



Our environmental sustainability strategy

Contents

Introduction	3	How we developed our strategy	13
Foreword from our chief executive	3	The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	13
Our long-term approach	5	Headlines from our materiality study	15
		What the public expects of us	16
Our environmental sustainability strategy	6		
Our strategy framework	7	Our progress so far	17
Our six focus areas	8	Our sustainable workplace	19
Research approach and laboratories	8	Our emissions mapping 2022/23	20
Retail shops	8		
Fundraising events	8	Appendix	21
Electricity and travel	9		
Procurement	9		
Investments and pensions	9		
Our five enablers	10		
Sustainable decision-making and governance	10		
Environmentally sustainable sourcing	10		
Working in partnership	10		
Standards, measurement and reporting	10		
Ongoing stakeholder insight	10		
Setting our targets	11		
A route to net zero	12		



Introduction

Foreword from our chief executive

At Cancer Research UK, we exist to beat cancer. We want to achieve our mission in a way that's good for the planet and human health, including people affected by cancer and their loved ones.

We recognise and understand the impact of climate change on our mission and how important it is to operate sustainably. Our research has shown that **outdoor air pollution causes roughly 1 in 10 cases of lung cancer in the UK**, while rising temperatures and increased sun exposure are among the growing number of threats to human health and wellbeing, including **increased skin cancer risk**.

In our organisational strategy from 2022, **Making discoveries. Driving progress. Bringing hope.**, we made a commitment to embed environmental sustainability in all that we do. Over the last two years, we've mapped our environmental footprint and improved our understanding of our compliance requirements.

We're now pleased to publish Cancer Research UK's first environmental sustainability strategy (ESS), which primarily focuses on carbon emissions – the most direct cause of climate change.

Our ESS sets out five objectives:

- To reduce our direct and indirect carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 from our 2022/23 baseline
- To achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- To achieve a 7% average year-on-year reduction of our emissions from 2023/24 until 2030
- To embed environmental sustainability in all that we do and influence our partners to do the same
- To set further goals beyond emissions reduction as we progress

We've identified where most of our emissions come from – our financial investments, research grants, purchasing and pension investments – and developed a comprehensive plan to reduce them. By setting out a clear direction over the next three years, our ESS will help us make the best possible progress against these targets.

We know beating cancer is a long game, and our ESS is an important part of our wider long-term strategy and how we continue to act as a responsible organisation. As climate change becomes a more salient



issue globally, we know the expectations of our staff, volunteers, supporters, corporate partners, scientific community and the public will increase, along with regulatory requirements. Our ESS puts us in a good place to rise to this challenge.

As we make progress towards net zero, we'll constantly be looking to learn and evolve based on what works. Our ESS is an important commitment for Cancer Research UK, helping us to bring about a world where everybody lives longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

Michelle Mitchell OBE
Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK

Climate change and cancer

At Cancer Research UK, our mission is to beat cancer. Through our research, influencing and information, we work to prevent and treat cancer for everyone. Climate change poses a threat to this mission, here in the UK and globally. The rising impacts associated with climate change risk damaging systems which people rely on for good health and the research ecosystem itself, reducing our ability to carry out our work as effectively.

Climate change can affect air quality, and certain air pollutants can affect climate change. Air pollution includes outdoor and indoor air pollution – both can increase the risk of lung cancer as well as respiratory and heart diseases. Findings from research we funded at the Francis Crick Institute and University College London explored the smallest type of particulate matter (PM2.5) and found that exposure to these particulates from outdoor air pollution promotes the growth of cells in the lungs carrying cancer-causing mutations.

The link between human health and the environment goes beyond air pollution.

A diet based around fruits, vegetables and pulses, combined with using walking and cycling more for travel, can help to reduce cancer risk as well as support the health of the planet. While we can all play our part, a population-wide approach is the most impactful, with the adoption of national and local policies to help make it easier to be healthy.

The impact of climate change is already starting to be felt across the cancer pathway, including in equipment and medicine supply chains and within the

research workforce, and may increase. This could make it harder to prevent as many cancer cases as possible, diagnose cancers sooner and develop kinder treatments.

The economic, social and biodiversity impacts of climate change in the UK and globally could pose a real threat to carrying out our mission. Taking action to reduce this is vital. It's also a win-win: what's good for our planet tends to be good for our health, and vice-versa.



Our long-term approach

In our organisational strategy, published in 2022, an important objective was to build the foundations for sustainable long-term progress against cancer.

As part of this, we made the following commitments:

- To become a truly sustainable organisation – environmentally, inclusively, financially and operationally
- To embed environmental sustainability in all that we do and influence our partners to do the same
- To develop and implement an ambitious roadmap to improve our environmental sustainability and reduce our carbon footprint, including working with the institutions we fund
- To better understand the links between climate, health and cancer – building the evidence base to inspire change

To deliver on our commitments, we've developed a long-term approach over three phases:

Phase 1

Understanding our compliance requirements and environmental footprint

Over the last 18 months, we've carried out significant work to understand our compliance with existing requirements on environmental sustainability and map our emissions footprint.

We've conducted:

- an assurance review
- comprehensive direct and indirect emissions mapping, in line with the **Greenhouse Gas Protocol** (GHG Protocol) framework and **Science Based Targets initiative** (SBTi) methodology
- external benchmarking to our stakeholders (including other charities, research institutions and our corporate partners) and to Business in the Community's Responsible Business Tracker

Phase 2

Publishing our first environmental sustainability strategy

Informed by our Phase 1 findings, our ESS outlines five objectives to reduce our emissions, six key focus areas, and the five enablers that will help us succeed and progress from 2024 to 2027.

Phase 3

Broadening our environmental sustainability strategy

From 2027, we aim to expand the scope of our ESS to address other aspects of the environment beyond emissions, such as nature, waste and water (specifically degradation of nature, long-term adaptation, pollution, the circular economy and water stewardship). These are important parts of a mature sustainability strategy.

Our environmental sustainability strategy

Our ambition is to be operationally leading on environmental sustainability in the UK charity sector.

