GBTA 2024
Sustainability Summit & Europe Conference Events Footprint
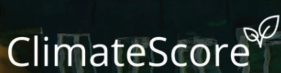
GBTA Global Business Travel Association

About the Events

GBTA Summit **2024** | Sustainability Summit
Copenhagen, 4 November

GBTA + VDR NORDIC BUSINESS TRAVEL ASSOCS. Europe Conference **2024** | Copenhagen
4–6 November

Number of attendees: 1305

Number of exhibitors: 35

Total carbon emissions: 646.2 tCO2e

Why This Report

Recognizing the significant environmental footprint of meeting and events, the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) is committed to tracking, managing, and reducing the emissions to address and mitigate the environmental impact associated with its events.

GBTA's dedication to reducing its environmental impact extends beyond event-specific measures, encompassing a broader commitment to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within the business travel sector with the GBTA Foundation Sustainability Initiative.

Read more at **gbtafoundation.org/planet**.

Events Footprint

The combined carbon footprint of GBTA Sustainability Summit and GBTA Europe Conference 2024 was **646.2 tons of CO2e**.

This is equivalent to...

The carbon captured in a forest of 427 mature oak trees

Driving 1,188 thousands miles in a car or 48 times around the world
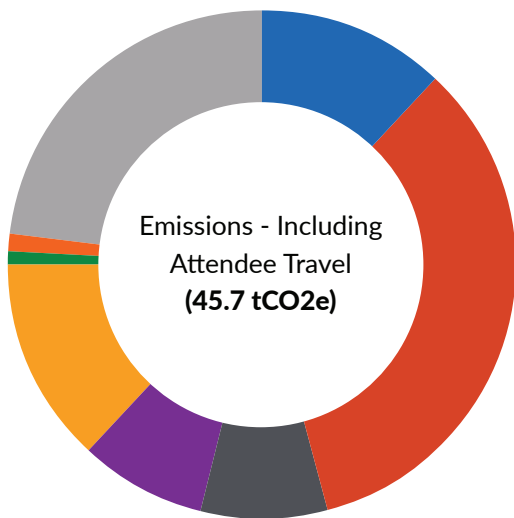
Eating 16,558 kg of beef

1 year of emissions from 38 average Danes

This is a footprint of 0.495 tons of CO2e per attendee.

Sustainability Summit Emissions

The data collection exercise and calculations were executed to understand the impact of **attendee travel**. This **accounted for 34.4% of total emissions**.

Emissions - Including
Attendee Travel
(45.7 tCO2e)

- Staff Travel **12%**
- Shipping **13%**
- Event Venue **8.4%**
- Materials **.9%**
- Waste Disposal **.3%**
- Attendee Travel **34.4%**
- Food & Beverage **8.1%**
- Hotel Stays **23%**

Emissions - Excluding
Attendee Travel
(30 tCO2e)
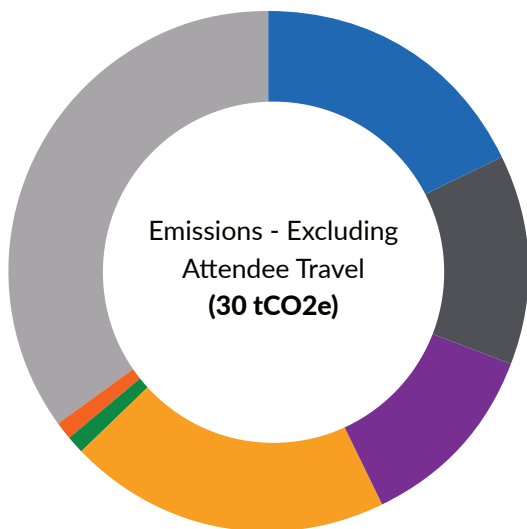
- Staff Travel **18.2%**
- Shipping **19.8%**
- Event Venue **12.8%**
- Materials **1.4%**
- Waste Disposal **.4%**
- Food & Beverage **12.3%**
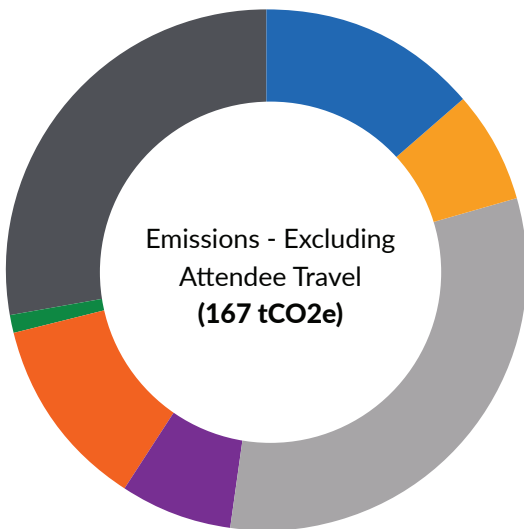- Hotel Stays **35.1%**

Conference Emissions

A data collection exercise and calculations were executed to understand the impact of **attendee travel**. This **accounted for 42% of total emissions**.

