



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

ECB Environmental Statement 2025



GREEN ECB

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Foreword



2024 marked a significant milestone as the European Central Bank (ECB) concluded its first environmental management cycle after aligning its emission reduction goals with the ambitious 1.5 degrees Celsius target set out in the Paris Agreement.

As we navigated the resurgence of carbon-intensive activities following the pandemic, in 2023 and 2024, our focus was on mitigating the effects of this rebound. Despite these challenges, we maintained a steady environmental performance, particularly in terms of carbon emissions, illustrating our dedication to decarbonising operations and continuous improvement efforts.

The urgency of our mission is underscored by the fact that [2024 marked the hottest year ever recorded](#), with temperatures at around 1.55 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This pivotal moment highlights the critical importance of the fight against climate change.

As an institution, we strengthened our climate commitments for 2025-2027 and beyond, supporting our Paris Agreement-aligned goal to reduce carbon emissions by 46.2% from 2019 levels by 2030. We have incorporated new measures into our updated Environmental Management Programme (EMP), focusing on the most significant actionable contributors to our carbon footprint, namely ECB staff business travel and conference participant travel. Compared with our 2019 baseline, we have made significant progress, achieving a 29% reduction in business travel-related emissions and a 62% reduction in conference-related emissions. However, further reductions are necessary to meet our 2030 target. Therefore, we continue to optimise travel arrangements and event organisation while maintaining significant reductions in electricity consumption across our premises.

In addition to stabilising emissions, we have established new goals and strategies in other key areas, such as energy, materials and waste, biodiversity, procurement and awareness raising. These initiatives include insight from the past three years and are designed to advance our long-term objectives. Our commitment extends to fostering behavioural changes to make our operations more environmentally sustainable.

Looking ahead, the path to a more sustainable world presents both challenges and opportunities. We remain steadfast in our determination to combat climate change and protect the environment, driven by a shared commitment to the EU's environmental goals and building a sustainable future for generations to come.

The ECB Environmental Statement 2025 reaffirms our dedication to reducing our operational carbon footprint, while acknowledging the unprecedented challenges posed by climate change. In addition to making the ECB's operations more sustainable, we are taking comprehensive/far-reaching steps to address climate change and environmental degradation. In 2024 we launched our [Climate and nature plan 2024-2025](#), focusing on three key areas for climate and nature protection initiatives. Thanks to the invaluable support of our colleagues across the ECB, we

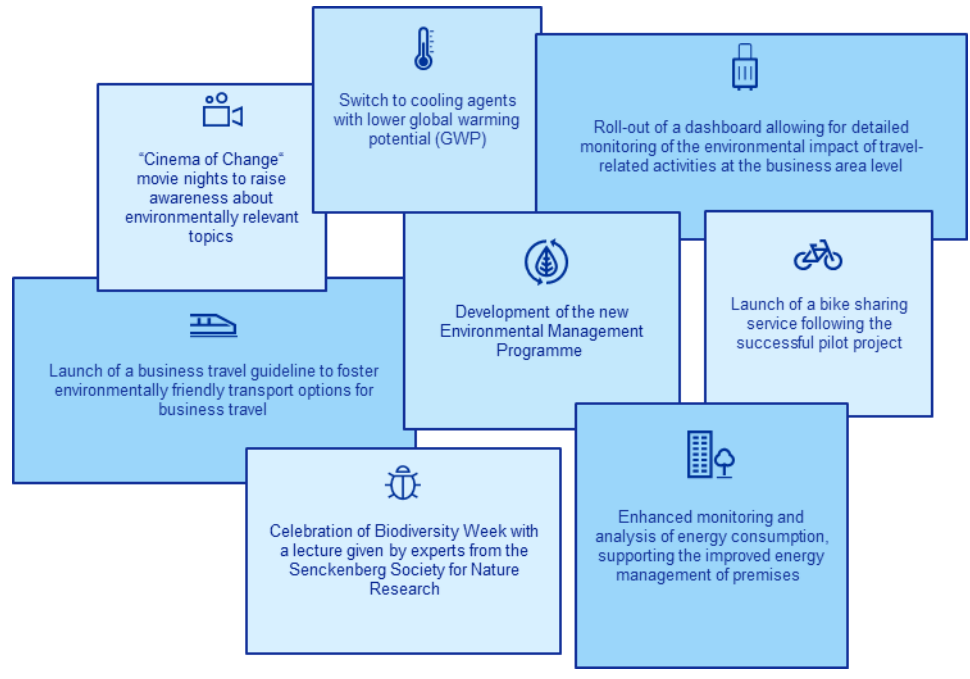
have made significant progress. Our commitment to transparency and accountability remains strong as we enhance our environmental reporting and engage with stakeholders throughout our value chain. The collaboration and dedication of ECB staff have been, and continue to be, crucial in driving positive change and encouraging broader action.

We invite everyone to join us in our efforts to tackle climate change and help create a more sustainable world.

Myriam Moufakkir
Chief Services Officer of the European Central Bank

1 The year in figures








Figure 1
2024 highlights



Source: ECB.

Figure 2
2024 in figures

(2024 figures and percentage changes from 2023 to 2024 and from 2019 to 2024)¹

	2024	% change vs 2023	% change vs 2019
 Energy consumption in premises (electricity, heating and cooling)	50,016 MWh	+6.1%	-18.7%
 Electrical energy consumption	30,145 MWh	+3.8%	-14.2%
 Heating and cooling energy consumption	19,870 MWh	+9.8%	-24.8%
 Total renewable energy	33,294 MWh	+2.2 pp	-5.5 pp
 Fresh water consumption	78,146 m³	+27.8%	-31.2%
 Waste	567 tonnes	+1.7%	-40.2%
 Chemicals for cleaning	12 tonnes	-45.0%	-23.1%

Source: ECB.

Notes: These developments are further described in [Chapter 6 – Environmental aspects and impact of the ECB's activities](#). Details on environmental data by workplace in 2024 are included in [Chapter 7 – Technical information](#).

Despite increases in certain activities in 2024 compared with 2023, such as energy consumption, there were notable improvements in specific components of the carbon footprint. For instance, reductions in emissions from conference participants' travel contributed to keeping in line with the target trajectory.²

¹ The percentage changes in the chart refer to the percentage changes of the original consumption unit expressed in 2024, except for total renewable energy, which refers to the change in percentage points.

² See the ECB's carbon footprint and details of its alignment with the Paris Agreement in [Chapter 3 – Environmental management at the ECB](#).

2 The ECB at a glance

The Eurosystem, the central banking framework of the euro area, comprises the ECB and the national central banks (NCBs) of the member countries. Its primary mandate is to ensure price stability. In addition, through the Single Supervisory Mechanism, the ECB is responsible for the prudential oversight of credit institutions within the euro area and other participating nations. This task is carried out in close collaboration with the relevant national supervisory authorities.

The ECB outlines the responsibilities and actions within its mandate through its [Annual Report](#) and in the [yearly report on its supervisory activities](#). Since 2022 the Annual Report has included a chapter summarising all sustainability-related efforts.

This Environmental Statement focuses on the ECB's organisational footprint – specifically, the environmental impact of its buildings and day-to-day operations, including the use of energy and materials, as well as travel-related emissions. It presents the ECB's environmental performance in 2024 and highlights the key milestones and measures implemented to reduce its environmental impact as an institution.

Additional details about the ECB, its functions and its role within the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and the Eurosystem can be found on the ECB's official [website](#).

2.1 ECB premises

This section describes the three buildings that are covered by the ECB's Environmental Management System (EMS).³

Main building



The ECB's main building, located in Frankfurt's Ostend district, officially opened in November 2014. It accommodates most of the ECB's workspaces.

Thanks to its sustainable design and construction, the building exceeds the standards of Germany's 2007 Energy Saving Ordinance ("Energiesparverordnung") by 29%. It features several noteworthy environmental elements:

- the facade of the high-rise tower is equipped with an energy-efficient triple layer;

³ The EMS does not cover the ECB's representative offices in Brussels, London and Washington, D.C.

- the facades and roof of the Grossmarkthalle are insulated to improve energy efficiency;
- natural ventilation is achieved through operable facade elements, electric sun shading and low-energy lighting, ensuring optimal working conditions with maximum daylight;
- other relevant features of the building include rainwater collection, which is used for irrigation and sanitary areas,⁴ as well as geothermal energy, which is used to heat and cool the premises.⁵

The landscaping around the ECB's main building contributes to Frankfurt's "green lung" by connecting the institution's grounds with adjacent urban parks and the city's wider green belt. Guided by input from landscape and biodiversity specialists, the ECB's Green Care team has implemented various measures to enhance biodiversity on the premises. These initiatives are further detailed in [Chapter 6.6 – Biodiversity](#).

Additional information can be found on the ECB's website in the section on [the main building](#) and its sustainability aspects.

City centre (Eurotower and Japan Center)



The Eurotower and the Japan Center are both situated in Frankfurt's city centre and have been leased by the ECB since 1998 and 2014 respectively. Together, they accommodate nearly half of the ECB's workspaces, primarily hosting banking supervision staff.

The Eurotower was awarded gold certification under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design programme in 2020. This recognition followed a series of technical upgrades carried out between 2015 and 2016, which included:

- installation of energy-efficient sun shading systems;
- insulation of the concrete core;
- installation of new combined heat and power plants;
- updating of air conditioning systems to improve energy efficiency;
- increased energy efficiency in lifts;
- an LED lighting system in the offices.

⁴ In 2024, the rainwater collected at the ECB's main building covered 1.8% (548.8 cubic metres) of its freshwater consumption.

⁵ In 2024, geothermal energy covered 0.7% (46.6 megawatt hours) of the ECB's main building's energy consumption for heating and cooling.

Further objectives and measures to enhance the energy efficiency of the ECB's buildings are outlined in greater detail in [Chapter 6.2 – Energy efficiency](#).

Changes to the set-up of the ECB's premises are foreseen, as the ECB is vacating the Eurotower and moving to another office building in 2025.

3 Environmental management at the ECB

3.1 Organisational context



2024 marked the ECB's second full year of operations without pandemic-related restrictions. From 2020 to 2022, these restrictions had a considerable impact, significantly reducing business travel and constraining the presence of ECB staff at its premises. Following the lifting of restrictions and the return to full-scale operations in 2023, the ECB's carbon footprint increased once again – particularly as a result of the rise in business travel emissions. In 2024 business travel-related emissions saw a slight increase of 5%, while conference participants' travel-related emissions decreased by 6% compared with the previous year. These two emission sources will remain key focus areas as the ECB works towards further reducing its climate impact (see [Chapter 5.2 – Indirect emissions](#)).

Since the ECB is planning its relocation from the Eurotower to the Gallileo Tower in the city centre of Frankfurt in 2025, the related environmentally relevant activities will be considered and integrated into the EMS wherever applicable.

The future development of the ECB's EMS will continue to be shaped by changes in the organisational context, including emerging opportunities and risks as well as evolving stakeholder expectations. Material risks, particularly physical and transition risks, that could affect internal business operations need to be assessed as part of the EMS annual processes.

In addition to its internal activities, the ECB addresses climate-related issues relevant to its mandate. It recognises that climate change and the degradation of nature pose significant risks to the economy and financial systems, which also affect the ECB. Identifying and addressing transition needs in these areas is essential for fulfilling its responsibilities. The ECB's ongoing work in 2024 is detailed in its [Annual Report](#) and in the [ECB Annual Report on supervisory activities](#). Since 2023 the ECB and Eurosystem NCBs have also published annual [climate-related financial disclosures](#), covering the financial assets held in portfolios for monetary policy purposes. In January 2024 the ECB published its [Climate and nature plan 2024-2025](#), reaffirming its commitment to climate action. This plan defines three focus areas for the period: supporting the green transition, assessing physical climate impacts and examining nature-related risks. The ECB's EMS contributes to the broader climate and nature plan with its focus on reducing the environmental footprint of its own operations in an effort to foster wider action.

Climate-related disclosures are also provided by Eurosystem NCBs for their independently managed non-monetary policy portfolios. Additional publications are made available on the [ECB website](#) on a rolling basis throughout the year.

3.2 Overview of the environmental management system

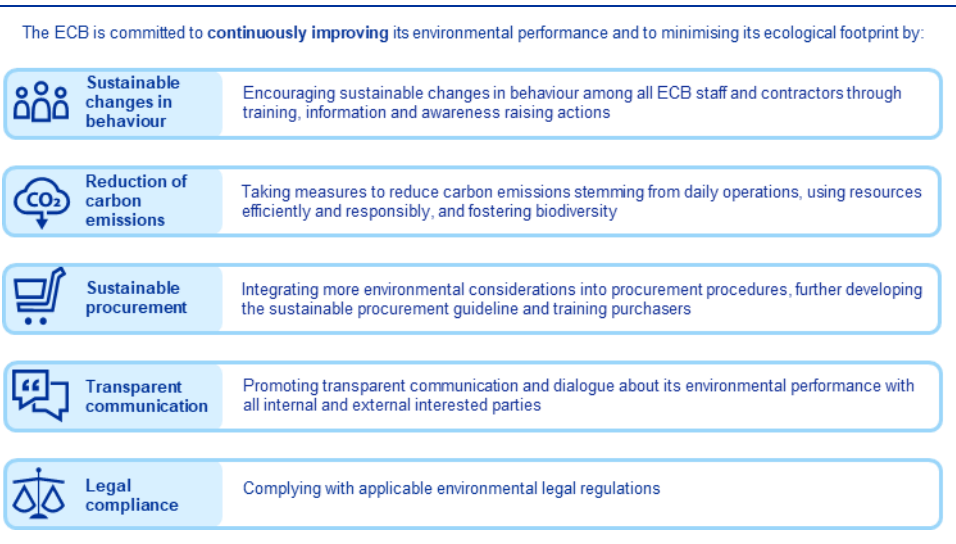


As outlined above, the ECB Environmental Statement 2025 presents environmental data on the three ECB premises covered by the EMS. These include the ECB-owned main building and the two rented facilities in Frankfurt's city centre – the Eurotower and the Japan Center. The data for the main building are presented separately from the aggregated data for the city centre premises. All office space across these three buildings is fully occupied by the ECB.

The ECB's environmental policy outlines its overarching environmental goals and strategic direction. Originally adopted in 2007 and updated in 2013 to place greater emphasis on staff awareness and behavioural change, the policy underwent further editorial refinements in 2019 and 2024, adding biodiversity as one of the topics of relevance.

Both internal and external staff are encouraged to actively apply the principles of the environmental policy in their daily work, by implementing actions that contribute positively to the ECB's environmental performance.

Figure 3
The ECB's environmental policy



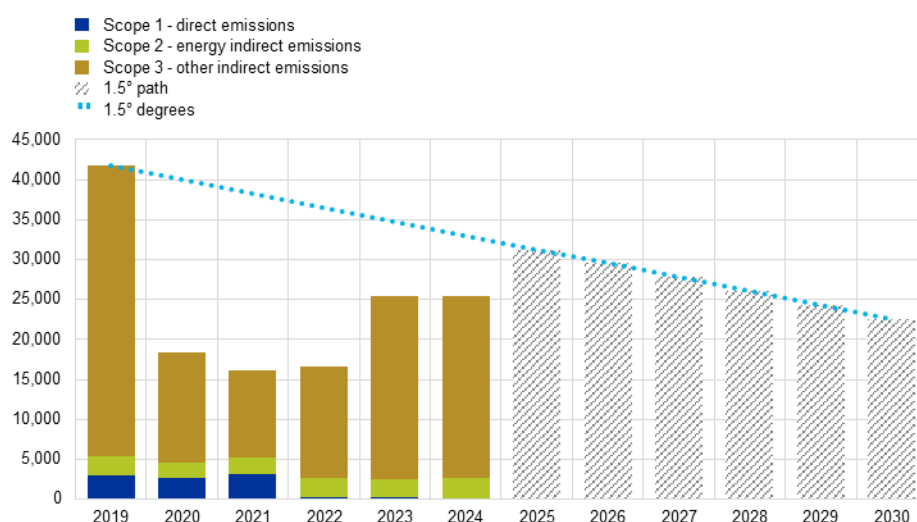
In 2024, the EMS successfully achieved its objective of continuously improving its performance as compared with the baseline year in 2019 and furthermore it proved its performance was very stable compared with the previous year. Remarkable progress was made in terms of communicating transparently to all stakeholders. For example, a new business area level travel dashboard was set up to help staff to become more aware of their business area's travel behaviour, with a more thorough analysis of the real business travel needs. Both internal and external cooperation

among stakeholders significantly improved in 2024. For instance, several business areas and voluntary groups within the ECB, as well as external institutions from the Frankfurt area collaborated and organised a full week of awareness-raising events for the United Nations' International Day for Biological Diversity. The ECB's operational carbon footprint furthermore remains well below the linear decarbonisation path, meaning that it is well on track for the Paris-aligned target of a 46.2% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.

Chart 1

ECB's carbon footprint and Paris Agreement alignment

(tonnes CO₂ equivalent)



Source: ECB.

For further information on the ECB's operational carbon performance, please see [Chapter 5 – The ECB's carbon footprint](#).

3.3 Environmental management organisation

The Green ECB team oversees all elements of the EMS and coordinates related activities in collaboration with various stakeholders. The team is headed by an Environmental Coordinator and an Environmental Officer, both appointed by the ECB's Executive Board and supported by environmental experts. To ensure the EMS is effectively implemented across the institution, Environmental Representatives are designated within each business area by their respective senior management. The Environmental Coordinator and Environmental Officer report to the Executive Board, via the Chief Services Officer, on EMS-related matters and performance.

