



INSTITUTIONAL ROADMAP

Reducing PATH's climate & environmental footprint



Climate Action
Accelerator



About PATH

PATH is a global nonprofit advancing health innovations with and for the people who need them most. With nearly 50 years of experience, a global team of experts, and trusted partnerships spanning 70+ countries, PATH turns breakthroughs into better health for millions every single year.



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About the Climate Action Accelerator

The Climate Action Accelerator is a not-for-profit organization that aims to mobilize a critical mass of common good organizations to scale up climate solutions, empowering them to radically transform their practices and contribute to tipping entire sectors of society toward low-carbon, resilient, and sustainable models.



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1 Introduction

Climate change is worsening health worldwide, with the greatest impacts falling on countries where health systems are already under strain and health outcomes remain unequal.

As a global health organization, PATH is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and contributing to broader climate action. This roadmap outlines a phased, practical approach for doing so, pairing long-term ambition with achievable steps that can evolve over time.

2 Why a climate roadmap?

As climate change increasingly affects the health outcomes we work to improve, reducing our own environmental footprint is both a practical responsibility and an opportunity to lead by example. By making our footprints and roadmap publicly available, we are reinforcing our commitment to transparency and accountability, while inviting others in the global health community to do the same.

- **Our ambitions and vision**

This roadmap translates PATH's climate ambitions into action. It establishes the direction and targets that will guide our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen sustainability across our operations, and integrate climate considerations into our work.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to global health and increasingly affects the countries, communities, and health systems that PATH serves. In response, we aim to reduce our environmental footprint, strengthen resilience, and support more sustainable approaches to improving health outcomes.

Our vision is clear: While advancing our mission, we will work to reduce emissions, minimize environmental harm, and help scale solutions that are locally driven, contextually appropriate, and globally championed.

- **Our work so far**

Over recent years, PATH has taken concrete steps to integrate climate and environmental action into our operations and programming:

2019: PATH conducted our first carbon footprint analysis.

2023: PATH launched the internal Climate x Health framework to support countries in preparing for and responding to climate-related health challenges.

Recognizing that climate change threatens health equity, the framework focuses on three pillars:

- Strengthening climate-resilient health systems and advancing evidence to protect vulnerable communities.
- Embedding climate considerations into how we design and deliver programs, products, and partnerships.
- Reducing our organizational footprint and preparing our operations and teams for mitigation.

2024: PATH published a brief describing how we help countries mitigate and adapt to the health impacts of climate change.

2025: PATH partnered with the Climate Action Accelerator to develop an institutional roadmap and support its implementation.

3 Our commitments

● Climate responsibility and alignment with global frameworks

PATH is committed to contributing to global climate efforts while continuing to advance our mission of improving health through innovation and partnership.

This roadmap shows how PATH is actively aligning our operations with the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the scientific consensus established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It provides a structured pathway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen accountability, and progressively integrate climate considerations into decision-making across the organization.

Achieving meaningful climate action requires collective responsibility. Success will depend not only on actions taken within PATH but also on collaboration with implementing partners, suppliers, donors, and the wider global health community.

To deliver on these commitments, PATH will adapt our practices and ensure climate action is embedded across its operations and governance. This includes strengthening policies and processes, building staff awareness and skills through training and learning opportunities, and fostering a culture of accountability that supports continuous improvement.

● Guiding principles for climate action

The following principles will guide how we implement this roadmap:

1. **Measure our progress** as we implement our commitments. We will establish and track key performance indicators to monitor our progress toward our targets.
2. **Ensure transparency and accountability** by measuring our annual carbon footprint and publishing progress reports.
3. **Increase our capacity to understand climate** and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions.
4. **Build awareness** and capacity among staff through training and tools to embed sustainability into daily operations and practices.
5. **Use our influence across our value chain**, including indirect emissions related to activities performed by implementation partners.
6. **Work collaboratively** across the global health sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action; use our data to drive continuous improvement internally and share our insights with partners and donors across the sector to have a greater impact.

● 2030 emission reduction target

In line with the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the latest recommendations from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, PATH aims to reduce its greenhouse gas footprint by 42 percent by 2030 from a 2023 baseline. The target covers direct emissions (Scope 1) from PATH's operations as well as indirect emissions associated with purchased energy and activities across its wider value chain (Scopes 2 and 3). The target was developed with reference to criteria and guidance established by the Science Based Targets initiative* (SBTi) supports efforts to limit global warming to well below 2.0°C above preindustrial levels.

