



Zero Waste Approach

2025



Introduction

Delivering lasting social value that maximises the positive impact we have on our communities and society at large is deeply rooted in our core purpose and embedded in our 2030 strategy.



Supported by excellent customer service, we want to deliver safe, affordable and sustainable homes that customers love whilst in full acknowledgement of the global environmental crisis, ensuring that we reduce our impact across homes, services and offices. To help us achieve this, we have established our environmental sustainability programme, Orbit Earth.

Under this programme, we will actively enhance our environment, creating and improving places and spaces for communities whilst ensuring we are reducing our impact on the planet's natural resources.



Climate action to become net zero carbon



Enhancement of outdoor spaces to improve the quality of natural resources including biodiversity, land, water and air



Sustainable consumption to manage resources, materials and products responsibly



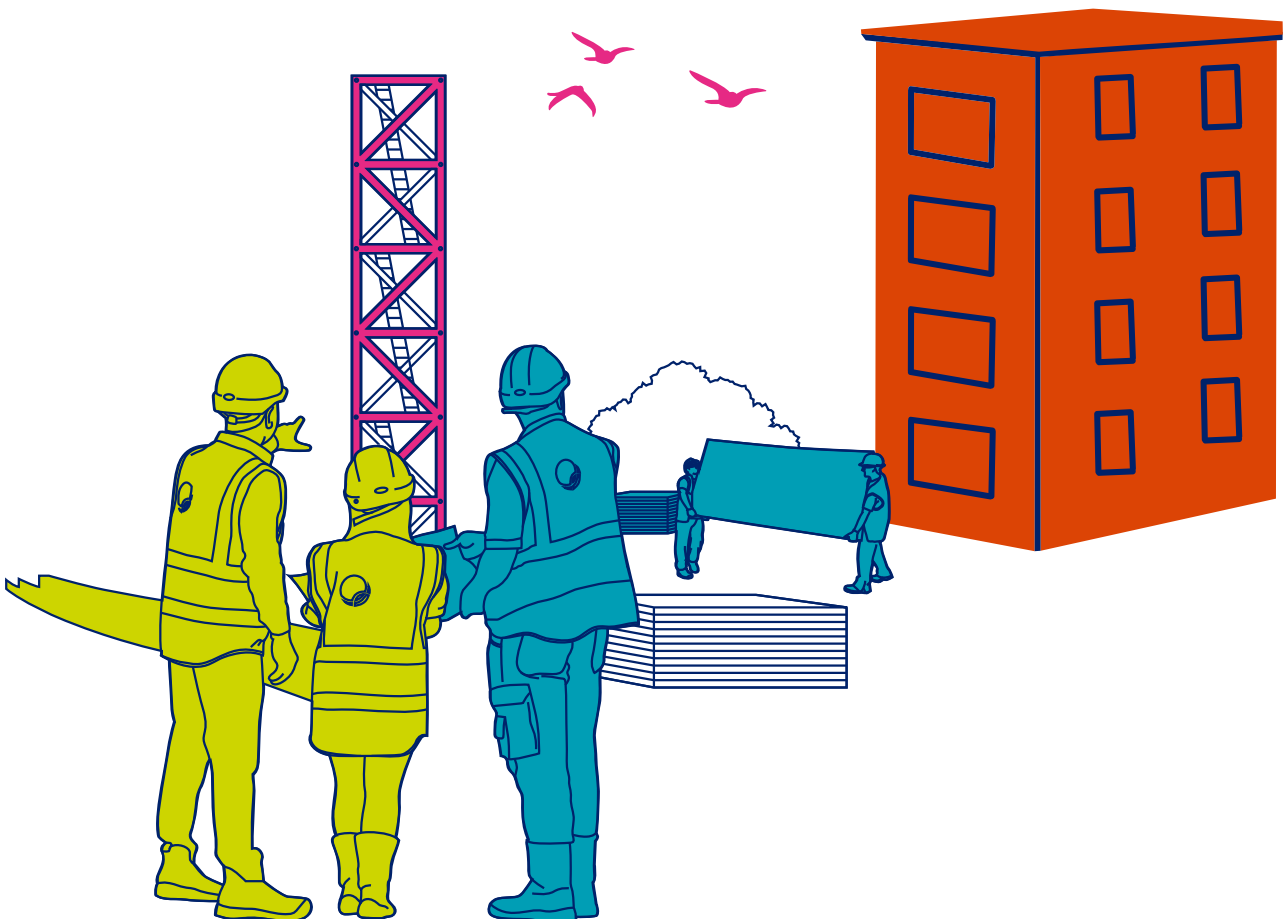
Why are we doing this?

