



EUROPEAN SCOUT REGION: LEADING WAY TO NET ZERO



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© European Scout Region:
Leading Way To Net Zero

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**EUROPEAN SCOUT
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FOREWORD OF THE COMMITTEE

Scouting has always cared for nature. It is where our activities take place, the source of inspiration for our educational programmes, and a cornerstone of our values.

Scout Law asks all Scouts to care for the animals. In recent years, as the world and scouting gained a better understanding of the human impact on the environment surrounding us, naturally, scouting started to look at its practices more closely. Leave no trace is a rule known by many, and our movement has been

working increasingly to bring it to a new meaning, working to make international Scout activities more and more climate-neutral.

This strategy builds on the resolutions adopted at the World Scout Conference and the European Scout Conference. It provides the European Scout Region with a holistic approach and a clear purpose for reaching climate neutrality by 2030.

Jérémy Apert,
On behalf of the European Scout
Committee

INTRODUCTION

In our roles as Scouts, we hold a deep-seated belief that the great outdoors provides us with invaluable learning opportunities, fostering a profound connection to and understanding of the broader environment. Today, this conviction has never been more relevant, for we recognise that we must safeguard the natural world we hold dear, as its existence directly shapes our ability to learn, play, and thrive within it.

At the heart of our scouting ethos lies a commitment to prioritising nature. We aspire to protect and preserve the environments in which we camp, hike, play, and explore, fully aware of the urgency posed by the climate crisis and the alarming rates at which wildlife and natural spaces are disappearing.

As Scouts, we take on the role of leaders in sustainability and climate action, dedicating ourselves to the cause of protecting, preserving, and restoring our planet. Our mission is simple yet profound: leave this world a little better than you found it.

The 24th European Scout Conference held in 2022 saw the adoption of Conference Resolution 3.3.2, which underscores the European Scout Region's unwavering commitment to achieving climate neutrality in its regional operations no later than 2030. This Sustainability Strategy has been crafted to empower the European Scout Committee to make well-informed decisions that will pave the way for climate neutrality by 2030.



LEADING UP TO THE RESOLUTION

Before this ground-breaking resolution could be passed, extensive groundwork was undertaken by the World Organization of the Scout Movement on regional and global levels, involving the development of various tools and guidelines that will guide our region towards accomplishing the ambitious goal set forth. At the European level, these efforts encompass:

- **Sustainability Event Checklist:** A practical tool designed to integrate sustainability considerations into every event we organise.
- **Sustainability Monitoring Tool:** A comprehensive instrument to track and measure our progress toward sustainability.
- **Towards Sustainable Consumption and Compensation in the European Region:** A set of guidelines intended for our dedicated staff and volunteers, outlining strategies to both minimise our organisational carbon footprint and take measures to offset it.
- **E-learning Course on Sustainability:** Geared towards our staff and volunteers, this course equips them with essential knowledge and skills to embrace sustainability.
- **Organisational Performance in Sustainability:** A valuable toolbox for assessing the sustainability practices within our Member Organizations.
- **A Sustainability network:** created after the first European Sustainability Forum, brings stakeholders in our Member Organizations together to enhance good practice sharing.

Simultaneously, global volunteers diligently worked to integrate sustainability into our organisation. Their initiatives include:

- **Guidelines for Organising Sustainable Events:** A practical guide to ensure our events align with sustainable practices.
- **The Earth Tribe Initiative:** An inspiring set of educational challenges to empower young people to champion environmental and sustainability causes.
- **40 SCENES Centres:** Established in 21 countries, these centres are dedicated to setting a gold standard for climate sustainability and educating people about the far-reaching effects of climate change.

CLIMATE ACTION AS WE ADVANCE

This strategy is a document and a compass guiding our journey forward. It will show the reader how to address every facet of the resolution, including climate impact assessments, utilising the Regional Sustainability Monitoring Tool, and integrating lessons learned during the pandemic.

To complete and complement this strategy, we will also develop a climate and environment roadmap, with solutions and

concrete actions for the European Scout Region operations, with quantified targets to help us reach our ambition.

As you delve into the pages of this strategy, we invite you to join us in our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our natural world, fostering sustainability, and creating a brighter future for future generations. Happy reading, and let us embark on this transformative journey together.



