



# BENCHMARKED ASSESSMENT REPORT

**COMMUNITY BENCHMARKING**

**Snaefellsnes  
Iceland**

**Report Date: 22 June 2006**  
**Benchmarked Certificate Expiry: 16 September 2006**

PERIOD BENCHMARKED: 1 January 2005 – 31 December 2005

Assessment Conducted by Earthcheck




# Green Globe Benchmarking Results

## Snaefellsnes

### OVERVIEW

This annual assessment of **Snaefellsnes** was undertaken against **earthcheck™** benchmarking indicators developed for Green Globe.<sup>1</sup> 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 authorisation of the information required by the indicators was the **Snaefellsnes Council**.

|  |  | Indicator Measure (Benchmark)  |
|---|--|--|
| 1   | Sustainability Policy <sup>A</sup>           | Policy is produced and in place  |
| 2   | Energy Consumption                           | Energy used (GJ / Person Year) <sup>B</sup>  |
|   |  | Renewable energy used (%) <sup>C</sup>   |
| 3   | Water Consumption                            | Water used (kL / Person Year) <sup>B</sup>   |
|   |  | % of total water used is that is recycled/captured (%) <sup>C</sup>                                  |
| 4   | Waste Production                             | Waste landfilled (t / Person Year) <sup>B</sup>  |
|   |  | % of total waste that is recycled/reused (%) <sup>C</sup>  |
| 5   | Greenhouse Gas (CO <sub>2</sub> ) Production | Carbon Dioxide produced (t / Person Year) <sup>B</sup>   |
| 6   | Air Quality                                  | Nitrogen Oxides produced (kg / Hectare) <sup>D</sup>   |
| 7   | Air Quality                                  | Sulphur Dioxide produced (kg / Hectare) <sup>D</sup>   |
| 8   | Air Quality                                  | Particulate Matter produced (kg / Hectare) <sup>D</sup>  |
| 9   | Waterways Quality                            | Tested waterways samples passing quality guidelines pa / Total number of waterways samples tested pa |
| 10  | Habitat Conservation (Biodiversity)          | Area set aside for conservation of native species (ha) / Total community area (ha)                   |
| 11  | Green Space                                  | Green space area of community (ha) / Total community area (ha)                                       |
| 12  | Travel & Tourism Accreditation               | Environmentally accredited operators / Total number of operators in the community                    |

<sup>A</sup> produced by the lead agency after community consultation and consensus.


<sup>B</sup> person year is equivalent to 365 person days. Green Globe Communities 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.

<sup>C</sup> These indicators are for guidance only and do not affect the overall benchmarking evaluation

<sup>D</sup> 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 person year per unit area basis using total emissions, total person years and total bounded area of the Community, including waterways. The data is then normalized against the average number of person years per area of the country (for further details, please refer to the Community Benchmarking Document).

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the relevant Green Globe Sector Performance Guides for more details. For frequently asked questions (FAQs) about benchmarking or specific help, please also refer to [www.earthcheck.org](http://www.earthcheck.org)

## Green Globe Benchmarking Results Snaefellsnes

|  |                    | Indicator Measure (Benchmark)                                |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Lead Agency Performance   |                    |  |
| <b>13</b>   | Water Saving       | Water saving (Checklist Rating) <sup>E</sup>                 |
| <b>14</b>   | Waste Recycling    | Waste recycling (Checklist Rating) <sup>E</sup>              |
| <b>15</b>   | Paper Products     | Paper product types used (Checklist Rating) <sup>E</sup>     |
| <b>16</b>   | Cleaning Products  | Cleaning product types used (Checklist Rating) <sup>E</sup>  |
| <b>17</b>   | Pesticide Products | Pesticide product types used (Checklist Rating) <sup>E</sup> |

<sup>E</sup> assessed for the lead agency only.

In addition to the list on the previous page, a range of optional indicators are also provided. These present the opportunity to benchmark areas that reflect specific commitments to the local environment by the Community.

Optional benchmarks are encouraged and recognized by Green Globe, but are not used in the Benchmarking evaluation that assesses whether the Community has reached the standards necessary to use the Green Globe Benchmarked logo. <sup>2</sup>



The data for the listed **earthcheck**<sup>TM</sup> indicators and their benchmarks have been stated as compiled by **Snaefellsnes** in the prescribed manner, authorized by a senior officer of the Community's lead agency, the **Snaefellsnes Council**, and submitted to Green Globe for an annual independent assessment conducted by Earthcheck.