** The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is a global corporate climate action organization that develops standards, tools, and guidance to help companies and financial institutions set emissions-reduction targets aligned with climate science and the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement.*

- **Looking beyond: 2035 and net zero**

Reaching net zero means deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, followed by permanently neutralizing any remaining emissions that cannot be eliminated. Building on its target to reduce emissions by 42 percent by 2030, PATH aims to reduce emissions across our operations and value chain by approximately 60 percent by 2035.

This long-term objective marks a further milestone on PATH's trajectory toward net zero and signals our intention to strengthen emissions reductions over time.

- **Translating the roadmap into an operational plan**

Following the publication of the roadmap, PATH commits to developing an operational plan by 2027. This plan will translate the roadmap's strategic orientations into concrete actions and measurable targets.

The operational plan will include:

- A detailed list of actions to be implemented supporting the roadmap's solutions.
- Quantitative emissions reduction targets per solution.
- A clear implementation framework defining roles, responsibilities, and governance mechanisms.
- A project structure involving shared services and programs.

- **A flexible and evolving roadmap**

Since 2023, when the carbon footprint baseline was established, PATH's activities have continued to evolve and are expected to do so in the coming years. The roadmap is therefore designed as a dynamic and adaptive framework, recognizing that specific reduction levers and solutions may change over time. What remains constant is the intention to reduce emissions over time. Achieving this ambition will require a shared effort, with strong internal commitment and active collaboration across PATH's implementing partners.

4 Carbon footprint

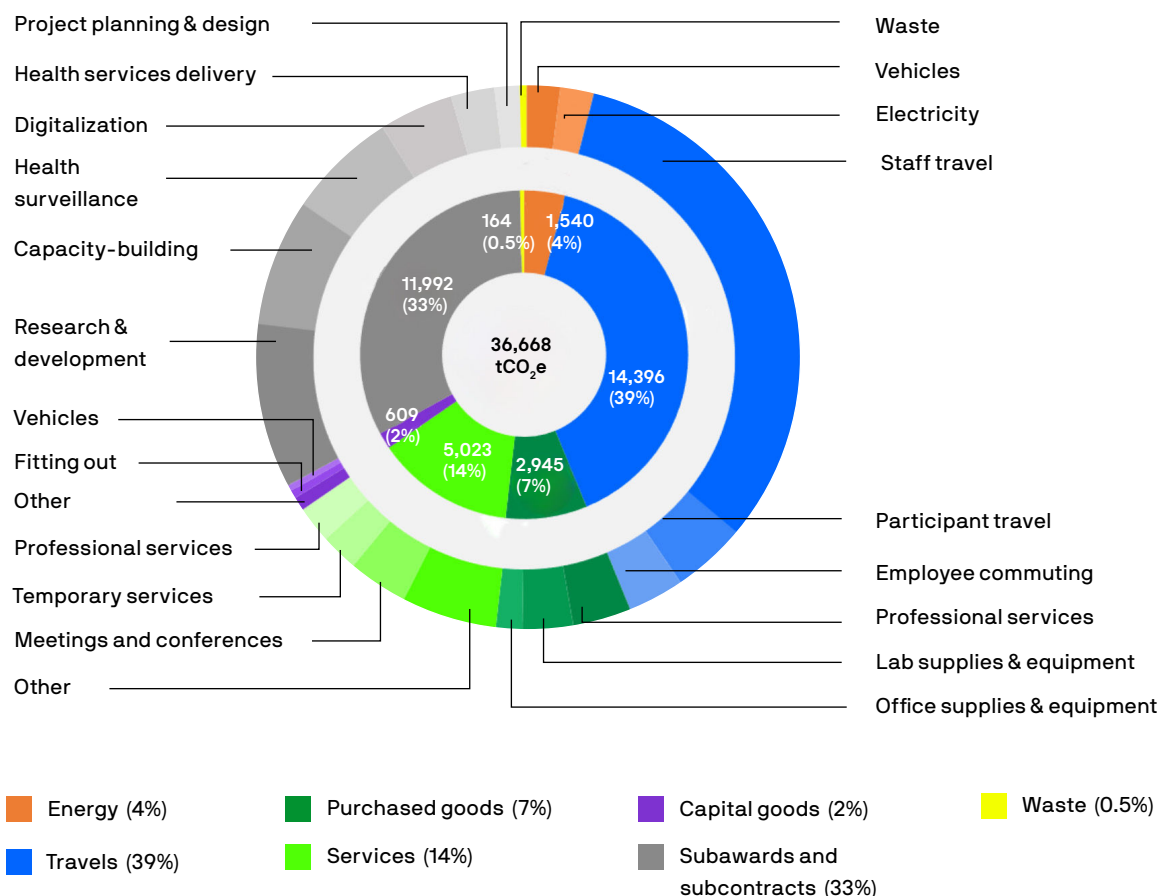
- **Baseline footprint results**

PATH calculated its baseline carbon footprint using the year 2023. The carbon footprint represents the greenhouse gas emissions associated with PATH's operations and value chain, including carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, expressed collectively in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). It quantifies the various sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for which PATH is accountable. The measurement includes PATH's 30 offices and 1,700 staff members present at the time.

