

The background image shows a band performing on stage. A male singer is in the center, singing into a microphone. To his right, a female musician is visible, possibly playing a keyboard or guitar. The stage is bathed in warm, orange light, with several bright spotlights creating a hazy, atmospheric effect. The overall mood is energetic and vibrant.

SWG3 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2025



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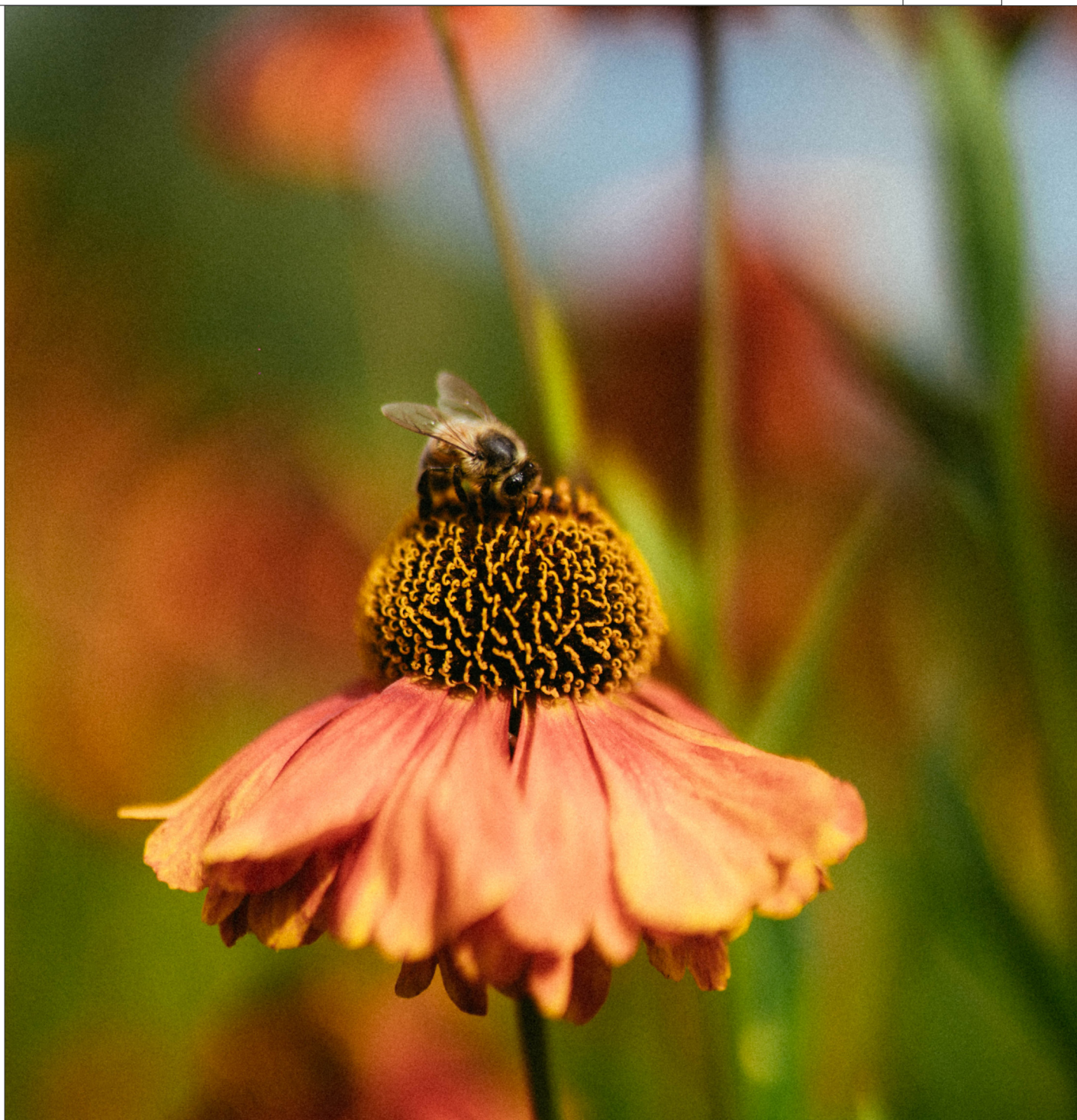
INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is, and always has been, an important value to us here at SWG3 and measuring our environmental impact continues to be of great significance. We have been collecting data since 2018 and are proud of the wealth of information gathered, which allows us to analyse and compare our progress over the years.

This report analyses the environmental impacts that have occurred as a result of our business operations in 2025. It compares year on year data to aims that have been set and explores reasons for change, while simultaneously looking forward to the future to identify opportunities.

We are all aware of the importance of this work – the climate crisis is here and showing no signs of slowing down. We, as a business, must do everything we can to reduce our impact and play our part in becoming more sustainable.

This report is written by **Eilidh McLaughlin** (Sustainability Manager) who oversees and implements SWG3's Sustainability Strategy, with the support of **Bob Javaheri** (Operations Director), **Alison Fullerton** (Executive Director, Clydeside Initiative for Arts) and **Andrew Fleming-Brown** (Managing Director).





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NET ZERO SUCCESS

While our total carbon footprint (Scope 1, 2, and 3) rose by 9% in 2025, reaching 1,050 tCO₂e, we've achieved a milestone worth celebrating: **we met our operational net zero target ahead of schedule.**

In 2021, we committed to becoming operationally net zero by 2025. Last year, we cautiously extend the deadline to 2027 - but those concerns were unfounded.

We successfully reduced our operational (Scope 1 & 2) emissions by 79% compared to 2024 and by an impressive 95% against our baseline period (2018–2020).

To put this into perspective, our operational net zero goal was defined as a 90% reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions from our baseline of **123 tCO₂e**. In 2025, those emissions dropped to just **5.97 tCO₂e** - all while increasing visitor numbers by 18%.

We attribute this progress to several key actions:

- **Reassessing refrigerant emissions calculations** to ensure accuracy;
- **Actively reducing utility usage** as part of a company-wide cost-saving initiative;
- **Hiring a permanent part-time sustainability manager** to drive continuous improvement;
- **Utilising DEFRA's updated GHG conversion factors**, which, as they become more precise, have significantly contributed to the reduction in our footprint.





