

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

CLIMATE ACCOUNT

2018-2025



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Climate goal

UCPH wants to reduce its climate footprint by 50% per full-time equivalent and student in 2030 compared with 2018.

The climate goal is set out in the University's sustainability strategy 'Knowledge & Responsibility – Sustainable Institution 2030'. The goals of the strategy were approved by the University Board in 2020, and management decided to prepare an annual climate account to track progress on the climate goal.

The climate account can be used to:

- assess whether UCPH is on track towards the 2030 climate goal
- assess key sources of emissions by category
- form the basis for adjustments and prioritisation of initiatives

In addition to the climate goal, the sustainability strategy has goals for:

- Resources
- Biodiversity
- Chemistry
- Participation
- Collaboration

For more information about the University's sustainability strategy and effort, visit: <https://sustainability2030.ku.dk/>

Main results

The University's climate footprint per full-time equivalent (FTE) and student (STÅ) has decreased by 9% since 2018. The overall climate footprint in total tCO₂e has decreased by approx. 3% since 2018.

In 2024-2025, UCPH's climate footprint per FTE and STÅ fell by 1% if excluding new construction projects. As the Niels Bohr Building (NBB) was commissioned in 2024, the emissions associated with its construction are attributed to that year. With new construction projects included, the climate footprint per FTE and student decreased by 18% in 2024-2025. However, because this does not reflect the University's general trends, the climate footprint is calculated without including new construction projects in 2024.

Scope 1

accounts for less than 1% of the total climate footprint and is not considered separately.

Scope 2

has decreased by approx. 64% in 2018-2025 and accounted for approx. 5% of the total climate footprint in 2025. This reduction is primarily due to a higher share of renewable energy in supply chains.

Scope 3

has increased by approx. 7% in 2018-2025 and accounted for 94.5% of the University's total climate footprint in 2025.

In 2024-2025, Scope 3 emissions increased by about 1% excluding new construction projects. With new constructions included, Scope 3 emissions decreased by 17% in the same period. The main reason is that 2025 saw no commissioning of new buildings, as was the case with the NBB in 2024.

Please note that all the years under review are revised and recalculated annually to ensure consistent methodology and categorisation throughout the period.



Overview 2025

Total climate footprint

155,316 tonnes of CO₂e

Climate footprint per FTE and STÅ

4.0 tonnes of CO₂e

Largest sources of emissions

Buildings and laboratories



Overall development
2018-2025

- 3 %



Development per FTE & STÅ
2018-2025

- 9 %



Overall development
2024-2025 (excl. new construction)

1 %



38,720 staff and students



1 million square meters

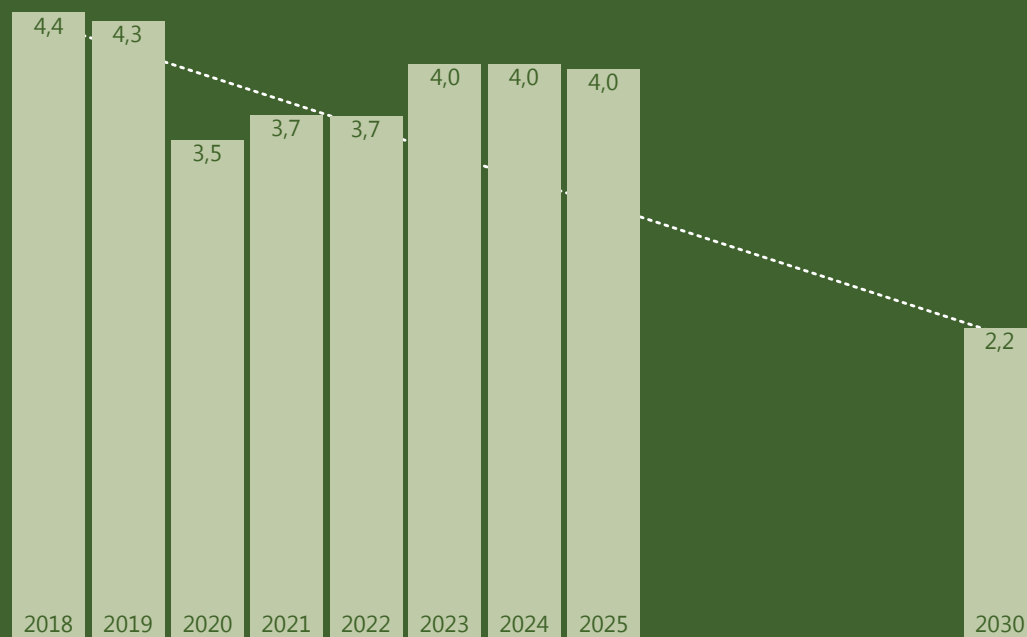


6 faculties og 36 departments

Status of the University's objective

In 2024, the Niels Bohr Building was commissioned, and the emissions associated with the construction were attributed to that year. This causes a distortion of the general and operational development. To illustrate this development with and without the category, there are two versions of the status of the University's objectives. This page shows calculations excluding new construction, while the next one shows calculations including new construction.

UCPH's climate footprint per full-time equivalent and student excluding new construction (shown in tonnes of CO₂e per FTE and STÅ)



The total climate footprint has decreased by 3% since 2018

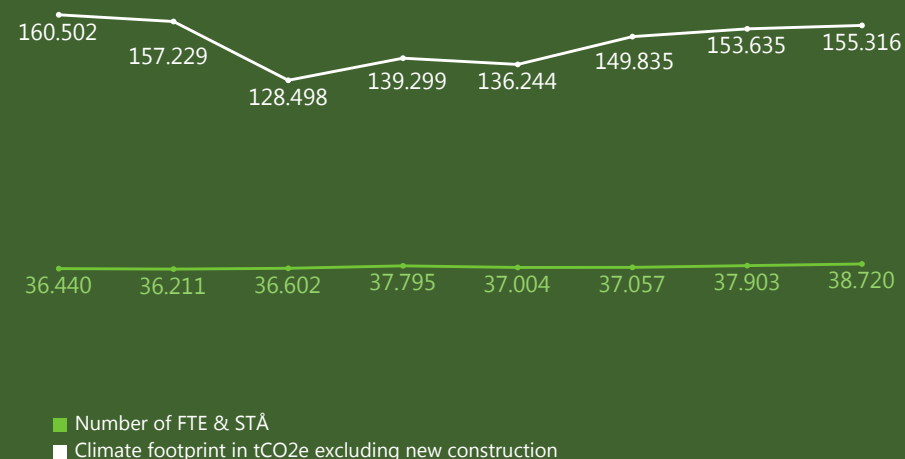
Since 2018, the total climate footprint has decreased by approx. 3%, representing a reduction of approx. 5,000 tCO₂e.

The climate footprint per full-time equivalent and student (FTE & STÅ) has decreased by approx. 9% since 2018.

In 2024-2025, the climate footprint per full-time equivalent and student decreased by approx. 1% without emissions from the new construction category in 2024. In the same period, the total number of FTEs and STÅ increased by 2%.

This is illustrated in the graph below.

Development in total emissions excluding new construction



Status of the University's objective

Development including new construction

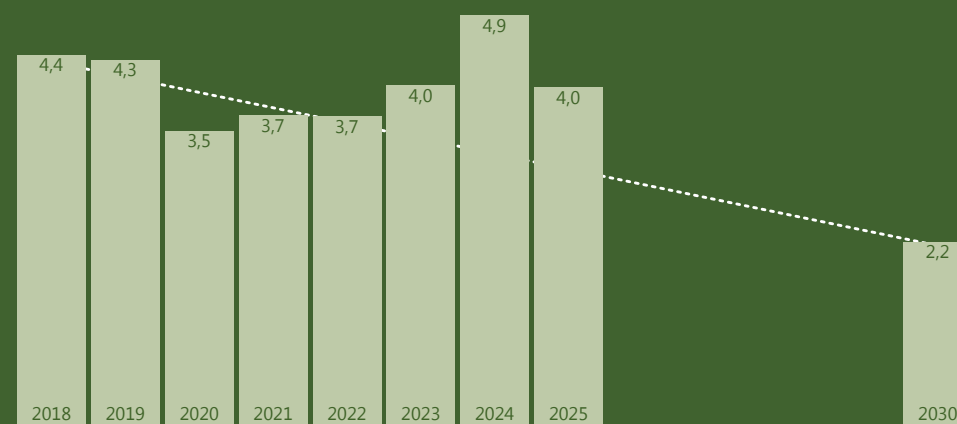
The 2024 climate footprint is especially affected by the Niels Bohr Building construction project, which is attributed to that year. This attribution creates a distorted, artificial reduction in the climate footprint, especially in the buildings category, which is why it is excluded from the category review.

