

Mission statement

"Sustainability at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research"

[Version adopted by the management of the HZI on 12 December 2023]

The Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI) investigates the causes, mechanisms and spread of infectious diseases with the aim of contributing to the goal of global health through excellent research. Basic and translational research is used to develop precise active substances and methods for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases in order to be able to tackle future health challenges such as climate change and pandemics more effectively. As a cosmopolitan institution, the HZI and its employees pursue the goal of contributing to a healthy life on a healthy planet in a sustainable working environment.

In concrete terms, this means for the HZI as an organization as a whole:

- to support and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, the German sustainability strategy and the goals of the Helmholtz Association with reference to the activities of the HZI,
- to strengthen sustainability in research through contributions that address the causes and consequences of climate change from the perspective of infection research,
- to actively support and promote research practice based on ethics and sustainability criteria in laboratories and field research, in collaborations and in the handling of scientific results,
- to develop a climate strategy with mitigation and adaptation measures with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1-3) to net zero by 2035, substituting non-reducible emissions, for example through the use of renewable energies, or offsetting them in exceptional cases,
- to permanently reduce the environmental impact of the HZI. Specifically, waste generation is to be reduced by 50% and fresh water consumption by 15% by 2035, while resource efficiency is to be improved using circular materials.

Furthermore

- the Centre-wide biodiversity targets are to be implemented by 2027 through site-specific measures,
- actively promote an equitable, inclusive and diverse Centre culture by developing and implementing guidelines for action by 2025,
- relevant persons and interest groups (stakeholders) related to the activities of the HZI are appropriately involved,
- initiatives related to sustainability are promoted by employees,
- anchored sustainable approaches in education and training in science and administration,
- communicated internally and externally on sustainability topics related to the HZI's activities,
- progress in achieving sustainability goals is measured, evaluated, further developed and included in management reporting and continuously reported to supervisory bodies, donors and stakeholders, and
- the necessary human, financial and organizational resources are provided and secured on a permanent basis.