ESSENTIEL ANTWERP

Sustainability report 2024

Intro

2024 has been another challenging year for companies operating globally, requiring agility, quick decision-making, and the ability to pivot projects in response to geopolitical developments that have impacted logistics, operations and markets. Alongside the growing body of legislation on sustainability, it had become clear that we need to further strengthen our sustainability efforts.

To drive these initiatives forward, we created an in-house ESG project manager position. This reflects both the increasing importance of sustainability to our customers, stakeholders, employees, and business practices, as well as the growing complexity of regulatory requirements that demand our full attention. The new role underscores our dedication to ensuring compliance, meeting expectations, and addressing the challenges ahead.

At the same time, we have not stood still. We implemented the plans already set in motion, including our Due Diligence Policy, deepening the relationships with our suppliers and partners. We dedicated resources to strengthening our omnichannel approach with sustainability at its core, building on our circular business model, and prioritizing the wellbeing of people. This was a year that tested our resourcefulness, as we navigated a wide range of external challenges—from geopolitical tensions and transportation disruptions to material shortages—while maintaining business continuity.

Key insights

Trends & milestones

In 2024, Belgian fashion companies operating across global supply chains faced interconnected challenges and had to adapt strategically at every stage of business. Geopolitical tensions led to major logistics challenges and material shortages, impacting design and production.

There were several high-profile bankruptcies in the sector, indicating shifting consumer habits, while socio-economic and geopolitical pressures further disrupted business as usual. These circumstances demanded quick thinking, creativity, and flexibility to adapt and remain resilient.

Renewed dedication to sustainability

Building on our sustainability journey—and responding to growing demands from regulators, consumers, and our own values and ambitions—we created an official position in the company, dedicated to environmental, social and governance topics. This will allow us to integrate sustainability throughout the whole organization and make meaningful strategic progress.

Due Diligence Policy

We continue to take ownership and responsibility seriously and have formalized our Due Diligence Policy. This outlines the responsibility of brands and retailers to actively identify, assess, monitor, and address risks throughout our supply chains. It provides a framework for how we conduct business and ensures accountability for the social and environmental conditions in which we operate and make our goods.

In practice this means working with our partners to address any irregularities and find solutions together, rather than ending relationships at the first sign of an issue. The aim is to further improve and develop good practices. Our next steps include developing a comprehensive set of corrective actions to ensure these improvements happen in a more structured and predictable way.

European legislation

The European Green Deal introduces a wide range of requirements to advance a greener, more resource-efficient, and competitive Europe. The legislation tackles everything from (eco)design and sourcing, forced labor, green claims and repair to packaging and textile waste—considering the full product lifecycle, including communication with the customer.

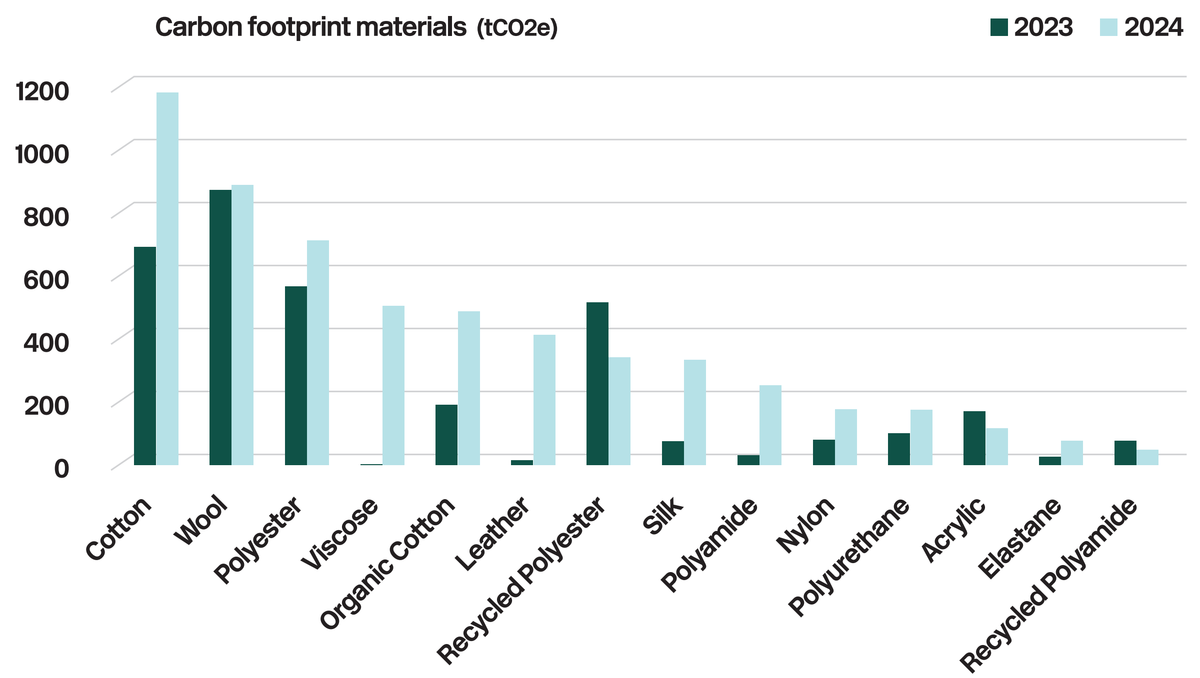
Although this period will be challenging for both the industry and the continent, we believe it will ultimately strengthen both business and wellbeing. Meeting these requirements calls for expanded knowledge and expertise, which is a driving force behind our renewed approach. Thanks to our previous efforts with compliance and improvement at the forefront, we have a solid foundation to build on—not just to meet legal obligations, but to live by our values.

Getting serious about the planet

Products with less impact

Products account for 52% of our carbon footprint—a significant share, but one that is expected given the nature of our core business. The material choices that we make in design and production of the items have a direct impact on this footprint. We estimate our average emission factor based on materials used to be at approximately 17 kgCO2eq/kg. The materials with the highest emission factor are silk (148.8—almost 8 x higher than our average), leather (54—3,2 x our average), wool (49.8—almost triple our average) followed by cotton (22.8) and metallic yarn (22.4). All other materials fall somewhere between 11 (lenzing viscose) and 19.4 (organic cotton).

Material emissions (2024)	Emission factor (kgCO2eq/kg)	Carbon footprint 2024 (tCO2e)	% total emissions materials
Silk	148,4	333,83	6%
Leather	54,0	411,41	7%
Wool	49,8	885,61	15%
Cotton	22,8	1179,14	20%
Metallic yarn	22,4	13,28	0%
Organic cotton	19,4	486,15	8%
Recycled cotton	19,1	23,61	0%
Polyamide	17,2	253,35	4%
Nylon	17,2	175,86	3%
Elastane	17,0	77,35	1%
Polyester	16,4	708,46	12%
Recycled polyamide	16,3	47,48	1%
Lyocell tencel	16,3	24,15	0%
Viscose	16,2	502,58	9%
Polyurethane	15,9	173,44	3%
Acrylic	15,5	116,60	2%
Recycled polyester	13,4	341,11	6%
Lenzing viscose	11,4	27,20	0%