Figure 4
Organisational structure of the EMS

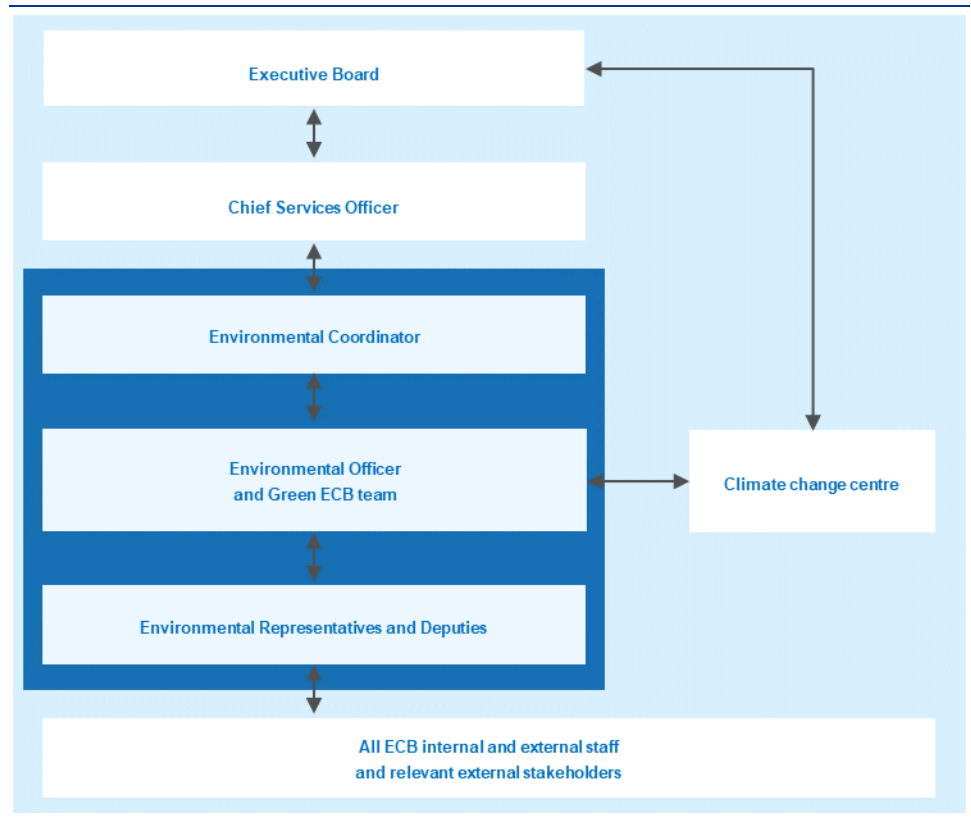


Table 1
Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Executive Board	Adopts the environmental policy and the environmental governance framework Provides resources and appoints an Environmental Coordinator and an Environmental Officer Authorises the publication of the ECB's annual Environmental Statement
Chief Services Officer	Adopts the environmental governance framework and endorses the proposed environmental targets and objectives (Environmental Management Programme) that are submitted to the Executive Board Provides strategic guidance on EMS-related issues and, where necessary, resolves disputes Considers and approves the EMS management review and all EMS documents to be submitted to the Executive Board May invite the Green ECB team to present or submit via a written procedure an update on the status of the ECB's EMS and its results and achievements to senior management and/or the Executive Board
Environmental Coordinator	Sets strategic environmental goals and supervises policy compliance Steers the EMS, assesses environmental performance, ensures the effectiveness of the EMS and makes sure that senior management are involved and supportive of it Adopts the Environmental Management Handbook and any amendments to it
Environmental Officer	Takes responsibility for the entire EMS, in accordance with agreed standards, and coordinates all matters relating to environmental protection management Acts as the internal contact person for environmental issues and incidents with an environmental impact Reports to the Environmental Coordinator and the Chief Services Officer on key issues Coordinates Green ECB initiatives, leads the Green ECB team and manages internal communication on environmental topics Leads the team of Environmental Representatives and provides support during their appraisal exercise in relation to the maintenance and development of the EMS. Provides encouragement and advice on local initiatives undertaken by business areas on environmental topics and advises on the implementation of adequate training measures Manages the employee suggestion scheme and assesses staff proposals
Environmental Representatives	Ensure that all the interests of each business area are considered within the EMS and maintain horizontal communication on EMS-related matters Support the implementation of the EMS in all ECB business areas and units

The Green ECB team also contributes to the corporate sustainability workstream in the ECB's [climate change centre \(CCC\)](#) – a unit established in 2021 to consolidate and coordinate the ECB's climate-related activities. The CCC supports a structured approach to the strategic planning and alignment of climate initiatives across the institution. Its work is organised around six thematic areas that cover all climate-related efforts at the ECB: (i) financial stability and prudential policy, (ii) macroeconomic analysis and monetary policy, (iii) financial market operations and risk management, (iv) EU and international policy and regulation, (v) data, and (vi) corporate sustainability. In addition, the CCC serves as a hub for sharing knowledge on cross-cutting climate work in areas such as research, market infrastructure and payments, legal matters and banknotes.

Since 2010 the ECB's EMS has been registered under the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).⁶ It has also been certified according to the ISO 14001 environmental management standard.

The governance structure for the EMS is set out in the ECB's Environmental Management Handbook, which defines the procedures and operational processes required to maintain compliance with relevant standards. In line with EMAS and ISO 14001 requirements, to ensure adherence to its framework the EMS is subject to both internal and external verifications.⁷ Internal verifications are conducted annually by the Environmental Officer, supported by external specialists, while accredited environmental verifiers carry out external verifications.

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC, as amended by Council Regulation (EU) No 517/2013 of 13 May 2013, Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1505 of 28 August 2017 and Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/2026 of 19 December 2018.

⁷ Environmental audits are referred to internally as internal environmental verifications so as to avoid any misunderstandings related to the mandate and responsibilities of Directorate Internal Audit.

4 Relevant changes to the environmental management system

Since the publication of the ECB Environmental Statement 2022, no significant changes (such as a substantial scope extension) have been implemented in the EMS. The ECB occasionally updates some of the environmental data retrospectively in the latest Environmental Statement to ensure the accuracy, reliability and integrity of its analyses, reports or decisions. This may be required for a number of reasons. For example, data that was initially unavailable subsequently become retrievable, providing a broader picture. Similarly, errors such as incorrect data submissions, misapplied methodologies or human error upon data input or processing may lead to inaccuracies that require correcting. Sometimes, relevant data may have been erroneously excluded owing to oversight or misclassification, potentially compromising the validity of results. By reviewing and correcting such issues, the ECB ensures its data outputs remain credible and accurate, reflecting the most comprehensive information currently available.

4.1 Enhanced environmental objectives and measures

As a European institution, the ECB is committed to implementing measures to safeguard the environment and address climate change in its everyday operations. In 2021 the ECB adjusted its carbon-reduction targets to align with the Paris Agreement's aim of capping the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This commitment translates into reducing the carbon emissions of the ECB's internal operations by 46.2% by 2030, using 2019 as the baseline year.⁸ The first EMS cycle following this alignment with the Paris Agreement objectives has now concluded. Building on the experience of the past three years in a post-pandemic environment, the updated EMP 2025-2027 introduces additional enabling actions aimed at further decarbonising the ECB's operational activities to meet its 2030 emissions target. The key areas addressed are energy, emissions, materials and waste, biodiversity and procurement as well as awareness raising and stakeholder management. Throughout the cycle, the ECB will regularly review its targets and may propose additional objectives and measures for the medium and long term, also considering the European Union's 2050 climate neutrality goal and the related legislative developments.

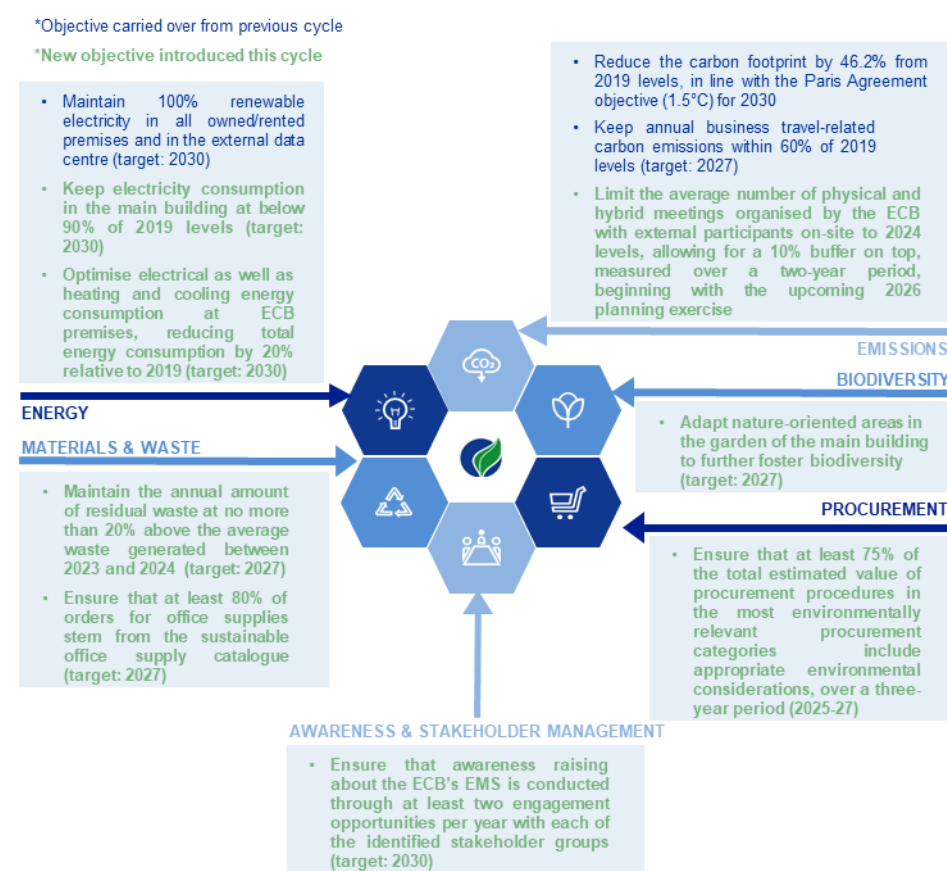
The EMP 2025-2027 has been developed in conjunction with various business areas and operational teams across the ECB and comprises a new set of comprehensive measures aimed at supporting the fulfilment of the common organisational environmental objectives. The new and updated objectives and measures focus on addressing significant contributors to the ECB's carbon footprint, particularly travel-

⁸ The trajectory was calculated in 2020-21 using the Science Based Targets Initiative guidance for absolute reduction targets. 2019 was chosen as baseline year after an extensive boundary assessment exercise.

related activities, as well as green procurement procedures. The EMP will be followed up through status updates in the upcoming releases of the Environmental Statement in 2026 and 2027.

In the long term, the primary strategies to reduce emissions stemming from internal operations include decarbonising the energy supply, improving the environmental sustainability of business travel and coordinating at the Eurosystem level to align travel practices.

Figure 5
Updated environmental objectives



A more detailed overview of all environmental objectives and measures can be found in [Chapter 5 – The ECB's carbon footprint](#) and [Chapter 6 – Environmental aspects and impacts of the ECB's activities](#).

The ECB's carbon footprint



Objectives CO₂e emissions

Timeline	Objective and status 2024
Long-term: 2030	Reduction of carbon footprint by 46.2% (relative to 2019 levels) by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement objective (1.5°C) Status 2024: -39%
Medium-term: 2027	Keep annual business travel-related carbon emissions within 60% of 2019 levels Status 2024: 72%
Short-term: 2024	Set a limit of 50% of ECB meetings with external conference and meeting participants to take place in person over a two-year cycle (2023-24) Status 2023/2024: 21.7%
Medium-term: 2027 (new)	Limit the average number of physical and hybrid meetings organised by the ECB with external participants on-site to 2024 levels, allowing for a 10% buffer on top, measured over a two-year period, beginning with the upcoming 2026 planning exercise New⁹



Measures CO₂e emissions

Measure	Status
Reduce emissions resulting from ESCB committees and substructure meetings by limiting the number of physical meetings to a maximum of 50% of the planned meetings each year	Completed The rules implemented for the meeting planning exercises in 2022 and 2023 for the years 2023 and 2024 respectively led to an average of 21.7% meetings taking place in physical or hybrid

⁹ During the transition phase, business areas continued to apply the previous policy for their planning exercise in 2024. A reduced number of meetings and conferences are planned for 2025, representing 2,303 events, of which 35.4% are expected to take place in physical and hybrid format, once again below the 50% threshold.

Measure	Status
	format during this period. For 2025 35.4% of planned meetings are expected to be in physical or hybrid format
Reduce emissions from conferences, events and technical meetings hosted at the ECB via the implementation of guidelines for event organisers	Completed Sustainable events guidelines are available to all staff and promoted within organiser communities across the ECB. The respective emissions have been reduced substantially in the last cycle
Introduce a non-binding, common business travel guidelines for Eurosystem members to reduce physical travel	New/ In progress A working group has been launched, taking on the task of drafting such guidelines. The finalisation of the document is foreseen for 2025.
Explore possibilities to further mitigate the environmental impact of physical conferences, events and meetings hosted at the ECB	New/ In progress
Include specifications for greening externally provided transportation services	Completed In line with the requirements, an increase in the use of hybrid, EV and low emission vehicles was observed
Set up working groups with frequent travellers to reduce business travel-related emissions	In progress A travel dashboard with business area-level data on travel behaviour has been developed and was presented for the first time in 2024 Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Continue collaboration with the German rail supplier Deutsche Bahn (DB) on corporate rates for train travel destinations, alongside the frequent traveller benefits programme (DB Bahn Card)	New
Systematically review business travel rules to identify opportunities for improvement to reduce the environmental impact of business travel	New/ In progress
Assess the environmental benefits of corporate airline programmes with a focus on sustainability, including sustainable aviation fuel purchase programmes	New/ In progress An initial evaluation through scientific papers of sustainable aviation fuel has been initiated and is ongoing.
Continue the initiative to promote hotels with environmental management practices in place	New
Explore technical possibilities to enhance the travel booking platform by considering tools and functionalities for more detailed emissions monitoring and steering	New
Support the design and implementation of the upcoming online travel booking tool to facilitate relevant environmental features	New
Develop a monitoring tool that allows business areas to closely monitor emissions stemming from the travel of external participants to the ECB for meetings, events or conferences	New
Shorten the food supply chain and increase regional diversity and plant-based options in meals offered in the staff restaurants	In progress Framework agreement in place as of 2024 to increase the amount of organic products. Seasonality and regionality are important considerations when creating the staff menus Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Tailor produce sourcing to favour seasonality and regionality	New/ In progress
Monitor and, wherever possible, facilitate the uptake of plant-based meals in the staff canteen	New/ In progress
Explore possibilities to increase the organic food quota at the ECB	New/ In progress
Assess the feasibility of improving the bundling of food deliveries to reduce emissions stemming from transportation	New
Maintain usage of Quercus products (bio fruits and vegetables) for catering services at the ECB	New/ In progress
Keep disposable plastic items in catering outlets and kitchen operations to a minimum, in line with German food safety regulations	New/ In progress

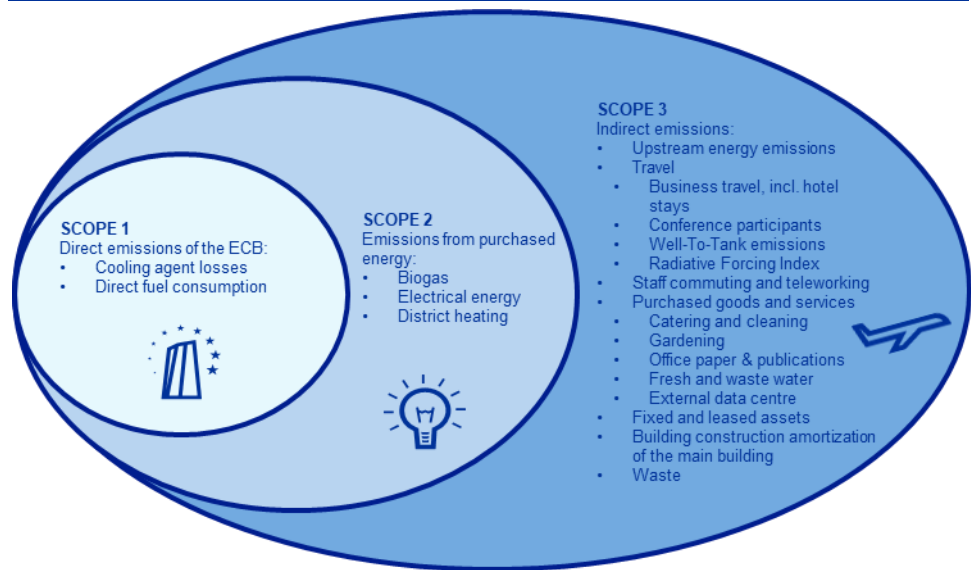
Measure	Status
Establish guidelines to limit fixed logistics standard transport to one day per week while allowing for exceptional transport on demand and integrating smaller courier items in the standard transport activity of the daily mail shuttle	New
Green the maintenance of the ECB car fleet by digitalising the administrative processes and investigating environmental opportunities for the fleet's maintenance and cleaning supplies	Completed The digitalisation of the administrative process has been implemented. The greening of cleaning supplies will be taken up again as part of the new EMP
Include environmental and social impact assessment in the project assessment related to facility management and construction	In progress Environmental and social impact assessments have been included in all planned project charters as aspects to be considered. Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Develop further analytical tools to support decision-making processes and facilitate the inclusion of environmental considerations in facility management projects	In progress Tools are being assessed with the aim of being used by various stakeholders to support decision making processes and facilitate the inclusion of environmental considerations (e.g. BA level dashboards, energy consumption dashboards, etc.) Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Consider possibilities of technologies for adjusting building operation to building occupation in response to new work patterns in the future	In progress Adjustments of the building operations bandwidth are being assessed, alongside technologies that can facilitate a better understanding of occupational patterns Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Consider integrating sustainability impact considerations into proposals submitted to decision-making bodies	Completed Climate and environmental considerations have effectively been incorporated into documents submitted to decision-making bodies, where appropriate. Additionally, a template for memos submitted to the Executive Board has been implemented
Assess the environmental impact of cloud-based services and AI at the ECB	New/ In progress
Explore opportunities to formally introduce carbon-free delivery of mail and packages through the ECB mail distribution service	New
Develop a set of environmental key performance indicators (KPIs), in collaboration with the ECB's service providers, formulating environmental targets related to their services	New
Explore and assess further decarbonisation objectives after 2030, including a net-zero target	New
Check the feasibility of using synthetic diesel fuel (HVO) for diesel operated equipment (generators, multipurpose tractor, cherry pickers)	New/ In progress
Develop further analytical tools to support decision-making processes and facilitate the inclusion of environmental considerations in facility management projects	New
Increase monitoring of environmentally relevant utility consumption through enhanced quarterly data reporting and the introduction of automatic plausibility checks	New/ In progress
Include environmental assessment in the Project Steering Committee projects	New
Explore possibilities for the continued greening of the ECB's car fleet	New
Explore opportunities to further support the use of green mobility (e.g. further optimising usage of the job ticket)	New
Continue promoting the safety of sustainable commuting methods and continue collaboration between the Safety team and Green ECB	New
Ensure collaboration between Security Services and Green ECB on environmental improvements and opportunities related to security equipment and services	New

Note: "Completed" = measure completed; "In progress" = measure in progress; "Pending" = measure still to be implemented; "New" = measure stemming from the new EMP.