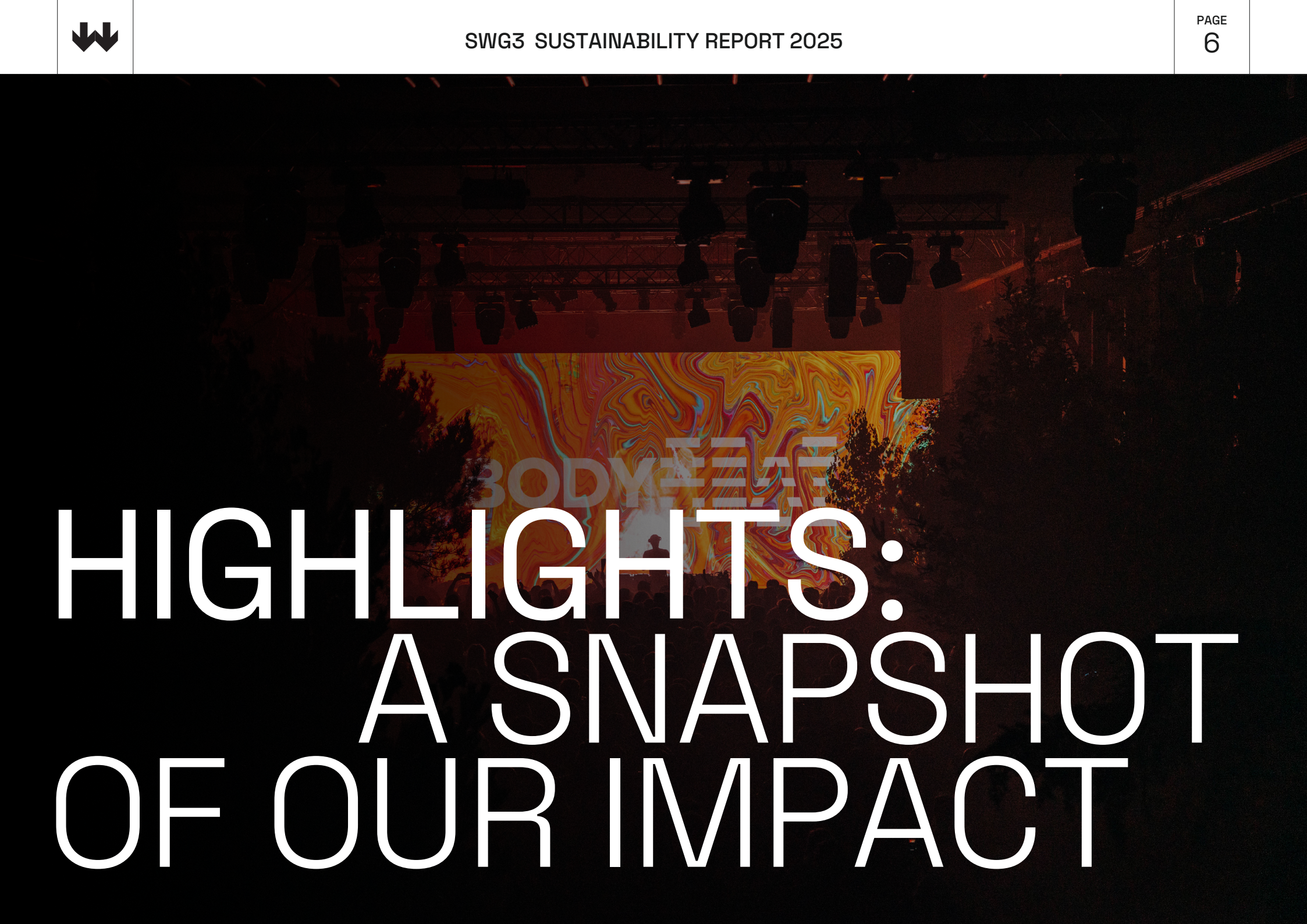
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INCREASED FOOTPRINT AND SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

The story of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions - those we directly control - has been a success this year. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our Scope 3 emissions and therefore our total carbon footprint.

Indirect Scope 3 emissions, which stem from sources outside our direct control but are a result of our business activities, increased by 12%. This is largely due to an expanded reporting scope that now includes artist travel, as well as higher audience travel associated with increased visitor numbers. These emissions remain challenging to control directly and something we need to tackle long term.





HIGHLIGHTS: A SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT



EVENTS STATS

696

EVENTS

[INCLUDING 5 OUTDOOR SHOWS]

&

294,362

VISITORS

[+18%]

OPERATIONAL FOOTPRINT (SCOPE 1 & 2)

5.97 tCO₂e (-79%)

TOTAL CARBON FOOTPRINT

1,050 tCO₂e (+9%)



ENERGY

-9%

GAS

-31%

DIESEL

-7%

ELECTRICITY

-15%

AVERAGE

TRANSPORT

-69%

STAFF COMMUTING

WASTE

-77%

RECYCLING

WATER

-6%

SUPPLY AND TREATMENT



METHODOLOGY

CARBON CALCULATIONS

We calculate our carbon footprint using the UK Government's GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. Conversion factors allow organisations to calculate greenhouse gas emissions associated with their activities, by multiplying measurable activity data (e.g. litres of diesel, kilowatt hours of electricity, kilograms of waste) by the relevant emission factor. All emissions are calculated in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO₂e. You can find the full GHG inventory in the Appendix.

SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS (ELECTRICITY)

We use a market-based accounting approach to set and track progress against our Scope 2 targets, and we also report our location-based emissions for full transparency. Under the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard and, as we are on a fully 100% renewable electricity contract, we can report Scope 2 emissions using the market-based method. Each megawatt-hour of electricity we purchase is matched with one Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) certificate, allowing us to

report zero emissions for that electricity.

BASELINE EMISSIONS AND SCOPE

BASELINE EMISSIONS

Our baseline carbon footprint was calculated in the period 2018-20 and was 131 tCO₂e.

SCOPE

- **Scope 1 (direct):** Gas, refrigerants, owned transport.
- **Scope 2 (energy indirect):** Purchased electricity.
- **Scope 3 (other indirect):** Diesel, business travel, staff commuting, audience travel, artist travel, waste and recycling, T&D losses, water supply and treatment.