The graph at the top right shows the climate footprint per FTE & STÅ and its development towards 2030, with new construction included in the 2024 climate footprint. It appears that the 2024 climate footprint, including new construction, was approx. 4.8 tonnes of CO₂e per FTE and STÅ compared with the 4.04 tonnes, including new construction. The development in 2024–2025 shows a decrease per FTE and STÅ of around 18% including new construction and 1% if excluding new construction.

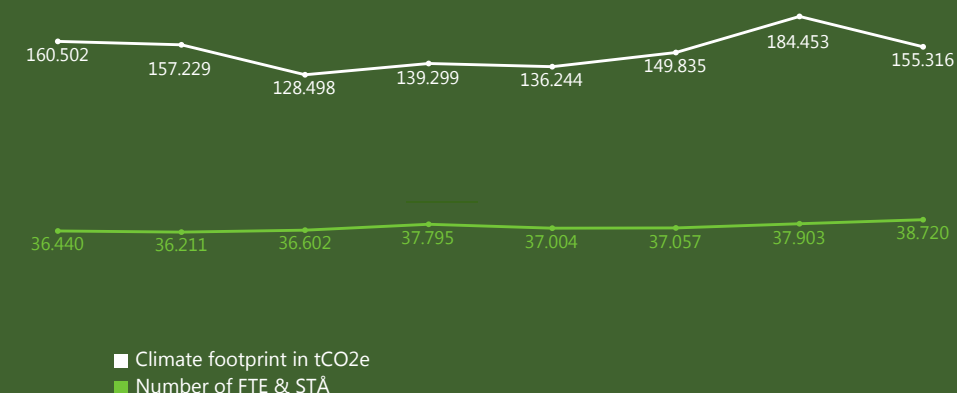
The graph at the bottom right shows the University's total climate footprint from 2018 to 2025, including new construction. It appears that the overall climate footprint, including new construction, in 2024–2025 decreased by 16%, against an increase of about 1% excluding new construction in the same period.

Climate footprint per full-time equivalent and student including new construction

(shown in tonnes of CO₂e per FTE & STÅ)



Development in total emissions including new construction



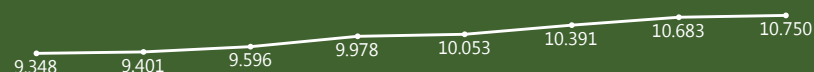
Status of the University's objective

The University's climate goals are defined relative to full-time equivalents (FTE) and students (STÅ). Student activities generally have a lower footprint than employee activities.

The climate footprint per full-time equivalent, excluding students, decreased by 16% in 2018-2025. In 2024-2025, emissions increased by 0.5%. See the graph at the top right.

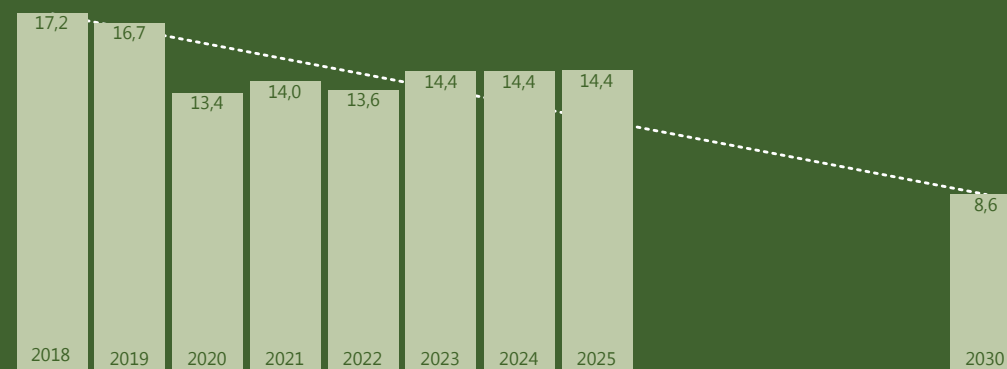
The climate footprint per student (STÅ), excluding full-time equivalents, decreased by 6% in 2018-2025. In 2024-2025, emissions decreased by 1.6%. See the graph at the bottom right.

See the development in FTE & STÅ in the graph below.

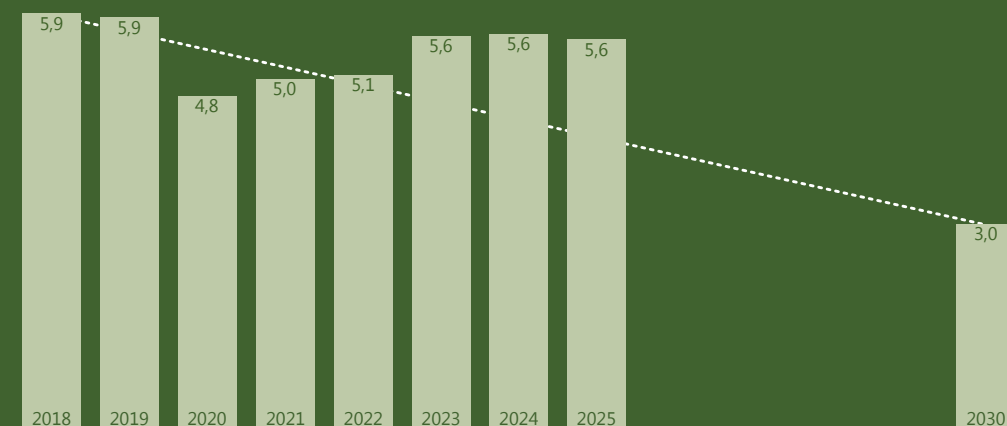


■ Studenterårsværk
■ Årsværk

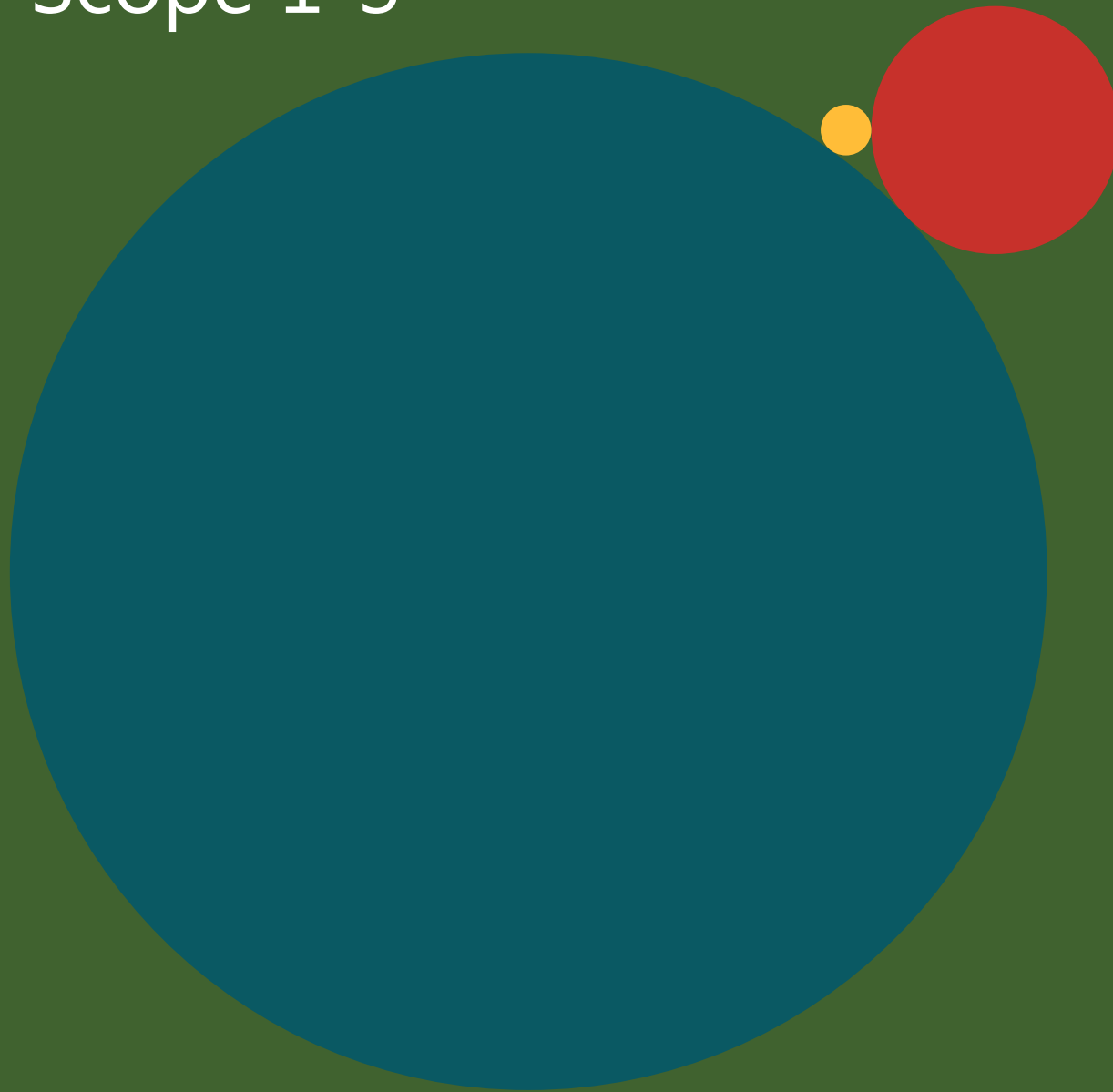
Total climate footprint per full-time equivalent
(shown in tonnes CO2e per FTE)



