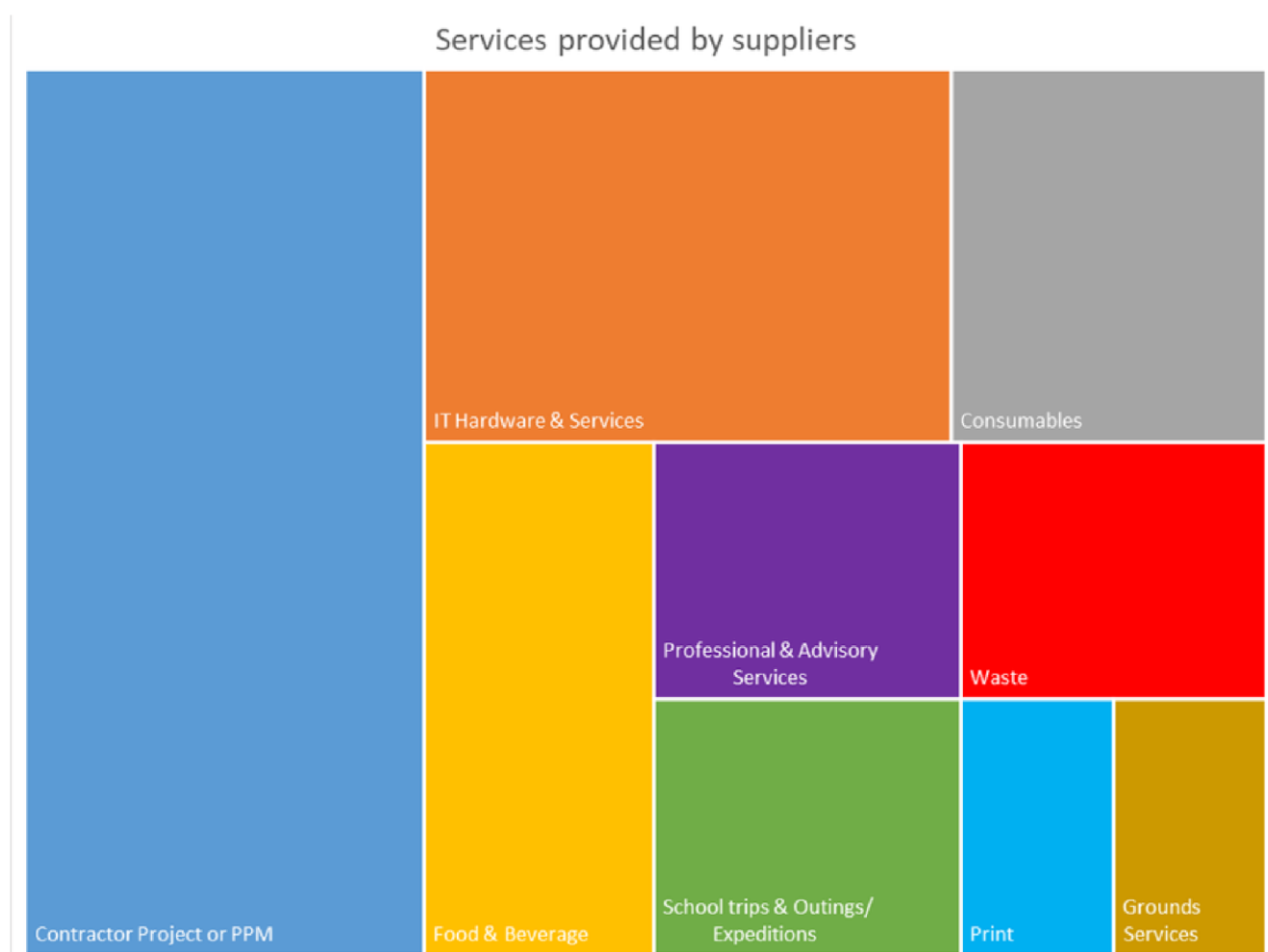
A recent supplier engagement survey was conducted in order to more effectively understand our suppliers' actions related to sustainability.

A survey was sent out via MS Forms to our top 100 suppliers (based on expenditure), receiving a **28%** response rate

This response rate is within the average (25-35%) for an organisations supplier survey response rate, suggesting this figure is within the norm and not anything which should cause concern.

