



EARTHCHECK

BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENT REPORT

DESTINATION BENCHMARKING

MUNICIPIO DE MELGACO
MELGACO, PORTUGAL



REPORT DATE: 1 December 2021

Benchmarking Data Collection Period: 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

The planet deserves more than half measures

OVERVIEW

This annual assessment of **Municipio de Melgaco** was undertaken against EarthCheck benchmarking indicators and checklists developed for EarthCheck and listed below. ¹ They have been carefully selected to track performance in key areas of environmental and social performance impact. EarthCheck benchmarking provides an organisation a vehicle for sustainability reporting and is based on the premise of continual improvement. By undertaking a Benchmarking Assessment an organisation meets the requirements of annual benchmarking which includes the collection and submission of benchmarking data to EarthCheck for review and completion of the Benchmarking Assessment Report.²

		Indicator Measure (Benchmark)
1	Policy	Policy is produced and in place ²
2	Energy	Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) ² Green Power (%) ⁴ Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) ³ Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) ³
3	Water	Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) ³ Recycled / Captured Water (%) ⁴
4	Waste	Waste Sent to Landfill (m ³ / Person Year) ³ Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) ⁴
5	Sector Specific	Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ^{3 5} Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ^{3 5} Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ^{3 5} Habitat Conservation Area (%) ² Green Space (%) ² Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%) Accredited Operations (%) ² Water Samples Passed (%) Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) Destination Safety – Assault (%) Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%)
Lead Agency Performance		
6	Water Savings	Water Savings Rating (Points) ⁶
	Waste Recycling	Waste Recycling Rating (Points) ⁶
	Paper	Paper Products Rating (Points) ⁶
	Cleaning	Cleaning Products Rating (Points) ⁶
	Pesticides	Pesticide Products Rating (Points) ⁶

¹ Please refer to the relevant EarthCheck Sector Benchmarking Indicator (SBI) document for more details. For frequently asked questions (FAQs) about benchmarking or specific help, please log on to 'My EarthCheck'.

- ² Produced by the lead agency after consultation with the destination and consensus.
- ³ Person Year is equivalent to 365 person days. EarthCheck Destinations must also allow for both resident and transient (tourist) populations in indicators assessed on a per person year basis. Tourist activity is classified into an “overnight stay” or “day tripper”. An overnight stay is counted the same as a permanent resident, that is, 1 person day. A day tripper is counted as 0.333 person day.
- ⁴ These indicators are for guidance only and do not affect the overall benchmarking evaluation.
- ⁵ Primary assessed impacts on air quality are emissions due to electricity consumption, vehicular transport, industrial processes and mining. The levels are calculated on a per unit area basis using total emissions and total bounded area of the Destination, including waterways. The data is then normalized against the average number of person years per area of the country.
- ⁶ Assessed for the lead agency only.

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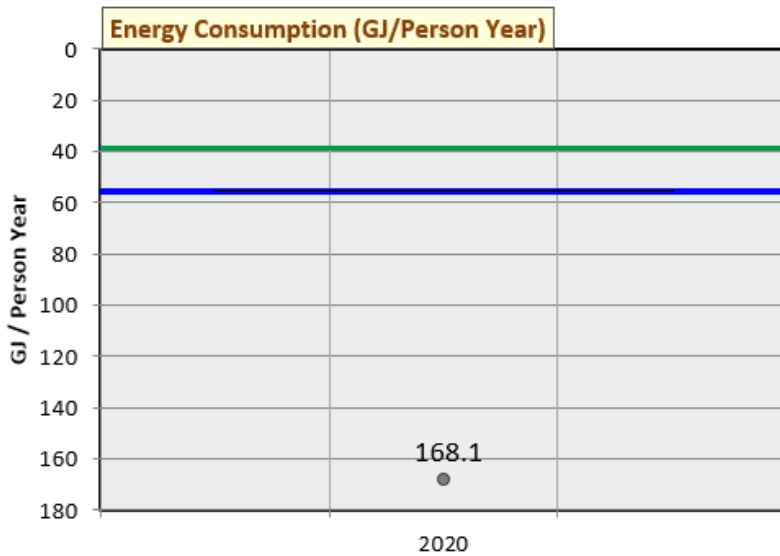
DESTINATION PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

Current performance: Below Baseline ✖ At or above Baseline ✔ At or above Best Practice ★

1. Policy ★

2. Energy

Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) ✖



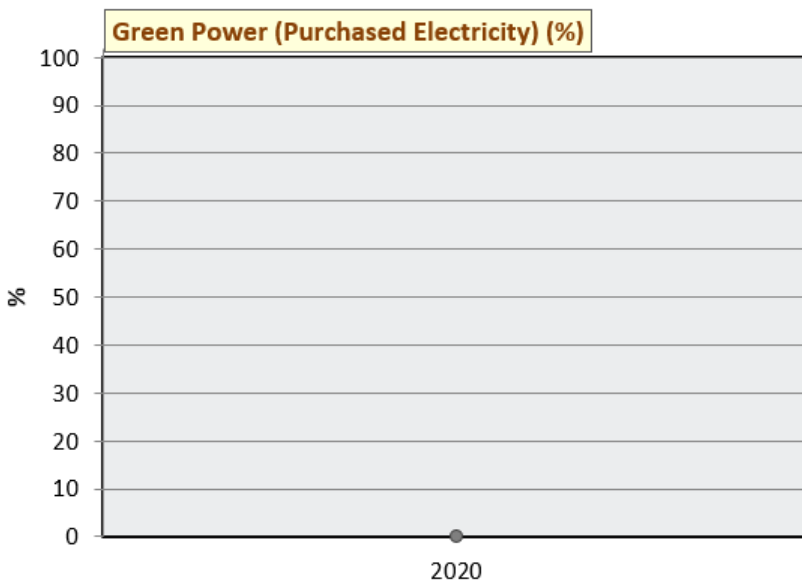
Municipio de Melgaco

55.6 — Baseline

38.9 — Best Practice

Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 168.1 GJ / Person Year, which was 202% below the Baseline level.

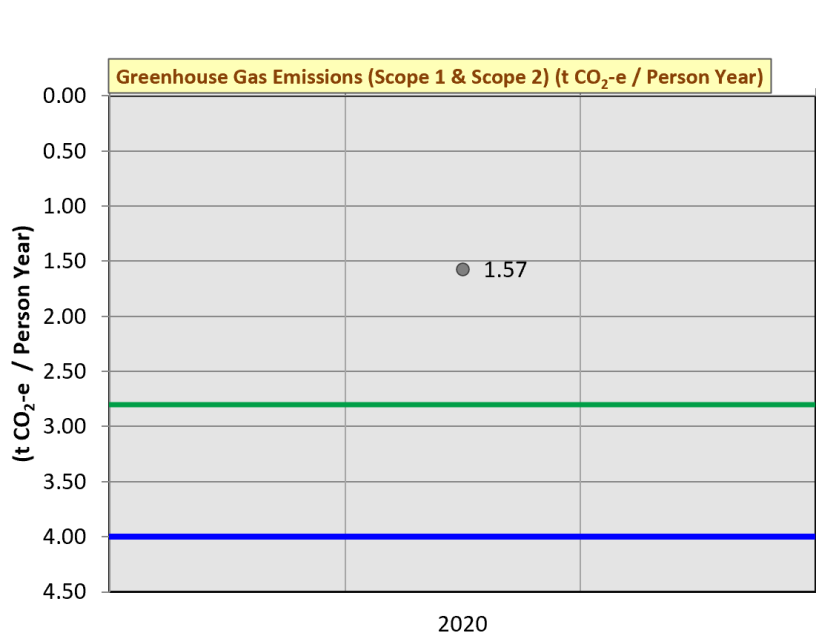
Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%)



Municipio de Melgaco

Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0%.