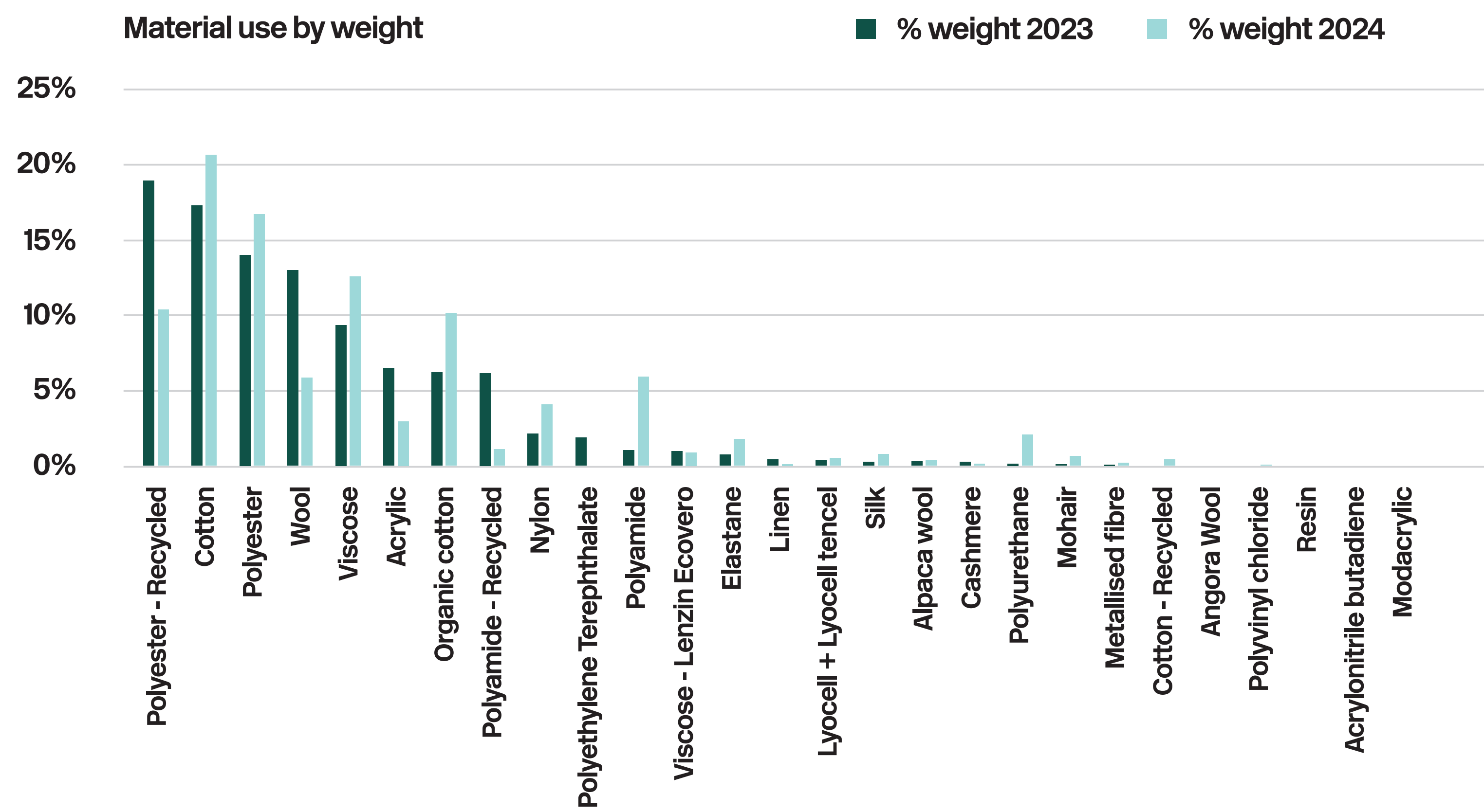


Material choices are driven first by brand aesthetics and functionality. Equally important, however, are the impacts that extend beyond carbon footprint: water, soil, energy and chemicals are all involved in yarn production, washing, dyeing, tanning and finishing of yarns and/or fabrics. These all impact our lives in various ways, and while carbon footprint is easily quantifiable, these impacts matter just as much. We remain conscious of these considerations and opt for more sustainable materials where possible. Still, limitations exist: shortages can restrict access, sustainable options may not perform as well as conventional ones, and for some materials—such as silk and leather—true substitutes simply don't exist. Knowing their impact, we use these materials only where necessary and if no viable alternative is available.

With this in mind, our next steps will be to look into the processes used today and identifying opportunities to scale up low-impact methods.

In 2024, the materials that contributed most to our carbon footprint were cotton, wool, polyester, viscose and organic cotton. This was the result of both their higher emission factors and the volume of material produced in our collections.

When we assess the materials used, we look at the total volume and weight of each material used in our collections. This reflects what is actually produced and depends not only on how we design our collection and the choices made at that stage, but also on what styles are most frequently ordered across our physical



and online sales channels as well as by our wholesale partners. As a result, the final carbon footprint contribution is heavily influenced by buying patterns and popularity of certain styles. For example, although we designed only a few silk items in 2024, their popularity led to higher sales volumes. Combined with silk's high carbon emission factor, this placed it 8th among all materials in terms of carbon footprint contribution.

We made progress in expanding sustainable materials, but also faced some obstacles. Despite our efforts to increase organic cotton as our preferred material, we were often unable to secure sufficient quantities, due to lower availability, forcing us to fall back on conventional cotton. We were still able to increase the overall organic cotton volume, but not as much as we would have liked. Global production of organic cotton remains low—it represents only 1% of all produced materials globally, and much of it is purchased well in advance by large players, limiting broader access.

In 2024, about one quarter of our total materials were classified as sustainable, meaning either recycled or organic in origin. Compared to a third in 2023, we see a drop, which can be attributed to a combination of material shortages and buying patterns. As part of our five-year strategy, we will explore ways to address this and increase the total share of sustainable materials.

Building on our existing corporate product policy, we plan to develop a comprehensive list of preferred materials. This list will serve as a practical framework for our design and production teams to follow the earliest stages of product development, enabling more sustainable choices that should reduce our carbon emissions over time. External limitations—such as material availability and minimum order quantities—will remain, but this structured approach will help move the needle further in the right direction. Material choice impacts not only carbon footprint but also land, water and air. It is a critical consideration to us, and one we are committed to improving continuously.

Circularity

Repair

The impact of clothing is not limited to the production stage. The longer the item is in use, the smaller its overall footprint becomes. Alongside assuring the quality of our products, we have also been offering repair services to our customers as a part of our standard service for years. In collaboration with local tailors and cobblers we address both general wear and tear and any production faults, helping our customers extend the life of beloved items. Additionally, we have spare parts available to assure mending can be done in a virtually invisible way, not compromising the look of the items.

Going forward we will be re-thinking our repair strategy to take it to the next level. We will map out current processes, assess areas for improvements and work on a plan that will ensure customers have our full support across all channels. Making repair a more integral and visible part of our service will benefit everyone, today and tomorrow. This approach also connects directly to our second-hand platform, which gives products a new lease on life.

RE—SSENTIEL
A business in its own right

At ESSENTIEL ANTWERP, we're proud to have launched our own circular secondhand platform in the summer of 2022—the first fashion brand in Belgium to do so.

This platform has continued to grow and improve, offering our community a circular, sustainable, and service-driven experience that combines style and responsibility. The platform allows our customers to give their pre-loved pieces a second life, while discovering new treasures in a conscious and meaningful way. It's an important step in promoting the longevity of the items we create and in encouraging thoughtful consumption that aligns with our values.

What began as a pilot project has since evolved into an integral part of our business—not only externally, but internally as well. We're proud to see a growing mindset across our teams, embracing circularity as a meaningful and lasting shift in how we approach fashion.

Originally launched in Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Germany, the initiative expanded in 2024 to welcome even more European countries —including Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria, Portugal, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovenia and Finland.

Say it with numbers in 2024*:

— 364,707 visitors explored our secondhand platform
— 37 most in-demand styles were published and available for sale
— 70% of items were in “excellent” or “as new” condition
— 3,685 hours (or more than 5 months) were spent handling second-hand clothes, including repairs
— 3,494 ESSENTIEL ANTWERP lovers joined us in selling their preloved items
— 7,370 items found a new owner

*Numbers here represent 2024 data; previous reports used cumulative numbers.

Our plan for the future is to grow this into a successful business unit by expanding both services and markets. Extending the lifespan of our clothing saves new resources and helps shift consumer habits, amplifying the impact over time. The more well-known this platform becomes, the more habits will change and the bigger the impact will be.

