



# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025



2025



DIVERSE SERVICES,  
ONE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

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# INTRODUCTION

Globally, sustainability is essential to combating the challenges posed by rising temperatures and climate change. As extreme weather events, melting ice caps, and habitat loss increase, reducing emissions and conserving resources becomes more pressing. By focusing on sustainable practices, such as using renewable energy, promoting responsible resource use, and reducing waste, we can slow the progression of global warming and protect ecosystems for our communities and future generations.

At McQuillan Companies, sustainability is a core responsibility woven into every aspect of our operations. We recognise the vital role businesses play in safeguarding the environment. With a clear path to achieving Net Zero, we are committed to fostering business growth while championing environmental stewardship to create a healthier planet.

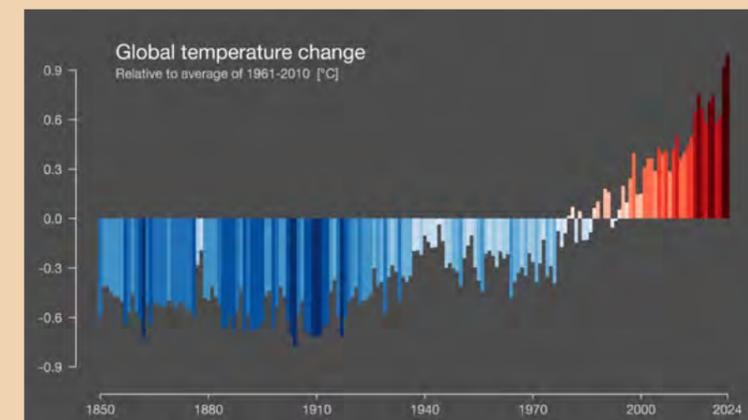
A key element of our sustainability strategy is responsible procurement. We partner with like-minded suppliers, sourcing low-carbon materials and prioritising ethical labour practices. By embedding sustainability throughout our supply chain, we are not only reducing our carbon footprint but also driving industry-wide positive change.

Our sustainability approach is far-reaching, covering waste reduction, energy efficiency, and biodiversity conservation. Whether it's planting native trees or transitioning to electric vehicles, each decision aligns with our mission to minimise environmental impact. Through advanced technologies for emissions management, we ensure sustainability remains central to our operations.

**We understand that sustainability is a necessity, not an option.**

**Our long-term commitment drives us to continuously innovate, improve, and lead in building a greener, more resilient future.**

**At McQuillan Companies, sustainability is not just a part of what we do—it's how we do business.**



Credit: Professor Ed Hawkins (University of Reading)



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# OUR COMMITMENTS

To promote sustainable practices, we are committed to implementing the 3 key aspects. Firstly, by incorporating practices that are sustainable for our planet. Secondly, by incorporating practices that are sustainable for our people; and finally, by incorporating practices that are sustainable in our products.



## PLANET

**McQuillan Companies is committed to sustainable practices that protect our planet such as:**

Reducing our carbon emissions company wide.

Promoting energy efficiency.

Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Investing in renewable energies.

Prioritising nature on our sites and projects.

Investing in Alternative Fuels.

## PEOPLE

**McQuillan Companies is committed to sustainable practices that protect our people such as:**

Contributing to community initiatives, charity and sports sponsorships.

Engaging with a supply chain that are committed to sustainable development.

Employing from our local community.

Offering placements and apprenticeships across our companies.

Engaging with schools, colleges, and universities.

## PRODUCTS

**McQuillan Companies is committed to sustainable practices in the production of our products such as:**

Zero waste to landfill.

Reduce reuse recycle.

Development of low-impact products.

Provision of Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste Management Services.

Availing of advanced technology.

Delivering quality products.



# ROAD MAP TO NET ZERO



Increased Biodiversity across all sites



Responsible procurement of purchased energies from reputable suppliers



Reduced reliance of fossil fuels, increased reliance on energy efficient amenities



Promoting Green ethos across our workspaces and projects



Investing in Carbon Offsetting Initiatives

## MCQUILLAN COMPANIES IS COMMITTED TO REDUCING OUR CARBON EMISSIONS AND OUR RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUELS

Greenhouse Gases are categorised into three groups or 'Scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool.

