



The Fred Hollows
Foundation

2025 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURE



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 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 2024 led the following activities:

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

The Foundation collaborated with an expert consultancy, Pangolin Associates, to establish a baseline for our Greenhouse Gas Emissions, which was completed in early 2025. The consultants will work with the Foundation to develop an emissions reduction plan, based on the findings of the baseline assessment, in the first half of 2025.

2. ESCC assessment and capacity building of sample partners

- In 2024, we concluded a pilot assessment with a key eye health partner in Bangladesh, measuring their environmental sustainability capacities and gaps and identifying key areas for improvement. The Foundation worked with the partner to develop a plan to implement priority recommendations from the report starting in the first half of 2025.
- Findings from this assessment have been shared widely with the eye health sector, including presentation during a panel on Climate Change action at the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) Conference in Mexico City, June 2024. In 2025, The Foundation will conclude a second pilot assessment with a key eye health partner in Palestine. In the second half of 2025, The Foundation will work with this partner to develop a plan to implement priority recommendations from the assessment.
- Additionally in 2024, The Foundation's representatives participated in ACFID's Climate Action Peer Learning Program, which has helped The Foundation to better understand how to align our organizational practices with ACFID's new Climate Action Framework.

In 2025, The Foundation will focus on:

- Working with Pangolin to develop an Emissions Reduction Strategy, that identifies opportunities for organisational GHG emissions reductions and a plan to achieve this over time.
- The ESWG 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 partner in Bangladesh to implement several recommendations from their Environmental Sustainability assessment, including upgrading their environmental sustainability policies and procedures, establishing an electronic medical record system, and expand their use of solar power. Following completion of the second assessment in Palestine in early 2025, The Foundation will similarly support our Palestine-based partner to implement priority findings.
- Conducting an internal review to identify how learnings and approaches piloted through both assessments can be mainstreamed into The Foundation's broader project analysis, planning and design, implementation and monitoring, evaluation and learning processes.
- Uplift of 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 key stakeholders in the eye health sector, via the IAPB Climate Action Working Group and other key international forums, including 2030 In Sight in Kathmandu.

Uncle Jimmy regained his sight after cataract surgery at the Darwin Deadly Vision Centre and now shares his story to encourage others in his community.

