
CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

IFC'S CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the pursuit of driving positive change and of a sustainable future, IFC remains committed to leading by example through its Corporate Environmental Sustainability program in its HQ and Country Offices. We aim to identify and implement initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint, improve energy efficiency and climate resiliency, promote responsible waste management, promote sustainable purchasing, and create healthy workspaces for our staff.

Calculating Our GHG Emissions

IFC recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and has set ambitious targets to reduce internal greenhouse gas emissions. IFC addresses this through a combination of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy investments, and carbon offsets. IFC's commitment goes beyond merely aligning with the Paris Agreement; we strive to elevate our priorities to meet the rigorous climate and sustainability standards set by IFC.

IFC has calculated, managed, and reported on the carbon footprint of its internal business operations since 2006. The methodology IFC uses is based on the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol Initiative](#) (GHG Protocol), an internationally recognized GHG accounting and reporting standard. Additional methodology details are available in the [World Bank Group Inventory Management Plan](#). Additionally, IFC signed the [Cool Food Pledge](#), committing to reduce food-related emissions from cafeterias, coffee bars, and catering operations at its Washington, D.C. headquarters by 25 percent by 2030.

Since FY09, IFC has managed and collected its GHG inventory using an online data management system. The system has been customized in accordance with the World Bank Group Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Management Plan (IMP). The IMP provides organization-wide information, including corporate overview and goals, boundary conditions of the inventory, emissions quantification methods, data management methods, base year selection discussion, list of management tools, and auditing and verification processes. The latest IMP can be downloaded at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do/crinfo>.

IFC uses the "operational control approach" for setting the organizational boundaries of its GHG inventory. Emissions are included from all locations for which IFC has direct control over operations, and where it can influence decisions that impact GHG emissions.

IFC's annual GHG inventory includes the following sources of GHG emissions: from IFC's leased and owned facilities, air travel, mobile source emissions, and purchased food emissions.

Reducing Our GHG Emissions

In 2018, IFC set its first-ever global corporate carbon emissions reduction science-based target. This was announced together with the World Bank Group-wide climate-related commitments at COP24. IFC's carbon target is to reduce its facility-related carbon emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 20 percent between 2016 and 2026. This target represents IFC's contribution toward the WBG's commitment to reduce facility-related emissions by an average of 28 percent over the same timeframe.

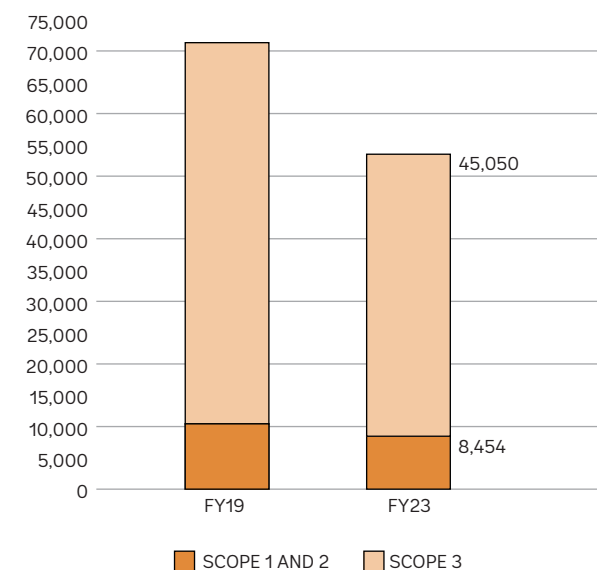
FY23 reports that Scope 1 and 2 emissions are down by 36 percent from the 2016 baseline year and IFC is on track to meet our target in 2026. IFC also measures indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions globally from business air travel, contractor-owned vehicles, and GHG emissions related to food purchased at its headquarters, calculated through the [World Resources Institute's Cool Food Pledge](#). Scope 3

GHG emissions for corporate operations does not include emissions from IFC's financing activities.

Considering radiative forcing, the FY23 IFC air travel emissions were approximately 74 percent of FY19 (pre-pandemic levels).

For methodology details and data, please see [The World Bank Group Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Management Plan for Internal Business Operations](#).

FY23 Scope 1, 2, and 3 GHG Emissions (tCO₂eq)



Purchasing Carbon Offsets

To offset annual GHG emissions, IFC purchases carbon offsets from [IDA Borrowing Countries](#) or from [least developed countries](#) in accordance with [World Bank Group Guidelines](#) for selection of emission reduction offsets.

IFC’s headquarters in Washington, D.C. offsets building electricity consumption through the annual purchasing of renewable energy credits (RECs). IFC, as part of the World Bank Group, is a member of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [Green Power Partnership](#), which recognizes leaders who voluntarily use and support green power use to reduce emissions.

Auditing Our GHG Emissions Inventory

IFC annually conducts an independent third-party audit of its GHG inventory, GHG Inventory Management Plan, and relevant FY GHG inventory as part of IFC’s Annual Report audit. IFC Scope 1, Scope 2, and partial Scope 3 emissions (business air travel, food purchases, and mobile source emissions) were subject to a Limited Assurance review by EY. This information can be found in the [WBG GHG Inventory Management Plan](#).