**Scope 1 emissions:** direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by a company

**Scope 2 emissions:** indirect emissions from purchased electricity; steam, heating, and cooling

**Scope 3 emissions:** all other emissions associated with a company's activities

Having already tracked our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions for several years, McQuillan Companies have committed to establishing our Scope 3 Emissions. Once determined, we will seek external certification to independently verify these.

Scope 1 reductions of **11.3%** from our baseline year of 2020-21 have been achieved.

Significant Scope 2 reductions of **98.2%** have been realised by purchasing electricity from renewable sources.



We continually refresh our vehicle fleet and require new company cars to be electric vehicles.



# PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

McQuillan Quarries have installed new burners to both asphalt plants in Budore and Edentrillick Quarries. By combining state-of-the-art technology with system upgrades, the new project boasts significant advantages.

Increased fuel efficiency (approx 12%)

Added reactive burner management system

Integrated silencer to reduce impact on our neighbours

In addition to the continuing use of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP), McQuillan Quarries have also introduced Warm Mix bituminous products that are produced at lower temperatures, thus reducing production energy requirements.

### Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels

As the asphalt plants in Budore and Edentrillick Quarries added Quad Fuel capability such as LPG, BioLPG, Hydrogen and rDME in 2024, We are currently investing in alternative fuels and plan to begin using them in our production processes in 2025.



In addition to our existing solar installations, McQuillan Companies have completed assessments for installation of renewable energy schemes at both quarry sites. External constraints relating to connecting to the current electricity network is delaying implementation.

Planning permission has been granted for a Thermal Treatment plant at our Antrim site. This will reduce the number of waste shipments leaving NI providing energy recovery. This will see savings of >500 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually.



# PRIORITISING NATURE ON OUR SITES & PROJECTS

McQuillan Companies have recently committed to Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (30x30). This means protecting at least 30% of company land for nature by 2030. This project will be carried out in collaboration with the charity, Belfast Hills Partnership.

At least 30%



Quarries, both active and abandoned, support biodiversity by offering nesting sites for birds like peregrine falcons and ravens on their vertical faces.

Poor soil from collected spoil and clay encourages unimproved grasslands, often rich in orchids. Tree planting around quarry edges provides woodland bird habitat, while older quarry bottoms often feature ponds and wetlands ideal for newts, waterfowl, and aquatic insects.

Their secluded nature further enhances their value for wildlife, making quarries important for biodiversity in the Belfast Hills.

- Belfast Hills Partnership

In 2024, McQuillan Quarries undertook landscaping and hydroseeding in some areas at Budore Quarry. In the interest of increasing biodiversity, we incorporated the use of wildflower seeding to add to our naturally occurring wildflower areas. Wildflower seeding benefits include attracting pollinators, improving soil quality and providing a source of food and shelter for wildlife. Several bee hives and bug hotels have been installed at the quarry sites.



# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

As part of our commitment to sustainable growth, we have embarked on a company-wide Digital Transformation journey that supports both environmental and operational sustainability.

In collaboration with external consultants, we've developed a five-year project to modernise our systems, reduce manual processes, and improve efficiency across the business.

From rolling out digital tools that streamline operations to upgrading our internal systems for finance, purchasing, and project management, we're embracing smarter, more efficient ways of working.

These advancements not only reduce paper use and administrative burden but also empower our teams with real-time data and collaborative platforms. By integrating cloud-based technologies and reinforcing cybersecurity awareness, we're building a resilient, future-ready workplace that supports our long-term sustainability goals.



