



Environmental statement 2025

This environmental statement provides information to the general public and other interested parties on the environmental performance and activities of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). It is published on ECDC's website. ECDC became EMAS registered in January 2024. This latest edition of ECDC's environmental statement contains updated data for the year 2025.



This report of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control was coordinated by Mirko Gazzaniga (EMAS Manager).

Contributing authors: Panagiota Nikolatou (Corporate Services Specialist); Milica Cerovac (Corporate Services Specialist); Andreas Karen (Facilities Management Specialist)

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Camilla Landén
Environmental inspector
Aug 18, 2026

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Foreword

At the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), our core mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases. We fulfil this mission through surveillance, scientific analysis, preparedness activities, public health training and international cooperation, while also recognising that all of our actions carry an environmental footprint.

As a European Union agency operating under Swedish national environmental law and other applicable environmental obligations, we acknowledge that the protection of human health is inextricably linked to the protection of the environment. Our operations, from energy use and international travel to procurement and day-to-day resource management, have an environmental impact, including the generation of CO₂ emissions, and we are committed to addressing this responsibly.

To support this commitment, ECDC has adopted the **Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)**. EMAS provides a structured and transparent framework for the management of our environmental performance, helping us to integrate sustainability into both our daily activities and our long term organisational planning.

Through EMAS, we work to:

- **reduce our environmental impact**, with a particular focus on lowering CO₂ emissions through improved efficiency, sustainable mobility choices and responsible use of resources;
- **address unavoidable emissions** by considering credible and carefully selected CO₂ offsetting initiatives;
- **promote environmental awareness** among staff, contractors and visitors, ensuring sustainability is embedded into our organisational culture;
- **ensure transparency and accountability** by monitoring and reporting our environmental performance in line with EMAS principles;
- **continuously advance our efforts**, identifying key environmental aspects and implementing measures that deliver meaningful, measurable progress.

Our environmental commitment extends to all areas of the Agency's work, from operations at our office building, to missions and meetings organised off-site and tasks carried out by partners and contractors. Everyone who contributes to our mission shares the responsibility for supporting a more sustainable ECDC.

By embracing EMAS, we reinforce our values of responsibility, integrity and excellence, and contribute to broader European ambitions for sustainability and climate resilience. Our environmental efforts strengthen our role as a responsible public institution, and demonstrate that environmental protection and public health go hand in hand.

We remain committed to advancing this work together, continually enhancing our environmental performance and contributing to a more sustainable future.



Marco Batista
Acting Head of Unit Resource Management Services/Head of Section Human Resources
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control





Summary

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's environmental statement for 2025 builds on the foundation laid in the previous year, highlighting continued progress and new initiatives in the Centre's journey towards environmental sustainability. The implementation of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) has led to clear improvements in 2025 in terms of ECDC's overall environmental impact.

In addition to existing objectives and targets, ECDC established a new set of specific targets to achieve over 2025 and 2026. These targets focus on reducing CO₂ emissions, minimising single-use items for catering, further lowering paper consumption, and increasing the use of green-label products. The goal is to continue to reduce ECDC's overall environmental impact and provide clearer direction to management on the steps required to meet these objectives.

Various campaigns in 2025 aimed to raise awareness among ECDC staff, such as the EMAS Fika, Bin of the Week, ECDC Clean-Up Day, and Swap Week, promoting good practice and sustainability awareness. As a member of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN) and the Greening Network of EU Agencies, ECDC participated in more external meetings than in 2024 demonstrating a commitment to becoming a more sustainable agency.

In 2025, ECDC recorded a slight decline in full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing compared with 2024. **Electricity consumption** decreased by 18.38% relative to the previous year, and cooling usage in the data centre was also reduced by 5.83% compared to 2024.

Heating consumption decreased significantly, by 28.28% from 2024 and **cooling consumption** saw a reduction of 11.67%. Overall, the combined consumption of heating and cooling has decreased, thanks to system improvements and measures to avoid energy waste, such as setting internal temperatures to 21 - 25°C in summer and 20–24°C in winter and turning off heating and cooling during weekends and holidays.

In 2025, 85.71% of the **office supplies** purchased were certified with a recognised green label, demonstrating our continued commitment to sustainable procurement practices. A small number of items did not carry an available environmental label, but these exceptions were limited to products for which no certified alternative existed at the time.

In 2025, catering services reached a remarkable milestone in reducing **single use products**. It is worth highlighting that even the use of paper packages, traditionally considered a more sustainable and disposable option, was successfully reduced. Overall, we achieved a 65.04% decrease in single use products compared with 2024.

This positive shift was driven primarily by a significant increase in the adoption of reusable porcelain packages, signalling a clear and decisive transition toward more sustainable, long lasting solutions.

This achievement not only demonstrates the effective reduction of single use items but also confirms that ECDC met and surpassed the target of a 2% reduction. The move toward reusable alternatives reflects strong environmental responsibility and shows the high level of engagement across the organisation in embracing more sustainable practices.

In 2025, **paper consumption** measured in sheets printed decreased by 2.86%. This reduction demonstrates the effectiveness of the measures implemented across the organisation to promote more responsible printing practices.

Through initiatives such as default double sided printing settings and the continued digitalisation of operational processes, the target to reduce printed sheets by 2% was not only achieved but exceeded. These efforts highlight the commitment to reducing resource use and supporting more sustainable office practices.

Water consumption in 2025 decreased by 16.12% compared with 2024, marking a significant improvement in resource efficiency across our operations. This reduction reflects the impact of several targeted initiatives, including the practice of collecting morning water for watering plants and cleaning, and the installation of automated taps to minimise unnecessary water use which demonstrate the commitment to sustainable water management and effective implementation of practical, everyday measures that support long term environmental responsibility.

Waste production. Despite a reduction in total FTEs during the reporting year, it is noteworthy that the total amount of recycled waste reached 18,645.00 kg, corresponding to 45.70 kg per FTE. This outcome highlights the continued effectiveness of ECDC's waste management practices. The Agency remains committed to prioritising reuse and recycling as the preferred waste disposal options, in full alignment with its environmental objectives. In this context, the number of reused items increased by 16.97 % compared to 2024, further demonstrating sustained progress in resource efficiency.

In 2025, **CO₂ emissions** from corporate travel increased by 4.46% compared to 2024, reflecting a higher number of meetings and missions requiring physical presence. This increase is mainly linked to the expanded mandate under Regulation (EU) 2022/2370, which broadened ECDC's scientific and operational responsibilities. Many of these activities require on-site engagement and cannot be fully replaced by virtual formats, resulting in a sustained need for essential missions.

In parallel, ECDC expanded the scope of its environmental aspects by formally recognising IT services and cloud-based digital platforms- e.g. Microsoft Teams, Cisco Webex, ServiceNow, OneDrive, Azure-based tools.

In **procurement**, sustainability is an increasingly important consideration, and ECDC's Procurement team actively supports sustainable purchasing through its participation in the Network of Agencies Procurement Officers (NAPO). This engagement enables the exchange of best practices, access to collective expertise, and ongoing alignment with evolving EU policies, tools, and methodologies related to sustainable procurement.

To strengthen environmental performance at the source, sustainability has been embedded directly into procurement procedures. Green selection and award criteria are systematically integrated into templates used for calls for tender, ensuring that environmental considerations are addressed consistently from the outset.

Biodiversity at ECDC remains a challenge due to its urban location and rented building with limited open spaces. However, there are green areas within the building, featuring a wide range of indoor plants, and a rooftop terrace garden.

1 Introduction

The European Centre for Disease Control's annual environmental statement report for 2025 is designed to inform the public and other stakeholders about the Centre's environmental performance. It is prepared in line with the [Eco-Management and Audit Scheme \(EMAS\) Regulation](#) and takes into consideration the [Sectoral Reference Document](#) for public administration. The report contains information on ECDC's Environmental Management System (EMS), the Centre's environmental performance in 2025, and the environmental targets for 2026.

ECDC's annual environmental statement is published on the [Centre's website](#).

1.1 Mission and context

ECDC is a decentralised EU agency that was formally established by [Regulation \(EC\) No 851/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) and was amended in 2022 by [Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2370 of the European Parliament and the Council](#). It has been operational since 2005.

In accordance with Article 3 of the amended ECDC Founding Regulation, ECDC's mission is 'to identify and assess current and emerging threats to human health from communicable diseases and related special health issues, to report thereon and, where appropriate, to ensure that information thereon is presented in an easily accessible way'. To achieve this mission, ECDC works in partnership with national health protection bodies across Europe to strengthen and develop continent-wide disease surveillance and early warning systems.

It is ECDC's ambition to safeguard over 500 million people from infectious diseases primarily caused

by viruses, bacteria and parasites. To achieve this, experts from ECDC assess risks to Europe and provide guidance to help countries prevent and respond to outbreaks and public health threats.

ECDC's primary areas of work include surveillance, outbreak preparedness and response support, scientific advice, prevention, microbiology and molecular surveillance, public health training, and communication.

1.2 Premises

Since April 2018, ECDC has been situated at Gustav III's Boulevard 40 in the Frösunda area of Solna municipality, just north of Stockholm, Sweden. The office building has seven floors, including one underground floor and a roof terrace, that in total occupy roughly 9 500 square meters. The floors of the building are divided depending on their function and include office areas, meeting rooms, quiet open spaces, project collaboration and touchdown areas, as well as kitchenettes, a canteen, relaxation rooms, bathrooms, a gym, and corridors.

In its design and infrastructure, the building integrates sustainable and environmentally friendly elements. By combining light colours and woods with natural light and vertical gardens, the modern building's interior aims to reflect ECDC's efforts towards an environmentally friendly, healthy, and sustainable working environment. The ECDC building has been certified as a 'green building' since 2018. It received the 'BREEAM' certification in 2020 and is currently rated as 'Very Good', showcasing ECDC's consideration of sustainability as a priority (see Annex 1).

Figure 1. ECDC premises





2 Environmental Management System

ECDC's Environmental Management System (EMS) is an integral component of the Centre, demonstrating a commitment to continuously minimising the environmental impact of its activities, reducing resource consumption, and enhancing environmental performance in a structured and strategic manner. Its implementation supports ECDC's alignment and contribution to the European Green Deal and its 2030 Climate Target Plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, as well as the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It also better equips ECDC to prepare for the future, foster innovation, reduce costs, and improve its public reputation. Additionally, the presence of an EMS and the EMAS certification highlight ECDC's compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.

ECDC's EMS has been developed in line with the [EMAS](#) Regulation. The European Commission developed the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) to help organisations address their environmental impact and to create a more sustainable operational environment. It is a voluntary management tool that aids in evaluating, reporting, and improving the environmental performance of an organisation. EMAS integrates the ISO 14001 (International Standard for Environmental Management System) requirements that are standard for an EMS and also includes requirements such as designing an environmental policy.

Following EMAS registration in January 2024, an environmental review was conducted in 2026 to ensure an updated and comprehensive overview of ECDC's environmental aspects. ECDC Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Work Instruction has been updated according to the outcome of the Environmental Review 2026, providing guidance to staff involved in implementing, maintaining, and improving EMAS at the Centre. Information and procedures related to the EMS are also made available to staff via the ECDC intranet.

2.1 Environmental policy

ECDC's environmental policy (Environmental Approach (Policy) see Annex 3) was signed by the Director on 3 March 2026 and is available on [ECDC's website](#). The new policy covers all of ECDC's operations, including staff activities when on mission or travelling. The approach applies to all people present at ECDC's premises, as well.

2.2 Governance structure of ECDC's Environmental Management System

The following governance structure has been established for successful maintenance and development of ECDC's EMS (Figure 2).

The different groups of the governance structure have different responsibilities:

- **Top Management** is responsible for ECDC's overall environmental approach.
- **EMAS Steering Group for Environment** is responsible for the annual management review of ECDC's EMS and makes strategic decisions regarding the System and ECDC's environmental work.
- **EMAS Core Implementation Team** is responsible for the Centre's EMS on a day-to-day basis.
- **ECDC staff and external stakeholders** are responsible for working towards reducing ECDC's negative environmental impact and contributing to the improvement of ECDC's environmental performance.

While the Director has the overall responsibility for ECDC's environmental impact, it is the EMAS Manager who is ultimately responsible for the Centre's EMS.

