



Global TVET Forum 2025: Environmental Report

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Table of Contents

I. Introduction.....	2
II. Event overview and objectives.....	3
III. Scope of the report	3
IV. Environmental measures	4
V. Event associated emissions	5
VI. Conclusions and future thoughts	7

This report was produced by the Sustainable UNESCO Team at UNESCO Headquarters' Sector for Administration and Management in collaboration with UNEVOC in order to assess the environmental impact of the Global TVET Forum that took place in Berlin in October 2025.





I. Introduction

Organizing and hosting in-person events, particularly those of a global nature with internationally travelling participants, has a significant environmental impact. The carbon emissions generated from air travel and ground travel, as well as the additional energy consumption, water use and waste production, by participants all accumulates. Given UNESCO's global mandate, international collaboration is vital and thus travel and accommodation for international participants is in many cases unavoidable.

However, accounting for this additional consumption of resources is a key responsibility to ensure operational and programming activity has a limited environmental impact. This report aims to outline the monitored environmental impact of the Global TVET Forum, where UNESCO-UNEVOC hosted 120 participants from 17 different countries in October 2025. In this report, you will find the emission breakdown of the core emission categories monitored as well as key highlights of the measures implemented to minimize the impacts of the Forum.



II. Event overview and objectives

As the lead UN agency in education, science, culture, and communication and information, UNESCO shapes and advances the global [Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\)](#) agenda to inspire renewed ambition and build a common vision for transforming education systems, labour markets, economies and societies. 2025 marked the halfway point for the UNESCO Strategy for TVET 2022-2029, marking a critical point for reflection, evaluation and innovation.

The Global TVET Forum 2025, hosted in Berlin, Germany, successfully facilitated 120 participants come together to discuss and bring forward the global TVET agenda; and to implement activities that drive innovation transfer, data and reporting, the promotion of excellence in TVET and multilateral alignment. Organized by UNESCO-UNEVOC in collaboration with the European Training Foundation (ETF), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the biennial Global TVET Forums benefit from generous funding from the German Government, through the German Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMBFSFJ) and the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB).

While UNESCO-UNEVOC organizes online events throughout the year to manage its Network of TVET institutions and to promote innovation and peer-learning in TVET, complementing these virtual meetings with opportunities to meet in-person is paramount for developing in-depth relationships within the UNEVOC Network and beyond. It is in an in-person setting, with conversations during coffee breaks and joint meals where trustful, reliable connections are made. During joint study visits there are opportunities for exchange, provoked by physically being in a TVET space, that cannot be replaced by a virtual chat. Furthermore, as this Forum included the kick-off of the initiative 'Towards a global TVET agenda', it was decided to host the event in Berlin, being the seat of the German Federal Ministry for Education (BMBFSFJ).

Acknowledging the impact of the Global TVET Forum on the environment was an essential step by UNESCO-UNEVOC in walking the talk outlined in its environmental sustainability commitments as well as maintaining transparency with regard to its operational impact. The Forum was therefore prepared and organised with the useful guidance of [UNESCO's Green Meeting Guidelines](#) to support a sustainable approach to each coordination stream.

III. Scope of the report

UNESCO-UNEVOC committed to (1) implementing a set of environmental measures to reduce the impact of the Forum as well as (2) monitoring all emissions associated with the Forum. To fulfil this commitment, all emissions related to the travel undertaken by the 120 attendees,

including UNESCO staff and participants, the venue's electricity use as well as all the accommodation were monitored for the duration of the event. The scope of this event's monitoring does not include any category that falls outside the listed elements.