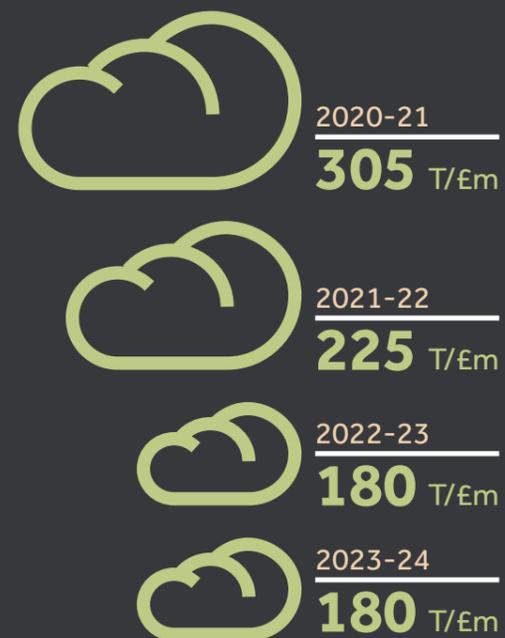
# BY THE NUMBERS

In our initial Sustainability report, John McQuillan Contracts, McQuillan Outdoor and McQuillan Environmental set a 50% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 2030 target.

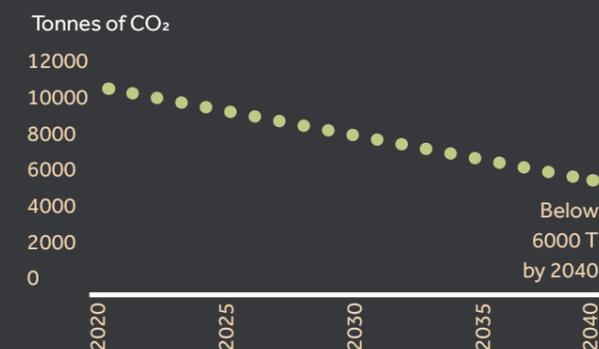
Additionally, McQuillan Quarries set a 100% reduction in Scope 2 emissions by 2030 and 50% reduction in Scope 1 by 2040.

Our Scope 1 emissions have dropped by 11.3% between 2020\_21 and 2023\_24 against target of 50% by 2030. As most of our Scope 1 emissions are driven by our quarries, at the current reduction rate, the 50% reduction in Scope 1 by 2040 is on target. Encouragingly we have realised a +41% drop in Intensity Ratio & have plans to improve this as previously mentioned in this report.

## Intensity Ratio (Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> Per £1m turnover)



## Predicted Scope 1 Emissions Reduction (Based on current rate)

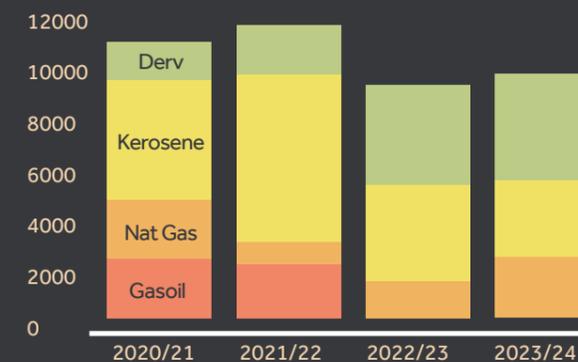


Our Scope 2 Carbon values are under 1 tonne CO<sub>2</sub>e per year as more than 99.8% of electricity used is generated from renewable sources.

From the small amount of non-renewable electricity we do purchase at an office site, our Scope 2 dropped 17.7% between 2020\_21 and 2023\_24 against target of 100% by 2030. We will address this by moving that office to electricity generated from renewable sources.

## Fuel Types And Impact on Carbon Footprint (Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>)

Electricity (99+% Renewable Sources) and unleaded petrol both too little footprint to register here.





# AHEAD OF OUR TIME

The Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) article on Climate Change Act Northern Ireland 2022 Recycling Net Zero Targets states "The waste management sector is responsible for 4% of NI's total emissions and includes a key aim of achieving 70% recycling by 2030."