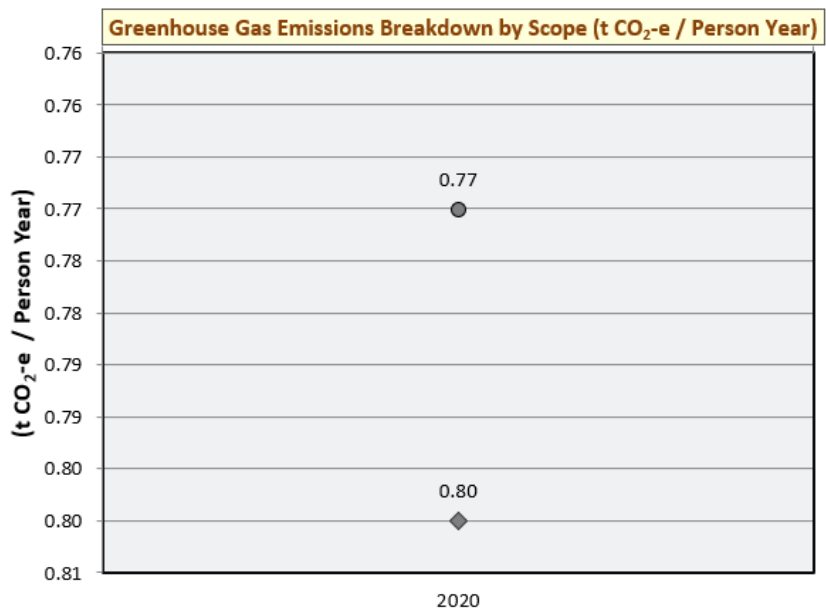
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) ★



● Municipio de Melgaco
— 4 Baseline
— 2.8 Best Practice

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 1.57 t CO₂-e / Person Year, which was 43.3% better than the Best Practice level.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown by Scope (tonnes CO₂-e / Person Year)

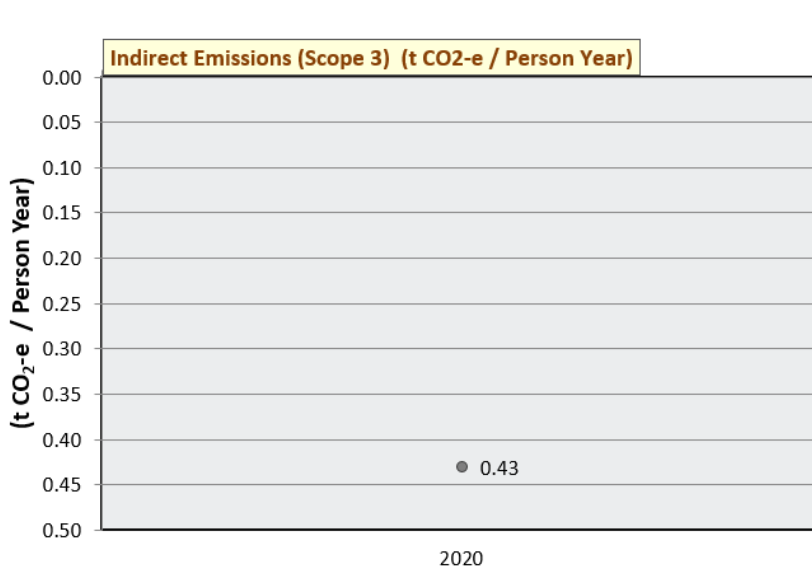


● Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (tonne CO₂-e / Person Year)
◆ Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (tonne CO₂-e / Person Year)

Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (tonne CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0.77 tonne CO₂-e / Person Year.

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (tonne CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0.80 tonne CO₂-e / Person Year.

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)



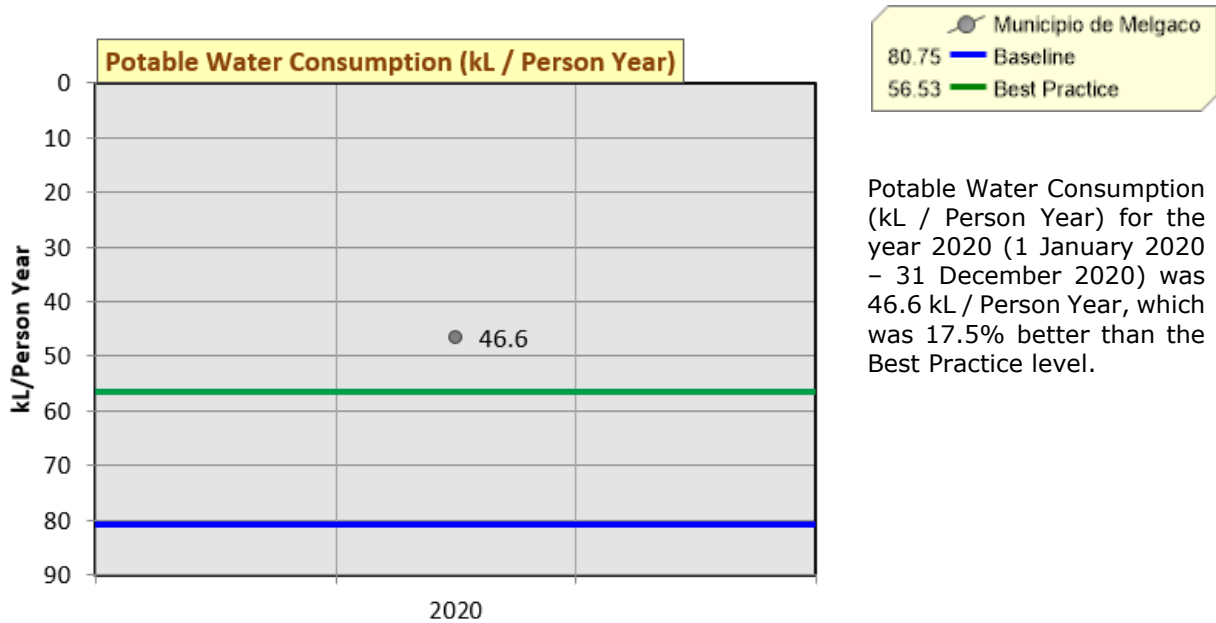
Município de Melgaco

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020) was 0.43 tonne CO₂-e / Person Year.

Direct Emissions (Scope 1)								
Stationary Fuel Combustion								
2020								
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	
Natural Gas Liquid - Propane	435	tonne	21149700.0	1222.0	5.3	3.0	1230.4	
Natural Gas Liquid - Butane	113	tonne	5494060.0	317.4	1.4	0.8	319.6	
Diesel	173	tonne	7810950.0	549.9	2.1	1.2	553.1	
subtotal			34454710.0	2089.3	8.8	5.0	2103.1	
Mobile Fuel Combustion (road)								
2020								
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	
Diesel	1011	tonne	45646650.0	3213.3	4.7	44.8	3262.8	
Motor gasoline	177	tonne	8233155.0	542.0	5.5	16.6	564.1	
subtotal			53879805.0	3755.3	10.2	61.4	3826.9	
Onsite Wastewater Treatment								
2020								
Type	Number of people serviced by system per day	Number of days in use	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)		
Septic (BOD Unknown)	485	365	0	33.5	0	33.5		
subtotal			0	33.5	0	33.5		
Type	Number of people serviced by system per day	Number of days in use	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)		
Aerobic (BOD Unknown)	7592	365	0	314.2	0	314.2		
subtotal			0	314.2	0	314.2		
TOTAL			88334515.0	5844.7	366.7	66.4	6277.7	
Indirect Emissions (Scope 2)								
Purchased Electricity								
2020								
Quantity	Unit	% Green Power	Provider	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)
21423181	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	0	Portugal	77123451.6	6491.2	8.8	40.4	6540.3
subtotal				77123451.6	6491.2	8.8	40.4	6540.3
TOTAL				77123451.6	6491.2	8.8	40.4	6540.3
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2)								
GRAND TOTAL				165457966.6	12335.9	375.5	106.8	12818.1
Indirect Emissions (Scope 3)								
Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	CO ₂ Emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	
2899.1	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	0	3478.92	0	3478.92	
TOTAL				0.0	3478.92	0.0	3478.92	

