



# European Scout Region

## The Climate Compass





© World Scout Bureau Inc.  
Management  
April 2025

World Scout Bureau  
Europe Support Centres  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Brussels, Belgium

GENEVA  
P.O.Box 327,  
Rue Henri-Christiné 5  
CH-1211 Geneva 4  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 705 1100

BRUSSELS  
rue de l'Industrie 10  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Phone: +32 2 893 24 35

The production of this document was made possible thanks to cooperation with the Climate Action Accelerator. Reproduction is authorised to National Scout Organizations and Associations which are members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.  
Photos by: Jasmijn Commeren, Alex Inkiläinen, Igor Pavlovic, Balas Patrick



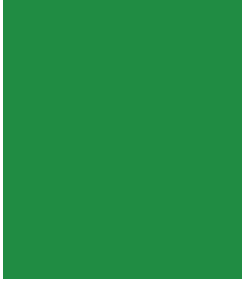
Climate Action  
**Accelerator**

Climate Action Accelerator is a not-for-profit initiative that aims to mobilise a critical mass of common good organisations to scale-up climate solutions, empowering them to radically transform their practices and contributing to tipping entire sectors of society towards low carbon, resilient and sustainable models.



# Contents

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 05 | <b>List of acronyms</b>   |
| 05 | <b>Glossary</b>   |
| 06 | <b>Foreword</b>   |
| 07 | <b>Introduction</b>   |
| 08 | <b>Climate Change and Scouting – a two-way street</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Impact of Youth and Scouts on Climate Change</li><li>Impact of Climate Change on Scouting</li></ul> |
| 12 | <b>Ambition of the European Scout Region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The 10 Sustainability Commitments</li></ul>  |
| 16 | <b>Our methodology</b>  |
| 19 | <b>Carbon Footprint Reduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2023 Carbon Footprint</li><li>Carbon footprint reduction target and trajectory</li></ul>                                |
| 20 | <b>Turning ambition into reality: our solutions, targets and actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Travel</li><li>Events</li><li>Offices</li><li>Goods &amp; Services</li></ul>     |
| 24 | <b>Monitoring our impact</b>  |
| 26 | <b>Enablers of transformation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Operations and support</li><li>Education</li><li>The Scout Method</li><li>Advocacy</li><li>Partnerships</li></ul>       |
| 30 | <b>Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Development of an Implementation Plan</li><li>Assessment of Financial Implications</li><li>Managing Residual Climate Impacts</li></ul>  |
| 32 | <b>Acknowledgements</b>   |



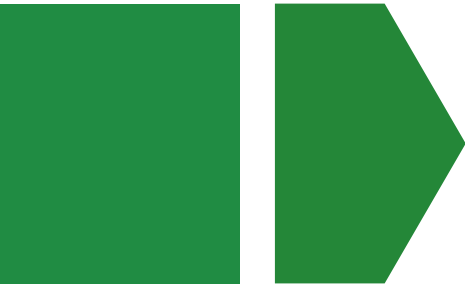
# The Climate Compass

A roadmap towards  
decarbonisation





# List of Acronyms



**NSO** – National Scout Organization

**CO<sub>2</sub>** - Carbon Dioxide

**WOSM** – World Organization of the Scouting Movement

**SCENES** - Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature,  
Environment and Sustainability

**TCO<sub>2e</sub>** - Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents

## Glossary

**Carbon neutrality** refers to 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.

**Climate neutrality** is the 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.

**Carbon intensity** refers to the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions produced per unit of output, activity, or energy. It is a key metric used to measure the environmental impact of various processes, industries, or energy sources.

**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 other exchange mechanism. Offsetting claims are only valid under a rigorous set of conditions, including that the reductions/removals involved are additional, not over-estimated, and exclusively claimed. Further, offsetting can only be used to claim net zero status to the extent it is "like for like" with any residual 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 net zero emissions depends on the climate metric chosen to compare emissions of different gasses (such as global warming potential global temperature change potential, and others, as well as the chosen time horizon).

# Foreword



## Dear Friends in Scouting,

Our Scout Law and Promise have always made us vivacious actors in protecting our environment. Our duties—to ourselves, others, and God—further emphasise aligning our values and sustainability. How can we walk this Earth with the aim of leaving it better than we found it if our daily actions as Scouts may contribute to jeopardising our health and the prospects of future generations? The environmental crisis we are experiencing is the biggest threat to the future of life on Earth and is increasingly causing anxiety among young people. As a movement dedicated to nurturing forward-looking role models and preparing younger generations to thrive, we cannot ignore this.

It is with pride that I see how Scouts are coming together to do just that: address the issue, mobilise, and act to make a positive difference around us. From the local to the international level, our movement reflects on its practices, searches for alternatives, and finds solutions to align our actions with our values and learn from the science. This roadmap is the last of a series of ambitious measures that the European Scout Region of World Scouting has taken to live up to its responsibility as the biggest youth movement in Europe and walk towards contributing meaningfully to a Net-Zero world.

With our strategy to achieve our objectives by 2030 and this roadmap, created thanks to the partnership with the Climate Action Accelerator and the efforts of our amazing volunteers, we have now given ourselves the compass to walk the path, to leave no trace. A tool is only a tool; however, it is not a solution. It is now up to all of us to use this tool appropriately and give ourselves the resources to achieve our ambition. We have three Trienniums to reach our goals, requiring bold, decisive actions and dialogue.

