

# OXFAM GB ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024/25

Mannequins with upcycled outfits at Batley, created by design students on placement from Leeds Beckett University. Photo: Natalie Argent / Oxfam



This report provides an overview of the environmental impact of Oxfam GB in the financial year 2024/25. It reports on our greenhouse gas emissions, progress on reducing our environmental impact and targets for the future.

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# INTRODUCTION

The year 2024 was the warmest year since global records began,<sup>1</sup> with the global mean near-surface temperature 1.55°C above the pre-industrial average. This alarming result emphasises the need for an urgent and significant reduction in carbon emissions if we are to limit long-term average temperature increases to 1.5°C.<sup>2</sup> Global warming above this level is likely to lead to increasingly severe and widespread human suffering, environmental damage and deepening inequalities.

People everywhere are already suffering from the impacts of the climate crisis. Those who did the least to cause global warming – people living in poverty, Indigenous peoples and people of colour – are often paying the highest price. Meanwhile, the richest corporations continue to pollute and contribute most to the climate crisis. This is at the core of climate inequality. Oxfam's most recent climate justice campaign, Make Rich Polluters Pay,<sup>3</sup> calls for a tax on fossil fuel giants and asks the wealthiest 1% to invest in climate solutions implemented by those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Alongside advocacy and campaigning for climate justice, Oxfam recognises our responsibility to mitigate our own impact on the environment. Oxfam GB is committed to achieving net zero emissions from UK operations by 2040. We have set a number of short-term targets to ensure that we keep on this trajectory.

This is the second year in which we present this voluntary Oxfam Environmental Sustainability Report, which replaced our Supplementary Ethical and Environmental Report in 2024. Here we disclose the environmental impacts, achievements and ambitions of our UK operations. The report is presented alongside the legally required Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting disclosures within the Oxfam GB Annual Report and Accounts. <hyperlink> The environmental impact of our work internationally is captured by the Oxfam International Sustainability Report.

You can find the [2023/24 Sustainability Report](#) and Supplementary Ethical and Environmental Reports since 2021/22 on our [website](#).

Section 1 covers our greenhouse gas emissions. In Section 2, we present updates on our carbon commitments, while Section 3 reports on progress against our Retail Ethical and Environmental Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> World Meteorological Organization. [Climate](#); Met Office. [2024: record-breaking watershed year for global climate](#).

<sup>2</sup> A single year above 1.5°C warming does not mean the emissions target has been missed, as this is measured over the long term, but it does put the Paris Agreement targets in 'grave danger', according to the World Meteorological Organization.

<sup>3</sup> Oxfam International. [Make Rich Polluters Pay](#).

# 1. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The financial year 2024/25 is the 13th year that Oxfam GB is publicly reporting our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

We use UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting to derive carbon emissions and to derive energy use from land transport. Our reporting is compliant with the requirements of the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting regulations, and aligns with the requirements and guidance presented in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Reporting and Accounting Standard.

We report emissions from the following scopes:

**Scope 1 (mandatory):** Direct emissions produced by Oxfam premises and by Oxfam's vehicles, e.g. burning gas for heating in a shop, using fuel in a leased vehicle.

**Scope 2 (mandatory):** Indirect emissions produced by Oxfam's electricity use, e.g. lighting our shops.

**Scope 3: Emissions from upstream and downstream supply chains.** Scope 3 emissions can be thought of as any emissions which are not covered by scope 1 and 2.

Reporting is mandatory on a small portion of our scope 3 emissions, namely emissions produced by employee business travel where Oxfam purchased the fuel. We voluntarily report an incomplete inventory of other scope 3 emissions, and endeavour to widen the range of categories we report each year.

Oxfam GB purchases 100% renewable electricity in the UK. In line with the UK Government's Environmental Reporting Guidelines, this is not reflected in our carbon report (see page 8). The emissions data reported have been calculated based on the average carbon intensity of the UK National Grid.

