



Human-induced climate change is exacerbating humanitarian crises, and it is necessary for all organizations, governments and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and operate sustainably.

This policy details the Climate Centre's contribution to sustainability and specifically to further reductions in our own carbon emissions: in 2023 they were less than half what they were at their peak in 2017.

Introduction and purpose

As a humanitarian organization, the Climate Centre is witness and first responder to the humanitarian consequences of the climate and environmental crises that severely impact the most vulnerable within our communities.

Addressing the causes and consequences of the climate and environmental crises requires collective global action. The Climate Centre is committed to taking responsibility for the impacts its activities may have on the climate and environment. This policy outlines how the Climate Centre will advance its own sustainability.

Our mission

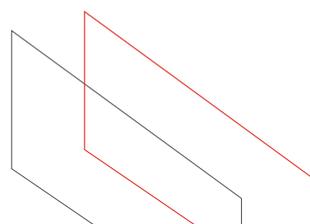
The Climate Centre's mission is to support the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its partners to reduce the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people. As such, we advocate an ambitious agenda for adaptation as well as policies and actions that limit the global average temperature this century to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, as specified in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Our role

The Climate Centre clearly recognizes the need to reduce carbon emissions to avoid aggravating the unfolding climate crisis. As a global and virtual team focused on providing advice, our greatest source of carbon emissions is travel. We see a tension between the need to travel for our work to address the negative impacts of climate change on the one hand, and our responsibility to limit our emissions to prevent further climate change on the other.

While we may not be able to stop travelling altogether, we want to be sure we are traveling purposefully and responsibly, limiting the emissions we contribute to thereby.

Additionally, we recognize that we occupy a key position in the Movement with a responsibility to inspire ambitious climate action and environmental sustainability, including emissions reduction.



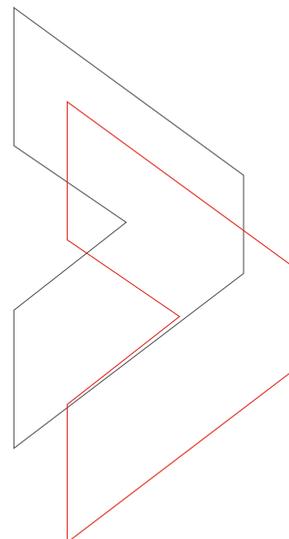
Our commitment

Travel

1. Flights are to be used sparingly:
 - > We will only undertake essential travel (defined in our travel policy). Each travel request is evaluated for its relative strategic and organizational importance.
 - > There is an organizational cap on flight-related emissions (*see our target*).
 - > We will not fly if the destination can safely and comfortably be reached by train in less than eight hours.
 - > Train travel is encouraged for trips between eight and 12 hours. Booking business class is permissible in these instances if the cost is reasonable.
 - > We no longer accept flights for commitments of less than half a day.
 - > Multi-purpose travel is encouraged.
 - > Personal proximity to work-related travel destinations is considered in team composition.
 - > We will reduce the frequency of our in-person team meetings to less than once a year.
 - > When we must fly we will factor both price and CO₂ considerations into our flight selection.
 - > Travel agreed to in advance as part of project proposals should be approved by a programme manager or above.

2. We actively invest in alternative solutions to travel, such as optimizing online engagement, investing in our *virtually amazing* approach, and inspiring our partners to do the same.
3. Any emissions we do generate are monitored and offset through the Climate Neutral Group.
4. We will reduce emissions unrelated to travel:
 - > We commit to organizing paperless *events*, optimizing meal choices, and being conscious of the sustainability of conference venues.
 - > Our office *recycles* through our host, the Netherlands Red Cross, and we encourage sustainable practices in the home offices of team members.
5. We promote the Climate and Environment Humanitarian Charter and the green response working group for sustainable programmes and operations.
6. We actively communicate relevant considerations of this sustainability policy to our partners and donors, with the dual aim of informing and inspiring.

Sustainability beyond travel



Our target

The Climate Centre will reduce its travel emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 compared to 2019, with a steady annual decline starting in 2024. We continue to offset our travel emissions.

Over any consecutive three years from 2030 onwards, total emissions can't exceed 450 tonnes, or an average of 150 tonnes per year.

This target is set at the organizational level and supersedes the needs of individuals or teams.

Monitoring

On an annual basis:

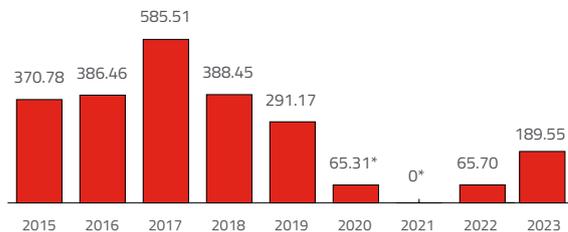
- > The PMT will review the sustainability policy, considering changes in organizational size, technical advances, etc. The aim is to keep the overall target in place and strive for further carbon neutrality.
- > Internally, we will map our carbon reduction against growth. We may consider additional carbon neutrality efforts, such as offsetting.
- > We will organize team reflection to review progress of sustainability commitments and explore organizational and personal opportunities to go further.

On a quarterly basis:

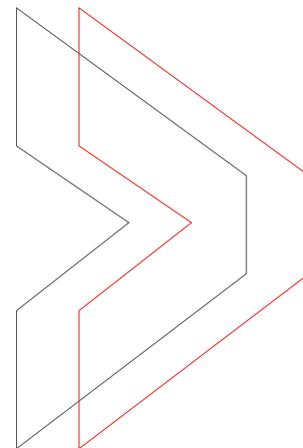
- > We will request CO₂ overviews from our travel agent to monitor progress toward our goals and adjust where needed.
- > The PMT will review existing travel plans, look for synergies, and prioritize where required.
- > The PMT will recommend ways of meeting targets. If there are any conflicting priorities, the directors will decide.

Past emissions

Figure: CO₂ tonnage of Climate Centre flights per year.



*2020-2021 not representative due to the pandemic



DOCUMENT AUTHORIZATION

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