

# ENVIRONMENT

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Environment

## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

At Quirónsalud, we have accepted the challenge of sustainable development and maintain our basic principles of environmental action, with the purpose of building a sustainable future for the health and well-being of people together. We focus on the following topics to achieve this goal:



Optimization of energy consumption and fight against climate change



Waste minimization and transition to a circular economy



Optimization of water resource consumption



Supply chain management



Awareness and sensitization raising

Environmental and climate change issues are controlled and managed in a precautionary manner. In this regard, we develop various actions to control and manage the current and foreseeable effects of our activities on the environment and to address significant environmental aspects.

You can find out more about our efforts in the following chapters on:

- [Climate change & energy](#)
- [Water management](#)
- [Waste management & circular economy](#)

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and its effects are impacting Quirónsalud. In our healthcare facilities, we need to prepare for rising temperatures and the increase in severe weather events in order to continue to protect the health of patients in the best way possible.

The healthcare sector is responsible for approximately 4.4% of net global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, equivalent to the annual emissions of 514 coal-fired power plants, thus contributing to climate change.<sup>1</sup>

Climate change represents the **greatest health hazard** of the 21st century. In addition to affecting the quality of the air we breathe, it also affects the quantity and quality of fresh water and food. The increased incidence of extreme weather conditions also affects health, especially that of children growing up in unhealthier environments with higher temperatures that favor the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

Consequently, given the fundamental role of health, both as an active and passive subject of climate change, and its responsibility for emissions and people's health, the health sector must set an example and a benchmark in the **decarbonization process**. This will benefit society, the environment, and, therefore, health, especially that of the most vulnerable.

Therefore, in our commitment against air pollution and climate change at Quirónsalud, we strive to progressively reduce our GHG emissions, identifying areas and methods for transformational change. In this regard, our actions to achieve our **GHG emissions reduction targets** are in line with Fresenius' climate objectives (have a look at the [Group report](#) for more details), and with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

GHG emissions reduction targets:

- 50% reduction of Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions by 2030 (base year: 2020)
- Climate neutrality (Scope 1 and Scope 2) by 2040

<sup>1</sup> The calculation is based on the [Health Carés Climate Footprint](#) by the NGO Health Care Without Harm.

## Climate change & energy

### MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE: MAS+

Given the impact of climate change, collaboration with other institutions can be crucial to mitigate its effects and raise awareness of its consequences. It has become clear over time that climate change has a direct impact on the health of the population and that the number of patients with diseases resulting from climate change is increasing – patients with respiratory diseases, for example.

With this in mind, the MAS+ project was launched at our Fundación Jiménez Díaz Hospital (FJD), which is leading in the development of innovative solutions in the healthcare sector. With this ambitious project, the FJD seeks to proactively launch initiatives and projects that reduce negative impacts on the environment and therefore on health. Examples of such projects are:

- Digitalization and technological enhancements: implementing innovative solutions such as telecare or print reduction initiatives
- Pharmaceutical and inhaler recycling processes and training programs
- Establishment of an efficient, sustainable energy supply
- Anesthetic gas best practices and cleaner substitutes
- Research and digitalization training programs

FJD Hospital's revolutionary initiatives constitute an example to others. These actions have a direct impact on carbon footprint reduction and climate change, which in turn influence the population's health (prevention and cure).

### INSIGHTS INTO MAS+



[Watch the Video online](#)

## Climate change & energy

### OUR USE OF ENERGY

In order to reduce our [carbon footprint](#), we are increasingly trying to use renewable energies. At the same time, as a hospital operator, it is extremely important that we always have enough energy to maintain operations and provide the best possible care to our patients.

#### INCREASE IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In order to reduce emissions sustainably, it is crucial that we have a good data basis to derive potential improvements. To achieve this, we have launched the **Operational Digitalization and Monitoring of Buildings** (DOME) project. You can find further information [here](#).

The **air conditioning systems** in our hospitals stand for a large proportion of the total energy consumption of Quirónsalud. Since 2011, we have been working on automating the management of these devices and have integrated them all into the DOME system. For example, when outside temperatures drop, the systems adjust their output automatically. This allows us to better adapt to increasingly frequent, abrupt, and extreme temperature changes and save energy through more efficient use.

Improving air conditioning systems through the installation of reluctance motors and frequency converters, changing of burners, and replacement of diesel boilers with natural gas boilers, among others, as well as the substitution of conventional lighting with LEDs, has been key to ensuring more efficient energy use in our hospital and health-care center operations.

As for **hospital infrastructure**, both the construction of new hospitals and the execution of new projects and refurbishments are designed and executed taking into account energy-efficiency improvement in use. To this end, a corporate report has been drawn up on the operation of the control systems of the centers and energy consumption, with the use of energy-efficient equipment, control and management systems, LED lighting, solar collectors, photovoltaic panels, and other energy-efficient systems, such as geothermal energy (the latter whenever possible).

