

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURE



Eye health services, including our own operations and programs, have an impact on the environment by contributing to emissions, consumption of resources and production of healthcare and other waste





PHOTOS: MICHAEL AMENDOLIA

VISION & VALUES



WHO WE ARE

The Fred Hollows Foundation is an international development organisation which has worked in some of the world's most remote and under-served communities for more than 30 years. We are independent, not-for-profit, politically unaligned and secular.

We were founded by Australian ophthalmologist and humanitarian Professor Fred Hollows AC and Gabi Hollows AO with a small group of friends in 1992.



OUR VISION

A world in which no person is needlessly blind or vision impaired.



OUR PURPOSE

Deliver bold eye health solutions that transform lives.



OUR VALUES

Our values of integrity, collaboration, action, resourceful and empowerment (I CARE) underpin every aspect of our work both in Australia and around the globe.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change, pollution and environmental degradation present major threats to global eye health and delivery of eye health care, and risk undermining decades of progress in reducing the burden of avoidable blindness and vision impairment.

Recognising these risks, The Foundation is committed to good environmental stewardship in supporting eye care services, and to building resilience by understanding and adapting our programs and operations to climate risks.

Our [Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Policy](#) sets out requirements for annual reporting on our efforts to integrate environmental sustainability in our operations, programs and advocacy, and to mitigate the environmental impacts of our work. The Foundation's cross-divisional Environmental Sustainability Working Group (**ESWG**) drives the organisation's approach in this space and in 2025 led the following activities:

1. Organisational Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions baseline and decarbonisation planning

The Foundation concluded a baseline assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from our operations in Australia and a sample of four program offices. With guidance from an expert consultancy, Pangolin Associates, The Foundation developed an emissions reduction plan, including new commitments to lower carbon travel practices, expanding renewable energy uptake in Foundation offices, staff sustainability education and other energy efficiency improvements.

2. Assessing and building the ESCC capacities of partners

In 2025, we implemented priority recommendations from the pilot ESCC assessment with a key eye health partner in Bangladesh, measuring their environmental sustainability capacities and gaps. The Foundation worked with the partner to develop core environmental policies and operating procedures. Additionally, we supported the partner to transition from a paper-based to an electronic medical records system.

Also in 2025, we concluded a secondary pilot assessment with a key health partner in Palestine. The Foundation worked with the partner to support preparations for the installation of solar power

and a building management system which will be complete in 2026.

Findings from these assessments have been shared widely with the eye health sector, including through the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) Climate Action Working Group.

3. Internal review on how to best mainstream environmental sustainability throughout projects

In 2025, we conducted an internal review to identify how learnings and approaches piloted through both ESCC assessments can be further mainstreamed into The Foundation's broader project analysis, planning and design, implementation and monitoring, evaluation and learning processes.

The review has set out a range of recommendations to strengthen ESCC within our program design, partner and staff capacity building, learning and evidence generation, which The Foundation will begin implementing in 2026.

IN 2026, THE FOUNDATION WILL FOCUS ON:

- Continuing to implement our Emissions Reduction Strategy and plan for a follow up Greenhouse Gas Emissions assessment in early 2027.
- The ESGWG will continue to serve as a key technical resource to support implementation, monitoring and reporting of the new objectives, as well as documenting and sharing learnings to inform programming within The Foundation and the eye health sector more broadly.
- Supporting our partners in Bangladesh and Palestine to implement several recommendations from their Environmental Sustainability assessments, such as expanding their use of solar power.
- Learnings from the internal review will be embedded into project analysis, planning and design, implementation and monitoring, evaluation and learning processes.
- Uplifting our Environmental Sustainability policy to reflect climate action for good practice, in response to changes in the ACFID Code of Conduct and the new ACFID Climate Action Framework.
- Sharing learnings and good practices from The Foundation's environmental sustainability action with other stakeholders in the eye health sector, via the IAPB Climate Action Working Group and other key international forums, including 2030 In Sight in Kenya.



The climate crisis is also a health crisis. Human health and planetary health are intertwined.”

– António Guterres,
Secretary-General of the United Nations



Climate change, pollution and environmental degradation present major threats to global eye health and delivery of care.

Climate change threatens to undermine decades of progress in reducing the burden of avoidable blindness and vision impairment with women and girls, people living in poverty, people with disability and other marginalised groups most impacted.



PHOTO: MICHAEL AMENDOLIA



**The Fred Hollows
Foundation**

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