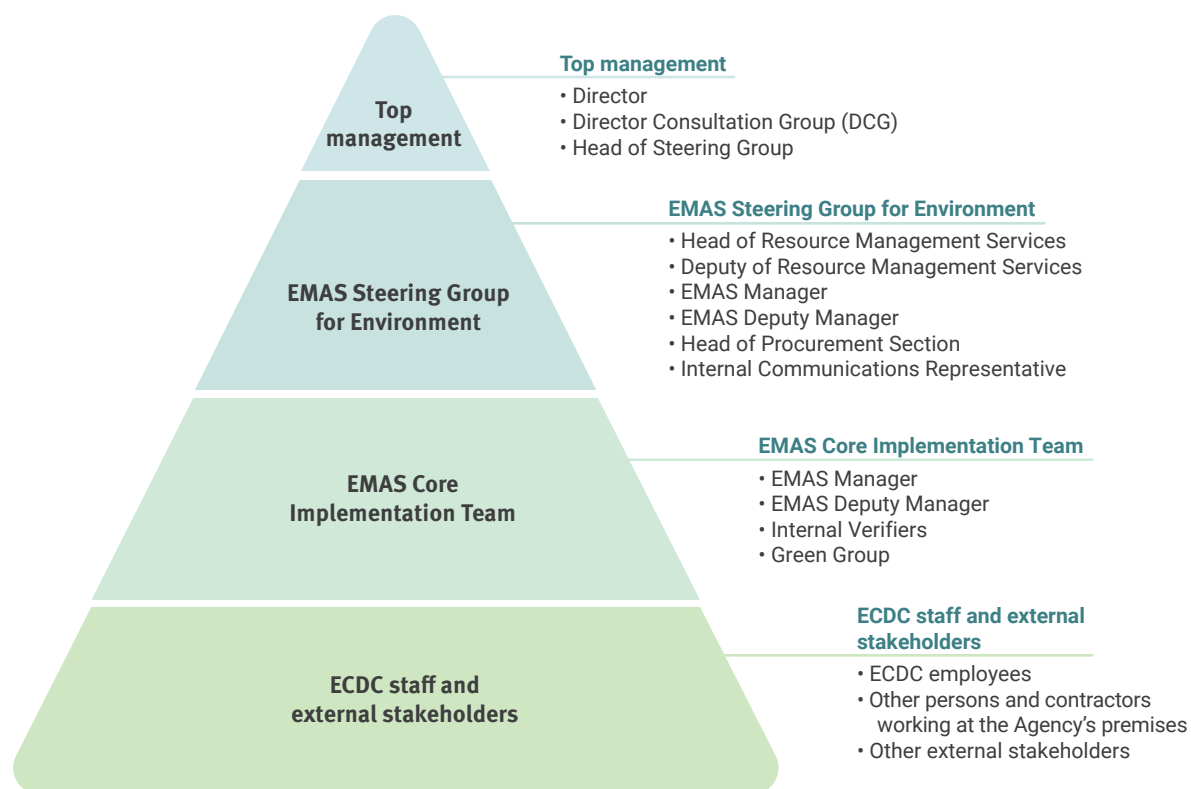
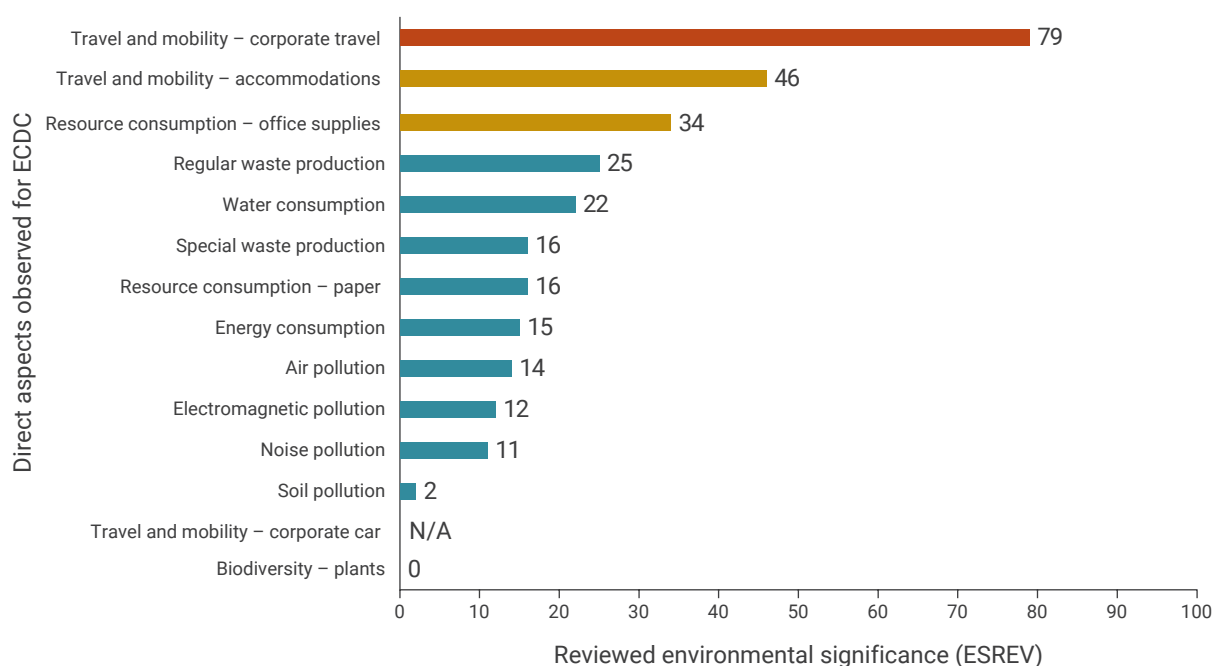
ECDC uses its own staff as its **Internal Verifiers** (EMAS Core Implementation Team). The members of staff who have become the Internal Verifiers are a group of volunteers that have undergone audit training to be able to perform environmental audits.

The **Green Group** (part of the EMAS Core Implementation Team, consisting of volunteers and the EMAS Manager/EMAS Deputy Manager) is an initiative unique to ECDC. Its role is to support the development of ECDC's environmental work through coordinating information regarding environmental issues, conducting awareness-raising and knowledge sharing activities, identifying needs, proposing improvements and reporting environmental issues.

2.3 Legal compliance

ECDC's legal framework is based on EU law. However, in certain instances, Swedish law may also be applicable. ECDC complies with a variety of environmental legislations and regulations at the local, national, and EU levels.

ECDC has developed an environmental compliance register that includes the relevant Swedish and EU environmental legislation and regulations. It is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Figure 2. Governance structure of ECDC's Environmental Management System**Figure 3. Overview of ECDC's direct environmental aspects**

The reviewed environmental significance (ESREV) varies on a scale from 0 to 100. Three ranges were identified for the scores:

- ESREV ≥ 60: **critical aspects** that need to be urgently tackled;
- ESREV ≥ 30 < 60: **relevant aspects** that have a significant impact on the environment, which need to be monitored closely and for which corrective actions need to be implemented;
- ESREV 0 < 30: **not relevant aspects** that need to be monitored to maintain the significance within this range.

The register includes, but it is not limited to, the following:

- Regulations related to the recycling, separation, and disposal of waste
- Regulations related to fuels used for road transport
- Regulations related to handling and disposal of hazardous substances
- Regulations related to energy efficiency and land use
- Regulations related to fluorinated greenhouse gases

In 2020, external consultants conducted an assessment to ensure full compliance with all applicable legal requirements. The verification of legal compliance was performed by an external verifier.

In 2026, ECDC carried out an internal review of compliance with environmental legislation under EMAS, applicable to an EU agency based in Sweden, with the support of the ECDC Legal Team.

2.4 Environmental aspects and impacts

An environmental aspect is any element of an organisation's activities, products, or services that can impact the environment. An environmental impact refers to any action that alters the environment, whether the change is beneficial or harmful. These impacts can be direct or indirect, and any environmental aspect that produces an effect results in an environmental impact.

ECDC identified both direct and indirect environmental aspects through an environmental review. The first review took place during the initial phase of the EMAS process and served as the foundation for implementing the Centre's EMS and it was reassessed in 2026.

Direct environmental aspects

Direct environmental aspects are those that ECDC can be expected to influence and control. The environmental review identified the direct environmental aspects shown in Figure 3.

Considering the environmental review results, ECDC prioritised these three categories for environmental objectives and targets:

- Travel and mobility – corporate travel
- Travel and mobility – accommodations
- Resource consumption – office supplies

These categories were selected due to their critical or significant environmental impact, necessitating prompt attention and action.

Indirect environmental aspects

The indirect environmental aspects are those that ECDC can be expected to have an influence over, but no control. Despite having no control over them, their inclusion in ECDC's long-term strategy is important as it can indirectly affect the environmental impact. For ECDC, these aspects include:

- Procurement – service providers
- Staff commuting
- Anomaly and emergency situations (public health emergency, soil leakages, extreme weather conditions, and others)

ECDC selected the following categories related to the indirect environmental aspects to address when setting its environmental objectives and targets:

- Procurement – setting environmental requirements in procurement procedures, where applicable
- Main processes – raising environmental awareness among internal and external stakeholders

2.5 Environmental objectives and targets

ECDC outlined specific objectives, targets, and actions to improve environmental performance. While ECDC continues to pursue these goals, a new set of concrete targets for 2025, and 2026 was established (Table 1). These new targets aim to further reduce the Centre's overall environmental impact and offer clearer guidance to management on the actions needed to meet the set objectives.

The environmental aspects for which objectives and targets have been set previously are:

- A. Travel and mobility – corporate travel
- B. Travel and mobility – accommodations
- C. Resource consumption – office supplies
- D. Procurement – service providers
- E. Main processes

The new targets were set for the following environmental aspects:

- Travel and mobility – corporate travel
- Resource consumption – office supplies
- Procurement – service providers

Overall, performance against the 2024 environmental targets was positive, with most targets successfully achieved (Table 2).

Resource consumption and procurement targets showed strong results, including meeting the target in green labelled office supplies (+14.29%), a reduction in single use products in catering exceeding the target (-82.34%), and a decrease in paper consumption beyond the planned 2% reduction (-2.86%).

Table 1. Environmental targets for 2025 and 2026

Environmental aspect	Year	Target
Travel and mobility – corporate travel	2025	Decrease the total CO ₂ emissions produced by Missions and Meetings by 2%, as benchmarked against 2024.
	2026	Decrease the total CO ₂ emissions produced by Missions and Meetings by 1%, as benchmarked against 2025.
Resource consumption – office supplies	2025	Increase the number of purchased office supplies with green label to 80%, as benchmarked against 2024.
	2026	Increase the number of purchased office supplies with green label to 85%, as benchmarked against 2025.
Procurement – single-use products in catering	2025	Decrease the single-use products in catering by 2%, as benchmarked against 2024.
	2026	Decrease the single-use products in catering by 1%, as benchmarked against 2025.
Resource consumption – paper	2025	Decrease the paper consumption by 2%, as benchmarked against 2024.
	2026	Decrease the paper consumption by 1%, as benchmarked against 2025.

Table 2. Progress towards environmental targets, 2025

Environmental aspect	Target for 2024	Performance in 2025	Result of progress towards target (% difference from target)
Travel and mobility – corporate travel	Decrease the total CO ₂ emissions produced by Missions and Meetings by 2%, as benchmarked against 2024.	1 049 451.33 CO ₂ emissions	Target not met (+4.46)
Resource consumption – office supplies	Increase the number of purchased office supplies with green label to 80%, as benchmarked against 2024.	85.71% green label office supplies	Target met (+14.29)
Procurement – single-use products in catering	Decrease the single-use products in catering by 2%, as benchmarked against 2024	644 paper packages	Target met (-82.34)
Resource consumption – paper	Decrease paper consumption by 2%, as benchmarked against 2024.	290 812 sheets	Target met (-2.86)

While the target for travel and mobility was not met, with CO₂ emissions from missions and meetings increasing by 4.46% compared to the 2024 benchmark response to these results, ECDC will strengthen its focus on reducing CO₂ emissions, with particular attention to emissions arising from travel and mobility. The increase in CO₂ emissions during the reporting period is primarily linked to a rise in travel activity associated with major events and essential in-person meetings held outside Stockholm. These activities were considered operationally necessary to ensure effective participation in key meetings and events.