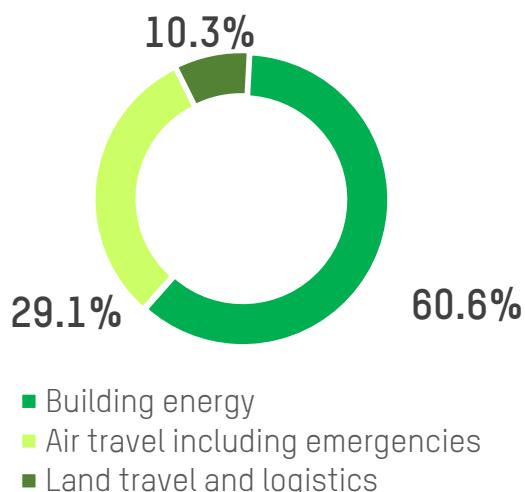
# EMISSIONS WERE 66% LOWER THAN BASELINE YEAR

In 2024/25, emissions in our baseline scope<sup>4</sup> amounted to 4,958 tonnes. This is 66% lower than in our baseline year of 2011/12. It is a slight increase compared to 2023/24 emissions; this is due to a small increase in emissions from electricity use. Emissions from air travel are unchanged since last year, but remain 57% lower than pre-pandemic (2018/19) levels. We achieved a 10% reduction in direct emissions from the use of gas for heating.

The key areas of our environmental impact in 2024/25 are:

- **Building energy:** 60.6% of our carbon emissions came from building energy, compared to 60.7% in 2023/24.
- **Air travel:** 29.1% of our carbon emissions came from air travel, compared to 31.1% in 2023/24.
- **Land travel and logistics:** 10.3% of our emissions came from land travel and logistics, compared to 8.2% in 2023/24.

Environmental impact by key area in 2023/24

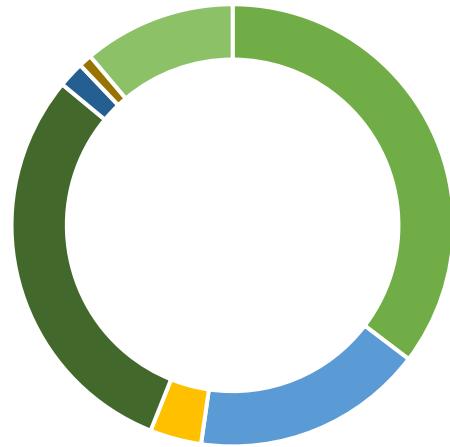


<sup>4</sup> Our baseline carbon commitment scope is as follows: all scope 1 emissions (combustion of natural gas and vehicle fuels), all scope 2 emissions (emissions associated with electricity generation), some scope 3 emissions (UK processed flights, UK business travel on trains/buses, staff using their own vehicles, some third party logistics, processing of waste and water, homeworking, and well-to-tank emissions relating to the extraction and use of fossil fuels in scopes 1, 2 and 3). UK processed flights refers to all flights processed through Oxfam GB, including those used by humanitarian teams, for which Oxfam GB has legal responsibility but no direct line control.

## How much does Oxfam GB emit?

8,504  
tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

For the categories reported in 2024/25, the estimated total emissions of Oxfam GB's UK operations and UK processed flights was 8,504 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).