<sup>2</sup> To meet the requirements that allow the right to use the Green Globe Benchmarked logo, the benchmarks for all the **earthcheck**<sup>TM</sup> indicators should be at, or better than, the Baseline level. Baseline performance and Best Practice are set for Green Globe by Earthcheck with reference to appropriate national, regional and international data which take into account social, geographical and climatic impacts.

If a Community fails to meet the minimum requirements for up to two **earthcheck**<sup>TM</sup> indicators (Baseline or better performance), but achieves Baseline or better performance in all the other **earthcheck**<sup>TM</sup> Indicators, then the Community is allowed to use the Green Globe Benchmarked logo. It is, however, given a maximum of 12 months to improve performance. After 12 months, if the Community still does not achieve Baseline or better performance without substantiated evidence that the situation was beyond the control of the Community (e.g., occurrence of a natural disaster), then the right to use the Green Globe Benchmarked logo will be withdrawn.

As a standard policy, all **earthcheck**<sup>TM</sup> indicators are continuously reviewed, along with the performance levels which Communities have to achieve in order to use the Green Globe Benchmarked logo. This review takes into account "business-as-usual" changes in practices and equipment and is used to update where appropriate the Baseline and Best Practice levels, which provide useful feedback to the Community. Advanced warning will be given of changes in any required benchmarking related requirements and data.

