

Key areas of focus

1. Reaching net zero carbon

Our carbon footprint is split across three broad areas (Scope 1, 2, and 3) explained below. Details of the emissions we currently measure will be published in our 2022-23 Annual Report. is split across three categories (Scope 1, 2, and 3) explained below.

Details of the emissions we currently measure will be published in our 2022-23 Annual Report and Financial Statement.

Wellcome has committed to be [net zero by 2030](#) for scope 1 & 2 emissions, which result principally from the heating and cooling of our buildings and the electricity we purchase. We are tackling these emissions first as these activities are where we have the most control.

As an interim measure we are also mitigating our scope 1 emissions, and the scope 3 emissions associated with our business travel, by planting trees in the UK through a partnership with the Woodland Trust.

Scope 1 - Direct emissions

Most of our scope 1 emissions result from our use of gas to heat space and water in our buildings. Decarbonising heat is a key challenge, with the switch to electric options (such as heat pumps) being a common solution. Electricity is a more sustainable energy source than gas as the UK electricity grid is rapidly decarbonising thanks to the increase of low carbon electricity sources (wind, solar, hydro, nuclear).

Scope 2 - Indirect emissions from energy use

At Wellcome, this means the emissions associated with the electricity we purchase. In 2020 we started buying our electricity from 100% renewable sources (such as wind and solar), which means we can already regard our electricity as zero emissions. It is still important we reduce the amount of electricity we use, to help the UK meet net zero.

Scope 3 – Other indirect emissions

This includes emissions associated with the goods and services we purchase, the research we fund, and our investments.

In 2021 we published a [strategy](#) to drive down carbon emissions for our investment portfolio, with an aim to reach net zero by 2050.

There is currently no recognised methodology to measure research funded emissions, but we are exploring how to best tackle them, including how to support advancing [environmentally sustainable health research](#).

And we are also working to better understand our other scope 3 emissions.

2. Reducing our environmental impacts

Beyond carbon, we also need to consider a range of environmental impacts, in particular our use of resources and waste, energy and water use, and biodiversity and nature impacts.

3. Environmental, Social and Governance

In addition to its focus on environmental topics, the sustainability team also works to support a coordinated approach to Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) impact across Wellcome. This considers a broad set of topics, and actions delivered by different teams across Wellcome, for example Conduct & Ethics, Community relations & engagement, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

We are currently conducting an ESG materiality assessment, to better understand the relative importance for Wellcome of different ESG topics. This approach will help us to identify ESG risks and opportunities for Wellcome and to prioritise our resources where it matters