



The environment



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Conduct profitable business in a **responsible and accountable manner**

In line with SDGs aimed at affordable and clean energy and climate action, the Group is focused on energy and water efficiency, responsible waste management, and innovative solutions to aid customer sustainability

Bidvest’s environmental footprint is largely concentrated in its Freight operations, BidAir Cargo, laundries and the businesses with extensive operational networks, which collectively represent the vast majority of Group emissions and water usage.

Bidvest is a signatory to and participant in the United Nation’s Global Compact. Bidvest’s Group CEO serves on the board of the UN Global Compact Network SA and is the chair. Nominated senior executives participate in the UN’s Gender Diversity as well as Business and Human Rights Accelerator programmes.

	Topic	Our aim
Environmental	Own carbon footprint	To reduce the emission intensity of our operations by 20% by 2025 from the 2019 base
	E1	
	Resource use	To reduce the waste generated and water intensity in our operations by 20% by 2025 from the 2019 base
	E2	To source product from supply chain partners that are responsible in their dealings and achieve 100% compliance by 2025 and contribute to the circular economy

We will	Measurement	FY2019 base	FY2025 target	FY2023 actual	%ch '19	Like-for- Like	%ch '19	%ch '22
Continue to improve energy efficiency, shift our energy consumption to lower emission sources, invest in renewable sources and configure our properties to be environmentally smart	Scope 1 and 2 emissions intensity	4.33	3.46	2.72	(37%)	2.95	(32%)	(12%)
	% electricity sourced from renewables	1%		3%	136%			
Step up waste recycling efforts	Quantum of recycled waste (ton)	511 413		299 300	(41%)			
	% of waste generated recycled	3%		73%				
Increase recycled raw material content in products and packaging whilst also making it more environmentally friendly	% product and packaging content from recycled material			Refer to commentary				
Reduce the net quantum of water used, taking into account recycling	Net water intensity	24.91	19.93	15.19	(39%)	15.37	(38%)	(17%)
Engage with these tier 1 suppliers to ensure that they have adopted the commitments described in our Ethical Purchasing Code (industry standard or equivalent environmental assessment)	% offshore suppliers being compliant as measured by self disclosure		100%	88%				
Introduce the recovery/ take-back of product at the end of life	Quantum of items recovered			Refer to commentary				

Emissions

The Group generated Scope 1 and 2 emissions of 302 258 tons in the financial year ended 30 June 2023, 2% more when compared to the financial year ended 30 June 2022. Group emission intensity decreased by 12% year on year. With reference to targets embedded in our ESG Framework, emissions reduced by 38% between FY2019 and FY2023. Emission intensity declined from 4.33kg/R000s revenue to 2.95kg/R000s revenue, on a like-for-like basis.

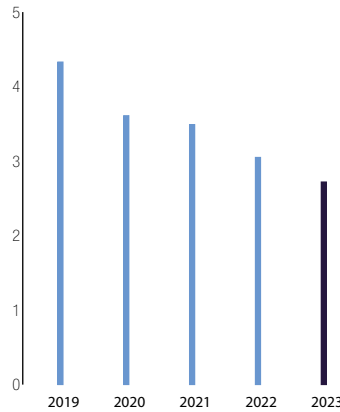
3.2MWh, or 3%, of electricity used was drawn from renewable sources

PHS and Noonan’s net zero carbon plans were verified; Konica Minolta retained its carbon neutral status.

Together Bidvest Renewables and Voltex sold solar panels generating 78MWh

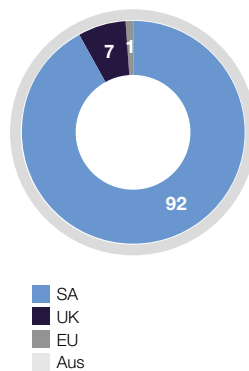
Energy consumed in Group operations is predominantly drawn from the national grids. 10 Bidvest businesses installed solar capacity in the last eighteen months, providing up to 50% of the power needs in the respective businesses. The total investment was approximately R50 million with estimated pay-back periods between three to four years.