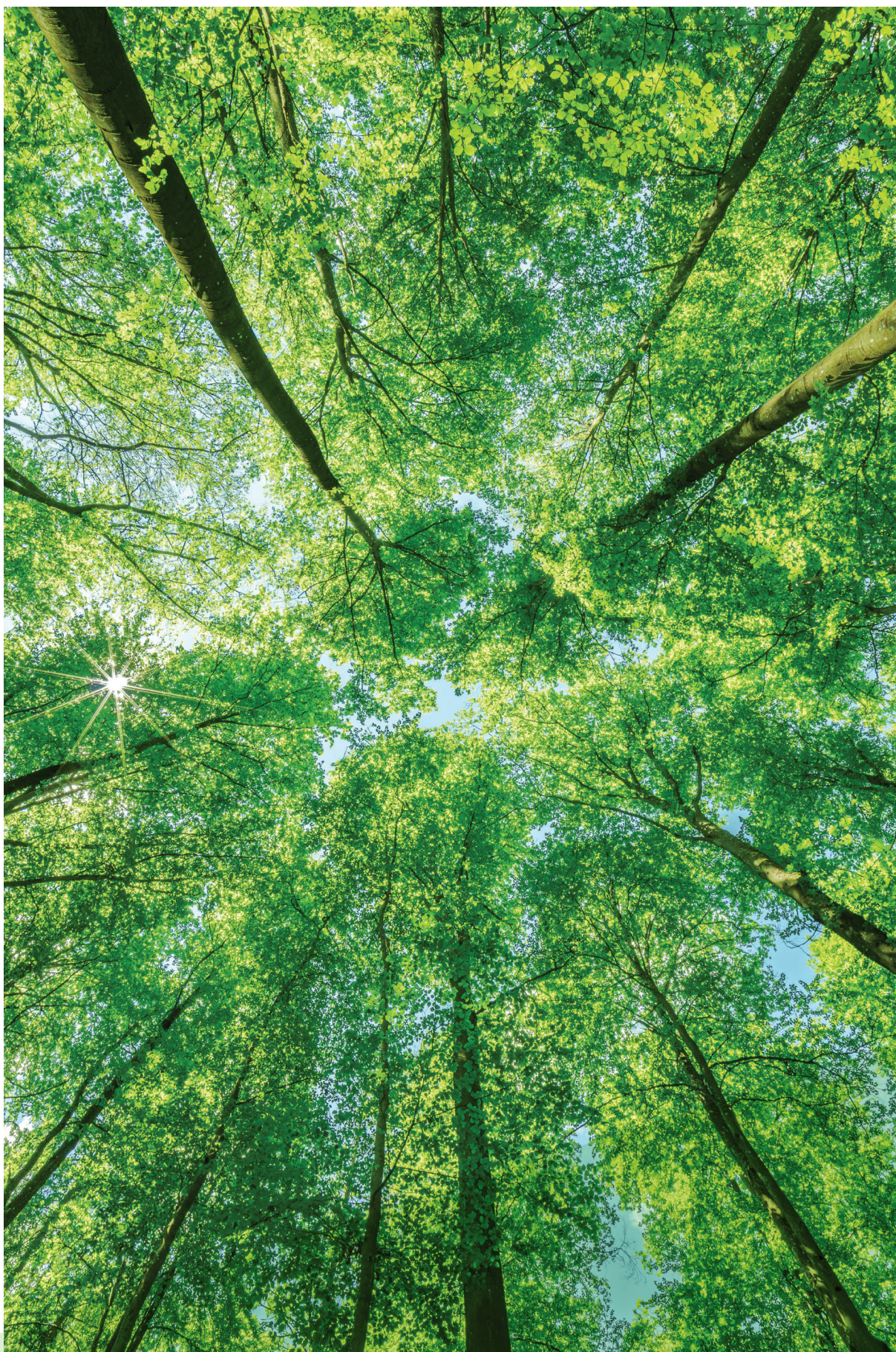
Despite continued efforts to promote more sustainable travel practices, including the use of virtual and hybrid meeting formats, the nature and scale of certain core activities required physical attendance, thereby limiting the extent to which emissions reductions could be achieved. Consequently, the established reduction target was not fully met.

It is also noted that the current methodology for emissions calculation may benefit from continued

improvement to ensure that it more accurately reflects the Agency's emissions profile. In particular, a more explicit distinction between emissions arising from core business travel and those linked to projects or contribution agreements would support a more precise and transparent assessment.

Looking ahead, the entry into force of revised rules governing missions and authorised travel from 1 January 2026 is expected to strengthen the Agency's capacity to manage and reduce travel-related emissions. Following the adoption of the new Guide to Missions and Authorised Travel by the European Commission on 13 May 2025 (Commission Decision C (2025) 2495), EU agencies were required to adopt these provisions by analogy within nine months.

The updated framework introduces, for the first time, explicit consideration of the environmental impact of professional travel choices, prioritising lower-emission alternatives wherever feasible while maintaining operational effectiveness, and thereby reinforcing the Agency's commitment under the EMAS framework.





3 Environmental performance in 2025

To measure its environmental performance, ECDC monitors – among others – the following indicators:

- Electricity and energy consumption for heating and cooling
- Office supplies, single-use products and paper consumption
- Water consumption
- Waste production
- CO₂ emissions

It is important to note that the resources used by the staff at their home offices are not included in the environmental performance indicators.

The environmental performance is commonly measured in relation to the number of staff members working at ECDC and by the floor area of the building.

The number of people working at ECDC is expressed in full-time equivalents (FTEs), with approximately 408 FTEs in 2025. FTEs include statutory staff, interim staff, consultants, and trainees, and are calculated based on the average number of full-time employees per year (Figure 4).

3.1 Electricity and energy consumption for heating and cooling

Energy consumption is required to support ECDC's daily administrative operations within the office building, including the use of IT equipment, lighting in offices and common areas, heating and cooling systems, and the operation of kitchen and gym facilities, as well as automatic doors, lifts, X ray machines and security scanners.

ECDC sources 100% of its electricity from renewable energy (see Annex 2) specifically hydroelectric power. While no renewable electricity is currently generated on site, the Centre continues to work towards the development of a plan to install photovoltaic solar panels on the building's roof.

Electricity consumption has shown a consistent downward trend over the period 2020–2025 (Table 3), indicating an overall reduction in energy use at ECDC premises. In parallel, electricity consumption per full-time equivalent (FTE) decreased by 30.3% over the same period, demonstrating substantial improvements in energy efficiency, even when accounting for the slight reduction in staffing levels of 3.77% in 2025. Overall, the continued decline in electricity consumption demonstrates a sustained improvement in ECDC's energy efficiency over time.

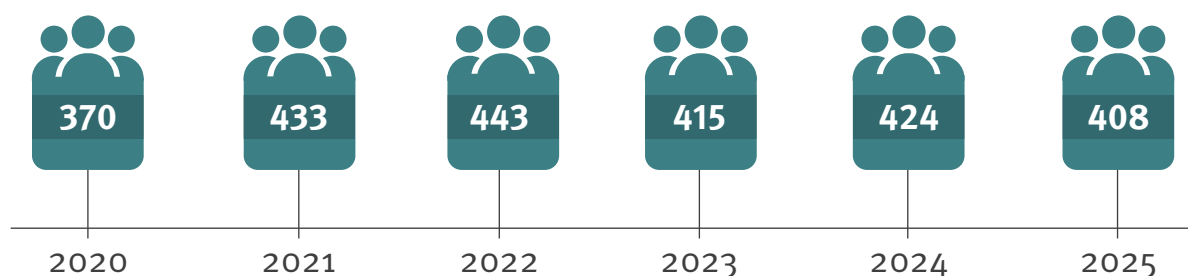
Cooling data centre

ECDC monitors electricity consumption associated with the server room cooling system using a dedicated electricity meter. In 2025, electricity consumption for server room cooling decreased by 5.83% compared with 2024 (Table 4). During the same year, the number of full time equivalents (FTEs) declined slightly by 3.77%. This performance indicates that electricity consumption for server room cooling has remained stable and effectively managed over time.

Heating and cooling

District heating and cooling is supplied to ECDC through Norrenergi AB, which has been ISO 14001 certified since 2001. The heating and cooling systems are water based, and the consumption of heating energy encompasses both building and

Figure 4. Number of full-time equivalents (FTEs), 2020–2025



water heating. Furthermore, to reduce the need for cooling in summer and heating in winter, the building is equipped with energy-efficient glass windows that optimise daylight admission while shutting out solar heat.

ECDC's landlord, Corem Isabella KB, provides ECDC with heating and cooling data that include ECDC's building and two other adjacent buildings, as there are no separate readers per building. Thus, the data provided in the tables below showcase only assumed consumption of heating and cooling energy by dividing the total of the three buildings by three.

At ECDC, room temperature is set between 21–25°C during summer and between 20–24°C during winter.

The system is designed to handle the Stockholm climate, however, during extreme cold episodes (-25 °C for a week), it might not be able to always maintain an indoor temperature of 22°C. In 2025, heating energy consumption decreased by 28.28% compared with 2024, continuing the downward trend observed in the previous year (Table 5). When normalised per full time equivalent (FTE), electricity consumption for heating was reduced by 25.47% compared with 2024. Although staffing levels decreased slightly by 3.77% in 2025, this factor was taken into account in the assessment, and the continued reduction in consumption confirms that the improvement is primarily attributable to enhanced energy efficiency rather than reduced occupancy.

Table 3. Electricity consumption, 2020–2025

Consumption metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Electricity (kWh)	843 748.00	762 190.00	801 842.00	792 619.00	797 600.00	650 997.00	-18.38
Electricity per FTE	2 280.40	1 760.25	1 810.03	1 910.93	1 881.13	1 595.5	-15.18
Electricity per m ²	88.82	80.23	84.40	83.43	83.96	68.53	-18.38

Table 4. Electricity consumption for the cooling of the server room, 2020–2025

Consumption metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Electricity (kWh)	322 700.00	323 100.00	330 600.00	319 143.00	314 888.00	296 528.00	-5.83
Electricity per FTE	872.16	746.19	746.28	769.02	742.66	726.78	-2.14
Electricity per m ²	33.97	34.01	34.80	33.59	33.15	31.21	-5.85

Table 5. Electricity consumption of heating energy, 2020–2025

Consumption metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Electricity (kWh)	443 448.00	468 277.00	467 585.00	572 740.00	372 975.70	267 493.33	-28.28
Electricity per FTE	1 198.51	1 081.47	1 055.50	1 380.10	879.66	655.62	-25.47
Electricity per m ²	46.68	49.29	49.22	60.29	39.26	28.16	-28.27

Table 6. Electricity consumption of cooling energy, 2020–2025

Consumption metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Electricity (kWh)	290 333.00	319 000.00	340 667.00	243 506.00	271 269.97	239 610.00	-11.67
Electricity per FTE	784.68	736.72	769.00	586.76	639.79	587.28	-8.21
Electricity per m ²	30.56	33.58	35.86	25.63	28.55	25.22	-11.66

FTE: full-time equivalent employee.

This improvement is largely attributable to the operation of the cooling heat pump system, which balances cooling and heating demand and enhances overall energy efficiency.

In 2025, cooling energy consumption decreased by 11.67% compared with 2024 (Table 6). While improvements to the indoor temperature control system have contributed to greater efficiency, external weather conditions remain a key factor influencing heating and cooling demand, with colder periods increasing heating needs and warmer conditions leading to higher cooling requirements. For this reason, cooling energy consumption typically fluctuates from year to year, nevertheless, a reduction was observed in 2025.

In 2025, heating energy consumption decreased by 28.28% compared with 2024, continuing the downward trend observed in the previous year

Electricity consumption for cooling also decreased when normalised per full time equivalent (FTE). Although staffing levels declined slightly in 2025, this factor was taken into account, and the results indicate a continued improvement in performance.

It should be noted that the data are derived from three different buildings, which limits the ability to precisely assess energy consumption attributable specifically to ECDC. Within this context, the results nevertheless indicate good overall performance and effective energy management.

Actions and improvements

In 2023, stand-by mode was introduced for some electronic equipment (e.g. screens) and automatic lights were installed. To further reduce electricity consumption, ventilation is shut off during weekends. Furthermore, dedicated staff members monitor that the implemented improvements are used appropriately to ensure progress towards electricity saving (e.g. checking if bathroom doors are closed to guarantee that the automatic lights are turned off).

In 2024, an automatic timing system was installed in the wall plants' spotlights, along with additional light switches for general lights. Security helped switch off gym machines before closing the building. Moreover, an awareness campaign was launched to save energy, promoting the turning off monitors and dockings stations. The landlord also completed an energy project that improved energy efficiency.

In 2025, ECDC monitors electricity consumption associated with the server room cooling system using a dedicated electricity meter to monitor consumption in real time so the Centre is able to target and investigate further area(s) of impact when and where there has been an increase/decrease

in consumption. In common areas equipped with motion sensors, ECDC has installed switches that allow lights to be manually disabled during the summer months, when daylight hours are longer. This measure supports energy monitoring efforts by reducing unnecessary lighting use and overall energy consumption. There is an ongoing discussion with the landlord to explore opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the server room. This includes assessing the feasibility of utilising cold outside air during colder months for cooling purposes, as well as the potential installation of a dedicated server-room cooling unit (Honeywell/AIA SEE Cooler, 1.2 kW drive power), which offers significantly higher energy efficiency compared to the system used in

the former premises.

Planned actions to reduce electricity and energy consumption for heating and cooling include:

- Installation of solar panels on the building's roof
- Continuing to use automation for energy-saving purposes
- Improve the energy efficiency for the server room by assessing the possibility of moving some ICT services to the cloud

3.2 Office supplies, single-use products and paper consumption

Office supplies

In its day-to-day activities, ECDC uses a variety of stationery and office supplies, including pens, notepads, folders, batteries, mouse pads, and other related items, ensuring access to environmentally responsible products and efficient, quality-assured logistics. The supplier offers a wide range of eco-labelled products, including EU Ecolabel, Nordic Swan, Blue Angel, FSC, PEFC, Bra Miljöval, TCO and comparable schemes (Figure 5). Safety data sheets are provided for all chemical products, and take-back schemes are in place for batteries, toner cartridges and other consumables. Delivery-related emissions are minimised through consolidated logistics and systematic reporting on the environmental profile of orders.

Staff place orders via an internal catalogue in which the environmental performance of each product is clearly identified. As a result of these measures, more than 85% of purchased items are currently classified as environmentally friendly.