I hope we will live up to our ambitions and continue to be trailblazers, inspiring others to follow in our footsteps.

**Jérémy Apert**

Member of the European Regional Scout Committee





# Introduction

**As members** of a global movement dedicated to creating a better world, Scouts have a unique opportunity and responsibility to lead by example in the fight against climate change. The great outdoors is precious to Scouts around the world and is a valuable learning ground for teaching Scouts vital life skills. As Scouts, we are part of a movement built on respect for nature and community responsibility, making the goal of reducing our carbon footprint not only important but essential.

**This document** aims to provide Scouts in the European Region with a clear path towards lowering our carbon footprint. There are solutions and a timeline to help ensure we meet this target. This document aims to help foster a culture of sustainability that aligns with Scouting's core values. By utilising this document, we can ensure that Scouting remains a force for good in both the community and the natural world, setting a positive example and inspiring communities worldwide to protect and preserve our planet for future generations. Together, through our shared commitment and actions, we can achieve a sustainable, resilient future aligned with our mission to leave the world a better place.





# Climate Change and Scouting - a two-way street

Climate change is an inescapable reality that affects all aspects of our society, including Scouting. As a movement that works closely with nature and instils values of respect for the environment, Scouting is particularly affected by this global phenomenon. At the same time, young people, particularly Scouts, have a crucial role in mitigating the effects of climate change and building a more sustainable future.

# Impact of Youth and Scouts on Climate Change

## **Promotion of Sustainability and Climate Awareness**

Scouts have a long tradition of protecting the environment and are uniquely positioned to lead the fight against climate change. Education and awareness may be boosted through Scout programs. Young people gain a deep understanding of environmental issues and develop a climate awareness that prompts them to take action in their everyday lives. This environmental education is key to forming responsible citizens committed to sustainability. Scout actions, such as reducing waste, promoting recycling and using sustainable materials, are examples of how Scouts reduce our ecological footprint and serve as a role model for our communities.

## **Concrete Projects and Actions for Climate Change Mitigation**

Young people, and Scouts in particular, can directly impact mitigating climate change by participating in concrete projects and actions. Many Scout associations actively participate in reforestation and conservation projects, planting trees and restoring degraded habitats, thus contributing to capturing CO<sub>2</sub> and protecting biodiversity. To spread the message, Scouts can join global campaigns against climate change, such as Fridays for Future, by bringing our voices and actions to the demand for structural changes in climate policies at local, national, and international levels.

## **Promote a Sustainable Lifestyle**

Through their experiences and values, Scouts learn to live more sustainably and to influence their environments. Young Scouts are role models for our communities regarding a sustainable lifestyle, such as reducing energy consumption, using green transport and supporting sustainable products and companies. Moreover, Scout's values of respect for the environment and social responsibility are fundamental to creating a generation aware of environmental challenges and committed to their solution. The impact of climate change on Scouting is noticeable, but so is the potential for scouts to positively influence the fight against this global phenomenon. As a movement dedicated to forming responsible and committed young people, European Scouting must continue and strengthen its actions to mitigate climate change and inspire a generation of young leaders capable of building a more sustainable future for all. For this reason, and with the motivation to improve and join the change, we are launching this roadmap towards reducing emissions in the European Scout Region.

# Impact of Climate Change on Scouting

## **Alteration of Outdoor Activities**

Outdoor activities, such as camping, hiking, and playing games, are fundamental pillars of Scouting and foster a connection with nature. However, climate change alters the conditions in which these activities occur. Extreme climatic phenomena, such as heat waves, intense storms, forest fires and floods, are becoming more frequent and can compromise the safety and development of these activities. In addition, the lack of resources such as water is causing institutions to carry out policies that negatively affect scout camps. Furthermore, changes in natural habitats are omnipresent. The environments in which Scout activities are carried out are changing due to global warming, with a decrease in biodiversity and alterations in local flora and fauna, which affects the educational experience of young people.

## **Impact on Infrastructure and Logistics**

Scout infrastructures are not exempt from the effects of climate change. Vulnerable infrastructures, like tents, camp centres, and other Scout equipment, can suffer significant damage due to extreme weather events, requiring greater investment in maintenance and adaptation. This underlines a need for strengthened contingency planning. Formulating emergency plans for natural disasters in activity planning has become a reality, making the logistics of Scout activities more complex and costly.

## **Effects on the Health and Well-being of Young People**

Climate change also directly affects the health and well-being of young people participating in Scouting activities. Heat waves can increase the risk of heat stress during outdoor activities, limiting their duration and intensity and affecting their educational quality. Rising temperatures and changes in climate patterns can also increase the presence of diseases transmitted by insects, such as dengue or malaria, putting young people's health at risk.









# Ambition of the European Scout Region

Aligned with the impact Scouting can have on sustainability, the European Scout Region has a clear goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2030. This commitment was set by the European Scout Conference in 2022 with the objective 3.3.2 of the 2022-2025 Regional Scout Plan: “Begin to implement measures to achieve climate neutrality in regional operations by 2030 at the latest”. This goal sets an ambitious yet essential objective for the Region. It reflects our determination to address the climate crisis by significantly reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by our activities, intending to minimise the environmental impact of the European Scout Region.