Reducing avoidable waste across our homes, services and offices can create a positive cycle of financial and environmental benefits, not only lowering costs and boosting the efficiency of our operations, but also minimising environmental impact.

The UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out targets for improved soil management, working towards zero avoidable waste by 2050, eliminating avoidable plastic waste by 2042, and ensuring all landfill, reuse and recycling targets are met. The third Orbit Earth pillar, focusing on sustainable consumption, reflects the Government strategy and sets ambitious targets for recycling rates and reducing avoidable waste.

Orbit has committed to progressing towards a circular economy where resources are sourced, produced, used, and disposed of sustainably.

Our approach will vary according to where waste originates but we will seek to adopt a life cycle approach where efficiency is optimised and waste is avoided across our operations. This will unlock value for Orbit and our customers, whilst reducing our exposure to future resource insecurity.





Establishing a Baseline

Site Waste Management Plans began being completed consistently from April 2022 across our direct build Orbit Homes developments, our in-house Grounds Maintenance operations, and our offices.

In 2022-2023, we produced the following:

- 15.15 tonnes of waste across our offices* comprising of our mixed municipal (black bin bag) waste, dry mixed recycling and recycling of batteries and printer cartridges.
- 193.82 tonnes of directly managed grounds maintenance waste produced through grass cutting, tree maintenance and hedge pruning.
- 5343.36 tonnes across our direct build construction sites equating to 2.8 tonnes per plot in production, largely comprising of mixed construction and demolition waste, timber waste and plasterboard waste.
- Recycling rate of 92.9% of all non-hazardous waste across Orbit.

Using baseline data and assessing practical actions to reduce waste, we have set the following targets across our business areas to be achieved by the end of Financial Year 2030-2031:

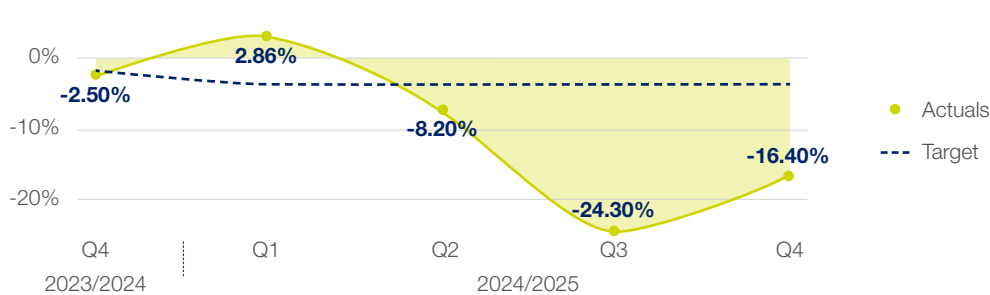
- 100% diversion from landfill or incineration for disposal of all waste (excluding hazardous waste).
- 30% reduction of waste produced by our direct Grounds Maintenance service.
- 5% reduction of waste produced by our offices.
- 15% reduction of construction waste produced by our direct build operations.

* total waste tonnage across all offices includes all directly responsible waste streams but does not include those managed by external landlords.

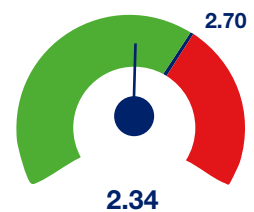
Our progress on waste reduction so far

We have created Zero Waste Working Groups across all three areas (Orbit Homes, IT and Facilities, and Estates and Grounds Maintenance) to develop and implement a range of waste management initiatives to support our waste reduction targets. The graphs below show the progress we are making at embedding changes to reduce waste across Orbit.