OUT OF SCOPE

Supply chain (to be included in 2026 reporting).





ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS & INSIGHTS

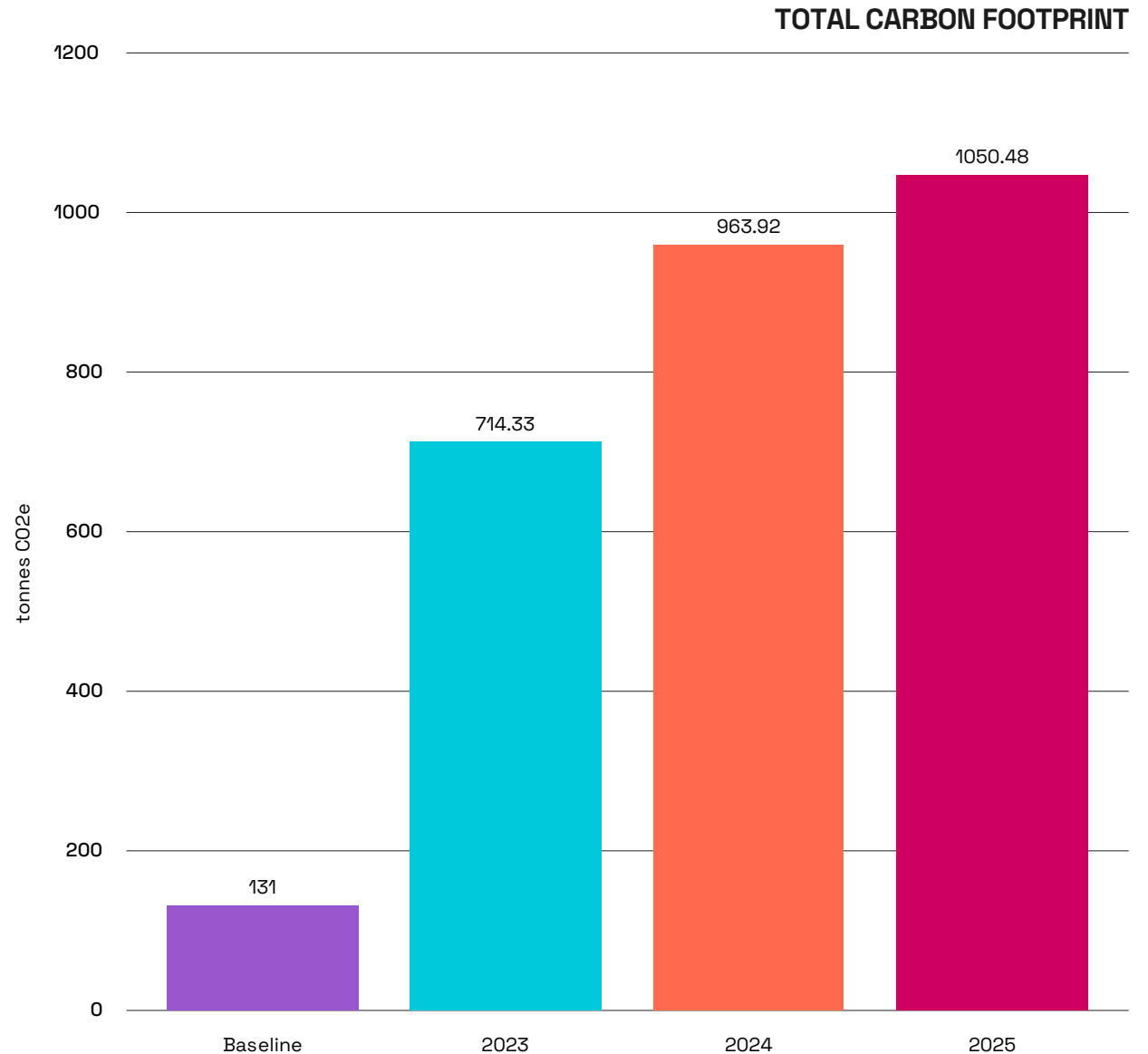
In 2024, we laid out a set of environmental goals. Below, we take stock of our performance against each one.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

Aim:

We aim to reduce the carbon emissions year on year by 10%. → **NOT ACHIEVED**

Our total carbon footprint was 1,050.48 tCO₂e, an increase of 9% since 2024, meaning the emissions reduction target was not met. The increase was largely driven by Scope 3 emissions, which we explore in more detail in the next sections.





ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS & INSIGHTS

NET ZERO

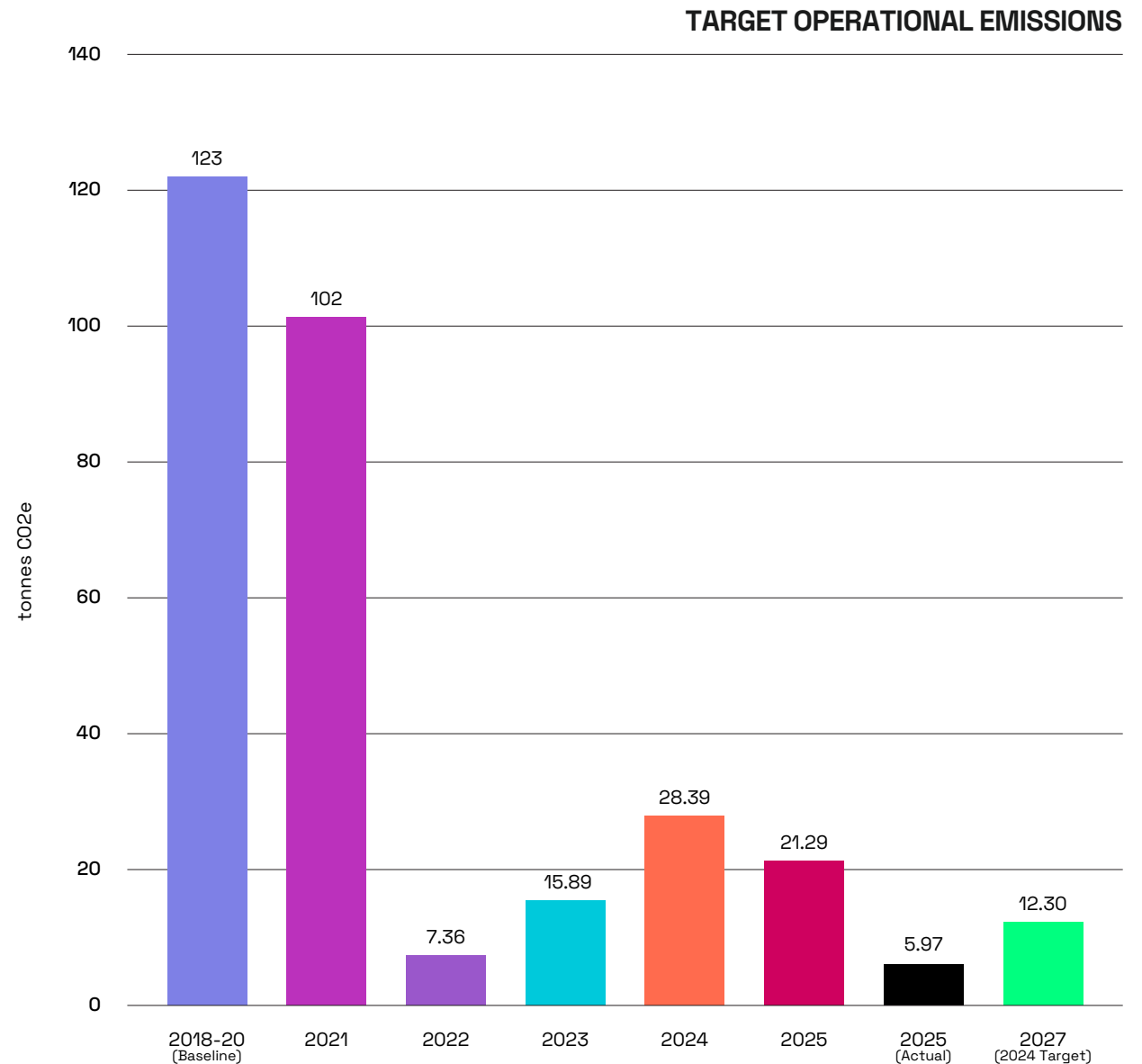
Aim:

Become Net Zero on our operational emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 2027. → **ACHIEVED**

Our total operational emissions in 2025 were 5.97 tCO₂e. That is a 79% reduction since 2024, and a 95% reduction compared with our 2018–2020 baseline. Our Net Zero definition is a 90% baseline reduction (below 12.3 tCO₂e), so we have comfortably exceeded the target.

This can be explained for a couple of reasons:

- Reassessing refrigerant emissions calculations to ensure accuracy;
- Actively reducing utility usage as part of a company-wide cost-saving initiative;
- Hiring a permanent part-time sustainability manager to drive continuous improvement;
- Utilising DEFRA's updated GHG conversion factors, which, as they become more precise, have significantly contributed to the reduction in our footprint.





ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS & INSIGHTS

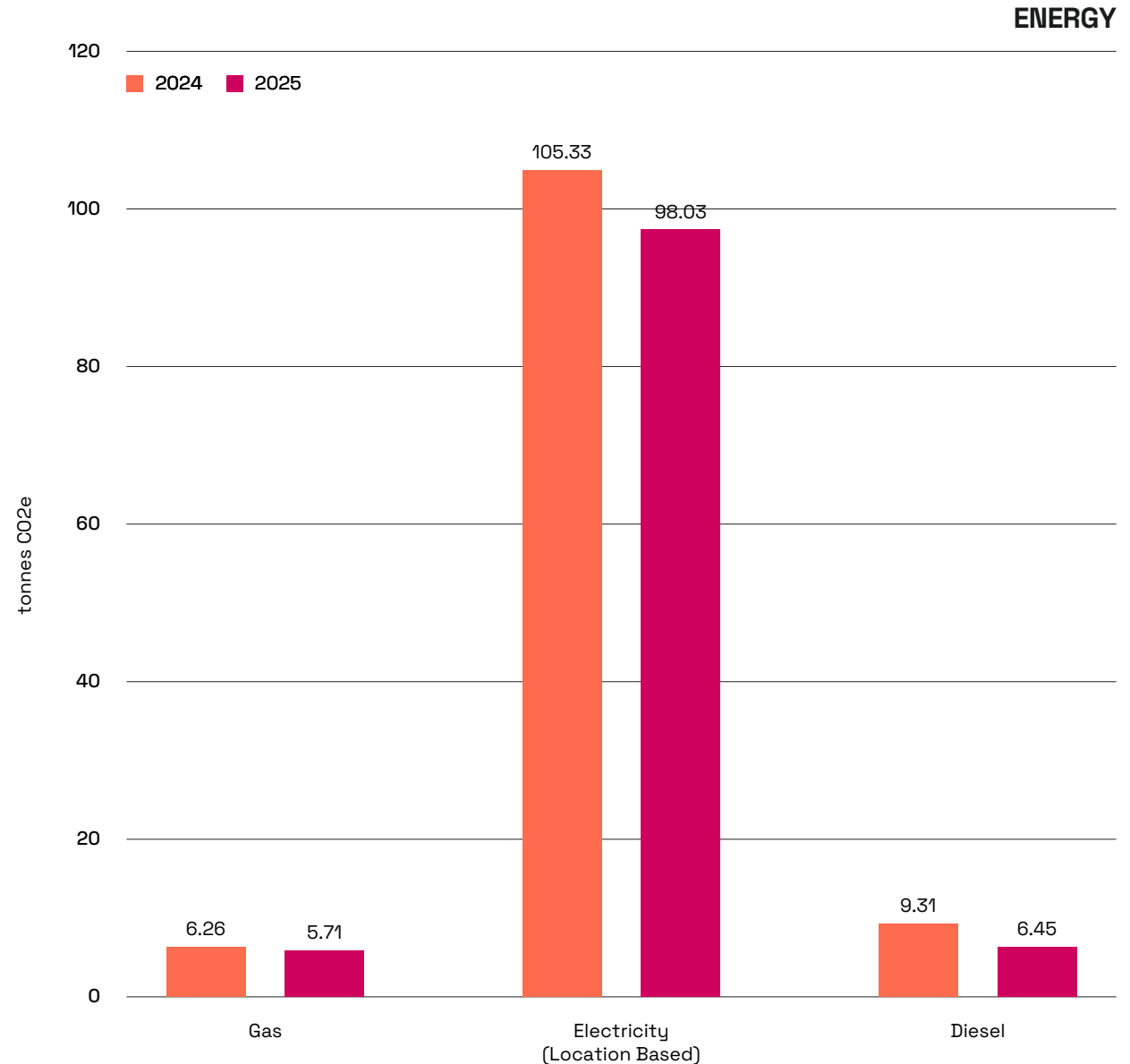
ENERGY

Aims:

By 2027 we aim to power our events with 100% renewable energy. → **ONGOING**

We aim to increase energy efficiency by 10% each year. → **ACHIEVED**

Energy consumption dropped by an average of 15% across all three sources this year, helped by improved awareness and efforts to reduce spending. We also locked the heating controls to automatic mode within a set range to prevent overuse. While our electricity is already fully renewable, we haven't yet switched to a Green Gas contract due to cost. That's something we're aiming to achieve before 2027.





ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS & INSIGHTS

WASTE & RECYCLING

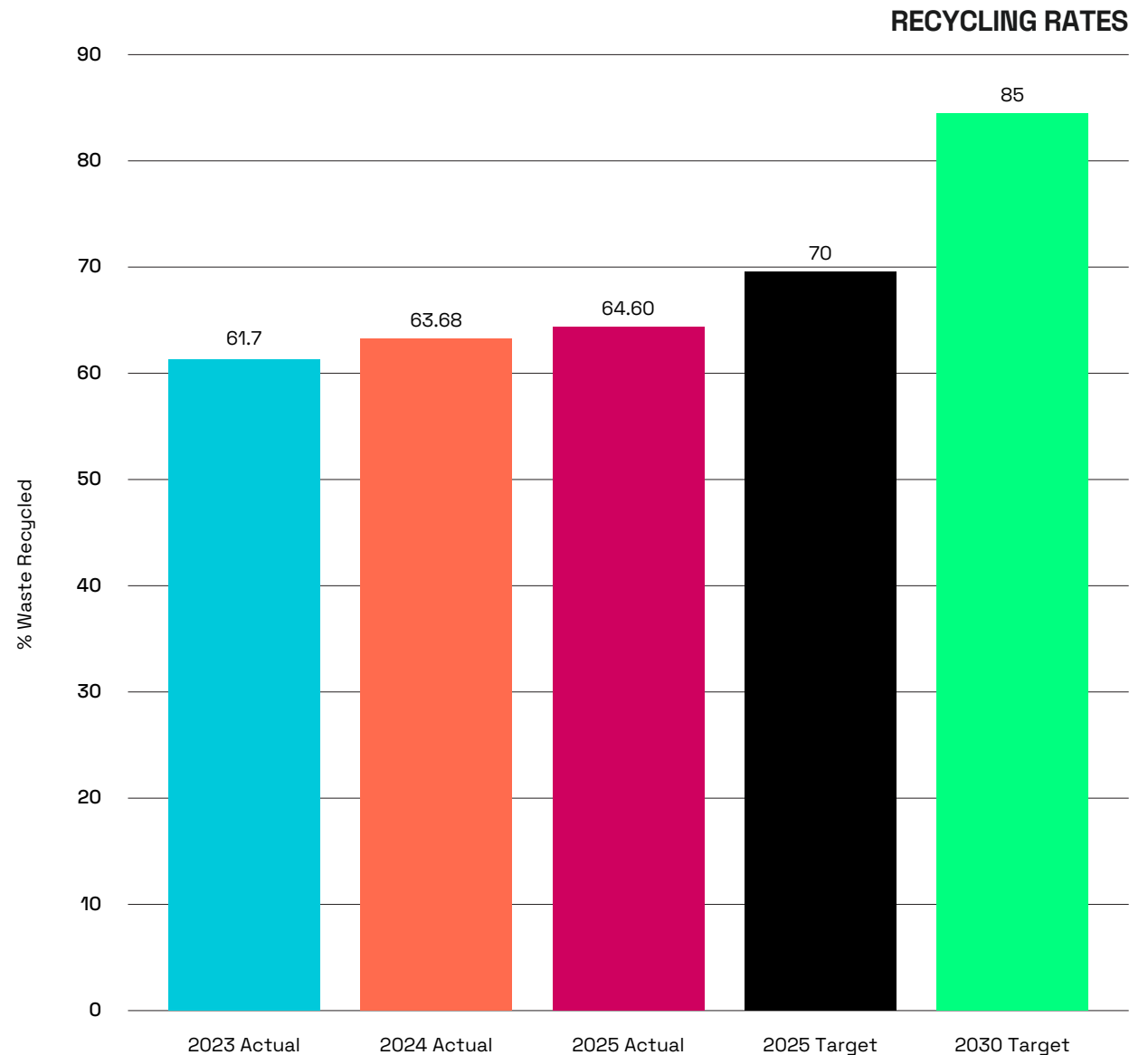
Aims:

By 2025, we aim to achieve a recycling rate of 70% and by 2030, a rate of 85%. → **NOT ACHIEVED (BUT IMPROVED)**

By 2030, 50% of our supply chain will be committed to going Net Zero. → **ONGOING**

This year's recycling rate of 65% puts us just below our 70% target, but the 1% improvement on last year shows we're heading the right way. More notably, waste emissions are down 77% - a significant achievement helped by a 5% cut in total waste, increased awareness, and the updated conversion factors now capturing transport emissions.

We weren't able to include supply chain emissions this year as intended, but work is underway to map our supply chain and start conversations with key suppliers.





ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS & INSIGHTS

TRAVEL

TRAVEL TYPES

Aim:

By 2030, our objective is for 50% of audience travel to the venue to be via sustainable methods. → **ONGOING**

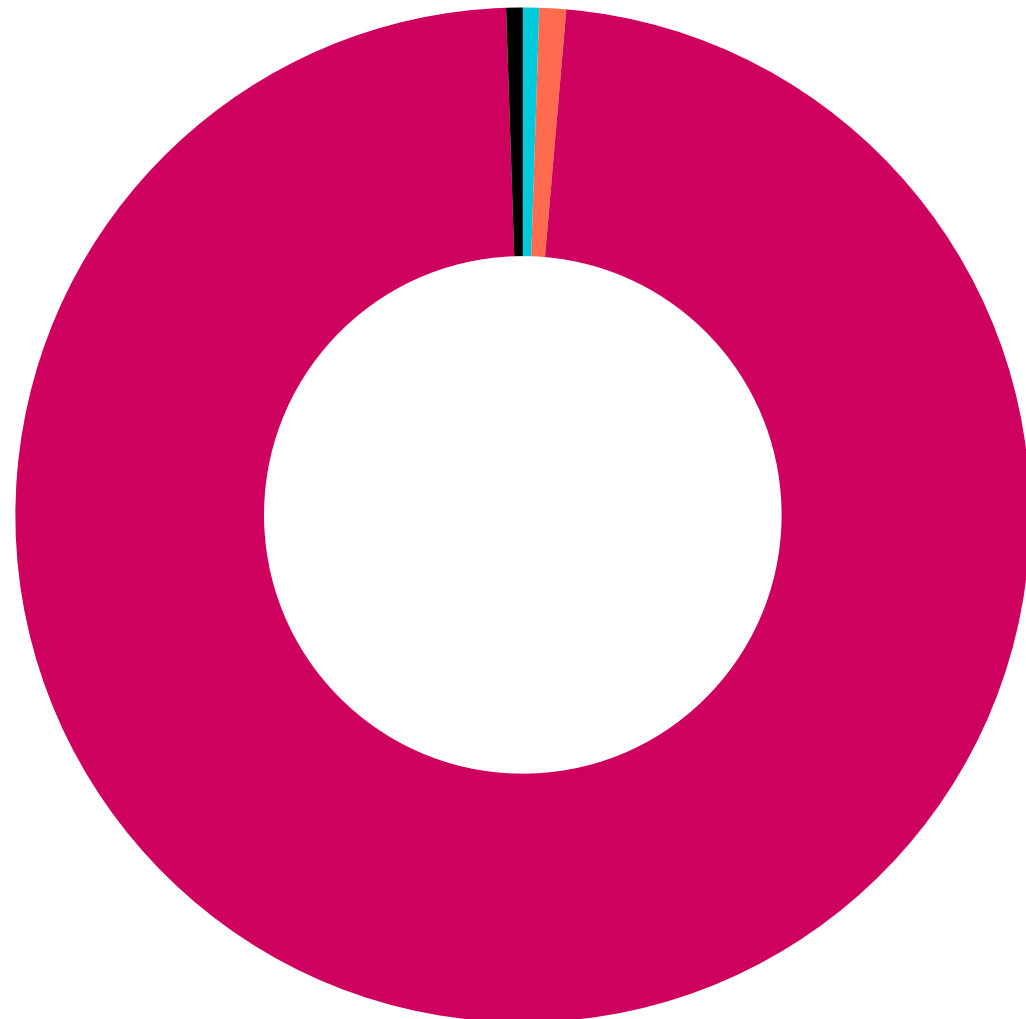
Our total travel footprint is 1,025.33 tCO₂e, dominated, as it was last year, by Audience Travel. With an 18% increase in visitors, the rise is understandable but there are some positive shifts in how people got to and from the venue:

- 13% of visitors walked or cycled to the venue in 2025.
- Car use fell by 10%, and while taxi use increased by 9%, train use jumped 30% - a strong move toward lower-carbon transport.

Breaking it down further:

- Staff Commuting emissions dropped significantly - down 69% - most likely due to reductions in both the number of FTE staff and the average distance travelled.
- Business Travel emissions increased by 4%, driven by some international long-haul flights and a rise in taxi use this year.
- For the first time, we calculated emissions from Artist Travel that we book and pay for (including co-promoted shows). This covered air and rail travel only, totalling 5.39 tCO₂e.