Hence, this roadmap prioritises reducing the Region’s carbon footprint over merely offsetting existing emissions. However, fully eliminating an organisation’s CO<sub>2</sub> footprint through a decarbonisation plan alone is challenging. Therefore, additional potential approaches for meeting the 2030 objective will be outlined at the end of the roadmap.

# The 10 Sustainability Commitments

**The Region** has outlined 10 Sustainability Commitments in its Climate Strategy as part of this ambition. These commitments define key areas of focus for the Region and set the foundation for structured and impactful action.

**This section** introduces the broader scope of each commitment, highlighting their role in addressing sustainability challenges and creating opportunities for regional engagement. Rather than listing specific actions — detailed in subsequent chapters — the commitments below provide a framework for understanding the areas where the Region can lead and inspire change:

## 1 Gathering Data and Benchmarking Our Emissions

Establishing robust mechanisms to measure emissions in areas such as transportation, office activities, and events. This foundational step ensures informed decision-making and sets benchmarks for progress.

## 2 Reducing the Impact of Our Travel

Addressing the significant emissions from travel by promoting sustainable alternatives and implementing policies that prioritise low-emission options.

## 3 Reducing Energy Consumption in Our Offices

Improving energy efficiency in office operations, advocating for renewable energy sources, and fostering behavioural changes to minimise energy use.

## 4 Avoid, Reduce, Compensate

Following the principle of prioritizing avoidance and reduction of emissions before responsibly compensating for residual emissions through well-monitored measures.



## **5 Waste Management**

Adopting a reduce-first approach by minimising waste generation, emphasising recycling, and promoting environmentally responsible event practices.

## **6 Data Collection, Reduction, and Support During Events and Meetings**

Incorporating sustainability into event planning through eco-friendly guidelines, responsible catering, and local and low-impact venues.

## **7 Goods and Services**

Ensuring sustainable procurement practices by prioritising suppliers and products with minimal environmental impact, while reducing overall consumption.

## **8 Cradle-to-Cradle IT Equipment**

Embracing circular economy principles by extending the lifecycle of IT equipment through refurbishment and recycling initiatives.

## **9 Collaboration with Merchandise Producers**

Engaging with merchandise producers to ensure sustainable production, limiting quantities to essentials, and evaluating environmental impact.

## **10 Purchased Digital Services**

Prioritising platforms powered by renewable energy and minimising the environmental impact of digital tools and data storage.

These **10 Sustainability Commitments** will serve as a strategic framework to guide the efforts to reduce the Region's carbon footprint. They work as the foundation for the solutions, targets, and actions outlined in this roadmap, ensuring a cohesive and impactful approach to addressing climate challenges and driving meaningful progress.







# Our Methodology

**We used** multiple strategies to coproduce this Roadmap with our stakeholders, including a survey and focus groups. The survey was our strategy to collect solution ideas based on the 10 commitments from the European Scout Region's Climate Strategy. The survey was released to several key stakeholders that would bring essential insights to the brainstorm: members of the European Scout Committee, the World Scout Bureau's European Regional Office, Operational Framework volunteers, sustainability experts across the Region, and the sustainability network. This initial brainstorm resulted in a list of solutions that complemented some research and benchmark analysis that was then brought to discussion in a focus group.

**Several solutions** were brainstormed in the focus group to ensure they were a good fit for the Region. The same key players were invited to this stage, and after a thorough analysis with an effort-impact matrix, a selection of the top solutions was made based on the insights from the focus group and the survey.

**With the solutions** selected and based on the Region's current carbon footprint, we were able to set targets that would allow for an ambitious decarbonisation trajectory. The targets defined the expected reduction of emissions per solution. These paved the way for adequate but progressive actions per solution that must be developed throughout the following trienniums to achieve the expected carbon reduction. The process, especially the technical analysis and modelling, was supported and co-developed with our partner Climate Action Accelerator.

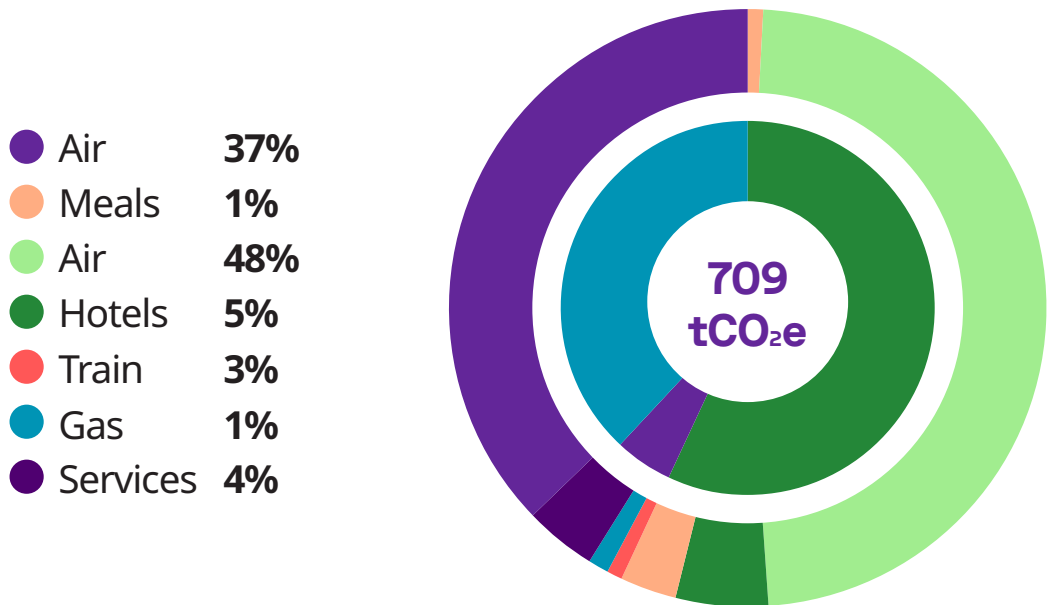
| Phase                                       | Date Completed             |
|---|----------------------------|
| Benchmark                                   | April 2024                 |
| Research on solutions                       | May 2024                   |
| Consultation (survey and focus group)       | June and July 2024         |
| Definition of the solutions                 | July 2024                  |
| Target setting                              | August and September 2024  |
| Definition of actions                       | October 2024               |
| Modelling of the decarbonisation trajectory | November and December 2024 |
| Combining the results in the roadmap        | December 2024              |