In line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol framework, the ECB classifies carbon emissions as scope 1, 2 and 3. Scope 1 includes direct emissions and scope 2 and scope 3 include indirect emissions. The scope of the greenhouse gas inventory has been expanded since 2023 and now includes further emissions stemming from the external data centre. The emissions from this source have also been included retrospectively to depict external data centre emissions from 2021 onwards. Figure 7 displays the ECB's emissions sources sorted by their respective scopes.

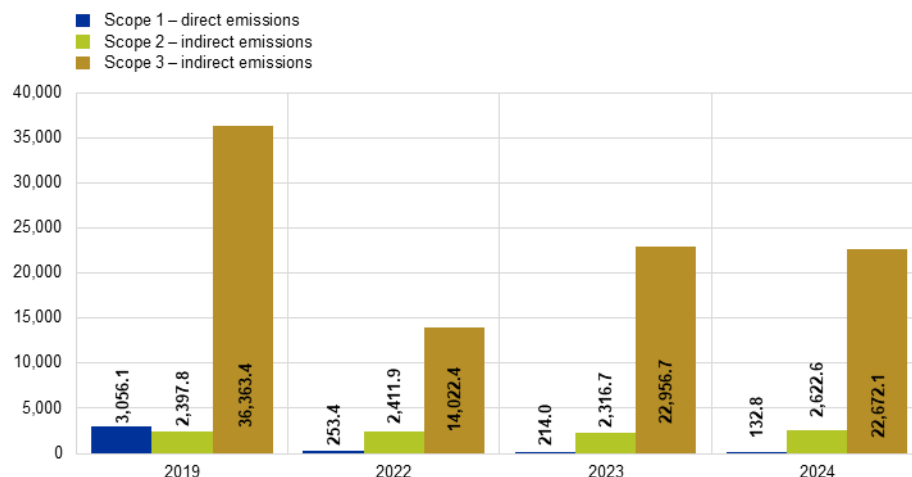
Figure 7

Components of the ECB's carbon footprint



Source: ECB.

Total emissions saw a marginal decrease of 0.2% compared with 2023. While scope 1 emissions continued to decline in 2024 (-38%), mainly owing to a drop in emissions from cooling agent losses, scope 2 emissions increased by 13.2% as a result of increased heating and cooling consumption across all three buildings. Scope 3 emissions decreased in 2024 (-1.2%) and continue to be strongly influenced by business travel-related emissions and conference participants' travel-related emissions.

Chart 2**Total CO₂e emissions – scopes 1, 2 and 3**(tonnes CO₂ equivalent)

Source: ECB.

Notes: Scope 3 values were revised from 14,004.3 to 14,022.3 tonnes of CO₂e for 2022 and from 22,609.3 to 22,956.6 tonnes of CO₂e for 2023. Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements. Cooling agents were replaced in 2024 with an alternative with a lower global warming potential to further support the emissions reduction.

The ECB focuses on avoidance of emissions, followed by their reduction. As the third and final component of its emission management, since 2018 the ECB has compensated unavoidable emissions with credits that finance emission avoidance projects worldwide. In addition, suppliers already compensate for upstream emissions from train travel within Germany¹⁰ and a share of office paper.

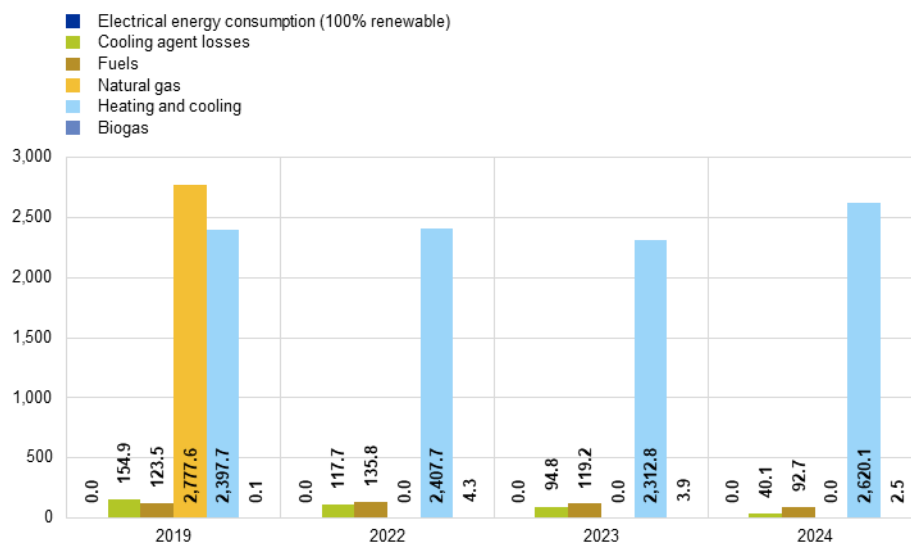
For further information on data, see [Chapter 7 – Technical information](#).

5.1 Emissions related to the operation of the ECB's premises

Emissions from the operation of the ECB's premises, including heating, cooling, fuel use and cooling agent losses are counted as direct emissions under scope 1 and as indirect emissions under scope 2. In 2024 combined scope 1 and scope 2 emissions accounted for 10.8% of the ECB's total carbon footprint.

Upstream emissions from the ECB's energy consumption are included under scope 3 (see [Chapter 5.2 – Indirect emissions](#)). Scope 2 emissions are reported in this chapter according to the market-based approach, while location-based emissions are reported in [Chapter 7 – Technical information](#).

¹⁰ According to the Deutsche Bahn certificate, direct emissions are covered by the use of renewable energy certificates and therefore counted as zero, while upstream (Well-to-Tank) emissions are compensated at 100%. Owing to a lack of data on upstream energy consumption per kilometre and the related emission factors, these emissions are currently not included under scope 3. Compensated paper is included under scope 3 and additionally reported outside these scopes.

Chart 3**CO₂e emissions – scopes 1 and 2**(tonnes of CO₂ equivalent)

Source: ECB.

Note: Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

5.2 Indirect emissions

In 2024 indirect emissions included under scope 3 made up 89% of the ECB's total carbon footprint. Further details on developments in scope 3 emissions can be found in [Chapter 6 – Environmental aspects and impacts of the ECB's activities](#).

5.2.1 Business travel and hotel stays

Business travel emissions increased by 4.6% relative to 2023, while emissions arising from hotel stays rose by 10.7%. Despite this increase, the ECB continues to operate at 28.6% below 2019 travel emissions levels. However, the objective of limiting annual travel-related CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) emissions to a maximum of 60% of pre-pandemic levels has not been met, with current levels standing at 72%.

Business travel-related emissions remain a key focus for the ECB, with efforts directed at reducing emissions to meet the set target. To support this work, a dedicated travel dashboard has been set up to monitor travel-related emissions across business areas and identify key areas of action.

Emissions calculations follow a best practice approach, using Well-to-Tank (WTT)¹¹ emissions for all fossil fuel-based transport and applying the Radiative Forcing Index

¹¹ Well-to-Tank (WTT) emissions are generated during the extraction, production, processing and transportation of fuels or energy carriers up to the point of their delivery for use, excluding emissions from their actual consumption.

(RFI)¹² for air travel. By adopting these approaches, the ECB ensures a comprehensive and accurate assessment of travel-related emissions using a best practice approach. For further details on travel activities, see [Chapter 6.9 – Travel](#).

5.2.2 Conference participants' travel

In addition to the business travel-related emissions of its own staff, the ECB includes emissions stemming from external participants attending conferences and events held at the ECB. The same calculation approach as for business travel is applied, i.e. calculating WTT emissions for fuel-based transport and applying RFI factors for travel by plane.

Although it has limited influence on conference participants' emissions, the ECB has been regularly reporting on conference participants' travel arrangements since 2021 to provide as complete a picture of their carbon emissions as possible. In 2024 conference participants' travel-related emissions decreased by 6.1% compared with 2023. The ECB acknowledges that limitations in data quality mean that calculations of conference participants' travel emissions rely on certain assumptions. To actively manage these travel-related emissions, the ECB set a target to limit the number of conferences and meetings with external participants held on its premises to 50% in the EMP 2022-2024, further extending an adjusted version of this measure to the updated EMP. For further details and data developments, see [Chapter 6.9 – Travel](#).

Staff commuting and teleworking

Following the introduction of the teleworking regime at the beginning of 2023, which allowed staff to work remotely for up to 110 days per year, a part of the ECB's emissions was shifted to employees' homes. Given the close intercorrelation between staff commuting and teleworking data, the ECB includes these emissions in its carbon footprint boundary under the category "Emissions from staff commuting and teleworking".

To assess these emissions, the ECB conducts a staff survey every two years. The most recent survey was carried out in the summer of 2023. The collected data are supplemented with additional information, such as the number of staff on business travel, and adjusted for factors such as sick leave and parental leave rates to improve the accuracy of the estimates. In 2024 emissions stemming from teleworking decreased by 21%, totalling 310.6 tonnes of CO₂e emissions. By contrast, emissions from staff commuting increased by 20.7%, reaching 1,572.9 tonnes of CO₂e emissions. The ECB acknowledges the limited reliability of the teleworking and commuting emissions data, which are based on underlying assumptions and a survey-based approach.

¹² The Radiative Forcing Index (RFI) is a metric quantifying the impact of aviation on climate by comparing total radiative forcing, including non-CO₂ effects such as contrails and nitrogen oxides, with the radiative forcing caused by CO₂ emissions alone.

To promote green mobility among its staff, the ECB launched a programme that offers free access to the first hour of a bicycle-sharing service. Since this offer is valid in several German cities, it encourages green mobility beyond commuting for work. For further information on the survey-based approach for emissions data, see [Chapter 6.9 – Travel](#).

5.2.3 Waste

Although waste consumption has increased by 1.7%, waste-related emissions decreased by 38.3% in 2024 compared with the previous year. This reverse effect is due to a significant reduction in emission factors.¹³ With the imminent relocation of the ECB from the Eurotower to the Gallileo Tower and the introduction of activity-based working across the ECB in 2025, waste-related emissions are, however, expected to rise temporarily in the near future as a result of the new construction and transition process. Therefore, a new EMP objective was recently introduced for waste “maintaining the annual amount of residual waste at no more than 20% above the average waste generated between 2023 and 2024” specifically to act as a buffer for this temporary increase in waste resulting from these processes. For further information, see [Chapter 6.5 – Waste and recycling](#).

5.2.4 Purchased goods and services

Purchased goods and services comprise emissions from catering and cleaning services, external printing, ICT services, gardening services, office supplies and stationery as well as paper consumption for office purposes, ECB publications and other printed materials, in addition to the external data centre and fresh and waste water consumption.

Emissions from catering services are assessed based on the ingredients used, with emission factors accounting for their full lifecycle, including transport. Emissions from printing services refer to both paper production and the electricity used by external providers. Gardening services-related emissions include fuel consumption for maintenance work. Emissions stemming from office supplies, stationery and cleaning services are estimated using a value-based approach, as detailed consumption data are not available and relevant emission factors are lacking. Additionally, the ECB considers ICT-related emissions other than data centre operations and the consumption of IT equipment, also factoring in the duration of videoconferences conducted by ECB staff.

The scope of the greenhouse gas inventory has been expanded since 2023 to include further emissions from the external data centre consumption, in addition to emissions arising from electricity consumption, which have been included since 2021. Corresponding to the ECB’s share of the total capacity of the external data centre, energy consumption for cooling, the fuel consumption of the emergency

¹³ For more information, please see [Chapter 7 – Technical information](#).

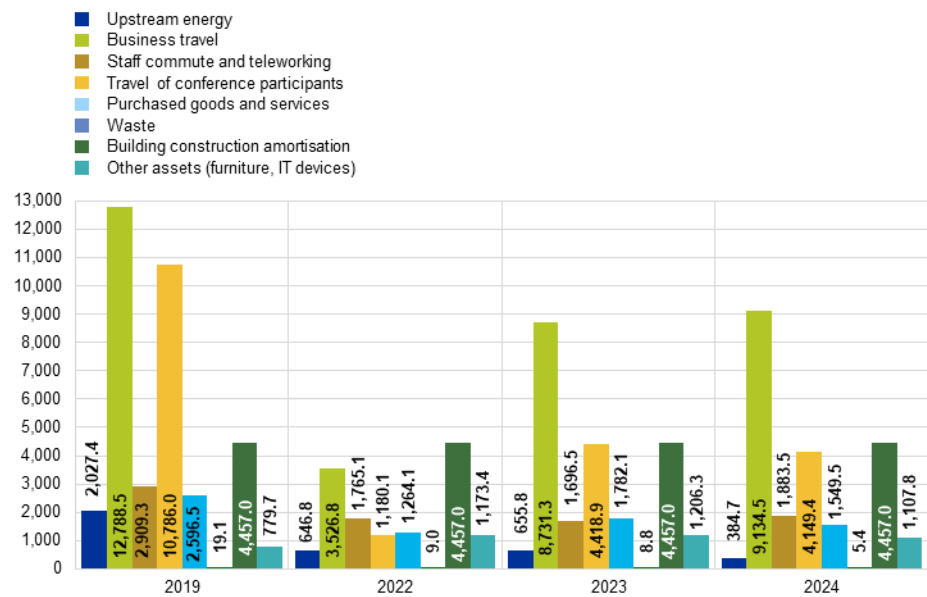
power units, water consumption and cooling agent losses have been reported and included under scope 3 emissions. These emissions have also been included retrospectively from 2021 onwards.

Emissions from electricity at the external data centre decreased by 12.3% compared with 2023, while emissions arising from the emergency unit decreased by 21% in 2024. Cooling agent losses at the external data centre were reported for the first time in 2024 and retrospectively as of 2021, amounting to 3.8 tonnes of CO₂e emissions. Emissions stemming from waste water decreased by 12.1% in 2024.

Despite the extension of this category, emissions from purchased goods and services declined by 13.0% compared with 2023, totalling 1,549.5 tonnes of CO₂e emissions which represented 6.8% of all scope 3 emissions in 2024. Notably, emissions from videoconferences grew by 191% compared with 2023, largely as a result of increased availability of data used for these calculations.

Chart 4
CO₂e emissions – scope 3

(tonnes CO₂ equivalent)

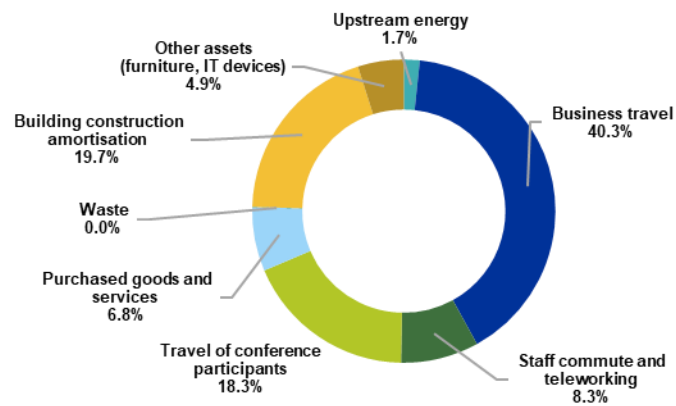


Source: ECB.

Notes: Upstream energy includes emissions from the car fleet, the emergency unit, biogas and district heating, as well as electricity from renewable energy sources (wind and hydropower). Emissions from upstream energy were revised from 641.3 to 646.8 tonnes of CO₂e in 2022 and from 650.5 to 655.8 tonnes of CO₂e in 2023. Conference participants' travel emissions were revised from 4,091.2 to 4,418.9 tonnes of CO₂e in 2023. Emissions stemming from purchased goods and services were revised from 1,251.5 to 1,264.0 tonnes of CO₂e in 2022 and from 1,767.6 to 1,781.9 tonnes of CO₂e in 2023. Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

Chart 5

Scope 3 – shares of CO₂e emissions in 2024



Source: ECB.

Aside from CO₂e emissions, the ECB records and calculates other emissions generated by its activities. Thus, emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NOX) and particulate matter (PM) stemming from the fuel consumption of the ECB's vehicle fleet and emergency power unit test runs are reported. In addition, the ECB reports on biogenic emissions resulting from biogas consumption in line with the requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. For more information, see [Chapter 7 – Technical information](#).

6 Environmental aspects and impact of the ECB's activities

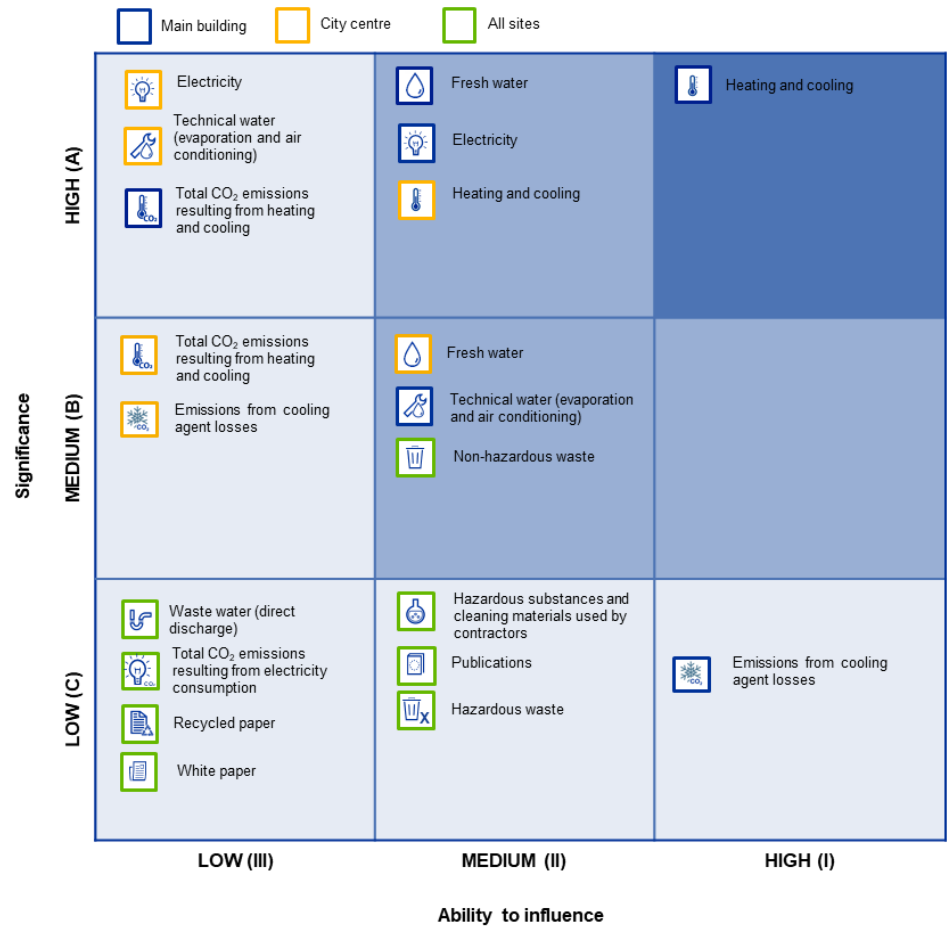
6.1 Update of the environmental aspects assessment

The direct and indirect environmental aspects of the ECB's activities are assessed on an annual basis. This assessment is based on the ECB's ability to influence each aspect and their significance for its environmental performance. Risks and opportunities that affect significant environmental aspects at the ECB – and that may affect the achievement of objectives and measures – are analysed as part of this exercise. Where necessary, subsequent steps are identified which either feature as corrective actions that are assessed in the internal verification process or are discussed as new EMP measures.