Our ESS sets out the path we'll take over the next three years to help us achieve this ambition. It outlines a clear aim, underpinned by five objectives, six focus areas and five enablers.

Our operations impact the planet in a wide range of ways, but the initial focus of our ESS is on greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions are the most direct cause of climate change, and there are also existing and emerging regulations we need to prepare to comply with as a responsible organisation.



Our strategy framework

Our aim

To play our part in slowing down climate change by minimising the negative environmental impacts of our work

Our objectives

- To reduce our direct and indirect carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 from our 2022/23 baseline
- To achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- To achieve a 7% average year-on-year reduction of our emissions from 2023/24 until 2030
- To embed environmental sustainability in all that we do and influence our partners to do the same
- To set further goals beyond emissions reduction as we progress

Our focus areas



Research approach and laboratories



Fundraising events



Retail shops



Electricity and travel



Procurement



Investments and pensions

Our enablers



Sustainable decision-making and governance



Environmentally sustainable sourcing



Working in partnership



Standards, measurement and reporting



Ongoing stakeholder insight

Our six focus areas

To achieve our objectives, we've identified six key focus areas.



1 Research approach and laboratories

Research is at the heart of everything we do and is our second largest area of emissions, so we need to take steps to improve our ways of working. Two of the seven laboratories we run ourselves through Cancer Research Horizons have achieved the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) Silver Award and all of them are working to achieve the LEAF Gold Award in 2024/25.

As a major funder of research, we'll also drive greener practices across the wider cancer research community. We'll require all our funding applicants to hold the LEAF Silver Award by 2026 and we'll also expect this of all laboratories and facilities at our four institutes. In the UK, universities or research institutions hosting researchers we fund will need to sign a formal commitment to transition to more sustainable research and innovation practices, and we'll require our institutes to outline their sustainability strategy when we periodically review them.

We'll also work with the researchers and organisations we fund to help them achieve their existing environmental goals – many of which are very ambitious. For example, we're enabling our researchers to make more sustainable choices by allowing them to use grant money to repair old equipment instead of purchasing new.



2 Fundraising events

Our events are an important way for us to connect with our supporters. In 2022/23, 188,000 people took part in Race for Life and 230,000 joined in our social media fundraising challenges.

Our events are also a notable contributor to our total emissions, including through bought-in goods such as t-shirts and medals. Many of our supporters want to see us run our events in a more sustainable way, and we know we can save money through greater efficiency, reduced purchasing and less waste.



3 Retail shops

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of our supporters, around 25,000 tonnes of clothes are donated to our shops each year.

Although re-use of donated goods has a net positive environmental impact, our shops are still a significant contributor to our carbon footprint. We also sell more than 3,000 of our own products to raise vital funds to beat cancer.

We want to form a more detailed picture of the positive role we play by selling pre-loved items, but also consider the types of goods we purchase, especially as we aim to increase the amount we buy to sell over the next four years.





4 Electricity and travel

We've already made progress in this area by purchasing greener energy, installing LED lights in our shops, enabling remote working and moving to our new head office, which is rated 'outstanding' against the BREEAM sustainability criteria.

But we need to go further to hit our net zero target. We need to find ways to reduce the energy we use, looking at all the energy we purchase and the journeys we make across all our activities.



5 Procurement

This is a large and growing area of our emissions covering everything we buy – from the products we sell in our shops to the equipment we use in our labs. We need sustainable decision-making in our procurement processes so we can improve our organisational efficiency, consider the environmental impacts of what we buy and save money by buying less.



6 Investments and pensions

Our invested funds account for the largest percentage of our emissions (44%), while our pensions make up a further 5% of our total emissions. Our investments are already in an ESG-based fund which has 23% lower emissions than the benchmark. We'll be working with our investment managers and pension providers over the next three years to understand how to cut down emissions associated with this crucial area.



Our five enablers

To support and develop emissions reduction across our six focus areas over 2024–2027, we've identified five key enablers.



1 Sustainable decision-making and governance

We all take responsibility for environmental sustainability at Cancer Research UK and it's lived through our decisions. We have a specialist team who work to inform and empower people across the charity to consider environmental impacts in their decision-making. Many changes are small and happen within teams, which all add up to help reduce our emissions.

Our people are supported by our sustainability network of nearly 200 volunteer staff and a second network of researchers based in our laboratories. We'll enable our staff to make sustainable decisions across all our operations, including environmental considerations in our risk models and all our decision-making frameworks.



2 Environmentally sustainable sourcing

We plan to increase the number of items we buy to sell in our shops, so we can raise more for life-saving research.

We'll review how we purchase products, how and where they're used and disposed of and their complete life-cycle impact on the natural world. We'll also collaborate with our suppliers to cut emissions through a holistic approach to sustainable sourcing.



3 Working in partnership

Through partnering with others, we'll progress much faster and reduce costs. By working openly and closely with our corporate and research partners, as well as other charities, we can share learning and best practice, collaborate on activities and broaden our efforts.



4 Standards, measurement and reporting

Keeping up with external standards helps to guide us on where to act, what's considered baseline and what constitutes good or leading practice. It also keeps us informed on what others are doing and demonstrates credibility and transparency.

We're submitting our approach to the SBTi for external validation and we're working with the Responsible Business Tracker from Business in the Community to give us an overview of our position as a responsible organisation. We'll also complete risk mapping following the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures initiative, which builds on the model developed by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.

We expect the quality and detail of our emissions data to improve each year. You can find information on our data-gathering approach in the appendix on page 21.



5 Ongoing stakeholder insight

Our ambition is to be operationally leading on environmental sustainability in the UK charity sector. To achieve this, we need to communicate our position and be transparent in our activities and reporting. We'll work proactively to understand the expectations of our stakeholders and monitor how we're perceived, while developing new and better ways to communicate the actions we're taking and progress we're making to our supporters. Environmental sustainability increasingly matters to more and more people, giving us an opportunity to reach new supporters and connect in new ways with those who already support us.

Setting our targets

We set our ESS objectives in line with **UN Race to Zero** targets and UK legislation to deliver against the Paris Agreement commitment to limit the temperature increase to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Our targets are based on Scope 1, 2 and 3 and we've followed the GHG protocol framework in calculating our emissions.