Total climate footprint per student full-time equivalent
(shown in tonnes CO2e per STÅ)



Scope 1-3



Scope 1 (0.2 %)

Direct emissions from fuel for UCPH vehicles and the consumption of stationary combustion sources (natural gas, urban gas, fuel oil, wood pellets and the like).

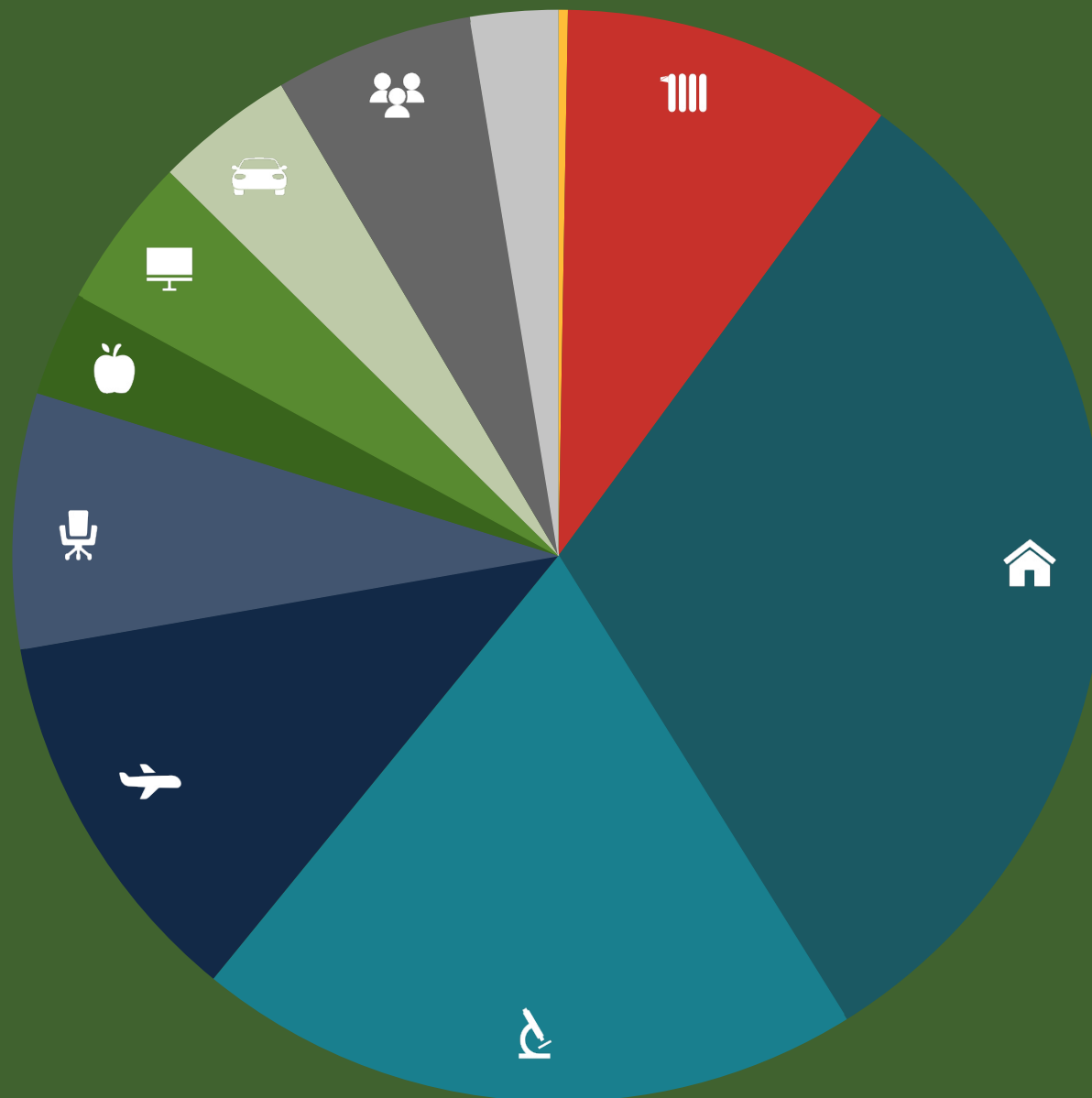
Scope 2 (5.3 %)

Indirect emissions from energy consumption purchased from utilities, i.e. electricity, district heating and cooling.

Scope 3 (94.5 %)

Indirect emissions from the University's value chain, including procurement of goods and services, business travel, waste management, etc.

Emissions by categories 2025



- Fuel 0%
- Energy 10%
- Buildings 31%
- Laboratories 20%
- Travels 11%
- Office equipment 8%
- Staff 3%
- IT 4%
- Commuting 4%
- Corporate agreements 6%
- Other 3%

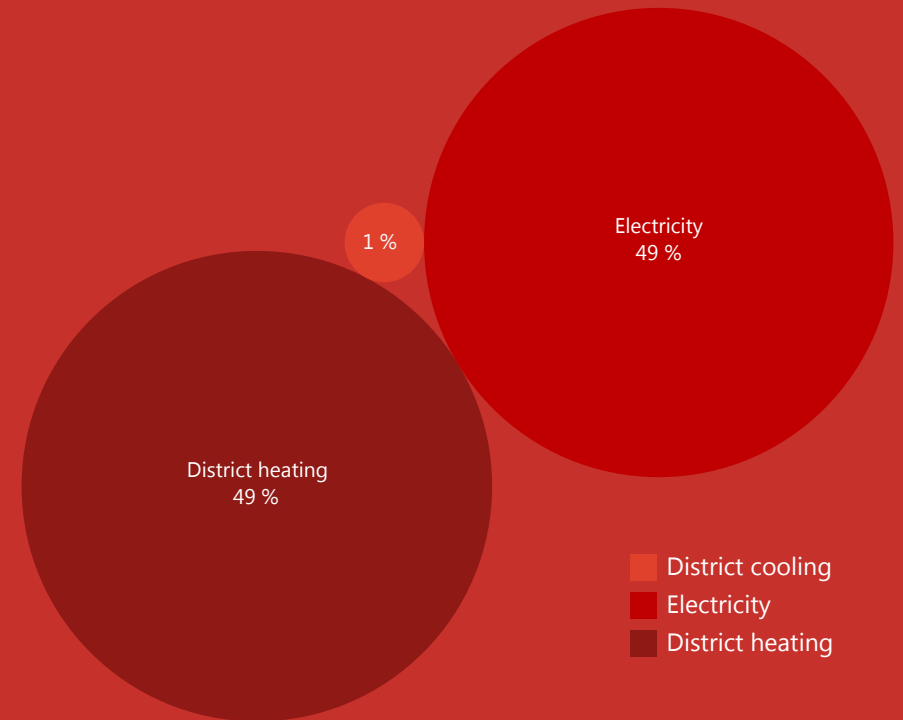
Energy

Energy accounted for approx. 9.5% of the total climate footprint in 2025, down by around 47% since 2018. The decrease is mainly due to a greater share of renewable energy, resulting in lower emissions per kWh consumed.

