

Environmental performance report

November 2020



Environmental performance report

We continue to monitor activities that have a negative effect on the environment and assess the ways in which we can minimise this negative impact. Our last environmental audit was completed in 2020 for the preceding year. Our flight data shows an increase in long haul flights which is reflective of the continued increase in scope and size of our projects into 2020.

	2019		2018		2017	
Journey type	CO2 (tons)	%	CO2 (tons)	%	CO2 (tons)	%
Short haul	619.99	25.2	851.66	38.8	566.81	30.4
Long haul	1840.96	74.8	1343.97	61.2	1296.94	69.6
Total	2460.95	100	2195.62	100	1863	100

	2016		2015		2014	
Journey type	CO2 (tons)	%	CO2 (tons)	%	CO2 (tons)	%
Short haul	670.09	55.4	85.57	6.5	74.59	7.6
Long haul	540.05	44.6	1242.5	93.6	902.48	92.4
Total	1210	100	1328	100	977.06	100

Paper consumption and recycling

Printers at our UK head office capture usage and enable us to report the environmental impact of our in-house printing, scanning and photocopying. The software requires staff to use a programmed pass in order to release any print jobs, ensuring paper is not wasted. In addition, our default print settings are set for duplex, grey scale printing to further reduce the number of sheets and energy used.

Over the course of this reporting period, our fundraising teams have taken particular care with data selections and continue to make a conscious effort to minimise the volume of mail that goes out to supporters. We use FSC-accredited paper for all of our fundraising printing and materials.

Environmental impact	2019	2018	2017	2015
Total printed sheets	240,809	251,917	245,609	249,676
Trees consumed	3	3.1	3.05	3.1
Equivalent bulb hours	68,229.2	71,376.3	69,589.2	70,741.5
Total CO2 produced (tons)	1.0837	1.1336	1.105	1.124

Energy: electricity

The table below relates to the UK head office location only. All conversions to CO2 (tons) are reported based on information provided by our energy provider or management company at the time. Currently, we are unable to collate data from overseas offices in respect of indirect greenhouse emissions arising from energy usage as many of their local energy providers lack the facility to calculate the emissions resulting from energy generation. We will continue to monitor this position with the aim to report when data is made available.

	2019		2018		2017		2015	
	kWh	CO2 (tons)	kWh	CO2 (tons)	kWh	CO2 (tons)	kWh	CO2 (tons)
Electricity	162.32	114.77	155.16	109.7	256.79	110.40	255.57	109.9

Transport and logistics

Sightsavers has programmes in around half of the countries in Africa, as well as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and we centralise a significant share of our procurement of goods required to implement our programmes so we can secure preferential price and benefit from economies of scale. We therefore manage shipments all over the world and work closely with major global freight forwarders to make sure our staff and partners receive the pharmaceuticals, consumables and equipment they need to run our programmes in optimal conditions and ensuring our end beneficiaries are safe. All our approved logistics partners have an environmental approach that is in line with our own, and we all aim to reduce the impact of our logistics on our environment. We are in the process of contracting with a preferred freight forwarder and will be in a position to receive emission reports so that we can monitor our impact on the environment and see how we can improve ourselves. In addition, in early 2020, we launched a new supply chain system which will enable us to consolidate needs for each of our country programme and minimise the orders placed for each destination so that we can reduce our number of shipments and therefore our impact on the environment.

Environmental Working Group (EWG)

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has been active at Sightsavers since October 2019. The group formed because several staff expressed concern about what the organisation is doing to reduce its overall environmental footprint and increase the environmental resilience of its programming. Inspired by the success of the Social Inclusion Working Group, these staff sent out an initial survey to the organisation headquarters in Haywards Heath to gauge staff interest in this type of work, and found a great deal of enthusiasm in joining from across departments. The group now has members from across the headquarters at varying levels of seniority, and are working to expand membership to all offices. The EWG works towards the following objectives: greener building management, sustainable travel, encouraging knowledge and learning on the environmental impacts of our work, and collaborating with other organisations with similar interests.

In the short time the EWG has been active, they have had several successes. In the Haywards Heath office, they have begun exploring ways to reduce waste and have implemented schemes to recycle milk tops and packaging, and added an induction for new starters on how to reduce office energy consumption. The group have also begun work across the wider organisation, including reviewing travel policies to understand how to encourage more sustainable travel, and exploring sustainable marketing options. Finally, the group are supporting preliminary work on writing an organisational environmental policy and country environmental management plans to complement other ways of working across the organisation, in which we will be getting input from country office staff to help create and implement guidelines in a holistic way.

Development

The Sightsavers Environmental Policy is currently under review following the strategic decision to place environmental management within the resilience team. The new policy, due for completion by Q2 2020, will encompass a national level focus for environmental management through the development of country environmental plans, specific to Sightsavers operating countries. These plans will be placed under an over-arching framework which sets the organisational environmental principles and controls environmental management systems for areas such as supply chain, travel and environmental risk assessment. Implemented by a network of country 'environmental champions' and overseen by the controller of crisis and risk, the new policy will be positioned to capture Sightsavers' reporting, impact and environment safeguarding responsibilities.

We work with partners in low and middle income countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

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