Emission intensity (kg/R000's revenue)



Bidvest provides low/no carbon and environmentally-friendly products and services into the economies in which it operates, such as the storage and handling of LPG, the distribution of solar panels and geysers, 100% recyclable packaging, electric vehicles, etc. For examples of recently launched products and services, please refer to page 38.

Emissions produced (%)



5 254 solar geysers sold by Plumblink

Prestige and BPO moved to **lithium-ion batteries** to power machines and forklifts, where possible. This allows for brief intermittent and/or frequent charges during breaks resulting in improved machine uptime and overall efficiency. The total charge time, and therefore **electricity consumption**, is **lower**.

In the KZN region, **Top Turf** completed roll-out of a mobile team with a trailer and all **battery-operated machinery** for use by the roving team. This is **reducing CO₂ emissions** as well as **noise pollution**.

89% of offensive waste collected by **PHS** was disposed of via **Energy from Waste (EfW)** route, as opposed to 75% in the prior year. The environmental impact, via a reduction in tCO₂e, is significant. The environmental impact is 4 662 tCO₂e, versus 31 111 tCO₂e for 100% to landfill.

Scope 1 and scope 2 emissions* (tonnes)

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Scope 1	285 431	250 441	217 085	212 910	170 365	197 687	133 618	179 520	176 592	191 017
Scope 2			5 357	9 471	157 704	148 661	132 675	123 318	118 822	111 241
Total	285 431	250 441	222 442	222 381	328 070	346 349	266 396	302 838	295 414	302 258
Like-for-like								275 512	275 002	281 658

* Ton of CO₂e are reported using government and international GHG conversion factors.

Bidvest made a climate change submission to the CDP. Please refer to www.bidvest.co.za.

Water

The Group used 1 691 million kilolitres of water, a decrease of 5% year on year. Also, 191 million cubic metres of industrial wastewater were treated and discharged. Water intensity decreased by 17% during the year to 30 June 2023.

21%
less water was used compared to FY2019

Water intensity declined from 24.91litre/R000s revenue to 15.37litre/R000s revenue, on a like-for-like basis, a 38% decrease.

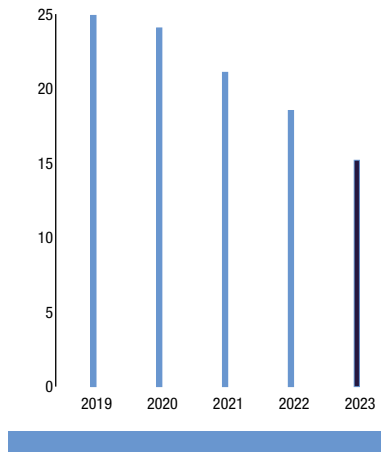
The bulk of the water consumed is drawn from municipal sources.

Water drawn from boreholes represented 11% of total usage

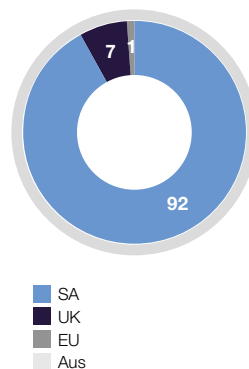
The Group has a handful of operations in water stressed municipalities, notably in the Eastern Cape, SA. Business continuity plans have been put in place.

Bidvest made a water submission to the CDP. Please refer to www.bidvest.co.za.

Water intensity (litres/R000's revenue)



Water used (%)



Noonan increased the number of **soft wash** systems for use by the Industrial team. This means a more effective cleaning solution with a 90% reduction in water usage compared to traditional power washing.

Protea Coin invested in a substantial sewerage plant to convert **wastewater into greywater** which is then used for irrigation and the hydroponics garden that produces produce for the Gijima facility.