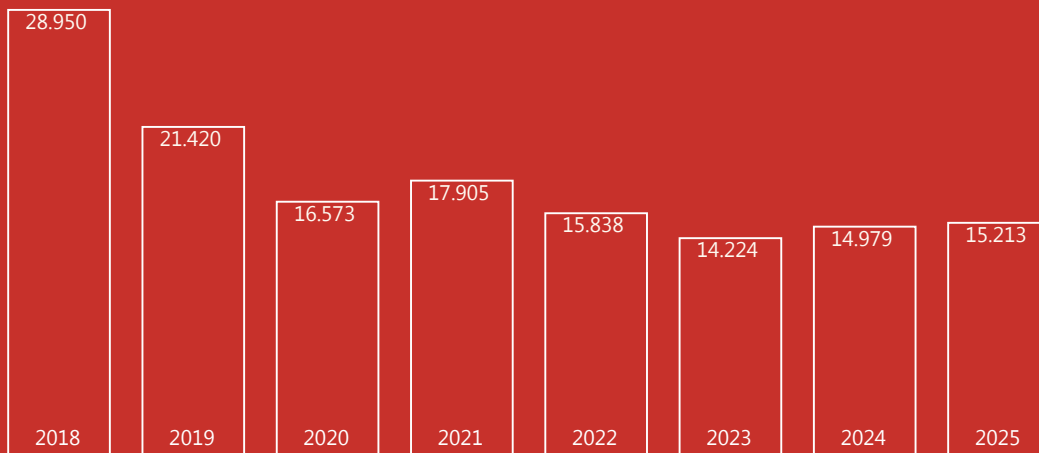
Electricity is increasingly supplied by wind power, hydropower, solar cells and nuclear power. District heating is increasingly supplied by biofuels. These energy types are recognised at 0 tonnes of CO₂e but must be stated separately (out of scope). See the page on biogenic emissions.

Since 2024, the climate footprint has increased by approx. 1.5 %, due, among other things, to increased energy consumption from the commissioning of new buildings.

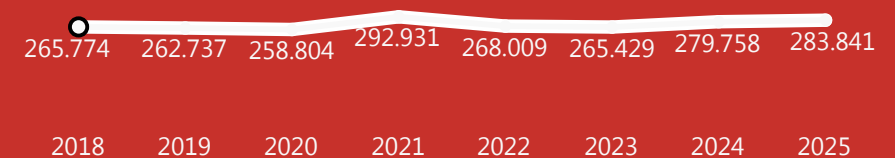
Please note that the category includes emissions from both Scope 2 and Scope 3.3 (energy and fuel-related emissions), including electricity and district heating production. **Of the total emissions under Energy, Scope 2 represents 55% and Scope 3 45%.**



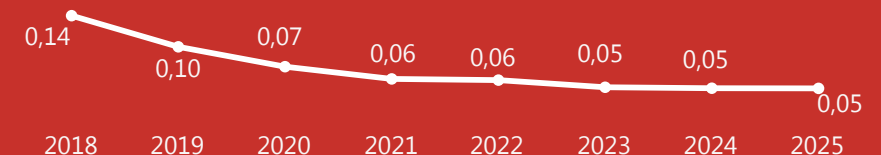
Climate footprint from energy (Shown in total tonnes of CO₂e)



Energy consumption (excluding subleased premises) (shown in MWh)



Emission factors (average) (shown in tonnes of CO₂e per MWh)





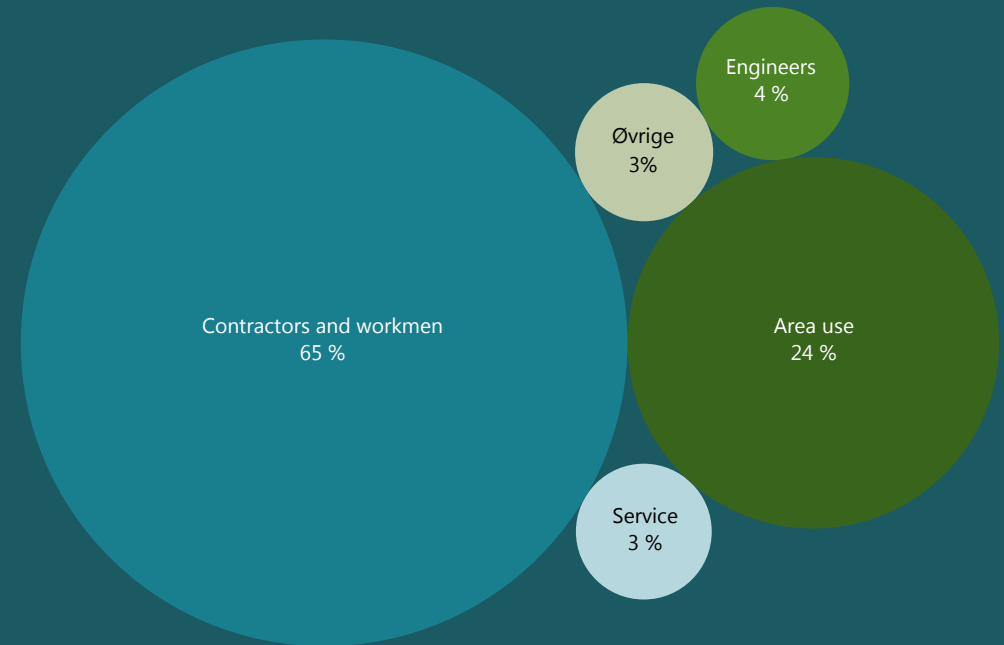
Buildings

Buildings accounted for approx. 31% of the total climate footprint in 2025, up by around 17.5% since 2018 and 16% since 2024, excluding new construction.

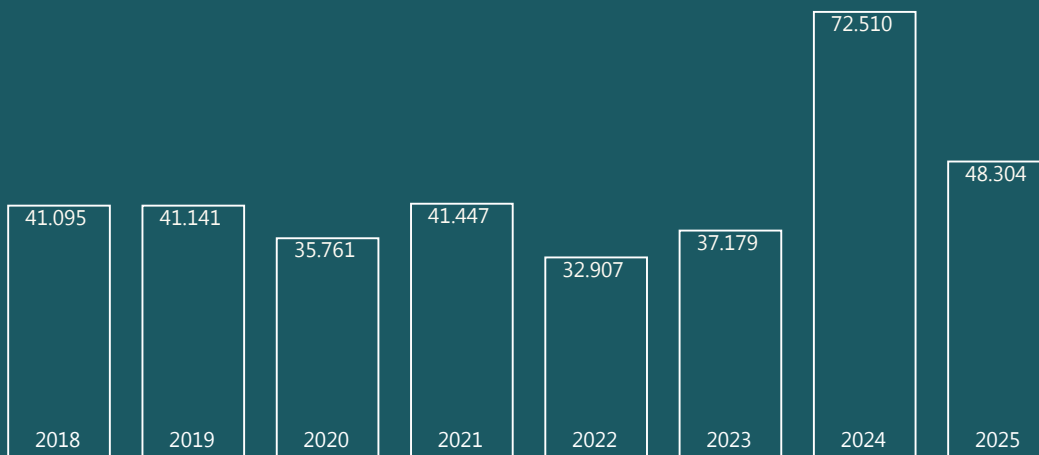
In 2025, there was no new construction. The 2024 climate account recorded a significant fluctuation in climate impact from Buildings due to the commissioning of the Niels Bohr Building (NBB). A comparison shows that the building area in 2025 saw a considerable reduction in emissions after including the NBB. However, this is misleading, as these are large, periodic fluctuations in the calculations rather than actual year-on-year reductions in emissions. The overall trend in buildings' climate impact is increasing.

Emissions from the contractors and workmen category accounted for the largest proportion of Buildings (65%). This is a 25% increase between 2024 and 2025, estimated to be attributable to a large sanitation project, construction projects in new and existing buildings and new animal facilities.

Area use accounted for 24% of the Building category in 2025, up 11% since 2018, consistent with an increase in building stock in 2018-2025.



Climate footprint from buildings (shown in tonnes of CO2e)



- Contractors and workmen**, for example, technical inspection and services, plumbing, carpentry, glazing, painting, bricklaying, flooring.
- Area use** accounts for the climate footprint of the University's area use, excluding subleased premises.
- Engineers and architects**, for example, surveyors, engineers, architects and general building consultancy.
- Service** includes laundry, lift and sewer services, outdoor areas.
- Other** includes own building materials, tools and machines.