Rental

As noted in 2023 year's report, after four seasons of experimenting with an in-house rental business model, we have learned that this does not work for our brand in the way we had hoped. However, we see every trial as a learning opportunity and remain committed to exploring innovative approaches. We are now partnering with multi-brand rental platforms that have already proven successful and have begun experimenting in the European market. We have also participated in an in-depth study to better understand rental's potential for fashion brands and will apply any relevant insights to our future strategy.

Carbon footprint challenge

This being our third carbon footprint calculation, we were able to take the exercise further and extract deeper insights into potential next steps. We were also able to provide more accurate and detailed data, as well as enrich our own database. The strength of carbon footprint measuring lies in its quantifiable and unbiased nature—it clearly identifies where the biggest impacts on emissions occur. It serves as a good reminder of how processes that run throughout the whole company affect the results and how important a holistic approach is. We believe this is the only way to analyze and rethink our current processes—and to keep doing so continuously as we learn and improve.

Realizing the impact the fashion industry's significant environmental and social impact, we continue to make progress because we want to do better. That commitment is one of our core values and a driving force behind our efforts. Transparency is essential to building a more responsible ESSENTIEL ANTWERP, and we rely on our strategic pillars to guide us towards that goal.

Scope 1

Scope 1 emissions are direct GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions that occur from sources that are owned or controlled by Essentiel Antwerp:

— Stationary combustion
— Mobile combustion

Scope 2

Scope 2 emissions are indirect GHG emissions that occur from the generation of purchased electricity:

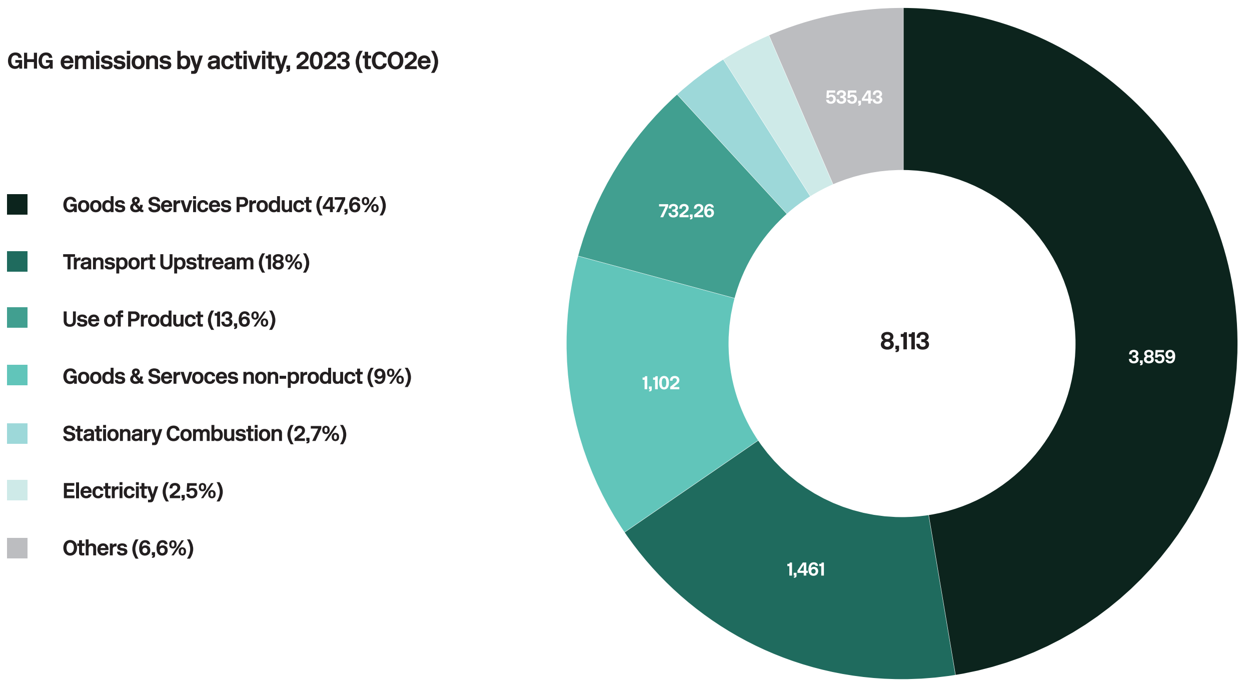
— Electricity

Scope 3

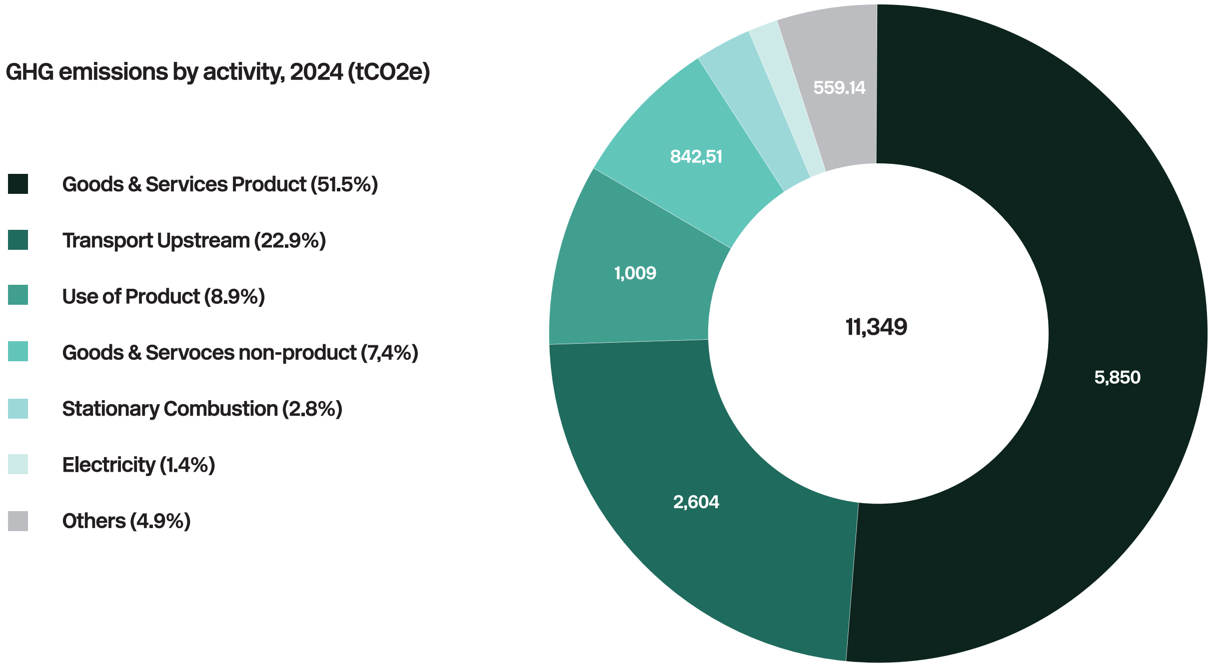
Scope 3 emissions include all other indirect GHG emissions:

— Our products: ready to wear, accessories and shoes
— Purchased goods and services (like packaging etc.)
— Capital goods
— Energy supply
— Transports upstream
— Business travel
— Commuting
— Waste
— Transports downstream
— Use of product
— End of life

GHG emissions by activity, 2023 (tCO2e)



GHG emissions by activity, 2024 (tCO2e)