New power **batch washing machines** were introduced at **Laundry** operations. These use between 2.5-6litres/kg of washing, compared to 16-25litre used by a standard washer extractor machine.

Boreholes were **sunk** at three businesses to reduce their reliance on municipal supply.

Group water used and waste water treated (kilolitres)

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Total water usage	2 935 642	2 391 110	2 367 121	2 423 291	2 048 674	1 994 158	1 778 043	1 802 576	1 771 759	1 690 703
Like-for-like								1 639 454	1 671 474	1 572 663
Waste water treated				402 149	518 614	285 180	574 628	166 449		191 212

Circular economy

The Group recycled

108 088 tons
of waste

73%
of waste generated
was recycled

Rotolabel started a **liner-recycling project** through a working group of the Fibre Circle PRO, involving more material suppliers, convertors/printers, and end users. 41 tons of liner have so far been recycled into tissue paper.

Plumblink introduced plastic bags made of 100% recycled material in the branches.

Laundries partnered with Ramtsillo, a 100% black women owned company, that provides waste management and recycling services. The **plastic** is used in the manufacturing of strong, **durable** and **fire-retardant bricks**.

Aquazania launched their partnership with the Sweetheart Foundation who collects **plastic caps and bread tags**, sells it to a recycler and uses the proceeds to purchase **wheelchairs** for disadvantaged individuals.

In partnership with **Adcock**, **blankets** were produced by **Protea Coin's** ED beneficiary, Matakala Amabotse, utilising **old uniforms and thermal covers**.

Product/service innovation

BIC uses Z Water for cleaning to reduce the use of chemicals in the working environment and supporting clients' rating schemes of Wellness and Green Star buildings.



Tom Bag, a reusable bin liner, was launched in support of BIC's initiative to reduce Scope 3 emissions. The product can be upcycled at end of life and saves approximately 90 bin liners per day.



Noonan's switch from liquid to foam soap brings about significant environmental benefits (reduced plastics and packaging) in addition to a 30% cost saving for customers.



Comac Inaqua recycling machines were introduced in both the UK and Ireland. The system recycles 150l of dirty water from machines or mop buckets to clean water in 30 minutes.



PHS introduced smaller aerosol cans that can last longer than its predecessor, meaning a reduction in the volume, cost and lower waste volumes from spent aerosols.



PHS recently launched a range of soluble pods which, when added to tap water, produce various cleaning fluids.



BIC rolled out TESS (Tenant Education and Sustainability System) to provide customer centric and tailored information. This has led to significant reductions in waste stream contamination and improvement in recycling outcomes.

Dynamic cleaning sensor technology was implemented at multiple Noonan clients and is on pilot with 2 Bidvest Facilities Management clients in SA. This tech eliminates inefficiencies and improves service quality by matching cleaning resources to areas of activity.



Environmental management

During the year, one environmental event occurred. BTT reported a product leak between a ship and product pipeline to the Department of Environmental Affairs together with detail on remedial action taken. No fine was issued. No public grievances against any operations were received.

Environmental management systems are in place at businesses, as listed below, representing 48% of Group revenue.