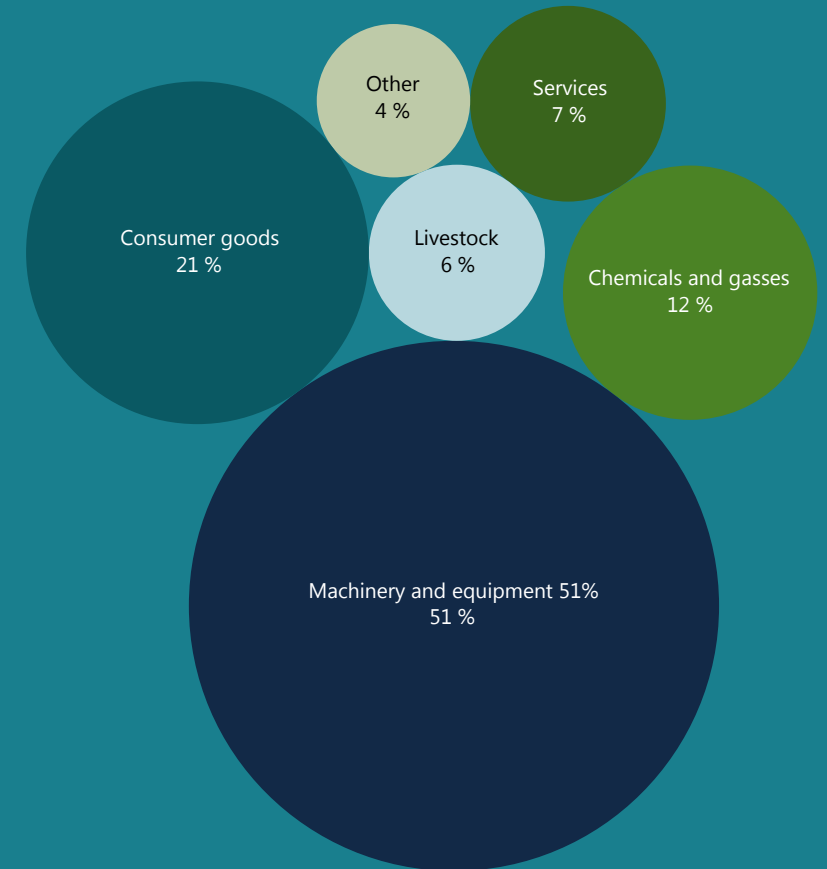


Laboratories

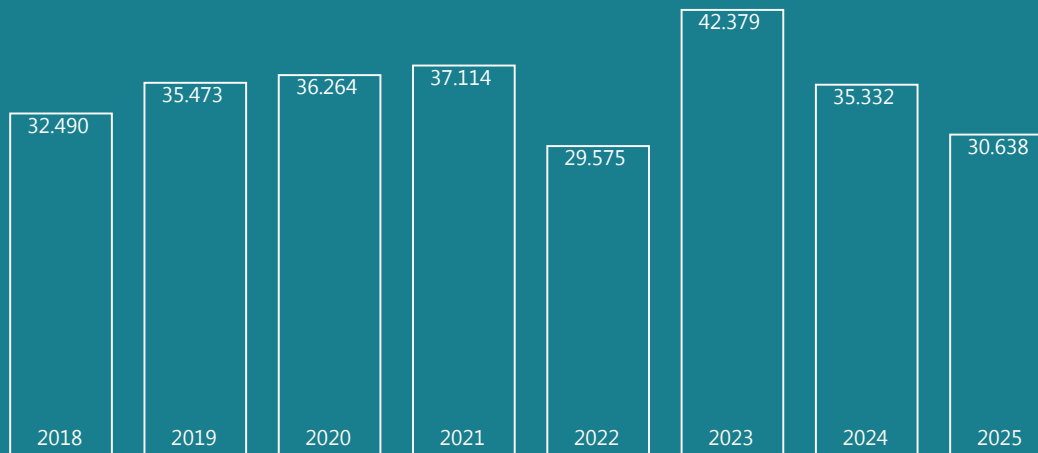
Laboratory climate footprint accounted for approx. 20% of the total climate footprint, down by around 6% from 2018 to 2025.

The climate footprint from laboratories increased significantly from 2022 to 2023, due to increased procurement of equipment and apparatus, including extraordinary investments, which did not recur in subsequent years and thus fell back in 2024 and further in 2025. The climate footprint decreased by approx. 28% in 2025 compared with 2023 and around 13% compared with 2024.

In 2025, apparatus and equipment accounted for 51% and consumer goods for 21%, totalling 72% of the entire category.



Climate footprint from laboratories (shown in tonnes of CO2e)



- Machinery and equipment** include systems, cooling and freezing equipment, measuring instruments, spectroscopic equipment and microscopes.
- Consumer goods** include surgical equipment, cell culture equipment, filters, pipettes and pipette tips.
- Chemicals and gases** include advanced chemicals, basic chemicals, gases for teaching and research, bottle rental and tanks, etc.
- Services** include servicing and inspection of laboratory equipment, dental services and funerals.
- Livestock** includes laboratory animals, feed, litter, equipment for animal experiments and animal hospitals.
- Other** includes, for example, equipment for plants, forestry and aquaculture.

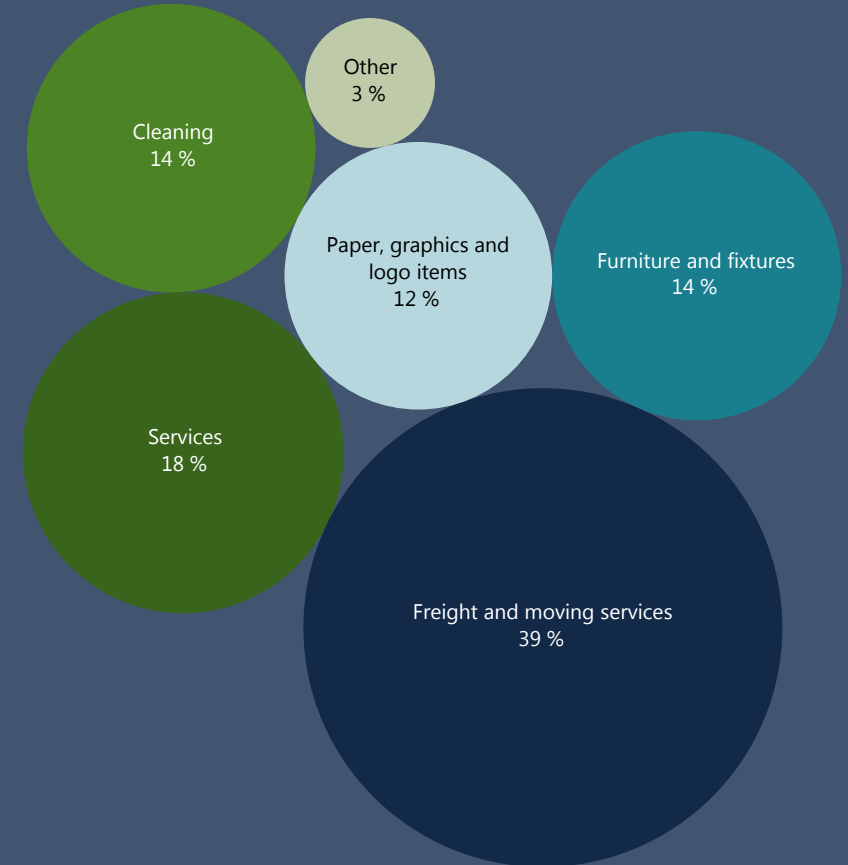


Office equipment

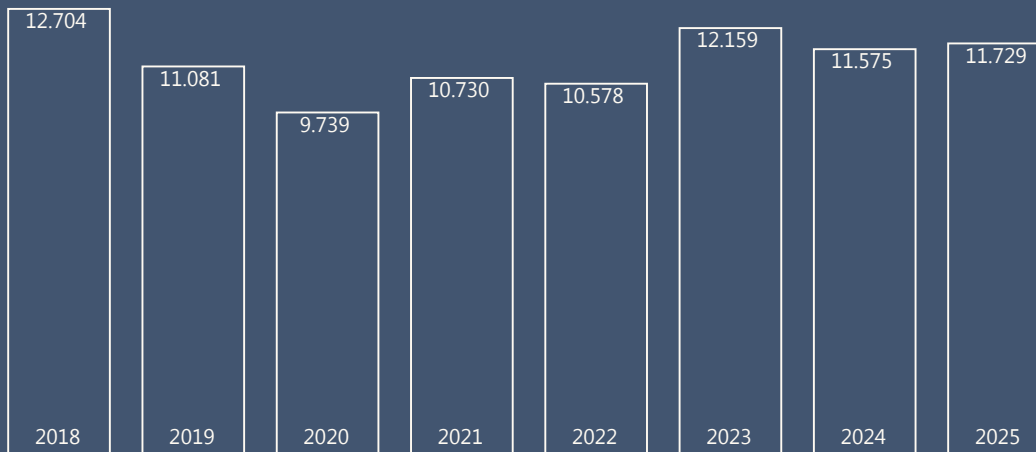
The climate footprint from office equipment accounted for approx. 7.5% of the total climate footprint, down by 8% from 2018 to 2025.