3. Water

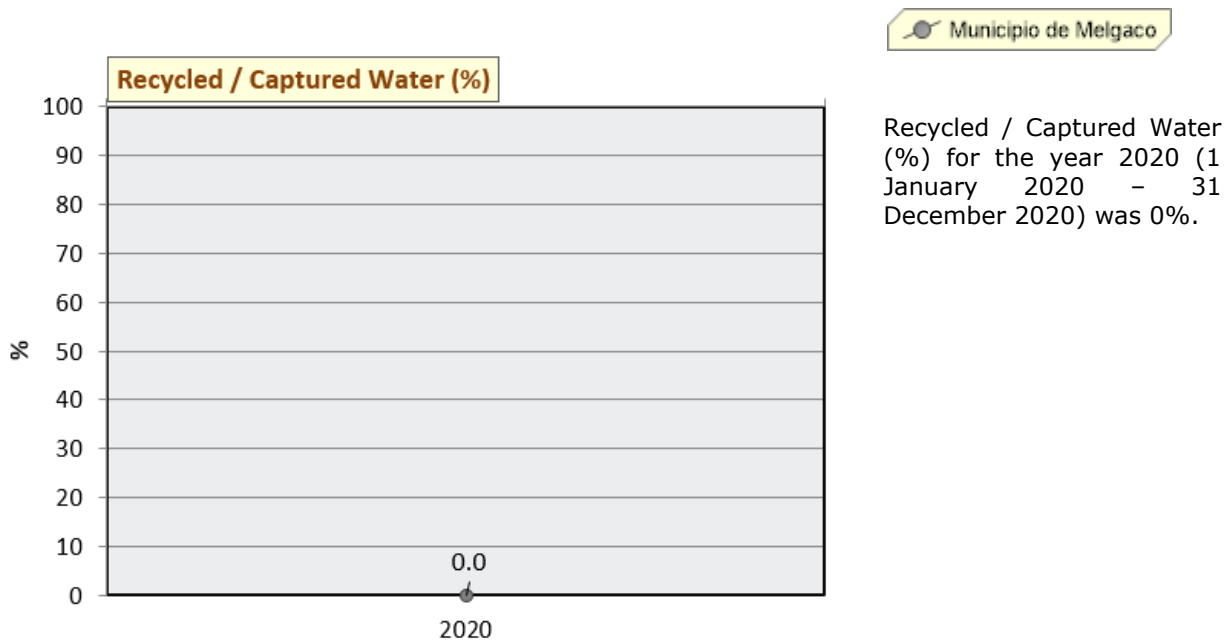
Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) ★



2020

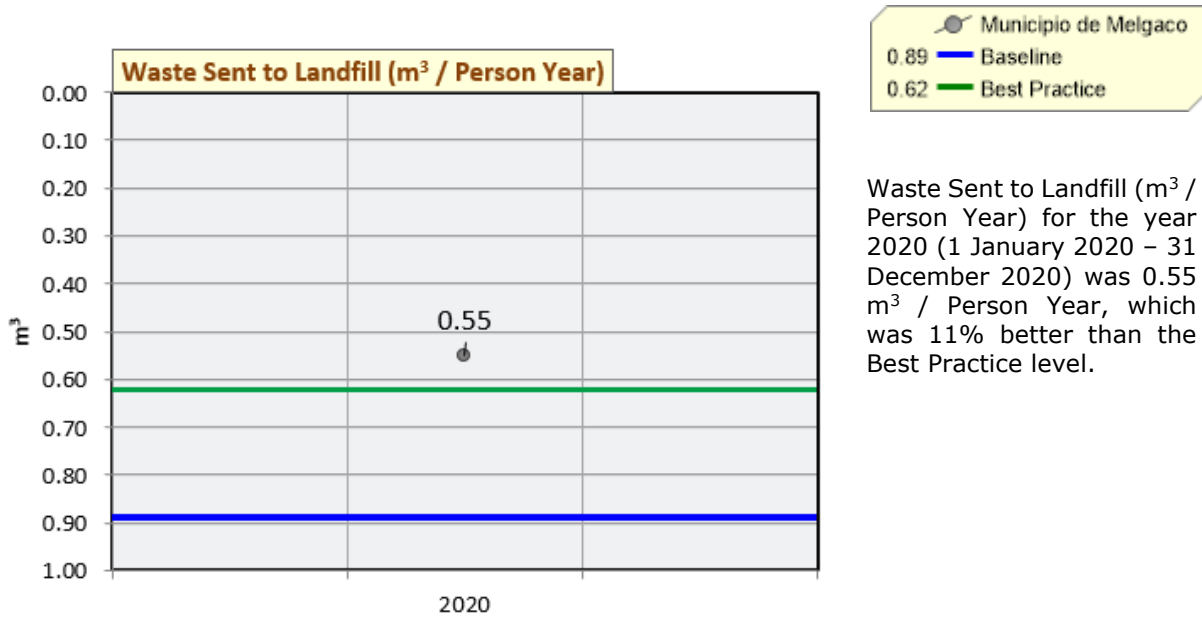
Quantity	Unit	Potable Water Consumption (kL)
376644	kilolitres (kL)	376644.0 kL
	TOTAL	376644.0 kL

Recycled / Captured Water (%)



4. Waste

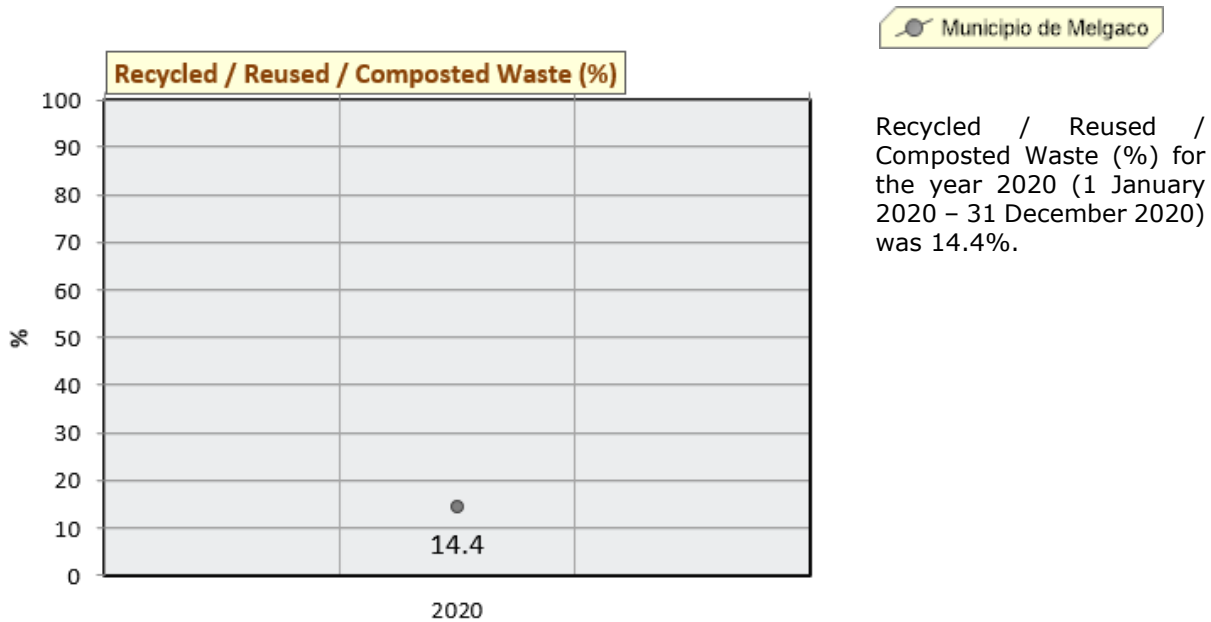
Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year) ★