# Carbon Footprint Reduction

**The European Scout Region** aims to reduce its environmental footprint so that it can become climate neutral by 2030. To achieve this ambition, we have set the 2023 carbon footprint as our baseline, which was also the first year the Region's carbon footprint was calculated.

**As the number** and frequency of regional events increase, a rise in the carbon footprint would be expected. However, this Roadmap sets ambitious targets that will prevent the carbon footprint from rising as anticipated due to the expected growth and actually reduce it by 46,1% between 2025 and 2030. Moreover, it is essential to note that the Region operates on a triennial cycle, with some events occurring only every three years. This frequency significantly impacts the Region's carbon footprint, meaning that comparisons should be made annually and triennially. This approach ensures reliable comparisons of the Region's carbon performance.



| Office      |       | Operations |        | Events |        |
|-------------|-------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Electricity | 0,17  | Air        | 262,12 | Air    | 336,55 |
| Gas         | 3,08  | Hotels     | 2,27   | Hotels | 37,46  |
| Commuting   | 0,82  | Meals      | 2,78   | Meals  | 23,49  |
| Goods       | 2,78  | Train      | 2,35   | Train  | 6,13   |
| Services    | 29,32 |            |        |        |        |

Total 709,37

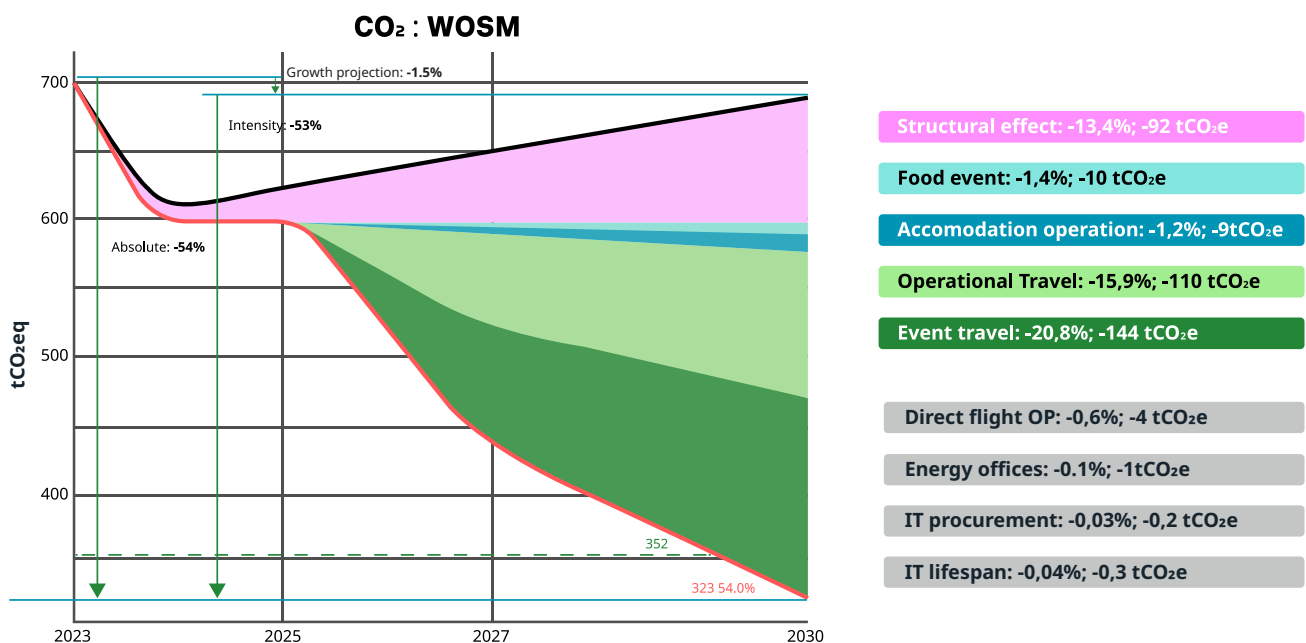
The Region's carbon footprint is calculated through a methodology that combines a holistic measurement of the emissions caused by three main categories:

- **Regionalevents** – which include participants' travel by plane and train, accommodation, and meals—represent 57% of the carbon footprint. Within this category, 83% is attributed to air travel, 9% to accommodation, and 6% to meals.
- **Offices of the Europe Support Centre** – which encompasses utilities, goods and services consumed in the World Scout Bureau offices (in Brussels and in Geneva) and staff commuting—represent only 5% of the carbon footprint. Within this category, services account for approximately 81%, gas for around 8.5%, supplies and equipment for 7%, and electricity for 0.5%.
- **Operations** – representing staff and volunteers' travels by aeroplane and train, accommodation, and meals. This category weighs 38% of the carbon footprint, with air travel representing 97% of the category and accommodation, meals and train travel representing around 1% each.