IV. Environmental measures

To support emission reductions where possible, several measures and sustainability lenses were applied to the organization of the Forum. The table below outlines the series of measures and decision approaches taken to minimize impacts of:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>
Air Travel	○ To reduce air travel emissions, exclusive use of train travel for all trips under 4 hours was used in line with the UNESCO Travel Policy. ○ Plenary sessions were streamed on the UNESCO-UNEVOC YouTube channel allowing for broader participation via remote access and thus avoiding travel. UNESCO-UNEVOC staff were online to monitor and respond to chat messages by online participants to ensure inclusion.
Local Transport	○ Sponsored participants were provided with public transport passes as an alternative to taxi use for their airport transfers, to travel to study visit destinations on Day 3, and for other leisure use during the Forum.
Venue Selection	○ The NH Collection Berlin Mitte Friedrichstrasse Hotel was selected as both the hotel for participants as well as the

conference center for all meetings, in order to avoid daily commuting.

- The [NH Collection Berlin Mitte Friedrichstrasse Hotel](#) was selected as they holds two sustainability certifications, namely an A+ [Bioscore](#) and [ISO 14001](#).
- In an effort to integrate environmental sustainability into all controllable catering aspects of the forum, UNEVOC prioritised having a large variety of vegetarian and vegan meal options for all participants.
- Water was provided to participants in reusable glassware to avoid single use bottles or cups.
- Participants were informed in advance of the sustainability priorities of the Forum through the distribution of logistical information as well as prompts on the designated [Webpage](#).
- More sustainable travel alternatives were suggested as well as providing sponsored participants with accessible public transport passes.

Communication



V. Event associated emissions

The Global TVET Forum 2025 hosted 120 participants, travelling from 17 different countries over 3 days from 28-30 October. 42% of attendees travelled to the event by train and 7% already resided in Berlin while the remaining 51% travelled in via plane. Hosted at the [NH Collection Berlin Mitte Friedrichstrasse Hotel](#), the Forum included a single site visit transporting participants across Berlin. The resulting emissions of the TVET Forum totaled at **36.14 tCO₂eq** (*0.31 tCO₂eq per capita*), as depicted below.

To try and put these values into perspective, one return plane trip from Paris to Bangkok produces 2 tCO₂eq and UNESCO's per capita emissions for 2024 was 3.17.



Air travel is unsurprisingly the highest emission source. It is for this reason that alternative transport options are highly preferable. For all UNESCO staff travel, train travel is mandatory for trips under 4 hours. While train travel was used in almost all available circumstances for attendance at the TVET Forum, international participants do unavoidably require air travel. The accommodation-related emissions made up the next largest emission source, holding 12% of the overall share. While eco-friendly certified accommodations do tend to have an advantageous environmental performance, accommodating 120 individuals in individual rooms does require a significant amount of energy.

The associated train travel to and from Berlin, as well as the single shuttle journey for the Forum's site visit, only accounted for 5% of total emissions. This figure emphasizes the extent to which emission savings can be made when air travel is substituted with train travel.

The final 2% of the associated emissions results from the venue's consumption of electricity in the designated meeting rooms for the forum. This figure includes estimated use of lighting, temperature control, outlet use and monitoring equipment.

VI. Conclusions and future thoughts

The integration and prioritization of sustainable action in event planning and management is a constantly evolving process. Mitigation opportunities arise and fall in different contexts, and establishing the balance between accommodating meeting continuity and quality with environmental preservation and sustainability is a dynamic process.

The actions taken here at the Global TVET 2025 Forum are a strong step forward in sustainable event management, but improvements and lessons learned are always arising. The most important takeaway is that sustainability in global conferencing at this scale is an exercise in shifting lenses – rethinking how we already do things but with the added perspective of environmental consciousness. Simply switching from a 1-hour flight to a 4-hour train journey or eating plant-based as an alternative to emission-intensive meat produce can have an impact. Collective action is achieved when we all come together.

In the future, there are some things to consider to further sustainable action. The hosting of the TVET Forum is already coordinated on a biennial basis to mitigate international travel to every other year. To further this effort, increasing remote access and providing hybrid connections to panels, meetings and workshops will also allow for travel to be mitigated without restricting participation. Venues running on renewable energy can be prioritized. A strictly plant-based menu can be provided.

There is almost always more we can do; however, we must also remain vigilant about what is achievable within the global, time-limited and financially restricted parameters of operations.