Entity	Certifications				
Noonan	ISO 9001	ISO 14001	ISO45001	ISO 22301	ISO 27001
BIC	ISO9001	ISO14001	ISO45001	ISO10002	
First Garment Rental	ISO 9001	ISO 14001	ISO 45001	SANS 10146	
Masterpack	FSSC 22000	IOS 22002	FSC-C031324	FSSI IBL	
Bidvest Tank Terminals	ISO 9001	ISO 14001	ISO 45001	SANS 3000	
Bidvest Facilities Management	ISO 9001	ISO 45001	ISO 14001	ESCo Tier 1	
PHS	ISO 9001	ISO 14000	ISO 45001		
Bidvest Steiner	ISO 9001	ISO 45001	ISO 14001		
Bidvest Prestige	ISO 9001	ISO 45001	ISO 14001		
Bidvest Catering Services	ISO 9001	SANS 10049	SANS 10156		
Renttech	IOS 9001	ISO 45001			
Rotolabel	ISO 9001	FSSC 22000			
Lithotech	ISO 9001	FSSC 22000			
S&N Labels	ISO 9001	FSSC 22000			
Konica Minolta	ISO 9001	FSC			
Manica Namibia Group	ISO 9001	ISO 45001			
Cecil Nurse	ISO 9001	ISO140001			
G Fox	NRCS accredited	SEDEX accredited			
Bidvest Protea Coin	ISO 9001				
P& I Associates	ISO 9001				
Bidfreight Port Operations	ISO 9001				
Rennies Ships Agency	ISO 9001				
Bidvest International Logistics	ISO 9001				
Academy Brushware	ISO 9001				
Buffalo Tapes	ISO 9001				
Burncrete	ISO 9001				
Nu-Quip	ISO 9001				
Cabstrut	ISO 9001				
Electech	ISO 9001				
Technilamp	ISO 9001				
Home of Living Brands	ISO 9001				
Silveray	ISO 9001				
Hotel Amenities Supplies	ISO 9001				
Vulcan	ISO 9001				
Aluminium Foil Converters	ISO 22000				
Bidair Cargo	ISAGO				
Lufil	FSSC 22000				

Responsible supply chain

Bidvest's Code of Ethical Purchasing (Code) is intended to promote safe and fair working conditions, ethical business practices and the responsible management of environmental and social issues within the Group's supply chains.

The principles are to uphold human rights, behave ethically and be environmentally sustainable.

During FY2023, all multi-national suppliers as well as the balance of offshore suppliers were approached to sign the Code (or equivalent) as confirmation of adherence and commitment. This focused effort has resulted in almost all non-local suppliers confirming their sustainability commitment. As the signing of the Code is now part of supplier onboarding, this metric has been removed from the FY2024 short term incentive scorecard. We are investigating further initiatives and best practice to meaningfully drive sustainability in our supply chains.

To date, 88% of Bidvest's offshore and multi-national suppliers signed the Code

All products that Bidvest distributes or retails are approved by the necessary authorities, as required. Products carry warranties that vary between six months to manufacturer backed guarantee of up to five years, mostly in the case of vehicles. No product is sourced from countries on the global sanction list and products that may include conflict minerals, such as vehicles and electronic equipment, is sourced from reputable global suppliers who actively monitor their supply chain to source responsibly.

Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

The TCFD published recommendations to encourage companies to increase their disclosure of climate-related information, with a focus on governance, strategy, risk management and metrics and targets.

Bidvest is aware of the importance of addressing issues related to climate change as the impacts are far-reaching. As a targeted first step towards contributing to restricting the increase in the global mean temperature in accordance with the Paris Agreement, we have set a target of reducing emission intensity by 20% by 2025.

To date, we have taken the following steps towards these recommendations:

- **Governance** – Bidvest reiterated its commitment to conduct profitable business in an accountable manner and set objectives, which include representing responsibly made products. Management included an explicit Group emission reduction target of 20% by 2025 in the board approved ESG Framework which has been cascaded into the identified focus businesses as part of management's KPIs. Data gathered quarterly is presented to the Social, ethics and transformation committee;
- **Strategy** – We offer a continuously broadening basket of services and products that adds value to customers. This means we represent products and services that are responsibly made and delivered while preserving the environment for future generations. This is an ongoing process, incorporating innovation and investment;
- **Risk management** – Climate risk is one of the key risks elevated at Group level. This is discussed in more detail on page 9. Operationally, climate risks translate into, for example, damage

to facilities at coastal level and disruptions to supply chains due to extreme weather conditions, escalating cost of service delivery, products and compliance as well as reputational damage; and

- **Metrics and targets** – Bidvest has reported on its environmental footprint for several years. The need for specific measurement metrics and targets culminated in an ESG Framework released in FY2021. A 20% reduction in emission and water intensity between 2019 and 2025 has been committed to, together with measures to contribute to a sustainable supply chain and the circular economy

Refer to www.bidvest.co.za for the Group's climate change and water response submitted to the CDP.