In 2025, 39% of the office equipment category was shipping and relocation services, with 18% services, together constituting 57% of the category.

Since 2024, the climate footprint has increased by around 1%. Consumption increased for the furniture and fixtures as well as paper, graphics and logo items categories. Cleaning was virtually unchanged, while the other categories saw a reduced footprint. The increase is mainly attributed to increased procurement of paper, graphics and logo items as well as furniture and fixtures.



Climate footprint from office equipment (shown in tonnes of CO2e)



- Freight and removal services** include shipping of goods, stamps, storage and removal for UCPH, etc.
- Services** include management consultancy, analysis services, HR consultancy, PR consultancy, recruitment, temp services, etc.
- Cleaning** includes cleaning services, window cleaning, dry cleaning services, cleaning products and tools, etc.
- Furniture and fixtures** include lighting, tables, canteen furniture, cupboards, sofas, etc.
- Paper, graphics and logo items** include advertisements, merchandise, photocopying etc.
- Other** includes boards, desk accessories, etc.



Travel

Travel accounted for approx. 11.5% of the total climate footprint, down by around 9% from 2018 to 2025.

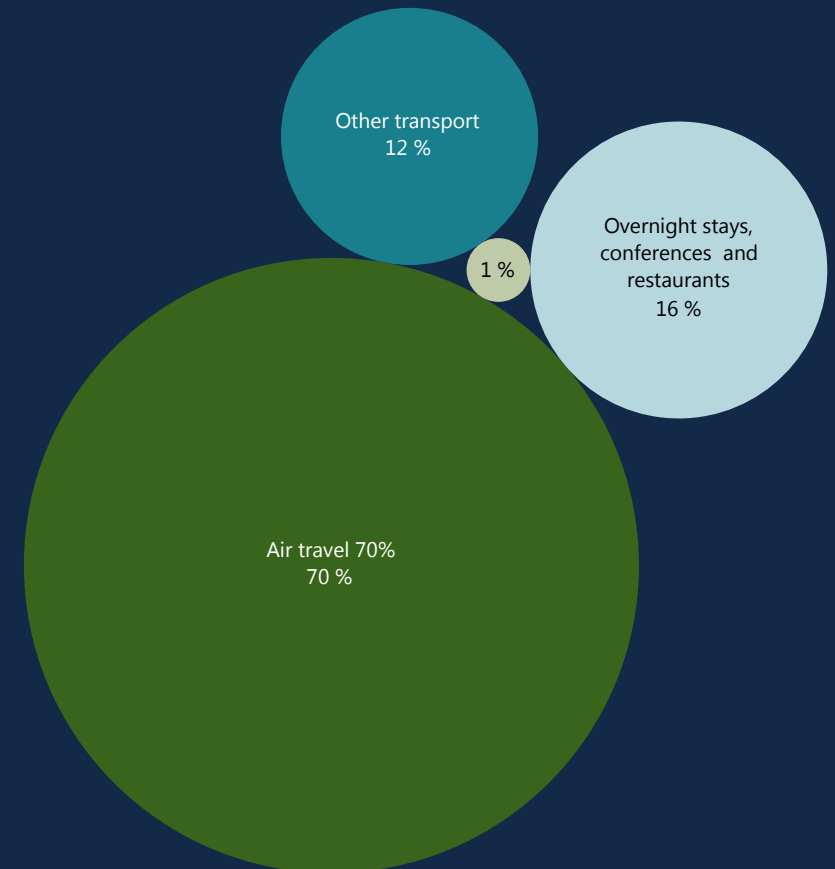
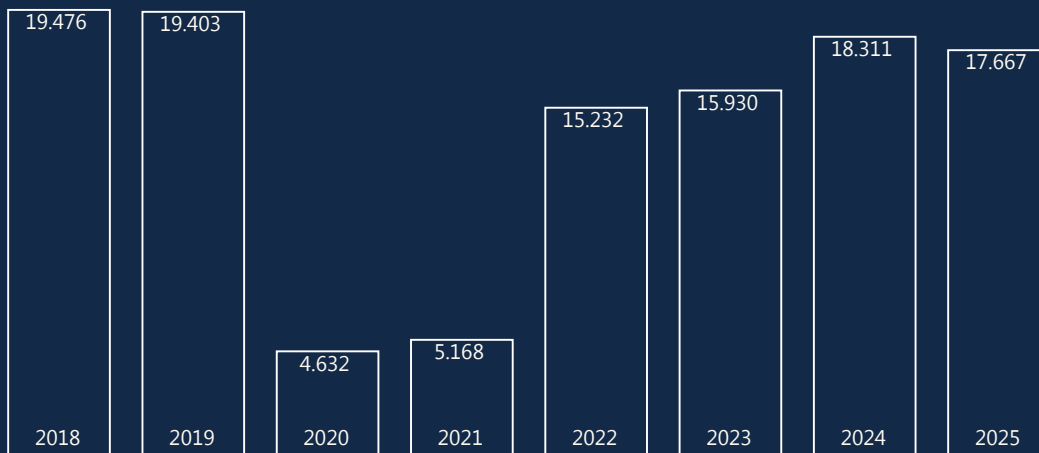
During COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, the climate footprint from travel was reduced significantly due to a decline in travel activities. Reducing the climate footprint from travel was one of the main reasons the overall climate footprint fell in those years. 2022, 2023 and 2024 saw a significant increase in travel as society returned to normal after COVID-19, followed by a decrease in 2025.

The reduction from 2024 to 2025 is around 4%, mainly due to fewer flights and other transport.

In 2025, flights accounted for 71% of the category, making it the key category for reducing travel's climate footprint.

Climate footprint from travel

(shown in tonnes of CO₂e)



- Air travel** in connection with work-related travelling, conferences, seminars, fieldwork, etc.
- Other transport**, including buses, trains, taxis and car rentals for work-related travel. Commuting is not included.
- Overnight stays, conferences and restaurants** in connection with work-related travel, conferences, seminars, etc.
- Travel-related services**, including travel agents, interpreters, guides, etc.



Staff

The climate footprint related to staff accounted for approx. 3% of the total climate footprint, down by around 12% from 2018 to 2025.

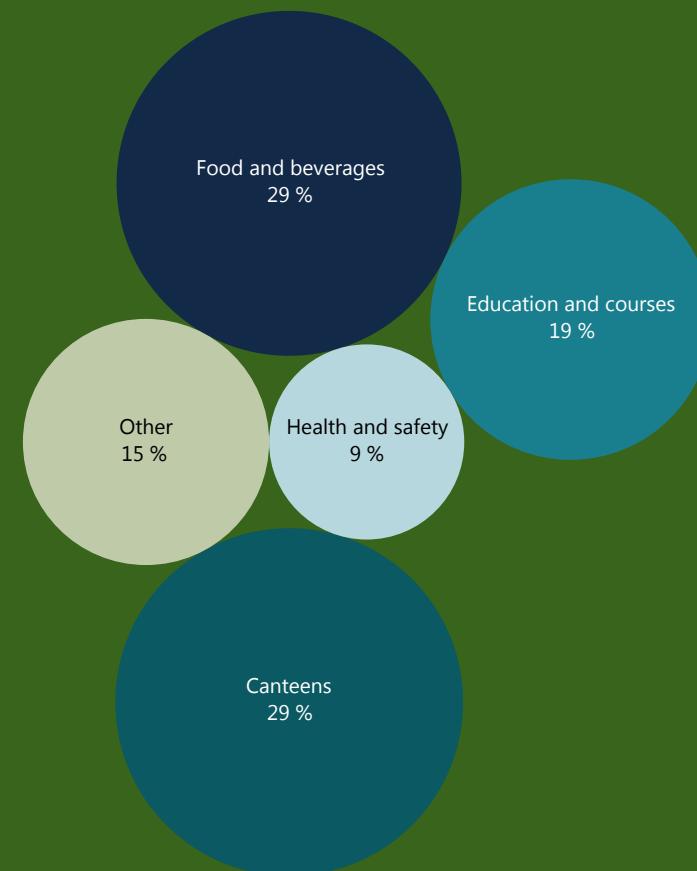
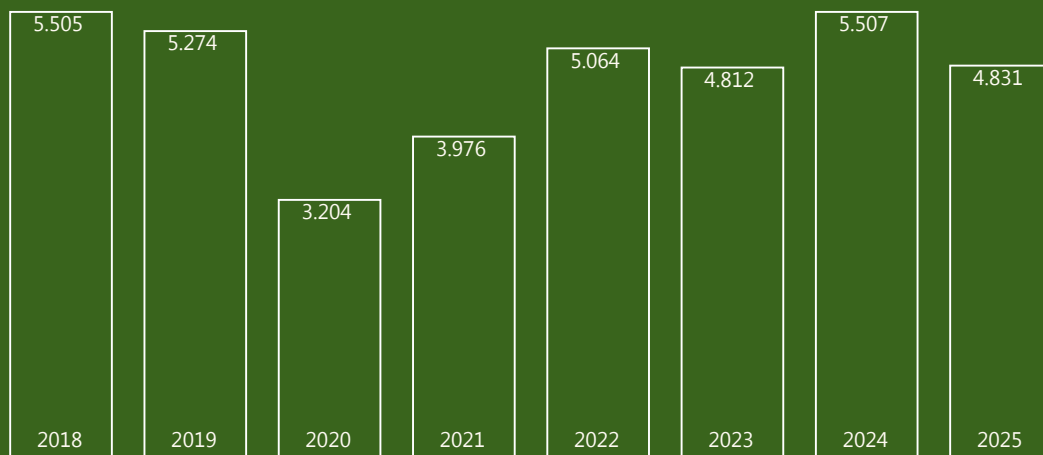
From 2024 to 2025, the climate footprint fell by approx. 12%, mainly due to reduced emissions from food and beverages, canteens, programmes and courses. At the same time, full-time equivalents (VIP/TAP) increased by 0.6% and student full-time equivalents by 2.8%.

