

Airbnb Corporate Sustainability Update

Corporate Emissions Footprint and
Progress Against Goals



September 2022



In 2021, Airbnb committed to a goal of operating as a net zero company for our corporate operations¹ by 2030 — a goal of reducing our corporate greenhouse gas emissions in line with our science-based targets, and using high-quality, nature-based solutions to address our residual emissions, by 2030. This document provides an update on our corporate greenhouse gas footprint, our progress in reducing these emissions, and our plan to reach our net zero goals. Highlights include:

- Setting emissions reduction targets that have been approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).
- Achieving 100 percent renewable energy in our global offices.²
- Launching a supplier sustainability program to drive scope 3 emissions reductions.
- Continuing to invest in high quality nature-based solutions to help protect the natural world.



¹ Including Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions associated with our corporate operations as outlined in Appendix A.

² We matched our global corporate electricity use with renewable energy for 2020 and 2021 by purchasing energy attribute certificates (i.e., renewable energy certificates, guarantees of origin, or similar instruments) sufficient to match 100 percent of our global electricity use for our corporate operations for those years. Our 2020 renewable energy purchases are not reflected in our Scope 2 GHG emissions measurement for 2020 because the energy attribute certificates for 2020 had not been delivered at the time we completed our emissions inventory for that year.

Measuring our corporate greenhouse gas emissions footprint

Airbnb has measured our greenhouse gas emissions, guided by the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Accounting and Reporting Standards and working with Watershed, our third-party sustainability partner, starting with 2019 as our baseline year. This measurement helps us understand the sources of our emissions, identify possible ways to reduce them, and monitor our progress over time. Going forward, we plan to measure the GHG footprint for our corporate operations each year, along with the progress toward our reduction targets.

The following chart outlines our greenhouse gas emissions by scope over the past three years (2019 to 2021).

Corporate GHG Emissions by Scope (2019-2021)

GHG Emissions	Unit	2019	2020 ³	2021
Scope 1 Direct emissions from stationary combustion (natural gas)	MTCO ₂ e	815	844	807
Scope 2 Indirect emissions from purchased electricity (market-based)	MTCO ₂ e	6,358	5,239 ²	0
Scope 3⁴ (Absolute) Indirect emissions that are calculated throughout the upstream and downstream value chain	MTCO ₂ e	387,785	209,926	254,867
Total	MTCO ₂ e	394,958	216,009	255,674
Scope 3 (Emissions Intensity)	MTCO ₂ e/\$1M gross profit ⁵	108	84	53

³ 2020 was an anomaly: total emissions were 45.3 percent lower than 2019 as a result of Covid-19-driven reductions such as lower spending with suppliers, employee business travel and commuting.

⁴ Airbnb's Scope 3 emissions measurement includes the following categories defined by the GHG Protocol: 3.1 Purchased goods and services, 3.2 Capital goods, 3.3 Fuel- and energy-related activities (not included in Scope 1 and Scope 2), 3.5 Waste generated in operations, 3.6 Business travel, 3.7 Employee commuting, and 3.8 Upstream leased assets.

⁵ Scope 3 emissions intensity measured using the economic intensity method as set by SBTi's Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Value Added (GEVA). SBTi provides that the term "value added" can be defined as gross profit, operating profit, revenue minus the cost of purchased goods and services, or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) plus all personnel costs. "Gross profit" for purposes of Airbnb's emissions intensity measurement is calculated as revenue minus cost of revenue.

Summary

- Our Scope 1 emissions did not change significantly between 2019 and 2021.
- We reduced our Scope 2 emissions by 100 percent from 2019 due to our purchase of renewable energy to match our global corporate electricity use for 2021.²
- Our Scope 3 (absolute) emissions declined by 34.3 percent from 2019 to 2021, driven by a mix of overall cost management, pandemic-related reductions in spending, and reduced business travel and employee-related emissions driven by the move to hybrid and remote work. As we work toward our net zero goal, our target for Scope 3 corporate emissions is to reduce our emissions intensity in line with SBTi guidelines.

A detailed view of Airbnb's emissions breakdown is available in [Appendix A](#).⁶



⁶ We engaged an external third party to provide limited assurance over certain metrics disclosed. Their report is available [here](#).