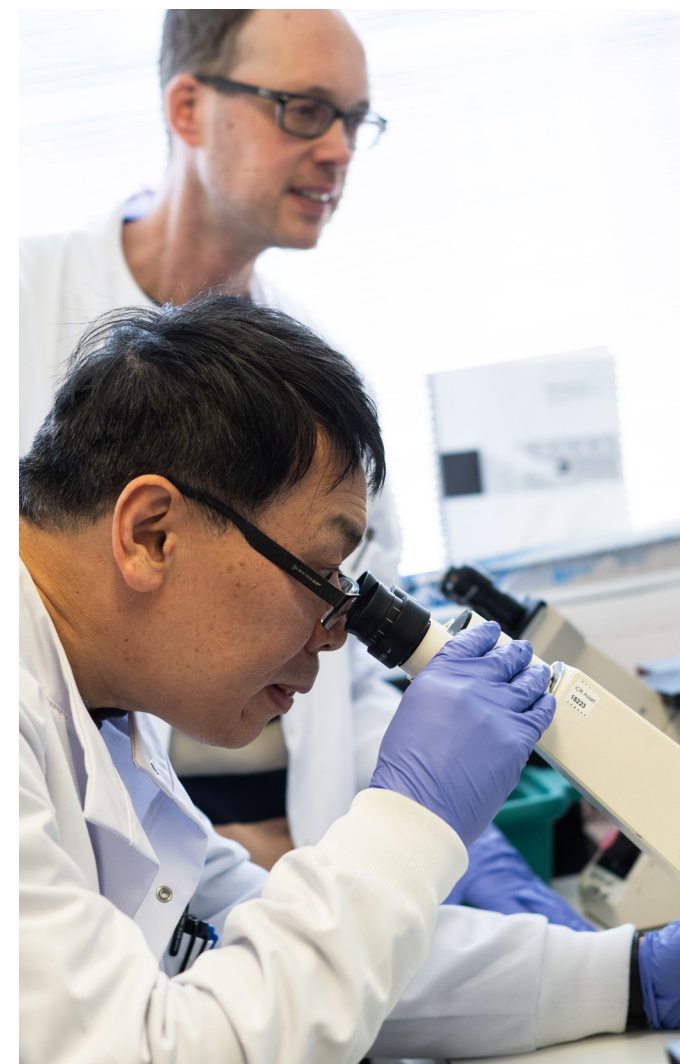
To reach net zero emissions by 2050, we'll reduce our actual emissions by 90% compared to our baseline and offset the remaining 10% in 2050. We won't be offsetting our emissions to net zero before 2050, as we want to invest in directly reducing our own operational emissions following our plan.

We're in the process of formally submitting our net zero targets for Cancer Research Technology Limited and Cancer Research Technology Inc (together known as Cancer Research Horizons) and Cancer Research Trading Ltd (our shops) to the SBTi for verification. The targets will commit us to reducing emissions from these entities' activities by 42% by 2030 and 90% by 2050 compared to our 2022/23 baseline.

As a charity, Cancer Research UK can't formally submit our target for verification, but following the SBTi methodology, the charity itself will reduce its emissions by 51% by 2030 to hit our overall target of 50% reduction by 2030.

We've also signed up to Textiles 2030, the UK's leading voluntary initiative supporting businesses and organisations within the fashion and textiles industry to transition to more sustainable practices. Through the initiative, we're looking to reduce the aggregate greenhouse gas emissions of our new shop products by 20%.

To meet our ambition to be operationally leading, we need to meet certain standards on environmental sustainability relative to our peers. We recognise that expectations of what it means to be leading will grow over time. So, we plan to set other targets beyond emissions reduction as we gain a better understanding of our wider impact on the planet. This is in line with Phase 3 of our long-term approach as set out on page 5.



A route to net zero by 2050

With our environmental consultants, Eunomia, we've developed a comprehensive implementation plan to tackle our emissions and achieve our net zero target, while supporting our mission to beat cancer.

Eunomia have recommended we adopt the following measures, areas of focus and actions up to 2030 and beyond as our best route to net zero:

1. Develop a long-term net zero investment strategy, working collaboratively with our investment partners.

- Understand the influence we can have through our current investment and pension manager relationships.
- Develop a set of green investment principles and embed them into a long-term net zero investment and pensions strategy to guide our long-term investment direction.

2. Facilitate access to resources and knowledge to help our core research grant recipients reduce their emissions and impact on nature.

- Identify host institutions who don't have net zero targets or plans to reduce emissions, focusing on those who receive significant funding from us or where we have substantial influence.

3. Develop a sustainable purchasing strategy and policy which includes providing training and support to key staff.

- Develop and publish a new sustainable purchasing strategy and policy, with training to enable staff, internal stakeholders and suppliers to improve their awareness of sustainability for future procurement.
- Set internal targets for implementing the sustainable purchasing policy. Set up a monitoring and ownership system to flag non-compliance, which is integrated with contract management.

4. Engage with core goods and service suppliers.

- Liaise with key suppliers to gain a better understanding of the true emissions from the goods or services they provide.
- Build on existing relationships with suppliers to launch the new sustainable purchasing strategy, and set out a commitment for suppliers to act to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Include targeted engagement linked to individual procurement exercises.

5. Prioritise the reuse and repair of capital goods, such as lab equipment.

- Review our procurement process, approvals, decision points and templates.
- Consider developing pre-procurement action, strategy, specification, selection and award criteria.

6. Reduce emissions from our electricity supply and fleet vehicles.

- Move to the best available green electricity tariffs and engage with landlords of leased operational buildings to make sure our energy supply is as low-carbon as possible.
- Identify the purpose of all trips made by fleet across our teams.
- Where possible, replace fleet vehicles with electric alternatives and install electric vehicle charge points.

How we developed our strategy

Our commitment to global impact

We exist to beat cancer, which aligns with two of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and supports six others.

Read more about each goal by clicking on the square.