However, the 2022 survey received a 50% response rate, so a significant drop in supplier respondents in 2026.

Our suppliers provide a range of services, shown below:

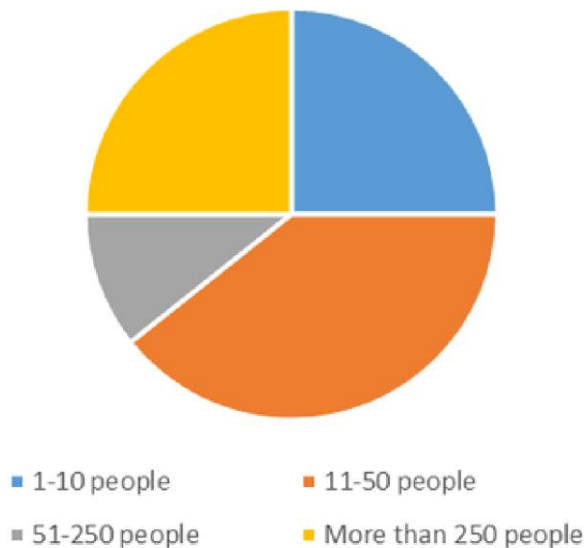


This graph shows that **32%** of our suppliers provide **contractor projects or PPM**. **18%** provide **IT hardware & services**, while both **consumables** and **food & beverage** is **11%** of services provided.

Contractor project or PPM suppliers have remained the highest proportion of respondent suppliers, at **26%** in 2022, compared with **32%** in 2026. IT services has also increased from **14%** in 2022, to **18%** in 2026.

The majority of respondent suppliers are organisations of **11-50 people**, at **39%**.

Size of supplier organisations



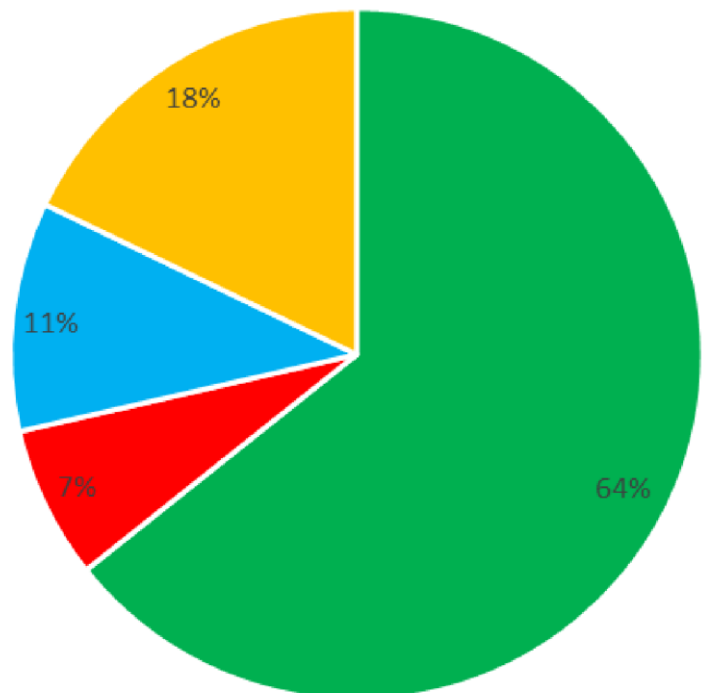
2022 results showed the joint highest company sizes for suppliers were 1-10 people, and 11-50 people, both at **31%**.

2026 data states an **8% increase** in suppliers of more than 250 people, and a **9% decrease** in suppliers of 50-250 people.

Suppliers with a sustainability strategy

Sustainability:

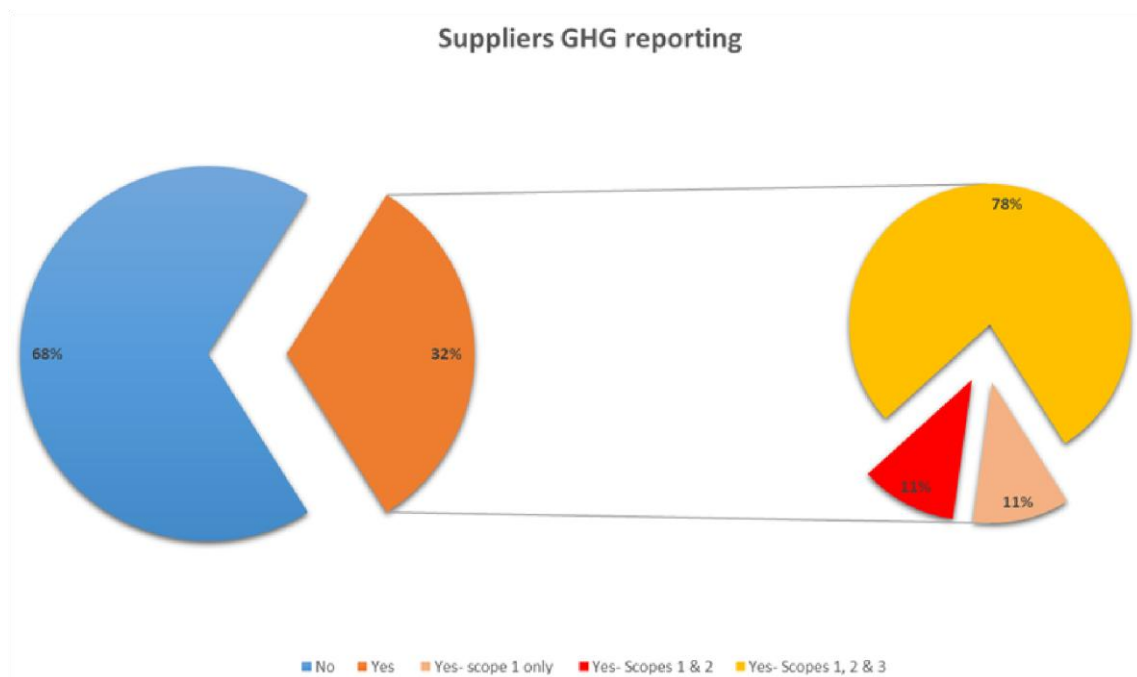
Out of these suppliers, **64%** declared to having a sustainability strategy in place, with a further **18%** planning to do so within the next year. The 2022 survey stated **17%** of suppliers produce an annual ESG report. Although the question was altered for this survey, **64%** of suppliers declared to have a sustainability strategy, and each of those with a strategy provided the link to it. Although not directly comparable, this certainly indicates an improvement in our supplier's sustainability initiatives and ambitions for the future.



■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ Plan to in the next year

However, although 64% of suppliers have a sustainability strategy in place, only **32%** report on their GHG emissions.

Out of the suppliers who report on GHG emissions, **78%** report on scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, with the remaining **22%** evenly split between those reporting scope 1 emissions and scope 1 & 2 emissions.



21% of suppliers currently **offset carbon**- **83%** of those who offset carbon currently have a **net zero plan** in place.

Although there is a **5%** decrease in offsetting carbon in suppliers, there is a noticeable increase in those who have launched a net zero plan.

