

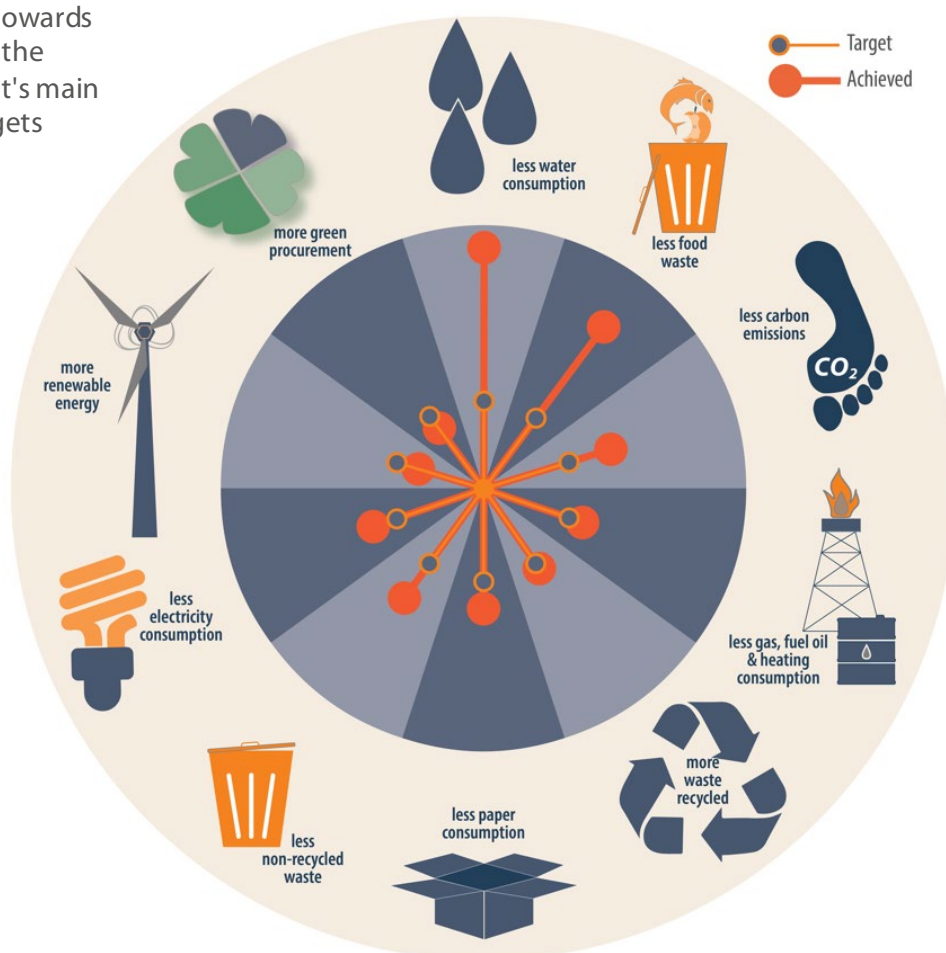
EMAS in the European Parliament

A quiet success story in 2022

The European Union (EU) Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a voluntary management instrument for companies and other organisations wanting to evaluate, report and continuously improve their environmental performance. In 2007, as part of its commitment to making a long-term contribution to sustainable development, the European Parliament became one of the few EU institutions and the first parliament in the EU to obtain EMAS certification. Through its environmental management system it is able to track progress towards targets with regard to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and waste, promoting the efficient use of energy, water and paper, and incorporating environmental guidelines into procurement procedures.

This document details the Parliament's progress to date in meeting its targets in all of the above-mentioned areas, and maps out its ambitions for the future.

Progress towards achieving the Parliament's main EMAS targets



The European Parliament's EMAS key performance indicators by sector



The European Parliament's environmental performance is calculated on the basis of 'full-time equivalent', or FTE. One FTE is equivalent to one employee working full-time.

The Parliament's carbon footprint scope covers seven areas: energy consumption; leakage of refrigerant gases; freight; transport of persons; supply of equipment and services; direct waste; and fixed assets. This is the broadest possible scope according to the ISO classification, and it contains all direct, semi-direct and indirect emissions caused by the Parliament's activities.