Primary goals

(how our purpose supports each goal)

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



We exist to beat cancer

We work to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer, supporting target 3.4. We also try to do this for everybody, understand how air pollution impacts cancer and campaign to reduce the number of people who smoke.

► Targets 3.2, 3.4, 3.8, 3.9, 3a & 3b

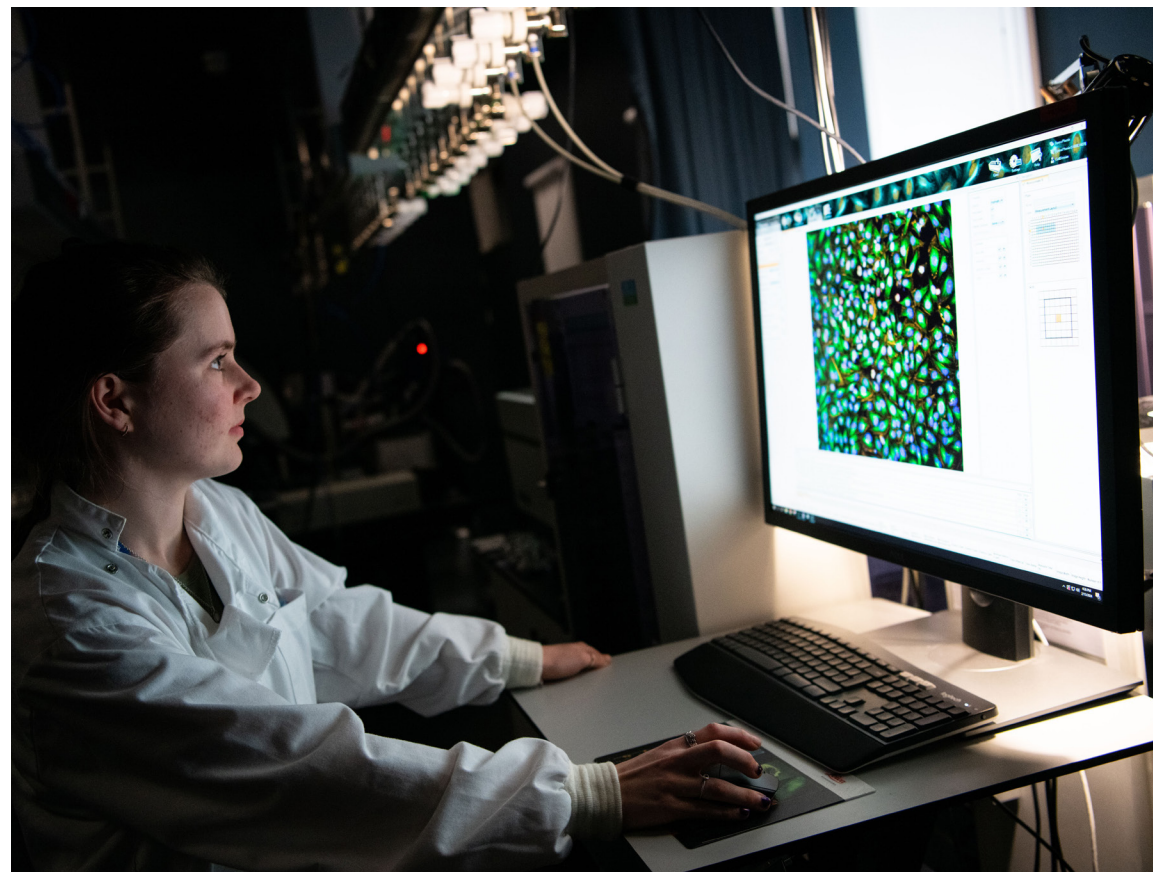
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



We fund research

We fund and enhance scientific research and fund and support more researchers to help beat cancer.

► Target 9.5



Secondary goals

(how we work to achieve our purpose supports each goal)



We aim to reduce the impacts of cancer inequalities and be inclusive in how we beat cancer, including patients and researchers, our volunteers and charity leaders.

► Targets 5.1 & 5.5



We look to be an inclusive and diverse charity where everyone feels like they belong and have equal opportunities and pay.

► Target 8.5



We promote policies and practices that tackle cancer inequalities and are committed to becoming a more inclusive and diverse charity.

► Target 10.3



In 2023, we redirected more than 24 million pre-loved items to new owners through our nearly 600 shops. We also work with our research, charitable and commercial partners to adopt sustainable practices and promote sustainable procurement.

► Targets 12.5, 12.6 & 12.7



Through our 4,000 staff and working with our partners, we strive to raise awareness of climate change and how we can mitigate its impacts. We contribute to the UK's efforts on carbon reduction and feed into national policies.

► Target 13.2 & 13.3



We support collaborative access to science and innovation to enhance knowledge sharing in health research. Our approach promotes effective public-private and civil society partnerships, targeted capacity building in developing countries and improve domestic tax revenue through tobacco tax policy.

► Targets 17.1, 17.6, 17.9 & 17.17

A new life for pre-loved items

In 2023, we diverted over 24 million pre-loved items to new owners through our shops.