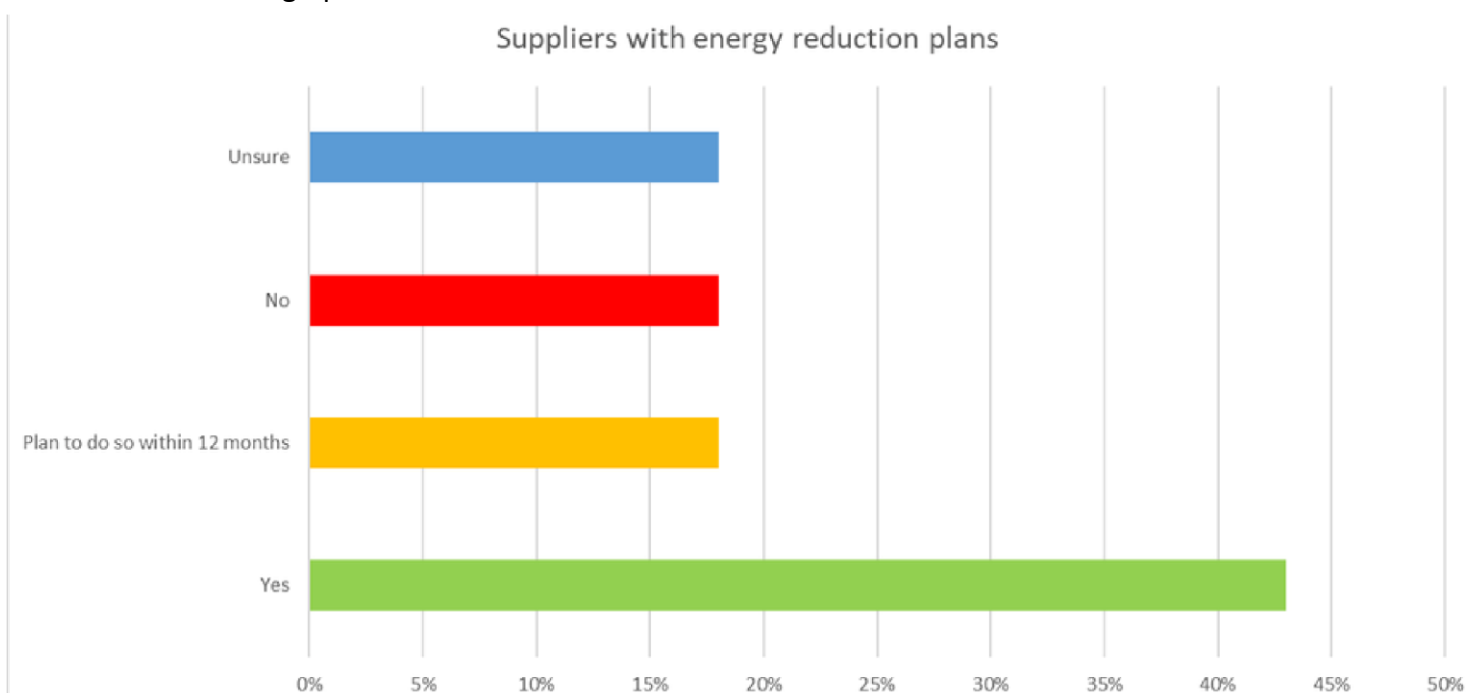
The percentage of suppliers with a net zero plan in 2022 was **17%**, while the 2026 survey noted **25%** of suppliers have launched one, a significant **8%** increase.

When suppliers were asked what **actions**, they were taking in order **to achieve** their **net zero** target, these were the **most common answers**:



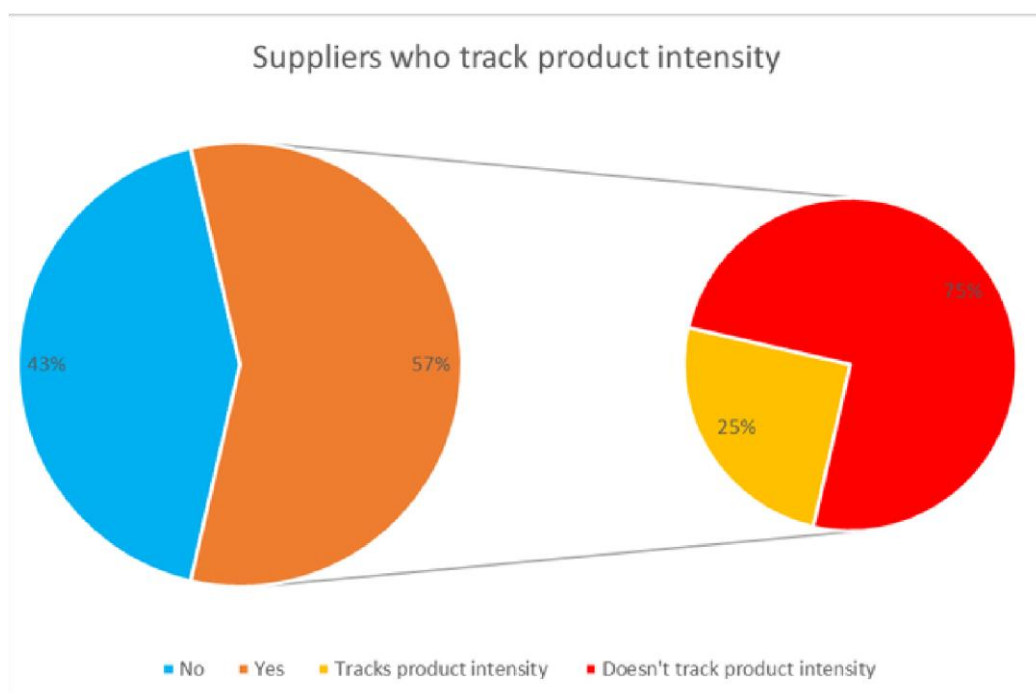
25% of suppliers procure **100%** renewable energy, reflecting their ambition to transition towards a future away from fossil fuels and more stable energy generation.