Reducing our corporate emissions as part of our net zero goal

While we're proud of the progress we have made to date, we know there is much more work to be done. We have developed GHG emissions reduction targets for all scopes of emissions associated with our global corporate operations. These targets have been approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) — the lead partner of the Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign.⁷

By 2030, we are committing to reducing our corporate emissions as follows from our 2019 baseline year:

- Reducing Scope 1 and 2 (absolute) emissions by 78.4 percent.
- Reducing Scope 3 emissions intensity (MtCO₂e/\$1M gross profit) by 55 percent.

Our targets help define our emissions reduction efforts on our path to net zero. More information about the steps we are taking toward these targets is below.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions

We are matching our office electricity use with 100 percent renewable energy purchases, allowing us to meet – and exceed – our Scope 1 and 2 science based targets. As a member of the RE100, a global corporate renewable energy initiative bringing together businesses committed to 100 percent renewable electricity, we plan to continue sourcing renewable energy according to RE100 standards, and, further, to look for opportunities to transition to more direct sources of renewable energy.⁸

We also plan to take additional steps to continue reducing these emissions, including:

- Improving office energy data collection to help our teams identify energy efficiency opportunities.
- Conducting a detailed building sustainability review for our San Francisco headquarters, beginning this year.
- Refining our office sustainability guidelines to identify further emissions reduction opportunities in our buildings, and the materials used to create them.

⁷ Airbnb's emissions reduction targets have been approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) as consistent with levels required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. According to SBTi, the targets covering greenhouse gas emissions from Airbnb's operations (Scopes 1 and 2) are consistent with reductions required to keep warming to 1.5°C, what the latest climate science has told us is needed to prevent the most damaging effects of climate change. Airbnb's target for the emissions from our value chain (Scope 3 for corporate operations) meet the SBTi's criteria for ambitious value chain goals, meaning they are in line with current best practice.

⁸ As noted in footnote 2, we matched our global corporate electricity use with renewable energy for 2020 and 2021 by purchasing energy attribute certificates (i.e., renewable energy certificates, guarantees of origin, or similar instruments) sufficient to match 100 percent of our global electricity use for our corporate operations for those years. Specifically with regard to the RE100 technical criteria, for 2020, the renewable energy we sourced was approximately 88 percent compliant (as we were unable to source renewable energy locally in certain markets due to lack of availability and low volumes), and for 2021, we sourced renewable energy to be 100 percent compliant with the RE100 technical criteria.

Scope 3 emissions

As with many companies, the majority of Airbnb's corporate emissions are Scope 3 and largely attributable to our work with suppliers.

We are partnering closely with teams across the business and external experts, including the Environmental Defense Fund and Watershed, to identify opportunities to reduce our Scope 3 emissions intensity. Some examples of the steps we have taken, or are taking, include:

- Launched the Airbnb Supplier Sustainability Program. With this program, we're engaging suppliers to drive down their emissions. The program will ask suppliers, beginning with some of our largest, to commit to measuring and reporting their GHG emissions and implementing or maintaining emissions reduction plans. This will help us address the largest source of our Scope 3 corporate emissions.
- Consolidating our cloud computing footprint towards cloud service providers with stronger environmental performance.
- Launched our new Live and Work Anywhere approach, which we expect to help drive emissions reductions as employees who choose to continue working from home can eliminate their commutes. We also introduced a revamped approach to employee travel, including a new travel policy and travel limits, and we continue exploring ways to further reduce emissions associated with employee business travel.
- Expanded our renewable energy procurement beyond our offices to include estimated work-from-home electricity usage for our global employee base, as many employees now work from home. We are addressing these emissions even though renewable energy purchased for these initiatives is not able to be reflected as Scope 3 emissions reductions under GHG Protocol guidance. In addition, we're offering renewable energy options to employees in some countries to help them to further reduce their at-home emissions.

Investing in natural ecosystems and protecting biodiversity

In addition to reducing corporate emissions, we also recognize there is an urgent need to protect the natural world and preserve biodiversity. That's why we are also investing in high quality, nature-based solutions that can help protect ecosystems, wildlife, and indigenous ways of life, while also offsetting our residual emissions. Our work includes:

- Helping to fund the protection of tropical forests around the world [through our participation](#) in the [Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance \(LEAF\) Coalition](#). LEAF is an ambitious new public-private initiative that has mobilized \$1 billion in corporate and government commitments to fight tropical deforestation.
- We are beginning to purchase third-party reviewed and certified carbon credits to promote nature-based solutions, and plan to increase this investment over time to address the residual emissions that we are unable to reduce.
 - We are committed to supporting credible, high-quality projects that are (1) accredited through independent third-party organizations, such as the American Carbon Registry, VERRA, or the Climate Action Registry, and (2) have verified social and environmental benefits, like local employment opportunities and biodiversity protection.
 - For example, in 2021 we supported a reforestation project in South Asia providing new sources of income for small farmers, a tropical rainforest project in Latin America providing local employment and education opportunities, and a temperate rainforest project in the US Pacific Northwest protecting local biodiversity in cooperation with the Alaska Native Village Corporation.