**70%  
RECYCLING** 

~~BY 2030~~ **ACHIEVED  
2024!**

McQuillan Environmental are delighted to report that our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) has achieved this six years ahead of the target year of 2030. This was achieved by reviewing processes, investment in plant and equipment and researching additional outlets instead of disposal. The implementation of a new segregation system for our fines outputs has been successfully completed. This project will significantly reduce residual waste sent to landfill and enhance overall operational efficiency across the business.





[ PLANET ]

# ECOVADIS



## MCQUILLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SILVER RATING FROM ECOVADIS

This significant milestone reflects our ongoing commitment to sustainability. Our journey with EcoVadis began in 2023 in collaboration with our clients, as part of their purchasing requirements, where we initially secured a Bronze Rating. Over the past year, we have worked diligently to elevate our practices, leading to our improved Silver Rating.

The rating tiers are as follows:

- Platinum: Top 1%
- Gold: Top 5%
- Silver: Top 15%
- Bronze: Top 35%

### What is EcoVadis?

EcoVadis is the world's leading sustainability ratings provider, evaluating companies globally to influence more sustainable purchasing decisions. Their comprehensive solutions help organizations measure, manage, and improve sustainability performance throughout the entire supply chain.

We are extremely proud of our Silver Rating, which places us in the top 15% of all companies assessed by EcoVadis. The EcoVadis score, ranging from 0 to 100, reflects the quality and strength of a company's sustainability management system at the time of assessment.

This accomplishment showcases our strong management system and dedication to meeting the sustainability criteria outlined in the EcoVadis methodology.

We look forward to further enhancing our efforts in the years to come.



# CHARITABLE DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

McQuillan Companies is proud to highlight our commitment to sustainability through our university sports partnerships with Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University Gaelic Academy. These partnerships support student-athletes and reflect our dedication to promoting sustainable communities by investing in education and local talent.

Through this initiative, we emphasised the importance of leadership, teamwork, and community engagement, values that align with our sustainability goals. By promoting sports and education, we encourage healthy lifestyles and personal development, both crucial for long-term community well-being. This campaign has allowed us to build deeper connections with the next generation of leaders, reinforcing our commitment to social sustainability through education, sport, and community development.



Continuing our commitment to supporting the local community, McQuillan Companies annually fundraise for several chosen charities and community initiatives. In recent years, we have partnered with Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke, and for 2025, our charity partner is The Children's Cancer Unit Charity.



McQuillan Companies also partner with The Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity, an organisation dedicated to providing emotional, physical, and financial well-being support to workers and their families. This partnership aligns with McQuillan Companies' core values of promoting employee well-being and creating a supportive work environment. By contributing to this charity, McQuillan Companies ensures that employees across the sector have access to vital resources like mental health support, financial assistance, and confidential helplines. This not only enhances the overall welfare of McQuillan employees but also fosters a culture of care and resilience, helping them feel valued and supported both on and off the job site.



These organisations hold great significance for both our stakeholders and employees, reflecting our dedication to making a positive impact.

Ultimately, these partnerships demonstrate McQuillan Companies' belief that sustainable success comes from investing in people, supporting growth, and contributing to a more inclusive, thriving future for both our business and the communities we serve.





# STUDENTS & APPRENTICESHIPS

## RONAN LAVERY Graduate Civil Engineer

During my third year studying Construction Engineering and Management, I undertook a placement year with John McQuillan Contracts. This opportunity provided me with invaluable experience and allowed me to work alongside experienced engineers who were excellent mentors.

My time at McQuillan Companies has been very beneficial, providing me with the opportunity to develop new skills and gain practical insights that I can take with me throughout my future career. From the moment I joined, I was warmly welcomed by every member of the team, which allowed me to settle in quite quickly.

Following the successful completion of my placement, I was delighted to secure a full-time graduate role with McQuillan Companies. This opportunity further strengthens my commitment to building a long-term career with the company, and I'm excited to continue contributing to its success while further developing my skills and expertise. Overall, my experience at McQuillan Companies has been invaluable and has equipped me with the tools necessary for success in my professional career.