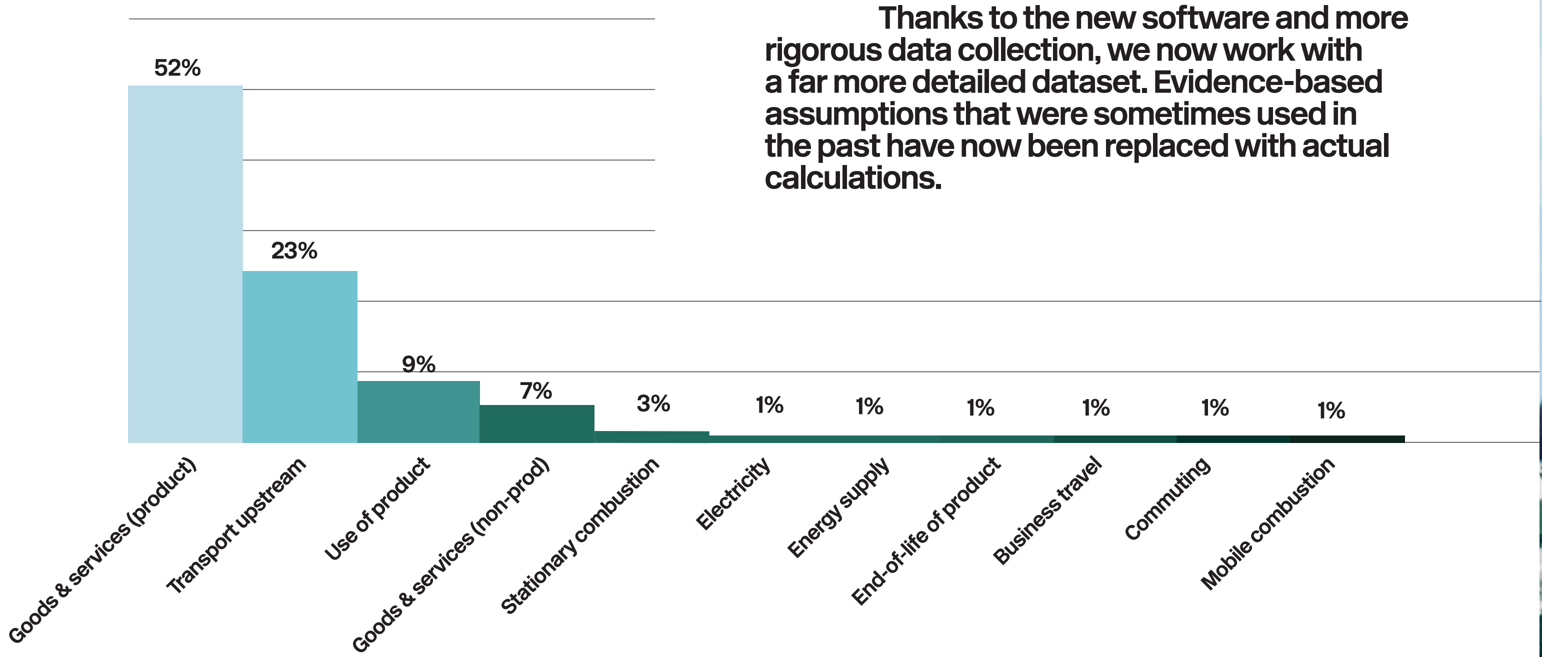
In 2024 we further professionalized the way we calculate our carbon footprint. We introduced new software, implemented a more rigorous data collection process and shifted from a collection-based to an invoice-based methodology. This new approach provides a more detailed dataset, avoids accidental double counting, and ensures more accurate and reliable results. In practice, this means that while we previously calculated two seasons per year, the invoice-based method spans almost three seasons, already explaining much of the 51% increase.

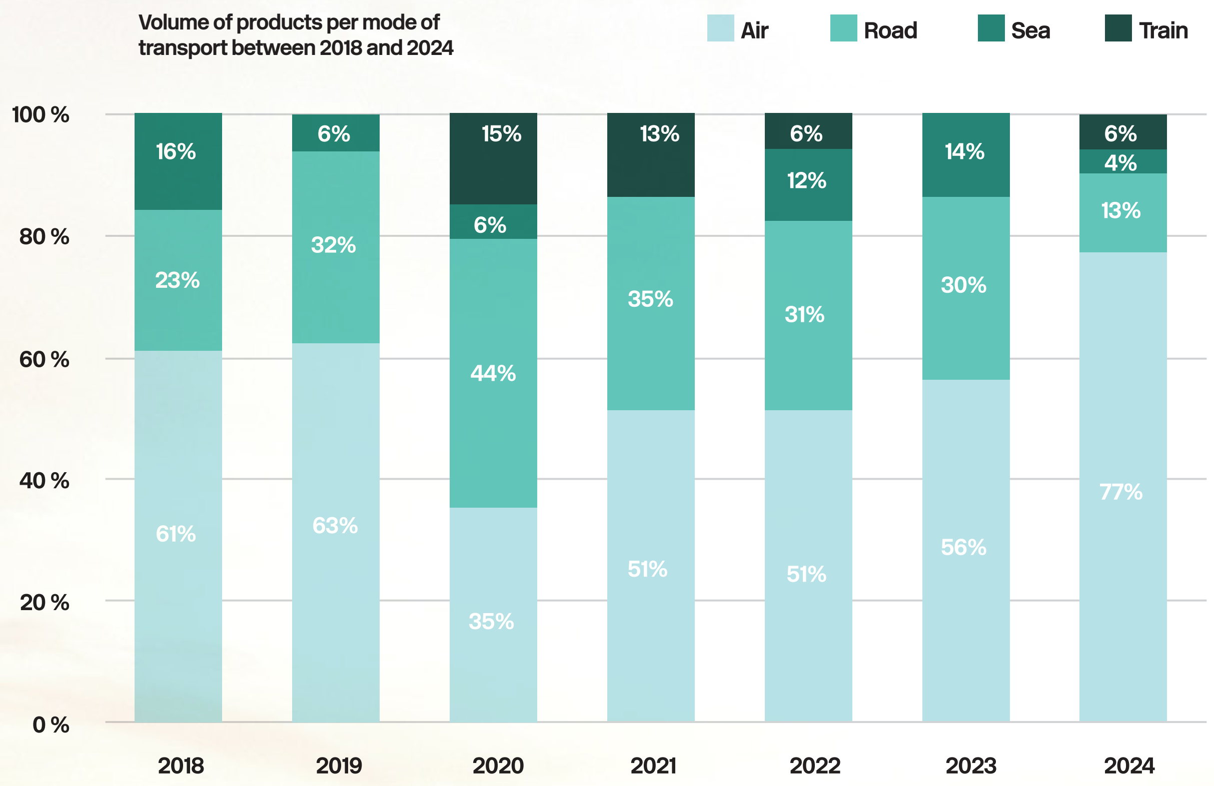
As part of this improved process, we also reviewed our historical data and identified a human error in the 2023 calculation relating to upstream transport. The corrected figure for 2023 amounts to 8,113 tCO_2e, compared to the originally published 11,456 tCO_2e.

For 2024, our emissions totaled 11,349 tCO_2e. This represents an increase of 3,236 tCO_2e, or about 40%, compared to last year's corrected figure. We see this increase stemming from two areas:

— Upstream transportation, which rose by 78% (explained further in the transportation section below).
— Goods & services, which increased by 51%. This relates to greenhouse gas emissions generated through the entire lifecycle of a good or service. The increase is explained partly by the methodology change—invoice-based data spans almost three seasons instead of two—and partly by higher production volumes compared to last year.

Thanks to the new software and more rigorous data collection, we now work with a far more detailed dataset. Evidence-based assumptions that were sometimes used in the past have now been replaced with actual calculations.





Transportation

We are fully aware of the scale of the impact transportation has on our carbon footprint. Following the 2023 results, we have made a conscious effort to reduce reliance on air freight and shift toward less impactful modes like train, sea and road. We also continuously optimize scheduling, production timelines and delivery dates to make use of transportation methods with the least impact. We do this with both environment and costs in mind. However, logistics remain a challenge for a myriad of reasons.