PHS, together with a manufacturer, developed a **pod** designed for the **cleaning of sanitary bins**. This will save an estimated 30 000 single use plastic bottles per annum.

BIC partnered with ABCO Chemical & Consumables, supplier whose product carries **GECA & Global Green Tag** product certification. The parties agreed alignment with support of the **Indigenous Literature Foundation**.

Rotolabel developed and launched **Cleanflake** material which allows labels to peel off PET containers without leaving a glue residue, which in turn allows for the PET container to be **100% recycled**. This product was developed in conjunction with Avery Dennison.

Bidvest Catering embarked on a project to **refurbish kitchens** in Department of Health hospitals in KZN.

BIC Services addresses growing concern on waste generation

Without urgent action, global waste will increase by 70 percent on current levels by 2050. Australia is one of several countries that are disproportionately responsible for the highest levels of waste generation. However, BIC has a strategy to change that.

BIC reports that although Australia recycles 63% of its waste, the country still has a long way to go to reach the national target of 80% waste recovery by 2030.

BIC's strategy is to reduce its clients' waste to landfill, and improve their resource recovery rates, supported by insightful and meaningful reporting. Supporting clients to improve their building rating schemes, National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS), Wellness, and Green Star are also included in the companies' priorities.

The BIC goal is to help its clients achieve 80% resource recovery from their assets by 2030, and to achieve 80% resource recovery from its own office sites.

At the centre, BIC's focus is to work with clients to reduce waste by finding and developing innovative products and solutions to make a real difference to the amount of waste that is being generated. BIC's work highlights the importance of waste reduction across its industry.

The nature of BIC's business means the company plays an integral role in helping to meet Australia's national targets to deliver on the

commitment to support the UN's SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production. More specifically, BIC plays a significant role in SDG12.5 – to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse by 2030.

In order to reach these goals, BIC is committed to continue its investment in technology – which is fundamental in charting a more sustainable course in the future. This is underpinned by the BIC strategic pillar of innovation. BIC is motivated to improve as a business which is a key driver to maintain an industry advantage.

Enter TESS, the Tenant Education and Sustainability System.

TESS is the latest technology innovation aimed at improving building NABERS ratings and diverting waste from landfills. Features of the system are numerous, and highlights include an automated and accurate waste stream data collected continuously; a live feedback reporting platform to the tenants; and educational messages tailored to the tenants targeting their specific improvement opportunities, and more.



Growing a greener tomorrow

Global Payment Technologies (GPT), Compendium Insurance Brokers (CIB), South African Bulk Terminals (SABT) and Konica Minolta have partnered with Food & Trees for Africa (FTFA) to carbon neutralise South Africa by offsetting carbon emissions and positively contributing to environmental sustainability.

The Konica Minolta partnership with FTFA dates to 2008 with a goal of reducing carbon emissions. In 2012/13, Konica Minolta completed its first carbon footprint calculation that showed what emissions they put in the air and what it would require to offset these emissions through planting trees. So far, Konica Minolta has been able to plant the right number of trees to reach a carbon neutral status.

Konica Minolta's emissions stem from the import of equipment from other countries through shipping. The local carbon emissions are through fuel due to the technicians and delivery vehicles on the road every day. To date, Konica Minolta has planted over 67 000 trees in about 1 300 communities, offsetting about 25 000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

The GPT and FTFA partnership is focused on planting trees at schools and to date, in excess of 9 000 trees have been planted in five South African regions. Through this partnership, GPT recognises the value of the environment and aims to create sustainable communities that are aware of the benefits of the environment.