However, the carbon footprint report reveals that the sources of our emissions are highly concentrated, with air travel in both operations and events contributing to 85% of the total carbon footprint.

# Carbon footprint reduction target and trajectory

**Considering the ambition** of becoming climate neutral by 2030, the European Scout Region will reduce its emissions by 46,1% between 2025 and 2030 without resorting to external offsets. Based on the estimated target, we would reduce our carbon intensity by 53% and avoid more than 400 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030. This reduction already takes in consideration that a certain level of growth in the Region might be expected throughout these five years. Hence, the following graph includes a comparison between the evolution of the Region's carbon footprint without the solutions' implementation but including the potential growth and with the solutions' implementation – decarbonisation trajectory.



**This reduction** will be possible through 15 solutions of which just two represent almost 70% of the emissions reduction goal as they focus on one of the most impactful areas of the Region's operations – travel. Furthermore, around 25% of the reduction goal is due to the expected structural effects that impact the consumption and production systems and, consequently, any organisation's carbon footprint as its footprint is also dependent on external factors.

# Turning ambition into reality : our solutions, targets and actions

**To achieve** our ambition of becoming climate neutral by 2030, we have identified four key areas of improvement: travel, events, offices, and goods and services. Solutions, targets, and actions support each area. Solutions represent broad strategies to address an area of improvement — such as “reducing operational air travel” under the category of “travel.” Targets define the specific goals we aim to achieve until a particular year, such as lowering emissions by 46,1%. To ensure a smooth transition, some milestones are targeted to be completed by 2027, with the remaining goals targeted for completion by 2030. Finally, actions are the tangible steps we will take to reach these targets, such as implementing policy changes.

## Travel

**In 2023**, air travel accounted for more than three-quarters of the European Scout Region’s total emissions, making it a critical area of improvement. This category encompasses travel for both events and operational purposes. Event travel refers to travelling to events organised by the Region or event bidders, such as The Academy, Roverway, and the European Scout Conference. Operations’ travels pertain to the functioning of the European Scout Region, including activities and meetings of the European Scout Committee and the Operational Framework Volunteers. Since travel for events and operations differs in terms of target audiences, frequency, and funding mechanisms, tailored actions and targets have been developed for each.

| Solution  | Target  | Actions  |
|---|---|--|
| A.1. Reduce operations air travel                     | By 2027, the mileage related to operations air travel will be reduced by 30% and 2030 by 50%.   | Minimise the amount of travel required, promote good connectivity to events and take measures to reduce and alleviate CO2 emissions. |
| A.2. Reduce the carbon intensity of operations travel | By 2030, 80% of flights are direct when possible, and 100% are in economy class.  | Opt for the least polluting options on necessary flights.  |
| A.3. Reduce events air travel                         | Reduce the mileage related to events air travel by 30% by 2027 and by 50% by 2030.  | Opt for more sustainable transport than flights and review the emissions they generate.  |
| A.4. Reduce the carbon intensity of events travel     | By 2027, update the WOSM Sustainable Events Checklist to include the guideline of prioritising direct flights and economy class when travelling by air. | Encourage participants to choose direct flights over stopovers and to travel in economy class.                                       |

# Events

**This area** of improvement addresses all emissions associated with events organised by the Region and event bidders, excluding travel to and from the events by participants and staff, as these are covered under the area of improvement related to travel. Instead, this category focuses on emissions from event venues, accommodation, preparation, food, and activities. This category entails one other large contributor to carbon emissions, as accommodation is the largest contributor to the Region's footprint after air travel.

| Solution   | Target  | Actions   |
|--|---|---|
| B.1. Reduce climate impact of events themselves  | By 2027, update the WOSM Sustainable Events Checklist to include the consideration of the climate impact of activities and materials during events, such as campfires, fireworks, cooking equipment (e.g. using gas or oil) or driving vehicles; implement the checklist as one of the considerations during event bidding processes. | Update the WOSM Sustainable Events Checklist to include the consideration and measurement of climate impact of events through their activities, materials and waste. Create waste guidelines for events that address food, waste reduction and processing, and waste education. The Checklist becomes a document that event hosts commit to follow. |
| B.2. Reduce climate impact of food   | Reduce the climate impact of food consumed at events by 30% by 2027 and by 50% by 2030.   | Offer more vegetarian or plant-based, seasonal, local and organic products for catering. Update the WOSM Sustainable Events Checklist to only buy the food that is really necessary and to ensure leftover food is disposed of sustainably.   |
| B.3. Reduce climate impact of event and Operational Framework meeting venues                   | By 2027, embed the WOSM Sustainable Events Checklist and the WOSM Guidelines for Organising Sustainable Events more explicitly in the considerations of European WOSM event bids and venues for operational framework meetings.   | Choose event venues based on more sustainable options such as with a green label, SCENES certification, or with accommodation and meeting spaces within walking distance.   |
| B.4. Reduce climate impact of event and Operational Framework meeting venues and accommodation | Reduce accommodation emissions in operations by 20% by 2027 and by 30% by 2030.   | Choose accommodation based on more sustainable options such as with a green label, SCENES certification, or with accommodation and meeting spaces within walking distance.  |



