

REPORT

NEW
CLIMATE
INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SEPTEMBER 2025



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INTRODUCTION

NewClimate Institute turned 10 – a decade of driving climate ambition and action

2024 was, yet again, the hottest year on record. Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and wildfires grew more intense and frequent, bringing devastating consequences for communities, ecosystems and economies. On the international stage, COP29 fell short of delivering the progress needed to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach. Meanwhile, political shifts further heightened uncertainty around international cooperation at a time when urgent action is needed most.

Despite these challenges, it is worth recognising the progress made over the past decade – a reminder that change is not only possible, but already underway. Ten years ago, a global consensus around reaching net-zero emissions was unimaginable. Today, the need for economy-wide decarbonisation is widely recognised. Back then, calling for a coal phase-out was highly contentious. While there is still no global commitment to a full coal phase-out, more countries are now committing to transition away from coal.

Climate change is now central to public discourse and political debate, sparking social movements and citizen action. Green technologies – from heat pumps and electric vehicles to solar panels, wind turbines and plant-based foods – are advancing at record speed. Global investment in renewable energy has overtaken fossil fuel investment. Governments are rethinking their energy systems to improve affordability, accessibility and sustainability while reducing geopolitical dependencies, minimising environmental impacts and enhancing public well-being and economic resilience.

Amid this evolving context, we at NewClimate Institute continued our efforts to drive climate ambition and action. In 2024, our work spanned a broad range of areas: from tracking national and sectoral climate targets and scrutinising corporate climate claims, to supporting sustainable development goals and advising on international partnerships. Through independent research and engagement with policymakers, civil society and businesses across the world, we provided actionable insights to help shape effective climate policies at every level – from local to global.

The year also marked NewClimate Institute's 10th anniversary. As we reflect on this milestone, we are reminded of why we began: to raise climate ambition and foster sustainable development through effective climate solutions. A decade on, the urgency has only deepened. The path ahead will be challenging – but with the dedication of our team and the continued support of our partners and funders, we remain committed to driving progress where it's most needed.

Let's continue turning bold ideas into real impact, together.



*NewClimate Institute celebrating its 10th anniversary in Berlin
(NewClimate Institute)*

ABOUT US

Founded in 2014, NewClimate Institute is an independent non-profit organisation based in Germany, focused on generating ideas for action against climate change and driving their implementation worldwide. With offices in Berlin and Cologne, our international team of 50+ experts brings a diverse set of knowledge and expertise to the shared goal of securing a liveable planet. We connect state-of-the-art research with policy-making processes to raise climate ambition and help shape effective climate solutions. We work across a wide range of topics, including climate diplomacy and partnerships, national and sectoral climate action, corporate climate responsibility, carbon markets and sustainable development.



VOICES FROM NEWCLIMATE



NIKLAS HÖHNE
joined in 2014

It is incredible to see where we have come to in the last 10 years. All we wanted when we started the organisation with six people was to have a nice place to work and to have some impact. What we are now is only possible because of the great people that joined!

2014



SILKE MOOLDIJK
joined in 2019

I landed my dream job straight out of university, working on climate action for a better world. But what I appreciate most about NewClimate is my colleagues. We have an amazing team spirit, and everyone genuinely cares for and supports one another.



NIKI YEH
joined in 2024

Being part of NewClimate has been a great experience. The team is open, international and full of people who care deeply about driving real climate action. There's also room to laugh and enjoy the ride together. I've felt welcome from the start.

2024



FREDERIC HANS
joined in 2016

Joining NewClimate a year and a half after its founding, straight from university, building a climate policy think tank together has been an exceptional and educational journey – with many successes, some setbacks and countless lessons learned. This inspiring environment has helped me grow both professionally and personally, enabling me to support our shared mission that means so much to me: a just and equitable transition within planetary boundaries.



JAMIE WONG
joined in 2021

Describing NewClimate in three words? 1. Passionate – we deeply care about ensuring a safe and fair life for all within planetary boundaries. Climate change is the core concern for us. 2. Principled – we work for impact and fun, not for profit. For transformative change, not for business as usual. And finally, 3. Team – we enjoy working together and genuinely care about each other's well-being.

OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Our team carried out a wide range of activities across eight key topic areas, all aimed at informing policymaking, strengthening climate ambition and supporting the effective implementation of climate action across countries and sectors.