The approach complies with international standards (ISO 14064-1) and follows the Greenhouse Gas Protocol methodology. It covers Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, encompassing all direct and indirect emissions (upstream and downstream) from activities where PATH has the authority to set policies or make decisions, even if it does not fully own them. This includes emissions from sources PATH owns or controls, those associated with purchased energy, and those arising elsewhere in PATH's upstream and downstream value chain.

PATH's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 amounted to 36,668 tCO₂e (tons of carbon dioxide equivalent). The carbon footprint is concentrated in several categories of emissions: travel (notably air travel), subawards and subcontracts, services, purchased goods, energy, capital goods, and waste.

FIGURE 1. PATH's 2023 greenhouse gas emissions by source. The inner ring shows emissions by major category, while the outer ring provides a more detailed breakdown of each category. Total emissions were measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).



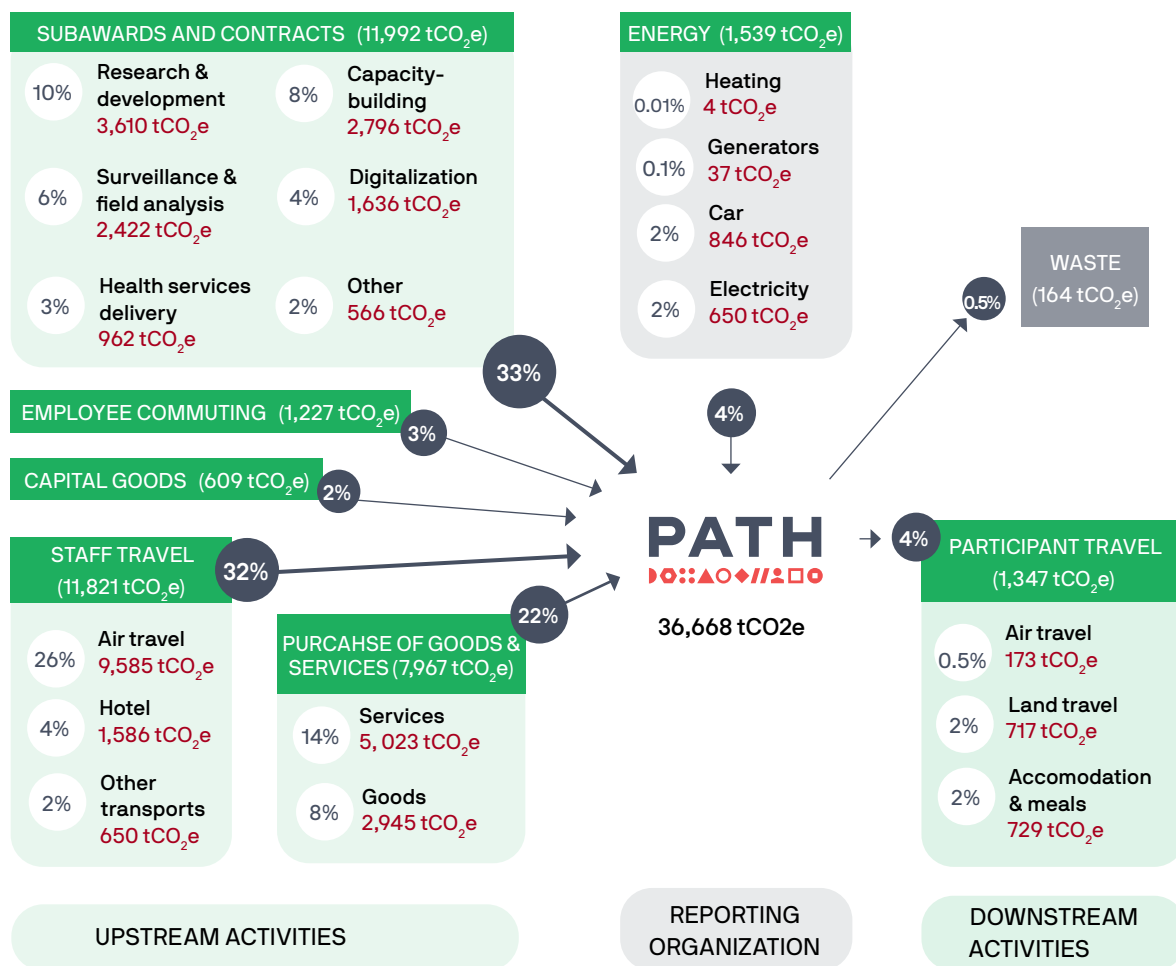
The most emissive categories are travel (39 percent; 14,396 tCO₂e), mainly because of staff air travel (26 percent; 9,600 tCO₂e), and subawards and subcontracts (33 percent; 11,992 tCO₂e). The high proportion of air travel is linked to the nature of the organization's activities, which span the globe to provide health solutions, sometimes in very hard-to-reach areas.