Parliament is making good progress towards its 2024 target. Due to a temporarily lower level of physical presence on the premises of the Parliament during the coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 CO₂ emissions were lower by 59.7% compared to their 2006 levels. This significant

drop in emissions was also due to the following achievements:

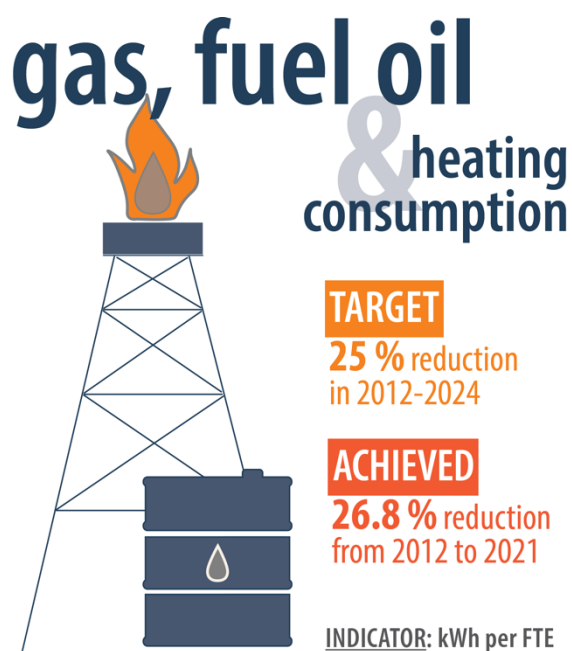
- 🌳 100 % 'green' electricity in the three places of work;
- 🌳 improved energy efficiency of technical installations (heat pumps, cooling systems, etc.);
- 🌳 use of high-speed trains instead of charter flights between Brussels and Strasbourg;
- 🌳 mobility projects, such as co-financing staff's public transport costs;
- 🌳 gradual increase in the number of parking places and charging stations for e-cars;
- 🌳 continuous renewal of the car fleet, including through the purchase of electric vehicles and hybrid cars (45 fully electric cars in 2021), as well as the continuous extension of the bicycle fleet and the introduction of e-bikes;
- 🌳 increased use of economy class for air travel by Members.

The Parliament's absolute carbon emissions in 2021, according to the scope defined for the target, stood at 70 873 t CO₂ eq.

Since 2016, the Parliament has been offsetting all of its irreducible carbon emissions, making it the only 100 % carbon-neutral EU institution. In particular, the Parliament has decided to:

- 🌳 offset the total amount of its carbon emissions, including from flights by MEPs between their country of origin and Brussels and Strasbourg, on an annual basis, limited to the financial means available;
- 🌳 allow for projects in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP countries), or, if such projects are not available, allow for projects drawn up either by countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) as part of their national action plans, or by countries members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EuroMed)/ Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), by candidate countries or by EU Member States;
- 🌳 specify the widely recognised Gold Standard as a quality standard for offsetting projects in developing countries.

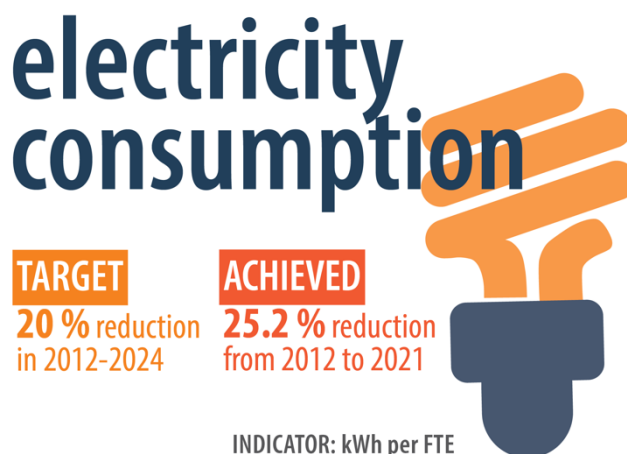
Since 2019, the Parliament has been offsetting its irreducible carbon emissions in accordance with the above-mentioned conditions.