Overall, the classification of the environmental aspects remained stable in 2024 compared with 2023. The level of the ECB's ability to influence in terms of recycled paper consumption shifted from medium to low and for white paper consumption from high to low. Both positive changes are the result of a significant reduced paper consumption rate in 2024 as compared with 2023, by 72% and 71% respectively. The significance level of hazardous substances shifted from medium to low, as paper consumption further decreased by 27%. Energy consumption in the external data centre was included as a separate indirect environmental aspect in 2024, thus acknowledging further environmental influences from a relevant procured service.

Figure 8

Assessment of the ECB's direct environmental aspects

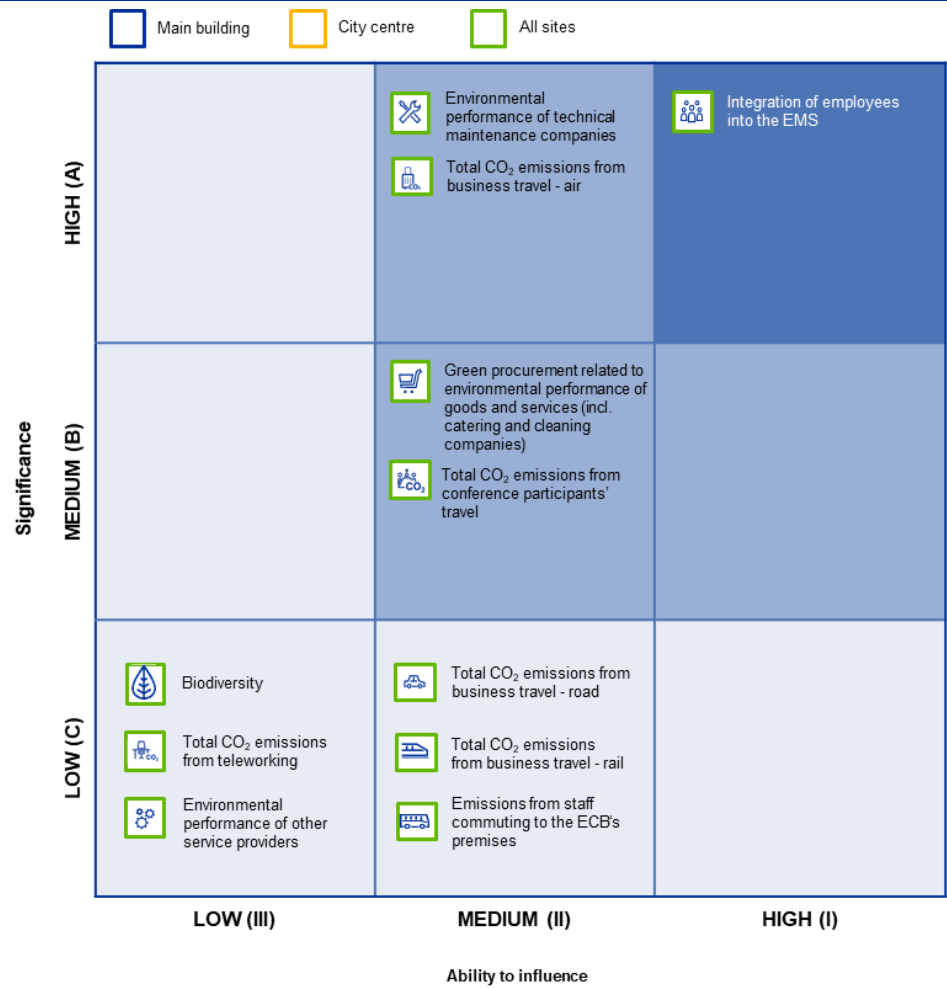


Source: ECB.

Note: The classification of the environmental aspects changed only slightly in 2024 as compared with 2023. This is because the level of the ECB's ability to influence in terms of recycled paper consumption shifted from medium to low and for white paper consumption from high to low. The significance level of hazardous substances also shifted from medium to low.

Figure 9

Assessment of the ECB's indirect environmental aspects



Source: ECB.

Note: Energy consumption by the external data centre was added as a new indirect environmental aspect to reflect the corresponding environmental effects.

6.2 Energy efficiency



Objectives Energy efficiency

Timeline	Objective and status 2024
Long-term: 2030 (new)	Keep electricity consumption in the main building at below 90% of 2019 levels
	New
Long-term: 2030	Optimise energy consumption of ECB premises: reduce total energy consumption per workplace by 20% (baseline 2018)
	Status 2024: -25%
Long-term: 2030 (new)	Optimise electrical as well as heating and cooling energy consumption at ECB premises, reducing total energy consumption by 20% relative to 2019
	New
Long-term: 2030	Maintain 100% renewable electricity in all owned and rented premises and in the external data centre
	Status 2024: 100%

Note: The energy consumption in the baseline year 2018 was 12,153 kilowatt hours per workplace and the total energy consumption was 65,000 megawatt hours.



Measures Energy efficiency

Measure	Status
Evaluate adherence to the European Code of Conduct on Data Centre Energy Efficiency (ECA) ¹⁴ recommendation	In progress Colleagues in the ECB's Directorate General Information Systems (DG/IS) are currently evaluating the adherence to the European Code of Conduct on Data Centre Energy Efficiency Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Further expand and optimise data collection and analysis of energy consumption from the data centres at the main building	Completed Implementation will be continued through a re-issued measure in the new EMP
Carry out an assessment of the ten floors with the highest consumption to identify potential improvement opportunities	New
Explore opportunities to develop a systematic energy management approach, including identifying and monitoring consumption sources, to uncover efficiency opportunities	New/ In progress
Investigate average ECB on-site workplace energy consumption (e.g. laptops, monitors) and factor this information into teleworking-related emissions calculations	New/ In progress
Explore the feasibility of further differentiating between various energy streams	New
Test and roll out improvements to temperature control processes in the high-rise sections of the main building	Completed Energy efficiency measures were widely introduced across the ECB buildings in response to the European and German guidelines and regulations on energy efficiency. The effectiveness of energy saving measures continues to be closely monitored to seek further optimisation potential
Conduct lighting assessments to evaluate lighting needs and technical installations	In progress

¹⁴ European Court of Auditors.

Measure	Status
	Lighting assessment of the main building's lighting system is under way, with a gradual approach to replace light fixtures in accordance with the needs and technical installations currently in place Implementation will be taken up again as part of the new EMP
Conduct an analysis of the potential impact on energy efficiency of shutting down lighting and heating in the office areas outside working hours, and assess the savings opportunities	New
Calculate the environmental benefits of replacing the existing lighting with LEDs using ValERI methodology in the main building	New
Replace light fixtures in the conference areas, the Grossmarkthalle barrel-vaulted ceiling and underground parking area with LEDs	New
Assess ways to further optimise heating and cooling throughout the premises, considering the buildings' technical features and staff needs	New
Explore opportunities to extend energy saving measures from the current building stock to future rented buildings	New
Explore possibilities to optimise the energy-efficient usage of refrigerated areas	New
Continuously assess cloud service usage to identify improvement opportunities and reduce the corresponding environmental impact	In progress DG/IS is currently working with the service providers to embed metrics on the environmental performance of cloud services Implementation will be taken up again as part of the new EMP
Continuously assess cloud service usage to identify improvement opportunities and reduce the environmental impact	New/ In progress
Systematically increase the energy efficiency of data centres whenever feasible, adjusting operational parameters and/or optimising the usage of existing infrastructure	New/ In progress
Maintain the current daytime cleaning concept at the ECB	New/ In progress

Note: "Completed" = measure completed; "In progress" = measure in progress; "Pending" = measure still to be implemented; "New" = measure stemming from the new EMP.



Overview Energy efficiency at the ECB

The ECB's overall energy consumption increased by 6.1% in 2024 compared with the previous year and was 18.7% lower than in 2019. The ECB continues to identify and implement energy efficiency measures to further reduce on-site energy consumption and therefore introduced an energy dashboard which enhances the monitoring of energy consumption. As in previous years, minimum and maximum temperatures were set for summer and winter, with older appliances being replaced with more energy-efficient alternatives. The ECB is also part of a local energy efficiency network and shares information on energy saving measures at the Eurosystem level, both of which provide new input on measures that could be implemented on ECB sites.

The ECB acknowledges that changes in working environments and modalities, such as adaptations to teleworking regimes or an increased utilisation of cloud services and artificial intelligence, affect environmental aspects and is continuously exploring opportunities to improve its approach accordingly. For instance, the ECB is currently evaluating its ability to quantify the environmental impact of cloud services and is exploring market best practices to better understand how this can impact the achievement of longer-term targets. Additionally, considerations on energy performance targets and changes to office spaces owing to new working models are relevant issues for the ECB's real estate management and strategy.



In 2024 electrical energy consumption in the main building increased slightly, by 3.3%, while energy consumption for heating and cooling rose by 8.6% compared with the previous year. Parts of the main building were closed for construction work in 2023. Consequently, the return of staff to the workplace in 2024 triggered an upward trend in electricity and heating consumption. The increase in heating and cooling energy can further be explained by the renewed use of underfloor heating in the entrance and bistro areas. The amount of biogas used for cooking in the kitchen of the main building also increased by 5.7%. By contrast, the stepwise migration to cloud services has led to a gradual reduction in electricity consumption in the internal data centre.

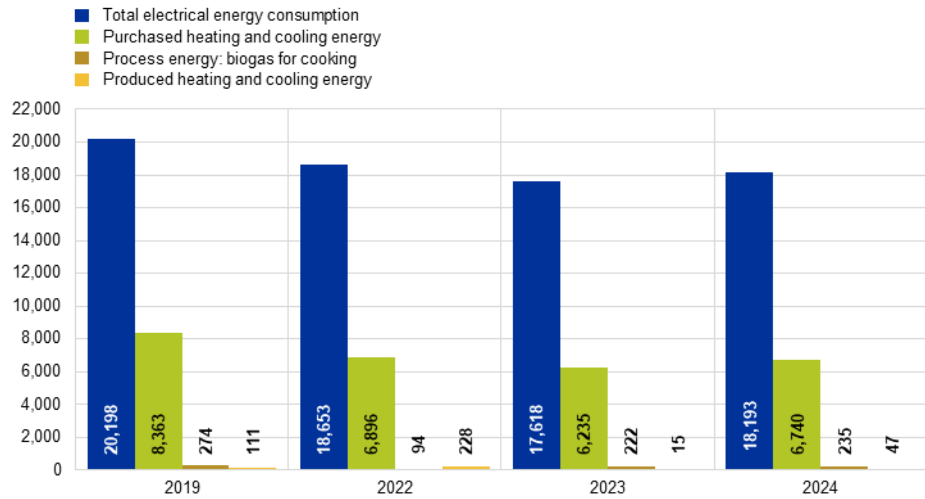


At the city centre premises, electrical energy consumption increased in 2024 by 4.7%. Consumption of energy for heating and cooling increased by 10.5%, partially explained by the commissioning of a new pure steam generator in the Japan Center in June 2024. In addition to procured energy, two cogeneration plants powered by biogas are used in the Eurotower to generate heat and electrical energy. In 2024 the consumption of biogas dropped very slightly, by 5.3%, compared with 2023. In comparison with previous years, an increase in generated energy was observed following the optimisation of the run times of both cogeneration plants.

Chart 6

Energy consumption – main building¹⁵

(MWh)



Source: ECB.

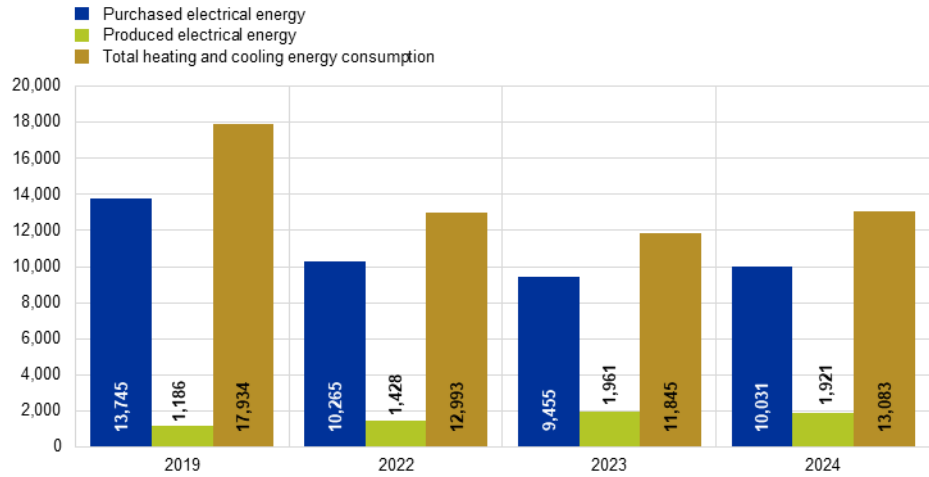
Notes: Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements. Owing to a change in metering devices and, consequently, a non-traceable loss of information, geothermal energy data for April and May were not reported and are therefore not included here.

¹⁵ For geothermal energy, it is necessary to keep the source (namely the ground) in balance, taking into account a full annual cycle (summer = cooling energy/heating up the source; winter = heating energy/cooling down the source). In 2022 the heating energy saving activities lead to a significant imbalance of the source. The Frankfurt city authority (Environmental Office) decided that the system should remain out of operation in 2023 to allow for the thermal regeneration of the source. In 2024 the system was recommissioned. However, it should be noted that approximately only one-quarter of the geothermal energy consumed in 2022 was used in 2024.

Chart 7

Energy consumption – city centre buildings

(MWh)



Source: ECB.

Notes: Energy consumption at the external data centre is no longer included in this chart, as related emissions have been allocated to "purchased goods and services" as part of the expansion of scope 3. For more information, see Chapter 5.2 – Indirect emissions. Purchased electrical energy consumption was revised from 10,248.8 to 10,265.8 MWh in 2022 and from 9,584.3 to 9,455.9 MWh in 2023. Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements. For more information on greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy consumption, see [Chapter 5.1 – Emissions related to the operation of ECB premises](#).

6.3 Material efficiency



Objectives Material efficiency

Timeline	Objective and status 2024
Short-term: 2027 (new)	Ensure that at least 80% of orders for office supplies stem from the sustainable office supply catalogue
	New
Short-term: 2024	Phase out all disposable plastic items in catering outlets and kitchen operations
	Status 2024: Completed



Measures Material efficiency

Measures	Status
Include environmental criteria relating to the reuse/recycling of furniture in the next furniture tender	Completed Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Whenever technicians deem it appropriate, prioritise the repair and reuse of equipment in facility management projects, maintenance and refurbishment, subject to cost consolidations and urgency	New/ In progress
Support reducing furniture needs arising from the reduction of workplaces and foster its sustainable reuse and return	New/ In progress
Explore opportunities to establish a formal procedure for donating unused or end-of-life equipment (e.g. to charity)	New
Raise awareness (through campaigns) to foster the return of unused office supplies	New
Pilot a loan system for office materials and supplies that are not used regularly, to reduce unnecessary stock	New
Assess the feasibility of reducing the amount and types of hardware and software available to ECB staff according to business-specific needs	New/ In progress
Explore opportunities to simplify IT infrastructure by phasing out equipment and services (or parts of services) that are no longer required/in use	New/ In progress
Establish a standard sustainable catalogue for all office supplies, toners, paper and stationery items	New/ In progress
Further standardise branded giveaways for meetings, events and conferences and ensure procured items include environmental considerations	New
Include environmental considerations and assess the optimisation of workplaces	New/ In progress
Reduce the number of shipments and unnecessary packaging of office supplies and stationery by bundling orders	New
Establish a centralised storage and pick-up point for office supplies and stationery to reduce the amount of office supplies offered in small quantities	New
Explore possibilities to reduce the environmental impact of individually wrapped items	New
Explore possibilities to increase the in-house production of paper office supplies	New
Optimise the introduction of new water dispensers ensuring the replacement of old equipment once it reaches end of life	New/ In progress
Pilot the use of automatic paper dispensers in bathrooms	New
Investigate environmental improvement opportunities for the maintenance and cleaning supplies of the car fleet	New
Ensure continuous communication and awareness for floor controllers regarding the ecological use of first aid kits	New/ In progress
Explore possibilities to reuse packaging of ECB IT equipment that is shipped and collected around Europe	New

Note: "Completed" = measure completed; "In progress" = measure in progress; "Pending" = measure still to be implemented; "New" = measure stemming from the new EMP.

The ECB is continuously seeking ways to reduce packaging waste in its operations, including in the bistro and canteen areas, in collaboration with its external services provider. With the goal of reducing the environmental impacts of single-use packaging in customer-facing outlets and kitchen operations, the packaging of take-away items in the vending machines and bistro areas has been changed to a more sustainable, grass-based solution. The use of reusable packaging is also actively encouraged for take-away items, wherever the uptake of food-grade alternatives is feasible.