#### EXPANSION OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Since 2022, we have been incorporating solar panels for electricity generation in our hospitals as part of our efforts to reduce our climate impact and ensure the sustainability of our energy supply. The project began with a comprehensive analysis of the possibilities, prioritizing centers with sufficient space and owned properties.

## Climate change & energy

### OUR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS IN NUMBERS

By the end of 2023, we had 10,563 panels in 19 centers, generating 5.6 GWh, which amounts to 6% of the total electricity consumed in these centers.

This achievement translates into a significant reduction of 1,422 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e of our carbon footprint.



Photovoltaic systems in different locations of Quirónsalud.

## CARBON FOOTPRINT

As the healthcare sector is responsible for a considerable percentage of the total GHG emissions, it is our responsibility to define and implement measures to reduce our carbon footprint and its impact on the environment and people's health.

In collaboration with ECODES (an entity recommended by the Ministry of Health of the Government of Spain for the calculation of the carbon footprint in healthcare centers), we have been calculating our carbon footprint since 2016, following the GHG Protocol methodology, which distinguishes between three scopes:

Climate change & energy

**SCOPE 1**

Includes direct greenhouse gas emissions, i.e., those from emission sources owned or controlled by the organization.

**SCOPE 2**

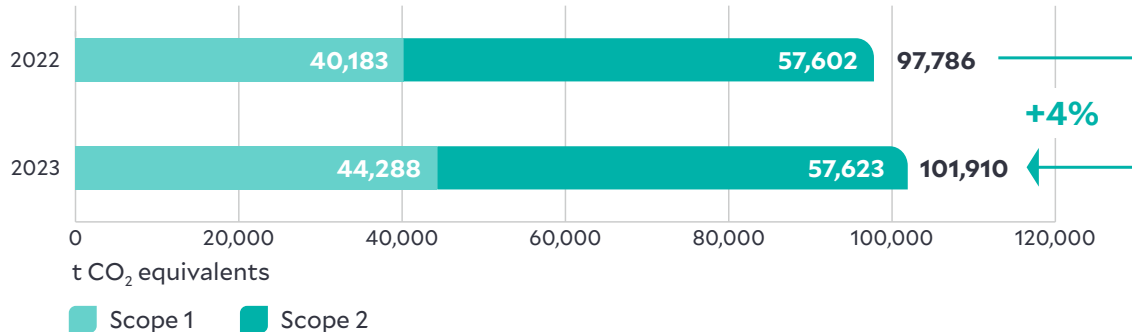
Indirect emissions generated by the production of energy purchased by the organization.

**SCOPE 3**

Includes indirect emissions that are not included in Scope 2 and are generated along the entire value chain.

The results of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions can be seen in the following graph, which also includes the previous year's emissions for ease of comparison.

QUIRÓNSALUD'S SCOPE 1 AND SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS



GHG emissions for Quirónsalud have been estimated according to the methodology developed and published by Spain's Ministry of Ecologic Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO).

Scope 1 includes fuel consumption in buildings, fuel consumption in the organization's own vehicles, refrigerant gas leaks in air conditioning/cooling equipment, consumption of fire extinguishing gases, and consumption of anesthetic gases and inhalers. Scope 2 includes our electricity consumption, calculated according to the market approach, although the location approach is also available.

## Climate change & energy

The 4% increase in our emissions is mainly attributable to an increase in Scope 1 emissions, driven by higher natural gas consumption due to the addition of new facilities and an increase in our activity. In addition, new sources of Scope 1 emissions have been identified, such as fire gases, other anesthetic gases not covered in the previous year, and inhalers.

## OUR USE OF WATER

For decades, water consumption has increased worldwide and water shortages are occurring in more and more regions as a consequence of climate change. Water supply is crucial for our operating activities. We have to ensure that we can provide the best service to our patients. Responsible and sustainable water management is therefore essential for Quirónsalud.

### WATER USAGE IN PATIENT CARE

For our healthcare facilities, a sufficient supply of fresh water is central to patient well-being and hygiene. We withdraw water from the municipal water supply network in accordance with local limitations, the largest freshwater amounts are needed for sterilization activities in surgeries and for the care of inpatients.

To ensure that **water quality** in our hospitals meets our internal and external quality requirements, we have implemented respective management systems and controls in our facilities. Water management is also closely linked to our hygiene management. Our experts ensure that our requirements, as well as external ones, are met.

We have implemented applicable **risk management procedures** in all facilities that come into action if impurities are detected or if the quality of water is not compliant with the standards set – and established dedicated reporting lines.

Due to the critical importance of fresh water use for compliance with hygiene measures and thus patient safety in our healthcare facilities, no significant reductions in water withdrawal are made. Due to internal requirements regarding drinking water quality, we do not reuse water or use gray water – i.e., treated water from showers or washbasins.