- Building energy
- Air travel including emergencies
- Land travel and logistics
- Staff commuting and homeworking
- Goods and services
- Public transport and hotels
- Investments

Interior of the Oxfam Superstore in Cowley, Oxford. Credit: Andy Doherty / Oxfam



# Carbon report

<b>Mandatory reported carbon (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>		<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Scope 1	Emissions from combustion of gas	523	471
Scope 1	Emissions from combustion of fuel for transport purposes	195	145
Scope 2	Emissions from purchased electricity (location-based)	1,667	1,848
Scope 3	Emissions from business travel in rental cars or employee-owned vehicles where Oxfam is responsible for purchasing the fuel	35	32
<b>Total gross tCO<sub>2</sub>e based on the above</b>		<b>2,421</b>	<b>2,496</b>
<b>Optional reported carbon (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>			
Scope 3	Emissions from employee business travel where Oxfam does not own or control the vehicles and is not responsible for purchasing the fuel	125	144
Scope 3	Homeworking	620	617
Scope 3	Emissions from waste processing, water use and processing	179	161
Scope 3	Transmission and distribution losses (electricity)	144	163
Scope 3	Well-to-tank emissions (electricity generation)	370	410
Scope 3	Well-to-tank emissions (electricity transmission and distribution)	32	35
Scope 3	Well-to-tank emissions (natural gas)	86	77
Scope 3	Public transport in the UK	30	31
Scope 3	Eurostar travel	47	21
Scope 3	Staff commuting	1,939	1,706
Scope 3	Hotels	31	30
Scope 3	Flights	1,447	1,441
Scope 3	Investments*	887	948
Scope 3	Courier deliveries**	Not reported	98

\*See 'Carbon impact of financed emissions' below

\*\*New in 2024/25

## Carbon intensity ratio

	2023/24	2024/25
Carbon intensity ratio (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/1,000m <sup>2</sup> )	37.1	37.6

We present an intensity ratio based on Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting regulations. This intensity measure is based on mandatory reported carbon only.

We have chosen to display the tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of shop floor area as the best metric to allow us to compare year-on-year emissions. This is because the key driver of our emissions is the energy used to power our shop network and offices.

The area is calculated based on a large sample of shops that have a known floor area, which is approximated to cover all shops. This is averaged over the year to account for shops opening and closing.

## Energy-saving activities in 2024/25

We achieved reductions in carbon emissions from our buildings through the following energy-saving activities:

- ✓ Continued rollout of LED lighting – 95% of our buildings now have an LED fit-out. We have secured funding to complete the LED rollout before the end of 2025/26.
- ✓ Smart meter rollout – more than 60% of our shops now have a smart meter.
- ✓ Energy manager carried out shop visits to support shop managers and volunteers in managing energy.
- ✓ More efficient heating systems have been installed in most shops.

We achieved a reduction in carbon emissions from our logistics and transport through:

- ✓ Electrification of forklift trucks.
- ✓ Reduction of fleet size of leased cars.
- ✓ Gradual replacement of non-hybrid cars in our fleet with hybrid cars.

# Carbon impact of financed emissions

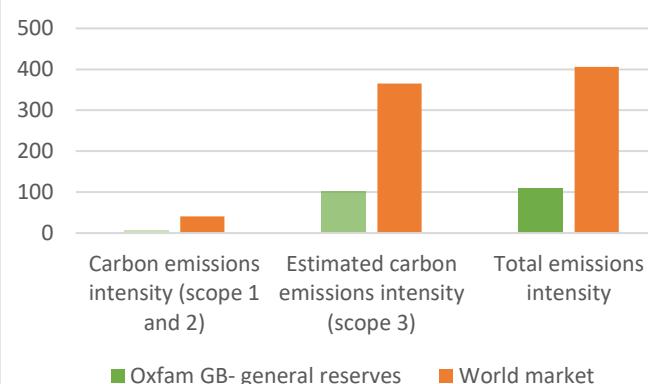
Oxfam GB has an ethical investment fund portfolio. All investments are made in line with our ethical investment criteria, ensuring that they reflect Oxfam's vision, mission and values.

## Carbon emissions intensity of investees

Analysis of the emissions of investee companies in Oxfam GB's portfolio<sup>5</sup> reveals a comparatively low carbon intensity (tCO<sub>2</sub>e/£m invested): every US\$1m invested in the portfolio has 83% lower scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions intensity than the world market.