# Green Globe Benchmarking Results Snaefellsnes

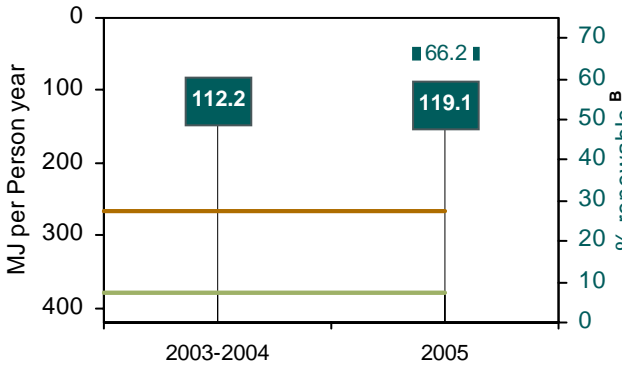


## COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS <sup>A</sup>

### 1 Sustainability Policy ★

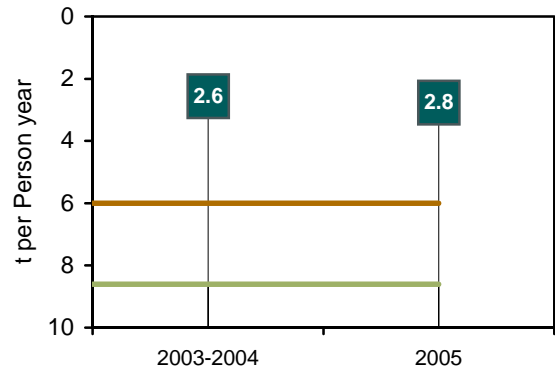
### 2 Energy Consumption

Energy consumed / Person year ★



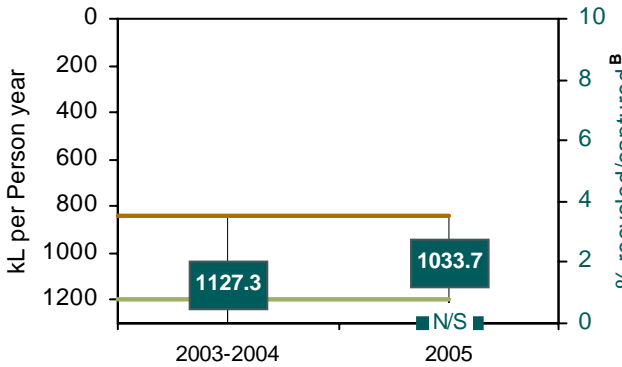
### 5 Greenhouse Gas Production

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) produced / Person year ★



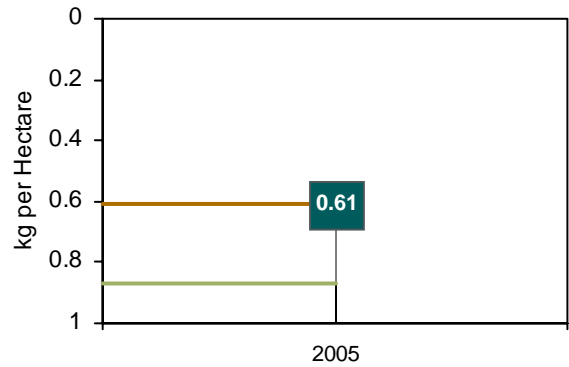
### 3 Water Consumption

Water consumed / Person year ✓



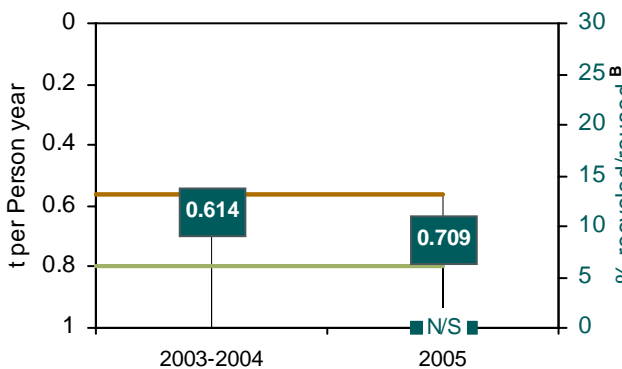
### 6 Air Quality

Nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) produced / Hectare ★ <sup>C</sup>



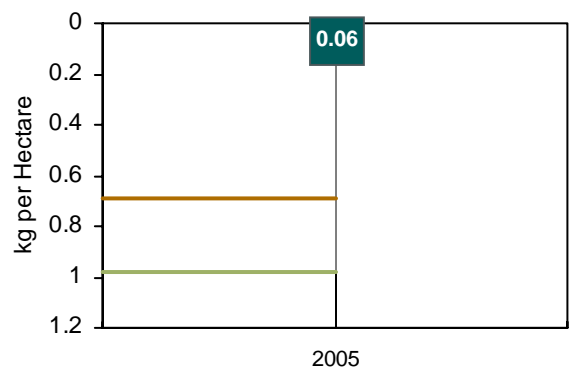
### 4 Waste Production

Waste landfilled / Person Year ✓



### 7 Air Quality

Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) produced / Hectare ★ <sup>C</sup>



**Performance level:**

Baseline —

Best Practice —

**Current result:**

Below Baseline ✘

At or above Baseline ✓

At or above Best Practice ★

<sup>A</sup> Each benchmark has been assessed on a per annum (12 months) basis

<sup>B</sup> These indicators are for guidance only and do not affect the overall benchmarking evaluation; N/S – Data not submitted

<sup>C</sup> Community Air Quality figures are normalised by allowing for differences in population densities between the nation (upon which Baseline and Best Practice figures are based) and the Community.

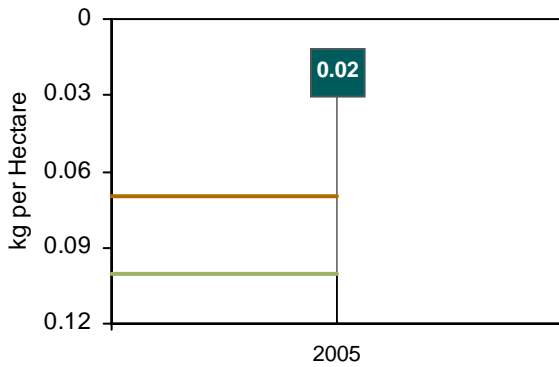
# Green Globe Benchmarking Results Snaefellsnes



## COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS <sup>A</sup>

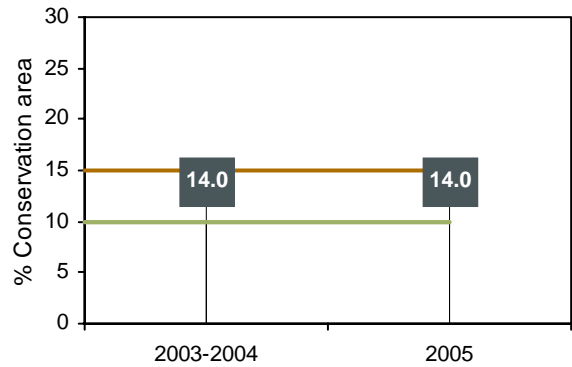
### 8 Air Quality

Particulate matter (PM10) produced / Hectare ★ <sup>B</sup>



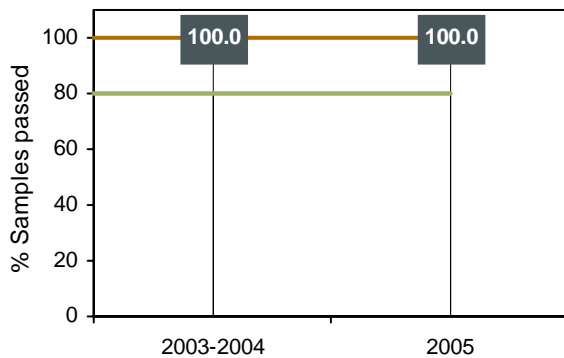
### 10 Biodiversity (Habitat Conservation)

Habitat conservation area (ha) / Total community area (ha) ✓



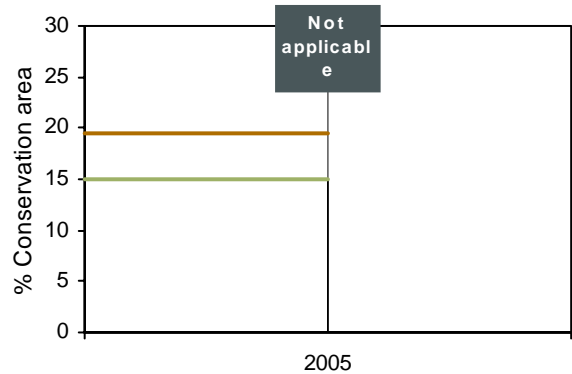
### 9 Waterways Quality

Water test passes / Water samples taken ★



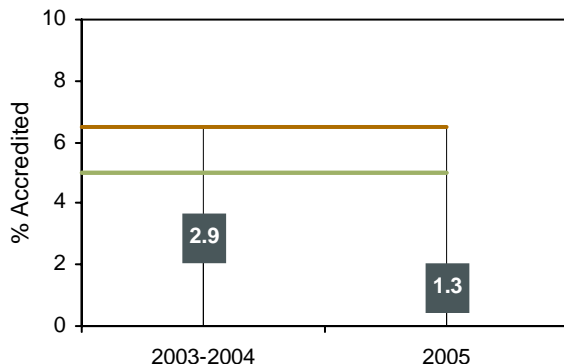
### 11 Green Space

Green space area (ha) / Total community area (ha)



### 12 Travel & Tourism Accreditation

Environmental performance accredited operations / Total travel & tourism operations



It is recognised that in most regions around the world, travel and tourism has not, until very recently, had access to environmental accreditation programs, such as Green Globe, that are suitable for their business.

As a consequence this indicator's role is not to pass/fail a Community, but to encourage local travel and tourism operators, who are generally the main point of contact for visitors to the Community, to start taking part in, and promoting, environmentally aware programs.

This will not only help support the Community's goals for a better environment, but also promote their own businesses.

**Performance level:**

Baseline —

Best Practice —

**Current result:**

Below Baseline ✖

At or above Baseline ✓

At or above Best Practice ★

<sup>A</sup> Each benchmark has been assessed on a per annum (12 months) basis

<sup>B</sup> Community Air Quality figures are normalised by allowing for differences in population densities between the nation (upon which Baseline and Best Practice figures are based) and the Community.

