



**EDUCATION  
CANNOT  
WAIT**

# GREENING STATEMENT

August 2024

## INTRODUCTION

The global climate crisis is having a devastating impact on children and their education, particularly those living in emergency and fragile contexts. The youngest generations are the least to blame but tragically experience the worst of its effects. Out of the 224 million school-aged children affected by crises and in need of education support, about 62 million were affected by climate hazards. Of these 62 million, around 31 million children found themselves in countries ill-prepared to handle the impacts of severe climate-related crises.

ECW is committed to protecting all children's right to education from climate-related impacts. ECW is equally committed to limiting the environmental impact of our operations through both individual and collective efforts to change and challenge our ways of working. Our [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#) lists the specific climate actions and commitments we have made. In particular, ECW recognises its role in reducing its own environmental footprint, aligned with UNFCCC standards and targets, in order to contribute to the Paris Agreement and limit the long-term impacts of the climate crisis. Accordingly, we have committed to 'explore setting organizational emission reduction targets for ECW in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'.

## OVERVIEW OF ECW'S FOOTPRINT

As a hosted fund under UNICEF, ECW operates under UNICEF's regulatory framework. For instance, ECW's flight and building data<sup>1</sup> are already included in UNICEF's environmental monitoring process. ECW will therefore not produce its own emissions target but is proud to continue contributing to UNICEF's ambitious plans and actions to reduce its environmental footprint. UNICEF has been and continues to be climate neutral since 2015 by offsetting unavoidable emissions, and driving up ambition in reducing emissions, water-use, and waste generation. UNICEF's current ambition is to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% by 2050.

After ECW's Headquarters office in New York, ECW's largest office is Geneva which is not UNICEF operated. ECW's Geneva office<sup>2</sup> was built and certified against the ambitious Minergie standard which means that energy consumption is extremely low, the building is heated fossil fuel-free and it produces some of its own electricity. The energy footprint of Minergie new builds is 20–25% better than required by Swiss law.

## PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT

This Greening Statement sets out ECW's Greening Principles and Commitments to contribute to UNICEF's target. Greening here refers to the actions taken to mitigate climate change through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions where possible and reducing the negative environmental impact of ECW's work. This Greening Statement balances ECW's commitment to contributing to climate mitigation with ensuring effectiveness and efficiency of the fund.

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1. This applies only to the New York office which is hosted by UNICEF.  
2. A shared office provided to ECW through the kind generosity of the Swiss Government.



# GREENING PRINCIPLES

ECW’s operations will be guided by the following core principles. These principles apply to all **ECW Staff Members and Complementary Personnel**, inclusive of interns and consultants.

	<p>1. <b>Commitment to greening.</b> We are committed to limiting the environmental impact of our operations through both individual and collective efforts to change our ways of working.</p>
	<p>2. <b>Accountability to the environment.</b> We are accountable for using resources in an environmentally responsible way.</p>
	<p>3. <b>Operational sustainability.</b> We commit to minimising the environmental impact of our operations wherever possible, balancing it with the need to fulfil our mandate and due consideration to financial affordability given our reputation as a lean, agile and field-driven global fund.</p>
	<p>4. <b>Alignment with policies and guidance.</b> We will follow and implement UNICEF’s policies and guidance on environmental sustainability.</p>
	<p>5. <b>Programmatic environmental assessment.</b> Before disbursing funds, we will ask all our implementing partners to explain how they are minimising the impact of ECW-funded programmes on the environment, and we will support partners to consider their impact on the environment.</p>
	<p>6. <b>Greener travel.</b> We will consider the environmental impact of travel by encouraging the use of more environmentally friendly travel options, where possible. This includes utilising UNICEF’s updated travel policy which ensures that its travellers are aware of CO2 emissions when selecting flight options for their mission and that travel agents display sustainable options in their online booking tools.</p>
	<p>7. <b>Offsetting.</b> We will ensure flights booked through the system are offset and encourage staff to offset when they book themselves.</p>
	<p>8. <b>Geographical diversity.</b> We commit to exploring new ways of delivering our work more sustainably, for example through increased geographical presence of staff in different regions – closer to the areas they serve, where this makes business sense.</p>
	<p>9. <b>Monitoring progress.</b> We will continue to monitor and respond to UNICEF’s annual Environmental Footprint and Accessibility Assessment Report which includes ECW’s flights and buildings data.</p>
	<p>10. <b>Awareness raising.</b> We will ensure this statement is communicated and understood by all ECW Staff Members and Complementary Personnel, inclusive of interns and consultants.</p>

3. All those partners delivering country-facing First Emergency Response and Multi-Year Resilience Programmes.



# GREENING COMMITMENTS

## CONTRIBUTE to the UN's target

ECW will take concrete steps to reduce its negative environmental impact and contribute to the UN and UNICEF's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030. Additionally, UNICEF aims to source 40% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2025 and 80% by 2030<sup>4</sup>.

## ACT to reduce environmental impact

ECW will make three clear commitments to contribute to the UN target:

- 1) Promote environmentally friendly travel options and offset flight emissions.
- 2) Reduce the environmental footprint of ECW offices and office activities.
- 3) Enable behavioural change to reduce environmental footprint.

## MONITOR progress

ECW will monitor progress against the three commitments above over the current strategic plan period (2023-2026) by tracking the following indicators or activities:

### 1) Promote environmentally friendly travel options and offset flight emissions.

- 100% of flight emissions (when purchased through the UNICEF travel agent) offset.
- Annual average of three ECW personnel participants per field mission achieved (taking into consideration the essential need for substantive staff and advocacy/communications staff).
- Increase in the number of times alternative transport is used from a zero baseline. By default, alternative transport to flights should be prioritised unless deemed not to make business sense.

### 2) Reduce environmental footprint of ECW offices and office activities

- New ECW Green Teams established in NY and Geneva (our two biggest offices) with an agreed workplan of activities.
- One staff member from the NY ECW Green Team also engages in UNICEF New York Staff Association Green Team and reports back to ECW.
- Each ECW Green Team meets at least once per quarter, develops and delivers a clear action plan and reports to SMT on progress as relevant. Each Green Team is chaired by a Senior Management Team members (NY - Deputy Director; Geneva – Head of the Geneva Office).
- Increase in actions taken to reduce the environmental footprint from ECW office activities (e.g. changes in catering, paperless meetings) measured through our own action database.

### 3) Enable behavioural change to reduce environmental footprint

- By 2026, 90% of ECW Staff Members and Complementary Personnel<sup>5</sup> positively answer the Annual UNICEF Pulse Survey on Workplace Culture question on sustainability: 'In my office, we consider the environmental impact of our work.' (45% as of 2023).
- All ECW Staff Members and Complementary Personnel are aware of ECW's Greening Statement

4. For more details, see A brighter life for every child with sustainable energy.pdf (unicef.org).

5. This includes interns and consultants.



and UNICEF's guidance and understand how to contribute to reducing ECW's footprint aligned to its 3 core commitments.

- ECW's Greening Statement is included in ECW's Induction Pack for all new staff.
- All ECW Staff Members and Complementary Personnel are aware of and consider actions to reduce their environmental footprint, for example reducing travel where possible, taking environmentally-friendly transport for commuting where possible, reducing energy and water usage and supporting office initiatives.

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE STATEMENT

- ECW will report on its consideration of the environment when reporting progress on its climate commitments in its next Strategic Plan.
- ECW will also incorporate its Greening commitments in its official Annual Workplan, progress on which is reported to its Executive Committee.
- The Deputy Director will be the accountable person for delivering this Greening Statement.