# Offices

**This area** of improvement focuses on energy usage and general office practices. The European Scout Region operates two offices located in Geneva and Brussels. While the level of emissions generated by these offices is relatively minor, there is still room for improvement, particularly in reducing gas usage at the Brussels office.

| Solution   | Target   | Actions   |
|--|--|---|
| C.1. Reduce office emissions when choosing new offices | By end 2025, the Bureaus in Geneva and Brussels have chosen a more sustainable space based on sustainability guidelines. | When choosing new offices, prioritise characteristics to allow for operations to be conducted more sustainably. |
| C.2. Reduce energy emissions of offices                | Reduce office energy emissions by 20% by 2027 and 30% by 2030.   | Select renewable energy for offices and minimise energy usage.  |

# Goods and Services

**Last but not least**, the Region and event bidders procure several products and services with a specific carbon footprint. Developing more sound procurement policies and lowering the demand for such products can significantly reduce the Region's carbon footprint.

| Solution   | Target  | Actions  |
|--|---|--|
| D.1. Reduce the amount of promotional items purchased for events                             | By 2030, the amount of promotional items purchased for events will be reduced by 50%.   | Develop a purchasing policy and guidelines to minimise the impact of event merchandise and require event bidders to apply it.                                |
| D.2. Rationalise the amount of materials and equipment purchased                             | Review materials and equipment inventory by 2027 and maximise the life span of purchased materials and equipment by 2030.   | Adopt standards and practices that minimise the amount of materials purchased.   |
| D.3. Reduce the environmental impact of promotional items, materials and equipment purchased | By 2030, reduce the environmental impact of promotional items, materials and equipment purchased by 20%.  | Adopt and promote procurement standards that take into account the sustainability of the promotional goods and services used by the office and more broadly. |
| D.4. Reduce the environmental impact of IT equipment   | By 2030, the environmental impact of IT equipment purchased will be reduced by 20%.<br>By 2030, the lifespan of IT and telecom equipment will be extended to 5-7 years. | Adopt and promote procurement standards that take into account the sustainability of the IT goods and services used by the office and more broadly.          |
| D.5. Reduce the digital footprint  | By 2027, identify and transfer data storage services to an eco-friendly data centre.<br>By 2030, staff fully implemented the policy.                                    | Use eco-friendly data storage solutions and adopt practices that minimise energy use of equipment.   |









# Monitoring our impact

**Effective monitoring and evaluation** are critical components of this Roadmap to ensure that the commitments to sustainability are aspirational but also actionable and accountable. Even the best-intended plans can falter without robust mechanisms for tracking, assessing, and adjusting actions. Therefore, continuous monitoring will allow the European Scout Region to evaluate the progress of its sustainability initiatives, ensuring that we meet our goals and make any necessary course corrections promptly. Tracking our progress through clear metrics will help evaluate our actions' real-world impact, providing insight into which strategies are effective and which may need refinement.

**This chapter outlines** the framework for monitoring the impact of our decarbonisation efforts, ensuring that we stay on track to meet the ambitious targets of this Roadmap while maintaining transparency and inclusivity in our actions. To achieve this, we must define and measure key performance indicators (KPIs) that correspond directly to our climate objective. These KPIs will be instrumental in evaluating both the short-term outcomes and the long-term effects of our Climate Strategy and Roadmap. By measuring these indicators systematically, we can track our progress and engage stakeholders transparently and with accountability, allowing all European Scout Region members to understand how their contributions are moving us closer to our goals. The KPIs will be diverse, encompassing various aspects of our environmental impact to ensure a comprehensive assessment of our sustainability journey.

Hence, there are some key performance indicators for our carbon footprint:

- **Carbon Emissions** (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).
- **Travel:** Air mileage (km.passenger by air).
- **Events:** CO<sub>2</sub>e from food.
- **Events:** CO<sub>2</sub>e from accommodations and venues.
- **Offices:** Energy consumed (kWh).
- **Offices:** Percentage (%) of low-carbon energy in total energy consumed.
- **Goods and Services:** Percentage (%) of Suppliers Using Low-carbon energy.
- **Waste:** CO<sub>2</sub>e from the disposal, recycling, or repurposing of products at the end of their life cycle.

To track our progress, we have also identified a number of key performance indicators:

- **Travel:** Km per passenger replaced by train (for E.U. when travels are in a 1000km radius).
- **Travel:** Km per passenger switched from short-haul connecting flights to train + direct flight.
- **Events:** Percentage (%) of events with vegetarian meals.
- **Events:** Percentage (%) of events using SCENES centres or sustainable accommodation/venue.
- **Offices:** Percentage (%) Staff sensibilised/trained about energy consumption.
- **Offices:** Percentage (%) projects/offices applying temperatures standards.
- **Goods and Services:** Number of projects to avoid purchases through extending the lifespan of items, circularity, changes of protocol.
- **Goods and Services:** Number of IT equipment repaired vs number of IT equipment replaced.
- **Goods and Services:** Average IT equipment lifespan (years).
- **Goods and Services:** Percentage (%) Unuse data volume vs total data volume ratio.