Within the EMS, ECDC applies environmental criteria across all procurement and ordering processes, prioritising products that are recyclable, reusable, rechargeable or made from recycled materials, while progressively phasing out high-impact items such as single-use plastics. Ordering practices are optimised to limit delivery frequency, reduce packaging volumes and lower associated emissions. These sustainability principles also apply to branded materials for events, ensuring that products used for conferences and training activities meet the same environmental standards as routine office supplies.

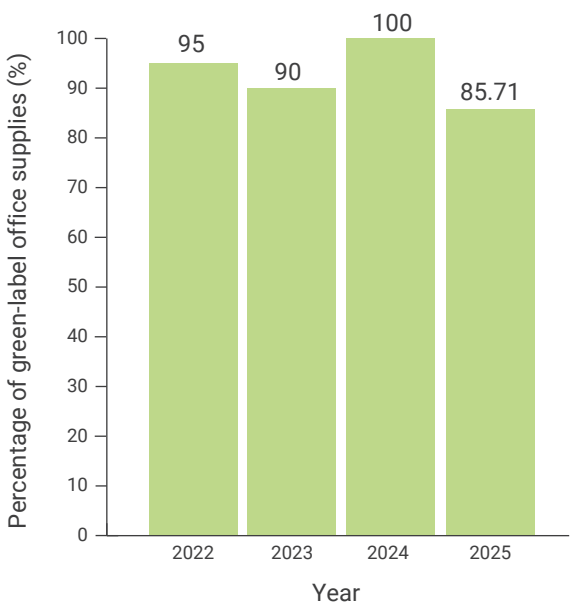
Single-use products

Single-use products at ECDC are either purchased by the Facility Management team or provided by the contracted catering service provider.

Reducing the use of single-use products in catering is one of ECDC’s established environmental targets. For 2025, the objective was to achieve a 2% reduction compared with 2024. This target has been significantly exceeded.

Following the purchase of porcelain tableware by ECDC, a marked decrease in the use of disposable catering items was observed. This represents a major step forward, as the Agency increasingly relies on in-house, reusable materials for meetings and training sessions organised on its premises. Notably, plastic packaging remains at zero in 2025, maintaining the level already achieved in previous years. In addition, paper packaging has been significantly reduced and is now used only for takeaway meals (Table 7).

Figure 5. Purchased office supplies with green label, 2022–2025



Overall, the use of single-use products in 2025 was reduced by 50.09% compared with 2024. During the same period, there was a slight decrease (5.68%) in the number of meetings held on ECDC premises (Table 8). These accomplishments are also a result of awareness efforts to reach ECDC staff with clear messages on sustainable meeting organisation, encouraging a growing preference for more environmentally responsible options.

Paper

In 2025, ECDC achieved a stable reduction in printed paper consumption. As shown in Table 9, overall paper use declined slightly compared with 2024. However, a marginal increase of 0.03 sheets per FTE was recorded, primarily due to a small reduction in the total number of FTEs during the reporting year.

Despite this minor variation, annual performance clearly demonstrates sustained long-term progress. In 2025, total paper consumption amounted to 290,812 printed sheets, representing a 2.86% decrease compared with 2024 and confirming the continuation of a consistent downward trend.

The 2025 results confirm that the established target of achieving at least a 2% reduction in paper consumption has been successfully met.

Paper purchasing follows strict sustainability requirements. ECDC has exclusively purchased recycled or eco-certified paper (e.g. EU Ecolabel, Nordic Swan), meeting the SRD benchmark of 100% environmentally certified paper. This ensures responsible sourcing, low-impact manufacturing and alignment with EMAS principles.

Actions and improvements

Office supplies

To work towards more sustainable resource consumption, in 2025 ECDC approved, published, and shared ‘Work Instruction on Office Supplies and Stationery’. These instructions explain what kind of items can be ordered, who is responsible for their ordering and redistribution, as well as how any exception needs to be handled.

Single-use products

To decrease the use of single-use products, ECDC has stopped purchasing single-use items such as plastic and/or paper cups and plates, plastic cutlery, and plastic water bottles. Instead, ECDC has purchased porcelain and ceramic dishes and cutlery that are available for all staff members’ daily use. Furthermore, no paper cups are available for coffee machines. Instead, staff is asked to use their own porcelain or ceramic cups, or those provided by ECDC. Additionally, meeting participants are provided with tap water instead of bottled water.

ECDC maintained zero use of plastic packaging in 2025, successfully sustaining this achievement for another consecutive year.

In certain limited circumstances, the nature of ECDC's activities still requires the use of single use items, for example when providing takeaway meals at the conclusion of meetings. These instances are monitored and kept to a minimum. ECDC continues to work with catering providers to further reduce single use packaging, in line with its waste prevention objectives and the principle of continual improvement under the Environmental Management System.

Nevertheless, the framework contract for catering emphasises that single-use products must be avoided whenever possible. If it is not possible, then the most environmentally friendly alternative needs to be selected. When ordering catering, selection can be made between:

- Porcelain package (porcelain/ceramic mugs and plates, including metal cutlery)
- Paper package (recyclable paper mugs and plates, including wood cutlery)

Paper

Over recent years, ECDC has steadily reduced paper consumption through a combination of digitalisation measures and operational changes. Key actions included the introduction of secure 'follow me' printing, the transition to electronic workflows, the discontinuation of printed newsletters and meeting documents, default double sided and black and white printing, and the exclusive use of digital payslips. Further reductions were achieved by transferring all procurement procedures to EU digital procurement tools in 2023 and by reducing the number of printers from 12 to 8 in 2024.

In 2025, paper use was further reduced. Efforts continued to eliminate paper based options from future catering contracts. ECDC's work instruction for organising meetings, including purchasing and catering arrangements, continued to be implemented, reinforcing paper free and sustainable practices. In parallel, Facility Management processes were further digitalised, covering requests for additional cleaning, desk sanitation, timesheets, reporting and other administrative activities.

The objective is to strengthen paper-free processes and promote sustainable administrative practices, with a particular focus on minimising the printing of meeting materials.

Table 7. Number of single-use products in catering, 2020–2025

Consumption metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Plastic	103	-	92	-	-	-	-
Paper	185	-	398	3 560	3 647	1 275	-65.04
Porcelain	-	-	-	2 322	3 363	8	-99.76
Total	288	-	490	5 882	7 010	1 283	-81.70

Table 8. Number of in-person meetings hosted, 2023–2025

Consumption metric	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
All meetings, on- and offsite	134	177	234	+32.20
Meetings held at ECDC premises	79	88	83	-5.68

Table 9. Paper consumption, 2020–2025

Consumption metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Sheets of paper printed and copied	399 249	127 669	244 377	296 683	299 373	290 812	-2.86
Sheets per FTE per working day ^a	4.15	1.13	2.12	2.75	2.72	2.74	+0.74

FTE: full-time equivalent employee.



ECDC continues to actively identify and assess new opportunities to further reduce resource consumption. Planned and ongoing initiatives include reducing printed paper used during staff onboarding and departure processes by replacing signed paper receipts for badges and keys with digital records, analysing the most common remaining uses of printed paper to optimise and redesign processes accordingly, and considering the development of a formal printed paper policy to further guide and reinforce sustainable practices across the organisation.

3.3 Water consumption

At ECDC, water is used for cleaning, lavatories, watering of indoor and outdoor plants, and drinking, as the Stockholm region has very good quality tap water.

As indicated in Table 10, total water consumption in 2025 decreased by 16.12% compared with 2024. Water use per FTE also declined, by 11.8%. Overall water consumption remained below the benchmark of excellence threshold of 6.4 m³ (Table 20). These results reflect the effectiveness of the efficiency measures implemented by ECDC, together with awareness raising activities promoting responsible water use across the organisation.

Actions and improvements

ECDC has implemented a range of operational and organisational measures to promote efficient and responsible water use across its premises. Glass water bottles (1 L) have been placed in all refrigerators to store drinking water, reducing the need to run taps and switch between hot and cold water while waiting for the correct temperature. Water consumption is systematically monitored to track annual trends, identify leaks or abnormal fluctuations, assess the effectiveness of awareness raising measures and support long term EMS planning. Water use is primarily associated with kitchen operations, sanitary facilities, cleaning services and overall building occupancy, and annual consumption data are documented in the Environmental Review to evaluate significance and performance over time.

ECDC premises are equipped with a total of eight dishwashers across different functional areas, specifically:

- four kitchenettes, each fitted with one dishwasher
- one canteen equipped with two dishwashers
- one technical area equipped with two industrial-grade dishwashers

All units are models designed to optimise water and energy consumption and are systematically operated using eco programmes wherever feasible. These programmes minimise water intake and electricity use per cycle while maintaining required hygiene standards.

This standardised approach to equipment selection and operation constitutes a controlled measure addressing the environmental aspects related to water consumption and energy use, in line with ISO 14001:2015 Clause 6.1.2 (environmental aspects). Furthermore, the consistent use of eco operating modes and efficient equipment reflects the implementation of operational controls under Clause 8.1, ensuring that these aspects are effectively managed in daily activities.

As a result, this approach contributes to the continuous improvement of resource efficiency and supports ECDC's EMAS objectives to reduce both water consumption and electricity demand associated with catering and cleaning operations

Moreover, sanitary facilities have been equipped with dual-flush toilets, water-saving showerheads, aerators, and touch-free taps. These are further supported by eco flow regulators that reduce water consumption during routine hygiene activities. In addition, a water recovery initiative captures water from morning tap purges for reuse in cleaning tasks and plant watering. To maintain and further improve performance, ECDC will continue to strengthen staff engagement through targeted awareness raising activities on responsible water use and the correct operation of water efficient installations.

Planned actions to reduce water consumption include:

- Continuing to explore the possibility of installing a tank to collect rainwater for use. Discussions have been ongoing with the landlord, but a concern regarding the weight of the tank needs to be investigated

Table 10. Water consumption, 2020–2025

Consumption metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Water per m ³	1 247.00	1 173.00	1 329.00	1 860.15	2 144.30	1 798.67	-16.12
Water per FTE	3.37	2.71	3.00	4.48	5.00	4.41	-11.8

FTE: full-time equivalent employee.



3.4 Waste production

Facilities Management is responsible for managing the waste generated by ECDC, ensuring compliance with Solna municipality and EMAS regulations. In addition to waste management, they also oversee the disposal of furniture and equipment. When disposing of these assets, they should be refurbished or re-used whenever possible, and only then recycled.

There are several types of bins located throughout the premises (Figure 6, Figure 7).

Each of the larger meeting rooms is equipped with a metal bin for general waste. Each office has a metal bin for general waste and a black plastic bin for paper. All toilets are equipped with a bin for collecting used paper hand towels, and an extra bin for disposing of sanitary items.

Each kitchenette is equipped with a set of stand-alone bins for the collection of diverse types of waste. ECDC staff can separate organic waste, metal, plastic, glass, tetra packaging, batteries, e-waste, light bulbs, used coffee capsules, paper hand towels, general waste, combustible waste and used microfibre cloths.

Copy room areas are equipped with two distinct types of bins. One is used for printer paper that needs to be recycled and the other for confidential documents. The confidential documents are disposed of by a dedicated contractor. Therefore, there is no need for electric paper shredders. Table 11 shows the data regarding the amount of collected waste across the different categories. Table 12 shows the CO₂ savings from recycling materials compared to producing new raw materials.

In 2025, the volume of recycled waste increased compared with 2024. A detailed analysis shows higher quantities of combustible waste, hazardous waste (such as batteries and lights), and metal. The increase in hazardous waste is primarily attributable to the disposal of end of life UPS batteries at ECDC in 2025.

The increase is also partly attributable to the introduction of a dedicated recycling stream for paper hand towels (TORK), which was implemented in 2024 and contributed positively to overall recycling performance.

ECDC's waste management approach continues to prioritise reuse and recycling as the preferred options for waste disposal, in line with the Agency's environmental objectives. Overall, total waste

management remained below the established benchmark of excellence, while the proportion of recycled waste increased compared with 2024.

Furniture and IT items

ECDC has a dedicated process for disposing of furniture and IT items that cannot be handled through regular waste procedures and require specialised treatment. As previously mentioned, before disposing of any furniture or IT items, ECDC explores the possibility of reusing them and giving them a second life. If reuse is not feasible, the items are then recycled and disposed of.

In 2025, the number of reused furniture and IT items increased by 16.97% compared with 2024. At the same time, the number of items disposed of or destroyed declined by 24.42%, as shown in Table 13. These results highlight a positive shift towards reuse and extended asset lifecycles, contributing to reduced waste generation and improved resource efficiency.

Actions and improvements

Waste management and recycling at ECDC are coordinated by a central waste management service provider operating across all tenants. To encourage correct waste separation and raise staff awareness, clear signage has been installed in kitchenettes and the canteen,

and detailed information on waste sorting is accessible to all ECDC staff.