# Green Globe Benchmarking Results Snaefellsnes

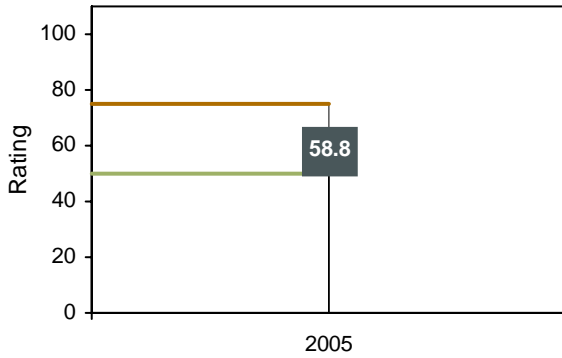


## COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS <sup>A</sup>

### Lead Agency Performance

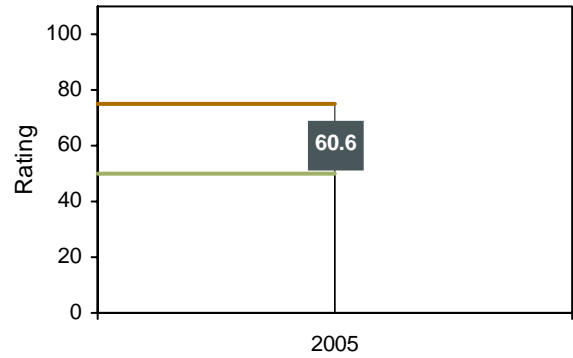
#### 13 Water Saving

Checklist rating ✓



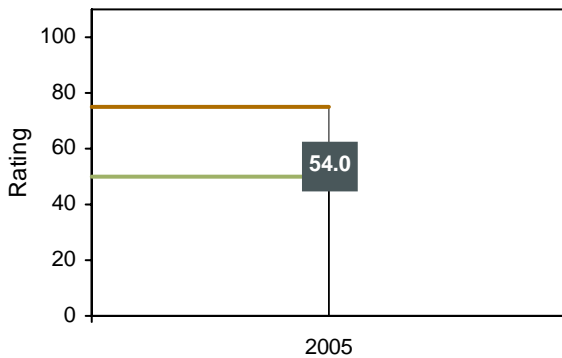
#### 15 Paper Products

Checklist rating ✓



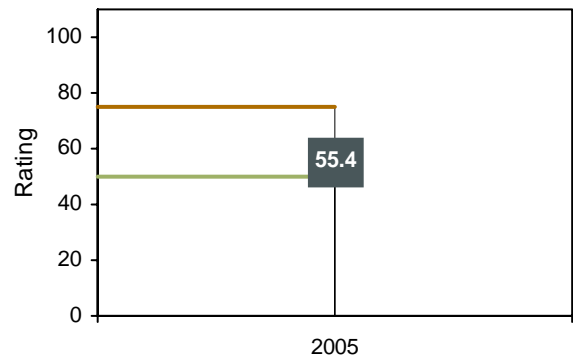
#### 14 Waste Recycling

Checklist rating ✓



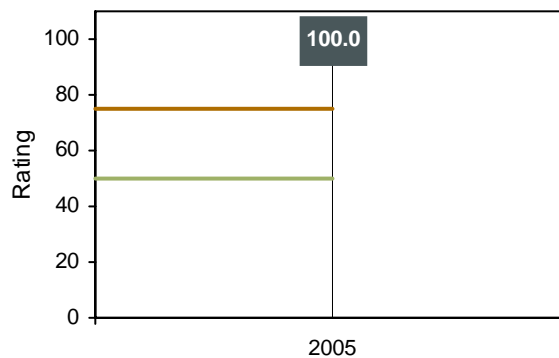
#### 16 Cleaning Products

Checklist rating ✓



#### 17 Pesticide Products

Checklist rating ★



**Performance level:**

Baseline —

Best Practice —

**Current result:**

Below Baseline ✘

At or above Baseline ✓

At or above Best Practice ★

<sup>A</sup> Each benchmark has been assessed on a per annum (12 months) basis

<sup>B</sup> Assessed for the Community's lead agency – the **Snaefellsnes Council**

<sup>C</sup> Please refer to the Conclusion & Recommendations for a detailed explanation of the benchmarking calculations conducted by Earthcheck

# Green Globe Benchmarking Results

## Snaefellsnes

### OPTIONAL BENCHMARKING INDICATORS

**Snaefellsnes** has also nominated optional Community Selected and Specified Indicators that they consider relevant to their specific locality. These indicators reflect a very positive and strong commitment that **Snaefellsnes** has to protecting the community's environment.