Emissions - Including
Attendee Travel
(600.5 tCO2e)
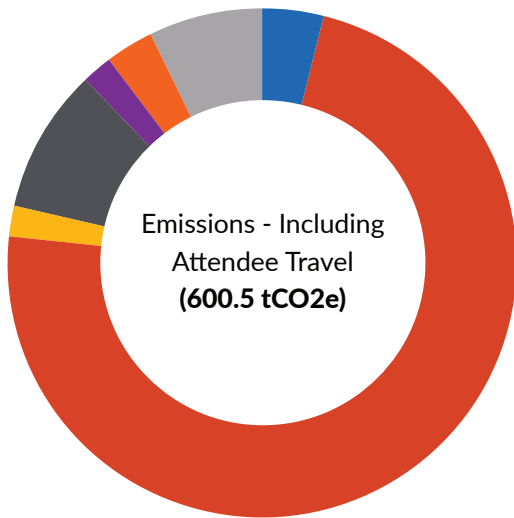
- Staff Travel **3.9%**
- Shipping **2%**
- Event Venue **2%**
- Materials **3.3%**
- Waste Disposal **0%**
- Attendee Travel **72.2%**
- Food & Beverage **8.9%**
- Hotel Stays **7.7%**

Emissions - Excluding
Attendee Travel
(167 tCO2e)

- Staff Travel **14.2%**
- Shipping **7.1%**
- Event Venue **7.2%**
- Materials **11.8%**
- Waste Disposal **.1%**
- Food & Beverage **32%**
- Hotel Stays **27.6%**

Offsetting Emissions

GBTA has offset a total of **197.0 tCO2e** equivalent to the emissions from staff travel, venue, shipping, hotel stay, material, waste, F&B and an uncertainty buffer. This year, GBTA has decided to support a project close to it's home city of Alexandria, Virginia.

Carbon Offset Certificate

GBTA Summit 2024

has purchased and retired
30 tonnes of CO2e
on
Jan 3, 2025

This offset was purchased from **I-64 Capacity Improvement Industrial Process Emissions, a Verra Verified Carbon Standard** project that offsets emissions through **Roadway Recycling**.

Powered by Thrust Carbon

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Carbon Offset Certificate

GBTA Europe 2024

has purchased and retired
167 tonnes of CO2e
on
Jan 3, 2025

This offset was purchased from **I-64 Capacity Improvement Industrial Process Emissions, a Verra Verified Carbon Standard** project that offsets emissions through **Roadway Recycling**.

Powered by Thrust Carbon

© Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

GBTA is on a mission to reduce the carbon footprint of its events. However, for those emissions that are unavoidable, GBTA believes offsetting can also help drive investment and innovation in low-carbon technologies and practices and help create new jobs and economic opportunities. This year, GBTA has decided to support a project close to it's home city of Alexandria, Virginia.

Green Wins

Renewable energy and energy optimization cut down related carbon emissions by 50%.

Bella Center uses its own 16,000 sqm solar roof and the Circus building receives all its power from wind farms. Both venues have continuously optimized their energy efficiency through LED installations and better energy management.

Photo right by ELG21 via ClimateScore and Pixabay.

The venues hosting both events are powered by district heating – with Copenhill as a key energy source. This incredible facility combines an artificial ski slope with cutting-edge waste management and carbon capture, all while providing eco-friendly heating to Copenhagen.

By using Danish district heating instead of traditional natural gas heating the venues estimated to have **saved 2,405 kg of CO_2** to both events.

Photo left by Astrid Maria Rasmussen via ClimateScore and Copenhagen Media Center.

Green Wins

Choosing the train wasn't just more sustainable – it was quick, safe, and convenient.

The venue, Bella Center, even had its own Metro station, making the journey smooth from start to finish. Attendees' shifting from air to rail to attend the events is estimated to have saved 66.573 kg of CO_2.