2020

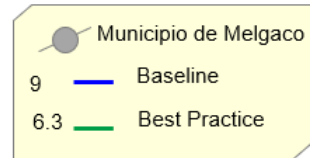
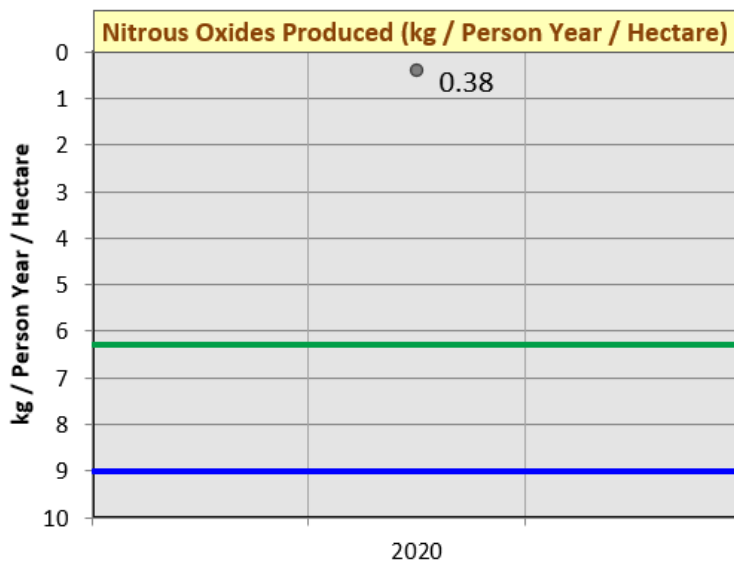
Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	Type of Operation	Waste Sent to Landfill (m ³)
2899.1	tonnes (compacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	Other Operation	4460.2
				TOTAL	4460.2 m³

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)



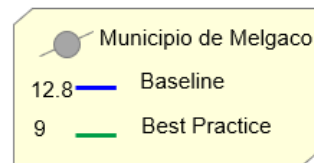
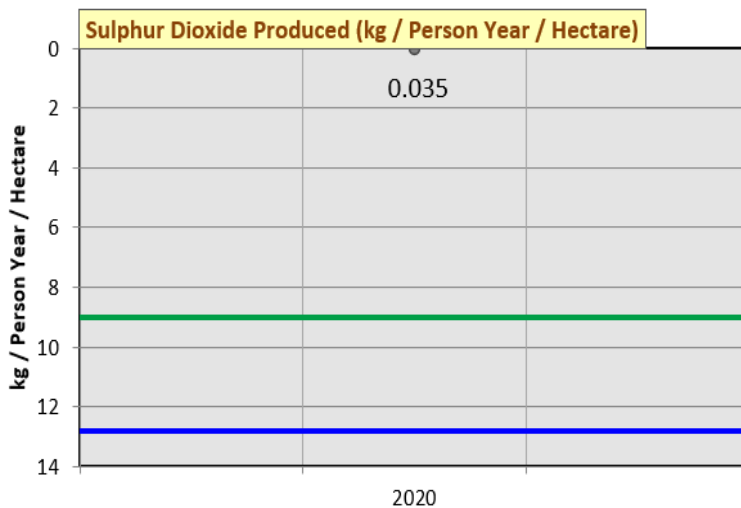
5. Sector Specific

Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ★



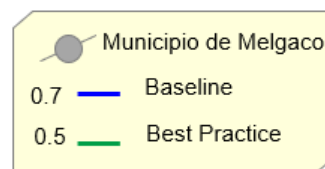
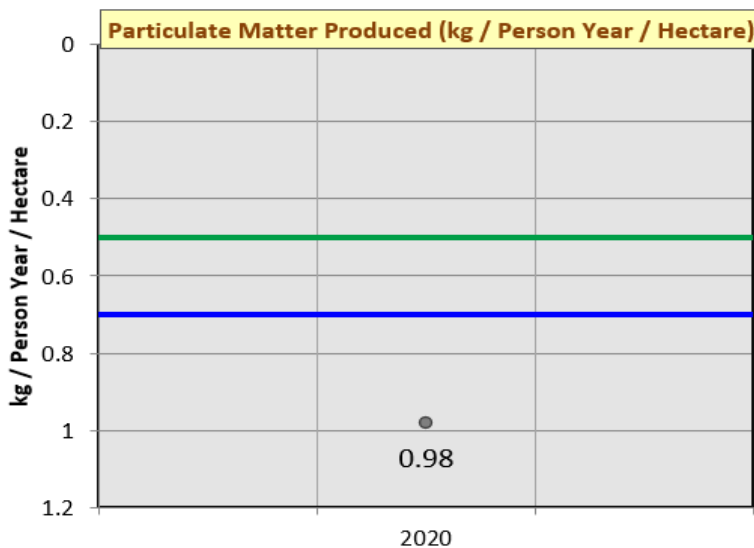
Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0.38 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 94% better than the Best Practice level.

Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ★



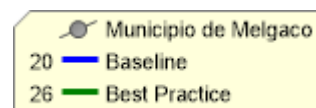
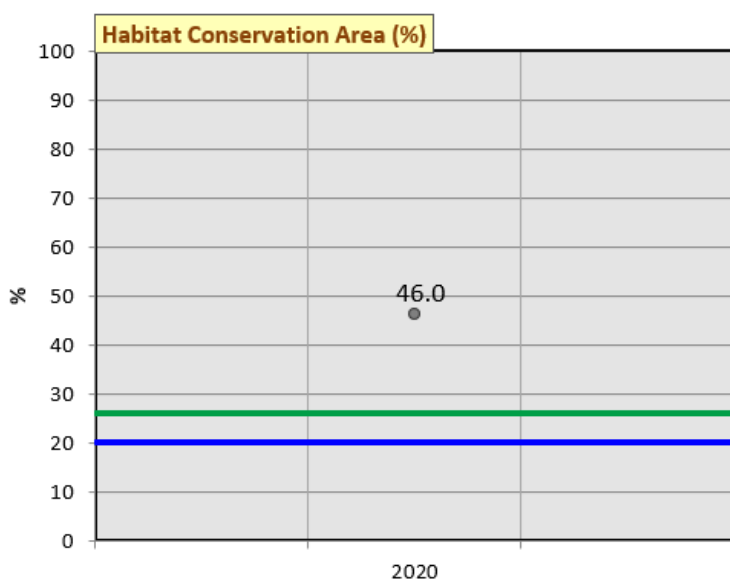
Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0.035 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 99.6% better than the Best Practice level.

Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) ✕



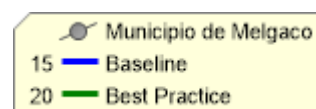
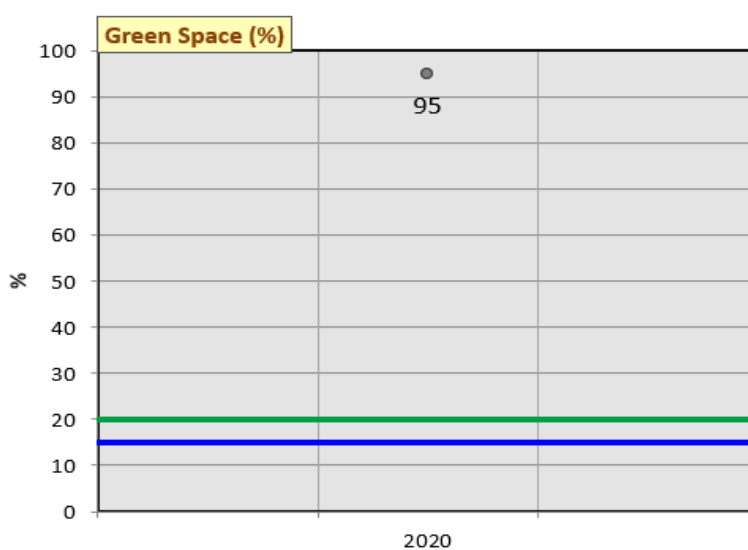
Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0.98 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 96% worse than the Baseline level.