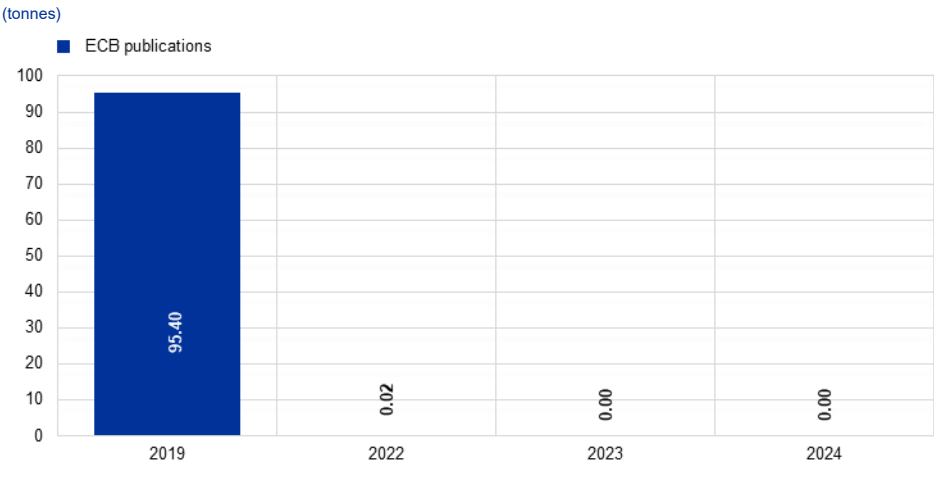
Developments in the consumption of resources from publications, office paper, cleaning agents, office supplies and chemicals for water treatment and cooling are shown in the following sections. For more information on CO₂e emissions, see [Chapter 5.2 – Indirect emissions](#).

6.3.1 Publications



As in 2023, the ECB's official publications were fully digital in 2024 and therefore no paper consumption for official publications was reported.

Chart 8
Paper consumption for official publications



Source: ECB.

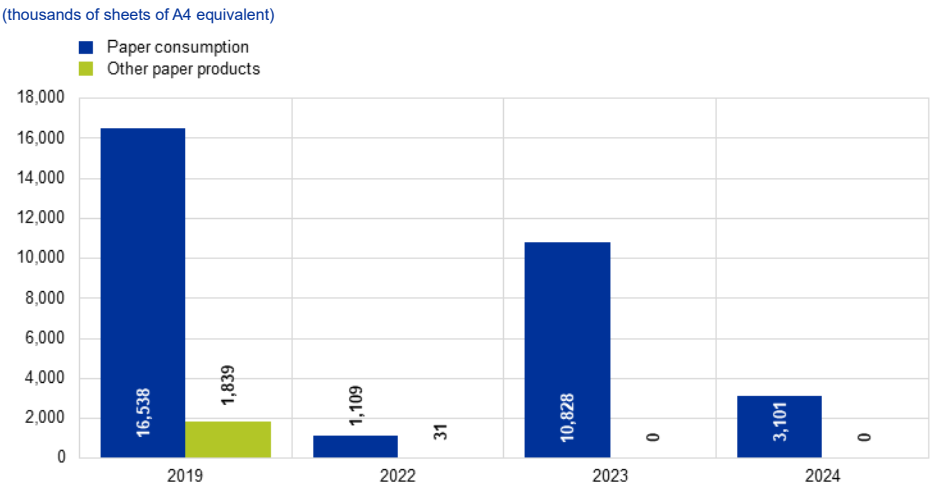
6.3.2 Office paper



The consumption of office paper decreased by 71.4% compared with 2023. This was the result of an overstock in 2023 which led to large quantities still being available for use in 2024. Consequently, orders were merely placed when needed and lower quantities of purchases were required overall. Recycled paper accounted for 97.5% of purchases in the year.

As in the previous year, ECB calendars were printed on-site in 2024. The paper required for the printing is included in the consumption figures for paper for office use.

Chart 9
Office paper consumption



Source: ECB.
Notes: Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

6.3.3 Cleaning agents

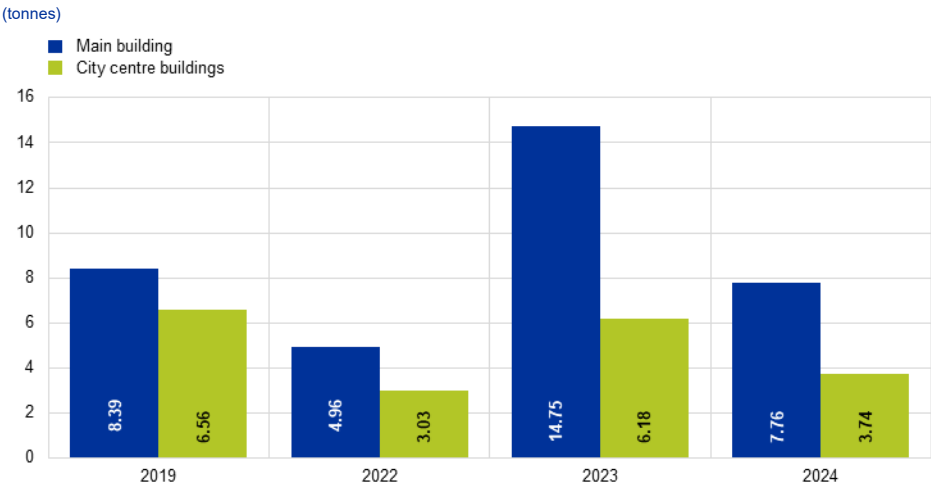


The ECB has a non-chemical cleaning regime in place for regular cleaning services in all its buildings, using microbiological detergents, aqueous ozone and mechanical cleaning means. Seat disinfectant has also recently been phased out in favour of a microbiological cleaning solution. The amount of microbiological cleaning agents in use decreased by 54.7% in 2024. This was because fewer cleaning agents were ordered in 2024 owing to an overstock in 2023. Furthermore, the concentration of the

microbiological cleaning agents has been optimised by the manufacturers, so smaller quantities were required overall.

In 2024 the contracted catering company for the main building also took responsibility for the catering operations in the city centre buildings, streamlining the associated cleaning processes of the catering areas in all three premises. In the main building, the use of hazardous chemicals in catering operations increased by 8.4% compared with 2023 and the use of non-hazardous chemicals decreased by 52%. In the city centre buildings, the use of hazardous chemicals decreased by 36.8% and the use of non-hazardous chemicals increased by 79%. The differences observed in the main building can be attributed to a change in cleaning agent suppliers. The change of catering providers from 2023 to 2024 makes it difficult to pinpoint the reason for the varying quantities in the city centre premises.

Chart 10
Cleaning agent consumption



Source: ECB.
Notes: Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

6.3.4 Office supplies



The ECB advocates the use of environmentally friendly stationery by highlighting items and products with eco-labels in the stationery catalogue. Throughout 2024 the ECB worked with suppliers to gradually increase the number of sustainable products in this catalogue. As a result, 51.7% of stationery items listed in the catalogue were labelled eco-friendly in 2024, an increase of 13.7% compared with 2023. The ECB is exploring ways to further increase this rate. Staff are encouraged to return unused stationery and other office supplies to logistics storage for reuse by staff. Additionally, a loan catalogue was introduced as a pilot project, where staff can take

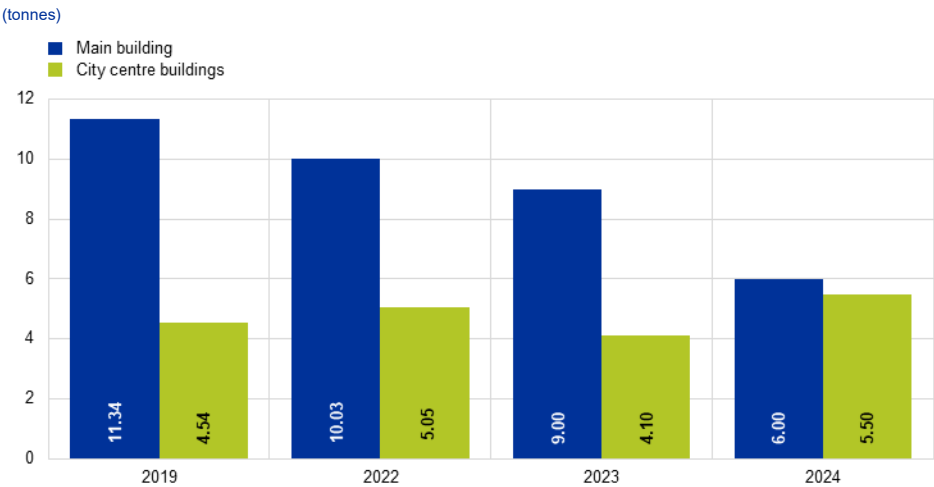
items out on loan and return them when they are no longer needed. When purchasing non-standard office supplies outside the stationery catalogue, priority is given to sustainable products whenever possible.

6.3.5 Chemicals for water treatment and cooling agents



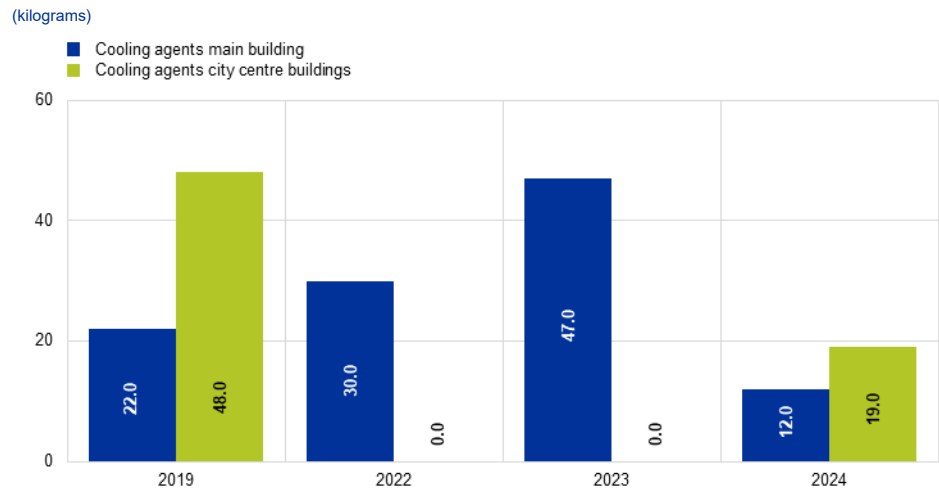
In 2024 chemicals used for water treatment decreased by 33.3% in the main building and increased by 34.1% in the city centre premises compared with 2023. The increase for the city centre buildings can be explained by the higher water consumption in both buildings in 2024. For the main building, cooling agent losses of 12 kilograms caused by accidental leakages were reported in 2024, marking a 74.5% decline compared with 2023. In the city centre premises, cooling agent losses of 19 kilograms were reported.

Chart 11
Chemicals used for water treatment



Source: ECB.

Chart 12
Cooling agent losses



Source: ECB.

Note: Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

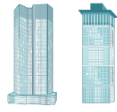
6.4 Water and waste water



The ECB analyses technical and non-technical water consumption in all its premises. The scope of technical water includes the water used for temperature control in the premises. Non-technical water covers water use in sanitary facilities, kitchenettes and canteens. Irrigation water for the trees in the green areas of the main building is included under non-technical water consumption and thus influences overall consumption when comparing non-technical water consumption in the main building with that of the city centre premises.



Fresh water consumption in the main building increased by 19.9% and non-technical water consumption rose by 24% compared with 2023. Technical water consumption increased by 1.6%. The rise in fresh water consumption can be partly explained by a greater need for irrigation water. While fresh water and non-technical water consumption have increased compared with 2023, a decrease of 57.7% and 60.1% respectively was observed in comparison with 2019. This can be explained by water saving measures such as limiting the outside irrigation of trees and the reduced need for technical water for cooling as a result of a decrease in data centre use.

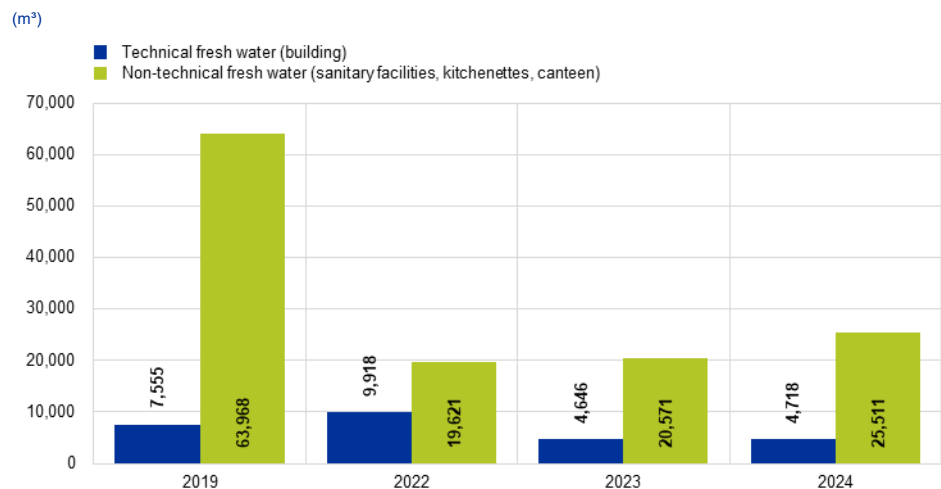


At the city centre premises, fresh water consumption increased by 33.3% compared with 2023. Similarly, non-technical and technical water consumption increased by 32.6% and 36.3% respectively. The increase in fresh water consumption can be attributed primarily to the regular flushing of water pipes to meet hygiene requirements. Flushing volumes are set to be reduced in the future by means of automatic flushing stations. In the Japan Center, the commissioning of a pure steam generator in June 2024 increased technical water consumption.

More information on the CO₂e emissions related to water and waste water can be found in the subsection on purchased goods and services in [Chapter 5.2 – Indirect emissions](#).



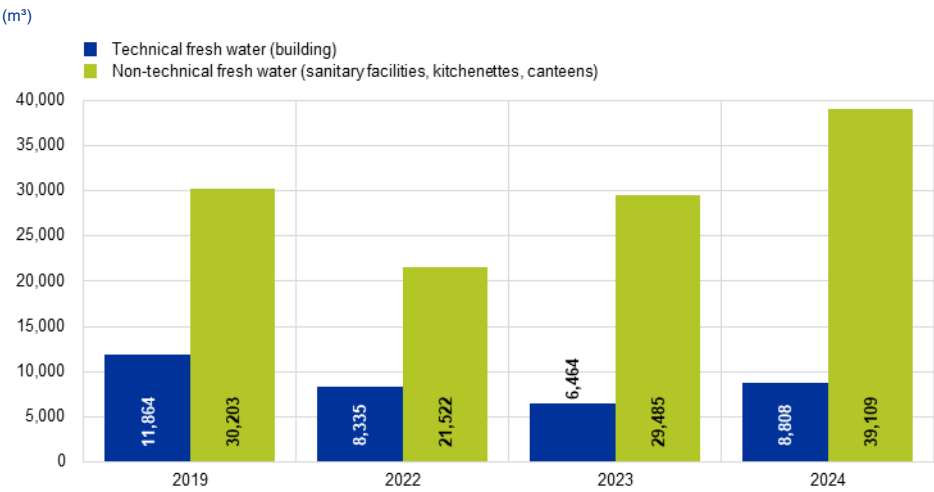
Chart 13
Water consumption – main building



Source: ECB.


Notes: Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

Chart 14
Water consumption – city centre buildings



Source: ECB.
Note: For more information on greenhouse gas emissions associated with water and waste water, see the section on purchased goods and services in [Chapter 5.2 – Indirect emissions](#). Technical fresh water consumption was revised from 7,643.1 to 6,464.1 m³ and non-technical fresh water consumption was revised from 28,305.9 to 29,485.9 m³ in 2023. Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB’s long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

6.5 Waste and recycling



Objectives
Waste

Timeline	Objective and status 2024
Short-term: 2027 (new)	Maintain the annual amount of residual waste at no more than 20% above the average waste generated between 2023 and 2024
	New



Measures Waste

Measure	Status
Assess possibilities to further harmonise the separate collection of recyclable office waste across buildings	Dismissed Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Harmonise the separate collection of recyclable office waste (paper, packaging, organic, mixed) in all kitchenettes and across all ECB premises	New
Assess opportunities to centralise the collection of the various types of office waste	Dismissed Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Explore possibilities to centralise waste collection points on all dynamic workspace office floors to increase sorting rates and reduce the use of plastic liners	New
Expand the separate collection of waste to include dedicated arrangements for used coffee grounds	Completed With the move to Galileo tower in the third quarter of 2025, the city centre premises will be harmonised. Thus, coffee beans will be introduced at the Galileo tower and the measure is expected to be completed Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Explore opportunities to maximise proper waste sorting during relocation activities	New/ In progress
Reassess and renew the labels placed on the waste bins on the dynamic workspace floors	New
Rethink the positioning and quantity of shared workplace bins	Completed During the relocation to Galileo tower and the implementation of the Dynamic Workspaces project, the Waste Management team removed the black office bins, leading to a reduction of the quantity of shared workplace bins
Inform staff about waste management at the ECB and about waste sorting and zero-waste concepts at the home office	Completed Dedicated and updated information on waste separation at the ECB and in Germany is provided to all newcomers, suppliers and staff. More communication activities were conducted during the European Week for Waste Reduction in 2023 and 2024
Replace portioned coffee with coffee beans in the city centre premises and thus avoid unnecessary packaging waste	In progress With the move to Galileo tower in the third quarter of 2025, coffee beans will be introduced and the measure is expected to be completed Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Reduce packaging waste from stationery	Dismissed Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Minimise the amount of pandemic-related consumables as far as possible and ensure their proper disposal when necessary	New/ In progress
Explore the possibilities of depleting/discarding the old stock of office supplies in an environmentally friendly manner	New
Introduce guidelines for waste disposal in contracts with external service providers	In progress Development and implementation of standard guidelines as part of the contract management for external service providers regarding waste disposal is in ongoing Implementation will be continued as part of the new EMP
Extend the existing waste manual to cover activities conducted by external service providers	New

Measure	Status
Reuse existing furniture as much as possible in current relocation and renovation projects	New/ In progress
Reuse IT and electronic equipment used by Security Services whenever feasible and assess whether said equipment can be repurposed after the end of its life cycle	New
Look into the possibilities of badge disposal or recycling and ensure that re-entries receive their old badge whenever possible	New
Explore and assess circularity concepts and procedures with the aim of further reducing waste	New
Explore possibilities to improve the reporting of waste figures by the ECB's external service provider	New
Trial a waste tracking system to help alleviate food waste in the production of canteen meals	New
Ensure that Security Services' equipment is properly disposed of according to internal ECB procedures	New

Note: "Completed" = measure completed; "In progress" = measure in progress; "Pending" = measure still to be implemented; "New" = measure stemming from the new EMP.