Detailed Footprint Sustainability Summit

Staff Travel	5.3/t CO2e
Air travel	5.3/t CO2e
Car Travel	0/t CO2e
Public & Shuttle Transport	0/t CO2e
Taxi	0/t CO2e

Attendee Travel	15.4/t CO2e
Air travel	14.8/t CO2e
Car Travel	0.5/t CO2e
Public & Shuttle Transport	0/t CO2e

Event Venue	3.7/t CO2e
Electricity usage	0.6/t CO2e
Renewable energy	0.1/t CO2e
Gas usage	0.2/t CO2e
Water usage	0.1/t CO2e
Indirect venue purchases	2.8/t CO2e

Food & Beverage Venue	3.6/t CO2e
Event food	2.7/t CO2e
Event beverages	0.9/t CO2e

Shipping	5.8/t CO2e
Shipping	5.8/t CO2e

Materials	0.4/t CO2e
Graphics & other	0.2/t CO2e
Flooring	0/t CO2e
Exhibitors	0.2/t CO2e

Waste Disposal	0.1/t CO2e
General trash	0.1/t CO2e
Materials recycling	0/t CO2e
Food waste	0/t CO2e

Hotel Stays	10.3/t CO2e
Energy	2.5/t CO2e
Waste	0.1/t CO2e
Purchase	2.2/t CO2e
Laundry	4.1/t CO2e
Food and beverages	1.3/t CO2e

Uncertainty	1.1/t CO2e

Total	45.7/t CO2e

Detailed Footprint Europe Conference

Staff Travel	23.1/t CO2e
Air travel	22.8/t CO2e
Car Travel	0.2/t CO2e
Public & Shuttle Transport	0/t CO2e
Taxi	0.1/t CO2e

Attendee Travel	422.9/t CO2e
Air travel	318.2/t CO2e
Car Travel	71.6/t CO2e
Public & Shuttle Transport	33.1/t CO2e

Event Venue	11.7/t CO2e
Electricity usage	2.2/t CO2e
Renewable energy	0.2/t CO2e
Gas usage	0.6/t CO2e
Water usage	0.3/t CO2e
Indirect venue purchases	8.3/t CO2e

Food & Beverage Venue	52.1/t CO2e
Event food	15.5/t CO2e
Event beverages	36.6/t CO2e

Shipping	11.6/t CO2e
Shipping	11.6/t CO2e

Materials	19.2/t CO2e
Graphics & other	3.8/t CO2e
Flooring	2.7/t CO2e
Exhibitors	12.7/t CO2e

Waste Disposal	0.2/t CO2e
General trash	0.2/t CO2e
Materials recycling	0/t CO2e
Food waste	0/t CO2e

Hotel Stays	45/t CO2e
Energy	7.4/t CO2e
Waste	0.4/t CO2e
Purchase	6.6/t CO2e
Laundry	12.5/t CO2e
Food and beverages	18/t CO2e

Uncertainty	14.6/t CO2e

Total	**600.5/t CO2e**

Methodology

Emission Factors

All emissions factors are based on Lifecycle assessment (LCA) values from international recognized climate databases. Data collection of consumption data from the event is described under each sub headline.

Attendee and Staff Travel

GBTA provided ClimateScore with travel registration data including departure destination and mode of transportation to Copenhagen. Shuttle bus data is calculated from the actual fuel consumption provided by the bus supplier.

Event Venue

The venues delivered actual heat and electricity consumption data and energy source data. All data was validated by ClimateScore.

was delivered by the venue together with electricity source. Electricity consumption was sourced from Convention 2023 with specific electricity emission factor for Atlanta.

Food & Beverage Venue

The venues delivered actual food and beverage consumption data. All data was validated by ClimateScore. Most data was accompanied with purchase orders showing the exact volumes from each product categories, as volume of chicken, cucumbers etc. Volume for each product category was matched with specific CO2 equivalents.

Shipping

Total freight of mileages and transport mode was reported by the meeting planner.

Materials

Graphic and flooring material data was provided by the meeting planner, venue and graphic suppliers. Each material with volume was described. Exhibitor data was collected via ClimateScore-GBTA Convention survey and scaled with ClimateScores event experience and site-visit.

Waste Disposal

Actual volumes of waste fraction (Residual waste, Organic waste and recycled cardboard waste) was provided by venue.

Hotel stay

AC Bella Sky hotel was the primary hotel used by attendees. ClimateScores previous LCA assessment of this hotel was utilized.

Uncertainty Buffer

The data effort was superb. All suppliers delivered their primary emission consumption data. Most data is validated. We therefore add a minor buffer (2.5%), to capture uncertainty in the volumes.