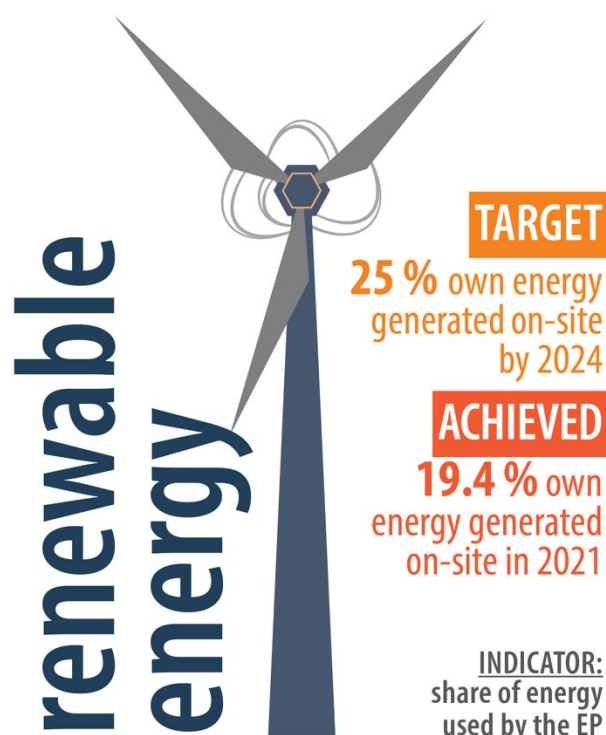


Consumption of gas, heating oil, and district heating per FTE was reduced by 26.8 % from 2012 to 2022. A strong performance with respect to energy savings for heating has generally been maintained over the years, reflecting the success of both active (heating systems) and passive (thermal insulation) energy efficiency measures taken over time.

The European Parliament is well on the way to achieving its target of reducing its electricity consumption by 20 % from 2012 to 2024. A number of energy-saving projects have helped in this regard:

- 🌳 installing more energy-efficient cooling units in buildings;
- 🌳 placing low-energy bulbs in the common areas;
- 🌳 improving the management of the lighting in meeting rooms;
- 🌳 installing more energy-efficient heat pumps in Strasbourg;
- 🌳 heating the buildings by means of cogeneration (or tri-generation), which produces electricity from excess heat, etc.
- 🌳 setting up passive-energy buildings.





Every year since 2008, all electricity purchased by the European Parliament has been 'green' (produced from renewable sources), with appropriate certificates of origin.

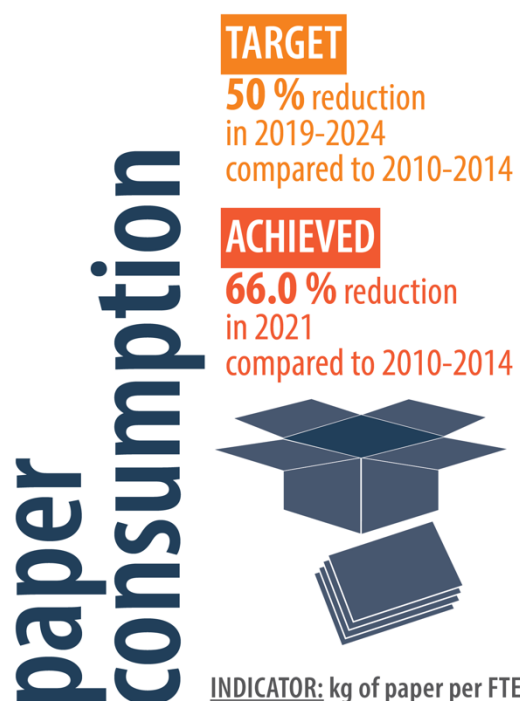
The Parliament also generates its own renewable energy on-site in Strasbourg (heat pumps) and Brussels (heat pumps, cogeneration, and solar photovoltaic panels). In 2021, this energy represented 19.4 % of the Parliament's total energy consumption. For Strasbourg, the share of renewable energy generated on-site in terms of total energy use was 52.4 %, whereas for Brussels it was 1.5 %. In December 2019, the Parliament moved into the first block of the new Adenauer building in Luxembourg; once the work on the building is fully finished, all Luxembourg-

based staff will be transferred to it, vacating the office buildings they currently occupy. The new building's energy needs will be covered by a state-of-the-art tri-generation plant (a plant that combines three functions – power generation, heating and cooling – in one), a geothermal heating and cooling system, and a mix of photovoltaic and thermal solar panels.