Our carbon commitment was to keep the carbon intensity of our portfolio 67% lower than the world market until 2030, so we have exceeded our target this year.

Comparative carbon emissions intensity of Oxfam GB's investment and world market (tonnesCO<sub>2</sub>e/£m invested)



## Financed emissions 2024/25<sup>6</sup> (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

Portfolio scope 1 and 2	60.5
Portfolio scope 3	887
Total estimated financed emissions	947.5

The table above shows the total gross carbon impact of Oxfam's portfolio for the financial year. Confidence levels in scope 1 and 2 data are higher due to better reporting and data validation; scope 3 emissions are therefore reported separately.

<sup>5</sup> The data presented is courtesy of Greenbank (part of Rathbones). Greenbank was appointed as Oxfam GB's new investment manager in July 2024.

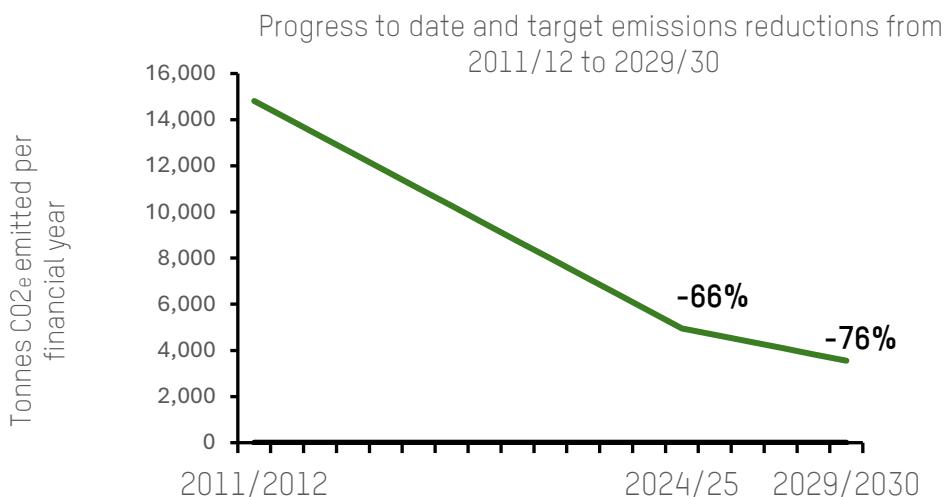
<sup>6</sup> Financed emissions are defined on an ownership basis across asset classes. We calculate ownership as the portfolio's capital invested in a company as a percentage of the total capital invested. This is then multiplied by the company's scope 1 and 2, or scope 3 carbon emissions as appropriate. This is completed for each company in the portfolio and then summed. The methodology is provided by the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials and has been approved by the GHG Protocol as a means of reporting scope 3, category 15: investment activities. It goes beyond the GHG Protocol's minimum expectations by including more asset classes.

## 2. UPDATES ON CARBON COMMITMENTS

In the 2023/24 Environmental Sustainability Report, we announced our new carbon commitments, which will help us to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. Progress on these targets is presented below. The targets were introduced in March 2025, at the end of the financial year, and therefore no countermeasures were implemented in this reporting year. Our 2024/25 emissions are very similar to those in 2023/24. With the countermeasures now in place, we expect to reduce our carbon in line with the trajectory each year until 2030.

**Target 1: Reduce emissions across the current target scope by 76% from a 2011/12 baseline by 2030.<sup>7</sup>**

In 2024/25 we saw an emissions reduction of **66%** compared to baseline. This is a slightly lower reduction compared to last year. Despite this, we remain on track to meet this target.



**Target 2: Reduce emissions across a wider scope by 9% from a 2022/23 baseline by 2030.<sup>8</sup>** (This is equivalent to a 21% reduction from 2023/24.)

From 2023/24 to 2024/25, there was no significant change (+1%) in emissions in this category. With countermeasures now introduced, particularly in relation to flights, emissions in this category are expected to reduce in 2025/26.