GLOSSARY

To achieve Climate Neutrality, as an organisation, we must commit to reducing our total emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), to a minimum. Since not all emissions can be eliminated, any remaining emissions could be offset by activities that remove an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Since several terms can be used interchangeably in this area, it's important to distinguish between them and highlight how we, the European Scout Region, interpret Climate Neutrality following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹.

Carbon Neutrality

Achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions at a global scale through the balance of residual carbon dioxide emissions with the same amount of carbon dioxide removal.

Net Zero Emissions

Net-zero emissions are achieved when emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals. Where multiple greenhouse gases are involved, the quantification of netzero emissions depends on the climate metric chosen to compare emissions of different gases (such as Global warming potential, global temperature change potential, and others, as well as the chosen time horizon).

Climate Neutrality

Concept of a state in which human activities result in no net effect on the climate system. Achieving such a state would require balancing of residual emissions (carbon dioxide) removal as well as accounting for regional or local biogeophysical effects of human activities that, for example, affect surface albedo or local climate.

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/11/sr15_glossary.pdf

We interpret Climate Neutrality as reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum, and any remaining emissions are offset by activities that remove an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

As referenced above, the definition of Climate Neutrality from the IPCC encompasses the balance of the amount of greenhouse gases we emit into the atmosphere with the amount we remove or offset.

For this strategy, we are limiting those environmental impacts to those within our direct operational control – such as reducing single-use plastic and fostering a sustainability-first mindset - as opposed to more global ones, such as glacial melting and albedo change.



List of Terms

CARBON FOOTPRINT is the amount of climate-active gases, e.g., carbon dioxide, methane or water vapour, emitted to the atmosphere because of human-induced activities over a given period. It is usually expressed in carbon dioxide equivalent CO₂e. In this report, reference is made to the carbon footprint of various meetings and individual staff travel.

The amount of **Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Emission** that would cause the same integrated radiative forcing or temperature change over a given time horizon as an emitted amount of a greenhouse gas (GHG) or a mixture of GHGs. There are several ways to compute such equivalent emissions and choose appropriate time horizons. Most typically, the CO₂-equivalent emission is obtained by multiplying the emission of a GHG by its Global Warming Potential (GWP) for a 100-year time horizon. For a mix of GHGs, it is obtained by summing the CO₂-equivalent emissions of each gas. CO₂-equivalent emission is a standard scale for comparing emissions of different GHGs but does not imply equivalence of the corresponding climate change responses. There is generally no connection between CO₂-equivalent emissions and resulting CO₂-equivalent concentrations.²

CARBON OFFSET is the action of reducing GHG emissions (including through avoided emissions) or increasing GHG removals through activities external to an actor to compensate for GHG emissions, such that an actor's net contribution to global emissions is reduced. Offsetting is typically arranged through a marketplace for carbon credits or another exchange mechanism. Offsetting claims are only valid under rigorous conditions, including that the reductions/removals involved are additional, not over-estimated, and exclusively claimed.³ Further, offsetting can only be used to claim net zero status to the extent it is "like for like" with any residual emissions.⁴

CLIMATE CHANGE refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural due to changes in the sun's activity or significant volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.⁵

A CIRCULAR ECONOMY is an economic model that aims to reduce waste and maximise resource efficiency by reusing, recycling, and regenerating materials and products.⁶

² https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/11/sr15_glossary.pdf

³ Recent reports have revealed that carbon credits don't guarantee the offsetting of carbon emissions (https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/19/do-carbon-credit-reduce-emissions-greenhouse-gases?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other). This strategy will mainly focus on reduction. Also, it is important to understand that nature-based solutions could potentially compensate for a limited percentage of current emissions (maximum 10-12 GT of CO₂e/41GT emitted in 2021 - around 25%) if they were to be applied at scale (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01241-2>) and that carbon capture projects are not yet successful at capturing carbon from the atmosphere (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/01/carbon-capture-is-not-a-solution-to-net-zero-emissions-plans-report-says>)

⁴ <https://racetozero.unfccc.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Race-to-Zero-Lexicon.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

⁶ <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview#:~:text=The%20circular%20economy%20is%20>



COMPENSATION is the reduction of GHG emissions or increasing GHG removals through activities outside of an actor's emissions inventory to compensate for GHG emissions such that an actor's net contribution to global emissions is reduced. Compensation claims are only valid under rigorous conditions, including that the reductions/removals involved are additional, not over-estimated, and exclusively claimed. Includes offsetting, but also all activities an actor makes outside its value chain that contribute to mitigation. It is a near synonym of neutralisation, but not limited to removals, and does not necessarily imply "like for like" balancing of residual emissions. Potentially helpful during the transition to net zero.⁷

ENVIRONMENT. In this report, the term "environment" refers to the natural world as a whole or in a particular geographical area significantly affected by human activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT is any environmental change, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's activities, products, or services.