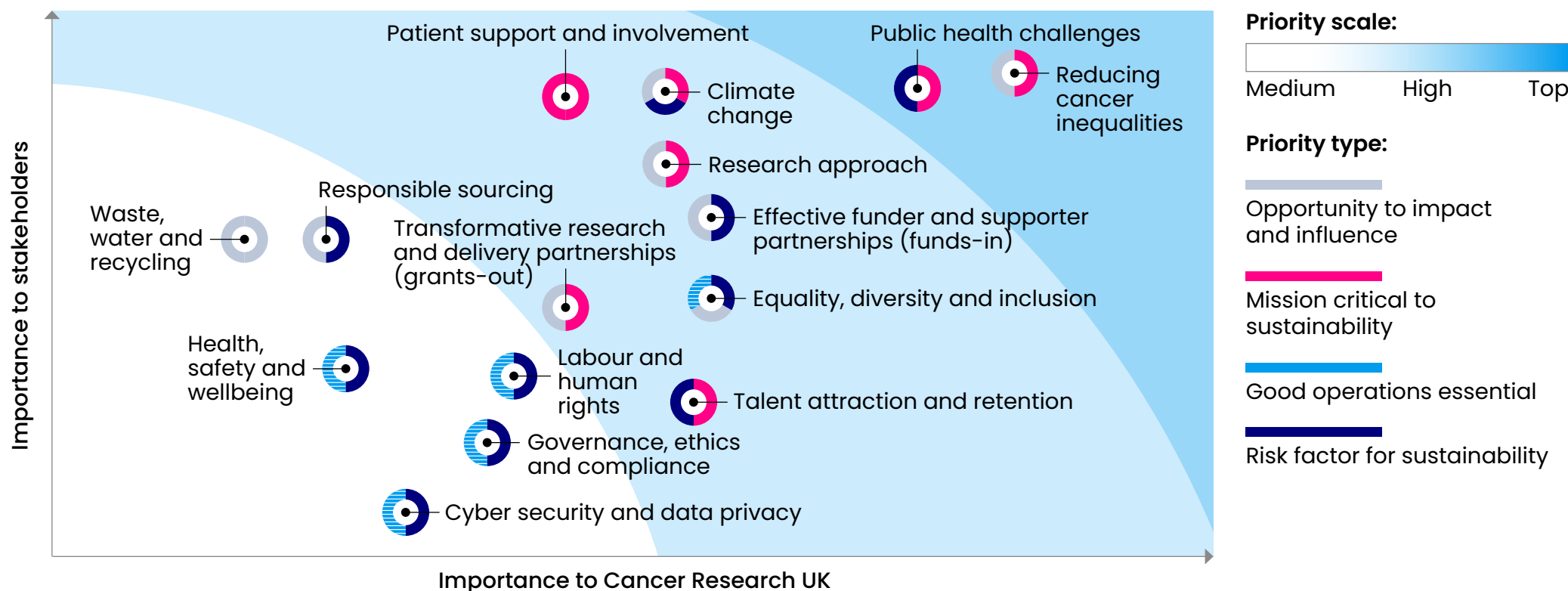
Headlines from our materiality study

In late 2022, as part of our first steps towards developing our long-term sustainability strategy, we conducted a double materiality study with SLR Corporate Citizenship.

This assessed how Cancer Research UK is affected by sustainability issues and how our work impacts society and the environment, to help us prioritise our activities and understand the relative importance of climate-related issues.

The study also asked internal and external stakeholders which emerging issues they expected to see Cancer Research UK impact, and be impacted by, in 10 years' time. Critical issues included:

- climate change
- reducing cancer inequalities
- effective funder and supporter partnerships (funds-in)
- public health challenges such as smoking, obesity and poverty
- waste, water, recycling and responsible sourcing



What the public expects of us

We wanted to find out from charity supporters and the wider public what role they feel the charity sector should play in sustainability. So, we teamed up with Yonder Consulting and 12 large, national charities to survey a nationally-representative sample of more than 4,000 people.

54% of people surveyed had supported Cancer Research UK before, which gave us valuable practical insight into how we're perceived and what people expect of us regarding environmental sustainability.

The findings from this survey and our materiality study reinforce our view that being an environmentally sustainable organisation helps us to beat cancer. We believe that what's good for the planet is also good for our health, and vice versa. Our supporters feel the same, and working towards our ESS objectives will help us meet their expectations.



More than

7 in 10

people surveyed believe it's important to **live in an environmentally sustainable way**. On average, people are making five conscious changes to live more sustainably.



Almost

4 in 10

people surveyed see charities as having the **same environmental responsibility as businesses**.



Almost

8 in 10

people surveyed believe charities have **a responsibility to be environmentally sustainable**.



More than

4 in 10

people surveyed said they were **more likely to donate to a charity** if they heard the charity invests funds into operating more sustainably.



Almost

8 in 10

people surveyed thought environmental sustainability was important for a charity when **carrying out their core purpose activities**.



More than

8 in 10

people surveyed thought environmental sustainability was important for a charity when **running their shops, charity events and fundraising**.

Our progress so far

We've successfully reduced our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 16% from our Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) emissions measurement and worked to reduce our indirect Scope 3 emissions.

We've achieved this through a number of initiatives, including:

- achieving the LEAF Silver Award for two of the seven laboratories we run ourselves through Cancer Research Horizons, while all of them work to achieve the LEAF Gold Award in 2024/25
- upgrading 437 of our 583 retail stores to LED lighting, saving money and 1,560MWh per year
- renegotiating and moving 100% of our head office and retail estate electricity consumption to Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) contracts

Our research grants

- We published our **Position Statement on Environmental Sustainability of Research** in 2022. This outlined our expectation that the researchers and research organisations we fund consider, manage and, wherever possible, reduce the environmental impact of their work.
- All our expert review panels, which assess grant applications funded through our **five funding committees**, now meet virtually to avoid travel.

Our shops and events

- Our 542 shops and 41 superstores make a valuable contribution to the secondhand economy. In 2022, we found new homes for over 24 million pre-loved items of clothing.
- We've removed plastic water bottles from our events.
- Our 2024 Race for Life medal lanyards will be made from recycled plastic bottles.
- We've made our staff away days more sustainable by providing more vegetarian and vegan options, setting up secondhand swap stalls and cutting down on unnecessary items such as name badges.

Our staff

- 195 members of our staff have volunteered to champion sustainability across their teams.
- During our last IT equipment refresh, 97% of our laptops were refurbished and reused while 3% were recycled. This saved a potential 59 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Saving plastic in Cambridge

Scientists at our Cancer Research Horizons antibody laboratory in Cambridge used to grow bacteria in plastic flasks and throw these away at the end of their experiments. Now, they've switched to using glass flasks which can be washed and re-used – saving 518 single-use plastic flasks a year and roughly 36kg of virgin plastic (including packaging). This is also saving emissions from the vehicles used to deliver plastic flasks to the lab.



- We regularly give our staff the opportunity to donate their unwanted electronic devices for reuse and recycling, setting up donation stations at our head office.
- One of our marketing print suppliers has moved to a vegetable-based ink alternative in all their print work.