In accordance with the Scopes of the GHG Protocol, PATH's GHG emissions are distributed as follows:

- **2 percent for Scope 1: Direct emissions.**
Defined as direct emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by PATH, such as fuel used in company vehicles or on-site equipment.
- **1 percent for Scope 2: Indirect energy emissions.**
Defined as indirect energy emissions associated with the generation of electricity, heating, or cooling purchased for PATH offices.
- **97 percent for Scope 3: Value chain emissions.**
Defined as indirect emissions occurring across PATH's value chain, including travel, procurement, subawards, and other operational activities.

● Emission flow mapping

FIGURE 2. PATH's 2023 greenhouse gas emissions by source and position in the value chain. PATH reported 36,668 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), with subawards and subcontracts, staff travel, and purchased goods and services accounting for 87 percent of the total. Emissions are organized by upstream activities, PATH's operations, and downstream activities.



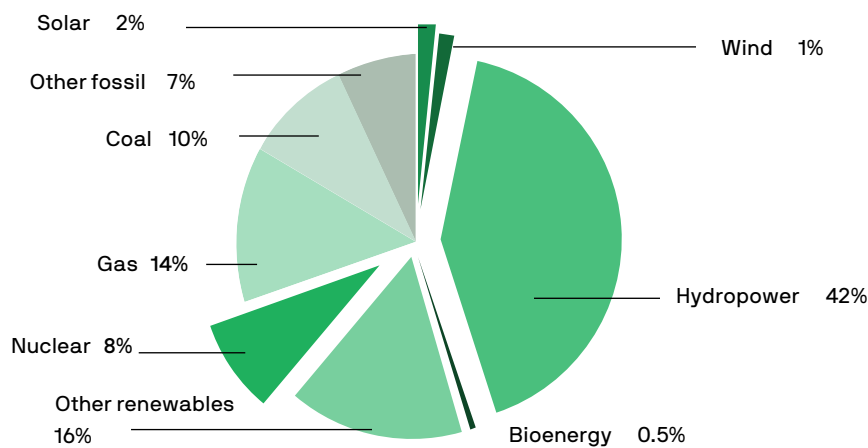
Opportunities to reduce electricity-related emissions vary significantly across PATH offices, depending on the carbon intensity of local electricity grids and the availability of renewable energy.

The current renewable energy landscape across PATH offices

- High availability (≥80 percent) of renewable energy in countries such as Ethiopia, DRC, Mozambique, Nepal, Switzerland, Uganda, the US, and Zambia, with electricity grids dominated by hydropower.
- Moderate access (40–80 percent) in China, Myanmar, Peru, and the UK, often through mixed sources (hydro, solar, or wind combined with fossil fuels).
- Low renewable energy (<40 percent) in Ghana, India, Senegal, Tanzania, Ukraine, and Vietnam, where coal, gas, or oil remain dominant.

FIGURE 3. PATH's electricity use: breakdown by source (kWh consumed per source*)

* Breakdown of PATH's electricity use (1,633,000 kWh) based on national grid data (across 18 sites, covering 70 percent of PATH's total electricity consumption).



5 Strategy to reduce our carbon footprint

To reduce our institutional environmental footprint, we have identified an initial set of 16 solutions across five thematic areas. These solutions were identified and refined through a series of thematic workshops held with staff across regions and functions to gather operational perspectives and assess risks and opportunities.

● Thematic areas

The selected solutions are structured across five thematic areas and capture key emissions reduction priorities:

**Professional travel**
Focus on essential travel.

**Building & energy**
Reduce energy consumption.

**Procurement of goods & services**
Elevate climate-friendly options with suppliers.

**Programmatic solutions**
Consider climate in program design and operations.

**Transversal solutions**
Implement good office practices & sustainable events.

● Solutions

#	SOLUTION AREA	SOLUTION
Professional travel		
1	Air travel: travel better	- Promote economy class over premium economy and business. - Replace short flights with train travel.

