

BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENT REPORT (REVISED)

COMMUNITY BENCHMARKING

WESTFJORDS ÍSAFJÖRÐUR, ICELAND



REPORT DATE: 26 March 2020

Benchmarking Data Collection Period: 1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018

The planet deserves more than half measures

OVERVIEW

This annual assessment of **Westfjords** 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. The Lead Agency responsible for collection, collation and authorization of the information required by the indicators was the **Municipality Association of the Westfjords**.

		Indicator Measure (Benchmark)
1	Policy	Policy is produced and in place ²
		Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) ²
2	Energy	Green Power (%) ⁴
_	Lifergy	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year)
		Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO ₂ -e / Person Year) ³
3	Water	Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) ³
•	Water	Recycled / Captured Water (%) ⁴
1	Waste	Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year)³
4	waste	Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) ⁴
		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}
		Water Samples Passed (%) ²
		Habitat Conservation Area (%) ²
_	0 1 0 10	Green Space (%) ²
5	Sector Specific	Significant Site Maintenance Fund (%)
		Destination Safety – Homicide Rate (%)
		Destination Safety – Theft Rate (%)
		Destination Safety – Assault (%)
		Socio-Economic Benefit – Unemployment Rate (%)
		Accredited Operations (%) ²
Lea	nd Agency Performa	ance
6	Water Savings	Water Savings Rating (Points) ⁶
7	Waste Recycling	Waste Recycling Rating (Points) ⁶
8	Paper	Paper Products Rating (Points) ⁶
9	Cleaning	Cleaning Products Rating (Points) ⁶

Pesticide Products Rating (Points)⁶

10

Pesticides

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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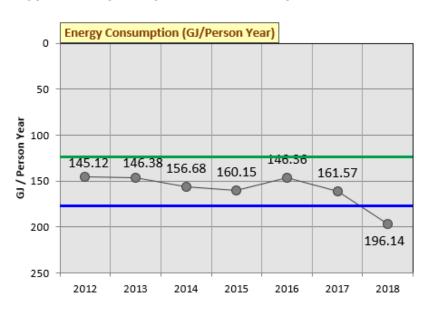
COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

Current performance: Below Baseline ★ At or above Baseline ✓ At or above Best Practice ★

1. Policy ★

2. Energy

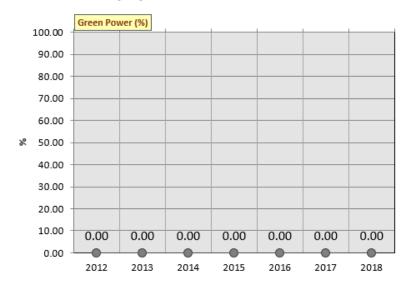
Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year)





Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 196.14 GJ / Person Year, which was 11.06% worse than the Baseline level.

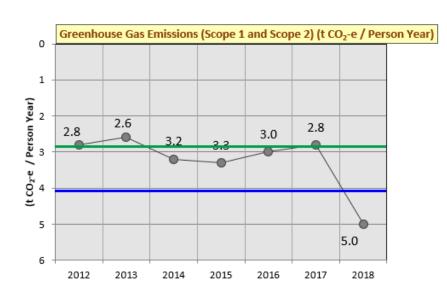
Green Power (%)

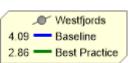




Green Power (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 0.0%.

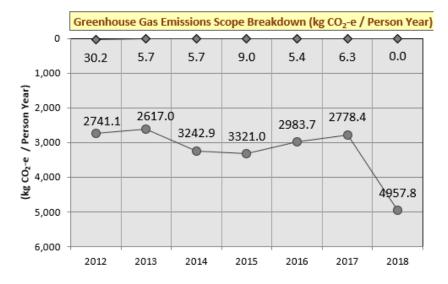
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO₂-e / Person Year) ★

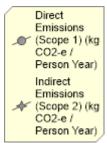




Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO_2 -e / Person Year) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 5.0 t CO_2 -e / Person Year, which was 22.2% worse than the Baseline level.