Going for gold

As part of our Therapeutic Innovation Sustainability Network, Curtis Hart and his team have been driving sustainability initiatives at our Functional Genomics Centre. Our Therapeutic Innovation Sustainability Network was launched in April 2022 to translate discoveries from the lab into effective tests and treatments for people affected by cancer.

The Functional Genomics Centre is a collaboration between Cancer Research Horizons and AstraZeneca. The centre is leading the way on sustainability with their commitment to reduce consumable usage by 50% by 2025, which complements AstraZeneca's goal to become carbon negative across the value chain by 2030.

The team have taken several innovative steps to reduce emissions produced by the centre. These include:

- Trialling bio-based plastic centrifuge tubes, which have a 62% reduced impact on climate change compared to tubes made from conventional crude oil.
- Growing cell and tissue cultures using a medium that doesn't need to be stored in fridges, saving roughly 150kWh/year of energy.
- Reducing the temperature of nearly 20% of lab freezers from -80C to -70C, saving roughly 4,599kWh/year. The centre received a Green Impact Excellence Award for this in 2023.

- Optimising experiments to be smaller and more efficient. A review estimated this resulted in a significant financial saving of £434,000 on consumables and a substantial environmental saving of 2,098kg of plastic in 2023.

Our Functional Genomics Centre now holds the LEAF Silver Award and like all our Cancer Research Horizons centres, they're intending to apply for LEAF Gold in 2024.



Curtis Hart,
CRISPR Screening
Scientist at
the Functional
Genomics Centre



“We aim to lead by example with LEAF Gold certifications at all Cancer Research Horizons sites by the end of 2024. Shifting people’s mindset to challenge how we can work more sustainably without compromising on quality is key.”

Dr Sylvie Lachmann working with Dr Claire Heride, Principal Scientists leading our Therapeutic Innovation Sustainability Network

Our sustainable workplace

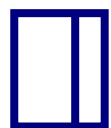
In 2019, we moved into our new head office at 2 Redman Place in Stratford. This building is rated 'outstanding' against the BREEAM sustainability criteria, scoring 94%. The emissions savings it created were captured in our SECR 2019 baseline emissions.



103 square metres of **solar panels** reduce carbon emissions by more than 300 tonnes every year.



Due to the location of our office, almost all our main office staff commute to work using **sustainable modes of transport**. We've also reduced carbon emissions from travel by allowing flexible work locations.



Floor-to-ceiling triple glazed windows allow natural light through all sides of the building, reducing the need for electric lighting.



We encourage **cycling** through our cycle-to-work scheme, providing 212 bike racks, showers, changing rooms and storage facilities.



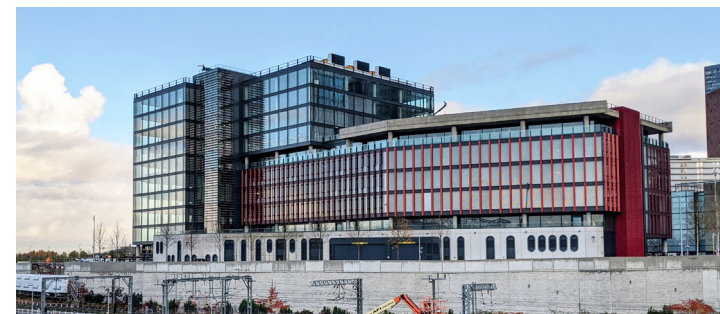
100% **LED lighting**.



Rainwater harvesting saves 4.5 Olympic-size swimming pools of drinkable water annually.



A 973 square metre **green roof** supports cleaner air and attracts local wildlife.



Exploring materials for our medal lanyards

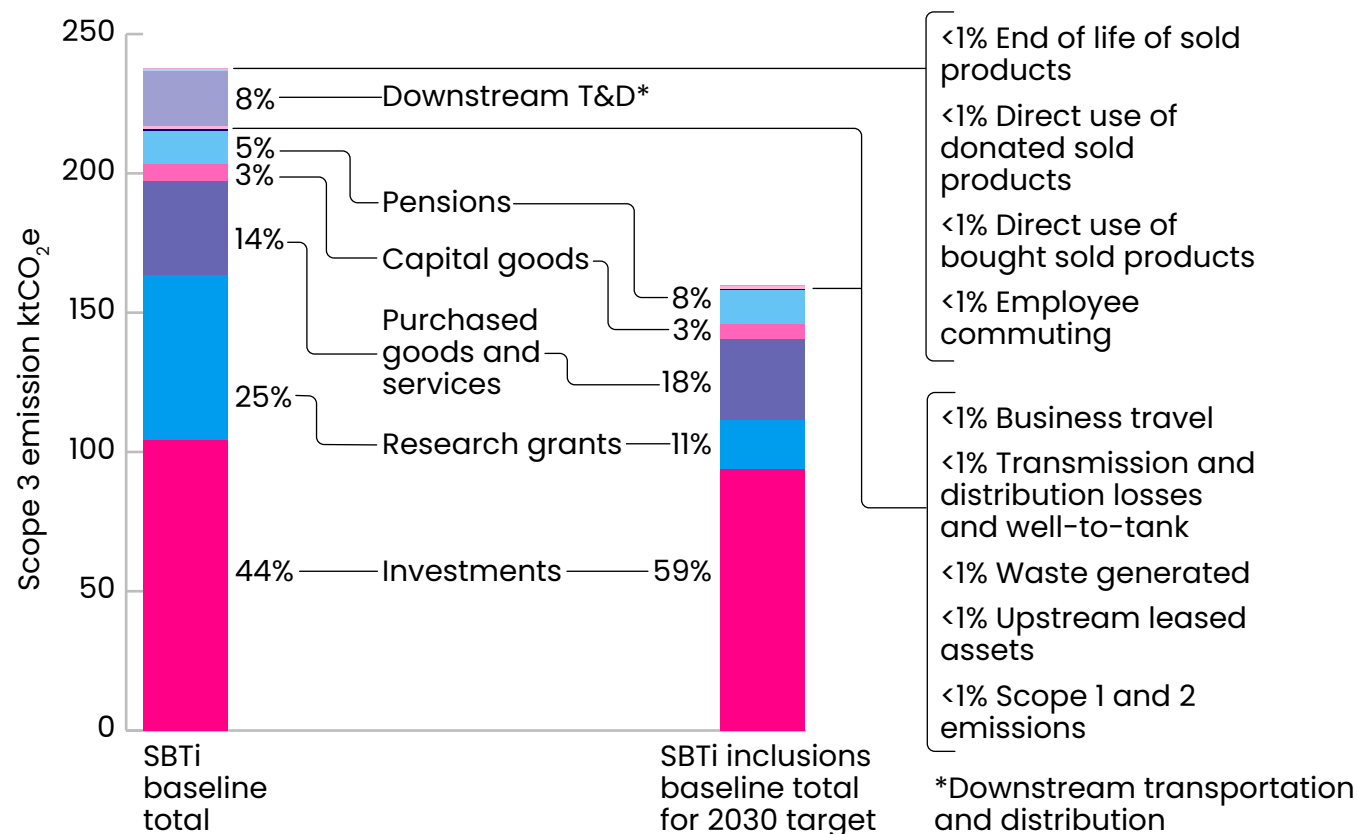
2076kg of recycled plastic bottles were used to make 335,500 lanyards for our 2024 Race for Life medals.