GPT supplies cash handling machines, software solutions and after-sales service and this means that large amounts of fuel gets burnt through trips to and from clients. The partnership with FTFA has helped the business offset its carbon emissions.

SABT has partnered with FTFA to contribute positively to food security in the KwaXimba area in KwaZulu-Natal. The partnership includes the Getsemame Agri Farmers Cooperative - a registered co-op that produces staple crops and vegetables.

With the support provided by SABT, a nursery structure was installed, along with an irrigation system and two water pumps. This was all in preparation for planting 8 000 seedlings in the garden that is now tended by two young men who recognised the opportunity to assist the community through gardening. The food garden was started by the Getsemame Agri Farmers Cooperative to sell their vegetables to local retailers, such as the Cato Ridge Spar, various tuck shops and through hawkers and walk-ins to the nursery. Some of the vegetables are donated to local pre-schools, primary schools, and needy families in the community.

CIB polled its employees asking for environmental initiatives that were close to employees' hearts, and planting trees was selected as the top choice. With that the FTFA partnership began in 2023 with 188 trees being planted – both indigenous and fruit trees that should produce nutrition for nearby communities.

The CIB team regularly gets involved by planting trees and sees this as an opportunity to bond while greening the environment. The CIB staff volunteer days have extended to planting at nearby schools, including Funulwazi Primary School, Brailsford Primary School and Mosaic Community Development all in honour of Earth Day.

Tree planting methodologies, if done right, will mean a greater carbon impact on combating climate change whilst vegetable gardens will provide food security for the communities.



Powering the future – Lithotech is the latest Bidvest company to embrace solar energy

Lithotech recently transformed its 4 000 square metre factory by installing a hybrid solar system. The factory based in Epping, Cape Town is SA's leading specialist in printing, supply management, marketing material, office supplies and labels.

Solar installations vary in size and complexity, and this one took about four weeks to complete. It included 515 solar panels at 550w each, which can generate 282 kw per hour. This massive installation equates to 60% of the energy that Lithotech uses, leaving 40% reliability remaining on municipal electricity.

Upon installation of the system, through a monitoring process, it was discovered that the factory was still using excess energy after hours, with air conditioners consuming power at late hours when nobody was around, and machines were not operating. Fortunately the monitoring system was able to identify exactly where wastage was being incurred, pinpointing areas within the factory where energy consumption exceeded the necessary levels during non-operational hours. This invaluable data allowed for adjustments to be made, optimising energy efficiency and reducing unnecessary costs.

Post-installation, the factory now uses solar energy from around 6am to 7pm each day and the balance comes from the electricity grid. Through this dual system, Lithotech has been able to reduce electricity demand by around 250kw/h for four hours each day by turning off certain items between shifts. This means a saving of R400 000 a year for Lithotech in electricity bills.

Going forward, Lithotech is looking at ways to feed back to the grid between Friday afternoon and early Monday morning. This will mean that Lithotech is able to generate income from the system and assist in a small part with the energy crisis in our country.

Noonan leads the change in plastic transformation

The concerning rise in plastic pollution is an ongoing environmental challenge and the rate in which it is produced is seemingly impossible to cope with.

An alarming 40% of single-use plastic products can stay in the environment for hundreds of years. Put into context, that is a piece of plastic we use once, and throw away, which lives in the environment longer than we exist, causing harm to ecosystems, wildlife, and ultimately, our planet.

For this reason, Noonan has decided to remove single-use plastics from its business. Reducing its use of premixed, ready-to-use cleaning chemicals is a key initiative to achieve this. The business estimates this change will enable it to remove 95% of its plastic chemical containers and remove c80,000 single-use plastic bottles per year. By procuring its chemicals in a highly concentrated format the company can dramatically cut the amount of plastic and cardboard used, together with reducing the frequency of deliveries, having a significant impact on its carbon emissions.