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

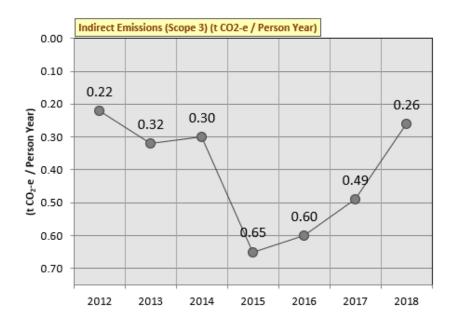




Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (kg CO_2 -e / Person Year) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 4957.8 kg CO_2 -e / Person Year.

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (kg CO_2 -e / Person Year) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 0.0006 kg CO_2 -e / Person Year.

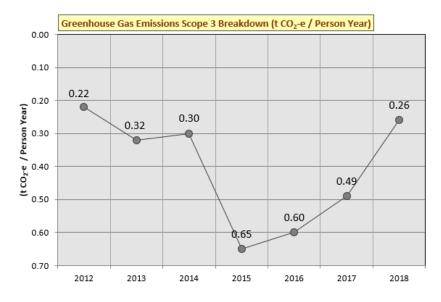
Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO₂-e / Person Year)

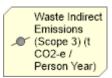


Westfjords

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO_2 -e / Person Year) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 0.26 t CO_2 -e / Person Year.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Scope 3 Breakdown (t CO₂-e / Person Year)





Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO_2 -e / Person Year) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 0.26 t CO_2 -e / Person Year.

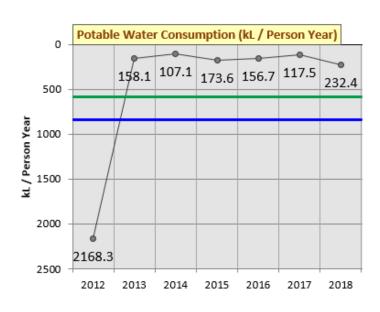
					ons (Scope 1) el Combustion				
					18				
	Туре		Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e
	Diesel		604000	kWh	2174400.0	153.1	0.4	0.4	153.9
	Diesel		604000	kWh	2174400.0	153.1	0.4	0.4	153.9
				subtotal	4348800.0	306.1	0.9	0.8	307.8
					nbustion (road)				
			_		18				
	Туре		Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e
	Motor gasoline		8834897	litres (L)	302175380	19893.72	150.71	711.93	20756.35
	Diesel		6200287	litres (L)	236831740	16671.77	18.43	272.01	16962.21
				subtotal	539007120	36565.49	169.14	983.94	37718.56
				TOTAL	543355920	39626.49	170.04	984.74	38026.36
				Indirect Emiss	ions (Scope 2)				
					Electricity				
				20	18				
Quantity	U	nit	% Green Power	Provider	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH4 Emission Estimate (t CO2-e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e
266957000	Kilowatt h	nour (kWh)	0*	Iceland	961045200.0	0.2	0.0008	0.004	0.2
				subtotal	961045200.0	0.2	0.0008	0.004	0.2
				TOTAL	961045200.0	0.2	0.0008	0.004	0.2
			Gree	nhouse Gas Emissio	ns (Scope 1 and Sco	one 2)			
			0.00	GRAND TOTAL	1504401120	39626.69	170.04	984.74	38026.56
					ions (Scope 3)				
					t to Landfill 18				
Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	Type of Operation	Source	CO ₂ Emission	CH ₄ Emission	N ₂ O Emission	Total Emission
						Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Estimate (t CO ₂ -
1645511	kilograms (uncompacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	Other Operation	International	0.0	1974.61	0.0	1974.61
	1			<u> </u>	subtotal	0.0	1974.61	0.0	1974.61
					TOTAL	0.0	1974.61	0.0	1974.61

^{*}A Green Power Agreement is unavailable for purchased as standard grid supply of electricity is from close to 100% renewable energy sources in Iceland.

