

## Elsevier's roadmap to address climate change

RELX and [Elsevier](#) are committed to achieving net zero emissions across all scopes by 2040 at the latest. Through our participation in [The Climate Pledge](#), Elsevier has developed a roadmap that outlines our actions to prepare for a rapid global transition towards a low carbon economy and to contribute towards a sustainable future. This is a dynamic plan and will be updated and amended as we move forward on our net zero journey, with guidance from our external advisory board and internal governance structures.

### How we will contribute to the transition:

- **Continue to reduce emissions in our direct operations** (scope 1, scope 2, business flights, home working and commuting).
- **Achieve net zero by 2040 across all emission categories** (aligned with SBTi validated [science-based targets](#) set for Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3) through significant emissions reductions and carbon removals of any residual emissions.)
- **Engaging our suppliers** through a dedicated net zero carbon program to ensure those working with us along our broader value chain also adopt science-based targets necessary to meet the goals of the Paris agreement.
- **Empowering our customers and partners** to accelerate their own actions to address climate change and achieve sustainability goals.

### Our approach:

1. Minimising our environmental impact through measures such as energy efficiency, encouraging supplier adoption of renewable energy, reducing raw materials use, and delivering on our responsible business travel targets.
2. Providing products, services and data-led insights that support customers and policy makers in taking evidence-informed action in support of a transition to a low-carbon economy.
3. Advocating wider action on climate change through collaboration, partnerships and initiatives within our industry as an active member of trade associations and industry action groups such as the [Publishing 2030 Accelerator](#) and supporting climate action by joining and supporting initiatives such as [We Are Still In](#).
4. Openly sharing and transparently reporting on our climate journey by providing relevant information and an annual report to employees, stakeholders such as editors, authors, reviewers, and our customers.

### Governance:

Minimizing our environmental impact is done in collaboration with [RELX](#). Overall climate objectives are monitored by the quarterly RELX CFO Environmental Checkpoint and the RELX Corporate Responsibility Forum. Relevant Elsevier-specific objectives and targets are reviewed in our [Climate Advisory Board](#) and internal steering committee and agreed by the Elsevier executive team and CEO.

### Elsevier roadmap:

Elsevier's mission is to help researchers and healthcare professionals' advance science and improve health outcomes for the benefit of society by combining quality information and data sets with analytical tools to facilitate insights and critical decision making. We make a positive environmental contribution through our products and services which inform debate, aid decision makers, and encourage research and development.

Elsevier's largest activity area, published primary research, supports our core customers who are scientists, research leaders, librarians, medical researchers, research intensive corporations, funders, and governments. The roadmap outlines our broad actions that will help support these communities and strengthen their ability to achieve the global goal of halving emissions by 2030 with a prioritization of the energy related products and services.

Whilst we do not operate in a recognized [high carbon intensive sector](#), we have been factoring climate related risks in our business plans for several years and [taking action](#) to reduce our climate impact. This has included embedding a sustainability mindset into the organization through various local green teams and employee resource groups. Additionally, the Elsevier roadmap supports RELX, our parent company's, overall [net zero roadmap and environmental targets](#), to reduce our own operational emissions, having achieved a 70% reduction in Elsevier's Scope 1, Scope 2 and business travel since 2017.

### Elsevier actions:

2023 - 2024

#### **Operations:**

- **Continue to reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions:** aligned with RELX, our global facilities team continues to improve our office energy efficiency and location-based emissions, expanding our focus to tracking Scope 3 emission categories of home working and commuting.
- **Assess and reduce the operational carbon impact of journals and books:** Pilot a carbon model developed as part of the [Publishing 2030 Accelerator](#), to calculate the print and digital carbon impact of individual journals and books and identify opportunities to implement actions that will reduce the carbon impact over time towards our 2040 net zero target.
- **Reduce the carbon impact of business air travel by 50%**, compared to 2019 baseline, and integrate responsible travel guidelines supported by virtual alternatives to facilitate continued engagement with customers and colleagues.
- **Continue to implement changes to improve IT infrastructure:** Account for emissions associated with our IT infrastructure, aligned with industry methodology such as DIMPACT, and transparently report on these to customers and intermediaries such as [CDP](#).
- **Engage our suppliers to set net zero targets:** We will encourage our top 200 suppliers, based on eligible spend, to set net zero goals and report on progress through participation in the [CDP supplier program](#).

#### **Published research:**

- **Continue to ensure quality, peer reviewed research:** Elsevier makes a positive environmental contribution through our journals and books which inform debate,

aid decision makers, and encourage research and development. It is essential, that we continue to maintain robust measures to ensure research integrity, encourage open science and maintain editorial independence and academic freedom.