61% of suppliers have energy reduction plans or plan to do so within the next 12 months, shown in the graph below:

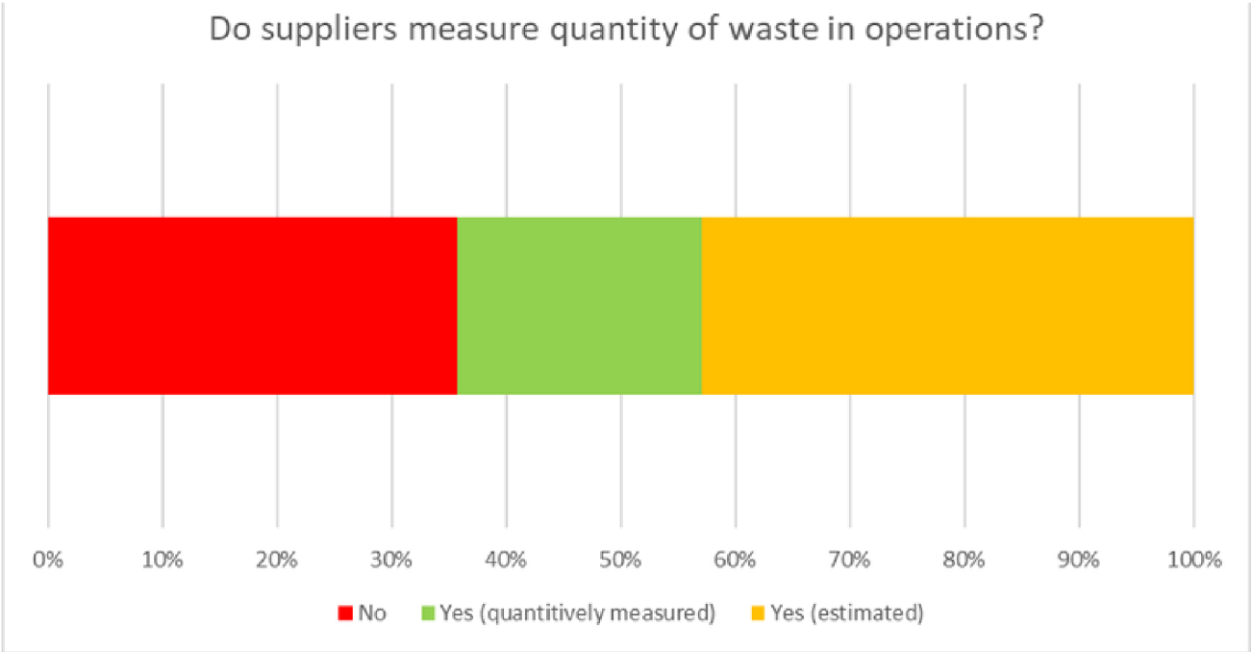


In the 2022 survey, **63%** of suppliers either had energy reduction plans in place or planned to within the next 18 months. Although there was a **2%** decrease in the 2026 survey, the recent survey was more promising. In 2022, **34%** stated to having an energy reduction plan in place, while **43%** have an energy reduction plan in place in 2026, noting an **11% increase** in plan implementation.

57% of suppliers sell products, yet of these suppliers, only **25%** track their product intensity, giving a more accurate, in-depth figure for total emissions.



In terms of waste, it can be a difficult stream to measure, however we found that **64%** of suppliers measure waste in operations, either through estimates or quantitative measurements. For most organisations, waste is typically between 1-5% of the total carbon footprint, however, for some organisations, it can make up to 10% of total emissions.



In 2022, approximately **66%** of suppliers assessed their waste volumes, a slight **2%** decrease in waste monitoring but overall, a similar proportion of suppliers are continuing to measure waste volumes.

