



IE University

CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT

2023.2024

IE University is committed to measuring, managing, and reducing its environmental footprint through a structured and transparent approach to carbon accounting. This report presents the organization’s carbon footprint for the 2023–2024 academic year, following the internationally recognized GHG Protocol methodology, and reflects its operational activities and value chain emissions. The results demonstrate strong performance in direct emissions management while identifying Scope 3 emissions as the primary source of impact and the main frontier for future decarbonization.

The total carbon footprint of IE University for the reporting period amounts to **30,497.59 tCO2e**, covering all representative operational activities and value chain emissions.

The total emissions generated during the reporting period are summarized in the table below. The following table provides a detailed breakdown of emissions by scope, category, and specific indicators used to normalize the data.

Scope	Total consumed	Total emissions per category	Indicators per category		Percentage of emissions per category	Indicator by scope	Total emissions per scope
Scope	Type	tCO2e	tCO2e/sq m	tCO2e/student	%	tCO2e/student	tCO2e/scope
1	Natural Gas	969,13	0,01	0,06	3,18%	0,07	1.180,34
	Gasoil	1,03	0,00	0,00	0,00%		
	Refrigerant Gases	210,18	0,00	0,01	0,69%		
2	Electricity	-	-	-	0,00%	-	-
3	Business Travel	3.416,92	0,03	0,20	11,20%	1,75	0,96
	Hotel Stays	263,40	0,00	0,02	0,86%		
	Material Use	15,60	0,00	0,00	0,05%		
	Waste	134,49	0,00	0,01	0,44%		
	Procurement	25.486,83	0,26	1,52	83,58%		
TOTAL		30.497,59	0,31	1,82	100,00%	-	30.497,59

As shown above, Scope 3 emissions account for more than 96% of total impact. Procurement alone represents over 83% of total emissions, clearly identifying it as the main driver of IE University’s carbon footprint. This shows that most emissions lie beyond direct operations and reinforces the need for value chain engagement and sustainable procurement strategies.

Scope 1 – Direct emissions. These emissions, which originate from sources owned or controlled by the organization, reached **1,180.34 tCO2e**. They are mainly associated with natural gas consumption in buildings and fugitive emissions from refrigerants, with a minor contribution from diesel used in backup generators.

Scope 2 – Electricity. Indirect emissions from purchased electricity were calculated at **0 tCO₂e**, as IE University operates with electricity sourced entirely from renewable energy providers certified with Guarantees of Origin. This reflects the effectiveness of the transition to renewable energy and avoids significant emissions compared to a conventional electricity mix.

Scope 3 – Value chain emissions. The largest share of emissions corresponds to Scope 3, which covers other indirect emissions generated across the value chain. These amounted to **29,317.93 tCO₂e** and include purchases of goods and services, business travel (such as flights and train journeys undertaken by staff), accommodation-related emissions from hotel stays, waste generation, and material consumption such as paper, water, and toner.

IE University operates across multiple campuses in Spain, primarily in Madrid and Segovia, with a total operational surface of 99,534 m². During the reporting period, the institution hosted 16,790 students and employed 1,460 staff members. The assessment includes all activities under operational control within these locations, while international offices were excluded due to their minimal contribution and limited data reliability.

The calculation methodology is based on activity data multiplied by recognized emission factors from sources including the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition, DEFRA, and IPCC guidelines. This ensures consistency, transparency, and comparability over time.

In line with its sustainability strategy, IE University has implemented a range of initiatives aimed at reducing emissions and improving environmental performance.

Energy and buildings. Actions include the use of 100% renewable electricity, LED lighting, smart building systems, and the optimization of heating and cooling systems.

Mobility. IE University has promoted more sustainable transport alternatives, including incentives for carpooling.

Procurement and consumption. Operational practices have been adjusted to reduce resource consumption, including paper reduction measures and waste minimization strategies. The institution has also engaged in carbon offsetting projects, including reforestation and biodiversity restoration efforts in Spain and the Amazon, supporting a net-zero status for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.

Performance indicators have been developed to monitor progress over time, including emissions per student, per employee, and per square meter. The results show a **26.94% reduction in emissions per student** and a **7.29% reduction per square meter** compared to previous years.

Despite these achievements, Scope 3 emissions remain the primary challenge. In particular, emissions associated with procurement and external services represent the largest opportunity for future reductions.

Looking ahead, IE University aims to strengthen its carbon management strategy by integrating sustainability criteria into procurement processes, reducing travel-related emissions through hybrid solutions, improving data collection on commuting patterns, and continuing to enhance energy efficiency across all campuses.

These actions reinforce IE University's commitment to sustainability while positioning Scope 3 decarbonization as its next strategic priority.

In Madrid, on March 17th, 2026