3. Water

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year)





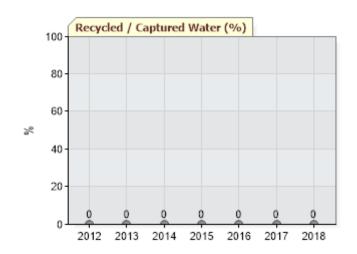


Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 232.4 kL / Person Year, which was 59.3% better than the Best Practice level.

2018

Quantity	Unit	Potable Water Consumption (kL)	
1782170	cubic metres	1782170.0 kL	
	TOTAL	1782170.0 kL	

Recycled / Captured Water (%)





Recycled / Captured Water (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 0%.

4. Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year)





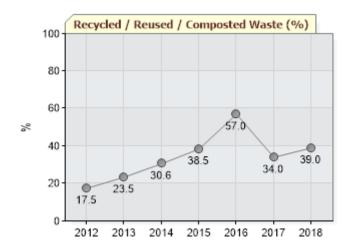


Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 0.72 m3 / Person Year, which was 37% better than the Best Practice level.

2018

Quantity	Unit	Type of Landfill	Type of Waste	Type of Operation	Waste Sent to Landfill (m³)
1645511	kilograms (uncompacted)	Covered and/or managed waste treatment facility	Unknown (mixed waste types)	Other Operation	5485.03
				TOTAL	5485.03 m ³

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)



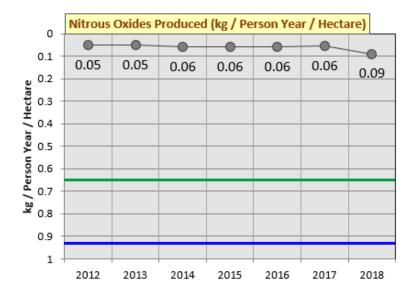


Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 39.0%.

5. Sector Specific

Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)



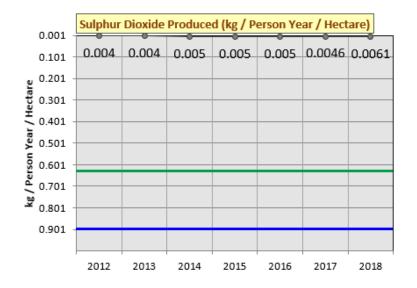




Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 -31 December 2018) was 0.09 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 86.15% better than the Best Practice Level.

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



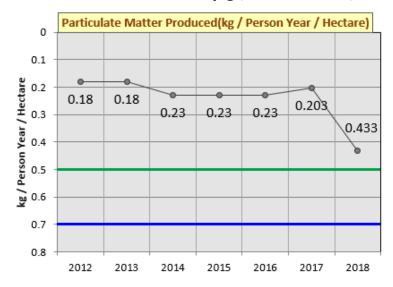




Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 0.0061 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 99.03% better than the Best Practice level.

Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

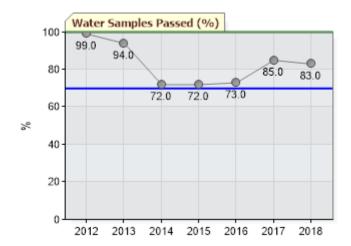






Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 0.433 kg / Person Year / Hectare, which was 13.4% better than the Best Practice level.

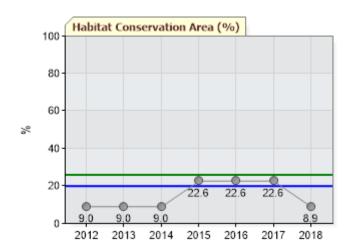
Water Samples Passed (%)





Water Samples Passed (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 December 2018) was 83.0%, which was 13.0% better than the Baseline level.