Our emissions mapping over 2022/23

The work we carried out to map and understand our total emissions across all our activities, both in the UK and overseas, showed that around 99% of our emissions were indirect (Scope 3). Almost all our emissions come from our financial investments (44%), research grants (25%), purchasing and capital goods (17%) and pension investments (5%). A further 8% come from our supporters travelling to our shops and fundraising events.

Cancer Research UK Group SBTi emissions baseline 2022/23 following SBTi methodology



Details of our emissions and a summary of our methodologies used to map them are set out in the appendix on page 21.

Scope 1

All our direct emissions occurring from sources we own or control, including fuel combustion, gas boilers and fleet vehicles.

Scope 2

Indirect emissions from electricity we buy and use and the emissions released during the production of the energy we use.

Scope 3

All other indirect emissions resulting from activities or assets through our value chain that we don't own or control. Our Scope 3 reporting follows the SBTi methodology.

Our future plans

We've already planned our activities for 2024/25 as we make progress towards achieving our objectives. These include securing more detailed emissions information.

Over 2024/25, we'll agree more substantial activities within each focus area for 2025 to 2027, to make sure we invest our efforts and valuable funds in the right places. You can read more about our latest activities and future plans in our annual [environmental impact update](#).

Appendix

Cancer Research UK Group 2030 SBTi target – total emissions and percentage emissions included in 2030 target. Breakdown by Greenhouse Gas Protocol emission category in tonnes CO₂e.

GHG emissions category	Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)	% total emissions	% Scope 1 and 2 emissions	SBTi inclusion % / exclusions	SBTi included emissions	Category description
Electricity	704.0	0.3%	38%	Fully included in target	704.0	Emissions from electricity use in operational buildings (offices, labs, warehouses and shops)
Fleet vehicles	640.5	0.3%	34%	Fully included in target	640.5	Emissions incurred when employees travel or transport goods in organisation-owned vehicles
Heating	63.3	<0.05%	3%	Fully included in target	63.3	Emissions resulting from heating systems in operational buildings
Refrigerants	469.5	0.2%	25%	80% included in target	375.6	Emissions from refrigerant gases released from air conditioning systems

Our total Scope 1 and 2 emissions make up less than 1% of our total group emissions, following the SBTi methodology.

GHG emissions category	Scope 3 emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)	% CRUK total Scope 3 emissions	SBTi inclusion % / exclusions	SBTi included emissions	Category description (all Scope 3)
Investments	104,146	44%	90% included in target	93,731	Emissions of companies which receive investments, apportioned to the ratio of investment value and turnover
Research grants	59,400	25%	30% included in target	17,820	Emissions of organisations which receive grants, apportioned according to the ratio of grant value and turnover
Purchased goods and services	33,436	14%	86% included in target	28,831	Emissions associated with goods purchased or services procured from third parties
Capital goods	6,105	2.6%	90% included in target	5,498	Emissions associated with goods purchased that represent significant expenditure and have an extended use phase
Pensions	12,079	5%	Fully included in target	12,079	Emissions from investments made with pension funds
Business travel	709	0.3%	Fully included in target	709	Emissions incurred when employees travel for work purposes, including those from hotel stays
Transmission and distribution losses and well-to-tank	854	0.4%	Fully included in target	854	Emissions incurred during the extraction, production, transportation and distribution of consumed fuel or energy
Waste generated	96	0.04%	Fully included in target	96	Emissions from transportation and processing of operational waste by a third party
Upstream leased assets	3	0.001%	Fully included in target	3	Emissions incurred in the operation of leased assets (eg buildings or vehicles) not accounted for in Scope 1 and Scope 2

GHG emissions category	Scope 3 emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)	% CRUK total Scope 3 emissions	SBTi inclusion % / exclusions	SBTi included emissions	Category description (all Scope 3)
Downstream transport and distribution	19,831	8%	Not included in target	-	Emissions incurred during the extraction, production, transportation and distribution of consumed fuel or energy – majority is from people travelling to events and shops
End of life of sold products	701	0.3%	Not included in target	-	Emissions associated with the transportation and processing of sold products once disposed of by the end user
Direct use of donated sold products	369	0.1%	Not included in target	-	Emissions associated with the use of products which directly consume energy, eg plug-in devices
Direct use of bought sold products	16	0.007%	Not included in target	-	Emissions associated with the use of products which directly consume energy, eg plug-in devices.
Employee commuting	4	0.002%	Not included in target	-	Emissions associated with the travel of employees to their place of work and employee homeworking

Summary of our methodologies in mapping our emissions

For both heating and electricity emissions, where available, fuel and electricity consumption data was multiplied by appropriate Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) emission factors to produce greenhouse gas emissions.