<sup>7</sup> Target scope: All scope 1 and 2 emissions, and scope 3 emissions from UK processed flights, UK business travel on trains/buses, staff using their own vehicles, some third party logistics, and well-to-tank emissions relating to the extraction and use of fuels in scopes 1, 2 and 3.

<sup>8</sup> Target scope: All of the scope of Target 1, plus four new scope 3 categories: emissions from waste processing; water use and processing; business travel including hotels and Eurostar; and some purchased goods and services.

### 3. RETAIL ETHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

Oxfam began developing our Retail Ethical and Environmental Strategy in 2018. Since then, we have reported on a range of metrics which measure environmental performance in our retail division.

In 2024/25, we developed the Retail Sustainability Strategy, which supersedes the Retail Ethical and Environmental Strategy. The refreshed strategy incorporates actions for the retail team which will support Oxfam GB's wider carbon reduction target. It builds on learning from the previous strategy about what is needed to ensure a sustainable model for retail, which exists at the intersection of environmental, human rights and commercial considerations. We will include more detail on this strategy in next year's report.

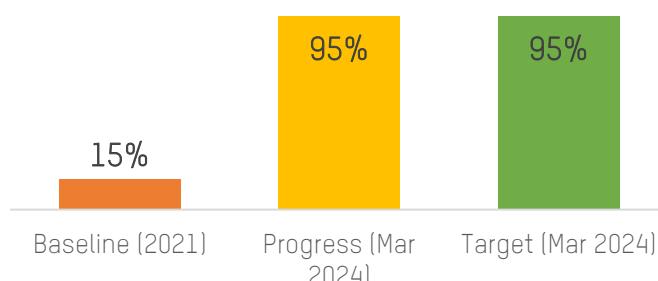
We continued to make progress on the Retail Ethical and Environmental Strategy in 2024/25. This is the last year that we will report on targets which have been met. Some targets will be superseded by the new, stronger ambitions outlined in the new Retail Sustainability Strategy. We will continue to monitor and work to improve the environmental performance of our retail operations.

*Our Retail division aspires to be a driving force in sustainable retail by continuously improving our understanding and management of the ethical and environmental impacts of our business.*

## Energy Targets

### 1. Increase the percentage of shops with LED lighting in at least the floor area.

Installation of LED lighting in shops:  
proportion of shops with partial LED lighting

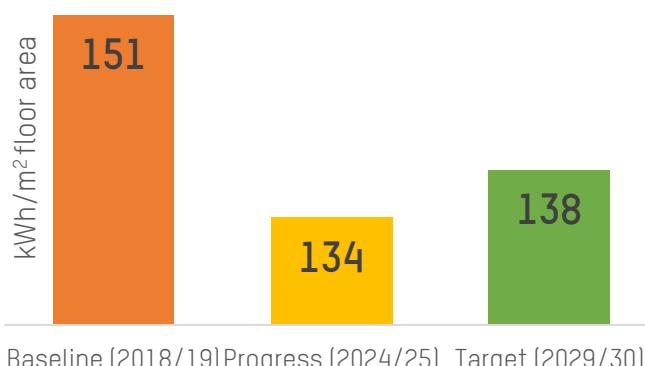


✓ *target met in 2024*

We have secured funding which will allow us to achieve 100% rollout by the end of 2025/26.

### 2. Reduce building energy use per m<sup>2</sup> of total shop floorspace per year.

Building energy use: kWh/m<sup>2</sup> floor area



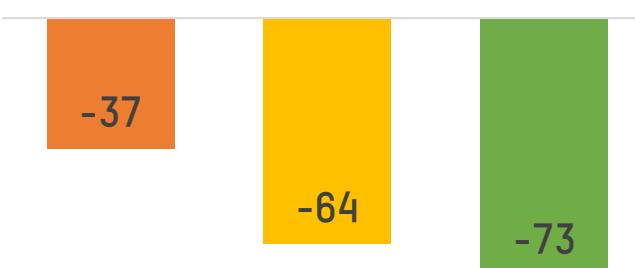
✓ *target met in 2024*

For the second year in a row we have met this target. However, we did see an increase in electricity use this year. We will investigate this thoroughly and set up countermeasures to ensure we continue to use energy efficiently.