Habitat Conservation Area (%) ★



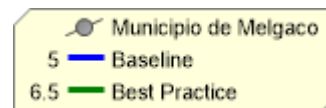
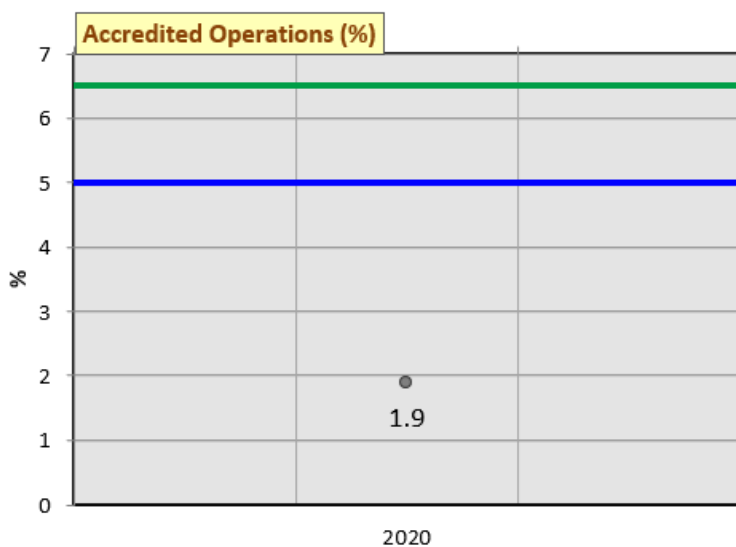
Habitat Conservation Area (%) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 46.0%, which was 20.0% better than the Best Practice level.

Green Space (%) ★



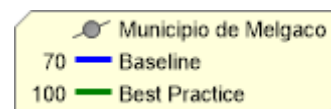
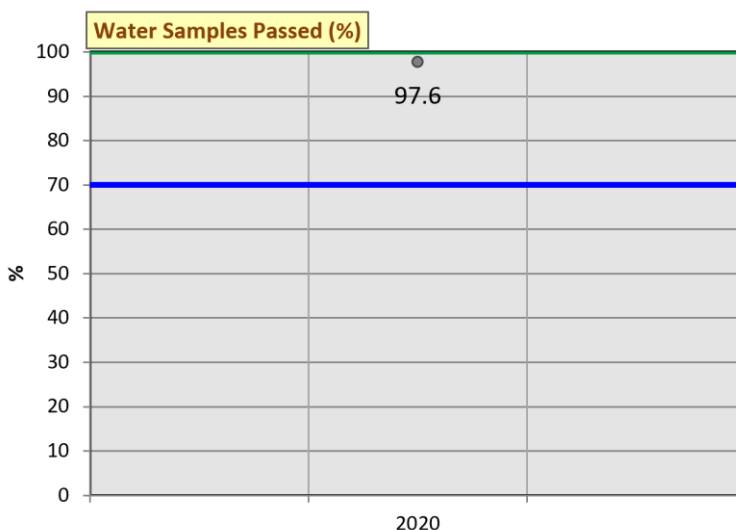
Green Space (%) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 95.0%, which was 75.0% better than the Best Practice level.

Accredited Operations (%) ✘



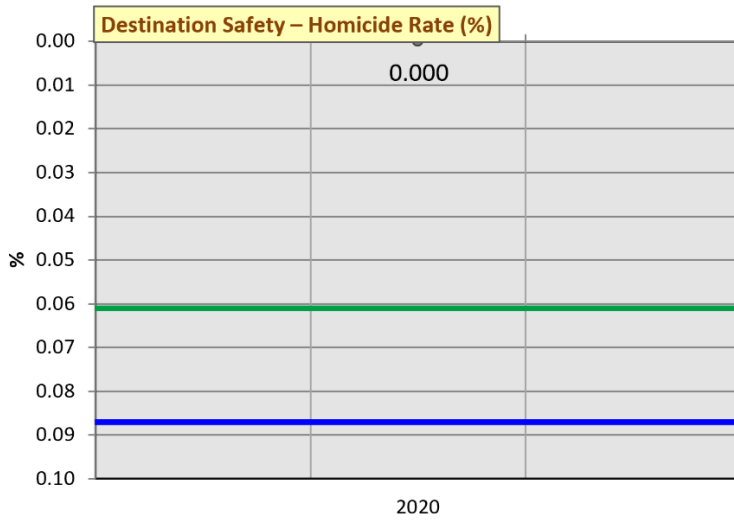
Accredited Operations (%) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 1.9%, which was 3.2% below the Baseline level.

Water Samples Passed (%) ✔



Water Samples Passed (%) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 97.6%, which was 27.6% better than the Baseline level.

Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%) ★



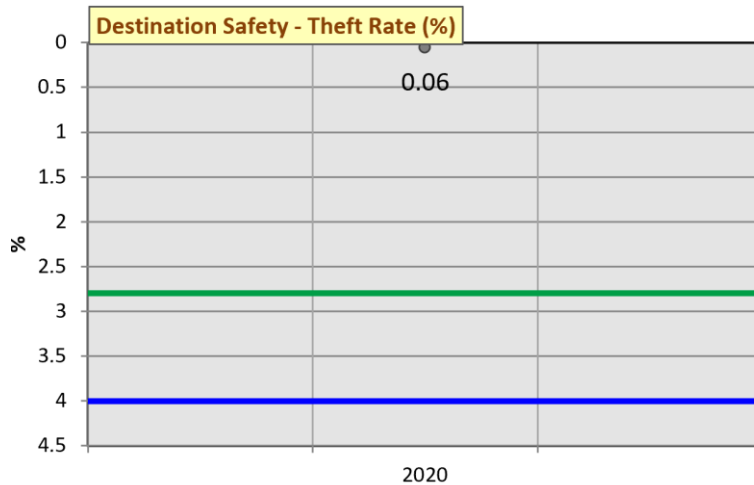
Municipio de Melgaco

0.0013 — Baseline

0.0009 — Best Practice

Homicide Rate for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0.00%, which was 0.0009% better than the Best Practice level.

Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%) ★



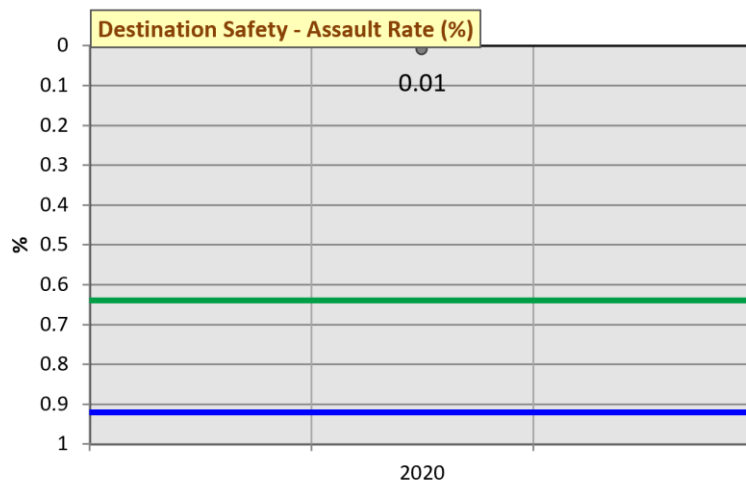
Municipio de Melgaco

0.96 — Baseline

0.68 — Best Practice

Theft Rate for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0.06%, which was 0.62% better than the Best Practice Level.

