



Measuring the Climate Impact of the World Scout Bureau (2024- 2025)

World Scout Bureau
Global Support Centre, Kuala Lumpur

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I. Introduction – From tiny seeds

The world is facing a climate crisis, and environmental sustainability remains central to Scouting's mission – reflected in both its values and programmes. In the [Strategy for Scouting 2024-2027](#), “a sustainable world” is one of three key impacts that we want the organisation to have, with environmental sustainability identified as a core “area of work”. This includes elements of **research and development** (tools for tracking climate impact), **environmental sustainability at WOSM Events, advocacy and policies**, and **guidance and support to National Scout Organisations (NSOs)**.

Much of this work builds on [World Scout Conference Resolution 2021-08](#), which called for clear action plans, measurable goals, and systems to monitor environmental impact. In response, a [Climate Impact Strategy](#) was developed to guide efforts to operationalise sustainability across World Scouting.

The above-mentioned initiatives contribute to the climate strategy's goal of achieving climate neutrality in World Scouting's operations by the 46th World Scout Conference in 2033. As part of this commitment, the World Scout Bureau conducted its first global emissions assessment. This complemented similar efforts at the regional level, such as those conducted by the [European Support Centre](#).

This document highlights key steps taken by the World Scout Bureau (WSB) to measure its climate impact, its relevance for NSOs, and ongoing sustainability efforts.

II. Methods of Carbon Accounting / Sustainability milestones

A) *Launching of a mechanism to monitor the carbon footprint of the World Scout Bureau*

A key priority in the first phase of the Climate Impact Strategy was establishing a baseline of emissions across the WSB Support Centres' operations. This began in May 2024 with the appointment of an Environmental Sustainability Assistant to coordinate methodology development and data collection.

By June 2024, the WSB had initiated the search for a digital carbon accounting platform, leading to the selection of Greenly. The platform aligns with international standards and provides a structured system for measuring, managing, and reporting environmental impact. With both the methodology and the platform in place, a consistent data-collection process was established.

B) *Data collection and methodology*

Much like everything done as Scouts, this process is done as a team. Carbon data collection is coordinated across all support centres - Kuala Lumpur, Brussels, Cairo, Geneva, Manila, Nairobi, and Panama - through designated focal persons, who submit monthly data to the Environmental Sustainability Assistant for validation and upload. This process aligns with fiscal reporting cycles, beginning with FY 2024–2025.

But what exactly is this data? The methodology follows three emission scopes defined in the WOSM Climate Impact Strategy, which is based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol standard:

1. Scope 1 – Direct emissions from vehicles and facilities owned or operated by the World Scout Bureau.
 - a. May include car fuel, natural gases from buildings, and refrigerant leaks from air conditioners.
2. Scope 2 – Purchased electricity/energy in facilities owned or operated by the World Scout Bureau.
3. Scope 3 – Emissions from business travel, including flights and trains.

- a. Also includes additional data on hotel and service/supply purchases (e.g. business meals, remote aircon, software/cloud, IT equipment, telecommunications, water) for office operations, whenever possible.
- b. Collaboration with Greenly also enabled us to gather data on staff's commuting and remote work setups.



greenly

Image 1. Scope visual

In order to analyse each scope, two methodological approaches – or forms of data are collected:

1. Expense/Spend-based analysis: Estimates emissions by applying emission factors to the monetary value of goods and services purchased, as well as the average values taken from the industry and other companies.
2. Activity-based analysis: Calculates emissions using direct, measurable data points (e.g., distance travelled, duration).

While activity-based is generally favoured for its direct, specific readings, both forms are ideal for collecting, as expense/spend-based data can cover and provide estimates where activity is lacking.

In both approaches, a carbon accounting platform helps by automating the calculation process, as well as utilising its direct access to emission factors from established and recognised datasets with entities like the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, France's Agence de la transition écologique, Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index, and more.

With the foundational elements in place, the WSB commenced its carbon footprint measurement for the 2024/2025 fiscal year (October 2024 – September 2025).

C) Greenly x WSB Climate Impact cycle 1 (FY 2024-2025) Significant findings and Impact results

From this first cycle, we learned much about the process. Challenges, such as data quality and availability, have emerged. The sustainability team continues to refine the process, balancing comprehensive data collection with feasibility. Recognising the diverse operational contexts of each support centre, the team proactively refine the methodology based on each centre's specific needs and capacities. Additionally, some

insights and best practices from the European Support Centre have helped inform and enhance the approach.