- **Align published primary research with the future challenges of society:** Utilizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework, we will continue to leverage AI technology to categorize and [map SDG related research](#), exploring ways in our journals and books to commission new research, stimulate editorial and special issues and support our communities aligned towards the SDGs. This includes:
  - **Activate our energy journals to support a renewable energy transition:** In close consultation with the editorial boards, Elsevier's journals continue to focus its content and offerings towards scientific breakthroughs in clean energy. For example, this commitment has been reflected in clearer wording in the guide for authors, and reflected in the respective journal's aims and expanded scopes, explicitly including new technology areas related to renewable energy. In some cases, journals may also ask authors to submit environmental impact statements along with their article submission. Additionally, one title Upstream Oil and Gas Technology, was discontinued as of 2024. Key editorials and news items communicating these changes and our commitment have been published in the energy journals to further advocate and highlight the focus on research for just transition.
  - **Engage our editors:** We respect editorial independence and will seek to ensure that Editors, including in house editors and society partners, are aware of our climate commitments and engage with them to implement actions to accelerate the net zero transition in both operations and published content. For example, we have provided information about our net zero commitments during the [onboarding of new editors](#), and make available a Net Zero Guide and Glossary for further reference.
  - **Continue to implement [Energy with Purpose mission](#) within the books portfolio:** A commitment, launched in 2021, to only commission new content that supports that advances the energy transition and reduction of carbon emissions. With 75% of our energy books focused on renewable, nuclear, and smart grid, the team have been working with editors to ensure compliance for new titles, whilst also reviewing all previously contracted titles. We expect all books to align with the mission by 2024.
- **Stimulate sustainability science:** Across all subjects and areas, we will continue to attract and publish quality scientific research and launch new titles, special editions, and collaborations, to support scholarly dialogue and debate around sustainability. For example, we are launching [Nexus](#) in collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University which will bring together scientists and engineers to publish research related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Product strategy:**
  - **Assess and align product innovation to support our customer's sustainability needs:** Pilot a product assessment and materiality matrix to better understand how our products and services can impact and support customer's sustainability needs utilizing the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework with an initial focus on climate.
  - **Roll out carbon reporting for Elsevier conferences:** Within our conferences team, continue to build on embedded carbon emission and environmental sustainability

programs to ensure all conferences can transparency report on carbon emissions and key actions taken to reduce emissions and waste.

- **Databases**

- **Provide data insights:** Utilize our Scopus database and SciVal products to provide research insights to support universities, governments, and others in their own sustainability journey. For example, the publication of [Pathways to Net Zero](#), [Biodiversity Research in the Netherlands and Worldwide](#), [Developing a Societal Impact Model Playbook](#) and whitepaper on [Demystifying sustainability assessment and reporting frameworks](#) for universities and institutions.
- **Integrate SDG and climate topics:** Continue to innovate and provide functionality that helps bring transparency around an organizations SDG impact. For example, Scopus has introduced a [dedicated SDG tab](#), that helps to showcase the number of documents published by an organization that have contributed to the SDGs, and in our pre-print server SSRN a new [biodiversity hub](#) helps highlight important topic areas related to climate.
- **Review embedded content within key products:** In line with our climate commitments, we will periodically review content and use cases included in our database products. For example, in 2023 we reviewed Elsevier's geospatial product, Geofacets that provided geological and geophysical data to both academic and corporate customers withdrawing a use case for coal and ultimately sunsetting this product due to lack of commercial viability.

2025 – 2030

- **Operations:**

- Continue to refine our carbon models and methodology for individual products, books and journals, collecting accurate data to inform key actions and projects to reduce operational emissions aligned to our 2040 net zero target. For example, this will be supported with toolkits for publishers and editors to ensure sustainable production choices in paper, printing and distribution are aligned with our net zero targets. We will report on progress through our annual Climate Action Report.
- Transparently report on emissions for customers for individual products, books and journals. For example, we will seek to report on emissions by providing information on our webpages and product information pages.
- Continue to engage our suppliers, encouraging disclosure of verified net zero targets and Scope 1 and Scope 2 data. We will do this by integrating carbon data reporting into our systems and workflows that will inform more detailed organizational targets and indicators.

- **Published research:**

- Continue to review journal and book portfolios, together with editors, to ensure appropriate alignment with the UN SDGs and sustainability developments across all subject areas with a prioritization for carbon intensive sectors. This will include expanding the approached piloted in the Energy portfolio in 2023 to other areas, such as engineering and food and agriculture.
- Explore mechanisms to further support multidisciplinary and trans disciplinary research, with a focus on promoting diversity of thought and the practice of inclusion. For example, we will continue to recruit, manage and rotate our editorial boards to ensure diverse expertise and backgrounds reflect the evolving communities and work with our society partners to provide trusted forums to foster

scholarly debate and communication focused on the intersection of key sustainability focus areas and involving diverse stakeholders including policy, academia and citizens.

- Within our books portfolio, all newly commissioned content will be aligned with the Energy with Purpose mission, expanding the content commissioning process alignment with the SDGs to other key subject areas.
- **Product strategy**
  - We will continue to review the RELX SDG materiality assessment and identify how our products best support customers in their sustainability journey and develop product improvements and features to support new sustainability use cases.
- **Databases:**
  - Continue to test and pilot how to map and understand customer contributions towards sustainability and societal impact functionality across appropriate products and services.
  - Continue to develop and refine our classification capabilities leveraging new technology where appropriate and in consultation with the customers and communities we serve.