Destination Safety – Assault Rate (%) ★



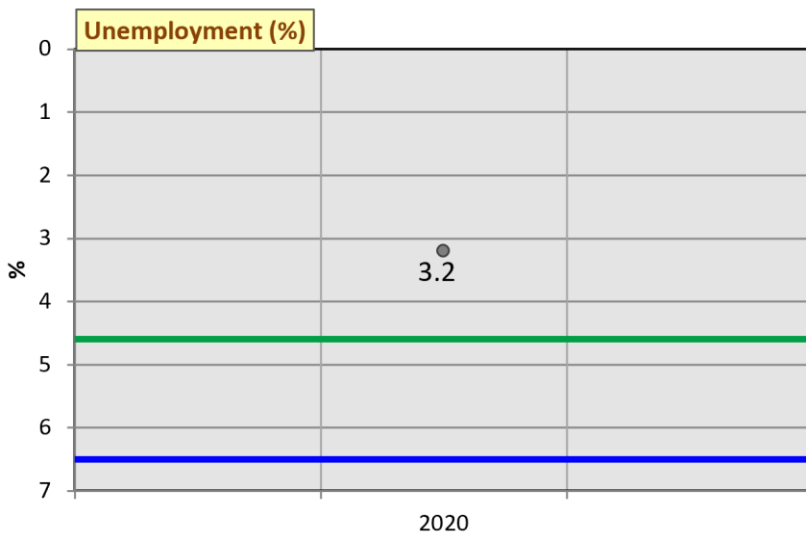
Municipio de Melgaco

0.26 — Baseline

0.18 — Best Practice

Assault Rate for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 0.01%, which was 0.17% below the Baseline Level.

Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment (%) ★

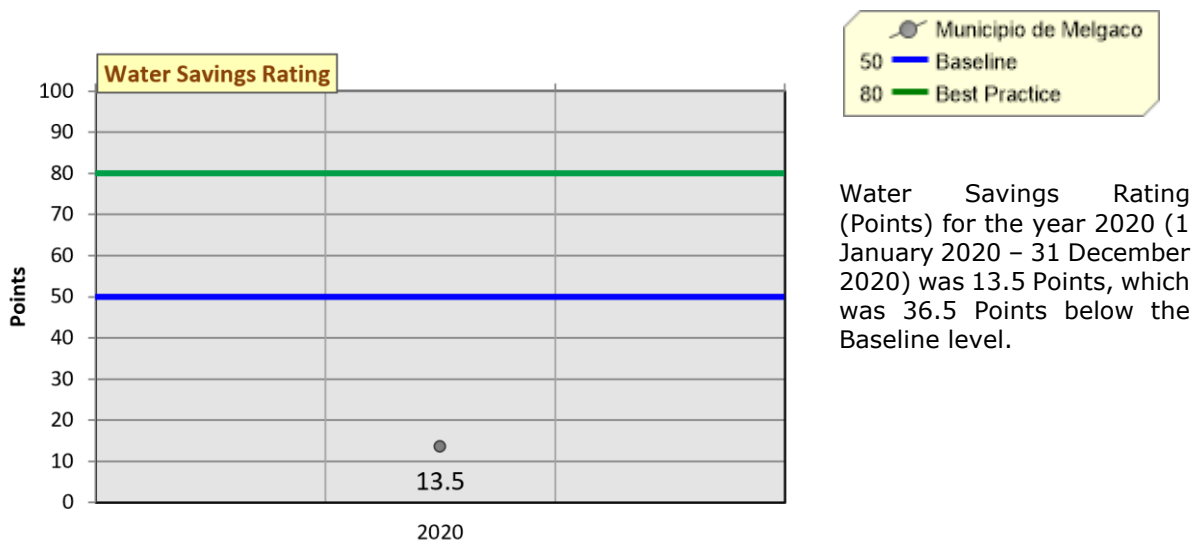


Municipio de Melgaco
 6.5 Baseline
 4.6 Best Practice

Unemployment Rate for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 3.2% which was 1.4% below the Baseline level.

6. Lead Agency Performance

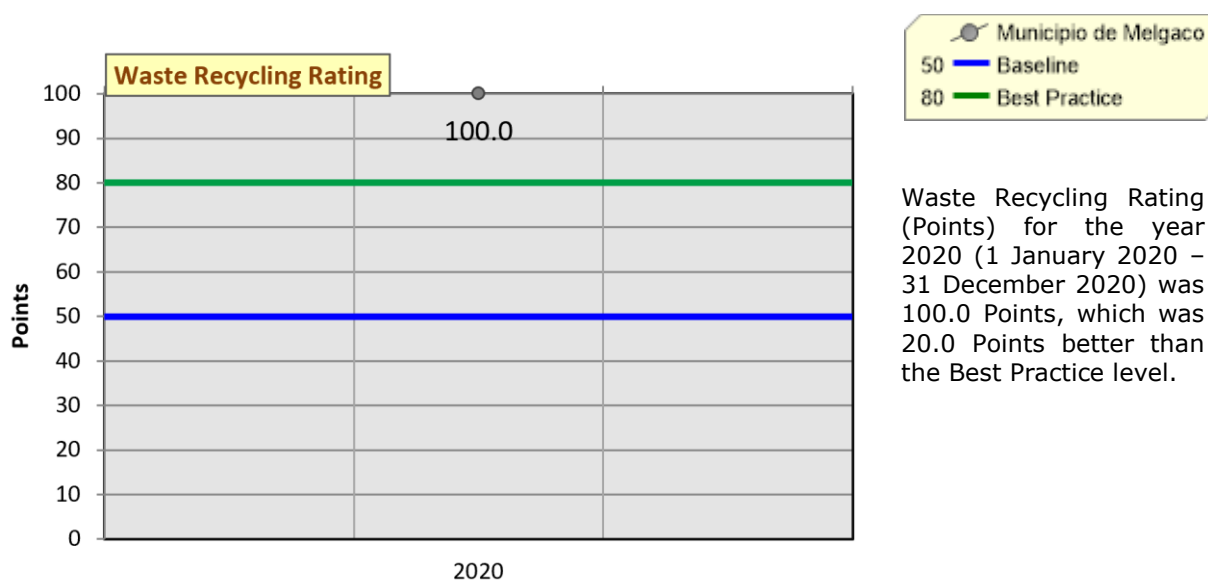
Water Savings Rating (Points) ✕



Water Savings Rating (Points) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 13.5 Points, which was 36.5 Points below the Baseline level.

Water Savings Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Water Savings Rating (Points)
Check for leaks	Once a year	54.0 Points
Low/dual flush toilets	0%	0.0 Points
Low flow tap fittings	0%	0.0 Points
Low flow shower fittings	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Water sprinklers used after dark	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Minimal irrigation landscaping	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Use of recycle/grey/rain water	0%	0.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	13.5 Points

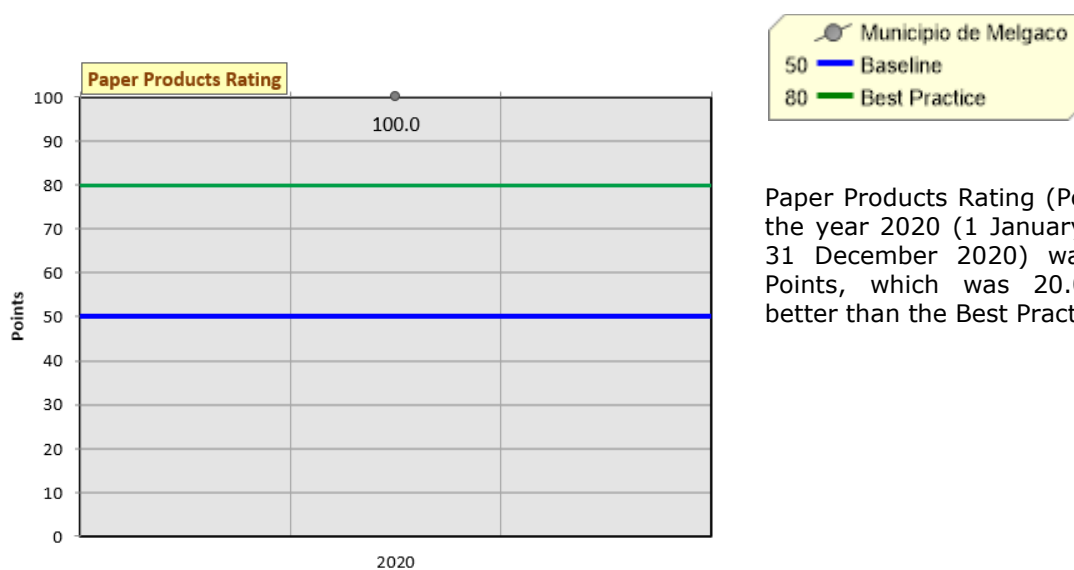
Waste Recycling Rating (Points) ★



Waste Recycling Rating (Points) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Waste Recycling Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
Glass	100%	100.0 Points
Paper/card	100%	100.0 Points
Iron & steel (ferrous metals)	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Other metals (non-ferrous)	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Plastics	100%	100.0 Points
Rubber	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Green waste	100%	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