Sustainable Buildings

A significant aspect of IFC’s sustainability program is a focus on high-performance buildings and green certifications. Since buildings account for a significant portion of global energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, we actively promote the construction and operation of buildings that meet stringent sustainability standards. Through green building certifications, IFC encourages the use of energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy sources, and sustainable materials. Currently IFC has 18 country offices that have a green building certification such as EDGE, LEED, BREAM, and GreenMark and is pursuing EDGE for all country offices. By doing so, IFC not only reduces its environmental impact but also creates healthier and more productive spaces for our staff.

The two buildings comprising IFC’s HQ both have a variety of sustainable building certifications including:

- LEED Platinum for Existing Buildings by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC)
- UL Verified Healthy Buildings
- US Energy Star

In addition, IFC is pursuing EDGE certification for its HQ buildings.

HQ has a rooftop garden that grows herbs and vegetables including collard greens, okra, chard, peppers, rosemary, sage, and thyme. Produce grown on the HQ roof is donated to an NGO that supports local families in need. There are two HQ beehives placed next to the garden to aid pollination, provide a safe habitat for bees, and help the local ecology.

HQ ENERGY

In FY19, 65 solar panels were installed on the HQ rooftop, providing renewable power to the facility. Since installation, these panels have generated more than 90,000 kWh.

In February 2023, IFC completed an energy audit of its HQ building with the goal of identifying high-value energy savings projects including opportunities for energy conservation, energy efficiency, and on-site renewable energy generation. Among the 11 energy conservation recommendations, priority was given to five, with HVAC retro commissioning being the most highly recommended. This project will save an estimated 500,000 kWh per year and reduce IFC’s carbon emissions by more than 100 tons annually. IFC is currently working with a contractor for this retro-commissioning project who has already observed several systems for resolution. As electricity usage returns to pre-pandemic numbers, improving building efficiency through retro-commissioning will optimize building system performance.

HQ Electricity Data (kWhs)

FY	TOTAL
2019	3,620,644
2020	14,173,018
2021	13,437,353
2022	13,392,648
2023	13,966,337
2024	14,478,515

HQ Consumable Office Waste Data (tons)

FY	TOTAL LANDFILL	TOTAL RECYCLING	TOTAL COMPOST	TOTAL WASTE	TOTAL DIVERTED	DIVERSION RATE
2019	225.27	386.08	–	611.35	386.08	63%
2020	169.04	276.78	–	445.82	276.78	62%
2021	20.41	5.20	–	25.61	5.20	20%
2022	68.65	227.61	–	296.26	227.61	77%
2023	126.78	281.31	15.53	423.62	296.84	70%
2024	161.04	71.93*	103.34	336.31	175.27	52%

Notes:

Food waste collection was implemented in FY23 in kitchens, catering services, cafeterias, and offices.

All waste data reflects consumable office waste such as paper, cardboard, food waste, e-waste, batteries, and landfill waste. This data does not include construction and demolition waste.

*FY24 Total Recycling data gap due to change in waste hauler.

HQ WASTE

IFC has introduced several programs to reduce landfill waste including office supply reuse and donation programs, electronic waste recycling, scrap metal recycling, and composting of food waste. IFC requires construction contractors and subcontractors to recycle as much building material as possible. Contractors are also responsible for recycling construction materials (i.e., carpet tiles, acoustic ceiling tiles, metals, etc.). When interior renovations are made, IFC seeks to repurpose and reuse office furniture. In situations where this is not possible or feasible, IFC donates office furniture including desks, tables, chairs, and bookcases to local charitable organizations.

With employees and events returning back to HQ after the pandemic, IFC is experiencing contamination in its waste stream and has identified opportunities for improvement. In FY24, IFC conducted a waste audit to identify the types and quantities of waste generated onsite, as well as waste management practices. IFC is currently reviewing the recommendations to make necessary improvements to minimize its environmental impact.

HQ WATER

Water efficiency measures can save millions of gallons of water annually and include low-flow toilet flush valves and urinals, low-flow sink faucets in bathrooms and pantries, low-flow shower heads in fitness center locker rooms, and rain sensors to allow watering of landscaped vegetation to be based on actual rainfall. In FY24, HQ conducted a water audit to examine additional opportunities for water reduction and to ensure water is not wasted.

HQ Water Data (gallons)

FY	TOTAL
2019	12,242,447.03
2020	9,987,105.08
2021	6,597,247.03
2022	9,756,233.94
2023	11,286,958.75
2024	11,021,383.25

Cool Food Pledge

IFC implements several food sustainability measures to ensure sustainable sourcing and proactive waste efficiency. The food outlets at HQ follow sourcing standards such as purchasing cage-free eggs, milk and yogurt free from recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH), and reduced-antibiotic chicken and turkey. Additionally, all seafood purchased is approved by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program.

As of FY20, IFC reports HQ food-sourcing-related emissions to the Cool Food Pledge — a collaborative initiative with the World Resources Institute — to track and report this type of emissions with the aim of WBG-wide reduction of 25 percent by 2030.

As part of the Cool Food Pledge to reduce purchased-food greenhouse gas emissions in HQ, IFC's food service provider promotes Plant Power Days where plant-based food options are served in cafeterias, cafes, and catering each month.

Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement is another critical component of IFC's corporate environmental sustainability program based on the premise that purchasing decisions can have far-reaching environmental and social impacts. More information can be found on [WBG's Corporate Procurement page](#).