C.1) Results by Scope

Based on the Greenly report, the overall results yielded **2,226.3 tCO₂e** of WSB Centre emissions for this measurement cycle. From the scope's perspective: Majority **82% (1,823 tCO₂e)** come from **scope 3**, while **scope 2** produces **14% (311 tCO₂e)**, and **scope 1** only makes up **4% (92 tCO₂e)**.

If one were to average the tCO₂e per staff, that would yield – **0.6** for **scope 1**; **2.2** for **scope 2**; and **13** for **scope 3**. (*see Figure 1).

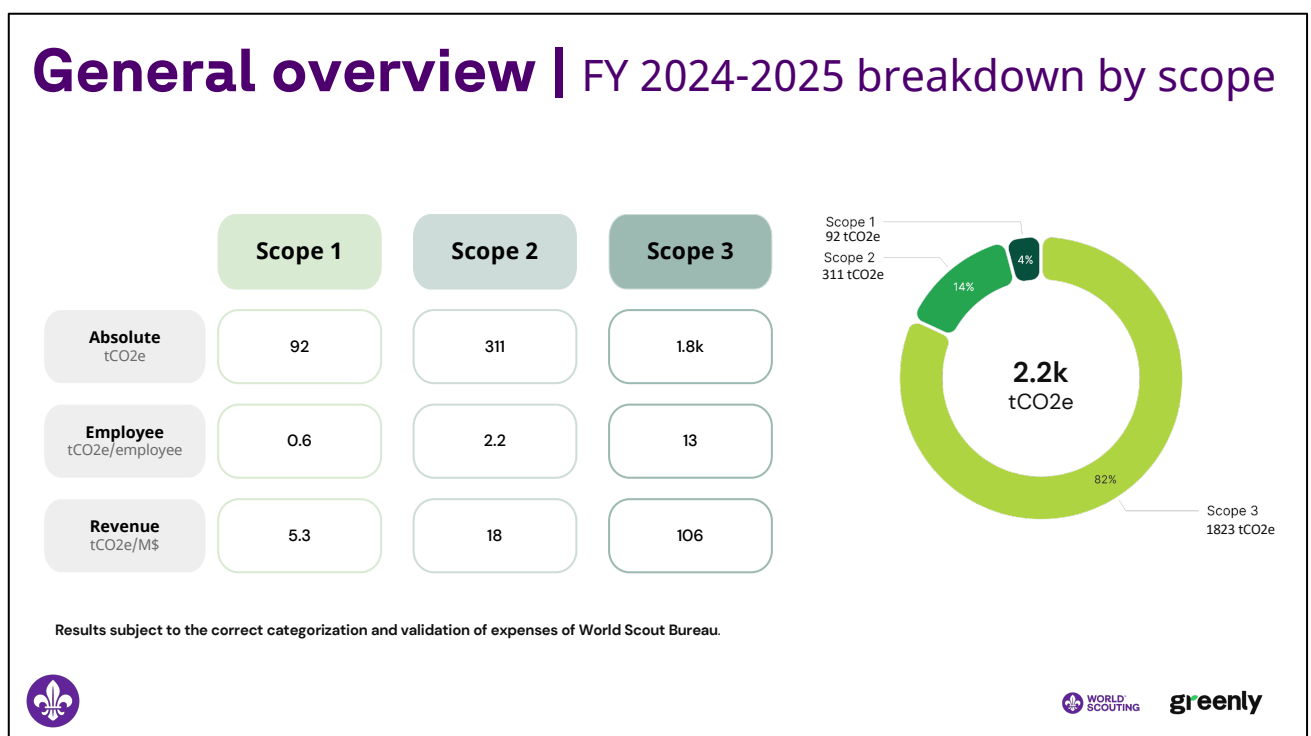


Figure 1. Breakdown by scope

C.2) Results by Category

Looking at it this by category, it means that **73% (1,617 tCO₂e)** comes from **travel**, **23% (515.7 tCO₂e)** from **energy** (air conditioning, electricity, heating, water, and natural gas) and **4%** from **other – the purchased supplies/services** (e.g. business meals, remote work, software/cloud, office supplies, IT equipment, telecommunications). (*see Figure 2)