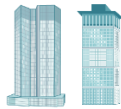


Overview Waste and recycling at the ECB

Total waste generation amounted to 567 tonnes in 2024, representing an increase of 1.7% compared with 2023. Of the 567 tonnes of total waste, 541 tonnes (95.4%) were non-hazardous waste, including paper and cardboard waste, confidential paper waste, organic and residual waste. Hazardous waste accounted for 4.6% of total waste (26 tonnes), including waste from batteries and various electronic waste fractions containing hazardous components as well as waste from construction projects. In 2024 the ECB once again donated some IT equipment, allowing old devices to be reused and helping to reduce IT waste. The ECB considers waste reduction and separation an important issue, of which it continues to raise awareness among staff and service providers. All newcomers, suppliers and employees are provided with specific up-to-date information on waste separation at the ECB.

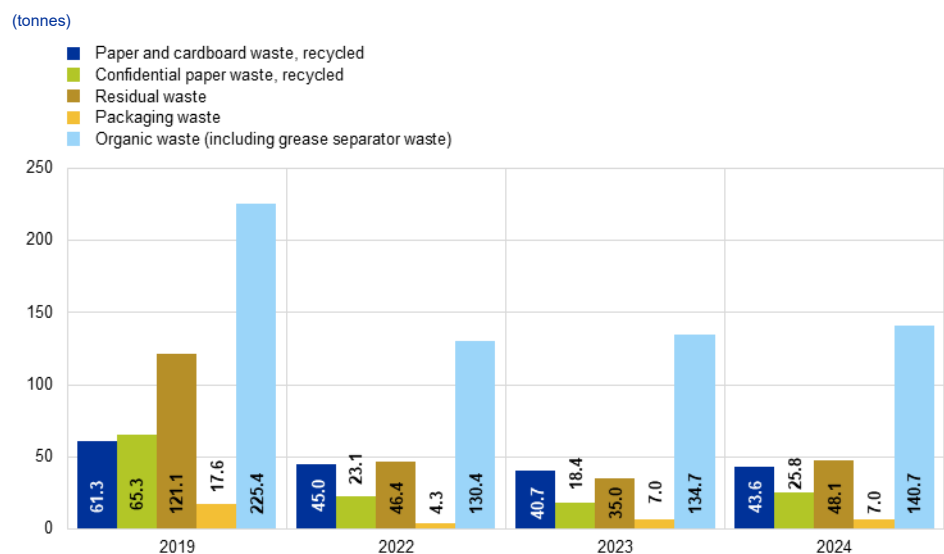


The amount of total waste generated at the main building rose by 18.1% in 2024 compared with 2023. Residual waste increased by 37.3%, paper and cardboard waste by 7.1% and organic waste by 4.5%. Confidential paper waste saw an increase of 40.4%, owing to the disposal of unnecessary physical documentation. The total amount of waste generated in the main building remained at a consistently lower level in 2024, with a decrease of 43% compared with 2019.



The amount of total waste produced at the city centre premises declined by 13.8% compared with 2023. Most notably, residual waste was reduced by 49.2%, from 53.8 tonnes in 2023 to 27.3 tonnes in 2024. Similarly, the amount of packaging waste dropped by 54.4% to 7.7 tonnes in 2024. The amount of paper and cardboard waste was reduced by 22.7%, from 15.2 tonnes in 2023 to 11.8 tonnes in 2024. Confidential paper waste decreased by 12.8% compared with 2023. Relative to 2019, the ECB reduced total waste generated at the city centre premises by 37%.

Chart 15
Waste and recycling – main building

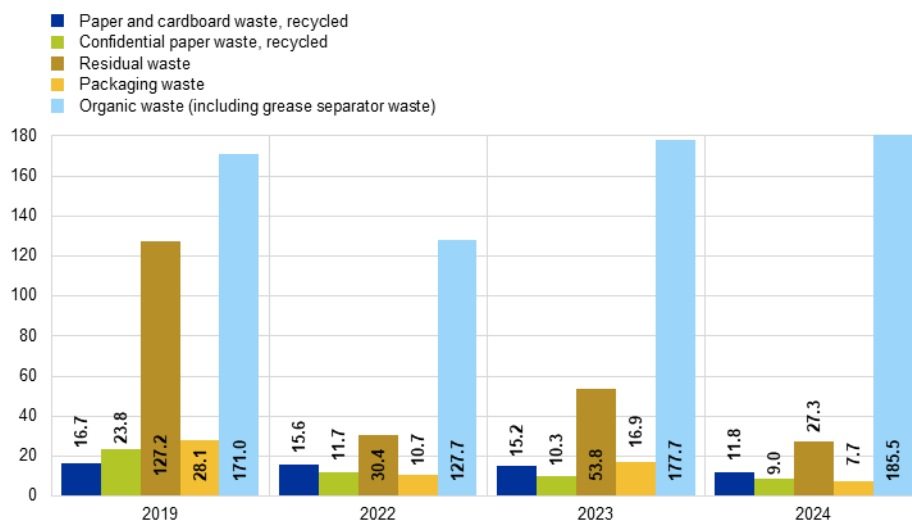


Source: ECB.

Notes: Residual waste refers to commercial waste similar to household waste. Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

Chart 16**Waste and recycling – city centre buildings**

(tonnes)



Source: ECB.

Notes: Residual waste refers to commercial waste similar to household waste.

For more information on greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste, see [Chapter 5.2 – Indirect emissions](#). Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.**Table 2****Breakdown of waste types in accordance with the German Commercial Waste Ordinance**

	Commercial waste	Waste amounts in 2024 (tonnes)
ECB total	Organic waste	148.81
	Residual waste	75.40
	Paper waste	90.12
	Packaging waste	14.48
	Glass waste	8.45
	Bulky waste	1.13
	Packaging waste (wood)	5.80
Total waste as per the Commercial Waste Ordinance	Total commercial waste	344.19
Separate collection rate	78.1%	

Notes: Waste amounts displayed in Table 1 partly differ from the amounts displayed in Charts 14 and 15 owing to the different categorisation of waste under the Commercial Waste Ordinance: organic waste does not include grease separator waste; packaging waste does not include packaging waste disposed of via the German dual system "Der Grüne Punkt"; and paper waste includes both paper and cardboard waste as well as confidential paper waste.

Total waste as defined by the German Commercial Waste Ordinance amounted to 344.19 tonnes in 2024, representing a 1.7% decrease compared with 2023.

Separately collected commercial waste (total waste excluding residual waste) under the Commercial Waste Ordinance amounted to 268.8 tonnes, marking a 2.7% decline compared with 2023. Residual waste is pre-sorted and disposed of at a certified treatment plant.

6.6 Biodiversity



Objectives Biodiversity

Timeline	Objective and status 2023
Medium-term – by 2027 (new)	Adapt nature-oriented areas in the garden of the main building to further foster biodiversity New



Measures Biodiversity

Measure	Status
Expand general awareness raising on biodiversity	In progress Guided walks in the garden of the ECB's main building continued in 2024. A successful week-long event focusing on biodiversity was offered to staff in 2024 and further progress was made on the creation of a nature trail, which is expected to be completed in 2025
Increase efforts to assess, monitor and adjust biodiversity species and variety in the garden of the main building	New/ In progress
Open a nature trail in the garden of the main building	New/ In progress
Explore the possibility of planting fruit trees and native tree species and increase pollinator-friendly plants in the garden of the main building	New/ In progress
Create a raised sand dune habitat in the garden of the main building to further align the landscape with its classification as a dry biotope	New/ In progress
Explore the possibility of placing bird feeders in the garden during the winter period	New
Continue exploring measures to reduce the risk of bird collisions around the main building	New
Explore the possibility of installing light sensors (exterior lighting, brightness sensors) to mitigate light pollution the detrimental impact on nocturnal wildlife	New
Conduct a feasibility assessment on the installation of photovoltaic cells	New

Note: "Completed" = measure completed; "In progress" = measure in progress; "Pending" = measure still to be implemented; "New" = measure stemming from the new EMP.



Overview of biodiversity at the ECB

In 2024 the ECB continued to enhance its biodiversity initiatives, building on the strategies and practices developed in previous years. The ECB's approach to biodiversity is rooted in preserving and fostering biodiversity, species conservation and the sustainable management of green spaces. This year, significant progress was made through developing an environment that supports diverse wildlife and plant species, while raising awareness among staff.

Progress was made on the creation of a dedicated nature trail on the ECB's grounds. The trail is designed to inform staff about the site's biodiversity and information boards are expected to be installed to highlight the concrete measures taken to enhance biodiversity and species protection.

In 2024 the ECB further promoted native flora by planting more indigenous hedges, flower beds and fruit trees. Four trees were planted as well as 100 shrubs to form a large hedge and 200 square metres of flower beds were sown. Additionally, piles of deadwood were introduced over the course of the year, created from the branches and twigs left over from the regular pruning of the trees on-site, providing various species with shelter and enhancing nutrient cycling within the ecosystem. These enhancements to the garden not only contribute to the aesthetic appeal of the ECB's grounds, but also provide essential habitats and food sources for local wildlife. The planting of native species supports the resilience of the ecosystem, particularly as the ECB site is classified as a [dry biotope by the City of Frankfurt's](#) environmental office.

Aware of the importance of preserving this dry biotope classification, the ECB has created two sand dunes on its premises. These dunes provide specialised habitats for ground-breeding insects, such as wild bees and some grasshopper species, thereby contributing to the ecological diversity and sustainability of the area.

The ECB has initiated the comprehensive monitoring and documentation of plant and animal species found on its grounds. This work aims to compare the biodiversity present at the ECB with other areas in Frankfurt and the Hesse region, offering valuable insights into the effectiveness of current measures and identifying areas for further improvement. Monitoring experts are involved in this process and are providing recommendations to enhance biodiversity efforts.

As part of its ongoing commitment to biodiversity, the ECB once again organised a week of activities around the International Day for Biological Diversity. This dedicated Biodiversity Week featured several initiatives designed to engage and educate participants about the importance of biodiversity. The highlight of the week

was a lecture that explored the intersection of sustainability, biodiversity and climate, offering valuable insights into how these areas are interconnected. More information on Biodiversity Week and the related awareness-raising undertakings can be found in [Chapter 6.10 – Communication, engagement and awareness raising](#).

Consistent with previous years' water conservation efforts, lawn irrigation has been eliminated entirely. Instead, rainwater is collected and used to water raised beds while the irrigation of the trees is conducted using slow release watering bags, ensuring a minimal use of drinking water while maintaining the health of the ECB's green spaces.

6.7 Banknotes



As part of the Eurosystem's cash strategy, the ECB endeavours to improve the sustainability of euro banknotes throughout the cash cycle.

The ECB and the Eurosystem NCBs have the exclusive right to issue banknotes within the euro area. At the end of 2024 there were 30.5 billion euro banknotes in circulation.

The ECB coordinates, monitors and regulates the design, production and circulation of euro banknotes. The ECB promotes good environmental management and seeks to avoid any risk to the health and safety of the general public, as well as to the workers involved in the production and circulation of euro banknotes. All manufacturers producing euro banknotes and the main raw materials must provide the ECB with copies of their ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 certificates and specific declarations showing that they conform to the applicable standards for quality, environmental, health and safety management, and ethical conduct of business. The ECB also monitors and assesses the environmental impact of the euro banknote production annually.

In 2022, the ECB assessed the environmental impact of the full cash cycle using a broad scope methodology, the Product Environmental Footprint (developed by the European Commission), while the ECB's operational footprint was calculated using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol framework. The environmental footprint of euro banknotes as a payment instrument is very low, i.e. equivalent to 0.01% of the total environmental impact of a citizen. Emissions from banknotes are not included in the ECB's operational carbon footprint, as banknotes are a joint responsibility of the Eurosystem as a whole.

The ECB and Eurosystem NCBs are implementing policies to further reduce the environmental impact of euro banknotes. For example, in 2024 the cotton fibres used to produce euro banknote paper came exclusively from sustainable sources. When banknotes reach the end of their life, they are disposed of using recovery and

recycling methods. Disposal methods for euro banknotes at the end of their life such as landfill and combustion (burning with no energy recovery) have been banned since 2022.

The ECB is engaging with all stakeholders to identify further ways to improve the environmental sustainability of euro banknotes throughout the cash cycle, including the eco-design of future banknotes. In this vein, a series of research and development projects are now under way. These projects aim to improve the environmental sustainability of current and future euro banknotes by (i) increasing their circulation lifetime, (ii) using raw materials with less environmental impact, and (iii) developing more sustainable solutions for their end-of-life treatment.

Detailed information on the environmental impact of euro banknotes is available on the ECB's website in the section on "[The euro](#)".

6.8 Green public procurement



Objectives Green procurement

Timeline	Objective and status 2024
Medium-term – by 2024	Increase the number of green procurement procedures to at least 22.5% of total ECB procurement procedures as an average over the period 2022-24 Status 2022-24: 21.6%
Medium-term – by 2024	Increase the value of green procurement procedures to at least 25% of the total value of the above-mentioned procurement procedures as an average over the period 2022-24 Status 2022-24: 35.6%
Medium-term – by 2027 (new)	Ensure that at least 75% of the total estimated value of procurement procedures in the most environmentally relevant procurement categories include appropriate environmental considerations over a three-year period (2025-2027) New

Notes: "Green procurement procedures" means procurement procedures that include environmental considerations (i) in the contract subject matter, (ii) in the technical specifications and requirements, (iii) through environmental selection and award criteria, (iv) by means of contract performance clauses, or (v) through a combination of (i) to (iv).

"ECB procurement procedures" means public tender procedures, three/five-quote procedures and direct awards on the basis of Articles 2 and 6 of the ECB's rules on procurement.

"Most environmentally relevant procurement categories" constitute travel, rental of space, stationery, vehicles, events, representation, catering, building maintenance/construction works, printing and publication as well as post, energy and other utilities, furniture, hardware, technical equipment and assets, and other staff-related expenses.



Objectives Green procurement

Measure	Status
Regular revision of the sustainable procurement guidelines to include references to products and services covered by updates to the EU Green Public Procurement Handbook and relevant criteria	Completed Work on the update started in 2022 and was completed and formally approved in mid-2024
Review and, if need be, update the ECB's procurement handbook, as well as procurement templates, in order to facilitate the wider use of sustainable procurement practices across most procurement categories	Completed The procurement templates were revised in mid-2024
Maintain the ECB's sustainable procurement guidelines, procurement handbook and procurement templates to reflect GPP-related regulatory and best practice development (as applicable)	New
Define a set of procurement categories for which the inclusion of environmental and social criteria will be assessed	New
Establish guidelines on the use of ISO 41001 to improve logistics and facility management procurements and processes from an environmental point of view	New
Assess the applicability of implementing sustainability criteria in consultancy-related procurements to lower their environmental impact	New
Assess the applicability of implementing sustainability criteria in IT-related procurements to lower their environmental impact	New
Explore the possibilities of including environmental considerations in upcoming procurements related to facility management	New/ In progress
Include sustainable stationery and office supplies as the standard for future procurements of these items	New/ In progress
Explore the possibilities of introducing contract clauses to reduce the use of environmentally harmful substances	New
Catalogue and provide suggestions for sustainability criteria to potentially be considered in future furniture procurements, based on the lessons learned during the upcoming relocation projects	New
Encourage suppliers to use environmentally friendly packaging, delivery and collection methods	New
Explore possibilities for the implementation of sustainable ECB vendor mapping (including existing certifications)	New
Explore opportunities to further increase interinstitutional collaboration with the GPP Helpdesk, EPCO and peer institutions	New
Develop a new KPI methodology for the ECB's green public procurement procedures	New
Evaluate the feasibility of implementing virtual collaboration as the default method for steering contracts	New
Aim to raise participation in procurement training for coordinators and staff members involved in procurements	New

Note: "Completed" = measure completed; "In progress" = measure in progress; "Pending" = measure still to be implemented; "New" = measure stemming from the new EMP.



Overview of green procurement at the ECB

In 2024 the ECB remained committed to achieving its environmental objectives by leveraging green public procurement to reduce the environmental impact stemming from its operations. The ECB embeds environmental considerations into its procurement processes and contracts, with a particular focus on areas such as cleaning, catering and facility management services, which have a significant environmental impact. This strategy surpasses simple regulatory compliance with environmental laws and regulations, seeking to achieve a meaningful and sustainable impact at every stage of the sourcing and procurement cycle for goods, works and services purchased by the ECB. Moreover, the ECB acknowledges the significant impact procurement has in advancing its comprehensive environmental management objectives. By leveraging its influence on the supplier base through its procurement procedures, the ECB strives to foster environmentally conscious practices throughout its value and supply chain and to inspire the adoption of sustainable best practices within its operations.

The ECB conducted 238 new procurement procedures¹⁶ in 2024, of which 59 were green procurement procedures. This represents 24.8% of the total number of procedures and 58.3% of the total yearly value compared with 22.2% and 21.5% respectively in 2023. Although the ECB's objective was to increase the share of green procurement procedures to at least 22.5% between 2022 and 2024, the actual average was marginally lower, at 21.6%. This owed mainly to the low number of green procurements in 2022. However, the target to raise the value of green procurement procedures to at least 25% during the 2022-24 cycle was considerably surpassed, with an average of 35.6% over this timeframe.

The ECB provides its staff with a sustainable procurement guidelines, which were updated in 2024 to incorporate environmental considerations alongside social factors, supporting a holistic approach to driving environmental gains. These guidelines provide essential background information and references on the purpose of sustainable procurement, along with detailed legal guidance, particularly for defining, specifying and assessing appropriate sustainable procurement requirements and criteria. It also includes updated examples for implementing sustainable procurement in practice. In addition, the ECB's procurement handbook and standard procurement templates were updated in 2024 to clarify and streamline the integration of environmental considerations in procurement procedures. These comprehensive enhancements of the ECB's green public procurement toolkit are expected to foster the increased greening of ECB's procurements in the medium and long term. To further equip staff with the skills needed to integrate environmental

¹⁶ As defined in the "Objectives: Green procurement" section above.

aspects into their procurement procedures in an effective and compliant manner, the ECB continues to offer several dedicated training sessions on green public procurement. Additionally, building on the success of the 2023 Green Procurement Awareness Day, the ECB envisages organising similar events on a regular basis, with the next one scheduled for early 2025.