RESILIENCE is the ability of a system or organisation to withstand shocks, adapt to changing conditions, and recover quickly from disruptions while maintaining essential functions.⁸

SCOPE 1, SCOPE 2, AND SCOPE 3 emissions are emissions responsibility as defined by the GHG Protocol, a private sector initiative. 'Scope 1' indicates direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from sources owned or controlled by the reporting entity. 'Scope 2' indicates indirect GHG emissions associated with producing electricity, heat, or steam purchased by the reporting entity. 'Scope 3' indicates all other indirect emissions, i.e., emissions associated with the extraction and production of purchased materials, fuels, and services, including transport in vehicles not owned or controlled by the reporting entity, outsourced activities, waste disposal, etc.⁹

THE SCOUT METHOD is an essential and unique system for progressive self-education. It applies various elements that support Scouting's purpose and principles and creates a cohesive and balanced approach for young people to experience the true potential of Scouting in a safe environment. By empowering young people to become active citizens, they will gain lifelong learning and skills based on shared values, education, fun, and enjoyment.

⁷ <https://racetozero.unfccc.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Race-to-Zero-Lexicon.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Resilience-Scan-January-March-2016.pdf>

⁹ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ipcc_wg3_ar5_annex-l.pdf



Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature, Environment and Sustainability, or **SCENES**, are unique places. They are centres that have made a long-term commitment to protect the environment and promote greater environmental understanding. SCENES are committed to protecting their natural environment, minimising their environmental impact and enabling all those involved with the centre to engage with nature and become empowered to make their commitment to the environment.¹⁰

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT is the process of involving individuals, groups, or organisations that are affected by or have an interest in a company's or project's activities to gather input and build mutually beneficial relationships.¹¹

The **TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE** (TBL) or 3Ps (People, Planet, Profit) approach considers three key dimensions of sustainability: social (people), environmental (planet), and economic (profit), encouraging organisations to balance and integrate these aspects in their decision-making.¹²

ACRONYMS

- CO₂ - Carbon dioxide
- CO₂eq. - Carbon dioxide equivalent
- CDP - Carbon Disclosure Project
- ESG - Environmental, Social, and Governance
- GHG - Greenhouse Gas
- Net Zero GHG emissions- Balance between anthropogenic GHG emissions and anthropogenic GHG removals
- TCFD - Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
- WOSM - World Organization of the Scout Movement
- ESR - European Scout Region
- ESC - European Scout Committee
- NSO - National Scout Organization
- NSA - National Scout Association
- WAGGGS - World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

¹⁰ <https://www.scout.org/SCENES>

¹¹ <https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/media/1036/gri-101-foundation-2016.pdf>

¹² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330057873_Sustainability_An_Overview_of_the_Triple_Bottom_Line_and_Sustainability_Implementation

AMBITIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SCOUT REGION

Several fundamental principles and commitments drive us.

Firstly, we are responding to the mandate issued during the European Scout Conference

2022. This directive challenges us to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, setting an ambitious yet essential goal for our organisation.

3.3.1 Minimise the harmful environmental impact of events.



3.3.2 Begin to implement measures to achieve climate neutrality in regional operations by 2030 at the latest.

EUROPEAN SCOUT PLAN 2022–2025¹³

A central aspect of our ambition is accountability. We are committed to rigorously measuring our environmental footprint, and we recognise the importance of being held accountable for our actions. Transparency and data-driven decision-making are integral components of our strategy.

Our approach to sustainability extends beyond mere operational changes. We aim to comprehensively reduce the environmental impact of the European Scout Region, encompassing various facets of our operations, from sustainable travel options to preparing and implementing events going through energy consumption in our offices. By doing so, we aspire to bring about internal changes and inspire and empower our stakeholders. Our ambition is to create a chain of change where our commitment to sustainability influences and motivates others.

While we acknowledge that sustainability is not the core mission of scouting, we view it as a unique opportunity for our organisation to demonstrate leadership in this critical area. Our deep connection to nature and the outdoors gives us a distinctive role.