Where consumption data wasn't available, greenhouse gas emissions were estimated using one of the following options:

- Extrapolation from primary data based on floor area
- Extrapolation from primary data based on staff/desk number
- Use of secondary data such as industry averages per building type

Scope 1

For heating emissions, where information wasn't received for gas consumption, it was confirmed these sites are electricity only.

For retail shops where floor area isn't known, we agreed to use the average floor area for known stores. Less than 0.5% of natural gas consumption was estimated.

For refrigerant emissions, where available, the amount and type of refrigerant gas that required filling within the baseline year was multiplied by appropriate BEIS emission factors to produce greenhouse gas emissions.

For fleet vehicle emissions, where available, fuel consumption data was multiplied by appropriate BEIS emission factors to produce greenhouse gas emissions.

Scope 2

For electricity emissions, where 2023 data wasn't available for labs we agreed to use 2022 data, as there had been no significant changes to the relevant facilities.

For retail shops where floor area isn't known, we agreed to use the average floor area for known stores. Greenhouse gas emissions were also calculated, taking into account the electricity tariff procured by Cancer Research UK (market-based approach). Where electricity tariff information wasn't received, a non-green tariff was assumed under the market-based approach.

Less than 1% of electricity consumption was estimated.

Scope 3

Category 1 and 2 (purchased goods and services, capital goods)

Carbon emissions for purchased goods and services were calculated by applying spend-based factors for each Cancer Research UK procurement account category. These spend-based factors were published by the Department for Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs and the University of Leeds. Capital goods were identified based on their identification as such in our expenditure data, aligning to our financial accounting system.

Category 3 (fuel- and energy-related activities not included in Scope 1 and Scope 2)

Consumption data used for Scope 1 and Scope 2 fuel/electricity use was multiplied by appropriate BEIS well-to-tank and transmission and distribution emission factors to produce greenhouse gas emissions.

Category 4 (upstream transportation and distribution)

Upstream transportation emissions are included within purchased goods and services – these are usually minimal in comparison.

Category 5 (waste generated in operations)

Where specific waste disposal route information wasn't available (recycling, landfill etc), published averages were applied to reported waste weights.

Data on waste generation was available for a small number of sites, and where it wasn't provided, extrapolation based on full-time equivalent (FTE) staff count was used.

Category 6 (business travel)

A good proportion of activity-based data on business travel was available. Where spend-based data rather than activity-based data was available, assumptions on the correlation between spend and activity were used, such as the average cost of a taxi per mile, or the average cost of a hotel per night.

Category 7 (commuting)

As primary data on commuting methods wasn't available, records of the staff working locations were used in combination with travel statistics from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on average commuting distances and modes of transport. It was assumed office-based employees live in the same region as their office base (commuting within the region). It was also assumed that the average office-based employee spent two days in the office per week with the rest worked from home, as per our working from home policy.

Category 8 (upstream leased assets)

For laboratories, where Cancer Research UK doesn't own the facility and there's no official sub-lease in place, it was agreed to estimate energy consumption emissions based on the FTE staff present. These emissions are reported in Scope 3 upstream leased assets to reflect the lower level of operational control.

Category 9 (downstream transportation and distribution)

ONS statistics for mode of travel used for shopping purposes were used. Where site-specific footfall data wasn't provided, extrapolation from site floor areas was used. For retail shops with an unknown floor area, we agreed to use the average floor area for known stores. Customers' journeys are apportioned to Cancer Research UK based on the average number of shops visited per journey according to a UK-based study (30% of the journey is assigned to Cancer Research UK).

Category 11 (use of sold products)

Data was available on the number of units sold by Cancer Research UK within reasonably specific product categories. Secondary data was used to estimate lifetime energy consumption for typical products that would be representative of these product categories.

Category 12 (end-of-life treatment of sold products)

Industry knowledge and secondary data were used to make assumptions on the end-of-life destinations of typical products that would be representative of the sold product categories. Emissions from donated goods which cannot be sold in our retail shops and are sold to RAG merchants have been assigned to sold

products in Scope 3 (rather than waste) as we receive income from these sales.

Category 15 (investments)**Research Grants**

We received data on the amount of funding provided to each institution. We carried out research into the key institutions to find out:

1. How much total funding the institution received (all institutions report on this as part of their annual financial accounts), so we could calculate what percentage of this was our funding.
2. Whether the institution has calculated and publicly reported an emissions footprint.*

Where a footprint was available, a portion of this was allocated to our Scope 3 emissions in line with our percentage contribution to the institution's total funding.

This research wasn't carried out for every single grant recipient. We gathered data covering roughly 58% of the grant funding we've provided. For the remaining institutions, we made the following assumptions:

- From the institutes with data, we calculated the average emissions allocated to Cancer Research UK per pound of funding provided.
- This value was then applied to the remaining grant recipients to estimate the footprint.

We're also aligning our reporting to the funders' reporting framework for the forthcoming Concordat for Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice, developed by UK Research and Innovation.

Pensions

The source data provided for the amount invested in any pension funds was a report for strategic development of the pension default fund regarding ESG. It was indicated that around £73m is held in pension funds. The information provided doesn't include carbon intensities of our funds, so we've used an external reputable source, MSCI, for an indicative emissions factor. MSCI report the carbon footprints of global indexes, differentiating between standard and 'ESG' or 'low-carbon' focused funds.

Our current default fund only considers tobacco in its ESG strategy, so we didn't deem this a low-carbon fund. We therefore used the 'default' emissions factor for leading European funds. If the pensions investment strategy moves towards a more holistic ESG or low-carbon consideration while maintaining return on investments for pensions owners, a lower carbon emissions factor could be used in reporting.

Investments

Investment emissions provided by Goldman Sachs using MSCI carbon data, analysed in line with Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials reporting recommendations.

For more information, please contact [**sustainability@cancer.org.uk**](mailto:sustainability@cancer.org.uk)

*The whole footprint was used where available, although contained minimal Scope 3 categories (eg waste, business travel and commuting). Only one organisation didn't have Scope 3, so just Scope 1 and Scope 2 were used for them. Footprints tended to be available for 2021/22, though a small number were from 2020/21 and 2019/20.