In 2024, our company faced unprecedented logistical challenges due to severe port congestion in Northern Europe and major disruptions on China-Europe rail routes, adding weeks to delivery times. Ongoing geopolitical tensions in Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Asia created further unpredictability across global supply chains. As sea and rail freight became unreliable for timely deliveries, we were left with no choice but to rely more heavily on air freight to maintain business continuity. As a result, transportation-related emissions went up by 78%, increasing transport's share of our total footprint to 23% of our total emissions, compared with 18% the previous year.

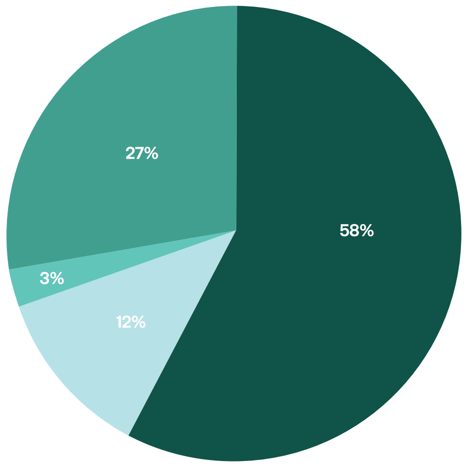
While many of these circumstances are beyond our control, we remain committed to leveraging the opportunities we do have in our hands. One such initiative is our direct transports from the Far East to our operations in Asian and American markets, bypassing transit through Belgium. This approach has already proven effective in mitigating our environmental impact.

We also recognize the higher environmental impact of air freight and are committed to supporting industry efforts for greener aviation and offsetting our carbon footprint as we continue to monitor and adapt to evolving global logistics conditions. For this reason, 2024 saw us join a carbon neutral and carbon offset program. The carbon neutral shipping option supports projects that help offset emissions associated with our shipments, including reforestation, landfill gas destruction, wastewater treatment, and methane destruction. In this way, we're offsetting our usage and contributing to meaningful climate action.

Outbound transport efforts

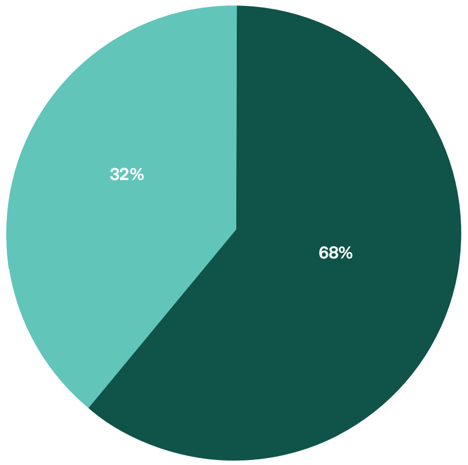
The previous section addressed inbound transportation, which represents 20% of our total emissions and covers products moving from the place of manufacture to our facilities. However, we've also made efforts to improve our outbound transportation—the flow of goods from our own distribution center to and among our stores and partners. This stage represents 3% of total carbon emissions and is an important part of the logistics chain. To reduce emissions, we introduced direct shipping to customers when an item is not available in store. This allows sales advisors to avoid unnecessary relocation or transport of stock. We also launched a new initiative in 2024 that allows customers to bring returns directly to our stores rather than sending them back to the warehouse. This reduces carbon emissions, improves customer experience and offers personal interaction.

GHG breakdown packaging
Total (tCO2e): 205,27



- Paper and board: board
- Paper and board: mixed
- Paper and board: paper
- Plastics: HDPE (incl. forming)
- Plastics: LDPE and LLDPE (incl. forming)

Packaging material source %



- Closed-loop source
- Primary material production

Packaging and merchandise

We established sustainable packaging practices years ago and continue to stay the course. Recent updates to commonly agreed emission factors for packaging materials have increased reported emissions, despite the fact that our practices have improved overall. Today, 62% of our cardboard is recycled, and 68% of all packaging materials come from non-virgin, closed loop sources.

We have also further decreased print materials, limiting them to the bare minimum. We know that the journey is never really finished, so we continue to seek improvements, ensuring procurement practices also stay true to our values:

— All paper and cardboard are FSC-certified (at least FSC Mix 70% Certified)
— Recycled materials are our first choice
— Soy-based inks are used for printing
— Laminated paper products have been eliminated
— Shopping bags are made of FSC Recycled 100% paper
— We are always looking for new materials (locally sourced is our preference)

Shop design and refurbishment of shops

We aim to inspire every step of the way, from the clothes in your everyday wardrobe to visits to our shops. We apply circular design principles, prefer high-quality and sustainable materials for our shop designs, and we re-use many of these materials when refurbishing. In one of our recent store openings, more than 60% of materials used were recovered from other stores that had relocated or closed: a smart choice for both business and the environment.

All our people

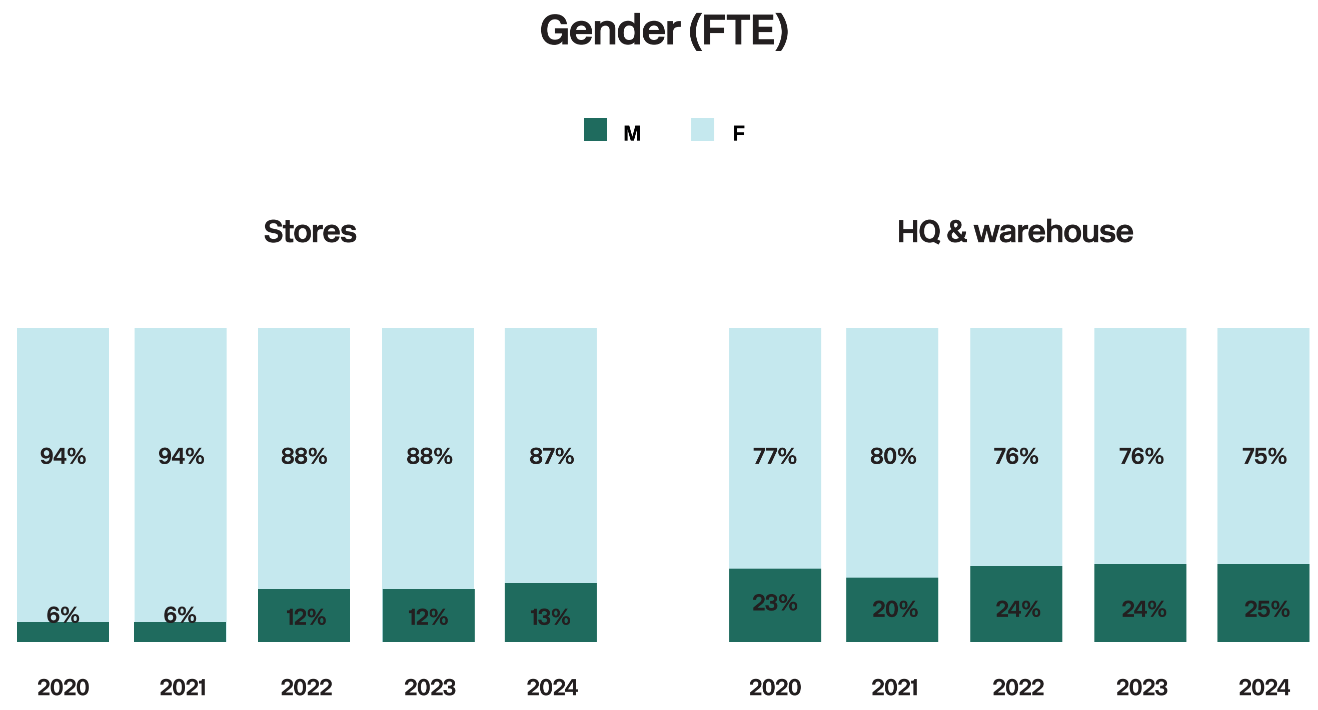
The beautiful diversity and colorful joie de vivre at the heart of ESSENTIEL ANTWERP is reflected in the people we work with and the community we serve. It is their spirit that brings ESSENTIEL ANTWERP to life. We value close collaboration, mutual respect and a shared commitment to building a stronger future together.