In 2024, Facilities Management introduced dedicated TORK recycling bins for paper hand towels. Hand towels collected through this system are recycled and reused in the production of new paper hand towels, supporting a circular production model and contributing to waste reduction and lower CO₂ emissions. The same year, the "Bin of the Week" campaign was launched to further strengthen staff engagement. Weekly communications presented individual waste streams, explaining their purpose, location and importance, and were complemented by monthly guided tours of recycling stations on ECDC premises.

In the first quarter of 2025, the architectural and interior design project was finalised. The proposed solution includes a review and optimisation of touchdown areas across the premises, alongside the introduction of centralised waste collection points with shared, large-capacity bins.

Under this approach, staff will be encouraged to dispose of general waste and paper at designated

Overall, total waste management remained below the established benchmark of excellence, while the proportion of recycled waste increased compared with 2024

Figure 6. Bins available at ECDC

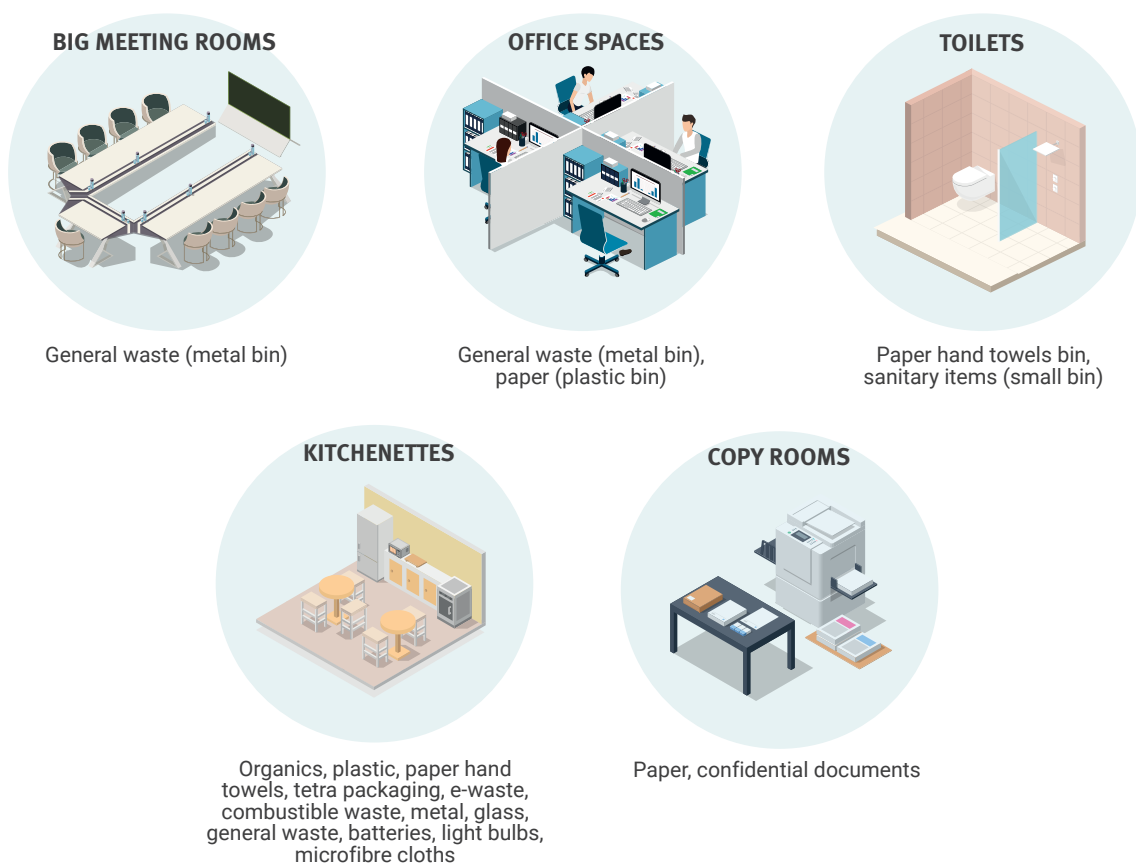


Figure 7. Types of recycling bins available at ECDC, 2025



Table 11. Recycled waste (kg), 2020–2025



Type of waste	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Paper	3 017.00	902.00	905.00	851.00	683.00	303.00	-55.64
Glass	254.00	246.00	241.00	377.00	151.00	204.00	+35.10
Metal	165.00	58.00	117.00	82.00	65.00	299.00	+360.00
Combustible	-	830.00	9.00	335.00	215.00	872.00	+305.58
Hazardous	8.00	-	-	22.00	9.00	6 788.00	+75 322.22
Organic	-	-	-	936.00	936.00	727.00	-22.30
Cardboard	1 029.00	667.00	495.00	579.00	607.00	618.00	+1.81
Electrics	200.00	149.00	151.00	4.00	145.00	88.00	-39.31
Plastic	220.00	235.00	223.00	232.00	183.00	330.00	+ 80.33
Toner	130.00	12.00	63.00	9.00	21.00	17.00	-19.05
Paper packaging	92.00	106.00	136.00	185.00	166.00	286.00	+ 72.29
Paper towels	-	-	-	-	4 080.00	4 982.00	+ 22.11
Confidential documents	1 360.00	3 360.00	3096.00	550.00	2 760.00	3 131.00	+ 13.44
Total	6 475.00	6 565.00	5 436.00	4 162.00	10 021.00	18 645.00	+ 86.06
Waste per FTE	17.50	15.16	12.27	10.03	23.63	45.70	+ 93.36

Table 12. Savings of CO₂ (kg) via recycling materials compared with producing new raw materials, 2020–2025


Type of waste	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Paper	1 207.00	361.00	362.00	340.00	273.00	121.00
Glass	89.00	86.00	85.00	131.00	53.00	73.00
Metal	705.00	247.00	501.00	350.00	277.00	1 278.00
Combustible	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hazardous	21.00	-	-	55.00	25.00	15 700.00
Organic	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.00
Cardboard	412.00	266.00	197.00	231.00	243.00	246.00
Electrics	-	417.00	424.00	11.00	407.00	247.00
Plastic	132.00	139.00	133.00	140.00	109.00	202.00
Toner	102.00	9.00	49.00	7.00	16.00	13.00
Paper packaging	37.00	42.00	56.00	73.00	66.00	111.00
Paper towels	-	-	-	-	1 632.00	1 963.00
Confidential documents	-	-	-	-	1 104.00	1 252.00
Total	2 705.00	1 567.00	1 807.00	1 338.00	4 205.00	21 206.00
Waste per FTE	7.31	3.62	4.08	3.22	9.92	51.98

Table 13. Furniture and IT items that were disposed of, 2020–2025



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Re-used	-	-	-	332.00	330.00	386	+16.97
Disposed of/Destroyed	-	-	-	531.00	172.00	130	-24.42
Total	934.00	72.00	-	863.00	502.00	516	+2.79
Waste per FTE	2.52	0.17	-	2.08	1.18	1.26	+6.78

FTE: full-time equivalent employee.

collection areas, allowing for the progressive removal of individual office bins. This measure aims to improve waste segregation at source, increase recycling rates, and reduce residual waste, while also promoting more responsible environmental behaviour among staff. In addition, the initiative is expected to generate co-benefits in terms of staff wellbeing by encouraging regular movement within the workplace.

From an environmental management perspective, this initiative addresses the significant environmental aspect related to waste generation and segregation, in line with ISO 14001:2015 Clause 6.1.2 (environmental aspects). The implementation of centralised waste stations and the removal of individual bins constitute a defined operational control under Clause 8.1, ensuring that waste management practices are standardised and effectively managed across the organisation.

The effectiveness of this measure will be monitored through waste-related key performance indicators (KPIs), including the proportion of sorted waste and residual waste volumes, in accordance with Clause 9.1 (monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation). This will enable ECDC to track performance over time and support data-driven continuous improvement actions.

Furthermore, the initiative supports awareness-raising and behavioural change among staff, contributing to Clause 7.3 (awareness) by reinforcing individual responsibility for environmental performance.

The proposal has been presented to ECDC top management and is currently pending a decision regarding the allocation of the necessary financial resources.

Building tours for newcomers were also organised to introduce ECDC's sustainability practices and recycling system. Awareness-raising activities continued through "EMAS fika" sessions, which provide staff with information on EMAS and updates on ongoing environmental initiatives.

To further support consistent waste management practices, the revised Work Instruction on Waste

Management and Disposal (ECDC/WI/501 Rev01) was approved in April 2025. The instruction provides clear guidance to staff and contractors on waste segregation and disposal procedures at ECDC.

To enhance awareness, the EMAS support team, in collaboration with the HR section, plans to make the EU Learning introductory module mandatory for newcomers. This initiative will provide an initial overview of EMAS and reinforce sustainable practices from the start of employment at ECDC.

The environmental review identified CO₂ emissions associated with corporate travel and accommodation during international missions as one of ECDC's most significant environmental challenges. Addressing this impact will require continued efforts to limit the number of trips undertaken each year wherever operationally feasible, while promoting more sustainable travel practices.

3.5 Corporate travel

Corporate travel remains the largest source of CO₂ emissions at ECDC, reflecting the Centre's mandate and core activities, which require a substantial level of travel each year. Corporate travel mainly relates to missions involving external meetings attended by ECDC staff, as well as meetings organised by ECDC itself (Table 14).

In previous years, recruitment related travel, such as candidate interviews, also contributed to CO₂ emissions. However, this is no longer the case. Nevertheless, limited staff travel may still occur for mandatory pre employment medical examinations.

CO₂ emissions are a key environmental aspect for which ECDC has established reduction targets, including a goal to decrease emissions by 2% in 2025 compared with 2024. However, due to operational and scientific requirements, this target could not be met. Increased travel was necessary to support priority projects, strengthen collaboration, and enhance networking and visibility in line with ECDC's mandate.

Table 14. CO₂ emissions (kg) from corporate travel, 2020–2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 vs 2025 (%)
Meetings	71 638.30	3 053.70	454 506.00	673 482.00	746 556.53	768 111.66	+2.89
Missions	22 384.00	4 742.30	132 618.00	204 378.00	258 042.93	281 339.57	+9.03
Total CO₂	94 022.20	7 796.00	587 124.00	877 861.00	1 004 599.46	1 049 451.23	+4.46
CO₂ per FTE	254.10	18.00	1 325.00	2 115.30	2 369.34	2 572.18	+8.56

FTE: full-time equivalent employee.



Accommodations

Following the appointment of the new Head of Section for Corporate Services and the Group Leader for Missions and Meetings, environmental aspects are increasingly being taken into account during the planning and organisation of meetings. This includes efforts to minimise transport-related impacts by selecting accommodation and venues that reduce travel requirements and, where feasible, prioritising locations that hold recognised environmental certifications.

At present, these practices are not yet governed by formalised procedures or documented guidelines. The development of structured documentation to embed these considerations systematically into meeting planning processes has therefore been identified as an area for future improvement.

Actions and improvements

ECDC has established new targets aimed at reducing total CO₂ emissions generated by missions and meetings. To support these objectives, the EU travel guidelines were implemented from 1 January 2026.

In line with these guidelines, managers are required to assess whether virtual participation is feasible before authorising a mission. Staff should only travel when missions are directly relevant to ECDC's work programme. Missions involving travel may not be undertaken if their duration is shorter than four hours. When travel is necessary, the most environmentally friendly transport option must be prioritised, with rail travel preferred over air travel where feasible. Missions are generally limited to one participant. Where additional attendees are required, the specific role and added value of each additional staff member must be clearly justified in the mission order.

When organising meetings, ECDC systematically offers hybrid or fully online participation options and, where possible, limits face-to-face attendance to one representative per participating organisation. In addition, ECDC actively seeks to reduce the overall number of physical meetings.

Current work instructions for missions and meetings already emphasise the selection of venues that are easily accessible by public transport, thereby avoiding the use of private vehicles, taxis or shuttle services. Accommodation is selected to be within walking distance of meeting venues or readily accessible by public transport. Furthermore, the accommodation services contract includes environmental requirements that promote the booking of eco-certified hotels and support awareness-raising among ECDC stakeholders. These measures aim to reduce transport-related emissions for event participants and to prioritise eco-compatible, environmentally friendly and certified facilities over higher-consumption alternatives.

In parallel, ECDC calculates both direct and indirect CO₂ emissions associated with corporate travel activities, establishing a robust basis for future carbon-offsetting initiatives. In addition, ECDC operates a single corporate vehicle, which was replaced in November 2025 with a fully electric car producing zero direct CO₂ emissions during operation. This transition eliminates tailpipe emissions previously associated with corporate mobility and aligns with EMAS principles, the EU Climate Law and broader EU decarbonisation objectives.

Planned actions to further reduce CO₂ emissions include:

- Increasing the proportion of hotel bookings with eco-certified solutions each year to further reduce ECDC's carbon footprint
- Introducing three new internal procedures aimed at strengthening efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions from business travel
- Integrating hybrid meeting options, quota-based travel considerations and additional emission-reduction measures within these procedures





4 Other relevant environmental topics

4.1 Procurement

In its day-to-day business, ECDC engages a wide array of contractors and subcontractors to provide diverse goods and services, allowing ECDC to influence providers by incorporating environmental criteria into its tenders. The Corporate Services Section manages most goods and services, applying environmental requirements where needed. This includes cleaning services, catering, travel services, purchase of furniture and office supplies.