Furthermore, our commitment extends to reducing our direct impact on the environment, encompassing climate considerations and the preservation of the local environment in which our events and centres are situated. We recognise the importance of safeguarding and maintaining the outdoors that we utilise to deliver scouting experiences, which are a key component of our Education Method, ensuring they remain pristine for generations to come. This approach reflects our dedication to responsible and sustainable practices at all levels of our organisation.



¹³ <https://learn.scout.org/resource/european-regional-scout-plan-2022-2025-kpis-and-action-plans>

SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

Our sustainability strategy encompasses a comprehensive approach to measuring and addressing emissions, considering Scope 1, 2, and 3 categories. In our specific context, it's important to note that we do not own any vehicles or buildings, so we do not generate emissions falling under Scope 1. Therefore, our emissions calculations will primarily focus on Scope 2 and 3 categories.

Within the operations of the European Scout Region, the following key components will be considered:

- **OFFICES:** This includes our operational offices in Geneva and Brussels, where various administrative and organisational activities occur.
- **EVENTS:** Our strategy extends to the events organised and implemented by the European Scout Region. This encompasses significant gatherings and programs such as Roverway, the European Scout Conference, Agora, The Academy, and more.
- **MEETINGS:** The sustainability strategy encompasses the meetings conducted by the European Scout Region. These meetings involve volunteer teams from our Operational Framework, staff members, and influential bodies like the European Scout Committee.

By including these vital components in our sustainability strategy, we aim to measure and mitigate emissions effectively and foster a culture of responsible environmental stewardship within our organisation. This holistic approach underscores our commitment to sustainability across all facets of our operations.

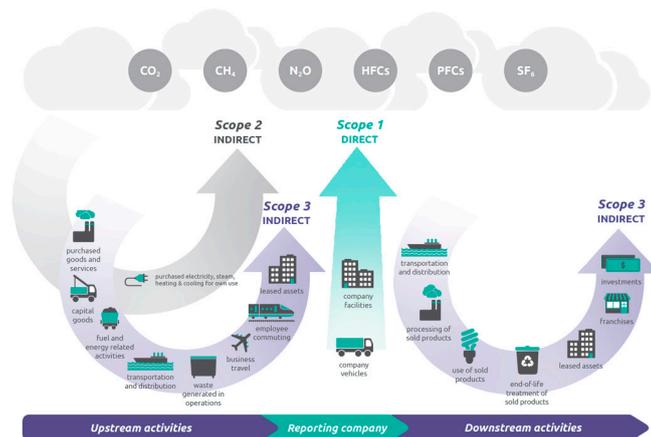
A distinctive feature of the European Scout Region's event organisation is our collaborative efforts with the European Region of the WAGGGS. This collaboration extends to hosting events such as the European Conferences, Roverway, and The Academy and managing online platforms like Azimuth and WeConnect. We need to coordinate and align with WAGGGS to ensure consistency in our sustainable practices.

Effective coordination with the World Scout Bureau's Global Support Centre is also imperative, as they share the same goal for 2033. The WOSM will be responsible for accounting for greenhouse gas emissions under its operational control, encompassing staff and volunteers within the global and regional structures of the WOSM. Specifically, the data points that the World Scout Bureau's Global Support Centre will start collecting include:

- **Scope 1:** This covers direct emissions from vehicles and facilities owned or operated by the World Scout Bureau. Since the European Scout Region doesn't own vehicles or facilities, we don't have emissions to report under Scope 1.
- **Scope 2:** Encompassing purchased electricity, steam, heating, and cooling in facilities owned or operated by the World Scout Bureau.

- **3.6. Scope 3:** This extends to emissions from business travel, including flights and train journeys.

However, in the World Scout Bureau's Global Support Centre's ambition, the WOSM will mature and professionalise its approach to carbon accounting, reduction, and compensation. As this evolution takes place, the World Scout Bureau's Global Support Centre will consider broadening the scope of its climate impact strategy in the coming triennia.



COMMITMENTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT REDUCTION

COMMITMENT 1: GATHERING DATA AND BENCHMARKING OUR EMISSIONS

Before embarking on our journey to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, we must comprehensively understand our current environmental impact across all operational areas within the Region. While we have amassed reliable data concerning travel and our regional office buildings, there needs to be more in our knowledge, particularly in events and daily office activities (e.g., printing and office supplies).

