

# At a glance

Protecting the environment and preventing climate change are among the greatest challenges of our time. The Bundesbank as an institution and all of its employees can make a contribution.

The Bundesbank has been strengthening its commitment to environmental management for some years now with the objective of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from its operating processes. This Environmental Report is based on the indicator system devised by the Verein für Umweltmanagement und Nachhaltigkeit in Finanzinstituten e.V. (VfU). The emission factors used in the VfU tool derive from the ecoinvent database (version 3.1). Greenhouse gas emissions are measured in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

Consumption of electricity increased slightly to 95,185 MWh in 2018 compared with previous years. Heat consumption stood at 79,850 MWh in 2018, slightly down on the previous year's figure. The resulting greenhouse gas emissions have come down sharply mainly because of a change in the use of energy sources. Business travel has increased slightly to 38.5 million kilometres. Depending on the destination, business trips are primarily taken by aeroplane or train. An increasing number of electric and hybrid vehicles are being used in the Bundesbank's own vehicle fleet.

Paper consumption is steadily decreasing and amounted to 249 tonnes in 2018. Water consumption rose to 301,000 m<sup>3</sup>. This was the result, in particular, of the greater need for air conditioning and increased irrigation of the grounds.

The volume of waste, which comprises banknote, office and building waste, stood at 6,290 tonnes in 2018. The Bundesbank uses many different cooling and extinguishing agents. In 2018, there were losses, with an impact on greenhouse gases, of 315 kg.

The Bundesbank's greenhouse gas emissions were just over 20,220 tonnes in 2018; this corresponds to a reduction of around 29 % compared with the base value 2013-14 (28,650 t). There was also a significant decline compared with 2017. Thus, this figure currently amounts to just over 2.0 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per employee.

The steep decline is mainly due to the complete switch to green electricity, the reduction in heat consumption and the switch to heat energy sources with an improved greenhouse gas balance at individual locations. Therefore, the Bank has achieved the goals it set itself ahead of schedule.

Heat energy and business travel account for the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions at just over 54 % and around 31 % respectively. Resource use mainly hinges on three factors: the properties of buildings, weather conditions and user behaviour.

Greenhouse gas emissions caused in the areas of electricity, heat, business travel, paper, water, waste and cooling and extinguishing agents are described in more detail below.