## GARRETT GILLEECE Student Chemist Placement

My placement at McQuillan Environmental has been a fantastic opportunity to immerse myself in the world of hazardous waste management. Joining the Operations team within the hazardous division as a Student Chemist, I've had the chance to work alongside an experienced and knowledgeable team who've been incredibly supportive from day one.

From assisting with sampling and analysis to learning about the classification and safe handling of hazardous materials, every day brings something new. I've been exposed to a wide range of processes and procedures that you just can't experience fully in the classroom. Being able to apply what I've studied in real-world scenarios has been invaluable, and it's helped build my confidence and deepen my understanding of the field.

I've also really enjoyed the team environment at McQuillan Companies – everyone's very approachable, and there's a strong focus on safety, quality, and learning. There's a real sense of purpose in the work we do here, knowing that we're playing a key role in protecting the environment and helping businesses manage their waste responsibly.

I'm looking forward to continuing to learn and develop over the rest of my placement before returning to university to complete my final year in September 2025.





# OUR GROWTH IN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

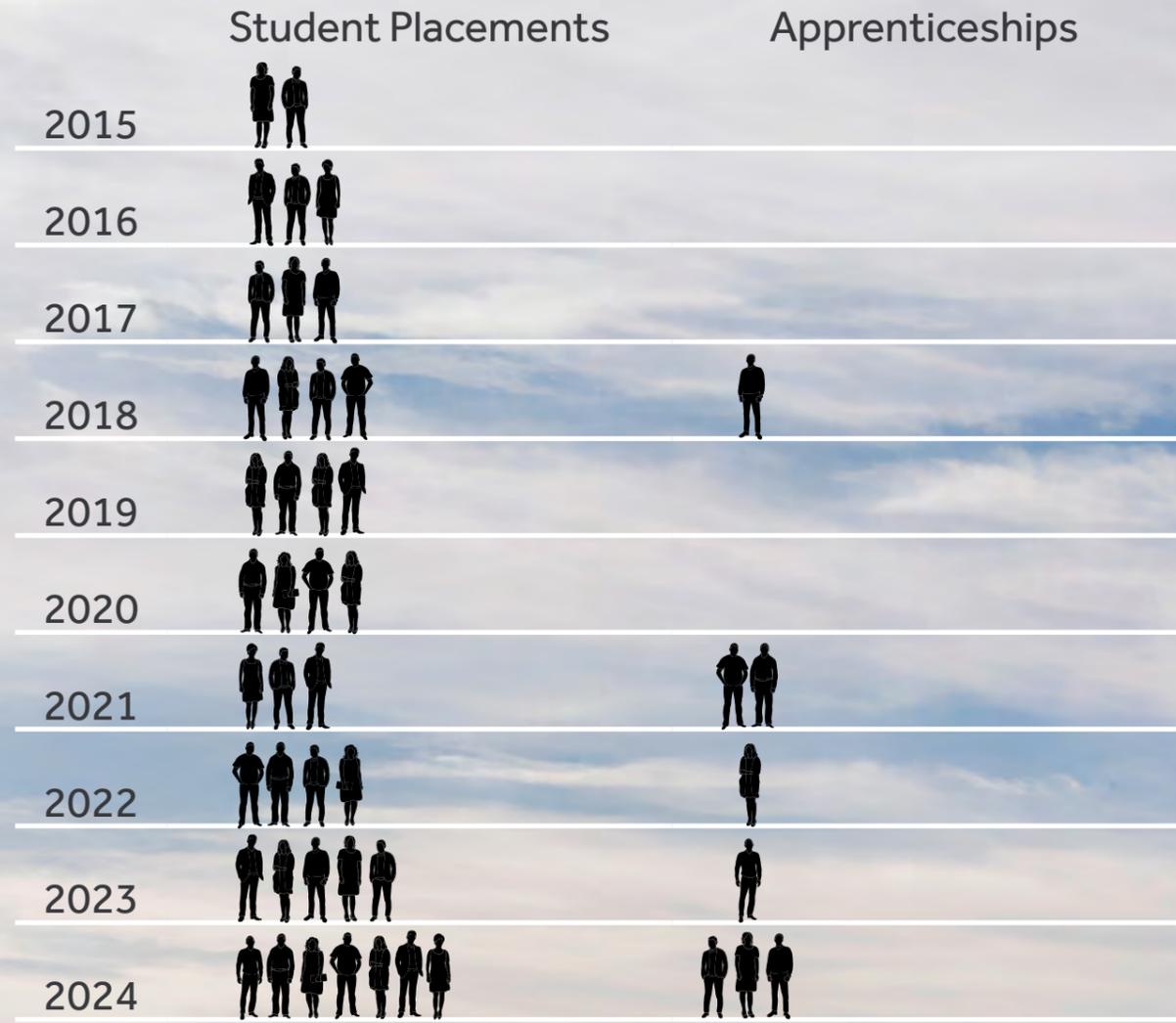
At McQuillan Companies, we are proud to support the next generation of talent through our growing Student Placement and Apprenticeship programmes.