To effectively reduce our environmental footprint, we must initiate a robust data collection effort encompassing all aspects of our operations. This data will serve as a baseline for measuring our progress and a tool to guide our climate impact reduction initiatives. Since we do not own vehicles or buildings, our commitments primarily relate to Scope 2 and 3 emissions.



COMMITMENT 2: REDUCING THE IMPACT OF OUR TRAVEL

Given the international nature of WOSM and the European Scout Region, transportation plays a pivotal role in our operations, making it a central focus of our sustainability strategy. We recognise that flights are a significant contributor to carbon emissions.

Our objective is to actively decrease the number of flights taken by participants, volunteers, and staff, especially for routes with alternative transportation modes available.

We will establish a comprehensive travel policy for staff and volunteers that outlines our sustainability goals and expectations. This policy will include tools and frameworks for measuring and transparently comparing the environmental impact of different travel options.

COMMITMENT 3: REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN OUR OFFICES

While we do not directly generate the electricity used in our office buildings, we can still influence our energy providers to encourage them to produce energy with the lowest possible climate impact. Currently, Geneva and Brussels offices are powered by 100% renewable energy, but boilers in Brussels are powered by natural gas. While achieving such influence is a long-term endeavour, we can take immediate action to reduce our energy consumption.

Reducing emissions also includes ensuring efficient energy use within our office buildings. As we do not own these buildings, collaboration with landlords is crucial to ensure continuous maintenance and renovations that prioritise energy conservation. Moreover, we recommend a series of guidelines for the offices to make changes that will also support reducing the energy consumption of the buildings (for example, including temperature control).



COMMITMENT 4: AVOID, REDUCE, COMPENSATE

We will adhere to the “avoid, reduce, compensate” principle to make informed decisions. We will focus on avoiding and reducing emissions through sustainable alternatives, with compensation measures reserved for emissions that cannot be avoided or reduced. We aim to minimise our carbon footprint while taking responsible actions to offset emissions that cannot be eliminated.

COMMITMENT 5: WASTE MANAGEMENT

Our commitment to minimising waste production is ongoing. We embrace waste hierarchy principles, emphasising the reduction, reuse, and redistribution of materials to reduce our overall waste footprint. Our offices and events will recycle and compost waste following the policies and laws of the host countries.



COMMITMENT 6: DATA COLLECTION, REDUCTION, AND SUPPORT DURING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Events hosted by National Scout Organizations and various online and offline meetings are integral to our operations. To guide our efforts toward sustainable event management, we will implement a structured approach with several key considerations:

- **Commitment from Event Organisers:** National Scout Organizations will be informed by the Region of their responsibility to collect data on the climate impact of events and take measures to reduce their footprint from the bidding stage.
- **Support for Event Hosts:** We will support event hosts in monitoring the event's carbon footprint and report on preparations, implementation, and evaluation of climate impact reduction actions. Key areas of influence include:
 - **MEALS:** Encouraging hosts to prioritise seasonal, local, and organic ingredients, reduce food waste through careful planning, and offer a healthy vegetarian or vegan menu¹⁴.
 - **TRAVEL:** Promoting sustainable transportation choices, educating participants and organisers on their impact, and actively encouraging virtual attendance when feasible.
 - **ACCOMMODATION AND VENUE:** Considering options that support reduced carbon footprint, such as locations with accommodations and venues in the same building and venues with green label standards. We also encourage opportunities for positive community impact.
 - **WASTE MANAGEMENT:** Making waste reduction and management a priority for every event, measuring waste generation for future comparisons, and ensuring recycling stations are set up at venues.
 - **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AWARENESS RAISING:** Incorporating environmental education and awareness in as many events as possible.

¹⁴ <https://eatforum.org/learn-and-discover/the-planetary-health-diet/>



COMMITMENT 7: GOOD AND SERVICES

The European Scout Region is committed to minimising paper usage and promoting digital alternatives. We aim to instil a “least harmful” mindset among employees when making office supply purchasing decisions and consider the feasibility of purchasing recycled office supplies.

COMMITMENT 8: CRADLE TO CRADLE ON IT EQUIPMENT

We are adopting a circular approach to IT equipment by exploring refurbishment and recycling options to extend their lifespan. We will also consider donating the equipment to organisations, scout groups and schools when this is impossible.

COMMITMENT 9: COLLABORATION WITH MERCHANDISE PRODUCERS

(T-Shirts, Scarves, Pins, Badges, etc.)

We will work closely with staff and event hosts to reduce the quantity of merchandise produced to the minimum necessary. This includes assessing the environmental impact and durability of promotional items.