### HOW WE OPTIMIZE OUR WATER CONSUMPTION

Aware of the importance of protecting water resources and responsible consumption for environmental conservation, we continued, for yet another year, to implement best practices for controlling and reducing water consumption:

- Checking for possible leaks in tanks and installations
- Installation of perlators in sinks and showers

## Water management

- Toilet flush pressure adjustments
- Installation of tanks with double push-button discharge mechanisms
- Adjustment of irrigation and placement of plants that require less water

### OUR WATER CONSUMPTION

In 2023, we used approximately 1.66 million m<sup>3</sup> of water in our healthcare facilities, representing a water saving of approximately 2% compared to the previous year (2022: 1,696,074 m<sup>3</sup>).

## TRANSITION TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The circular economy represents an undeniable shift in the current model of linear production and consumption, affecting the entire value chain from the extraction of raw materials to the end user. At Quirónsalud, we want to take a step forward and move towards a business model that optimizes the use of resources, minimizes the waste generated and reduces the environmental impact of our operations.

### EFFICIENT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce around the world. We can only operate sustainably if we use raw materials we need efficiently. This includes the responsible management of waste, as it contains valuable resources that can be recycled and reused. In the healthcare sector, strict hygiene requirements apply to the materials used and to the safe disposal of hazardous waste. We ensure compliance with strict internal guidelines and comprehensive controls.

Through systematic waste management, we aim to reduce our consumption of materials and minimize the amount of waste generated. To this end, we want to increase the recycling rate of packaging materials in the clinics by using primarily paper and lightweight packaging. The aim is to prevent metal, plastic, or tetrapack packaging from entering the waste mix in order to promote the recycling of these materials.

At the end of 2023, a review of the previous intra-hospital waste procedure was initiated to align it with more demanding segregation standards, which will be implemented in 2024. This will **standardize waste management processes** across all of our centers while ensuring alignment with the company's waste commitment and strategy.

## Waste management & circular economy

### PRINCIPLES OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Our approach is based on the **principles** established by the European Commission in line with the waste hierarchy, in favor of the transition to a circular economy:

**Prevention – Reuse – Recycling – Valorization – Disposal**

In accordance with the established principles, our **main objectives** related to waste management are as follows:

- Eliminating health, human, and environmental risks.
- Achieving correct identification and segregation of waste.
- Avoiding occupational accidents for personnel in the handling of waste.

In 2023, we already had a **data collection system** in place that allows us to better track data through a dashboard.

As a result of the activities carried out in the centers, the waste generated by Quirónsalud is classified into four main groups which, in turn, are mainly integrated into two categories:

#### NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Non-sanitary waste similar to domestic waste
- Sanitary waste assimilated to municipal waste

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Biological waste
- Chemical waste

## Waste management & circular economy

### NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE

Non-hazardous waste includes the typical items we dispose of in our daily lives that do not pose an immediate threat to human health. In our clinics, non-hygienic waste, which is equivalent to domestic waste, and hygienic waste, which is equivalent to municipal waste, are generated and collected separately. This facilitates their subsequent treatment and recycling.

To make this separation possible, our hospitals have **specific containers for separating** the different recyclable fractions. These containers are located in places where this type of waste is generated more frequently, such as in the general stores, pharmacy, waiting rooms, and cleaning services. Non-hazardous waste is primarily collected by municipal systems, with the exception of a certain number of centers where this type of waste is privately managed.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE

In the world of waste management, hazardous waste stands out as a critical issue that requires special attention. Unlike non-hazardous waste, it poses a serious threat to human health and the environment and therefore needs to be **managed appropriately**.

The treatment that hazardous waste receives varies depending on the group to which it belongs:

#### **Biological waste – Cytostatic waste – Liquid chemical waste – Solid chemical waste**

The safety of people and the environment is always a priority, and reuse or recycling of the waste generated is therefore prohibited in some cases. For example, biological waste must be sterilized or, in the case of cytostatic waste, needs to be incinerated. Chemical waste also requires special treatment to ensure proper disposal and respective safety. Due to the nature of our activities, the largest volume of hazardous waste is concentrated in the infectious or biological risk waste group.

### FOOD WASTE

When caring for patients, a balanced diet is important for their recovery. We also want to provide relatives and our employees with a wide variety of healthy foods. We are actively committed to reducing food waste and using resources efficiently. From a catering perspective, we have been working on the optimization of raw material stocks in food through management tools that allow us to better adjust inventories and reduce food waste.

Waste management & circular economy

TOO GOOD TO GO

In 2023, we continued to work with the “Too Good To Go” project, a mobile application for hospital kitchens and cafeterias that takes into account surplus unsold food that users of the mobile application can purchase at a reduced price.

Since the start of this collaboration in 2022,

**10,423 bags of food have been saved**

across 29 hospital facilities.

In addition, this collaboration has helped to increase brand awareness, as customers rated their experience with an average score of 4.2 out of 5 in 2023, citing value for money and the generous portion sizes of the food they received. Impressively, 78% of users said they would purchase at the café again.



Sample of the bag of food offered in one of Quirónsalud's facilities.