Table 15 shows a slight decrease in the proportion of green procurement procedures. In 2024, 14.81% of procurement procedures included green criteria, compared with 11.54% in 2025. This variation reflects the fact that green procurement requirements are not always applicable or compatible with certain types of services or operational needs.

Nevertheless, ECDC remains fully committed to applying green procurement principles wherever feasible. The Agency continues to actively integrate environmental criteria into procurement procedures whenever these align with market availability, technical requirements and service specifications, and will maintain its efforts to strengthen sustainable procurement practices over time.

In 2024, 14.81% of procurement procedures included green criteria, compared with 11.54% in 2025.

Actions and improvements

ECDC strives to integrate environmental considerations into procurement procedures whenever possible. The legal and procurement teams have received training on sustainable public procurement.

ECDC carries out local and participate in interinstitutional procurement procedures with environmental criteria, such as those for sustainable office supplies, cleaning, event management services, etc. In 2022, ECDC also joined interinstitutional procurement procedures for greenhouse gas emissions offsets and in 2024 Sustainable Public Procurement Helpdesk (SPPH).

Procurement is also part of the Sustainability Working Group of the Network of Agencies Procurement Officers (NAPO).

Procurement has introduced green technical selection criteria in the template to be used for calls for tenders (Table 16). Sustainability measures have also been added to award criteria to be used for the evaluation of procured goods or services (Table 17).

Planned actions to increase green procurement:

- Increase good practice and knowledge share on how green procurement is implemented in other agencies through participation in the NAPO Sustainability working group.
- Set environmental requirements in procurement procedures, where applicable.

4.2 Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the diversity of ecosystems, species and genetic resources and is essential to human well-being, as it underpins key ecosystem services such as pollination, climate regulation, flood protection, soil fertility and the provision of food and raw materials.

ECDC is located in an urban environment and occupies rented premises with a predominantly sealed surface area of approximately 1 760 m² and limited open space. As a result, opportunities to enhance biodiversity directly on site are inherently constrained. Within these limitations, ECDC integrates

indoor and outdoor green elements as part of the building's architectural and environmental design, contributing to biodiversity within the built environment while also supporting indoor air quality, acoustic comfort and staff well-being.

Each of the five office floors includes a green wall with an approximate surface area of 6.7 m², complemented by an additional green wall of around 10 metres in length located near the second atrium on the entry level. Together with indoor plants placed throughout the building by the ECDC Plant Group, these features form visible green corridors within working areas. A variety of plant species are present across the ECDC premises, with seasonal replacements ensuring diversity throughout the year (see Table 18). All plant maintenance is carried out using eco-friendly products.

In addition, a rooftop garden on the building's patio provides landscaped green space designed to offer continuous flowering from early spring to late autumn. This garden supports urban pollinators such as bees and butterflies and serves as an attractive communal area for staff, contributing to biodiversity enhancement and a healthy, restorative working environment.

Actions and improvements

Planned actions to improve biodiversity at ECDC:

- Look into the possibility of pruning office plants and distributing the cuttings to employees, encouraging them to grow the cuttings at home. This would promote environmental sustainability through plant reuse and enhancing green spaces
- Look into the possibility of improving the biodiversity at ECDC as part of the Workplace Transformation project
- Look into the possibility of planting vegetables and herbs, as well as installing shelter for birds, insects and bats

Table 15. Procurement procedures, 2020–2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total number of procurement procedures awarded	58	51	47	61	27	26
Procurement procedures with environmental requirements	2	4	5	7	4	3
Percentage of green procurement procedures (%)	3.45	7.78	10.64	11.48	14.81	11.54

Table 16. Green selection criterion to be used for Open calls and middle/low value negotiated procedures

Selection criterion	
The tenderer must prove capacity to provide services in line with an internationally recognised Quality Management System [and]/[or] internationally recognised Environmental Management System (The tenderer must prove capacity to provide services in line with an internationally recognised Quality Management System [and]/[or] internationally recognised Environmental Management System (EMS). EMS).	
Minimum level of capacity	• Having in place (valid at the time of submission of the tender) an internationally recognised Quality Management System. - and/or • Having in place (valid at the time of submission of the tender) an internationally recognised Environmental Management System (EMS).
Basis for assessment	• [This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the consolidated assessment of combined capacities of all involved entities will be carried out.] • [This criterion will be checked against the sole tenderer or each group member in case of a joint tender [and each identified subcontractor].]
Evidence	As evidence tenderers shall provide: • For the Quality Management System, provide a copy of the ISO 9001 or equivalent certificate and/or • For the Environmental Management System (EMS), provide a copy of the ISO 14001, EMAS or equivalent certificate.

Table 17. Sustainability measures criterion in the award criteria to be used for the evaluation of the procured goods or services

Award criterion	
Sustainability measures	This criterion will assess the effectiveness of the proposed approach to ensuring environmentally sustainable service delivery, including the identification, management, and mitigation of both direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the execution of the services. This criterion will assess the sustainability of the proposal.

Table 18. List of plants at ECDC

Latin name	Common name	Location
 Achillea Moonshine	Yarrow	Terrace
 Aloe vera	Aloe vera	Wall
 Anaphalis Triplineervis	Summer snow	Terrace
 Araucaria heterophylla	Norfolk pine	Pot
 Artemisia Smidtiana Nana	Angel hair	Terrace
 Baptisia australis	Blue wild indigo	Terrace
 Baptisia sulphurea	Lemon Meringue	Terrace
 Begonia x albopicta	Coral Begonia	Wall
 Begonia corallina	Begonia corallina	Wall
 Catanache Caerulea	Cupid's dart	Terrace
 Chamaedorea elegans	Parlour palm	Pot
 Chlorophytum comosum	Spider plant	Wall and pot
 Coreopsis Verticillata Moonbeam	Coreopsis Moonbeam	Terrace
 Coreopsis Verticillata Zagreb	Threadleaf Coreopsis	Terrace
 Dianthus Seguieri	Seguier's pink	Terrace
 Dracaena Fernwood	Cylindrical snake plant	Wall
 Dracaena fragrans	Cornstalk dracaena	Pot
 Echinacea Purpurea	Purple Coneflower	Terrace
 Ephedra Equisetina	Bluestem Joint Fir	Terrace
 Epipremnum aureum	Golden pothos	Wall
 Eriophyllum Lanatum	Woolly sunflower	Terrace
 Eryngium Bourgatii	Mediterranean sea holly	Terrace
 Euphorbia Cyparissias	Cypress spurge	Terrace
 Euphorbia sp Armenia	Spurge	Terrace
 Eurybia macrophylla	Aster Twilight	Terrace
 Ficus elastica	Rubber fig	Wall
 Ficus pumila	Climbing fig	Wall
 Gypsophila Rosenschleier	Baby's Breath	Terrace

Latin name	Common name	Location
 Hedera helix	Common ivy	Wall and pot
 Helianthemum Nummularium	Rock-Roses	Terrace
 Helichrysum Schwefellicht	Everlasting	Terrace
 Iris Leptophylla	Iris	Terrace
 Iris Pumila	Dwarf Iris	Terrace
 Kalimeris Incisa Nana Blue	Summer Aster	Terrace
 Lavandula Angustifolia Hidcote	Lavender	Terrace
 Linaria Triornithophora	Three Birds Flying	Terrace
 Monarda Bradburiana	Eastern Bee Balm	Terrace
 Monstera deliciosa	Swiss cheese plant	Wall and pot
 Nepeta racemosa	Dwarf catmint	Terrace
 Nephrolepis exaltata	Sword fern	Wall and pot
 Panicum Virgatum Shenandoah	Switch Grass	Terrace
 Pelargonium graveolens	Rose Geranium	Wall
 Pelargonium x hortorum	Garden geranium	Wall
 Phlebodium aureum	Blue-star fern	Wall and pot
 Phlox Borealis	Arctic Phlox	Terrace
 Pulsatilla Vulgaris	Pasque flowe	Terrace
 Salvia Mainacht	Wood Sage	Terrace
 Salvia Nemorosa	Sensation Rose	Terrace
 Salvia yangii	Russian Sage	Terrace
 Schlumbergera x buckleyi	Christmas cactus	Pot
 Sesleria Autumnale	Autumn Moor Grass	Terrace
 Spathiphyllum wallisii	Peace lily	Wall and pot
 Stipa Barbata	Silver Feather Grass	Terrace
 Thermopsis Rhombifolia	Prairie thermopsis	Terrace
 Tradescantia pallida	Purple heart	Wall

4.3 Raising environmental awareness

To successfully implement ECDC's EMS in the Centre's everyday activities, Facilities Management strives to raise environmental awareness among staff, as well as other internal and external stakeholders. This is done through internal and external meetings and collaborations, publications on the EMAS page of ECDC's intranet, informative leaflets and work instructions, among other efforts.

4.4 Internal communication

All ECDC staff have easy access to information posted on the EMAS page of ECDC's intranet. Among other things, this information includes:

- Environmental statements
- Relevant work instructions
- ECDC travel guidelines
- Information on the types of bins available at ECDC (Figure 6, Figure 7)
- Explanation of EMAS
- Information leaflets on how to save energy at work and at home
- Information leaflets on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Nine Planetary Boundaries, and EU Taxonomy

Additionally, all staff is invited to join the ECDC Green Group, which strives to:

- Contribute to EMAS-related efforts
- Promote staff well-being (e.g. cycling or walking instead of driving to work)
- Raise staff morale and build an ethical corporate culture
- Enhance the organisation's image and impression on stakeholders
- Help with cost-saving activities (e.g. electricity, travel)

Actions and improvements

Various internal awareness sessions have been held throughout the year (Figure 8). These included meetings with EMAS internal verifiers and the EMAS steering group, a session regarding outcomes of EMAS internal auditing, as well as a Green Group meeting, meetings regarding green procurement at ECDC and a meeting to discuss ECDC's environmental impact. Furthermore, all staff have been invited to attend the EMAS basics course available on the EU Learn platform. However, it is unknown how many ECDC staff members attended this activity.

In 2025, the following awareness campaigns were launched:

- **ECDC Clean-Up Day:** a voluntary cleaning event, where ECDC staff collected trash along a designated route. The clean-up took around one hour, after which the tools were returned and trash sorted properly. During the Haga Park clean-up day, a total of 42.5 kg of waste was collected and properly disposed of.
- **Swap Week:** an initiative to explore the circular market at ECDC. The aim was to mitigate the need for staff to buy newly produced items by re-using items others no longer needed. It encouraged colleagues to identify items they had at home that were in good condition and no longer needed, and to consider whether these items could be of greater value to someone else.
- **EMAS Fika virtual or Face to face:** a recurring monthly meeting to explore all things EMAS and sustainability at ECDC, engaging colleagues to collaborate, get inspired, and contribute with ideas.
- **Bin of the Week:** an email campaign featuring different bins and how to sort waste. This campaign was accompanied by a monthly office tour around the recycling stations.

Additional materials were circulated to increase awareness on planetary boundaries, Earth Day, and energy saving measures, supporting a continuous

Figure 8. Number of internal awareness sessions and meetings

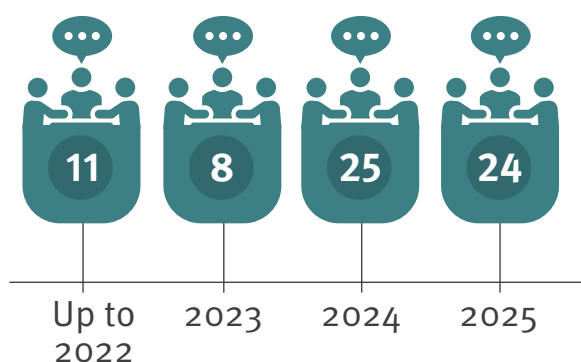
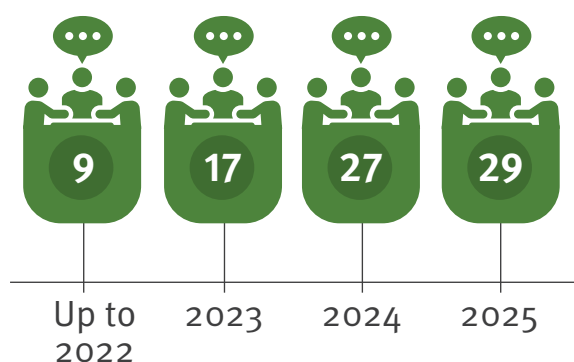


Figure 9. Number of external meetings and collaborations with other agencies



learning culture and fostering practical changes in daily habits.