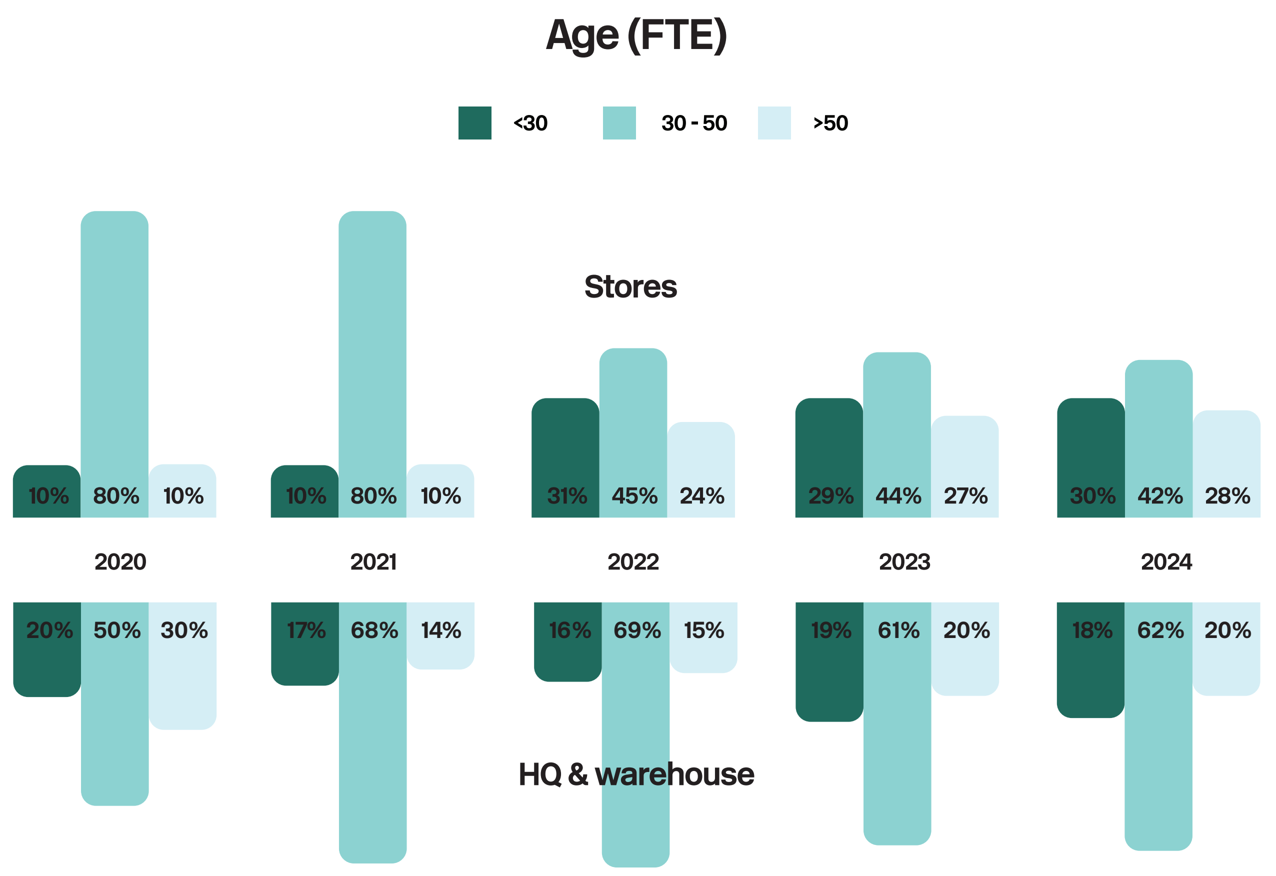
Our employees

The people of ESSENTIEL ANTWERP are the foundation of our company. We do our best to create an environment where people can grow and express themselves. To support this, we have expanded our HR team and modernized our way of working through a more interactive platform that also serves as a communication tool. A new HR philosophy now guides the company, focusing more on preventive action and engagement with employees. Additionally, a mental health platform has been made accessible to all employees, offering anonymous access to professional support.

Training was provided to our store members both in person and via our training app, which is accessible at all times. The app also forms part of our onboarding process, offering a more flexible and modern alternative to traditional training methods. Several sessions were organized following the upgrade of several digital systems, ensuring employees had the skills needed to adapt. By investing in training, we equip our people with the tools they need to grow while building the skills that keep our business moving forward.

One example of this is in-store returns. Customers are not only able to exchange items, but they can also receive personalized styling advice from our style-conscious staff. This is a logical choice for a brand with a strong focus on customer experience, which also keeps costs down and reduces our carbon footprint, as returns often coincide with customers' planned store visits, eliminating the need for additional transport.

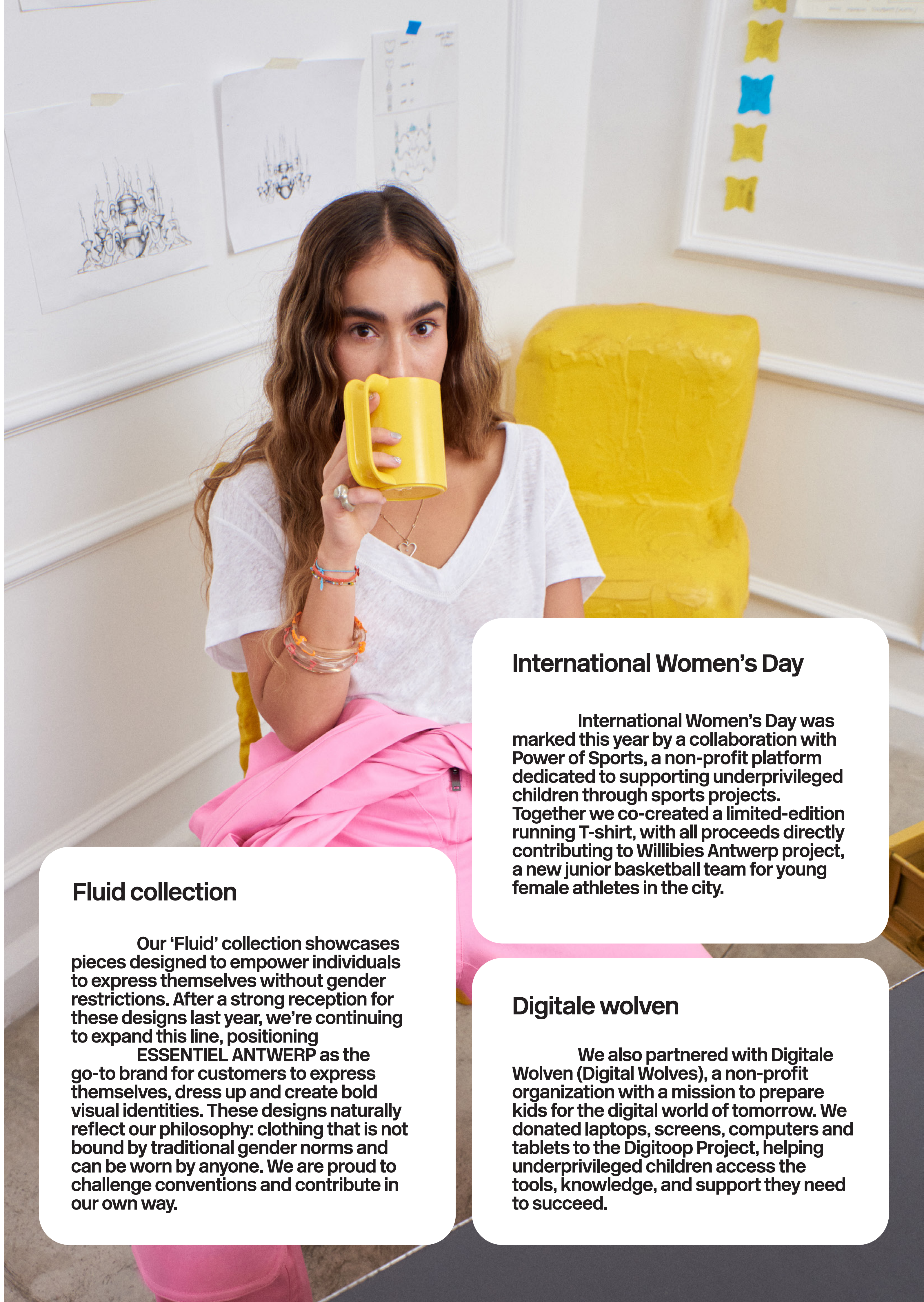




Inclusivity, diversity and equality

Our colorful and daring clothes reflect the people behind them. At ESSENTIEL ANTWERP we are woven from a vibrant mix of individuals—open-minded, ambitious, and joyful—who come from diverse cultural, religious, and personal backgrounds.