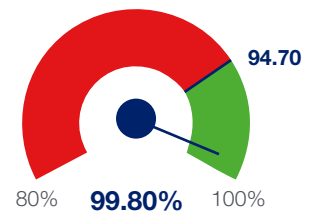
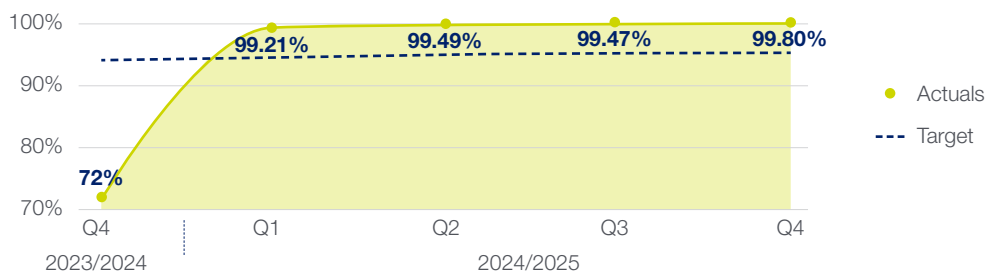
15% reduction of avoidable waste per directly new built plot within Orbit Homes by 2030



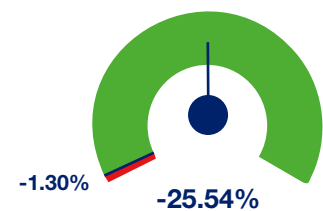
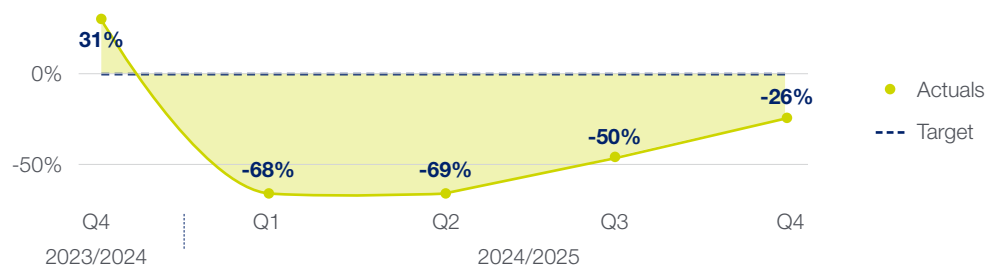
Waste Budget per Plot YTD



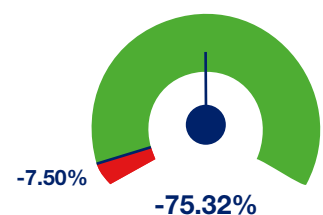
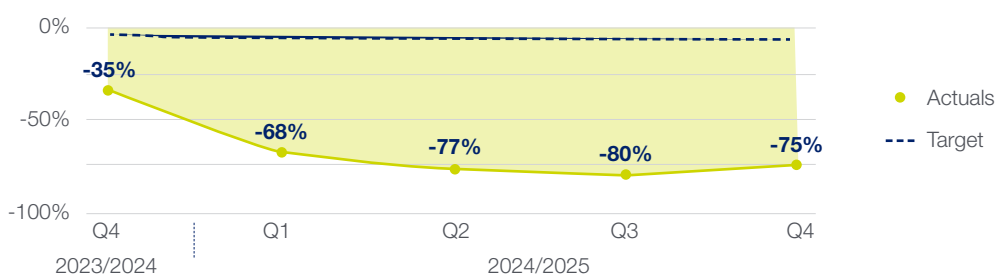
100% diversion from landfill or incineration for all of Orbit Group



5% reduction in office waste by 2030



Reduce the green waste from our direct ground's maintenance provider (in house only) by 30% by 2030



The graphs show progress since Q4 2023/2024 and the blue target lines show our trajectory for previous and current financial years to achieve our 2030 targets. The 'Speedometers' show a snapshot of our progress against 2024/2025 targets.