Planned actions to improve internal communication:

- Continue to organise info sessions to raise internal awareness of sustainability issues, including Green Group meetings and EMAS virtual fika sessions
- Continue to organise awareness-raising initiatives such as Swap Week and ECDC Clean-up Day, as well as initiatives to support proper recycling practice and responsible energy consumption

4.5 External communication

ECDC is a member of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN) and the Greening Network of EU Agencies. The aim of participating in these networks is to address environmental topics, exchange knowledge and share best practice regarding EMAS implementation. Through

this engagement, ECDC collaborates closely with peer EU institutions, exchanging tools, experience and lessons learned. Participation in these networks supports alignment with EU wide environmental management approaches and reinforces ECDC's role as a committed and proactive organisation in advancing sustainability.

Actions and improvements

Planned actions to improve external communication (Figure 9):

- Continue to collaborate and communicate with other agencies and networks – including EUAN and the Greening Network of EU Agencies – regarding environmental awareness and best practice
- Participate in online workshops and conferences to strengthen knowledge, enhance networking and facilitate the exchange of good practices related to environmental management and sustainability





5 Greenhouse gas emissions

5.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Methodology

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are recognised as a key environmental aspect for ECDC, reflecting the impact of its operational activities, in particular business travel, meetings, energy consumption and digital services. In line with the requirements of its EMS under EMAS, the Agency has established a robust and transparent framework for the quantification, monitoring and reporting of its carbon footprint.

The GHG inventory is developed in accordance with ISO 14064:2018 and aligned with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard). This approach enables the classification of emissions into three categories:

- Scope 1: Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the organisation
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased energy
- Scope 3: Other indirect emissions occurring across the value chain, including business travel and outsourced activities

This combined methodological framework ensures completeness, consistency, comparability and transparency in the reporting of ECDC's carbon footprint.

5.2 Results and Carbon Neutrality

Building on this methodological foundation, ECDC has progressively strengthened the quality, scope and reliability of its emissions data. For the reporting year 2025, CO₂ emissions were calculated through an interinstitutional framework contract (Figure 10), with results independently verified by an external consultant, ensuring compliance with recognised international standards (Table 19 and Table 20).

To address residual and unavoidable emissions across all scopes, the Agency applied a structured offsetting approach, supporting three certified climate projects compliant with internationally recognised standards such as Gold Standard and REDD+ (Annex 4).

5.3 Commitment and Continuous Improvement

ECDC's carbon neutrality is not a one-off achievement but part of a continuous improvement process embedded in its EMS under EMAS. The Agency remains committed to further refining its GHG

accounting methodology, expanding the scope of emissions considered, and implementing measures aimed at reducing emissions at source wherever feasible.

At the same time, ECDC ensures the continuity of its carbon-neutral status by systematically allocating the necessary resources for offsetting verified emissions in future reporting periods. This ongoing effort reflects the Agency's commitment to transparency, accountability and environmental leadership, while supporting the transition towards a low-carbon and sustainable future.

Figure 10. GHG results for 2025

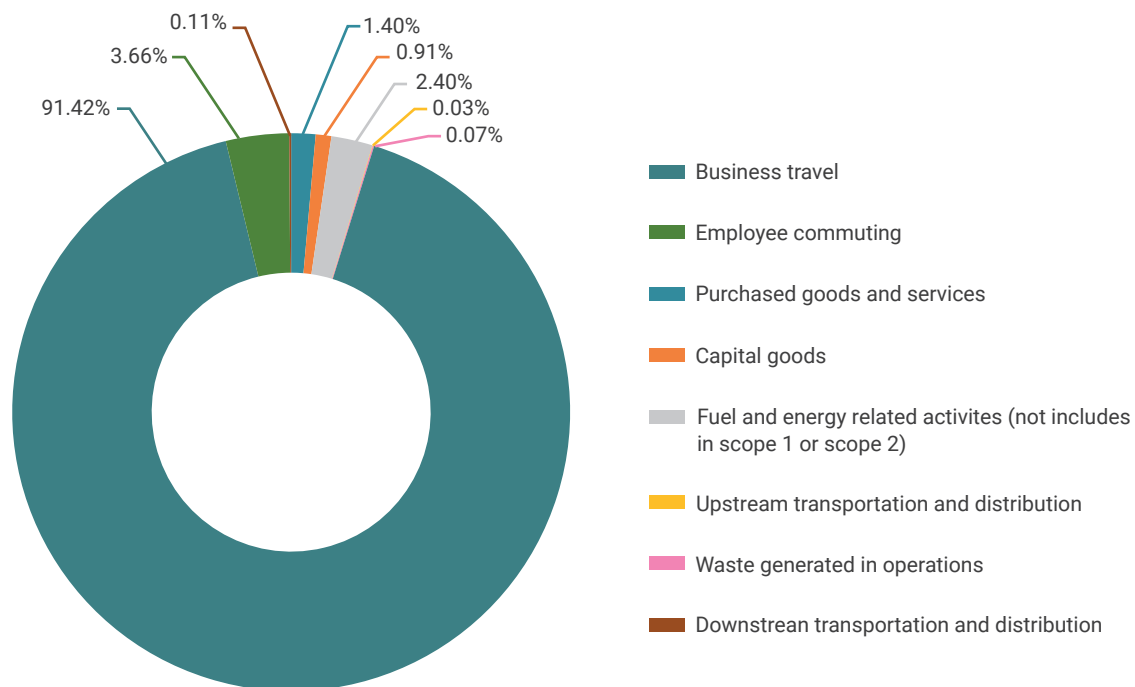


Table 19. GHG emissions for 2025

Summary (tCO ₂ e)			
SCOPE ^a		tCO ₂ e	% total
SCOPE 1	Stationary Combustion	0.00	0.00%
	Mobile Combustion	3.38	100.0%
	Refrigerant Gas	0.00	0.00%
	TOTAL	3.38	0.29%
SCOPE 2	Electricity purchased (Location-based)	7.35	100.0%
	TOTAL	7.35	0.63%
SCOPE 3	Purchased goods and services	16.12	1.39%
	Capital goods	10.43	0.90%
	Fuel and energy related activities (not includes in scope 1 or scope 2)	27.51	2.37%
	Upstream transportation and distribution	0.33	0.03%
	Waste generated in operations	0.86	0.07%
	Business Travel	1 049.45	90.57%
	Employee commuting	42.02	3.63%
	Downstream transportation and distribution	1.29	0.11%
	TOTAL	1 148.01	99.07%
TOTAL GHG EMISSIONS (tCO ₂ e)		1 158.74	-

^a Scope 1 covers direct emissions from the agency's operations

Scope 2 includes emissions from purchased energy, and Scope 3 encompasses all other indirect emissions across the value chain

Scope 3 emissions clearly represent the largest share of the overall footprint, with business travel identified as the most significant contributor, accounting for over 90% of total emissions and representing a key priority area for reduction efforts.





6 Benchmark of excellence

In accordance with Commission Decision (EU) 2019/61, which establishes Benchmarks of Excellence for environmental management and performance, the table below presents an overview of ECDC's performance in 2025 against these benchmarks. Overall, the results demonstrate strong environmental performance, with the majority of benchmark objectives met or exceeded, particularly in the areas of water consumption, waste management, paper use, and sustainable procurement. These achievements reflect significant reductions in resource consumption and associated environmental impacts compared with the benchmark thresholds.

At the same time, the assessment identifies specific areas where further action is required to achieve full compliance with all Benchmarks of Excellence. Tools to promote sustainable commuting are not yet fully implemented. In addition, while all electricity and heating energy used by ECDC is sourced from renewable energy, further progress will depend on the development of on-site renewable energy solutions, such as rooftop solar panels. Planned initiatives from 2025 onwards will support continued improvement and alignment with EU environmental excellence objectives.

Table 20. Progress towards the benchmarks of excellence, 2025

Benchmark of Excellence	ECDC performance in 2024	Result of progress towards benchmark ^a (% difference from benchmark)
Total water use in the office building is lower than 6.4 m ³ per FTE per year.	4.41 m ³ per FTE	Benchmark met (-31.09)
None of the waste generated in the office building is sent to the landfill.	ECDC recycles all its waste.	Benchmark met
Total waste generation in the office buildings is lower than 200 kg per FTE per year.	45.69 kg	Benchmark met (-77.15)
Office paper consumption is lower than 15 A4 sheets per FTE per working day.	2.74 sheets	Benchmark met (-81.73)
Office paper is 100% recycled or certified according to an ISO Type I ecolabel (e.g. EU Ecolabel).	Paper labelled as EU Ecolabel SE/011/01 or similar	Benchmark met
Tools for promoting sustainable commuting for employees are implemented and promoted.	Not implemented in 2024 but anticipated for 2025.	Benchmark not yet met
Carbon budgeting is implemented for all business travel (see Chapter 5).	Implemented in 2025	Benchmark met
Video conferencing facilities are available to all staff and their use is monitored and promoted.	ECDC has virtual offices and meeting rooms that are fully furnished and equipped with the latest, highly efficient video conferencing facilities. They are available to all staff and their use is monitored and promoted.	Benchmark met
For newbuilds, the building is designed with a total primary energy use (electricity and heating) lower than 60 kWh per m ² per year	ECDC is located in an older building renovated in 2017.	Not applicable
100% of the electricity used in the building is met by on-site generation of renewable electricity.	Although 100% of electricity used comes from renewable sources, ECDC does not produce electricity on site. In the future we will explore the possibilities of installing solar panels on the rooftop.	Benchmark not yet met
100% of the hot water demand in a public building/social housing building is met by on-site renewable heat generation	Although 100% of energy used for heating water comes from renewable sources, ECDC does not generate renewable heat on site.	Benchmark not yet met
100% of tenders include environmental criteria that require at least the level of performance set in the EU GPP criteria, for products where EU GPP criteria are available (e.g. office paper, cleaning agents, furniture)	Where applicable, ECDC has incorporated environmental criteria into tender specifications.	Benchmark met

FTE: full-time equivalent employee.

^a Green text indicates that the target was met, orange text means that the target was not yet met; yellow text means that the target is not applicable in the ECDC context.

Annex 1. BREEAM certificate



Code for a Sustainable Built Environment
www.sgbc.se
www.breem.com

Slutgiltigt certifikat
 Det här intygar att

Hilton 3, Hus 1
Gustav III:s boulevard 40
169 73 Solna

har bedömts enligt
BREEAM-SE 2013 Kontor
 Inredning i befintlig byggnad

av en licensierad assessor för
Klövern AB

och har uppnått resultatet 56,5%
Very Good

Certifikatnummer: BR2016-0052-02

Gällande BBR-version: BBR 23

Utfardande : 1

7 december 2020
Utfärdandedatum

Rhodard
Undertecknat för SGBC

Pehr Härd
Certifieringschef

Klövern AB
Fastighetsägare

Hedström & Taube
Assessorsföretag

Rasmus Falk
Licensierad assessor

HEDS-BSEA-056
Assessorsnummer

In3prenör
Huvudentreprenör



Detta certifikat är utfärdat av SGBC till den licensierade Assessorn given ovan och intygar att översänd information har verifierats vid rapporteringsstillfället.

För att säkerställa autentisiteten för detta certifikat, besök www.sgbc.se eller kontakta oss på breeam@sgbc.se

Detta certifikat kvarstår som Building Green in Sweden egendom och utfärdas i enlighet med villkor som återfinns på www.sgbc.se.

BREEAM är ett registrerat varumärke som tillhör BRE (Building Research Establishment Ltd) gemenskapsvarumärket (5778551). BREEAM märken, logotyper och symboler är upphövsrätten till BRE och åtgärs med tillstånd




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Annex 2. Certification of renewable energy supply (Corem)

EPD Vatten

Corem Property Group AB

Köper under perioden 2023-01-01 – 2025-12-31
miljövarudeklarerad el EPD Vatten från Vattenfall AB



Stockholm, 2023-03-24
Vattenfall AB

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matts Wesslén".

Matts Wesslén
Head of Business Sales Nordic

Annex 3. Environmental approach (Policy)



Environmental Approach (Policy)

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is an EU agency aimed at strengthening Europe's defences against infectious diseases. The core functions cover a wide spectrum of activities: surveillance, epidemic intelligence, response, scientific advice, microbiology, preparedness, public health training, international relations, health communication and the scientific journal *Eurosurveillance*.

In carrying out these activities, ECDC recognises that it has both direct and indirect impacts on the environment. The most prominent environmental aspects arise from travel and mobility, resource consumption, and the procurement of goods and services required to support our mission.

To effectively minimise, manage, and continuously improve our environmental performance, ECDC has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) in accordance with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). This system supports the structured identification of environmental aspects, performance monitoring, and the integration of environmental criteria into daily operations and decision-making processes.

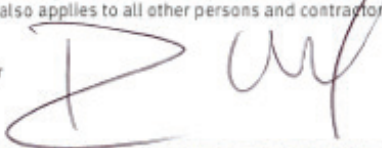
Our vision is to be a more sustainable and resource-efficient agency, and to achieve this we are committed to:

- Minimising our climate impact, including reducing CO₂ emissions from mobility, energy use, and operations.
- Integrating climate change, biodiversity, and resource availability into environmental planning.
- Minimising resource consumption through sustainable procurement and efficient material use.
- Continuously assessing environmental aspects and implementing improvements through EMAS.
- Monitoring energy, water, waste, and materials, and reducing impacts where possible.
- Adopting a lifecycle perspective and strengthening environmental requirements in procurement.
- Managing and minimising waste through efficient and careful material use.
- Applying structured change management for operations that may affect the environment.
- Promoting staff environmental responsibility and awareness.
- Complying with all applicable environmental legislation and regulations.
- Publicising our yearly EMAS Environmental Statement.