COMMITMENT 10: PURCHASED DIGITAL SERVICES

(e.g., Microsoft Teams, Slack, Dropbox, Zoom, Smartsheet, etc.)

We will actively monitor the carbon emissions associated with digital services and data storage to work toward minimising their environmental impact. Our preference is to select platforms powered by renewable energy sources.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT REDUCTION: A MULTIFACETED APPROACH

We know the why, when, what, where, who. We need the how, and we have found it how in five key pillars: Operations and Support, Education, Scout Method, Advocacy, and Partnerships. Each pillar is integral and interconnected to our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting sustainability, impacting our Region and far beyond.

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

At the heart of our strategy lies a commitment to minimising our environmental impact. To effectively achieve this goal, we have identified key areas of focus that will help us regulate our activities and support National Scout Organizations that host future events.

Firstly, establishing a peer-to-peer support system¹⁵ to help NSOs hosting events learn how to reduce environmental impact and gather relevant data. We will all be responsible for accomplishing the Region's goal.



As part of the travel connected to staff and volunteers of the Region, we will develop guidelines for sustainable business travel, promoting eco-friendly transportation and responsible travel behaviour.

Since the offices in Brussels and Geneva are rented spaces with contracts finishing in the following years, we will develop specific criteria when choosing office locations to minimise our environmental footprint, including waste management, energy efficiency, and renewable energy usage.

Lastly, we will create comprehensive event sustainability guidelines covering waste management, sustainable food, eco-friendly travel, accommodation, and venue choices, among other KPIs that will be measured and monitored during events and meetings.



¹⁵ Exchange of good practices, building institutional memory from previous host teams to new ones. This would be done ultimately by WOSM Services, WSB/ESR support and resources creation.

EDUCATION

Education plays a pivotal role in fostering attitude and behaviour change, and enabling informed decision-making.¹⁶ In the context of Scouting, there are several strategies to raise awareness and educate staff and volunteers about their carbon footprint:

- 1. Onboarding Education:** Incorporating education about sustainability initiatives into onboarding new employees and volunteers. This helps them understand the organisation's commitment to reducing carbon footprint right from the start.
- 2. Training Initiatives:** Offering training programs to staff and volunteers to heighten their awareness of their carbon footprint within the European Scout Region.
- 3. Sustainability Workshops:** Conducting sustainability workshops and training sessions to educate volunteers on environmental issues and ways to reduce their carbon footprint. This education can empower them to act as influencers within their National Scout Organizations and National Scout Associations.
- 4. Friendly Competitions:** Organising friendly competitions or challenges within the organisation to encourage members to reduce their carbon footprint, actively fostering engagement and competition.
- 5. Gamification:** Utilising gamification techniques to make learning about sustainability engaging and memorable, making it more likely that the knowledge will be retained and acted upon.

¹⁶ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/climate-solutions/education-key-addressing-climate-change>



THE SCOUT METHOD

Additionally, as Scouts, we have a framework, the Scout Method¹⁷, that drives our activities and movement and can also be part of our strategy to enhance sustainability education further:

- 1. Nature:** We can actively seek opportunities, such as the educational strategies mentioned earlier, that allow us to leverage the great outdoors as our primary learning environment, especially when addressing topics closely tied to the environment.
- 2. Team System:** Success in implementing this strategy relies on the collective effort of various teams, and it's crucial to remember that we function as an umbrella organisation, uniting diverse entities and working with volunteers. Recognising these distinct realities and fostering collaboration will empower individuals and organisations and raise awareness of our shared objectives.
- 3. Learning by Doing:** Not all our staff, volunteers, and National Scout Organizations/Associations possess the requisite knowledge and skills to implement this strategy. However, this shouldn't be a barrier. We actively promote knowledge sharing, provide practical demonstrations, and serve as influencers to motivate others.
- 4. Community Involvement:** As Scouts, we have strong connections with the local communities we engage with. The impact of our strategy will extend beyond the Scout community, creating awareness and educating internal and external stakeholders.
- 5. Adult Support:** Adults play a vital role in facilitating and supporting young people, creating educational opportunities, and fostering a culture of partnership to transform these opportunities into meaningful experiences.
- 6. Personal Progression:** Our commitment extends to motivating, educating, and challenging both Scouts and Adults in Scouting to reshape their perspectives on sustainability. We aim to empower them to become active agents of change, continuously learning and evolving.