Food and beverages accounted for 29% in 2025 and canteens for 29%, constituting 57% of the category's climate footprint. Emissions from canteens decreased by about 15% between 2024 and 2025.

The category does not include food and beverages related to restaurants or hotel accommodation, as this is listed under Travel.

Climate footprint from staff

(shown in tonnes of CO₂e)



- Food and beverages** not purchased from canteens include purchases made at external locations for trips, meetings, conferences, etc.
- Canteens** include all food and beverages in the University's canteens, including catering for meetings. Equipment and energy consumption are not included.
- Education and courses** include mentor schemes, skills development, courses, teambuilding, etc.
- Health and safety** includes psychological services, aids, physiotherapy, chiropractors, etc.
- Other** includes entertainment, art, etc.



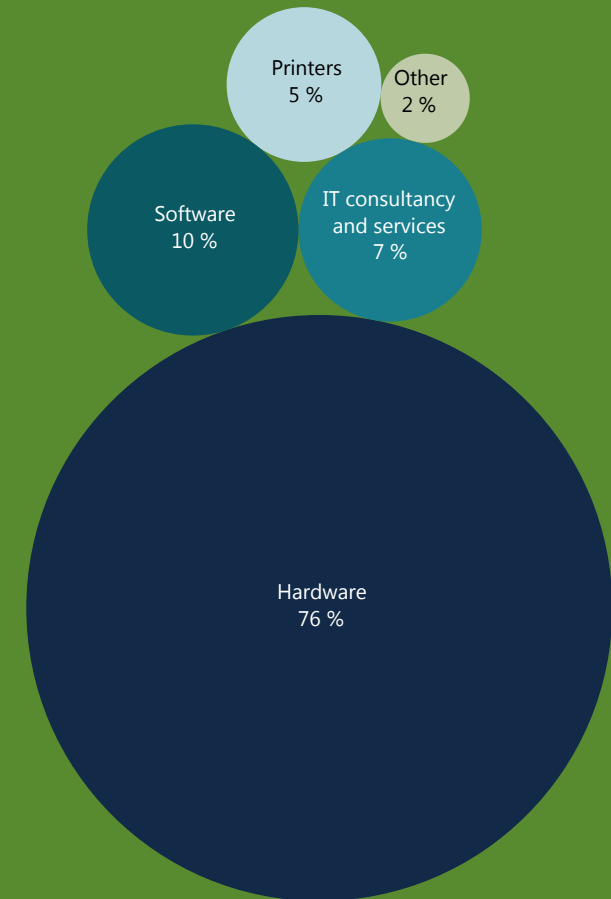
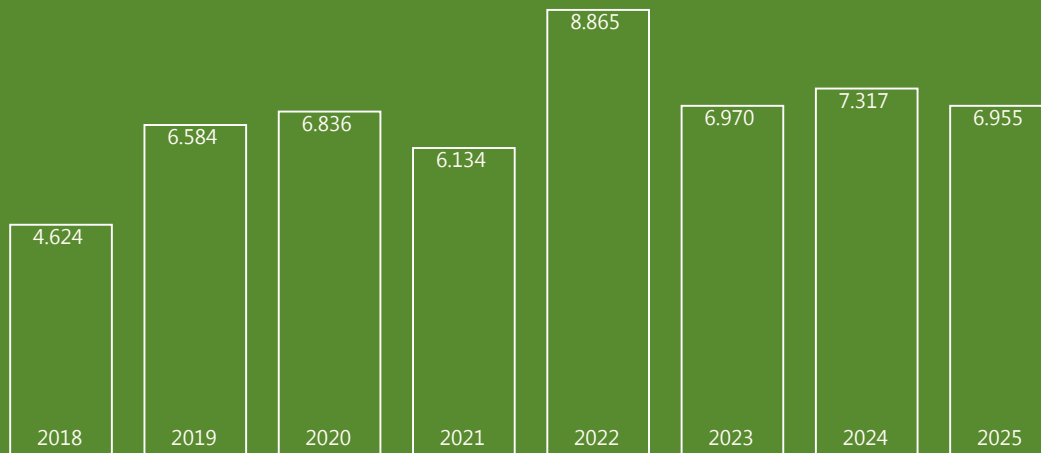
IT's climate footprint accounted for approx. 4.5% of the total climate footprint, up by around 50% between 2018 and 2025.

In 2025, hardware accounted for 76% of the category's climate footprint. The category is the primary driver of fluctuations in IT's climate footprint over the years and of the increase from 2018 to 2025. For hardware, as with new construction, the climate footprint from investments in installations is attributed to the year in which the installations are purchased. That is why fluctuations occur in some years.

In 2024 to 2025, the climate footprint decreased by 5%. The IT climate footprint rose significantly in 2022 but fell by 22% between 2022 and 2025.

Energy consumption associated with the University's own servers is included in the 'Energy' category.

Climate footprint from IT (shown in tonnes of CO₂e)



- Hardware** includes computers, phones, monitors, keyboards, storage, servers and network components.
- Software** includes network software, development software, enterprise management, IT security.
- IT consultancy and services** include software support, mobile subscriptions and Internet services.
- Printers and multi-purpose machines** include photocopiers, printers and multi-purpose machines.
- Other** includes AV equipment, photo equipment and technical inspections.

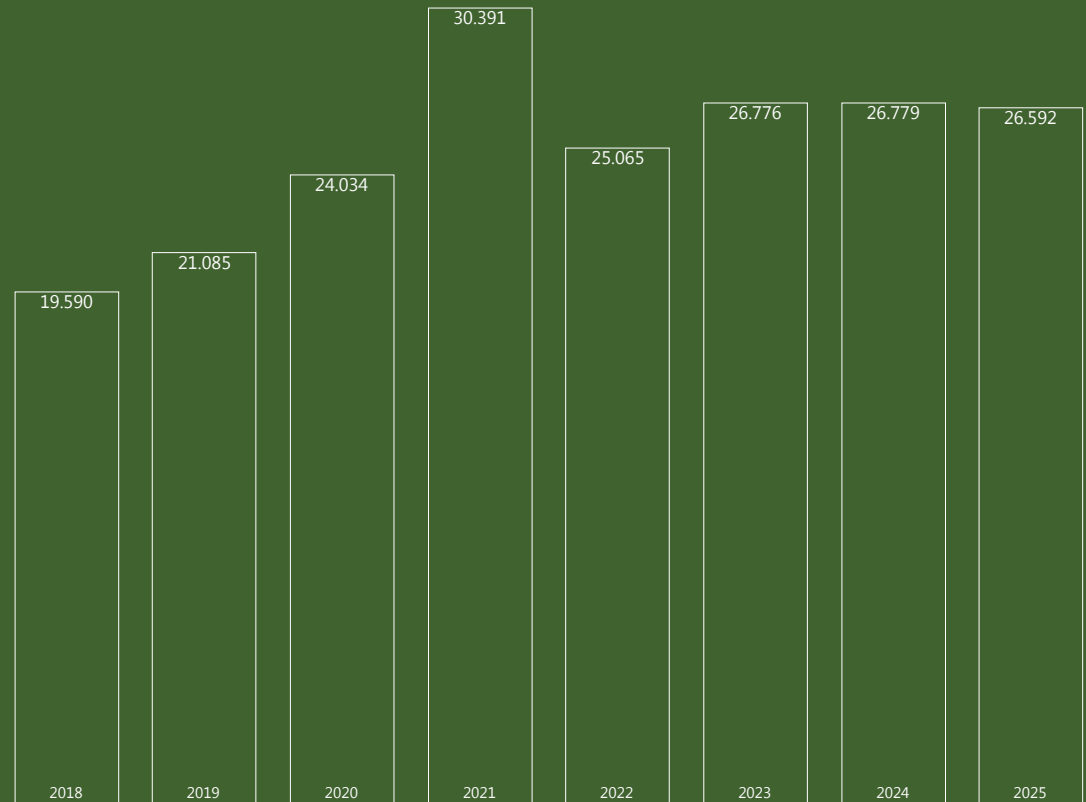
Biogenic emissions (out-of-scope)