Our Zero Waste Strategy

Whilst we have made great progress on our waste targets to date, there is still work to do to ensure we meet all of our 2030 targets. Our methods for reducing waste across all three business areas and working towards our 2030 targets will focus on the following four key initiatives, however, this is not an exhaustive list:

1) Identify our top 10 waste streams from construction waste

Appoint a waste broker that will be able to provide detailed analysis of mixed construction waste to ensure we are targeting inefficient design choices and improving our specifications to reduce off-cuts and wastage. Improved data will also enable us to review and analyse the most efficient house type designs and make better decisions for sustainable procurement and development design in the future. Improved mixed construction data will allow us to make comparisons between traditional build types and Modern Methods of Construction to influence build types in future years.

2) Working with customers

Our bulk waste tonnages across our properties are estimated to be 841 tonnes in 2023-2024 which is almost as much as two Olympic size swimming pools worth of waste every year. This comes at a huge expense to both Orbit and our customers. Working with customers to raise awareness to support our zero waste ambitions, we hope to reduce instances of fly tipping and wasteful practices to reduce the economic burden of bulk waste. Improving culture around fly tipping will also create better communities and improved outdoor spaces for our customers to enjoy.

3) Colleague training and education

We have delivered the two day IEMA Sustainability Skills for Managers training course to 204 of our Orbit colleagues in management positions across all business areas. The IEMA course touches on waste management, circular economy principles and the impact of resource use. However, we recognise there are further steps to take to broaden the training and engagement on waste management to achieve our targets. We will prioritise both culture change and upskilling our colleagues through internal training programmes and engagement campaigns that combine Orbit's waste goals and current global resource issues.





4) Sustainable procurement and supply chain engagement

Evidence suggests that 80% of the damage inflicted upon the environment when products become waste can be avoided if more thoughtful decisions are made at the production stage (WRAP, 2013) therefore we will be working with our partners to ensure we are using sustainably procured materials and ensuring our partners are committing to their own waste strategies. We will prioritise products with exceptional sustainability credentials and ensure our partners are adhering to our landfill diversion targets by updating our specification and tender documents where necessary, with a view to setting targets for our products and partners in coming years.

Our current grounds maintenance waste data and target refers to directly managed communal green space only and current data shows we are exceeding our reduction targets; therefore, from 2025/2026, we will look to baseline our contractor-managed grounds maintenance waste, assess how this compares to our direct grounds maintenance waste, and set targets accordingly.

5) Comply with 2025 waste segregation regulations set by the UK Government

New regulations stipulate all offices, including construction and scheme offices, must comply with the 2025 Simpler Recycling regulations that require segregation of food waste and dry recyclable materials from black bin waste from 31 March 2025. We will also manage any garden waste produced from our offices in accordance with the waste hierarchy and arrange for it to be composted where possible or recycled. To comply with these regulations, we will alter our waste collection across offices and create waste campaigns and colleague education to drive improved waste management practices.

In the upcoming years, we will look to consolidate our office portfolio where office usage patterns have changed from COVID-19 and our agile working policy. Consolidating offices will likely support our Net Zero journey and lead to greater colleague satisfaction, but could lead to increased waste as we move from external landlord management to direct responsibility. We will review our office waste over 2025/2026 and analyse the data to discover whether a normalised baseline and target would be more appropriate for office waste data.

Evaluation and Performance Tracking

To ensure continued progress with our waste targets and achieving our 2030 goals, the Orbit Earth Working Group, overseen by the Sustainability Steering Group consisting of senior leaders, will deliver on the above initiatives and regular reporting will occur internally to relevant stakeholders. We will continue to publish progress each year in our Annual Sustainability Report to our customers and external stakeholders. We recognise that our current results are over-achieving against the interim targets, and in some cases, 2030 targets. This almost certainly captures a range of early successful measures Orbit has implemented to date. However, we have taken the decision to retain these targets for now whilst we review data quality and the consistency of these early trends. We will review our Zero Waste Approach regularly to ensure initiatives are completed and remain relevant to business requirements and adjust targets accordingly in future.