A great working environment attracts many people from all walks of life, and our retention rate proves that our people have lots of good reasons to stay. Inclusion, equality and diversity have been core company values since the very beginning, and remain the central pillars of our policy. We are proud advocates of these values, and we show them through action—supporting those who need a voice and creating a positive impact in society.



International Women's Day

International Women's Day was marked this year by a collaboration with Power of Sports, a non-profit platform dedicated to supporting underprivileged children through sports projects. Together we co-created a limited-edition running T-shirt, with all proceeds directly contributing to Willibies Antwerp project, a new junior basketball team for young female athletes in the city.

Fluid collection

Our 'Fluid' collection showcases pieces designed to empower individuals to express themselves without gender restrictions. After a strong reception for these designs last year, we're continuing to expand this line, positioning ESSENTIEL ANTWERP as the go-to brand for customers to express themselves, dress up and create bold visual identities. These designs naturally reflect our philosophy: clothing that is not bound by traditional gender norms and can be worn by anyone. We are proud to challenge conventions and contribute in our own way.

Digitale wolven

We also partnered with Digitale Wolven (Digital Wolves), a non-profit organization with a mission to prepare kids for the digital world of tomorrow. We donated laptops, screens, computers and tablets to the Digitoop Project, helping underprivileged children access the tools, knowledge, and support they need to succeed.

Supply chain workers

When we say “all our people” we mean everyone who contributes to our business—not just our direct employees. While it’s easier to address internal practices, we recognize that our suppliers are an integral element of our success. We strive to be a responsible, long-term partner and seek the same commitment from those we work with.

We believe that taking responsibility as a player in fashion industry is non-negotiable. Social challenges in the industry’s supply chain have long been known and remain a focus for us. We’ve put business practices in place that keep us all accountable and ensure that our products are made with respect for people and environment.

Long-term partnerships

Building strong relationships is at the core of everything we do. We believe that working closely together, with everyone bringing their best skills, leads to outstanding products we can all be proud of. Being open and transparent about planning and deliverables, respecting payment terms and avoiding undue pricing pressure demonstrates respect for our partners. The fact that we have been working with some of our suppliers for more than 20 years is a testament to our commitment to fair business practices.

Code of Conduct

To formalize our mutual commitment to good business practices, we require our suppliers to agree to our Code of Conduct as part of the onboarding process. The Code outlines the key guidelines and commitments to ensure that business is conducted ethically and that regulatory obligations are met, helping to build trust and minimize potential issues.

We require all of our suppliers to either have their own Code of Conduct or to fully adhere to ours. Our goal is for 100% of suppliers to comply with and sign our own Code of Conduct, ensuring alignment and enabling us to carry out our due diligence. As our direct suppliers also work with other sub-suppliers, these practices extend across the wider supply chain.

Transparency

Over the years we have built a reliable network of suppliers, each with their own expertise, enabling us to deliver beautifully crafted products to our customers. Our suppliers are located across the globe, from India to China, Africa and Europe.

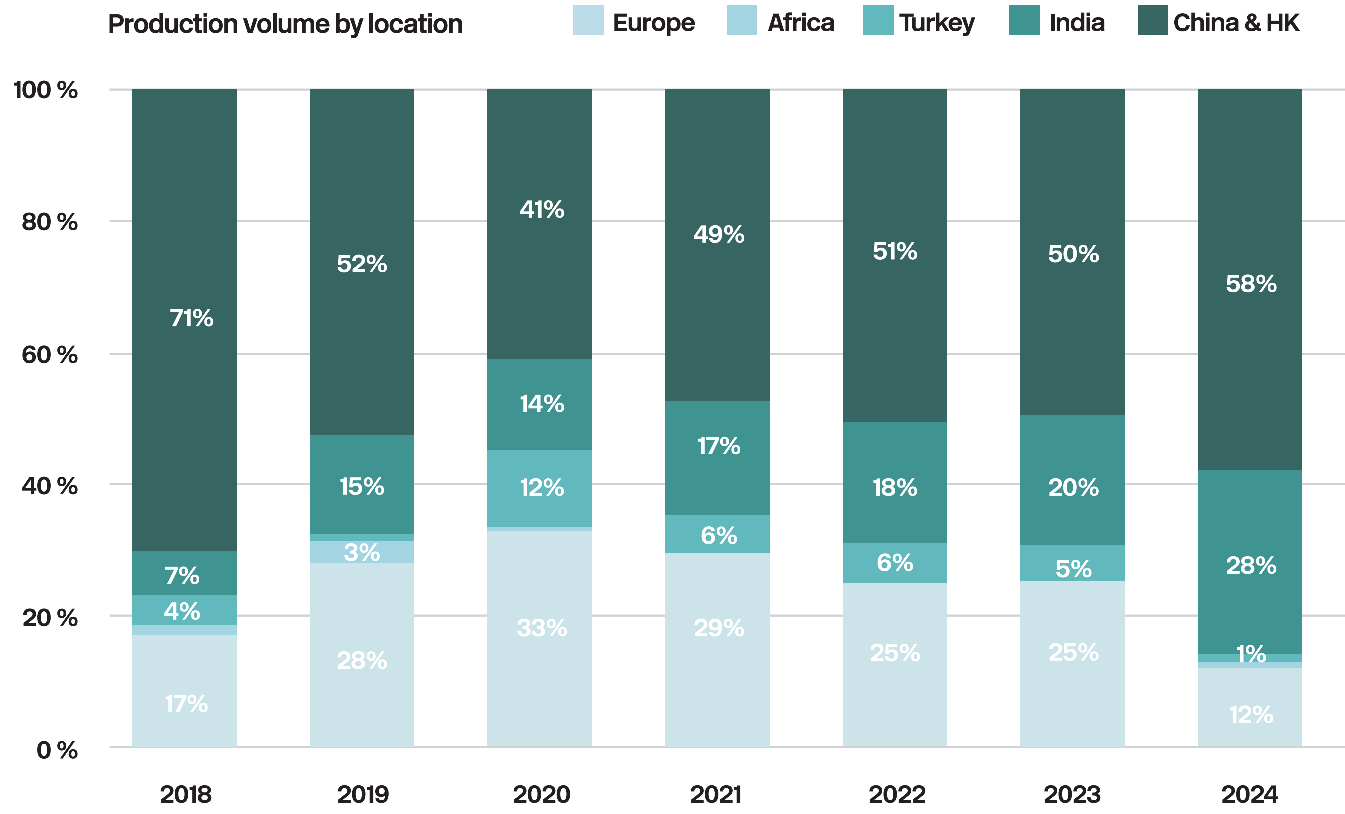
We maintain full information on our direct suppliers, also known as Tier 1 suppliers. It is quite common that they also work with their own sub-suppliers, who provide materials or handle parts of the production process. We are therefore aware of the supply chain beyond our direct suppliers. Our goal is to develop a deeper understanding and achieve greater traceability across the different stages of the production process and players involved. To that end, we will be expanding our focus to include Tier 2 and Tier 3 suppliers in the future.