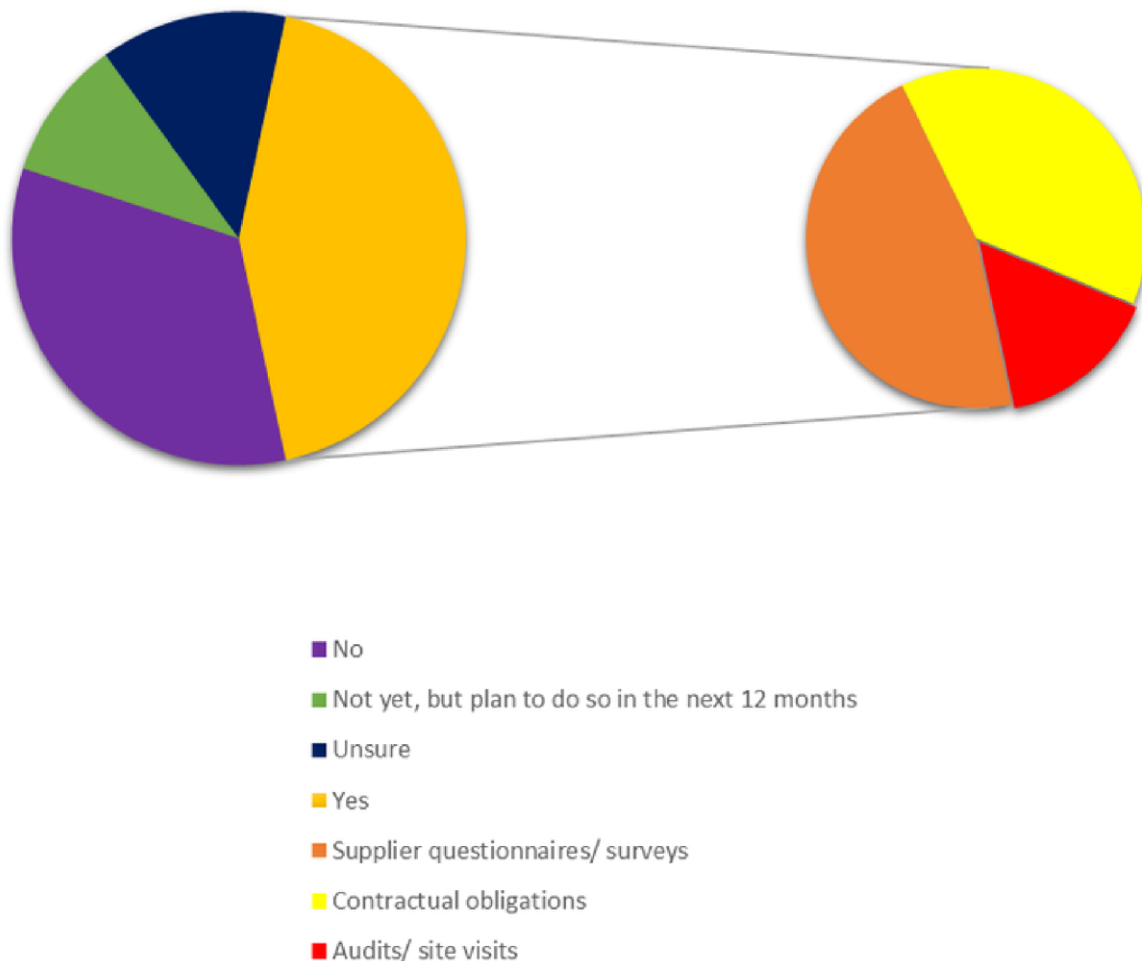
Of these suppliers who measure waste streams, we asked which streams are being tracked. This can be seen in the graph below:



35% of suppliers responded with total waste generated (representing all waste streams), while recycled waste and 'other' represented **18%** each. Although these emissions tend to make up a small proportion of total emissions, accurately tracking waste can help to reduce costs, improve procurement efficiency, and reduce environmental damage (e.g. leaching of chemicals into soils and water bodies).

Understanding other suppliers ESG performance is another important part of an organisations' sustainability performance, to ensure suppliers performance are in line with the organisation's sustainability strategy. Below is a graph to demonstrate those suppliers who vet their own supply chain for ESG compliance.