### 3. Reduce the absolute amount of carbon emitted by the retail division.

Percentage reduction in absolute amount of carbon emitted by retail (%)

Baseline (2018/19)      Progress (2024/25)      Target (2029/30)



So far, we have reduced emissions by 64% against the 2018/19 baseline. However, 2024/25 saw a decline in performance compared to 2023/24. We will investigate this thoroughly to ensure we continue to use energy and carbon more efficiently.

## Waste targets

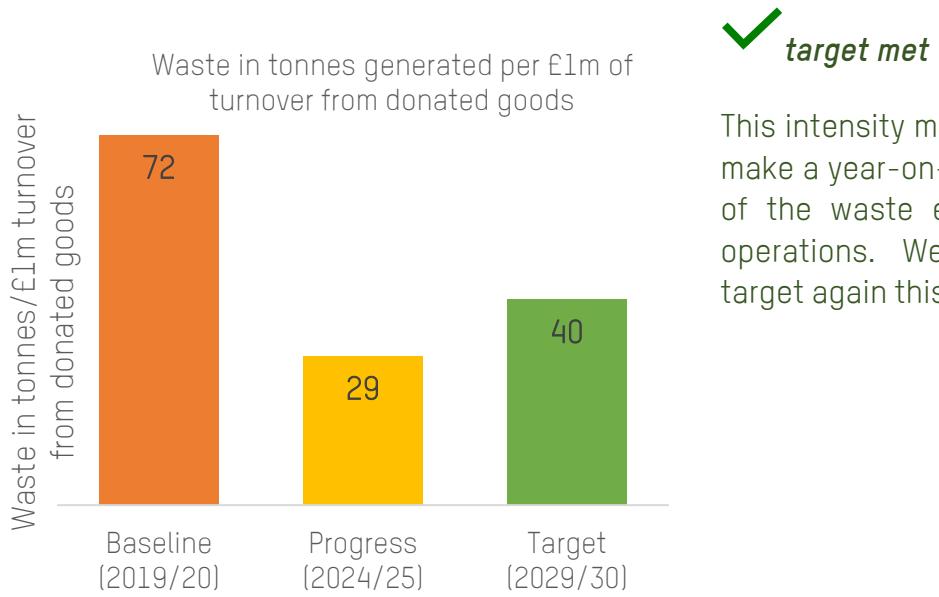
Both of our targets on reducing waste from shops were met early.

### 1. Reduce the percentage of waste from shops that goes to landfill.



We work with third parties to ensure that as much waste as possible is reused or recycled. Most of what can't be reused or recycled is converted into refuse-derived fuel to provide energy for the national grid.

### 2. Reduce the amount of waste in tonnes per £1m of turnover from donated goods.



This intensity metric allows us to make a year-on-year comparison of the waste efficiency of our operations. We exceeded our target again this year.

## Sourced by Oxfam

Oxfam's [Ethical and Environmental Supplier Framework](#) embeds our ethical and environmental standards in sourcing decisions for the new products we sell online and in our shops. This includes our product selection process and ongoing relationships with suppliers. We seek to continuously improve the ethical and environmental impacts of the choices we make for the Sourced by Oxfam (Sb0) range.

The Framework enables us to work with suppliers in ways that can help to raise standards in our supply chain and achieve fairer outcomes for people and planet. We have collaborated to define joint action plans with key suppliers, which define starting points and actions that Oxfam and our suppliers will take. We have agreed which measures we will use to track progress over time, and how we will be held mutually accountable for the impacts of our supply chains. Commercial incentives reward suppliers as they improve their impacts, and we have set targets to drive an increase in the number of suppliers who achieve a 'level 3' rating or above (please see pages 8-9 of our Ethical and Environmental Supplier Framework for details).