Each year, we continue to expand these opportunities across our divisions, reflecting our commitment to nurturing skills, promoting hands-on learning, and investing in the future workforce.

With placements increasing year on year, we provide meaningful, real-world experience for students and apprentices, equipping them with the knowledge, confidence, and support needed to build successful careers in our industry.

As part of our broader commitment to education and sustainability, we have also invested in specialist training for our team. To date, 7 key senior staff members have completed "Carbon Literacy" training—accredited to meet the Carbon Literacy Standard and independently verified by The Carbon Literacy Project. This course develops awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities, and empowers individuals to reduce emissions at personal, community, and organisational levels.

Additionally, 18 key staff members have completed "Carbon Conscious Training," gaining a deeper understanding of how carbon and emissions influence sustainability and inform strategic decision-making within our business. These training initiatives reinforce our focus on equipping both emerging and experienced professionals with the knowledge to drive meaningful change.



# JOHN MCQUILLAN CONTRACTS



In conjunction with McQuillan Quarries, John McQuillan Contracts is committed to utilising a range of materials that adhere to sustainable measures and practices.

## Quality Assurance

We believe that Quality Assurance is a vital part of ensuring sustainable products are delivered, installed and constructed by John McQuillan Contracts. All processes are planned and provide a basis for continual improvement. We strive to implement high quality workmanship on our projects to ensure that the finished products supplied to our Clients are laid under the relevant specifications and ultimately to ensure the longevity of the finished product.

# MCQUILLAN OUTDOOR

McQuillan Outdoor offers a range of sustainable facilities management services, committed to supporting environmentally responsible practices for its customers. From effective street cleaning that utilises water-efficient equipment to helping sites and projects manage their green spaces in sustainable ways, McQuillan Outdoor is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the outdoor environment.

“Creating vibrant, welcoming spaces where communities live, work, and take pride in their environment.”

With over 20 years of experience, McQuillan Outdoor is a trusted provider in managing and controlling invasive species, offering sustainable solutions for the upkeep and improvement of green spaces. Invasive species management (ISM) is a key area where sustainability practices are crucial. Given the growing rates of invasion and the high costs associated with their impact, McQuillan Outdoor adopts an integrated approach that promotes the growth of native plant species, ensuring a balanced and biodiverse ecosystem.

By applying sustainability principles to invasive species control, McQuillan Outdoor minimises the environmental impact while ensuring the long-term health of landscapes. The company's expertise and commitment to responsible management support the creation of greener, healthier spaces, enhancing the quality of outdoor environments for communities, businesses, and public sectors alike.