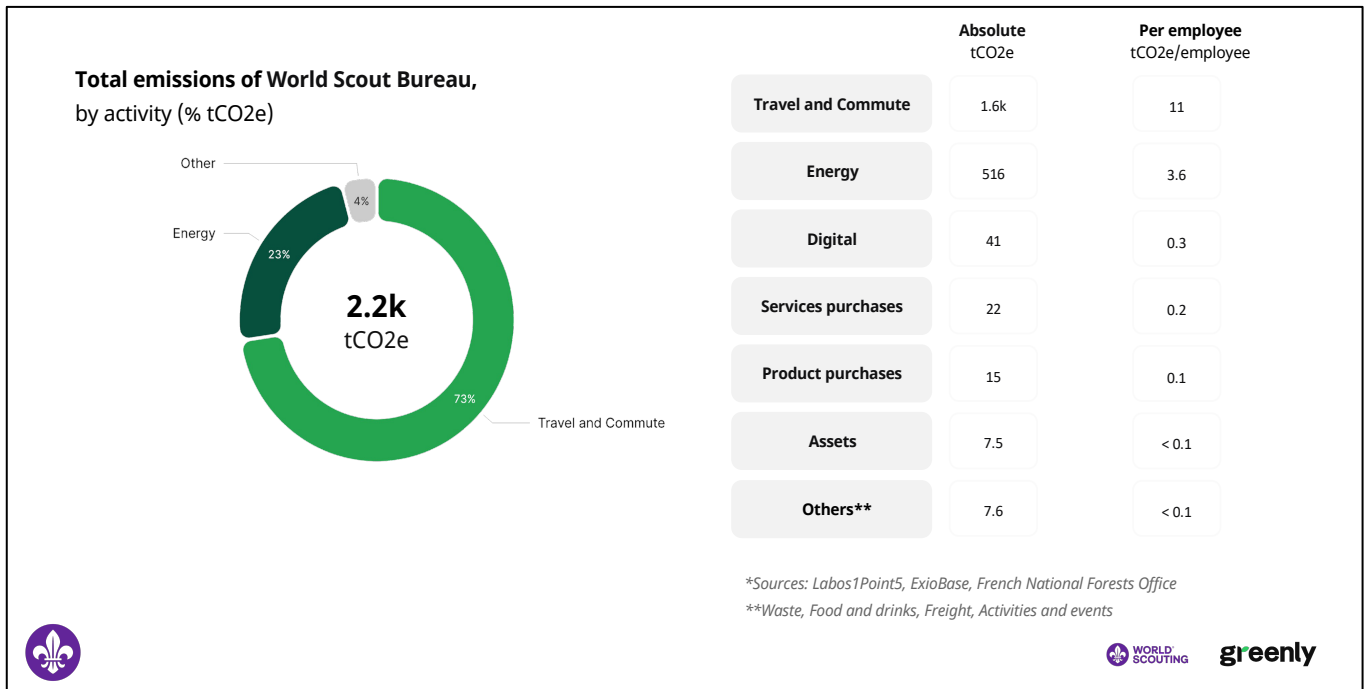


Figure 2. Breakdown by activity category

C.3) Results by subcategory

For an even more granular look at the impact ranking, travel by plane **66% (275 tCO₂e)** holds the highest impact, followed by electricity at **19% (37.7 tCO₂e)**. **Others** stands at **8% (22.5 tCO₂e)** and include the previously mentioned office supplies and service emissions, as well as commute and car emissions. **Natural gas** is **4% (6.9 tCO₂e)**, and **hotels** is **3% (10.7 tCO₂e)** (*see Figure 3).