The Parliament is working towards going paperless. Actions include, among other things, making full use of the e-committee and e-meeting applications for the work of the parliamentary committees (several have already gone entirely paperless), and eventually a pilot project for a paperless plenary. Additional efforts are also being made to fully digitalise administrative processes, in particular in relation to staff, missions, finance and public procurement.

All A4 paper used in the Parliament's offices is 100 % recycled and non-chlorine bleached; the paper used in the print shops is recycled or certified as coming from sustainably managed forests.

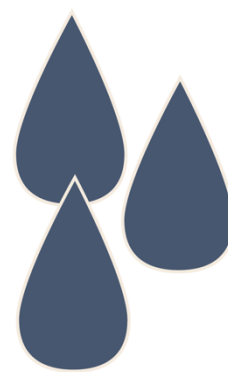
The first phase of an effort to significantly reduce the number of individual printers and replace them with shared network printers and multifunctional devices began in 2015 and has resulted in the removal of over 5 000 individual printers.



The following steps have contributed to lowering water consumption in the Parliament:

- 🌳 better detection and management of leaks and faults in the equipment;
- 🌳 technical modifications in new and renovated buildings (rainwater flushing for restrooms; water-saving, eco-labelled sanitary and water equipment);
- 🌳 increased collection and use of rainwater and groundwater in landscaping and maintaining green spaces;
- 🌳 increased awareness-raising and sharing of best practices.

water consumption



TARGET

15 % reduction
from 2012 to 2024

ACHIEVED

41.2 % reduction
from 2012 to 2021

INDICATOR:

m3 water per FTE

waste recycling

TARGET

70 % recycled
over 2016 -2024

ACHIEVED

73.0 % recycled
over 2021



INDICATOR

% of waste recycled

The Parliament's high recycling rate has been accomplished through:

- 🌳 increased recycling of office and kitchen waste;
- 🌳 the introduction of five-compartment waste recycling bins at the three sites;
- 🌳 reduction in the number of general-purpose office waste bins.

Paper constitutes a large part of the recycled waste and, since the Parliament is rapidly reducing its paper consumption, additional efforts are needed to keep recycling rates high.

non-recycled waste

TARGET

20 % reduction
compared to 2012

ACHIEVED

29.0 % reduction
compared to 2012

INDICATOR in kg per FTE



The long-term trend for non-recycled waste is decreasing although there are significant fluctuations year on year due to large volumes of construction waste related to sizeable building renovation projects. An increase in recycling rates and a decrease in some activities due to the coronavirus pandemic resulted in a 29.0 % reduction of non-recycled waste compared to 2012.

Significant efforts to reduce food waste through better planning, reduced portion sizes on request, and food donations resulted in a decrease of food waste to only 30 g per meal served. Since 2013, all food waste at the three sites has been converted to usable biogas by means of biomethanation. No food waste is incinerated.

The Parliament was the first EU institution to launch a comprehensive food donation programme in 2016, where unsold food is donated to charity instead of being thrown away.

food waste

TARGET

30 % reduction
compared to 2016

ACHIEVED

65.8 % reduction
from 2012 to 2021

INDICATOR
in kg per meal served



green procurement

TARGET

90 %
by 2024

ACHIEVED

70.9 %
in 2021

INDICATOR
% of contracts
classified as
'green' or
'green by nature'

The Parliament's green public procurement (GPP) approach is based on the classification of contracts with respect to their greenness and on monitoring performance at the level of the Parliament as a whole. This includes greening targets for specific groups of products/services considered to have a high environmental impact and a significant potential for greening (such as buildings, cleaning, food and catering, furniture, gardening, IT and waste management). Examples of contracts of the Parliament that have been classified as green include one for the purchase of office supplies and accessories at the three places of work, a second for maintenance of the green spaces in Strasbourg, a third for finishing construction works in Brussels, a fourth for subsidised public transport for Brussels-based staff and a fifth for greening catering contracts, including gradual reduction of plastic and plastic waste.