■ Business ■ Staff Commuting ■ Audience ■ Artist





ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS & INSIGHTS

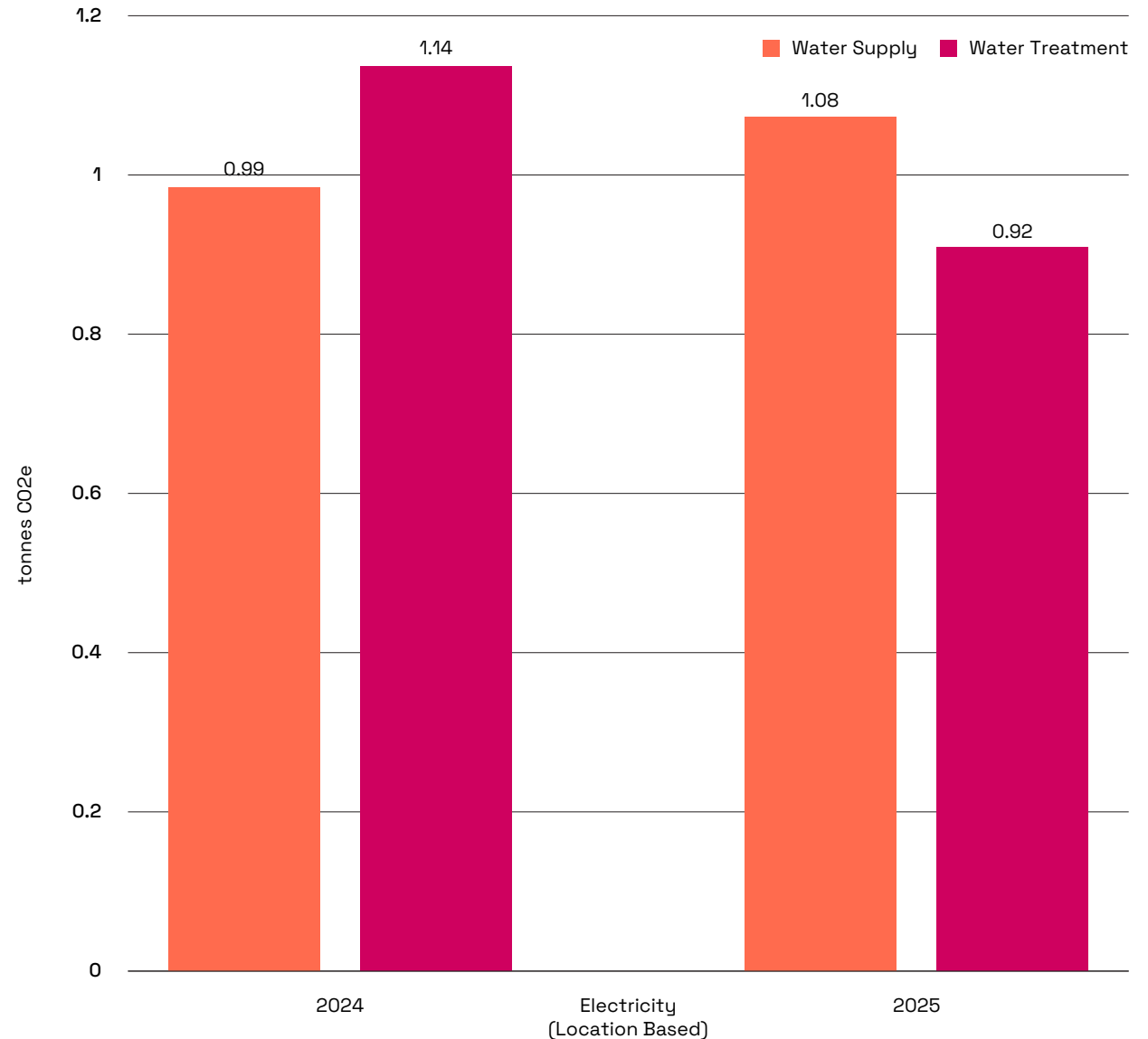
WATER

Aim:

Create and implement a Water Efficiency Action Plan. → **NOT ACHIEVED**

Emissions from water supply and treatment were down 6% this year to 2 tCO₂e. The volume of water used across the venue is down 15% and this could be attributed, again, to improved awareness and efforts to reduce spending.

WATER





SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE - OUR IMPACT BEYOND CARBON

Sustainability is more than just about the environment and reducing carbon emissions. We recognise the need to approach our business holistically and find ways to shift the culture at SWG3 and beyond. Our wider sustainability strategy centres around six themes: circularity, biodiversity, cultural programme, creative placemaking, leadership & collaboration and climate adaptation & mitigation. Here are some of the ways we have embedded sustainability into our programme and operations so far:



CIRCULARITY

- A staff member attended Glasgow's first Circular Economy Leadership programme run by Circular Glasgow and hosted by Circular Economy in Amsterdam.
- We continued our partnership with Circular Glasgow, regularly attending and hosting events with them including Congress of Business, Glasgow Circular Supper Club, and Amplifying Glasgow's Circular economy pecha kucha styled event series.
- We are working with students at Glasgow Caledonian University to carry out a Material Flow Analysis which will help map out our supply chain and identify areas of wastage and efficiency.
- We hosted and chaired the first ever Reusable Cups Working Group for events industry professionals in Glasgow to reduce single use plastic across Glasgow's venues and festival.



BIODIVERSITY & NATURE

- We have our 3,200 sqm garden with native trees, wildflower meadows, an allotment and growing space, foraging areas, beehives, and bird feeders, all designed not only to sequester carbon and improve air quality, but also to create vital habitats for pollinators such as bees and birds.
- We brought in an external gardening team to regularly tend to the garden and re-engaged with and developed the local community of raised bed plot holders.
- Access issues had previously prevented the community from using the garden to its fullest potential so addressing those were a top priority.



CULTURAL PROGRAMME

- We hosted a film screening of the National Emergency Briefing with 40 attendees.
- BODYHEAT club series
- We provided an annual programme of mentoring support to develop the careers of 15 graffiti and street artists
- We worked with 30+ volunteers.
- We support 70+ artists and creatives with below market rent studios and workspaces.



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

- We applied for and won funding from Cycling Scotland for a project which delivered an inclusive programme of tour guiding, cycling confidence, and basic bike maintenance training for communities in Govan. This was centred around the Yardworks street art sites created through the GRID creative placemaking programme, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- We commissioned 35 murals and public artworks across Glasgow - 90% of sites have stayed graffiti free after a year, and 80% of people surveyed said these improved the perception of where they live.



LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND GOVERNANCE

- We employed a part-time permanent Sustainability Manager to oversee and implement our sustainability strategy.
- We continue to develop partnerships with our peers in industry, education and the third sector.
- For the third time we hosted Glasgow Chamber of Commerce's Congress of Business event which focusses on environmental sustainability for businesses.
- The Green Team continued to meet and provide support, develop and act within individual departments.
- We formed a partnership with sauna company Amberwave who are now hosting their sauna, plunge pool and other wellness offerings on our site.
- Began discussions with the University of Glasgow to position sustainability as a unique strength of Glasgow's UNESCO City of Music status
- A staff member is a Circular Ambassador for the city
- Hosted the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance with representatives from over 20 cities and talked about our work with BODYHEAT and sustainability.



CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

- We have taken actions like get quotes for solar panels, target hotspots of areas around the building that flood during wet weather and made contingency plans for extreme weather events.
- We continue to measure and report on our footprint to better understand our environmental impacts.
- We plan to develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy in 2026 using Creative Carbon Scotland's Cultural Adaptations Toolkit.
- We will attend Adaptation and Mitigation events to better inform ourselves.



FUTURE GOALS & TARGETS



NET ZERO & CARBON FOOTPRINT

Aims:

- We aim to keep operational emissions below 90% of baseline to keep within target.
- To reduce our absolute Scope 3 emissions by 90% by 2035.
- We aim to reduce our carbon emissions year on year by 10%.

How?

A combination of all of the below actions.

ENERGY

Aims:

- We aim to increase energy efficiency by 10% each year.
- By 2027 we aim to power our events with 100% renewable energy.

How?

- Implement energy optimisation and reduction project – install sensors which will gather detailed environmental and power consumption data. This will help us to understand the energy footprint of our building and, in turn, optimise our energy usage. It will also help us better understand the impact BODYHEAT is having.
- Phase out diesel generator use by 2028 – we are in discussion to replace the diesel generators with battery power for the 2027 yard shows.
- Replace hot water immersion heaters – individual immersion heaters are expensive to run. We are looking into alternatives however due to the nature of our business hot water demand can be high over a short time period and the new system would need to have capacity for that.
- Determine whether solar is feasible – while multiple quotes for solar have been obtained, financing the project is the main issue.