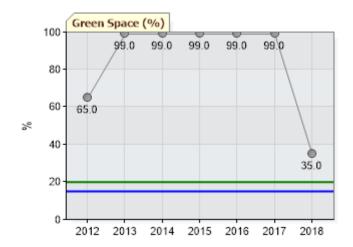
Habitat Conservation Area (%)





Habitat Conservation Area (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 8.9%, which was 11.1% below the Baseline level.

Green Space (%) ★





Green Space (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 35.0%, which was 15.0% better than the Best Practice level.

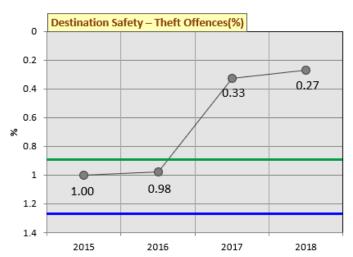
Destination Safety − Homicide Rate (%) ★





Homicide Rate (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 0.0% which was 0.0007% better than the Best Practice level.

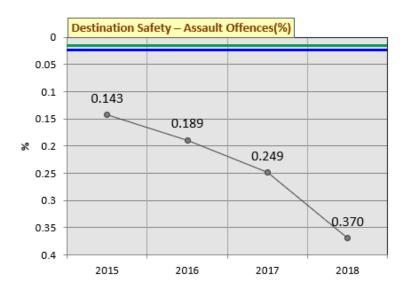
Destination Safety − Theft Offences (%) ★





Theft Rate (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 0.27%, which was 0.62% better than the Best Practice Level.

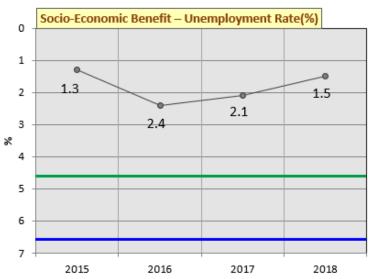
Destination Safety − Assault Offences (%) **X**





Assault Rate for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 0.370%, which was 0.347% lower than the Baseline level.

Socio-Economic Benefit − Unemployment Rate (%) ★





Unemployment Rate (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 1.5%, which was 3.1% better than the Best Practice Level.

Accredited Operations (%)

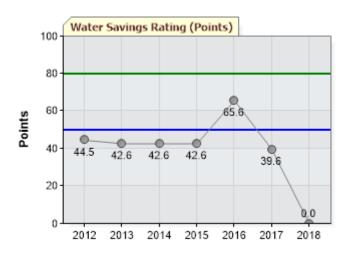




Accredited Operations (%) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 2.0%, which was 3.0% below the Baseline level.

1. Lead Agency Performance

Water Savings Rating (Points) 🕊





Water Savings Rating (Points) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 0.0 Points, which was 50.0 Points below the Baseline level.

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

Waste Recycling Rating (Points)







Waste Recycling Rating (Points) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018) was 71.9 Points, which was 21.9 Points better than the Baseline level.

Waste Recycling Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
Glass	80-99%	88.9 Points
Paper/card	80-99%	88.9 Points
Iron & steel (ferrous metals)	80-99%	88.9 Points
Other metals (non-ferrous)	Relevant / Not Available	50.0 Points
Plastics	20-39%	58.8 Points
Rubber	60-79%	73.9 Points
Green waste	1-19%	54.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	71.9 Points

Paper Products Rating (Points)







Paper Products Rating (Points) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 82.9 Points, which was 2.9 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Paper Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Paper Products Rating (Points)
Office paper	80-99%	88.9 Points
Serviettes	80-99%	88.9 Points
Tissues	80-99%	88.9 Points
Toilet tissue	60-79%	73.9 Points
Paper towels	60-79%	73.9 Points
	Overall Rating:	82.9 Points

Cleaning Products Rating (Points)