Suppliers who vet supply chain for ESG compliance

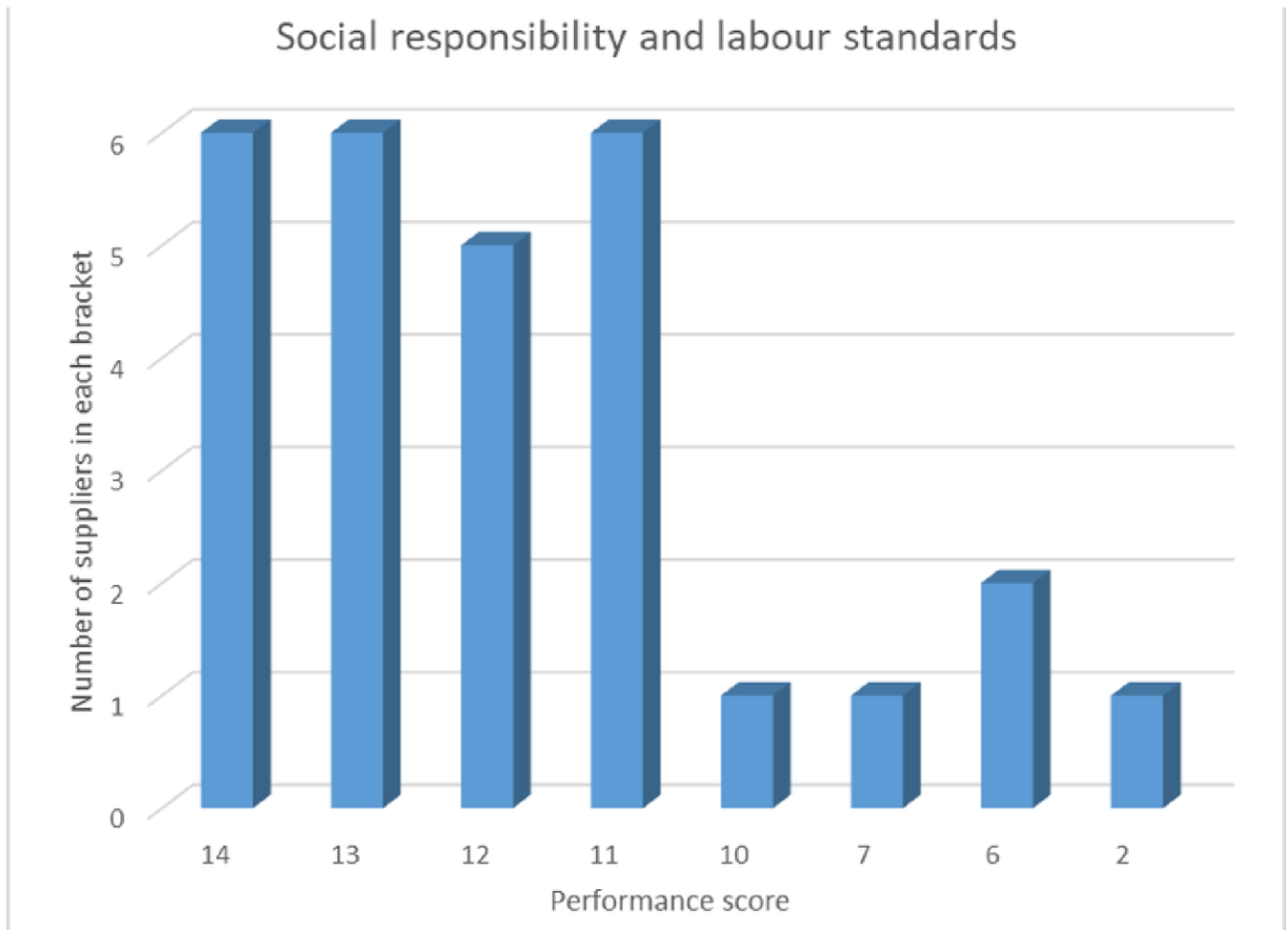


53% of suppliers either currently vet their own supply chain, or plan to do so within the next 12 months. In comparison to the 2022 survey, **66%** of suppliers declared to vet their supply chain or planned to do so within 18 months. There has been a **13%** decrease in suppliers who vet their supply chain or plan to do so.

The **most common method** of those who do vet their own supply chain is through **questionnaires/surveys**, making up **46%** of data collection methods.