# MCQUILLAN QUARRIES

McQuillan Quarries have recently completed a significant investment in a bitumen additive system at Edentrillick which will enable us to develop Warm Mix Asphalt products. Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) is an innovative technology in road construction which allows asphalt to be produced and laid at lower temperatures than traditional Hot Mix Asphalt. This reduction in temperature offers several environmental benefits such as:

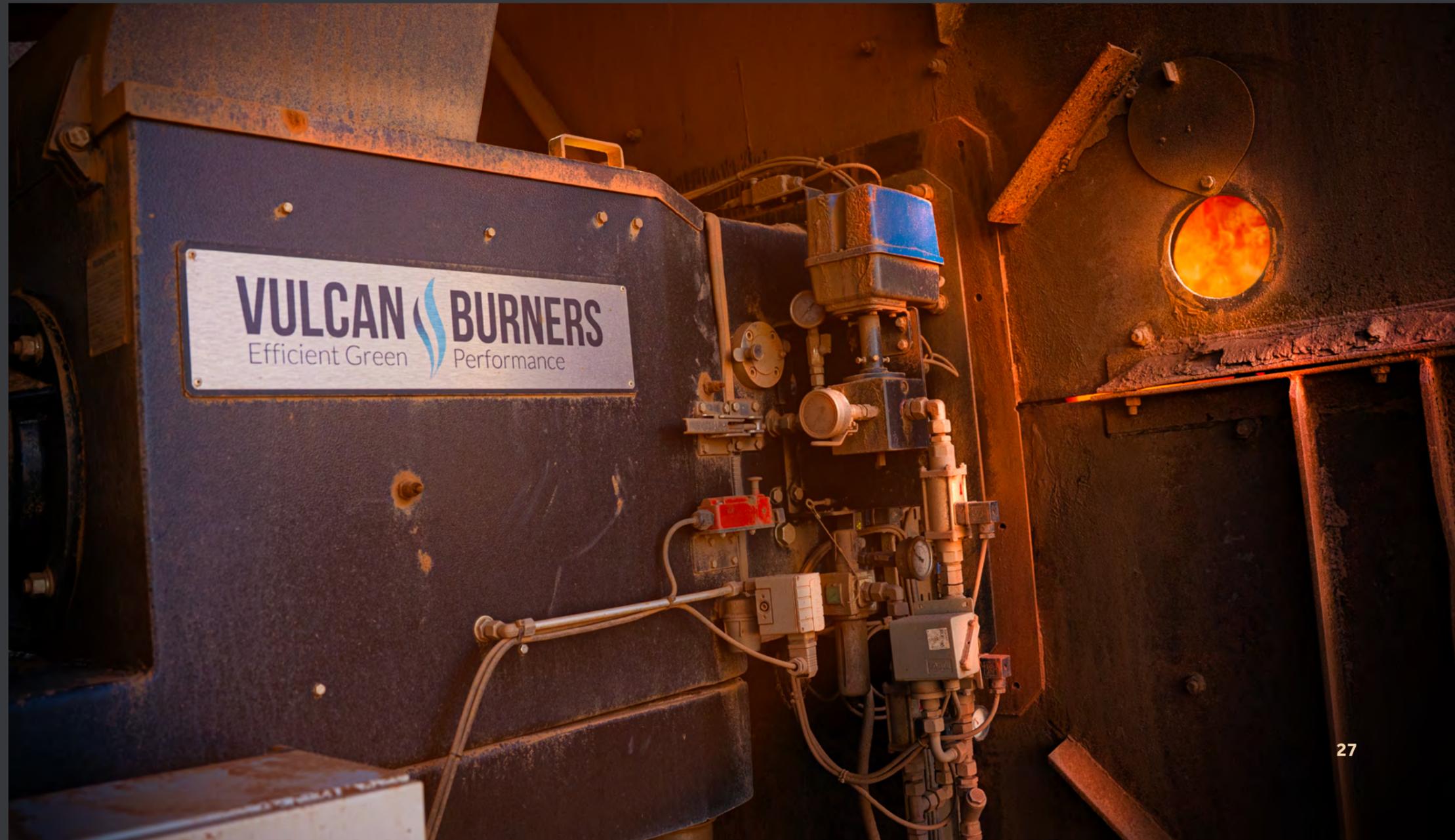
- Reduced energy consumption in the drying/heating process.
- Lower CO2 emissions from fuel combustion.
- Overall improvement in air quality for workers and nearby communities.
- Material can be compacted at lower temperatures, hence roads can be opened to traffic faster.
- WMA allows for increased use of RAP reducing the need for virgin aggregates and bitumen.