We published over 70 written outputs in 2024, including flagship reports, policy briefs, academic papers and blog posts. Beyond publications, our team also organised and contributed to policy consultations, panel discussions, international conferences, training sessions, webinars and workshops. In total, our work was mentioned in the media over 12,000 times, reflecting the reach and relevance of our expertise.

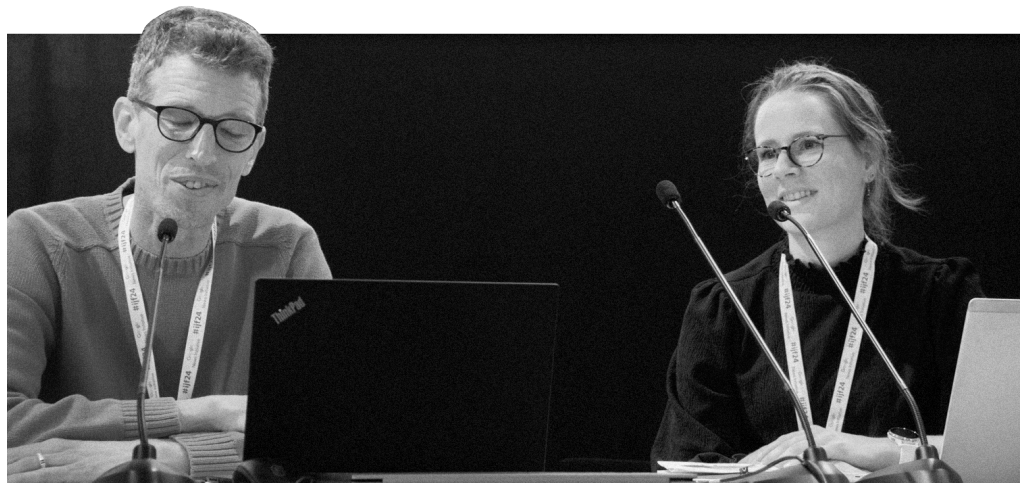
This report features a selection of projects, offering a snapshot of our broader efforts throughout the year. All project work can be explored in detail on our website.

CCRM

Scrutinising corporate climate action

As voluntary corporate climate pledges grow in number and prominence, there is a pressing need for independent and rigorous scrutiny. Since 2022, NewClimate Institute, in collaboration with Carbon Market Watch, has produced the Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor (CCRM) to assess the transparency, integrity and progress of corporate climate strategies. Published annually, the report highlights both ambitious efforts and critical gaps, providing targeted recommendations for companies, standard-setters and policymakers. In 2024, the team also released a sector-specific deep dive, analysing renewable electricity targets.

Beyond the report launch in spring, the CCRM team continued its engagement throughout the year. We shared findings with civil society



Sybrig Smit presenting at the 2024 International Journalism Festival in Perugia, Italy (Riccardo Urli)

actors such as the European consumer organisation (BEUC) and provided training for journalists through a collaboration with Clean Energy Wire (CLEW). This included developing a [guidance on scrutinising net-zero targets](#) and presenting it at a [workshop at the 2024 International Journalism Festival in Perugia, Italy](#). In parallel, our commentary, underscoring the need for stricter rules on companies' indirect emissions, was featured in [Climate Home News](#).

The 2024, the CCRM garnered significant media attention, with coverage in [Süddeutsche Zeitung](#), [DIE ZEIT](#), [Table.Media](#), [Grist](#) and [Mongabay](#). Its findings were also discussed in the [Frank Bold podcast](#) and cited by NGOs like [Amnesty International](#) in reference to corporate responsibility on climate and human rights.

The project is partially supported by the European Climate Foundation.

CAT Tracking national climate action and global temperature pathways

As governments refine their climate pledges, the [Climate Action Tracker \(CAT\)](#) remains a key scientific tool for monitoring and evaluating national climate action. A collaboration between NewClimate Institute, Climate Analytics and the Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR) in Indonesia, the CAT assesses the ambition and implementation of national climate policies, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and sectoral targets to estimate the level of temperature increase by the end of the century. Since 2009, it has provided science-based, independent analysis for policymakers, negotiators and civil society, covering countries responsible for about 85% of global emissions and 70% of the world's population.