#	SOLUTION AREA	SOLUTION
2	Air travel: travel less	● Focus on essential travel. ● Reduce the number of in-person internal meetings and retreats. ● Shift internal training to majority virtual format. ● Strategically combine trips or consolidate events to minimize travel frequency. ● Localize project management.
3	Road travel	● Reduce road mileage by optimizing vehicle usage (e.g., combining trips). ● Reduce fuel consumption by purchasing lighter and more fuel-efficient vehicle models where suitable in the local context.
▶ Building & energy		
4	Office space	● Reduce office space when possible. ● Continue to favor hybrid work and an open seating model to save space wherever possible. ● Consider environmental office standards when choosing new office spaces.
5	Energy savings measures	● Reduce energy consumption by redefining temperature standards in offices to restrict cooling and heating. ● Consider installing automatic light switches in offices, where not already in place. ● Encourage staff to turn off equipment when not in use.
6	Seek low-carbon energy sources	● When generators need to be replaced, consider replacing with solar panels. ● Where the national energy mix relies heavily on fossil fuels, seek low-carbon alternatives (see previous bullet).
▶ Procurement of goods & services		
7	Reduce emissions from purchased goods & services	● Assess and rationalize needs to optimize resource use and prevent waste. ● Build climate and environmental criteria into procurement policy to promote sustainable suppliers and products. ● Shift to alternative products and services with a lower climate and environmental impact where possible.
▶ Programmatic solutions		
8	Project operations	● Consider the geographic location and travel implications when forming project teams. ● Adapt project monitoring practices to reduce travel. ● Make workshop/training virtual when possible. ● Promote digitalization of data.
9	Influence partners	● Guide partners in developing proposals / contracts that include measures to minimize their carbon footprint. ● When possible, choose local partners and work with local communities and stakeholders. ● Pursue resources to create a platform to share practices and strategies for reducing climate impact among partners.

10	Sustainable program and product design	● Mainstreaming climate considerations into the design of programs and products: » Develop and introduce climate-smart health technologies. » Improve environmental sustainability of supply chains.
11	Climate review of proposals	● Develop guidance to integrate climate considerations into proposals.
Transversal solutions		
12	Digital	● Reduce the amount of data storage and transfer. ● Stretch laptop replacement schedule. ● Ensure responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI).
13	Waste	● Implement waste management plans in offices where no program exists.
14	Plastic	● Encourage alternatives to single-use items, especially plastic items.
15	Green office practices	● Promote sustainable workplace practices.
16	Green events	● Create guidelines for conducting green events.

● Priority actions

To accelerate reducing emissions, PATH will focus first on actions with the greatest potential impact while also improving operational efficiency;

1. Reduce emissions from business travel by minimizing travel distances and, where possible, prioritize remote or regional participation.
2. Integrate climate and environmental criteria into procurement decisions, prioritize lower-emission products and services in high-impact spending categories, and encourage the use of supplies that rely on renewable energy.
3. Work with implementing partners to reduce emissions associated with program delivery, tailoring emission reduction approaches to different types of subaward and subcontract activities.

● Co-benefits

Beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the actions outlined in this roadmap will generate important organizational benefits.

They will strengthen PATH's credibility with donors and partners, for whom climate action is increasingly an expectation. They will also reinforce PATH's leadership in climate and health by aligning operational practices with organizational values and objectives.

More sustainable approaches to travel, procurement, and resource management can improve operational efficiency and reduce costs over time. Integrating climate and environmental considerations into programs and products can also strengthen program quality and support greater acceptance among the communities PATH serves.

Finally, the roadmap provides an opportunity to engage staff and partners in a shared culture of sustainability, encouraging innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Through this approach, PATH aims not only to reduce its environmental footprint but also to strengthen organizational resilience and prepare for the evolving expectations of the global health sector.

● Key performance indicators

In line with our key commitments as well as quantified reduction targets, the following key performance indicators will be tracked throughout this journey to measure progress, adjust efforts, and recognize achievements.

INDICATOR	MEASURE
Carbon emissions reduction	Percent reduction of carbon emissions compared with baseline
Carbon intensity	tCO ₂ e per dollar of organizational expenditure
Travel by air	Passenger-kilometers travelled by air
Fuel consumption	Total liters of fuel consumed
Electricity consumption	Total kWh consumed
Energy mix	Percent of electricity from low-carbon sources
Procurement footprint	Carbon emissions from purchased goods and services
Sustainable procurement	Percent of spend meeting defined climate and environmental criteria
Waste generation	Estimated volume or weight of waste generated
Subaward & subcontract footprints	Carbon emissions associated with implementation partner activities

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