CO2 reporting

In line with our sustainability ambitions, we are taking various actions and initiatives to reduce carbon emissions. To better monitor the impact of these efforts, the Real Estate and Facilities department began annually reporting the CO_2 footprint of EUR in 2011.

Each year, we strive to improve the quality of these reports to provide an accurate picture of our environmental impact. In 2015, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, an international standard for measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions of organizations, was adopted. This standard has been adapted into a customized framework for EUR. Since 2021, the construction of the new Langeveld Building has also been included in these calculations.

Enhanced reporting

The urgency of climate change, environmental pollution, and the need for sustainable development have increased pressure on companies to reduce their negative impact on the environment and society. As a result, methods for corporate sustainability reporting are continuously being updated and improved.

The previously introduced Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD) by the European Union did not provide sufficiently consistent and reliable sustainability information, making it difficult for investors, customers, and stakeholders to accurately assess the sustainability performance of companies. In line with the European Green Deal, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), introduced in 2023, requires companies to publish detailed and standardized sustainability reports. These reports are crucial to achieving the EU's goal of climate neutrality by 2050.

More complete than ever before

Our CO_2 calculations for 2022 and 2023 comply with the CSRD guidelines. We achieved this by implementing various calculation methods and utilizing spend-based analyses. As a result, our CO_2 reporting is more comprehensive than ever before, allowing us to provide a clear picture of the impact of EUR on the climate.

Three scopes

Greenhouse gas emissions within CO_2 footprints are divided into three categories: scope 1 (direct emissions from owned sources), scope 2 (indirect emissions from purchased energy), and scope 3 (indirect emissions in the value chain, such as those from suppliers and transportation). The impact of our activities in scope 1 (refrigerants for installations) and scope 2 (purchased electricity and heat) accounts for 3% of total CO_2 emissions. The remaining 97% occurs in scope 3 across the following activities:

Purchased goods and services

This category generally includes all emissions associated with the full life cycle of goods and services that a company acquires, from raw material extraction to delivery to the company's door. Included in this category are IT services, cleaning, consulting services, marketing, office supplies, food, and catering. It is often the largest source of scope 3 emissions and requires careful analysis of the supply chain to accurately measure and report the impact.

Capital goods

Greenhouse gas emissions related to the production and delivery of capital goods purchased by an organization. Specifically, this includes future investments with long-term value, daily operational costs, maintenance contracts related to buildings and campus grounds, and redevelopment and area development of the campus terrain.

Other fuel- and energyrelated activities

This includes emissions occurring throughout the entire chain of fuel and energy production, prior to actual use by the company itself. This encompasses transport, distribution, loss, and generation of electricity and heat.

Waste from business activities

This includes various types of waste and the emissions generated during their treatment, processing, and disposal.

Commuting

Includes various forms of transportation used by employees to travel from their homes to their workplaces and vice versa. It is also part of the mileage registration obligation effective from January 1, 2024, which requires companies and employees to record business and private mileage.

Business travel

Covers all forms of business mobility undertaken by employees of an organization, separate from their daily commuting. This includes air travel, train travel, car travel, taxis, and ride-sharing (e.g., Uber), public transportation, and accommodation stays.

Conclusion

The largest contributor to the climate impact of EUR in 2022 was the greenhouse gas category of capital goods, followed by purchased goods and services. In 2023, the latter category became the largest contributor. Together, these two categories accounted for approximately 85% of the total (market-based) impact in 2022 and 75% in 2023. In 2023, business travel was the second-largest contributor to the climate impact of EUR, accounting for about 20% of the total impact that year.

Capital goods mainly refer to activities related to new construction projects and the maintenance of existing buildings. There was a significant difference in the carbon footprint of capital goods between 2022 and 2023, primarily due to the construction of two new buildings on the campus: Sports Building and Langeveld Building.

By broadening the scope, the initial CO_2 emissions may appear higher, but in fact, the stricter reporting provides a clearer picture of what is truly happening. The biggest challenge for the coming years is to improve the quality of data on items such as purchased goods and investments. By looking not only at financial data but also at CO_2 emissions per physical unit (such as per kilogram or liter), the picture of CO_2 emissions will ultimately be more accurate and likely lower.