This approach covers all the Agency's operations, including staff activities when on mission or travelling. The approach also applies to all other persons and contractors working at the Agency's premises.

Dr Pamela Rendi-Wagner
Director of ECDC
2026 -05- 04



Annex 4. CO₂ offsetting projects

Buenos Aires renewable energy project

This project at a red ceramic manufacturing facility producing bricks and flagstones for the regional market is certified [Gold Standard for the SDGS](#) and traceable. Its primary environmental objective is to address the negative impacts associated with deforestation for firewood consumption, a traditional energy source that contributes significantly to GHG emissions. Instead, the facility generates thermal energy exclusively from renewable biomass sources, which are abundant in the region.

By replacing non-renewable fuels with renewable biomass, the project contributes to reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy use, improving air quality, and enhancing working conditions for employees within the ceramic industry.

Beyond its climate benefits, the project supports broader sustainable development goals by encouraging responsible resource management, reducing pressure on local forests, and fostering economic and social development within the local community.

The carbon compensation strategy implemented by ECDC aligns with the principles of the [QU.A.L.I.TY](#) Criteria established under the European Union's Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Certification Framework (CRCF). While the Buenos Aires Ceramic Project is an emission reduction and avoidance project rather than a carbon removal initiative, its use as part of a verified carbon offset portfolio demonstrates several elements that are consistent with the CRCF quality principles.

Q – Quantification: The greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with the Buenos Aires Ceramic Project are quantified using internationally recognised carbon accounting methodologies. The project measures and verifies the emissions avoided through the replacement of non-renewable firewood with renewable biomass sources for thermal energy generation. The carbon credits issued are based on monitored, documented, and independently verified emission reductions, ensuring that the environmental benefits are calculated in a transparent and credible manner.

At the organisational level, ECDC has continuously improved the quality of its greenhouse gas inventory by expanding the scope of emission sources covered and strengthening data collection processes. This systematic approach provides a robust basis for quantifying the carbon footprint that is subsequently offset.



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Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Decent work and economic growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

U – Uniqueness: Carbon credits used by ECDC originate from certified projects that follow internationally recognised standards and include provisions to prevent double counting. Once purchased and retired on behalf of ECDC, these credits can no longer be claimed by another organisation, ensuring the uniqueness of the compensation outcome.

The retirement of verified carbon credits guarantees that each tonne of CO₂ equivalent compensated by ECDC corresponds to a unique and traceable emission reduction generated by the project activity.

A – Additionality: The Buenos Aires Ceramic Project demonstrates additionality by implementing activities that would not have occurred under the business-as-usual scenario. The baseline situation involved the continued use of firewood associated with deforestation and related greenhouse gas emissions. Through project implementation, renewable biomass has become the exclusive source of thermal energy, resulting in emission reductions beyond those that would have occurred in the absence of the project.

The project therefore contributes additional climate benefits while simultaneously delivering social and environmental co-benefits, including reduced pressure on native forests, improved local air quality, and enhanced employment conditions for workers in the ceramic sector.

L – Long-Term Storage and Climate Benefit:

Although avoided-emission projects do not involve permanent carbon storage in the same way as carbon removal projects, they generate measurable and sustained climate benefits by preventing greenhouse gas emissions from occurring. The consistent operation of the renewable biomass system ensures an ongoing reduction in emissions throughout the project's lifetime.

By supporting projects with verified long-term operational impacts, ECDC contributes to lasting climate mitigation outcomes while continuing to prioritise direct emission reductions within its own operations.

ITY – Sustainability: The project delivers significant sustainability benefits that extend well beyond carbon mitigation. By replacing non-renewable fuels with renewable biomass, it promotes the use of renewable energy within an industrial sector that has traditionally relied on unsustainable energy sources. The project also helps reduce pressure on local forests by decreasing the demand for firewood, thereby contributing to the prevention of deforestation. In addition, it improves local environmental quality through the reduction of atmospheric pollutants associated with conventional fuel use. The initiative generates important socio-economic benefits by supporting better employment conditions and contributing to regional economic development. Furthermore, it supports broader sustainable development objectives within the local community.

These environmental, social, and economic co-benefits reinforce the integrity of ECDC's carbon compensation strategy and demonstrate a comprehensive commitment to sustainability.

Uganda – Energy efficiency improvement project leading to multiple sustainable development impacts

The project supports the distribution of improved cookstoves (ICS) to households across three districts of Uganda and is fully traceable through the [Gold Standard registry](#). Its primary objective is to address the environmental and social challenges associated with traditional three-stone fires, which require large quantities of firewood and contribute to deforestation, land degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions. By introducing energy-efficient cookstoves, the project enables families to prepare the same amount of food while significantly reducing their consumption of non-renewable biomass.

Through improved energy efficiency, the project contributes to reducing carbon emissions, decreasing pressure on local forest resources, and limiting the environmental impacts associated with fuelwood collection. At the same time, the replacement

of traditional cooking methods helps reduce household exposure to smoke and harmful pollutants, improving health conditions and quality of life for local communities.

Beyond its climate benefits, the project supports broader sustainable

development objectives by reducing the time and labour required for firewood collection, allowing households to dedicate more resources to productive and educational activities. By promoting access to cleaner energy solutions, protecting natural resources, and improving community well-being, the project generates long-term environmental, social, and economic benefits that extend well beyond carbon emission reductions.

The carbon compensation strategy implemented by ECDC aligns with the principles of the **QU.A.L.I.T.Y** Criteria established under the European Union's Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Certification Framework (CRCF). While the Uganda Improved Cookstoves Project is an emission reduction and avoidance project rather than a carbon removal initiative, its inclusion within a verified carbon offset portfolio demonstrates several characteristics that are consistent with the CRCF quality principles. The project addresses greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the consumption of non-renewable biomass through the deployment of energy-efficient cookstoves, while simultaneously generating measurable environmental and social co-benefits. In addition to reducing pressure on local forests and limiting land degradation, the project contributes to improved household air quality, better health outcomes, and enhanced living conditions for participating communities. These broader sustainability impacts illustrate how the project delivers



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Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Good health and well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

value beyond carbon mitigation, supporting a holistic approach to climate action in line with the objectives of the CRCF framework.

Q – Quantification: The greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions generated by the project are quantified using the approved AMS-ILG. Energy Efficiency Measures in Thermal Applications of Non-Renewable Biomass methodology. This internationally recognised framework enables the measurement and verification of emission reductions achieved through the deployment of Improved Cook Stoves (ICS). Based on monitored project performance, the activity is expected to deliver average annual emission reductions of approximately **39,012 tCO₂e**, demonstrating a significant contribution to climate change mitigation through reduced consumption of non-renewable biomass.

U – Uniqueness: Carbon credits are issued under the Gold Standard certification framework, which ensures transparency, traceability, and the prevention of double counting. Each verified emission reduction is uniquely registered and can only be claimed once, guaranteeing a unique and verifiable climate benefit.

A – Additionality: The project meets the additionality requirements of the Gold Standard certification framework and AMS-ILG. methodology. Without carbon finance, the dissemination of improved cookstoves would have faced significant financial and market barriers. As a result, the emission reductions achieved are considered additional to those that would have occurred under the business-as-usual scenario, while also generating environmental and social co-benefits such as reduced deforestation, improved air quality, and better household health conditions.

L – Long-Term Storage and Climate Benefit: Although improved cookstove projects do not generate carbon removals, they deliver sustained climate benefits by avoiding emissions from non-renewable biomass use. During its 2017–2022 crediting period, the project achieved approximately **124,469 tCO₂e** of verified emission reductions. Ongoing monitoring and verification ensure the credibility and integrity of these climate benefits.

ITY – Sustainability: The project delivers benefits beyond climate mitigation by reducing firewood consumption, helping to conserve forest resources and limit deforestation and land degradation. It also improves indoor air quality and household health by reducing exposure to harmful smoke. Furthermore, lower fuelwood demand reduces the time spent on fuel collection, supporting education, income-generating activities, and overall community well-being. Through these environmental and social benefits, the project contributes to the EU Taxonomy objectives of Climate Change Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation while supporting sustainable development in local communities.

GS1247 VPA 240 Sierra Leone safe water

This Gold Standard certified project supports the restoration and maintenance of community boreholes in the Kono District of Sierra Leone, providing rural households with reliable access to safe drinking water and is fully traceable through the [Gold Standard registry](#). Its primary objective is to address the environmental and health challenges associated with unsafe water sources and traditional water purification practices, which often rely on firewood-intensive boiling methods that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation.

By providing access to clean water through rehabilitated boreholes, the project reduces the need for households to boil water using non-renewable biomass, thereby lowering carbon emissions and decreasing pressure on local forest resources. At the same time, improved access to safe drinking water contributes to better public health by reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases and improving living conditions within participating communities.

Beyond its climate benefits, the project supports broader sustainable development objectives by enhancing water security, reducing the time and resources spent on water collection and purification, and strengthening community resilience. Through its combined environmental, social, and health benefits, the project generates positive and lasting impacts that extend well beyond greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The carbon compensation strategy implemented by ECDC aligns with the principles of the [QU.A.L.ITY](#) Criteria established under the European Union's Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Certification Framework (CRCF). While the Sierra Leone Safe Water Project is an emission reduction and avoidance project rather than a carbon removal initiative, its inclusion within a verified carbon offset portfolio demonstrates several characteristics that are consistent with the CRCF quality principles. By restoring by the CRCF framework and reinforce the project's contribution to climate mitigation and sustainable development.

Q – Quantification: The greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions generated by the project are quantified using the Gold Standard methodology Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC) Version 3.1. This recognised framework enables the monitoring and verification of emissions avoided through reduced water boiling and firewood consumption. The project is expected to achieve average annual emission reductions of approximately 10,000 tCO₂e.

U – Uniqueness: Carbon credits are issued under the Gold Standard certification framework, ensuring

transparency, traceability, and the prevention of double counting. Each verified emission reduction is uniquely registered and can only be claimed once, guaranteeing a unique and verifiable climate benefit.

A – Additionality: The project meets the additionality requirements established under the TPDDTEC methodology and Gold Standard certification framework. Without carbon finance, the restoration and long-term maintenance of community boreholes would face significant financial and operational barriers. The resulting emission reductions are therefore additional to those that would occur under the business-as-usual scenario.

L – Long-Term Storage and Climate Benefit: Although the project does not generate carbon removals, it achieves sustained climate benefits by avoiding emissions associated with the boiling of drinking water using non-renewable biomass. During its 2019–2024 crediting period, the project is expected to deliver approximately 50,000 tCO₂e of verified emission reductions. Monitoring and verification procedures ensure the credibility and integrity of these climate benefits.

ITY – Sustainability: The project delivers benefits beyond climate mitigation by providing rural communities with reliable access to safe drinking water, reducing dependence on firewood-based water purification and alleviating pressure on local forest resources. Improved water quality contributes to better public health by reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases, while enhanced water security strengthens community resilience and well-being. Through these environmental, social, and health benefits, the project contributes to the EU Taxonomy objectives of Sustainable Use and Protection of Water and Marine Resources and Climate Change Mitigation, while supporting broader sustainable development goals.



Good health and well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Gender equality

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Climate action

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Annex 5. Declaration of verification and approval

Bureau Veritas Certification



DECLARATION OF VERIFICATION AND APPROVAL

Bureau Veritas Certification Sverige AB,
with EMAS environmental verifier registration number 1236;
declares hereby to have verified and approve that:

ECDC (European Centre for disease prevention and control)
Stockholm, Sweden
Nace code: 86.90

the environmental statement/updated environmental statement complies
with all the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the
European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the
voluntary participation by organisations in EU-Management and Audit
Scheme (EMAS).

We confirm that:

- the verification and approval has been carried out in full compliance
with the provisions of the Regulation
(EC) No 1221/2009,
- results of the verification and approval show that there is no indication
that applicable legal environmental requirements would not have been
complied with,
- the data and information contained in the environmental statement
provide a reliable, credible and accurate picture of all the activities of the
organisation, within the limits set out in the environmental statement.

This document is not equivalent to an EMAS registration,
EMAS registration can only be granted by a competent body under Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009.
This document shall not be used independently as a communication to the public.



Authorised signature för Bureau Veritas Certification Sverige AB



SE-V-1236
Miljökontrollant
EMAS

Date: 2026-08-21

Declaration no: SE011493-1



European Centre for Disease
Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Gustav III:s Boulevard 40
16973 Solna, Sweden

Tel. +46 858 60 10 00

ECDC.info@ecdc.europa.eu

www.ecdc.europa.eu