¹⁷ <https://scout.org/who-we-are/scout-movement/scout-method>

ADVOCACY

In our sustainability strategy, we take a proactive approach to promoting sustainability and carbon reduction. We engage with local, regional, and national policymakers, advocating for policies that advance sustainability. This includes supporting initiatives such as responsible carbon pricing mechanisms, incentives for renewable energy adoption, expanding eco-friendly transportation options like rail networks, and promoting regulations that encourage environmentally responsible practices.

Furthermore, we actively participate in coalitions dedicated to sustainability and carbon reduction. Collaborating with like-minded organisations allows us to enhance our collective impact.

In addition, we forge partnerships with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), environmental groups, and various stakeholders to work together on sustainability initiatives. Joint advocacy efforts amplify our message and bolster our influence.

Our advocacy campaigns educate internal and external stakeholders about our sustainability initiatives and how they contribute to carbon reduction. We believe in transparency and sharing our progress with the broader community.

Moreover, we empower our staff and volunteers to advocate for sustainability both within and beyond our Region. We support their active participation in environmental initiatives and volunteer opportunities, fostering a culture of engagement.

Lastly, we actively participate in international forums and agreements related to climate change and sustainability, such as the Paris Agreement. We aim to advocate for ambitious climate goals and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to global sustainability efforts.





PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are crucial in aiding our efforts to decrease our carbon footprint by utilising external organisations' expertise, resources, and capabilities.

One valuable approach is collaborating with environmental advocacy groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) specialising in sustainability and climate action. These entities can offer invaluable expertise, guidance, and support to bolster our initiatives for carbon reduction.

Additionally, forming partnerships with companies and organisations that prioritise the circular economy, emphasising waste reduction and resource efficiency can be highly effective. Such collaborations help in minimising the environmental impact of our events and services.

Another important avenue is partnering with renewable energy providers or organisations to secure clean energy sources. This may entail power purchase agreements (PPAs) for wind or solar energy, significantly reducing our operations' dependence on fossil fuels.

To address transportation-related emissions, consider collaborating with transportation companies to transition to transportation with low-emission.

This shift can also alleviate the financial challenges of moving from air travel to rail. Shared transportation initiatives and agreements with electric vehicle charging infrastructure providers can be integral components of such partnerships in the case of macro events like Roverway, where private transportation might be used.

Furthermore, partnering with waste management firms and recycling organisations can facilitate the implementation of waste reduction and recycling programs, effectively reducing emissions linked to waste.

Lastly, collaborate with organisations offering sustainability certifications like LEED, B Corp, or ISO 14001. These certifications serve as valuable guides and validations for our sustainability efforts.



207 585

emissions on kg of CO₂
from flights taken in 2022

5 971

emissions in kog of
CO₂ from flights with
alternative routes

506

total number of
bookings

984

emissions on kg of
CO₂ if travelled by
train

497

total number of
regional bookings

2 413

emissions on kg of CO₂
from trains taken in 2022

332

total number
of bookings



119,064

emissions on kg of CO₂ from
electricity consumption in
Geneva in 2022

89,5%

of the energy comes from
local solar sources

10,5%

of the energy comes
from local hydropower
sources

5579,332

emissions on kg of CO₂ from
electricity and gas consumption
in Brussels in 2022

100%

of the heating comes
from gas sources

100%

of the electricity comes
from solar and wind
sources

RESILIENCE AND GOVERNANCE

Due to the transversal nature of this strategy and the actions it entails, it is essential to have a well-defined line of governance that allows knowing who has responsibilities in each area and who must carry out monitoring and accountability.

This document entails an operational and strategic approach that must be addressed from different levels of the structure of the European Scout Region. It is understood that the primary responsibility for the strategy and its implementation is the Region's Board, which may have different structures to help it in this mandate. It is also highly recommended that someone within the Board is responsible for sustainability, the environment, or the strategy itself.

The Bureau of the European Scout Region will oversee implementation at the operational level, reporting to the Board. It will have specifically dedicated personnel, not necessarily exclusively, nor having been hired for this function. However, there will be a reference within the office for the strategy, although the tasks will be distributed internally depending on the identified work area.

In addition, the Board may have a team specialised in sustainability or climate change, or even specific to monitoring the strategy, made up of volunteers, who will help them develop the actions and implementation of the strategy. This team will have fluid communication with other teams in the region to ensure the implementation of the strategy actions in specialised areas (financial, resources, logistics, activities, etc.). The Board will be in charge of defining when and for how long a team of these characteristics is convened and what profiles it must have.