**These key performance** indicators will serve as the foundation for monitoring the progress of our sustainability initiatives. They will allow us to measure our success over time, identify areas for further improvements, and celebrate milestones as we move toward our 2030 climate goal. Regular data collection and analysis will ensure that we stay on course, make the necessary adjustments, and learn from successes and challenges. Furthermore, transparency is crucial in maintaining trust and accountability within the European Scout Region. To that end, we are committed to regularly sharing our progress through public reports and assessments, ensuring that all stakeholders—staff, volunteers, members, and external partners—are informed about our achievements and the areas where we still need to focus our efforts. These assessments will not only provide a clear picture of our journey but will also help to inspire continued commitment to sustainability across the entire region.

# Enablers of transformation

**The Climate Strategy** has identified five key pillars to support and enable its implementation: Operations and Support, Education, the Scout Method, Advocacy, and Partnerships. The Scout Movement's unique capacities give us valuable influence, allowing us to effectively promote sustainability both within our own footprint and beyond. By identifying these pillars, we can value and enhance them, preserving and increasing our transformative capacity.

## Operations and support

**The regional office's** operations and support function is our European Scout Region's nervous system. Most of the actions outlined in this Roadmap are the responsibility of the regional office or require its support for their implementation. This includes direct actions like adopting specific practices or standards, developing relationships, and collaborating with other organisations. It also involves helping National Scout Organizations increase their capacity to measure and reduce their environmental impact, contributing to the Region's climate targets.

We will establish a peer-to-peer support system to exchange best practices and build institutional memory, ensuring high standards and continual improvement in hosted regional events.





# Education

**Education is crucial** in fostering attitude and behaviour change and enabling informed decision-making. Establishing a strong shared understanding of our commitment to sustainability among our youth, volunteers, and staff is essential. This understanding helps them make more sustainable decisions in all Scouting operations and everyday lives.

Within Scouting, we use several methods to achieve this:

## Training Initiatives

We offer training programs to staff and volunteers to increase their awareness of the challenges and the Region's strategy and methods.

## Onboarding Education

We incorporate education about sustainability initiatives and our strategy into onboarding new volunteers and employees.

This helps them understand our commitment to sustainability from the very beginning.

## Sustainability Workshops

These workshops help embed sustainable practices and inspire volunteers to act as influencers within their National Scout Organizations.

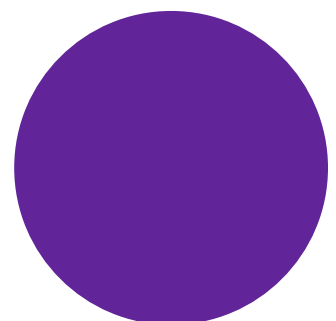
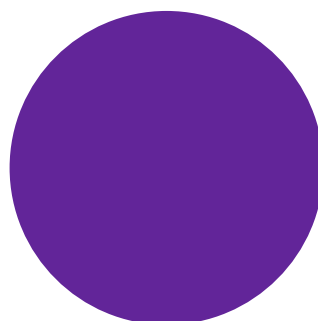
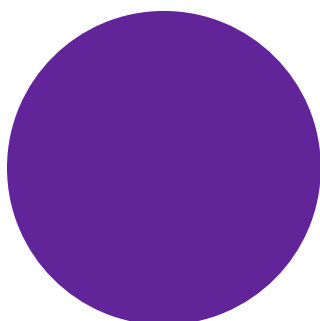
They also provide opportunities for feedback and the development of creative solutions.



## The Scout Method

Scouting's unique framework, the Scout Method, enhances our ability to implement our Roadmap by driving activities and supporting sustainability education.

- **Nature:** Emphasising the outdoors as a learning environment increases scouts' appreciation for nature, fostering a commitment to protecting it through their actions.
- **Team System:** Effective implementation relies on the collective effort and cooperation of all organisations within the Region, acknowledging diversity and the voluntary nature of our movement.
- **Learning by Doing:** Our hands-on approach involves all members and values ongoing improvement. We promote knowledge sharing, provide practical demonstrations, and motivate others.
- **Community Involvement:** National Scout Organizations maintain strong connections with local communities, extending our influence beyond the Scout community and raising awareness.
- **Adult Support:** Involving adults and young people in the strategy reinforces partnership and broadens our influence across age groups.
- **Personal Progression:** We motivate, educate, and challenge both young people and adults to rethink sustainability, empowering them to become active agents of change and engage personally with our goals.





# Advocacy

**We can extend** the impact of our commitment to sustainability by influencing others beyond our immediate boundaries. As a well-known, respected, and international organisation, we have a powerful platform to engage with local, regional, and national policymakers to advocate for policies that advance sustainability. This includes policies that make it easier to reduce our footprint, such as incentives for renewable energy, expanding eco-friendly transport options like rail networks, and promoting regulations that encourage environmentally friendly practices and products.

**We further extend** this influence by engaging in joint advocacy efforts, such as coalitions dedicated to sustainability and carbon reduction, and through active participation in international forums and climate change and sustainability agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Demonstrating our unwavering commitment to adopting and implementing ambitious climate and sustainability goals is essential to advocacy, showing that we are walking the talk.