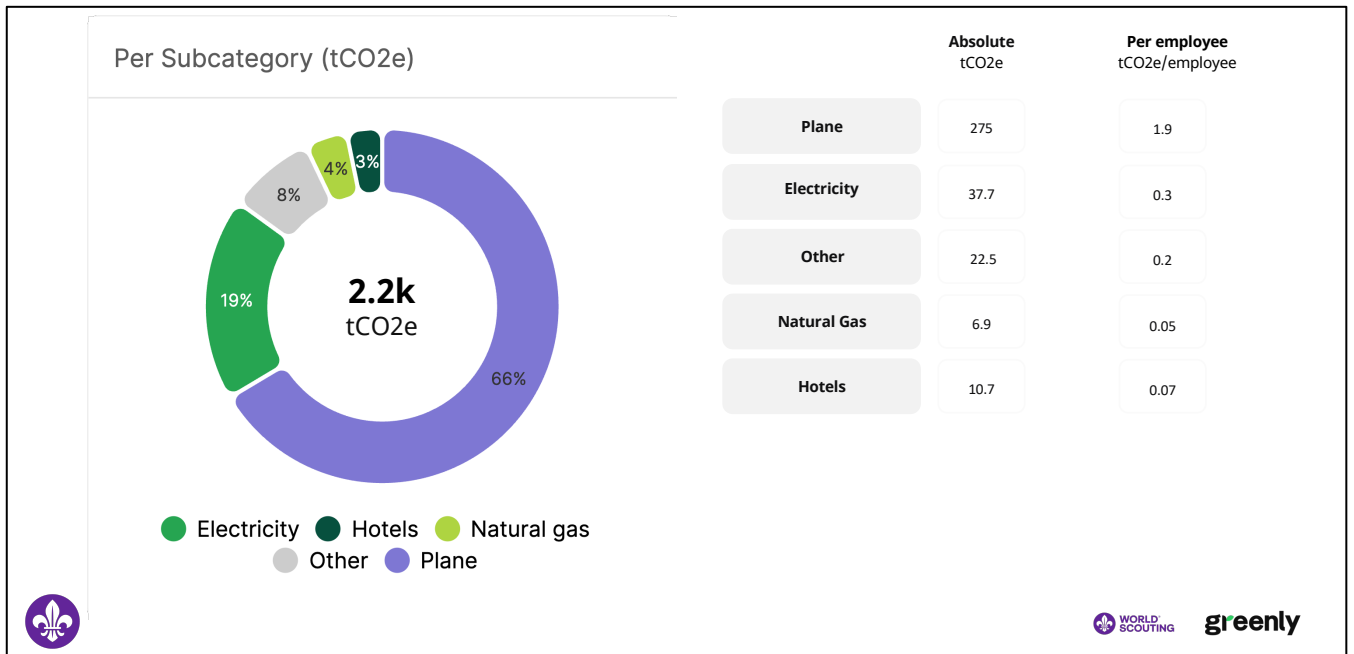


Figure 3. Breakdown by subcategory

To help paint a more vivid image, think of this as the equivalent of **202 hectares** of forest to absorb in 1 year; the annual emission of **234 residents** in France; and **1,200 round-trip journeys between Paris and New York**.

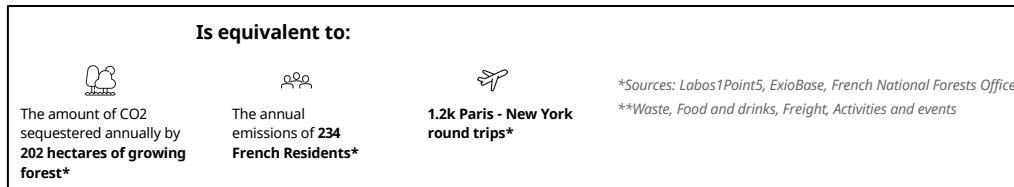


Image 2. Impact equivalent visual

The data show that flights remain the largest source of climate impact, as expected given the nature of Scouting. Electricity comes in second, while commuting and office utilities individually have smaller impacts.

D) Potential ways of reduction

Following these results, the WSB is now considering ways to reduce our direct and indirect emissions from office operations. This may range from options that address office energy, maintenance, supplies, and digital waste to staff travel and how the WSB make events more sustainable. At this stage, the focus is on identifying feasible and context-appropriate approaches that can be applied across diverse support centre operations.

These considerations will inform future decisions and actions, ensuring that any measures taken are both effective and aligned with the organisation’s global mandate and operational realities. For emissions that cannot be reduced, the Bureau will also explore appropriate and credible approaches to carbon offsetting, ensuring these are pursued responsibly and ethically.

III. What’s next?

These monitoring efforts will continue, as per the Climate Impact Strategy. In addition, the next steps call for other elements of the climate impact strategy, such as best practices, compensation measures, and volunteer support, which will be integrated along the way whenever possible.

Moving forward, now that there is an early baseline, early options for reduction efforts and carbon compensation methods may be explored.

There will also be ongoing support from volunteers on elements such as responding to new resolutions, updating the strategy document, and dissemination at events. This aligns with engaging with NSOs to exchange best practices and support those exploring their own sustainability initiatives.



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