The ECB is actively involved in a collaborative initiative with other European institutions centred around a Green Public Procurement Helpdesk (GPP Helpdesk). This helpdesk serves as a platform for European institutions to enhance their green public procurement strategies by facilitating the exchange of best practices and market insights specifically related to this topic. Moreover, in 2024 the ECB launched a joint Eurosystem project aimed at mapping, researching and benchmarking sustainable procurement activities and practices across NCBs and national competent authorities, with a focus on Information System procurements. The project aims to establish a comprehensive database of information on specific procurement categories to be shared among participating institutions. This will allow them to gain further expertise and develop their knowledge, as well as enabling the standardisation and harmonisation of green public procurement practices among Eurosystem stakeholders.

6.9 Travel



Travel activities remained relatively stable in 2024 compared with 2023. The total distance travelled by ECB staff increased by 3.7% to 26,025,997 kilometres from the previous year, although this figure is still 35% lower than the levels recorded in 2019.¹⁷ Carbon emissions associated with business travel followed a similar trend, showing a slight increase compared with 2023 but remaining well below 2019 levels. Specifically, in 2024 carbon emissions amounted to 9,134.5 tonnes of CO₂e, marking a 4.6% increase from the previous year and a 28.6% reduction relative to 2019. Aviation-related emissions remained the largest contributor, accounting for 93% of total business travel-related emissions in 2024.

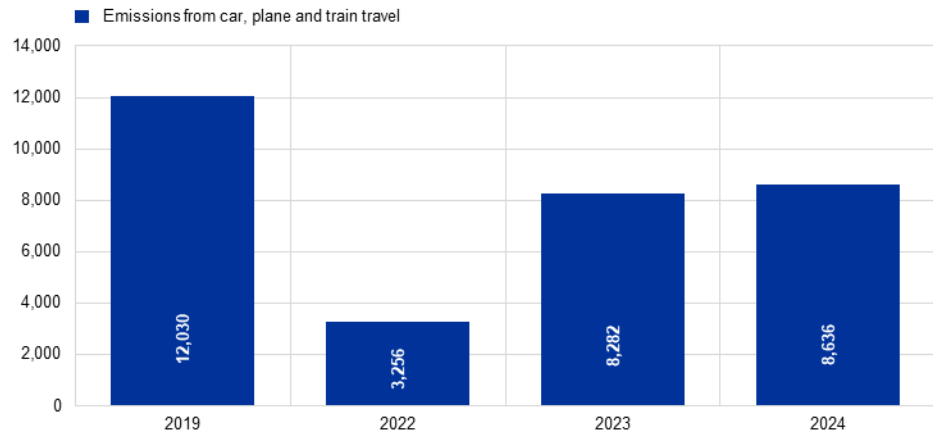
¹⁷ In the 2024 update of the ECB Environmental Statement, the distance travelled by all staff in kilometres in 2023 was reported as 26,365,753, while the correct value is 25,086,254. Consequently, this number represented a 63% increase relative to 2022 levels instead of the initially reported figure of 65% and a decrease of 37% rather than the reported 34% compared with 2019 levels.

Chart 17

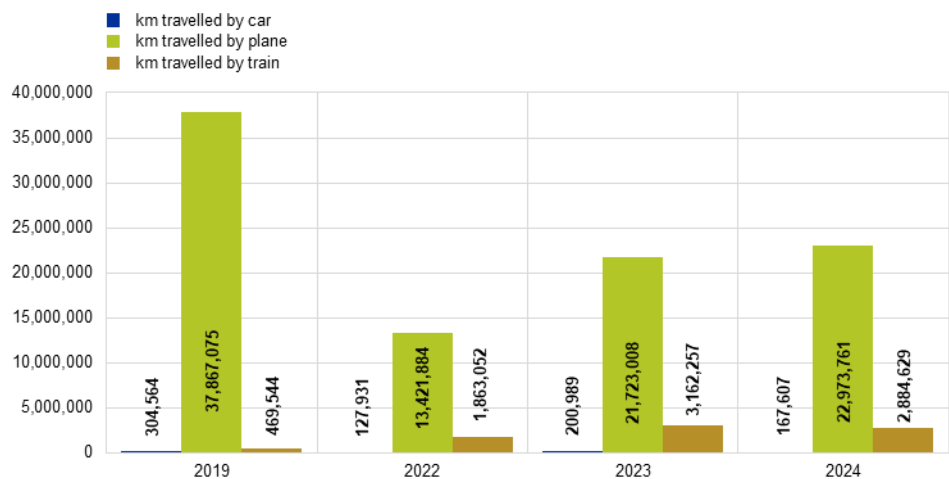
Emissions from business travel by car, plane and train and absolute number of kilometres travelled

a) Emissions

(tonnes of CO₂ equivalent)

**b) Absolute km travelled by transport means**

(kilometres)



Source: ECB.

Note: Results are depicted for 2019, as this is the baseline year for the ECB's long-term emissions reduction objectives, and for the last three years for which data are available. For earlier results, please see previous environmental statements.

The carbon emissions landscape remained challenging as the travel-related emission factors issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2023 remained unchanged. These emission factors were 30% higher compared with 2022. As a result, emissions related to travel stayed high, undermining the efforts made to meet reduction targets. Despite a concerted push to curb travel, the total number of kilometres travelled in 2024 reached only 65% of the 2019 benchmark. However, given the persistently high emission factors, overall travel-related emissions were recorded at 72% of 2019 levels. This indicates that while there has been a significant reduction in travel volume, the gains in emission reduction were not as marked owing to the sustained increase in emission factors. Picking up on the significant effects of the measures that had been put in place in the last EMP, the objective to keep business travel-related emissions at 60% of 2019

levels was rolled over to the new EMP with a target year of 2027. This objective aims to capitalise on the new ways of working that arose in the pandemic to reduce travel-related impacts.

To reinforce the objective to reduce business travel-related carbon emissions, the ECB updated its internal travel rules to expand the default international destinations to be travelled to by train. Therefore, ECB staff must travel by train to all German destinations, Amsterdam, Basel, Brussels and Paris, with air travel only permitted in exceptional cases. A systematic review of the respective business travel rules to identify improvement opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of business travel was included as a measure in the EMP for the next EMS cycle. Additionally, through the long-established Environmental Network of Central Banks (ENCB), a designated working group was launched in 2024 with the aim of exploring a structured approach to making interinstitutional business travel and events more sustainable. To support this engagement, the ECB included a measure in the new EMP to introduce a common business travel guideline for Eurosystem (potentially ESCB) members to reduce physical travel. For more information on interinstitutional engagement, see [Chapter 6.10 – Communication, engagement and awareness raising](#).

The introduction of a travel dashboard in 2024, detailing the environmental impact of travel activities throughout the institution split by business areas, marked a milestone in the monitoring of ECB staff travel choices. This allows for a more detailed analysis and supports business areas in making targeted and informed decisions about how the environmental sustainability of their travel activities can be enhanced. Exploring technical possibilities to enhance the travel booking platform by considering tools and functionalities has been included as a new measure in the EMP 2025-2027 to achieve more detailed emissions monitoring and steering.

Conference activities at the ECB decreased by 5% compared with the previous year, resulting in total carbon emissions of 4,149 tonnes of CO₂e stemming from conference participants travelling to the ECB.¹⁸ This marks a 62% reduction relative to 2019 levels.¹⁹ Over 2023 and 2024 a total of 978 meetings took place in hybrid or physical format, representing 21.7% of all planned meetings and accomplishing the objective of limiting physical meetings and conferences with external participants to 50% over the two-year period. Building on the success of this objective, the ECB set an adjusted target to limit the average number of physical and hybrid meetings organised by the ECB with external participants on-site to the levels seen in 2024 (i.e. 541), on average over a two-year period, beginning with the upcoming 2026 planning exercise. To support and enable hybrid meetings in the future, advances were made on installing a hybrid set-up in most of the conference rooms in the ECB's main building. Currently, 71% of conference rooms and 79% of central meeting rooms in all three buildings can host hybrid meetings. For further details on

¹⁸ Emissions from conference participants' travel include only those generated by individuals invited by the ECB to attend on-site meetings, events, or conferences. Conversely, external visitors who voluntarily visit the ECB's visitor centre are not accounted for in this calculation.

¹⁹ In the 2024 update of the ECB Environmental Statement the carbon emissions stemming from conference participants' travel to the ECB in 2023 were reported as 4,091 tonnes of CO₂e. However, as some meetings were not recorded in the central registration tool, these were retrospectively added and resulted in an adjusted amount of 4,419 tonnes of CO₂e for 2023.


the progress of travel-related objectives and measures, see [Chapter 5 – The ECB’s carbon footprint](#).

Staff commuting and teleworking emissions are derived from a survey conducted every two years, with the most recent survey being launched in the summer of 2023, following the implementation of the new teleworking policy. This policy permits a maximum of 110 teleworking days per calendar year, equivalent to about 50% of working time. Given the inherent limitations of survey-based methods, this emission source carries a higher degree of uncertainty and should therefore be interpreted with caution.

In 2024 emissions stemming from staff commuting to ECB premises amounted to 1,573 tonnes of CO₂e, marking a 21% increase compared with 2023 but remaining 45% below 2019 levels. Conversely, emissions from teleworking decreased in 2024 compared with the previous year. These emissions contributed 311 tonnes of CO₂e to the annual footprint, representing a 21% reduction relative to 2023. As in previous years, most teleworking-related emissions originated from heating consumption, which accounted for 72% of this emission source. These trends align with an increased on-site presence in the second year without pandemic-related restrictions. Greenhouse gas emissions relating to staff commuting to the ECB and teleworking are outlined in [Chapter 5.2 – Indirect emissions](#).

6.10

Communication, engagement and awareness raising



Objectives

Environmental communication, engagement and awareness raising activities

Timeline	Objective and status 2024
Medium-term – by 2024	Foster interinstitutional collaboration by holding at least two virtual ENCB meetings per year Status in 2024: Completed (two virtual ENCB meetings took place in 2024)
Medium-term – by 2027 (new)	Ensure that awareness raising about the ECB’s EMS is conducted through at least two engagement opportunities per year with each of the identified stakeholder groups New

Note: “Completed” = measure completed; “In progress” = measure in progress; “Pending” = measure still to be implemented; “New” = measure stemming from the new EMP.



Measures Environmental communication, engagement and awareness raising

Measure	Status
Explore possibilities to increase involvement and collaboration between DG/IS and Green ECB, focusing on awareness raising in IT-related topics and their environmental impact, in line with the digital sobriety initiative and supporting the environmental footprint objective	New
Create a Digital Workplace Emission Footprint Dashboard that helps ECB staff track the environmental impact of their hardware and software usage	New
Conduct interviews with frequent travellers to get a clearer understanding of their demands and ways to better incorporate environmental criteria when travelling	New
Extend access to the business travel dashboard to a larger internal audience at the ECB	New/ In progress
Develop a business area-level dashboard to enable business areas to closely monitor and manage the environmental impact of their travel-related activities	New/ In progress
Develop a communications campaign focusing on green travel and promoting the Sustainable Travel Guideline	New
Explore possibilities to enhance the features of the travel booking tool to include gamification elements to facilitate environmentally friendly choices	New
Explore possibilities to create an e-learning course for ECB staff focusing on green travel	New
Explore the technical feasibility of allowing travellers to sort booking options by estimated CO ₂ emissions in the online booking tool	New
Include practical tips in future communication activities, to further foster behavioural change among ECB staff	New/ In progress
Explore possibilities to develop a newsletter providing information on environmentally relevant topics for staff to subscribe to	New
Explore the introduction of KPIs that could be used to track the environmental performance of catering services	New
Explore possibility of assessing the water footprint of catering services	New
Maintain awareness of environmental matters among staff of the catering service provider	New/ In progress
Conduct a yearly analysis of environmental data exchanged within the ENCB and share the findings internally during the network's plenary sessions	New/ In progress
Increase staff awareness about Green ECB activities within the ECB through participation in business area meetings	New/ In progress
Continue fostering interinstitutional exchanges on environmental topics between the ECB and international institutions and organisations	New/ In progress
Introduce a waste separation game in newcomer sessions and for colleagues moving to the Galileo building	New

Measure	Status
Ensure that the number of ECB staff participating in climate and environmental management training sessions is monitored and increased	New/ In progress

Note: "Completed" = measure completed; "In progress" = measure in progress; "Pending" = measure still to be implemented; "New" = measure stemming from the new EMP.

2024 marked another dynamic period in which the ECB made progress on its environmental stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising activities. Building on the successes of previous years, the ECB introduced several new initiatives, while continuing to strengthen existing programmes both virtually and in person. This chapter details the key events and activities that shaped the ECB's environmental agenda throughout the year.

In February the ECB unveiled a new intranet page dedicated to enhancing awareness and visibility of its EMS. This stable resource offers comprehensive information on the ECB's EMS, including the methodologies applied and links to relevant documents. The page serves as a valuable tool to help staff to understand the interlinkages between EMAS, the ECB's environmental commitments and the activities it carries out in order to fulfil them.

March saw the ECB's inaugural participation in the United Nation's World Water Day. The event emphasised the benefits of high-quality local tap water and included an interactive activity where staff exchanged water saving tips. In collaboration with library staff, a curated collection of books, articles and podcasts on the topic of water was made available. Later in the month, the ECB participated for the 13th consecutive year in the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour by switching off non-essential lights for 60 minutes to raise awareness about climate challenges and promote a sustainable future for our planet.

In May the ECB introduced a Sustainable Travel Guideline, offering practical advice on eco-friendly travel, from transport choices to accommodation options. This tool aimed to raise awareness about the significant share of business travel-related emissions in the ECB's operational carbon footprint. To learn more about the Sustainable Travel Guideline, see [Chapter 6.9 – Travel](#).

The ECB also celebrated Biodiversity Week in May for the third time, with a series of engaging activities to raise awareness, highlight existing threats and challenges, and promote eco-friendly practices among the organisation's staff to support its biodiversity objectives. During this week-long event, a variety of activities were offered. Staff were once again invited to participate in the popular guided tours of the garden at the main building to learn more about the biodiversity measures being implemented on the ECB's premises. A biodiversity quiz was launched to help staff understand their individual impact on biodiversity. A presentation on coral restoration in the Maldives was organised by a staff-led interest group on environmental matters. The highlight of the week was a lecture entitled "Business Needs Nature" given by experts from the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research in Frankfurt am Main, followed by a panel discussion on the interlinkage between biodiversity, economies and business. The library staff also contributed by assembling a collection of resources on biodiversity. Additional seating was installed in the garden

to encourage staff to spend more time outdoors and to provide more opportunities to engage with biodiversity on-site.

The ECB marked Earth Overshoot Day in July, raising awareness of the day when humanity's demands on nature exceed the Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources within a year. An informative intranet article was published, explaining the significance of Earth Overshoot Day, the calculation process as well as comparisons across countries and historical trends. The article also offered practical tips on how individuals can contribute to making a global shift towards sustainability.

In August the ECB offered guidance on sustainable living via the intranet. The article provided tips and public funding opportunities for making homes more energy-efficient and eco-friendly, prompting staff to adopt more sustainable practices in their personal lives.

The e-learning course on Climate Change and Environmental Management once again proved popular with ECB staff, with more than 2,200 members having participated since its launch in early 2022. Since January 2024 the e-learning course has officially been integrated into the mandatory ECB newcomers' onboarding programme, providing exposure to the ECB's EMS from their first days and weeks at the bank.

In the last quarter of 2024 communication and awareness-raising activities focused heavily on Europe-wide campaigns. The ECB continued its regular participation in European Mobility Week in September, based around the theme "Shared Public Spaces". Bicycle safety inspections were once again organised by the Biking Section and the Safety team and a presentation and discussion took place on the future of city design, with a focus on reducing car dependency. This was followed by the European Week for Waste Reduction in early November, during which the ECB engaged staff with interactive quizzes and information stands in canteen areas, based on the theme "Food Waste is Out of Taste". These events, organised by the European Commission, underscored the importance of collective action to achieve the significant changes needed to effectively combat climate change and reduce environmental degradation.

In November the ECB took part in the organisation of the Interinstitutional EMAS Days. During this four-day event, various EMAS-registered EU institutions came together to host a series of thematic panel discussions. These discussions covered a broad spectrum of topics, including sustainable conferences and events at EU institutions, as well as sustainable mobility and many other subjects. The ECB contributed with a presentation entitled "Species Conservation and Fostering Biodiversity in an Urban Setting". In a collaboration with the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and the European Commission's Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels, the institutions shared insights into their urban garden concepts and biodiversity initiatives. The session highlighted maintenance practices that enhance biodiversity, such as creating dry biotopes and using wildflowers and deadwood to support insect hibernation.

Interinstitutional collaboration, whether with other European institutions or Eurosystem NCBs, is vital for the development of the ECB's EMS. These interactions focus on sharing best practices and environmental management expertise. Collaboration is mainly facilitated through two networks: the ENCB, which serves as a platform for teams working on environmental management topics across European central banks, and the Interinstitutional Group for Environmental Management, which encourages cooperation among EMAS-registered European institutions. Notably, the ENCB has intensified collaboration within its network by launching two task forces: one focused on business travel and the other on carbon footprint calculations. Additionally, the ECB engages with peer institutions on an ad hoc basis, further enhancing its ability to expand its knowledge and implement best practices.

The network of Environmental Representatives (ERs) plays a crucial role in maintaining and developing the ECB's EMS. As ambassadors of the EMS, ERs are instrumental in raising awareness about environmental issues within their respective business areas. They serve as the main point of contact between their business areas and the environmental management team. In 2024 ERs organised various communication and awareness-raising activities tailored to their business areas. These activities often combined team-building exercises with environmentally relevant topics, such as visits to zero-waste shops or community clean-ups.

Through these different activities and initiatives, the ECB continued to demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability. The institution fosters a culture of awareness and engagement among its staff, strengthening its position in environmental management within the Eurosystem and among European institutions.

7 Technical information

In the previous chapters, objectives and measures as well as the development of the most significant environmental aspects identified by the ECB were presented. In this chapter, additional insights and information will be provided in line with the requirements of the EMAS Regulation.

Number of workplaces	2022	2023	2024
Main building	2,993	3,064	3,051
City centre buildings	2,356	2,443	2,404
Total	5,349	5,507	5,455

Source: ECB.