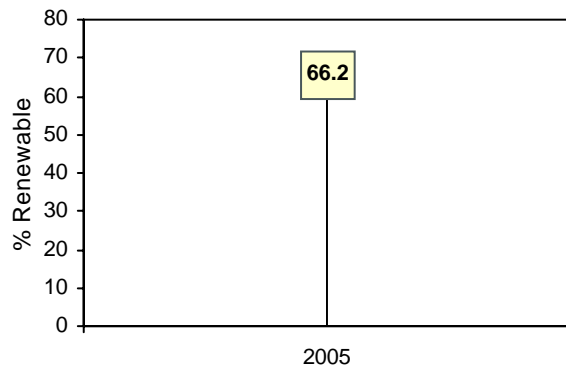
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### COMMUNITY SELECTED INDICATORS <sup>A</sup>

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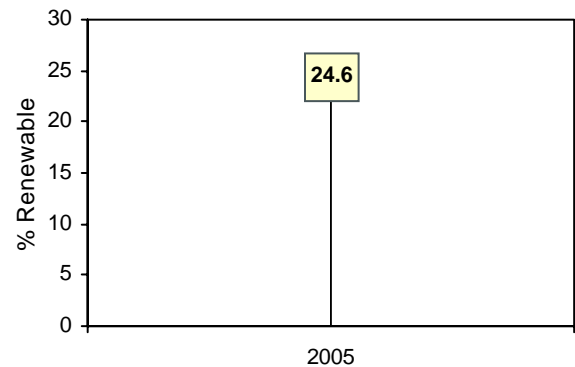
#### 1 Renewable Energy Consumption <sup>B</sup>

Renewable energy consumption (MJ) pa /  
Total energy consumption (MJ) pa



#### 2 Renewable Energy Production

Local renewable energy production (MJ) pa /  
Total energy consumption (MJ) pa



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<sup>A</sup> Each benchmark has been assessed on a per annum (12 months) basis

<sup>B</sup> Selected by the Community from a supplied list of **earthcheck™** indicators

# Green Globe Benchmarking Results Snaefellsnes

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Congratulations, **Snaefellsnes** has passed the requirements to continue to become recognised as a Green Globe Benchmarked Community and retains the right to display the Green Globe Benchmarked logo until the certificate expiry date.



In addition to having a Sustainability Policy in place, all of the fourteen assessed **earthcheck**<sup>TM</sup> indicators are above the Baseline level. From the benchmarking data provided, seven indicators, *Energy Consumption*, *Greenhouse Gas Production*, *Air Quality (NO<sub>x</sub>)*, *Air Quality (SO<sub>x</sub>)*, *Air Quality (PM10)*, *Waterways Quality*, and *Pesticide Products*, are at or above the Best Practice level, which is an achievement to be very highly commended.<sup>3</sup>

As there has been no reported use of pesticide products in **Snaefellsnes** during the benchmarking period (which is a positive outcome), Earthcheck has given a rating of 100 for this indicator on the basis that no use represents a Best Practice achievement.

A value for *Green Space* was not submitted, but as this is a focus on open spaces created and set aside for recreational purposes (e.g., sports fields, parks etc.), it is recognised that in rural areas this is not always very relevant and/or a significant percentage of the community area.

Due to the very positive commitment that the Community has demonstrated to the environment, through entering this program, Green Globe is confident that **Snaefellsnes** can maintain or improve performance, where appropriate and practical, in all indicators. This will help maintain their status as a leader in setting high standards for their own environmental performance, and in line with Green Globe Policy, this would enable Benchmarked status to be retained.

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### Annual Benchmarks assessed by Earthcheck:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Watt".

Melinda Watt  
General Manager  
Earthcheck

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr Ashley Scott".

Dr Ashley Scott  
Director, Research & Development  
Earthcheck

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### Report endorsed by Green Globe:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Parsons".

22 June 2006

Cathy Parsons  
Chief Executive Officer  
Green Globe Asia Pacific  
GGAP International

[www.greenglobe.org](http://www.greenglobe.org)

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<sup>3</sup> With respect to Air Quality, only values for the current benchmarked period are given based on the very comprehensive data provided, whereas the previous submission omitted key fuel consumptions. The relatively high value of nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), compared to the two Air Quality measures, tends to reflect reported vehicle use and no significant industrial activity