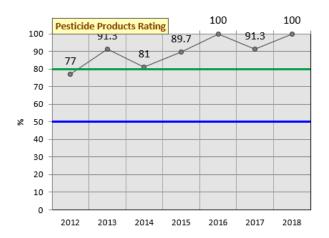


Cleaning Products Rating (Points) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) was 84.6 Points, which was 4.6 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Cleaning Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)
Hard floor cleaners	60-79%	73.9 Points
Carpet cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
Interior surface cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
External surface cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
Glass cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
Detergents	80-99%	88.9 Points
Personal hygiene	60-79%	73.9 Points
	Overall Rating:	84.6 Points

Pesticide Products Rating (Points)







Pesticide Products Rating (Points) for the year 2018 (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018) 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	100%	100.0 Points
Fungal killers	100%	100.0 Points
Rodent killers	100%	100.0 Points
Insect killers	100%	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	100.0 Points

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

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

From the benchmarking data provided, twelve indicators, *Potable Water Consumption, Paper Products Rating, Cleaning Products Rating, Pesticide Products Rating, Green Space, Waste Sent to Landfill, Nitrous Oxides Produced, Sulphur Dioxide Produced, Particulate Matter Produced, Homicide Rate, Theft Rate and Unemployment Rate* are at or above the Best Practice level.

The four indicators that fell below the Baseline level were *Energy Consumption, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Water Savings Rating, Habitat Conservation Area, Assault Rate* and *Accredited Operations*.

The value for Energy Consumption was 196.14 / person year, and the value for Greenhouse Gas Emissions was 5.0 t CO_2 -e / Person Year. **Westfjords** 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 50.0 Points below the Baseline level. **Westfjords** are 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). **Westfjords** 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 percentage of Assault Rate is 0.35% below the Baseline. The **Westfjords** is encouraged to work with the local hotel and tourism association to identify common threats and how they could assist the community in providing more support to the police in reporting of crime.

The value for Habitat Conservation Area was 11.1% below the Baseline level. **Westfjords** is encouraged to promote habitat conservation of land, wetlands and waterways to aid biodiversity conservation and support habitat protection within the region.

The value for Accredited Operations was 3.0% lower than the Baseline level. The **Westfjords** is encouraged to promote environmental accreditation to hotels, restaurants and other business within the destination.

Westfjords is encouraged to continue to make improvements in the above indicator/s and to ensure that any indicator/s 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 **Westfjords** 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, **Westfjords** is encouraged to ensure that Water Savings Rating, Habitat Conservation

Area, and Accredited Operations are at Baseline performance or better. In line with EarthCheck Policy this would enable **Westfjords** to continue to meet the benchmarking requirements of the EarthCheck program.

Appendix

WATER SAVINGS RATING

It was noted by the Benchmarking Assessors that the *Water Savings Rating* significantly declined in the 2018 reporting period. It is advised that the auditor checks this data during next year's audit.

MOBILE FUEL COMBUSTION (ROAD)

During the onsite audit it was identified that mobile fuel had been misreported in the 2018 period.

Westfjords provided the following response for clarification:

Mobile Fuel Combustion (Litres)				
Bensín 3,241,67				
Gasolía	5,282,479			
Gasolía lituð	6,200,287			
MD-olía	310,745			
total fuel for land transport	15,035,184			

It was assumed that ' $Gasolia\ litu\delta'$ _represented the diesel figure while the other figures cumulated to the motor gasoline figure.