Production

Below you can see the distribution of production across our different supplier locations. We have longstanding relationships with many of these partners, some lasting more than 20 years. The proportions between locations vary from year to year as partners are primarily chosen based on the technical skills and expertise that our designs require at the time of production.

Generally speaking, China has been investing heavily for years in modernization, coming up with new techniques and materials and has the advantage of local sourcing, while Europe is focusing more on traditional manufacturing methods. Our choice of partners therefore fluctuates continuously and comes down to making sure that we have the best possible fit between the expertVise of our partners needed to produce the best possible quality design that we have envisaged. One year it might be more on embroidery, the other we have more special prints, while another year we might focus on special finish on materials. In 2024 we saw a shift toward China which has indirectly contributed to a higher carbon footprint for the year. This was due to the transportation challenges previously discussed, which impacted our ability to select the most sustainable transport options.

We have been exploring ways to move some of the production closer to Europe to mitigate these ongoing risks. However, it is not always easy to find the expertise, technical skills and/or machinery required for our products. Building a new supplier relationship also takes time and investment, both socially and financially. We take time to build longstanding relationships based on value and respect.



Due diligence

Due diligence is an official safeguard that ensures supply chain initiatives are actually put into practice. Following through on our commitments from last year, we created a Due Diligence Policy. This document is essential in a complex sector that spans global supply chains and often involves multiple suppliers across different countries, making it a challenge to identify and address risks around labor practices, human rights and environmental impact.

Our due diligence process allows us to be systematic in identifying, preventing and mitigating potential impact on people and environment in our supply chain. As explained in the previous section, close and continuous collaboration with suppliers is central to how we operate, which enables us to successfully conduct due diligence processes.

With upcoming legislative changes, uninterrupted collaboration requires clarity, which our Due Diligence Policy helps provide. A key component is conducting and reviewing environmental and social audits. These due diligence efforts allow us to set up better and more efficient processes to course correct when needed and continue improving our collaboration with both existing and potential partners.

Our plan for next year is to upgrade our Due Diligence Policy with our most recent learnings, placing greater focus on a comprehensive corrective action plan. The goal is to build a more effective and balanced approach to addressing issues—supporting suppliers in making improvements rather than ending relationships prematurely, in line with our commitment to responsible exit practices.

To verify compliance with our Code of Conduct, suppliers provide us with social and environmental audit reports, in which working conditions, health and safety, environment and business practices are evaluated by an independent third party. Currently, more than 50% of our production is covered by third party social audits. Additionally, 25% of our collections are produced in Europe, where fair working conditions are guaranteed under the applicable European regulations.

We aim to increase this percentage in the coming years, aligning with our due diligence efforts. Through dialogue, audits, and ongoing collaboration, we remain committed to strengthening processes and ensuring continuous improvement across our supply chain.

Conclusion

Despite our continued sustainability efforts, 2024 brought challenges—including geopolitical disruptions affecting operations and restrictions on material choice. Yet we remained resilient. We have provided more detailed and accurate data for carbon footprint calculation, expanded our RE—SSENTIEL business to ten new countries, implemented our Due Diligence Policy and delivered outstanding collections to our partners and customers on time, despite logistical hurdles.

Realizing we needed to refocus our sustainability journey and reset our goals, we took a strategic step forward by bringing in an ESG Project Manager to reignite our efforts and drive transformative change. What may have appeared as a pause was, in fact, a moment of renewed purpose—and now we are moving forward with greater determination toward a better tomorrow.

Plans for 2025

Looking ahead starts with looking back. We plan to review our current way of working and sustainability efforts to better understand what changes we can realistically tackle in the next 5 years, while shaping our sustainability strategy for 2025–2030.

To ensure continued business and compliance, a key priority will be the upcoming EU regulations. These far-reaching requirements will have significant implications, and we need to streamline our efforts to ensure compliance with the many different directives. This will be the central focus for our newly appointed ESG Project Manager, who will work to maximize the resources available, safeguard compliance, and elevate our brand. Thanks to the strong foundation we have already built through compliance and continuous improvement, we are well positioned not only to meet legal requirements but also to align our actions with our values.

At the heart of this renewed journey is a rigorous double materiality assessment. This includes in-depth discussions with both internal and external stakeholders to identify the sustainability topics that are most material to our business and that must remain a focus in our reporting.

These insights will help us define and strengthen our sustainability strategy. We are committed to embedding sustainability efforts across the whole company, moving beyond a responsibility held by only a small group. Wider awareness linked to individual roles will be essential, as knowledge, awareness, and action must go hand in hand.

To achieve this, we will invest in knowledge-building and upgrade the skillset of people internally, particularly in the design process within the ecodesign framework. One step will be compiling a list of preferred materials to work with, including information on all different available certificates—not only for raw materials, but also production processes. Mapping our existing production processes and researching lower-impact alternatives will help us identify where improvements can be implemented.

We also plan to strengthen our compliance preparedness, ensuring we are ready for current and upcoming regulations. Closely tied to this will be the next phase of our Due Diligence Policy, with the development of a corrective action plan to help us and our partners anticipate and manage next steps.

Other priorities include reviewing and improving our repair services, with a focus on product longevity and customer satisfaction, and further strengthening our circular business model. Last but not least, we will also review our communication around sustainability given the new legal context we will find ourselves in —seeking not only to remain compliant, but also to tell our story in a way that strengthens our brand and resonates with our customers.

Already, the appointment of a dedicated ESG Project Manager has sparked new conversations, ideas, and initiatives. This has inspired pride and curiosity within the company, and has revealed the potential and possibilities of things to come.

About this report

Name and location of the organization

ESSENTIEL ANTWERP's registered head office is located at Arenbergstraat 21, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium

Reporting scope

This report is the fifth sustainability report published by ESSENTIEL ANTWERP and covers the sustainability policy, achievements and ambitions of the company for the near and mid-term future.

Publication date

October 2025

Reporting period

1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024. We will continue to publish reports on an annual basis.

For questions regarding this report

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Scoping & methodology

Carbon footprint calculation requires specialized knowledge, and ESSENTIEL ANTWERP works with external experts for this purpose.

For each activity the most relevant and localized emission factor was selected, at the discretion of the reporter. Beyond locality and relevancy, other considerations were the recency, availability of emission factors and consistency in the selection of emission factor publications across the report and over years.

ESSENTIEL ANTWERP database: fabric emission factors prepared by (Studio D) external consultants, covering different stages of fabric production (raw material, spinning, etc.), mainly based on the EcoInvent database.

The Higg MSI (Material Sustainability Index) was used where EcoInvent data was missing or inconsistent.

In cases of ambiguity, the highest emission factor was selected for precautionary reasons.

Compared to 2023, notable changes in emission factors occurred, mainly for materials (Studio D external consultant calculations) and packaging (automatic update in UK.Gov database).

A full list of emission factor publications used in this report can be found in the table below:

Publisher	Publication version	Publication date	Usage
UK. gov GHG Reporting Factors	v2024 1.1	2024/10/30	87,3%
Exiobase	3.8.2	2021/10/21	4,9%
Association of Issuing Bodies	v2023	2024/05/30	2,7%
Essentiel Antwerp		–	2,2%
ADEME Base Carbone	2022 v22.0	2022/06/24	1,4%
ecoinvent	3.10.1	2024/11/19	1,2%
IEA Emission Factors for Energy	v2024.01	2024/09/20	0,4%

Correction

We would like to address an erratum in the 2023 carbon footprint calculation. In last year's sustainability report, emissions were overstated due to human error. One field in the transportation section was assigned an incorrect number, which resulted in a higher reported carbon footprint than that incurred in reality. The published figure of 11,456 tCO_2e should have been 8,113 tCO_2e. This corrected figure has been used as the baseline for all year-on-year comparisons in this report.