McQuillan Quarries are committed to developing the use of Warm Mix Asphalt in road construction reducing energy consumption, emissions and natural resource depletion, making it a more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative asphalt mix.

McQuillan Quarries continue to explore all avenues with utilising Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement in their bituminous materials. RAP offers several environmental benefits making it a sustainable choice in the road construction and maintenance. The key advantages include:

- RAP contains recycled aggregates and bitumen, reducing the need for virgin aggregates and bitumen extraction;
- Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by reducing the environmental impact of new bitumen which is derived from petroleum;
- RAP repurposes old asphalt thus preventing it being disposed of in landfill;
- RAP promotes a closed loop recycling process thus aligning it with sustainable development goals through ensuring resource efficiency.

Through maximising the use of RAP in bituminous materials, McQuillan Quarries are committed to offering greener, cost-effective, and sustainable alternatives to traditional asphalt production. It helps conserve natural resources, lowers emissions and reduces waste, making it an essential practice for environmentally friendly infrastructure development.



[ PRODUCTS ]

# MCQUILLAN ENVIRONMENTAL



## Innovative Waste Management Solutions

At McQuillan Environmental, we are dedicated to delivering safe, sustainable, and forward-thinking waste management services. Our operations span both hazardous and non-hazardous waste, supported by advanced treatment technologies and a commitment to the circular economy.

# HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT



We offer a comprehensive suite of facilities and services to ensure hazardous waste is managed responsibly and in full compliance with environmental standards:

## Hazardous Waste Transfer Station

Enables the repacking and bulking of waste for disposal through our trusted third-party infrastructure across Northern Ireland, Great Britain, and Europe. Waste is directed to suitable end-use processes such as Waste to Energy, Solvent Recovery, Metal Recovery, and Thermal Treatment.

## Soil Treatment Facility

Specialises in the chemical treatment of hydrocarbon-contaminated soils for reuse and restoration.

## Chemical Treatment Facility

Offers physio-chemical processing of inorganic liquid wastes, including evaporation treatment.

## UKAS 17025 Accredited Analytical Laboratory

Provides expert waste identification and classification for internal waste streams and third-party analysis of waters and soils.

## Thermal Treatment Facility

With commercial agreements expected by July 2025 and an 18-month installation phase, this facility will:

- Significantly reduce waste transport to Europe;
- Generate on-site power, making the facility energy self-sufficient;
- The project will produce hot water and additional electricity, generating 1800 kW of surplus heat for continued energy recovery;
- Secure local recovery of waste produced in Northern Ireland;
- Future-proof client services in an increasingly capacity-constrained market.

# NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

We provide efficient and environmentally responsible services for non-hazardous waste across a variety of sectors:

## Specialist Waste Collection Fleet

A modern fleet of bin collection vehicles, skips, and roll-on/roll-off units ensures flexible and reliable waste collection.

## Single Stream Transfer Operations

Repackaging and baling of clean paper, cardboard, and plastic streams for re-use and high-quality recycling.

## Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

Our state-of-the-art facility processes municipal and mixed dry recyclables into separate single-stream materials, including paper, cardboard, plastics, and both ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

## Fines Management Innovation

(Launching April 2025)

Introduction of a fines separation process to divert up to 50% of residual waste from recovery to recycling through composting, further supporting our Net Zero ambition.



# DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH INNOVATION

Our focus on sustainability is underpinned by ongoing investment in research and development, exploring new on-site recovery methods and renewable energy generation.

We continue to adapt to the rapid evolution of waste and environmental legislation, with upcoming changes in the next few years including the following initiatives;

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)
- Green Growth Strategy
- Circular Economy Strategy

Through innovation, strategic investment, and strong leadership, as well as representation on the Recycle NI board and CIWMNI Centre Council, McQuillan Environmental is helping to shape the future of waste management in Northern Ireland and beyond.