Social Responsibility:

Beyond environmental and sustainability policies and actions within our supplies, it is also vital to understand the suppliers' actions around both social responsibility as well as digital security. The graph below categorises the performance of suppliers' social responsibility and labour standards. This score is a sum of performance and actions related to employee inclusion, employee welfare, health & safety management, modern slavery, and governance, ethics and workplace conduct.



The maximum score for this analysis is 14, with **21%** achieving maximum performance across these areas.

82% suppliers surveyed achieved a score between 11 and 14, reflecting a high dedication to social responsibility and labour standards.

14% of surveyed suppliers scored between 2 and 7, indicating room for improvement.

The same analysis was conducted to rank suppliers' performance in digital risk and security management. This analysis ranks suppliers' performance across IT data protection policies, employee awareness training, major data breaches in last 3 years, and technical security controls in place.

IT Security Management



For digital risk and security management, the maximum score achievable is 18, **64%** with of surveyed suppliers achieving a maximum performance score.

100% of suppliers reported no major data breaches within the last 3 years.

11% of surveyed suppliers scored low for this analysis, scoring 1 or 3 on the performance score. This indicates room for development within the policies, employee awareness training and technical security controls in place within these organisations.

Conclusions:

The results of this assessment offer valuable insight into the current state of our suppliers ESG performance, as well as identifying clear opportunities to strengthen performance.

Although there was a 22% drop-in response rate, the 2026 response rate falls within the average for an organisation carrying out a supplier survey. The difference in the response rate may be due to a different method of communication (MS Forms vs direct email).

The organisations who did respond showed a difference in size, most notably an 8% increase in organisations of more than 250 people, as well as an 8% increase of organisations of 11-50 people. This may be a significant reason for the 47% increase in organisations who have implemented a sustainability strategy, as legislations (e.g. SECR) are mandatory for organisations over 250 people. There is also an increase in client pressure and expectation to become more sustainable, which may cause organisations smaller than this (e.g. 11-50 people, 51-250 people) to implement a sustainability strategy.

Although there was a 5% decrease in organisations who offset carbon, an 8% increase in organisations with net zero plans was noted, suggesting organisations are taking more operational action and initiatives to alter their operational activity in order to reduce emissions. This trend continues through actions such as implementing an energy reduction plan (targeting scope 1 & 2 emissions), where an 11% increase from 2022 data was recorded. Scope 1 and 2 emissions typically account for just 5–20% of an organisation's footprint, but are often the most directly controllable, and therefore a practical starting point for decarbonisation.

There were minimal changes in waste measurements (2% decrease in 2026) for surveyed suppliers.

In terms of organisations who vet their supply chain for ESG compliance, there was an 11% decrease in 2026. This reduction in action may reflect a combination of increased understanding of ESG requirements, resource constraints (e.g. economic pressures), and the complexity of assessing indirect suppliers. A change in response rate and the suppliers who respond may also explain this drop in action.

The vast majority of surveyed suppliers (82%) scored highly for social responsibility, between 11 and 14, reflecting a high level of importance for employee inclusion, employee welfare, health & safety management, modern slavery, and governance, ethics and workplace conduct.

Surveyed suppliers also scored highly for digital risk and security management, with 64% of suppliers achieving a maximum performance score.

Security and social responsibility are vital to sustainability, and reflect organisations commitment to the UN SDGs (SDG 5: gender equality, SDG 10: reduced inequalities, and SDG 16: peace and justice). The more organisations can reflect commitment across a variety of the SDGs, it will significantly boost employee wellness, environmental health, and sustainability progress.

The overall performance in organisations sustainability initiatives is promising, with increases in the implementation of sustainability strategies, net zero plans, and energy reduction plans. This reflects an increased importance on the value of sustainability initiatives within organisations, and the desire to put plans into action in order to reduce emissions.

There is room for improvement as only 32% suppliers report on GHG emissions, with the majority of these (78%) reporting on scope 1, 2 and emissions. The more suppliers who can start to report on GHG emissions can then take action and be able to note progress as they put plans in place. However, this figure may well change as more organisations launch their own sustainability strategies, net zero plans, and energy reduction plans.

To conclude, the data noted on the 2026 survey is encouraging as organisations are taking more action to reduce emissions through plan implementation. It will be promising if those who plan to do implement strategies within the next 12 months are able to launch these and start to monitor and reduce their emissions to move towards a net zero future in line with the UK Government target of 2050, or prior to, if achievable.