WASTE & RECYCLING

Aims:

→ By 2027, we aim to achieve a recycling rate of 70% and by 2030, a rate of 85%.

→ By 2030, 50% of our supply chain will be committed to going Net Zero.

How?

- Explore full implementation of Stack Cups at all events and phase out single-use cups permanently.
- Work with our waste contractor to improve communications and signage to ensure we are doing everything we can to recycle and prevent contamination.
- Conduct monthly waste audits to better track and analyse primary waste types.
- We are working with GCU students to carry out a material source flow analysis – this will help us map our supply chain and identify areas of waste. We must then engage with suppliers on this issue.

TRAVEL

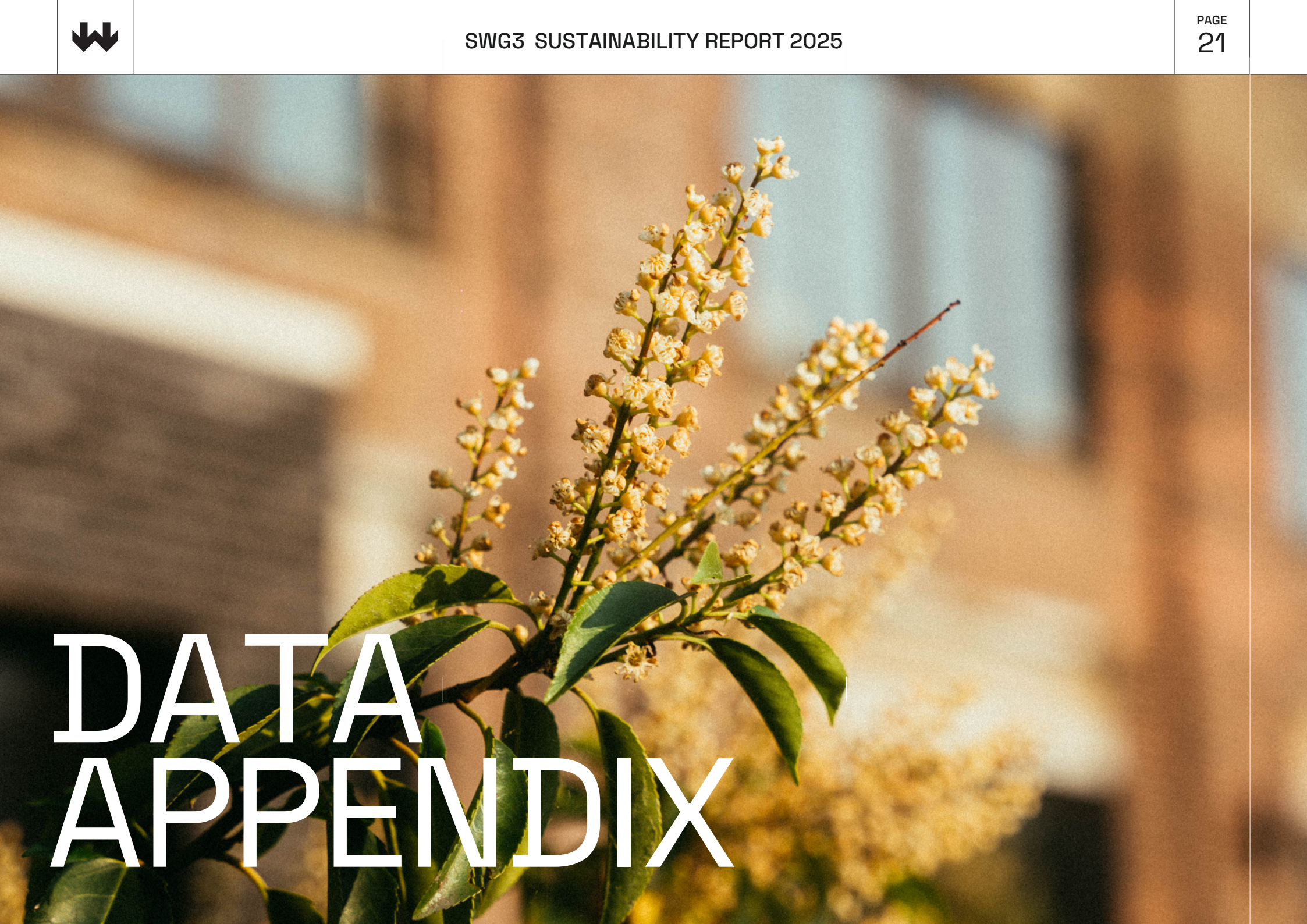
Aims:

→ We aim to reduce our audience travel emissions by 5% year on year.

→ By 2030, our objective is for 50% of audience travel to the venue to be via sustainable methods.

How?

- Build partnerships with Glasgow City Council and transport providers to explore improved active and public transport options for audiences.
- Collaborate with the marketing team to develop an awareness and engagement campaign promoting low-carbon travel and thinking of innovative ways to encourage more people to travel to the venue this way.



DATA APPENDIX



DATA APPENDIX

	tonnes CO2e
SCOPE 1	
Natural Gas	5.71
Refrigerants	0.00
Owned Transport	0.25
SCOPE 2	
Electricity (Location Based)	98.03
Electricity (Market Based)	0.00
SCOPE 3	
Business Travel	
Taxi	1.73
Air (Short Haul)	1.63
Air (Long Haul)	1.59
Rail	0.14
Hotel (UK)	0.07
Hotel (London)	0.12
Hotel (Netherlands)	0.04



DATA APPENDIX

	tonnes CO2e
Staff Commuting	
Petrol or Diesel Cars	4.99
Electric Cars	0.95
Subway	0.19
Train	0.48
Bus	2.09
Cycle	0.00
Walk	0.00
Audience Travel	
Car	472.15
Taxi	268.45
Subway	13.57
Train	152.97
Bus	98.78
Cycle	0.00
Walk	0.00



DATA APPENDIX

	tonnes CO2e
Artist Travel	
Air (short haul)	5.23
Rail	0.15
Waste and Recycling	
Waste Collection	0.00
Dry Mixed Recycling	0.03
Glass	0.19
General	0.19
Food Waste	0.04
Utilities	
T&D Losses	10.28
Water Supply	1.08
Water Treatment	0.92
Diesel	6.45