Benchmarks Assessed by EarthCheck

SUMMARY OF SUPPLIED BENCHMARKING DATA

Activity Measures

Person Years 7670
Total Destination Area (hectares) 884414.96

Supplied Benchmarking Data

Energy

Energy Consumption (GJ / Person Year)

Supplied 1504401 GJ

Calculated 196.14 GJ / Person Year
Baseline 176.6 GJ / Person Year
Best Practice 123.7 GJ / Person Year
Difference 11% worse than the Baseline

level

Green Power (%)

Supplied 0.0% Calculated 0.0%

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (t CO_2 -e / Person Year)

Supplied 38076.2 t CO₂-e

 $\begin{array}{lll} \mbox{Calculated} & 4.96 \ t \ \mbox{CO}_2\mbox{-e} \ / \ \mbox{Person Year} \\ \mbox{Baseline} & 4.08771 \ t \ \mbox{CO}_2\mbox{-e} \ / \ \mbox{Person Year} \\ \mbox{Best Practice} & 2.86139 \ t \ \mbox{CO}_2\mbox{-e} \ / \ \mbox{Person Year} \\ \mbox{Difference} & 22\% \ \mbox{worse than the Baseline} \\ \end{array}$

level

Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (t CO_2 -e / Person Year)

Supplied 38026.4 t CO₂-e

Calculated 4.958 t CO₂-e / Person Year

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

Supplied 49.8 kg CO₂-e

Calculated 0.0006 kg CO₂-e / Person Year

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

Supplied 1974.6 t CO₂-e

Calculated 0.26 t CO₂-e / Person Year

Waste Indirect Emissions (Scope 3) (t CO_2 -e / Person Year)

Supplied 1974.6 t CO₂-e

Calculated 0.26 t CO₂-e / Person Year

Water

Potable Water Consumption (kL / Person Year)

Supplied 1782170.0 kL

Calculated 232.4 kL / Person Year
Baseline 814.64142 kL / Person Year
Best Practice 570.24902 kL / Person Year
Difference 59.3% better than the Best

Practice level

Recycled / Captured Water (%)

Supplied 0% Calculated 0%

Water Savings Rating (Points)

Supplied 0.0 Points
Calculated 0.0 Points
Baseline 50 Points
Best Practice 80 Points

Difference 50.0 Points below the Baseline

level

Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (m³ / Person Year)

Supplied 5485.0 m³

Calculated 0.72 m³ / Person Year Baseline 1.65 m³ / Person Year Best Practice 1.15 m³ / Person Year

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)

Supplied 39.0% Calculated 39.0%

Waste Recycling Rating (Points)

Supplied 71.9 Points
Calculated 71.9 Points
Baseline 50 Points
Best Practice 80 Points

Difference 21.9 Points better than the

Baseline level

Paper

Paper Products Rating (Points)

Supplied 82.9 Points
Calculated 82.9 Points
Baseline 50 Points
Best Practice 80 Points

Difference 2.9 Points better than the Best

Practice level

Cleaning

Cleaning Products Rating (Points)

Supplied 84.6 Points
Calculated 84.6 Points
Baseline 50 Points
Best Practice 80 Points

Difference 4.6 Points better than the Best

Practice level

Pesticides

Pesticide Products Rating (Points)

Supplied 100.0 Points
Calculated 100.0 Points
Baseline 50 Points
Best Practice 80 Points

Difference 20.0 Points better than the Best

Practice level

Sector Specific

Nitrous Oxides Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Calculated 0.09 kg / Person Year

Sulphur Dioxide Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Calculated 0.0061 kg / Person Year

Particulate Matter Produced (kg / Person Year / Hectare)

Calculated 0.433 kg / Person Year

Water Samples Passed (%)

Supplied 83.0%
Calculated 83.0%
Baseline 70 %
Best Practice 100 %

Difference 13.0% better than the Baseline

level

Habitat Conservation Area (%)

Supplied 8.9% Calculated 8.9% Baseline 20 %

Best Practice 26 %

Difference 11.1% below the Baseline level

Green Space (%)

Supplied 35.0% Calculated 35.0% Baseline 15 % Best Practice 20 %

Difference 15.0% better than the Best

Practice level

Accredited Operations (%)

Supplied 2.0%
Calculated 2.0%
Baseline 5 %
Best Practice 6.5 %

Difference 3.0% below the Baseline level

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 (m^3) 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).