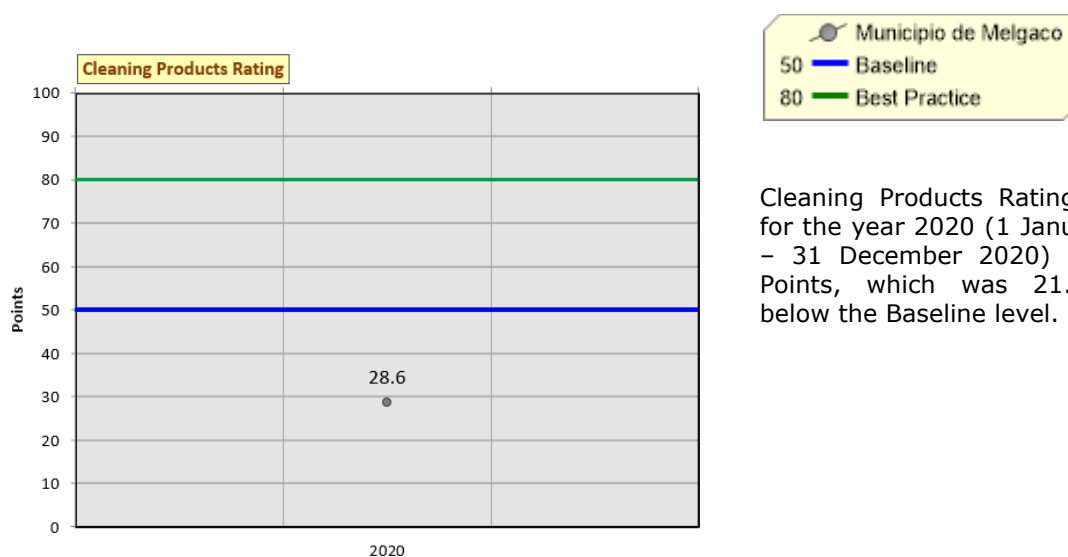
Paper Products Rating (Points) ★



Paper Products Rating (Points) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Paper Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Paper Products Rating (Points)
Office paper	100%	100.0 Points
Serviettes	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Tissues	Not Relevant / Not Available	
Toilet tissue	100%	100.0 Points
Paper towels	100%	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

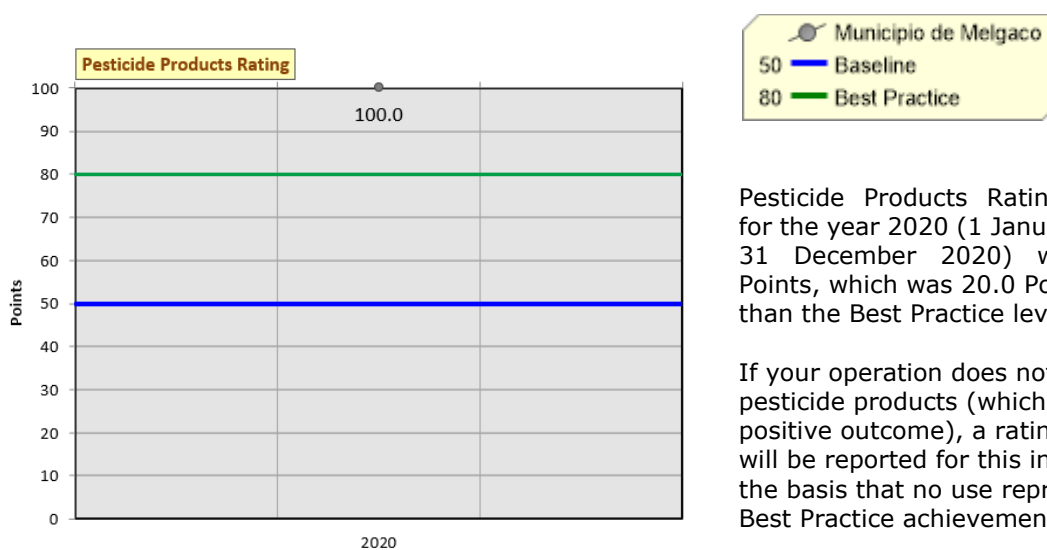
Cleaning Products Rating (Points) ✘



Cleaning Products Rating (Points) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 28.6 Points, which was 21.4 Points below the Baseline level.

Cleaning Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)
Hard floor cleaners	0%	0.0 Points
Carpet cleaners	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Interior surface cleaners	0%	0.0 Points
External surface cleaners	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Glass cleaners	0%	0.0 Points
Detergents	0%	0.0 Points
Personal hygiene	0%	0.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	28.6 Points

Pesticide Products Rating (Points) ★



Pesticide Products Rating (Points) for the year 2020 (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

If your operation does not use any pesticide products (which is a positive outcome), a rating of 100 will be reported for this indicator on the basis that no use represents a Best Practice achievement.

Pesticide Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Pesticide Products Rating (Points)
Weed killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Fungal killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Rodent killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Insect killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

The supplied data has been compiled by **Municipio de Melgaco** in the prescribed manner, authorised by a senior executive of the company and submitted for an annual assessment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Congratulations, **Municipio de Melgaco** has met the requirements to be recognised as an EarthCheck Benchmarked Community.

In addition to having a Sustainability Policy in place, fifteen of the assessed EarthCheck indicators are at or above the Baseline level.

From the benchmarking data provided, fourteen indicators, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2), Potable Water Consumption, Waste Sent to Landfill, Nitrous Oxides Produced, Sulphur Dioxide Produced, Habitat Conservation Area, Green Spaces, Homicide Rate, Theft Rate, Assault Rate, Unemployment Rate, Waste Recycling Rating, Paper Products Rating and Pesticide Products Rating*, are at or above the Best Practice level.

The five indicators that fell below the Baseline level were *Energy Consumption, Particulate Matter Produced, Water Savings Rating, Cleaning Products Rating, and Accredited Operations*.

The value for Energy Consumption was 168.1 GJ / Person Year, which was 202% below the Baseline level. **Municipio de Melgaco** is encouraged to review all its existing energy consumption and demand patterns for both facilities (e.g. use of low wattage, energy saving light fittings and timers to switch-off lights) and vehicles (e.g. reducing the number of journeys).

The value for Water Saving was 36.5 Points below the Baseline level. **Municipio de Melgaco** is encouraged, therefore, to review current on-site water use and the possibility of increasing on-site recycling and reuse (e.g. using non-hazardous rain water and/or grey water for watering plants and washing exterior surfaces). The **Municipio de Melgaco** are also encouraged to regularly check for possible leaks, and fitting (where appropriate) water saving devices such as low-flow shower heads and dual flush toilet cisterns.

The value for Cleaning Products was 21.4 Points below the Baseline level. **Municipio de Melgaco** is encouraged, therefore, to review existing practices and procedures. This review should aim to look to increasing where practical the use of biodegradable chemicals in order to replace and phase out those that are non-biodegradable, and more likely to cause environmental harm.

The value for Particulate Matter Produced was 0.98 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 96% worse than the Baseline level. **Municipio de Melgaco** is encouraged to promote the use of public transport within the destination and to investigate opportunities of switching to cleaner and more efficient combustion fuels (e.g. renewables, LPG) and processes.