Biogenic CO₂e emissions are reported separately under the GHG protocol and are not included in the Scope 1 and Scope 2 totals. Life-cycle-based emissions from the production of plant or indirect emissions from the burning of biomass are not included.

According to the GHG protocol, biogenic emissions should not be included in the total climate footprint but should be calculated separately as 'out-of-scope'.

Please note the overall increase from 2018 to 2025. The 2025 accounts provide data on out-of-scope emissions from the Enity energy management system. This has enabled biogenic out-of-scope emissions from district heating, fuels, electricity and wood pellets. In last year's accounts, only biogenic emissions from district heating were recorded here.

Biogenic emissions
(shown in tonnes of CO₂e)



Methodology

Greenhouse Gas Protocol

UCPH prepares its climate accounts in accordance with the internationally recognised Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol). For more information about the GHG Protocol, please see <http://ghgprotocol.org>.

The GHG Protocol divides an organisation's emissions into three scopes (emission categories) (see page on the scope model). To the right are the three scopes based on the University's key activities.

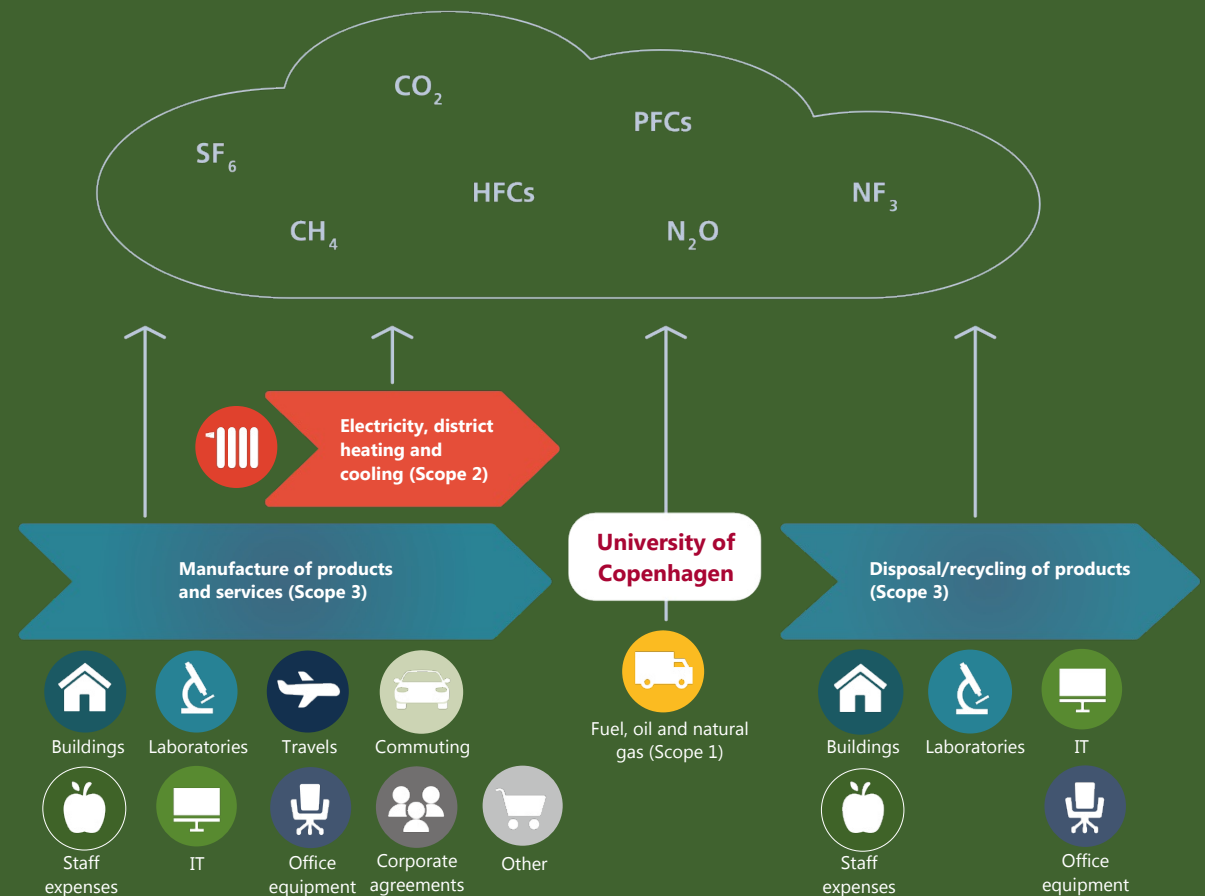
Universities Denmark/DK-UNI

In addition to the GHG Protocol requirements and guidelines, the University's approach to climate accounting is based on common methodological approaches developed in collaboration with other Danish universities under Universities Denmark/DK-UNI. This collaboration is documented in the concept 'Collaborative approaches to greenhouse gas inventory in higher education: Insights from the Universities Denmark Group'.

UCPH works systematically to continuously improve data quality and methodology, enhancing consistency, transparency and comparability over time. As a result, the accounting baseline is updated and adjusted when new methods are implemented, or more accurate data is used.

The latest climate account is considered to be the most valid and accurate to date.

For several Scope 3 categories, especially those related to procurement, there is still significant potential to improve data and methodology. To more accurately assess the effects of concrete reduction efforts, a greater use of category-specific, life-cycle-based calculation methodologies will be necessary in the future.



GHG Scope	UCPH data source	Calculation method	Emission factor	Data quality assessment
Scope 1 • Fuel • HFC (refrigerants) • Natural gas • Heating oil • Town gas	HFCs and fuel: UCPH procurement system Heating oil, natural gas and town gas supplied by Enity	Financial data (consumption-based) and supplier-specific	HFC: Australian Government. Natural gas and heating oil: Danish Energy Authority Town gas: HOFOR ..	Medium
Scope 2 • Electricity • District heating • District cooling	Recorded consumption at UCPH (MWh) supplied by Enity.	Supplier-specific	Electricity: Energinet District heating and cooling: HOFOR	High
Scope 3 • Laboratories • Office equipment • Corporate agreements • Other • IT	Consumption (DKK) from invoice data, retrieved through the procurement system.	Financial data (consumption-based)	EXIOBASE version 4.	Low-medium
• Buildings	Total square metres at UCPH and the procurement system.	Average data and financial data (consumption-based)	Exiobase version 4 and emission factors prepared by Aalborg University through ..	Low-medium
• Fuel and energy-related emissions	Enity and KUnet procurement system	Average data and supplier-specific	Energinet, DEFRA, HOFOR	Medium
• Flights	CO2e statements from suppliers and UCPH procurement system.	LSupplier-specific and financial data (consumption-based)	DEFRA.	Medium-high
• Staff expenses	CO2e statements from suppliers and UCPH procurement system.	Supplier-specific	The Large Climate database and Exiobase version 4.	Medium-high
• Commuting	FTE and STÅ	Average data	DEFRA	Low-medium



Contact

The climate accounts have been prepared by the group units UCPH Buildings and UCPH Finance at the University of Copenhagen.

The accounts were drawn up in the first half of 2026 and approved by management in August 2026. They were published in autumn 2026 at: <http://sustainability2030.ku.dk>

Contact

For further information on methodology and data, please contact the University's data controller for sustainability at klimadata@ku.dk