**We also encourage** and empower our staff and volunteers to advocate for sustainability within and beyond the Region. Supporting their active participation in environmental initiatives and volunteer opportunities fosters a culture of engagement and extends our influence even further.

# Operations and support

**Partnerships are crucial** in aiding our efforts to decrease our carbon footprint by utilising external organisations' expertise, resources, and capabilities. Long-term partnerships provide a fuller understanding of our needs and viewpoints and allow them to develop products better suited to our needs in the case of suppliers of goods and services.

**Partners include** environmental advocacy groups and other NGOs. Still, they apply to all aspects of our sustainability work, such as renewable energy, accommodation, IT and digital service providers, recycling organisations, transport companies, and railway networks.

**Organisations** with sustainability certifications such as ISO 14001, LEED, or B Corp can provide valuable guidance for our sustainability efforts.

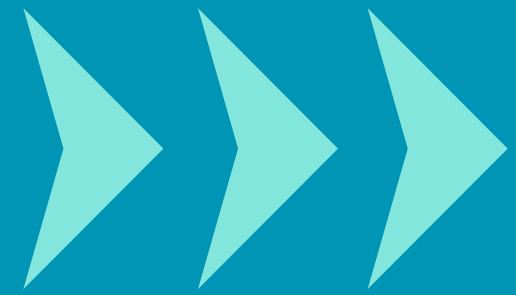
# Next Steps

**Now that** the European Scout Region has mapped out the path forward, the priority turns to implementation. The present Roadmap lists a broad range of actions to be taken, but implementation of those actions will require a number of actions. Based on the work delivered to prepare this roadmap, there are three distinct activities that should be considered for next steps.

## Assessment of Financial Implications

It is a reality of carbon reduction today that the actions recommended in this roadmap could increase the direct costs of regional activities. A detailed appraisal of the financial impact of the roadmap should be completed following the approval of this roadmap, in parallel with the development of an implementation plan. This assessment should then be used to inform the regional budgeting process, and appropriate changes to the budget should be considered by the European Scout Committee to ensure the appropriate resourcing of the roadmap and implementation plan. Where it is not feasible to allocate any additional resources required, the monitoring and evaluation process should consider how this will impact the overall climate neutrality trajectory for the region and an update to the roadmap be endorsed.





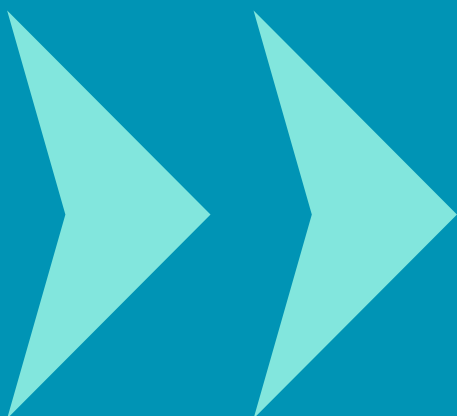
## Managing Residual Climate Impacts

We recognise that this roadmap alone will not enable the Region to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. It supports a significant reduction in the carbon footprint but still leaves around half of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to be further reduced or compensated for, based on the definition of climate neutrality. Since the current roadmap outlines ambitious but feasible reduction efforts, compensation should be the complementary approach to ensure climate neutrality.

Compensation involves addressing carbon emissions by capturing an amount of carbon equivalent to the emissions generated. The most widely used method is carbon offsetting, which involves reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or enhancing CO<sub>2</sub> removal outside an organisation's operations to balance its own emissions. Offsets are typically purchased through carbon credit markets and are only valid when they guarantee additional, rigorously monitored reductions. However, recent reports have raised concerns about the effectiveness of carbon credits in delivering genuine emission reductions, with many projects reportedly failing to ensure lasting impact.

Like any approach, carbon offsetting has both advantages and limitations, which require careful analysis and comparison with alternatives such as carbon insetting. Carbon insetting allows organisations to capture carbon by partnering with or investing in carbon capture activities within their sphere of influence. For the Region, this would involve investing in carbon capture projects developed internally through its Member Organizations.

Because both of these methods have limitations and risks that are currently unquantified, the development of this roadmap has not considered their impact on delivering climate neutrality for the region. To deliver the Region's 2030 targets, further development and assessment of these methods should be undertaken while the actions in this roadmap are implemented. Robust methods must then be implemented alongside the actions in this roadmap before 2030 to ensure the region meets its carbon neutrality goals.



# Acknowledgements

**First**, we would like to acknowledge the valuable guidance and knowledge of the European Scout Committee that helped create this document and contributed their valuable time to this project. We thank all members who participated in the survey and helped brainstorm solutions. We would also like to thank Climate Action Accelerator for their guidance.





© World Scout Bureau Inc.  
Management  
April 2025

World Scout Bureau  
Europe Support Centres  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Brussels, Belgium

GENEVA  
P.O.Box 327,  
Rue Henri-Christiné 5  
CH-1211 Geneva 4  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 705 1100

BRUSSELS  
rue de l'Industrie 10  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Phone: +32 2 893 24 35

Reproduction is authorised to National Scout  
Organizations and Associations which are  
members of the World Organization of the  
Scout Movement.

Photos by: Jasmijn Commeren, Alex Inkiläinen,  
Igor Pavlovic, Balas Patrick