Municipio de Melgaco is encouraged to continue to make improvements in the above indicators and to ensure that any indicators below baseline is addressed in the organisation's risk assessment and long term sustainability approach.

Improvements in all the EarthCheck indicators will not only help the environment, but can also help reduce operational costs. Due to the positive commitment that **Municipio de Melgaco** has demonstrated to the environment, the assessors are confident that they can maintain or improve performance, where appropriate and practical, in all indicators. In particular over the next 12 months, **Municipio de Melgaco** is encouraged to ensure that Water Savings Rating, Cleaning Products Rating, and Accredited Operations are at Baseline performance or better. In line with

EarthCheck Policy this would enable **Municipio de Melgaco** to continue to meet the benchmarking requirements of the EarthCheck program.

APPENDIX

MOBILE FUEL COMBUSTION (ROAD)

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification with regards to the fuel sources being reported in terms of weight, instead of volume as is typically reported.

Município de Melgaco provided the following response for clarification:

“The fuel consumption figures are, indeed, accurate. The ‘Direção-Geral de Energia e Geologia’ provides data for fuel in tonnes for each Portuguese municipality, as you can see in the excel file attached (obtained directly from that source).”

Therefore the Benchmarking Assessors maintained the initial data submission.



EARTHCHECK

Benchmarks Assessed by EarthCheck

SUMMARY OF SUPPLIED BENCHMARKING DATA

Activity Measures

Person Years	8077
Total Destination Area	23825

Supplied Benchmarking Data

Energy

Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year)

Supplied	1357494.45 GJ
Calculated	168.1 GJ / Person Year
Baseline	55.6 GJ / Person Year
Best Practice	38895.03125 MJ / Person Year
Difference	202% below the Baseline level.

Green Power (Purchased Electricity) (%)

Supplied	0%
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Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	12818.1 t CO ₂ -e
Calculated	1.57 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Baseline	4.0 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Best Practice	2.8 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
Difference	43.3% better than the Best Practice level

Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (kg CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	6277745.7 kg CO ₂ -e
Calculated	777.2 kg CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (kg CO₂-e / Person Year)

Supplied	6540340.1 kg CO ₂ -e
Calculated	809.7 kg CO ₂ -e / Person Year

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

Calculated	0.43 t CO ₂ -e / Person Year
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Water

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year)

Supplied	376644.0 kL
Calculated	46.6 kL / Person Year
Baseline	80.75 kL / Person Year
Best Practice	56.53 kL / Person Year

Difference	17.5% better than the Best Practice level
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Recycled / Captured Water (%)

Supplied	0%
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Water Savings Rating (Points)

Calculated	13.5 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	36.5 Points below the Baseline level

Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year)

Supplied	4460.2 m ³
Calculated	0.55 m ³ / Person Year
Baseline	0.89 m ³ / Person Year
Best Practice	0.62 m ³ / Person Year

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)

Supplied	14.4%
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Waste Recycling Rating (Points)

Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

Paper

Paper Products Rating (Points)

Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

Cleaning

Cleaning Products Rating (Points)

Calculated	28.6 Points
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Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	21.4 Points below the Baseline level

Difference	75.0% better than the Best Practice level
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Accredited Operations (%)

Supplied	1.9%
Baseline	5 %
Best Practice	6.5 %
Difference	3.2% below the Baseline level

Calculated	12.1%
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Pesticides

Pesticide Products Rating (Points)

Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

Destination Safety

Homicide Rate (%)

Calculated	0.00%
Baseline	0.0013%
Best Practice	0.0009%
Difference	0.0009% better than Best Practice

Theft Rate (%)

Calculated	0.06%
Baseline	0.96%
Best Practice	0.68%
Difference	0.62% better than the Best Practice level

Assault Rate (%)

Calculated	0.01%
Baseline	0.26%
Best Practice	0.18%
Difference	0.11% better than the Baseline Level

Sector Specific

Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Calculated	0.38 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	9.0 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Best Practice	6.3 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	94% better than the Best Practice level

Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Calculated	0.035 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	12.8 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Best Practice	9.0 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	99.6% better than the Best Practice level

Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Calculated	0.98kg / Person Year / Hectare
Baseline	0.7 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Best Practice	0.5 kg / Person Year / Hectare
Difference	96% below the Baseline level

Socio-Economic Benefit

Unemployment Rate (%)

Calculated	3.2%
Baseline	6.5%
Best Practice	4.6%
Difference	1.4% below the Baseline Level

Water Samples Passed (%)

Supplied	97.6%
Baseline	70 %
Best Practice	100 %
Difference	27.6% better than the Baseline level

Habitat Conservation Area (%)

Supplied	46.0%
Baseline	20 %
Best Practice	26 %
Difference	20.0% better than the Best Practice level

Green Space (%)

Supplied	95.0%
Baseline	15 %
Best Practice	20 %

DETERMINATION OF BASELINE AND BEST PRACTICE LEVELS

General

The values for the Baseline and Best Practice levels for each indicator are derived from extensive worldwide research into available and appropriate case studies, industry surveys, engineering design handbooks, energy, water and waste audits, and climatic and geographic conditions.

National and regional data for per capita energy use, greenhouse gas and other emissions, wastes to landfill and water consumption, where available provide background data for normalisation of the expected performance values for per customer or employee, and/or overall performance of an enterprise being benchmarked. They are used to gauge the regional or national situation and environmental performances that an enterprise is based in, and hence what are reasonable levels to expect the enterprise to achieve.

A benchmarking result at, or above, the Baseline level demonstrates to all stakeholders that the enterprise is achieving above average performance. A result below the Baseline level indicates that an enterprise can and should carry out actions that will make beneficial improvements in performance.

Consideration of Climate

A major determinant of energy consumption in some sectors, primarily those centred on buildings such as accommodation, visitor centres and administration offices will be the dominant climatic conditions in which the enterprise is located. In general, to maintain the same level of indoor comfort, enterprises operating in hot or cold climates will consume more energy than those in temperate climates.

Similarly, it is recognised that in certain sectors a major determinant of potable water consumption will be the climate in which an enterprise is located, in particular those with large grounds and/or significant water-based facilities or activities. That is, enterprises located in hot climates are more likely to consume more potable water than equivalent ones located in cooler climates. Factors that are likely to lead to a higher level of potable water consumption, for example in the accommodation sector, include increased evaporation rates of swimming pools, personal bathing and irrigation demands of grounds. In consideration of this factor, Baseline and Best Practice levels can vary in relation to country location.

Waste Sent to Landfill

The benchmark indicator used for Waste Sent to Landfill is given in litres as waste bins are usually calibrated by volume, and it has been found that the majority of operations do not have access to the weight of material disposed of. However, if a weight is supplied, standard factors are used to convert from weight (e.g., kilograms (kg)) to volume (e.g., cubic metres (m³) or litres (L)). These are: 1 kg (uncompacted waste) = 0.00333333 m³ or 3.33333 L and 1 kg (compacted waste) = 0.00153846 m³ or 1.53846 L.

Operations should make note of the level of compaction when submitting data for assessment by EarthCheck.

Review of Performance Levels

The Baseline and Best Practice performance levels for EarthCheck indicators are continuously reviewed and are likely to change over time. This review by a team of international experts, takes into account "business-as-usual" changes in practices, equipment and facilities, as well as regulations and general improvement trends in performance and procedures. This review is used to update the levels of Baseline and Best Practice, and provides useful feedback to the user of the indicators.

The list below summarises the basic generic rules used to determine Baseline and Best Practice levels for EarthCheck indicators.

- If relevant enterprise sector specific case studies are not available for a type of activity in a designated region, then national averages will be used to ascertain the Baseline level. In this case, the Best Practice level will be set at a minimum of 30% better performance than the Baseline.
- If case study or national data are not available for a specific indicator, then the first enterprise that benchmarks will have its results set as 15% better than Baseline (i.e., half way between Baseline and Best Practice).