To provide practical help with introducing green elements into contracts, an interinstitutional GPP helpdesk has been established for the 23 participating EU institutions and bodies through a public procurement procedure, with the Parliament as the lead institution.

Interesting EMAS-related facts and figures

Parliament wins prizes!





In 2017, the European Parliament was the first EU institution to become the national European EMAS Award laureate of a Member State (France). And in May 2017, at the EU EMAS Award ceremony in Malta, the Parliament was awarded the second prize in the public administration category.

In October 2016, Bruxelles Environnement (the public service responsible for the environment and energy in the Brussels-Capital Region) awarded the *'Label Entreprise Ecodynamique'* to the Parliament for its excellent overall environmental performance.

In June 2017, the *'Prix Luminus de l'Energie et de l'Environnement'* was awarded to construction company Atenor and the Parliament for the Wilfried Martens building's high energy-efficiency standard (excellent insulation and efficient heating/air-conditioning systems incorporating ground-source heat pumps).

In 2018, the Parliament and its catering service provider, Compass Belgilux, were awarded the Good Food Label for the self-service restaurants in the Spinelli and Spaak buildings in Brussels. The Good Food label is awarded by Bruxelles Environnement and is a guarantee of high-quality food that is sustainable, obtained in ways that are respectful of the environment, and in line with fair trade practices.

Good to know

-  Number of staff coming to work primarily by bike: 1 547.
-  Number of five-compartment waste bins throughout the premises: 600.
-  Number of water-dispensing columns throughout the premises: approximately 350.
-  Electricity generated by Parliament's photovoltaic panels: 288 428 kWh in 2022.

What the Parliament recycles



In addition to the new five-compartment waste bins introduced throughout the Parliament's buildings, corporate recycling facilities are also available for the collection and recovery of catering waste (including food), cooking oil, wood, metal, light fittings, fluorescent and sodium lamps, unwanted office files and binders, printer and photocopier toner cartridges, batteries, television monitors, refrigerators, small electronic equipment and computer hardware, and batteries.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

20 years ago

The Parliament began preparations to set up and implement an environmental management system in accordance with the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Regulation.

By 2006

The Parliament had set up its own environmental management system, carried out its first internal audit cycle and adopted the documents required for running the system.

In 2007

After its initial environmental review, the Parliament adopted its environmental policy. Following an external audit and ISO certification, all three of Parliament's sites (in Belgium, France and Luxembourg) were registered for EMAS, making the Parliament one of the first EU institutions to obtain such registration and the only EU parliament to be EMAS registered.

In 2015

The Parliament set up a forum for national parliaments from EU Member States and candidate countries, to exchange ideas, experiences and best environmental management practices.

In 2019

The Parliament renewed its environmental policy in November 2019, reaffirming its commitment to maintaining EMAS registration and its environmental approach typified by continuous improvement. New and more ambitious unified environmental key performance indicator (KPI) targets have been set for the current legislative term; with the targets to be achieved by 2024.

In 2020

In June 2020, all political groups agreed on a joint voluntary environmental commitment, aimed at maintaining the Parliament's EMAS registration and improving its environmental performance. They also encourage their staff to be environmentally responsible and be mindful of their energy, water and paper consumption. The groups committed to greening their procurement (in line with the Parliament overall), making their events sustainable, and promoting videoconferencing and telework.

In 2022

In December 2022, the Parliament finalised its first annual sustainability report.

The EMAS and Sustainability Unit, a Central Service of the European Parliament, coordinates the implementation of the environmental management system and also manages the EMAS-related budget and procurement procedures. It reports on the European Parliament's environmental performance using key performance indicators, calculated relative to the number of employees (full time equivalents, or FTEs).

To contact the EMAS and Sustainability Unit, email: emas@europarl.europa.eu

This document is a further update of a publication from December 2018. Desislava Boyadjieva compiled and edited the text; Nadejda Kresnichka-Nikolchova created the original graphics which have been updated by Stéphanie Pradier and Lucille Killmayer. All are from the Publications Management and Editorial Unit in EPRS.

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