Notes: Workplace indicators are reported as a requirement for EMAS. It should be noted that a slight bias exists compared with pre-pandemic years owing to the updated teleworking policies. Not all workplaces are occupied on a day-to-day basis. Thus, workplace indicators do not fully represent actual developments.

7.1 Updates to conversion factors

The following table shows an overview of percentual changes of CO₂e emission conversion factors which have been used for the calculation of the 2023 and 2024 emissions. Additional information can be found in [Chapter 5 – The ECB's carbon footprint](#). Although most emission factors are updated annually, only those factors that have changed by more than 5% compared with 2023 are listed in the table. The aim of the table is to highlight underlying changes in emission factors to improve the measurement of the carbon footprint.

Conversion factor updated	Source	Change 2023-24
Energy – Emissions scope 2		
Biogas	2024 Guidelines – DEFRA Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting	-39.5%
Energy – Emissions scope 3		
Biogas	2024 Guidelines – DEFRA Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting	-59.8%
Business travel – Emissions scope 3		
Medium car (battery electric vehicle)	2024 Guidelines – DEFRA Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting	-12.2%
Medium car (hybrid)		5.4%
Business travel – WTT ²⁰ emissions		
WTT medium car (battery electric vehicle)	2024 Guidelines – DEFRA Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting	-12.4%
WTT medium car (hybrid)		5.9%
Waste – Emissions		

²⁰ Well-to-Tank (WTT) emissions are generated during the extraction, production, processing, and transportation of fuels or energy carriers up to the point of their delivery for use, excluding emissions from their actual consumption.

Conversion factor updated	Source	Change 2023-24
Aluminium cans and foil	2024 Guidelines – DEFRA Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting	-69.9%
Batteries		
Commercial and industrial waste		
Construction: tyres		
Construction: wood		
Glass		
Household residual waste		
Paper and board		
Plastics (combustion)		
Plastics (open-loop)		
WEEE mixed		

Location-based emissions

Conversion factor updated	Source	Change 2023-24	CO ₂ e emissions 2024 – ECB's premises (tonnes)
Electricity mix, Germany (including upstream emissions)	GEMIS database, version 5.1.0	n/a	10,967.5
District heating mix, Germany	GEMIS database, version 5.1.0	n/a	2,327.86

Note: If the standards for calculating the ECB's organisational footprint were to allow only location-based emissions, the 2024 footprint would increase by approximately 42%.

Workplace-based environmental performance indicators 2022-24

Energy consumption	Performance indicators per workplace (kWh/workplace/year)	2022	2023	2024
ECB total	Electrical energy per workplace	5,673*	5,272*	5,526
	Heating and cooling energy per workplace	3,761	3,286	3,634
	Total energy premises per workplace	9,434*	8,558*	9,169
Main building	Electrical energy per workplace	6,232	5,750	5,963
	Heating and cooling energy per workplace	2,380	2,040	2,224
	Process energy per workplace	31.4	72.4	76.9
City centre buildings	Electrical energy per workplace	4,963*	4,673*	4,972
	Heating and cooling energy per workplace	5,515	4,848	5,442

Notes: *The electrical energy per workplace indicator for the city centre buildings changed from 4,956 kWh/workplace/year to 4,963 kWh/workplace/year in 2022 and from 4,726 kWh/workplace/year to 4,673 kWh/workplace/year in 2023. Consequently, the electrical energy per workplace for the ECB total changed from 5,670 kWh/workplace/year to 5,673 kWh/workplace/year in 2022 and from 5,296 kWh/workplace/year to 5,272 kWh/workplace/year in 2023. The total energy premises per workplace energy indicator for the ECB total changed from 9,431 kWh/workplace/year to 9,434 kWh/workplace/year in 2022 and from 8,581 kWh/workplace/year to 8,558 kWh/workplace/year in 2023.

Office paper consumption	Performance indicators per workplace (sheets of A4 equivalent/workplace/year)	2022	2023	2024
ECB total	Office paper per workplace	213	1,966	568

Note: Consumption of other paper products, such as letterheads, calendars and notepads, is included.

Water consumption	Performance indicators per workplace (m ³ /workplace/year)	2022	2023	2024
ECB total	Total fresh water per workplace	11.1	11.1	14.3
Main building	Non-technical fresh water per workplace (sanitary facilities, kitchenettes, canteen)	6.6	6.7	8.4
	Total fresh water per workplace	9.9	8.2	9.9
City centre buildings	Non-technical fresh water per workplace (sanitary facilities, kitchenettes, canteen)	9.1	12.1*	16.3
	Total fresh water per workplace	12.7	14.7	19.9

Note: *The non-technical fresh water per workplace (sanitary facilities, kitchenettes, canteen) indicator for 2023 changed from 11.6 m³ to 12.1 m³.

Waste generation	Performance indicators per workplace [kg/workplace/year]	2022	2023	2024
ECB total	Non-hazardous waste per workplace	88.6	98.2	99.2
	Hazardous waste per workplace	10.8	3.0	4.8
Main building	Paper and cardboard waste per workplace	15.0	13.3	14.3
	Confidential paper waste per workplace	7.7	6.0	8.5
	Residual waste per workplace	15.5	11.4	15.8
	Packaging waste per workplace	1.4	2.3	2.3
	Organic waste (including grease separator waste) per workplace	43.6	44.0	46.1
City centre buildings	Paper and cardboard waste per workplace	6.6	6.2	4.9
	Confidential paper waste per workplace	5.0	4.2	3.7
	Residual waste per workplace	12.9	22.0	11.4
	Packaging waste per workplace	4.6	6.9	3.2
	Organic waste (including grease separator waste) per workplace	54.2	72.7	77.2

Emissions of CO ₂ equivalents	Performance indicators per workplace [kgCO ₂ equivalent/workplace/year]	2022	2023	2024
Direct emissions – scope 1	Direct emissions – scope 1	47.4	38.9	24.3
	Fuels	25.4	21.6	17.0
	Cooling agent losses at ECB premises	22.0	17.2	7.3
Indirect emissions – scope 2	Indirect emissions – scope 2	450.9	420.7	480.8
	Electrical energy consumption at ECB premises	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Heating and cooling of ECB premises	450.1	420.0	480.3
	Biogas	0.796	0.717	0.455
Indirect emissions – scope 3	Indirect emissions – scope 3	2,621.5*	4,168.6*	4,661
	Business travel	659.3	1,585.5	1,674.5
	Staff commuting and teleworking	330.0	308.1	345.3
	Building construction amortisation	833.2	809.3	817.1
	Upstream energy	120.9*	119.1*	70.5
	Conference participants travel	220.6	802.4*	760.7
	Waste	1.7	1.6	1.0
	Purchased goods and services	236.3*	323.6*	284.1
	Other assets (furniture, IT devices)	219.4	219.1	203.1
Total CO ₂ e emissions per workplace	Total CO ₂ e emissions per workplace	3,120*	4,628*	4,661
Outside of scope emissions	Biogas	414.3	375.5	393.9
	Compensated paper	5.5	3.5	0.2

Notes: *Total indirect scope 3 emissions per workplace in 2022 changed from 2,618.1 kg to 2,621.5 kg of CO₂e emissions. This is the result of a change of emissions from upstream energy from 119.9 kg to 120.9 kg of CO₂e emissions and a change in emissions from purchased goods and services from 234 kg to 236.3 kg of CO₂e emissions in 2022. Consequently, total CO₂e emissions per workplace increased from 3,116 kg to 3,120 kg of CO₂e emissions in 2022. In 2023 total indirect scope 3 emissions per workplace increased from 4,105.8 kg to 4,168.6 kg of CO₂e emissions. This is the result of a change in upstream energy from 118.1 kg to 119.1 kg of CO₂e emissions, an increase of CO₂e emissions stemming from conference participants' travel from 742.9 kg to 802.4 kg and an increase in CO₂e emissions from purchased goods and services from 321 kg to 323.6 kg. This resulted in an increase in total CO₂e emissions per workplace from 4,565 kg to 4,628 kg of CO₂e emissions in 2023.

Air emissions	Performance indicators per workplace (kg/workplace/year)	2022	2023	2024
Air emissions	SO ₂ per workplace	0.003	0.003	0.003
	NO _x per workplace	0.131	0.123	0.121
	PM per workplace	0.013	0.012	0.012

Air emissions	Total air emissions (tonnes)	2022	2023	2024
Air emissions	SO ₂	0.02	0.02	0.02
	NO _x	0.70	0.68	0.66
	PM	0.07	0.07	0.07

Biodiversity	Land use (ha)	2022	2023	2024
Land use – main building	Total land use	11.9	11.9	11.9
	Sealed area	4.6	4.6	4.6
	Unsealed area	7.3	7.3	7.3
	Nature-oriented area	6.5	6.5	6.5
Land use – city centre buildings	Total land use	0.7	0.7	0.7
	Sealed area	0.5	0.5	0.5
	Nature-oriented area	0.2	0.2	0.2

Uncertainty assessment of the ECB's carbon footprint 2024

Category	Scope	Details	Certainty ranking	Comments
Energy	1	Cooling agent losses	Good	data: good (amount of refill); factor: very good (DEFRA, UBA)
	1, 3	Car fleet	Very good	data: very good (internal reports); factor: very good (GEMIS)
	1, 3	Emergency unit	Good	data: good (amount of refill); factor: very good (GEMIS)
	2, 3	Biogas	Very good	data: very good (meter readings/invoice, certificate); factor: very good (DEFRA)
	2, 3	District heating	Very good	data: very good (meter readings/invoice); factor: very good (Mainova)
	2, 3	Electricity from renewable – wind	Very good	data: very good (meter readings/invoice, certificate); factor: very good (GEMIS)
	2, 3	Electricity from renewable – hydropower	Very good	data: very good (meter readings/invoice, certificate); factor: very good (GEMIS)
Business travel	3	Airplane with RFI and WTT	Good	data: good (travel agency); factor: very good (DEFRA)
	3	Train	Good	data: fair (travel agency and estimates, rail service provider); factor: very good (TREMOT)
	3	Car personal	Good	data: good (internal reports); factor: very good (DEFRA)
	3	Hotel stays	Good	data: good (travel agency, no data available concerning the hotel category); factor: good (DEFRA; averages based on DEFRA)
Staff commuting	3	Teleworking	Fair	data: fair (survey and extrapolation); factor: fair (general factors from GEMIS, UBA)
	3	Staff commuting	Fair	data: fair (survey and extrapolation); factors: good (general factors from DEFRA, TREMOD)
Conference participants	3	Conference participants' travel	Fair	data: fair (internal reports, estimates); factor: very good (DEFRA, TREMOD)
Building construction amortisation	3	Fixed assets – building construction	Fair	data: good (square metres), factor: fair (ADEME, not specific)
Waste	3	Waste	Fair	data: fair (internal reports/invoices, estimates); factor: good (DEFRA, extrapolation based on DEFRA)

Category	Scope	Details	Certainty ranking	Comments
Purchased goods and services	3	Catering services	Good	data: good (catering agencies – uncertainties cannot be excluded); factor: good (IFEU: Klimatarier)
	3	Gardening	Good	data: good (amount of diesel used); factor: very good (GEMIS)
	3	Fresh and waste water	Good	data: good (meter readings and calculations); factor: very good (GEMIS)
	3	Office supplies and stationery	Fair	data: fair (costs); factor: fair (ADEME, value-based)
	3	Cleaning services	Fair	data: fair (costs); factor: fair (ADEME, value-based)
	3	Office paper, paper for publication, and other paper products	Fair	data: good (weight or service provider, minor data gaps cannot be excluded); factor: fair (not specific, IFEU)
	3	Electricity external printing centre	Fair	data: fair (reports and estimates); factor: good (general factor from GEMIS)
	3	ICT Services – videoconferences	Fair	data: good (reports from service providers); factor: fair (Ökoinstitut)
	3	Electricity from external data centre	Very good	data: very good (meter reading, certificate); factor: very good (GEMIS)
	3	Emergency unit from external data centre	Very good	data: very good ECB's share of total data centre consumption (meter reading, certificate); factor: very good (GEMIS)
	3	Fresh and waste water from external data centre	Very good	data: very good (ECB's share of total data centre consumption meter reading, certificate); factor: very good (GEMIS)
	3	Cooling agent losses from external data centre		data: good (ECB's share of total data centre consumption); factor: very good (DEFRA)
Other assets (furniture, IT devices)	3	Furniture	Fair	data: good (internal reports, general furniture categories); factor: fair (ADEME, factors not specific to the furniture type)
	3	IT devices	Fair	data: good (internal reports, general IT device categories); factor: fair (ADEME, UBA, factors not specific to all devices)

Note: Changes to the previous certainty ranking are marked in bold.
GEMIS = Global Emission Model for Integrated Systems; DEFRA = Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; TREMOD = Transport Emission Model; UBA = German Federal Environment Agency; ADEME = French Environmental and Energy Management Agency; IFEU = German Institute for Energy and Environmental Research.

The following ranking was applied to estimate the uncertainty of the activity data and the emission factors.

Certainty ranking	Uncertainty of activity data	Uncertainty of emission factor
Poor	Activity data are rough estimates, e.g. based on studies or comparable baseline situations.	Emission factors have been determined in a first step, but are still very general, e.g. the emission factor is extrapolated from another factor for a similar process.
Fair	Activity data are available but incomplete; for example, activity data are not available for the whole assessment period and are extrapolated. Evidence for the activity data is incomplete and/or not reliable. Only the costs of the data can be provided.	Emission factors are available, but they are not yet specific and robust. Emission factors are value-based, e.g. kgCO ₂ e/euro.
Good	Activity data are complete and plausible, evidence is available. Minor uncertainties/data gaps cannot be excluded/avoided but do not have a significant negative impact on the result. The share of assumptions, estimates and calculations is reduced to a minimum, they are comprehensible and plausible and have no significant negative impact on the result.	Emission factors are specific and robust. Final, minor uncertainties cannot be excluded/avoided. Use of averages or calculations based on ADEME, DEFRA/ DESNZ, UBA or GEMIS or other non-German databases.
Very Good	Data are complete and plausible, evidence is available, e.g. meter readings or accurate measurements. Uncertainties/data gaps can be excluded. No assumptions or estimations are made.	All emission factors are specific and reliable, e.g. use of provider-specific emission factors or widely known/recognised databases such as ADEME, DEFRA/ DESNZ, UBA, GEMIS or other German databases.

Note: ADEME = French Environmental and Energy Management Agency; DEFRA = Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; DESNZ = Department for Energy Security and Net Zero; UBA = German Federal Environment Agency; GEMIS = Global Emission Model for Integrated Systems.

7.2 Compliance obligations



The ECB is subject to a large number of German environmental regulations that are anchored in ordinances at both the national and the municipal level. Compliance with these regulations is ensured by a register which is managed by legal professionals at the ECB and regularly reviewed and updated. Changes and necessary measures are carefully monitored to ensure full compliance. A significant proportion of the legal requirements relate to the operation and maintenance of the ECB's premises and external services such as cleaning and catering. The annual internal environmental verifications serve to comprehensively review compliance with these regulations. The latest assessments found no instances of non-compliance.

Table 3**Relevant areas of environmental legislation and related facilities/activities**

Most relevant area of environmental legislation	Relevant facilities/activities
Water regulations	Storage of diesel, storage of cleaning agents, use of oil traps, cooling, waste water discharge into sewerage system
Regulations on climate protection and refrigerants	Cooling installations containing coolants characterised by more than 5 tonnes of global warming potential expressed in tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent
Regulations on energy efficiency of buildings	Energy certification, building insulation, energy-efficient technologies
Energy efficiency regulations	Energy audit requirements fulfilled by EMAS
Regulations on health and safety and hazardous materials	Risk assessment, fire prevention, requirements for use of hazardous substances (e.g. acids, lye)
Waste regulations	Separation/recycling/disposal of various types of waste

In addition to its legal obligations related to the environment, the ECB has other environmental commitments. These include adherence to the sustainable procurement guidelines and the targets set out in the EMP. Moreover, the ECB organises various awareness-raising events each year to promote staff engagement with environmental topics.

In 2022 the ECB implemented an internal framework to support the integration of the objectives of the European Climate Law into its policies, projects and activities. The progress achieved in this area was reported in the ECB's Annual Report. In 2023 this framework was further refined, particularly in terms of incorporating environmental considerations into the ECB's internal projects. In 2024 the ECB published its Climate and nature plan 2024-2025 to expand its work in the field of climate change. The plan, which serves as a self-imposed obligation, focuses on the three topics: the implications of the green transition, the physical impact of climate change and the risk that nature loss and degradation pose to the economy.

More information about the climate-related activities within the ECB's mandate is available on the ECB's website.

For any enquiries concerning information in this publication, please refer to the [ECB's contact page](#).

8 Environmental verifier's declaration

The environmental verifier named below confirms that the European Central Bank (ECB) premises at Sonnemannstrasse 20, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany (main building), Taunustor 2, 60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany (Japan Center) and Kaiserstrasse 29, 60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany (Eurotower), as described in this Environmental Statement by the ECB with the registration number

D-125-00045, meet all the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009, as amended on 28 August 2017 and 19 December 2018, on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS).

Name of the environmental verifier	Registration number	Approved for the sectors (NACE)
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jan Uwe Lieback	DE-V-0026	64.11 Central Banking
Brane Papler	DE-V-0425	

By signing this declaration, it is confirmed that:

- the assessment and validation have been carried out in full compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1505 and (EU) 2018/2026;
- the result of the assessment and validation confirms that there is no evidence of non-compliance with applicable environmental legislation;
- the data and information in this Environmental Statement provide a reliable, credible and accurate picture of all the organisation's activities.

This declaration cannot be equated with EMAS registration. EMAS registration can only be carried out by a competent body in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009. This declaration may not be used as a stand-alone piece of public communication.

Frankfurt am Main, 25.06.2025



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jan Uwe Lieback
Environmental verifier - DE-V-0026

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Disclaimer

This Environmental Statement provides information to the general public and other interested parties about the environmental performance and activities of the European Central Bank (ECB) in 2022. It can be found on the ECB's website (see the page entitled "Environmental protection at the ECB").

The ECB was first validated under the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in 2010. This Environmental Statement, which is the 15th to be produced within the EMAS validation cycle, is a follow-up to the consolidated Environmental Statement for 2022. It is only complete when read together with this publication and contains updated data for the year 2023.

This Environmental Statement was drafted in line with EMAS standards in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 and the updated annexes of the EMAS Regulation in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2017/1505.

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For specific terminology please refer to the [ECB glossary](#) (available in English only).

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