Sourced by Oxfam products on display in a shop. Credit: Gabi Torres / Oxfam



## Sourced by Oxfam targets

- 1. Increase the percentage of Sb0 products made from wood and paper that use recycled materials to 50% by 2023/24.**

In 2024/25, the percentage of products made from wood and paper that use recycled materials was 12% (down from 22% in 2023/24).

We have missed this target. This is largely due to our buying teams focusing on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-sourced wood and paper materials. We recognise the urgency of achieving a higher share of recycled materials alongside FSC-certified materials. As part of the updated Retail Sustainability Strategy, we are developing a new materials hierarchy with a stronger focus on recycled materials for the next buying cycle.

- 2. Increase the percentage of products whose primary packaging is deemed compliant with our standards for decisions on new Sb0 products each year, to reach 90% by 2025.**

In 2024/25, the percentage of products whose primary packaging is deemed compliant with our standards was 72% (up from 71% in 2023/24).

We have missed this target. As we see more complex packaging in our supply chain, we will continue to ensure that our range has the most sustainable packaging that is practicable. As part of the Retail Sustainability Strategy, and updates to our Ethical and Environmental Policy [\(hyperlink\)](#), we have clarified our materials policy; we are also developing a new tool to effectively evaluate packaging materials, to enable buyers to choose the most ethical options.

- 3. Increase Sb0 suppliers with a Supply Chain Transparency Agreement as a percentage of the total value of Sb0 business, to reach 90% by 2024/25**

This target was met (and exceeded) early. In 2024/25, 95% of total business value came from suppliers who agreed to our Supply Chain Transparency Agreement, up from 92.9% in 2023/24. We are committed to keep improving our transparency, and from 2025/26 our supply chain will be published on [Open Supply Hub](#).

- 4. Increase the percentage of suppliers rated at level 3 and above in the Supplier Framework as a percentage of the total value of Sb0 business.**

This year 76% of suppliers were rated level 3 or above, falling short of our target of 85% by 2024/25.

Within levels 1–3, our overall spend has remained relatively stable. The largest shift compared to 2023/24 was a 7% increase in level 2 suppliers. Our primary focus has been on continued engagement with level 3 suppliers to improve their impact on people and planet across their supply chains.

## Partnerships

At Oxfam GB, we value our partnerships with a range of retail companies who not only provide vital income for Oxfam's work, but also help us find solutions to deal with unwanted clothing and empower consumers to make sustainable shopping choices.

### ACT UK: Marks and Spencer postal donation trial

In April 2024, we launched a trial of a free postal donation service as part of the ACT UK (Automatic-sorting for Circularity in Textiles) project, led by the UK Fashion and Textiles Association. The trial was funded by the M&S Plan A Accelerator Fund, which is committed to supporting innovative projects in support of net zero goals.

Participants were asked to sort donations into rewearable textiles (RTs) and non-rewearable textiles (NRTs). We received a total of 2,460 bags of donations containing over seven tonnes of post-consumer textiles. Consumer interest and demand was higher than expected, driven by excellent [media coverage](#). The project revealed an appetite for NRT solutions, with 94% of surveyed customers saying they would use a scheme like this again.

The trial gave Oxfam a greater understanding of the role brands play in providing clear messaging to customers, and the role that collectors such as Oxfam might play in moving towards a more circular business model. Participation in the ACT project helped Oxfam create connections across the sector, which will be vital for future collaborations and bringing solutions for NRTs to scale.



***2,460 bags of donations received***



***87% of participants found instructions to separate wearable and unwearable textiles easy to use***



***94% of customers said they would use a scheme like this again***



# OXFAM