Focusing beyond our corporate footprint

Airbnb is also working with our global community of Hosts and guests to help reduce emissions for stays and Experiences on our platform. These efforts build on prior work, including piloting ways to help our Hosts switch to renewables through partnerships with organizations including Arcadia in the US and Ovo in UK, helping improve the energy efficiency of Hosts' homes, creating [educational resources](#) to help them host more sustainably, and providing localized tips for being a responsible and sustainable traveler in countries like [Mexico](#) and [Costa Rica](#). We look forward to sharing more details in the future.

While we have taken significant steps in the first year of our net zero commitment, we must continue taking meaningful actions to help address the climate crisis - and we will do so in collaboration with our employees, our partners, and our community.

Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains “forward-looking” statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including statements regarding Airbnb’s climate-related plans, Net Zero emissions commitments, energy efficiency strategies, and sustainability targets, goals, commitments, and programs. In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by terms such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “possible,” “expect,” “plan,” “predict,” “forecast,” “could,” “target,” “believe,” “potential,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “continue,” “committed to,” “goal,” “seek,” or other similar terms or expressions that concern Airbnb’s expectations, strategy, plans, or intentions. Forward-looking statements represent Airbnb’s current expectations regarding future events and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those implied by the forward-looking statements. Among those risks and uncertainties are Airbnb’s ability to achieve the strategic targets, goals and commitments set forth in this release and unexpected delays, difficulties, and expenses in executing against such targets, goals and commitments, market conditions, risks that governmental or other third parties may subsequently define terms used in this release in a manner inconsistent with our usage of them, and risks relating to Airbnb’s business, including those described in periodic reports that Airbnb files from time to time with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), including those discussed under “Risk Factors,” “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” and “Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 25, 2022 and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC. Any of these factors could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations we express or imply in this release. Airbnb cannot provide assurances that the results reflected or implied by any forward-looking statement will be realized or, even if substantially realized, that those results will have the forecasted or expected consequences and effects. The forward-looking statements included in this release speak only as of the date of this release, and Airbnb expressly disclaims any obligation to update the statements included in this release for subsequent developments, except as may be required by law.

Appendix A: Airbnb Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data 2019-2021

GHG Emissions Metric	Definition of Metric / Assessment Criteria	Metric Quantity - 2019 (MTCO2e)	Metric Quantity - 2020 (MTCO2e)	Metric Quantity - 2020 (MTCO2e)
Scope 1: Natural Gas	Direct emissions from stationary combustion (natural gas).	815†	844†	807†
Scope 2: Electricity (location-based)	Indirect emissions from purchased electricity (location-based).	6,237†	5,189†	4,874†
Scope 2: Electricity (market-based)	Indirect emissions from purchased electricity (market-based).	6,358†	5,239†	0†
Scope 3, Category 1: Purchased goods and services	Indirect emissions from the goods and services Airbnb purchases from other entities.	353,384†	200,942†	248,816†
Scope 3, Category 2: Capital goods	Indirect emissions from the capital goods Airbnb purchases from other entities.	2,026†	1,720†	2,080†
Scope 3, Category 3: Fuel- and energy-related activities (not included in Scope 1 or Scope 2)	Indirect emissions from natural gas leakage that occur as a result of natural gas usage for heating, and transmission & distribution (T&D) losses that occur as a result of electricity usage.	756†	645†	633†
Scope 3, Category 5: Waste generated in operations	Indirect emissions generated from third-party disposal of waste, which includes waste disposed in landfills and waste recycled.	975†	168†	33†
Scope 3, Category 6: Business travel	Indirect emissions from employee travel for business.	21,463†	2,605†	220†
Scope 3, Category 7: Employee commuting	Indirect emissions from employees commuting and emissions from heating and electricity usage while teleworking.	8,758†	3,472†	2,889†
Scope 3 - Category 8: Upstream leased assets	Indirect emissions from natural gas usage and leakage and electricity usage and T&D losses associated with locations that are leased by Airbnb and that are not already included in Scope 1 or Scope 2.	423	374	196

† We engaged an external third party to provide limited assurance over these metrics. Their report is available [here](#).