ANNEX A

ADVANCING TOWARDS OUR NEXT GOALS: A PATH FORWARD

With the successful approval of the 2023 sustainability strategy, the mission of the Sustainability Team would come to a close. Now, the European Scout Region faces the task of determining its next course of action from the various recommendations and work areas outlined in the preceding chapters.

To begin this journey, the Monitoring and Evaluation team and the European Scout Bureau must equip themselves with the necessary tools and knowledge to gather data and perform calculations. This data will serve as the foundation for benchmarking our environmental footprint in 2023, setting the stage for future sustainability goals.

Additionally, it is imperative to establish a dedicated team of volunteers focused on this mission. This team will work closely with our new partner, the Climate Action Accelerator, to craft a comprehensive roadmap outlining tangible actions for reducing the Region's environmental impact. Inclusivity is vital to the success of this endeavour, and we propose involving not only these volunteers but also engaging all members of the Operational Framework 2022-2025, staff at the European Support Centres in Brussels and Geneva, and the European Scout Committee. This collective effort is essential for meaningful reflection on our consumption decisions and for creating a roadmap that holds everyone accountable by 2024.

The roadmap we envisage will emphasise the development of policies related to travel that could already be implemented by June 2024, events with the calls for bids from 2025, merchandise, and recommendations for future office locations by June 2024. This is especially pertinent since our Geneva and Brussels offices will see their contracts conclude in the coming years. Moreover, we will derive an educational plan from this roadmap to train both staff and volunteers in sustainable practices.

As we progress further into our environmental initiatives, exploring opportunities for funding and partnerships is crucial. Such collaborations can provide invaluable learning opportunities and streamline our path towards climate neutrality. Funding and partnerships align with our multifaceted approach and act as a buffer against potential financial challenges that may arise in the evolving global landscape.

The journey towards sustainability is an ongoing process, and the European Scout Region is committed to taking proactive steps to reduce its environmental footprint. By fostering collaboration, equipping ourselves with the necessary tools, and embracing inclusive decision-making, we are poised to make significant strides in our quest for a more sustainable future.

ANNEX B

DATA FROM 2022

Transport emissions	Flights	Trains
Total number of bookings	506	332
International bookings	9	N/A
Regional bookings	497	332
Total emissions (kg of CO₂)	207.585,00	2.413,00
Longest route	Amsterdam – Iguassu Falls	Brussels – Berlin
Shortest route	Brussels – Geneva	N/A
Most frequent route	Geneva – Athens (9 bookings/11 travellers)	Brussels - Courriere
Flights with most emissions	Seoul – Brussels	N/A
Flights with train options	Brussels – Geneva Geneva – Amsterdam	N/A
Office consumption	Geneva	Brussels¹⁸
Gas (kWh)	N/A	6.822,00
Electricity (kWh)	3.174,00	4.174,00
Energy source(s)	100% local 89.5% ecological hydropower 10.5% solar	Natural gas (heating) Solar and wind power (electricity)
Emission from heating (kg of CO₂)	N/A	1.405,332
Emission from electricity (kg of CO₂)	N/A	6,76 Solar 43,159 Wind
Total emissions (kg of CO₂)	119,064 ¹⁹	1.455,251

¹⁸ <https://www.eneco.com/what-we-do/climate/>

¹⁹ Our contract Vitale Vert:

https://media.sig-ge.ch/documents/tarifs_reglements/electricite/marquage/electricity_supplied_by_sig.pdf

Calculations based on: 33 grams of CO₂ emitted for every kilowatt-hour of electricity produced.

<https://www.energyscope.ch/en/questions/does-switzerland-emit-comparatively-little-cosub2/sub-thanks-to-its-very-clean-electricity/>

PROVISIONALS INDICATORS

Scope 2

Energy

- Building & Energy

Scope 3

Transport

- Flights
- Trains
- Bus
- Other transport
- Employee Commuting

Purchased goods

- Food
- Office supplies
- IT equipment
- Merchandise (t-shirts, scarves, pins, badges,...)

Purchased services

- Print, Design & Postal Services
- Rental services
- Office rent
- Hotel & Restaurants
- Digital services (Microsoft Teams, Slack, Dropbox, Zoom, Smartsheet,...)



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