In 2024, the CAT team delivered timely analyses during key moments in the UNFCCC negotiation cycle, including the Bonn Climate Conference and COP29. These included assessments of [the stagnating warming outlook](#), [benchmarks for a good 2030 climate target](#) and [a full country analysis of COP29 host Azerbaijan's climate action](#). The CAT data fed into the [UNEP Emissions Gap Report](#) and the [Climate Change Performance Index](#), with our team contributing as authors to both publications.



The CAT team holding a press conference at the 2024 Bonn Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC)

Our findings received wide media coverage, including in leading international and national media outlets such as [CNN](#), [Reuters](#), [New York Times](#) and [DIE ZEIT](#). In addition, the CAT's analysis served as critical evidence in two landmark climate litigation cases: [Greenpeace v Netherlands](#) and [KlimaSeniorinnen v Switzerland](#).

The project is supported by the German International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, ClimateWorks Foundation and IKEA foundation.

ECNO

Monitoring progress towards climate neutrality in the EU

The European Climate Neutrality Observatory (ECNO) was launched in 2023 as an independent watchdog monitoring the EU's progress towards climate neutrality. The project is driven by a consortium of five organisations: Ecologic Institute, Climact, Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE), NewClimate Institute and Reform Institute. 89up supports communications efforts for the project.

In 2024, ECNO published its second annual Flagship Report, analysing economy-wide progress across 13 sectors and cross-cutting areas. It also released reports on the EU's industrial transformation, the transparency of Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and the European Commission's net-zero monitoring system.

The ECNO team also engaged closely with EU policymakers and legislators through meetings and consultations, and its analysis was featured in key European media outlets, including Euractiv, Euronews and Tagesspiegel.

The project was initiated and is supported by the European Climate Foundation.



Norah Zhang and Mats Marquardt presenting at a workshop in Guangzhou, China (GIZ China)

SGCCC

Advancing climate ambition in China through the Sino-German Cooperation on Climate Change

As the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter and a leader in clean energy innovation, China's role is vital in global climate action. From 2021 to 2025, NewClimate Institute contributed to the implementation of China's NDCs through the Sino-German Cooperation on Climate Change. Led by GIZ and implemented in collaboration with Climate Analytics and China's National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, the project supported China in advancing its climate ambition and accelerating emissions peaking before 2030, in line with its NDCs. It also served as a platform for capacity building and knowledge transfers between Chinese and European Union (EU) stakeholders.

As part of this collaboration, our team provided policy support to national ministries and selected provincial governments, offering evidence-based advice tailored to Chinese and regional contexts. We shared analysis and international experience through reports, policy briefs and workshops to help address knowledge gaps – particularly on issues such as the energy transition, climate policy governance, non-CO₂ emissions. We also supported a training session on the CAT methodology to help Chinese partners better understand global ambition benchmarks.

Our work helped inform policy development, strengthen technical capacities and support continued cooperation between Chinese and European stakeholders to advance climate ambition and contribute to the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The project is supported by the German International Climate Initiative (IKI).

EU Partnerships

Ensuring effective, ambitious and mutually beneficial EU Climate Partnerships

As the EU navigates an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, climate partnerships have become a central pillar of its climate diplomacy and foreign policy agenda. In this context, NewClimate Institute supported efforts to strengthen the design and implementation of EU climate partnerships by promoting approaches that are ambitious, effective and mutually beneficial.

In 2024, our team published a series of reports examining key aspects of EU climate diplomacy: [the coordination and strategic orientation of selected partnerships, reform options for its climate strategies in the 2024–2029 EU cycle and guidelines for designing long-term, equity-oriented partnerships](#). The findings highlighted the need for the EU to better integrate climate into its foreign policy and identified opportunities to strengthen international partnerships, enhance geopolitical relevance and advance global climate ambition through this integration.

To support policy dialogue, our team engaged directly with EU institutions, Member States and civil society by hosting workshops and attending key events. At Climate Week NYC, we supported the EU–US High-Level Dialogue by contributing to the agenda development, advising on participants and informing preparatory analysis. Our commentary, which called for a more strategic EU partnership approach, was published in [Table.Media's Europe briefing](#), helping bring the issue into broader public discussion.

This project is supported by the European Climate Foundation.

Germany's transport study

Providing evidence for climate litigation

In 2021, the German Federal Court ruled that future generations must be protected from the impacts of climate change and unnecessary hardship. Still, Germany's transport sector remains significantly off track to meet government-set climate targets and risks missing the transition towards climate neutrality.

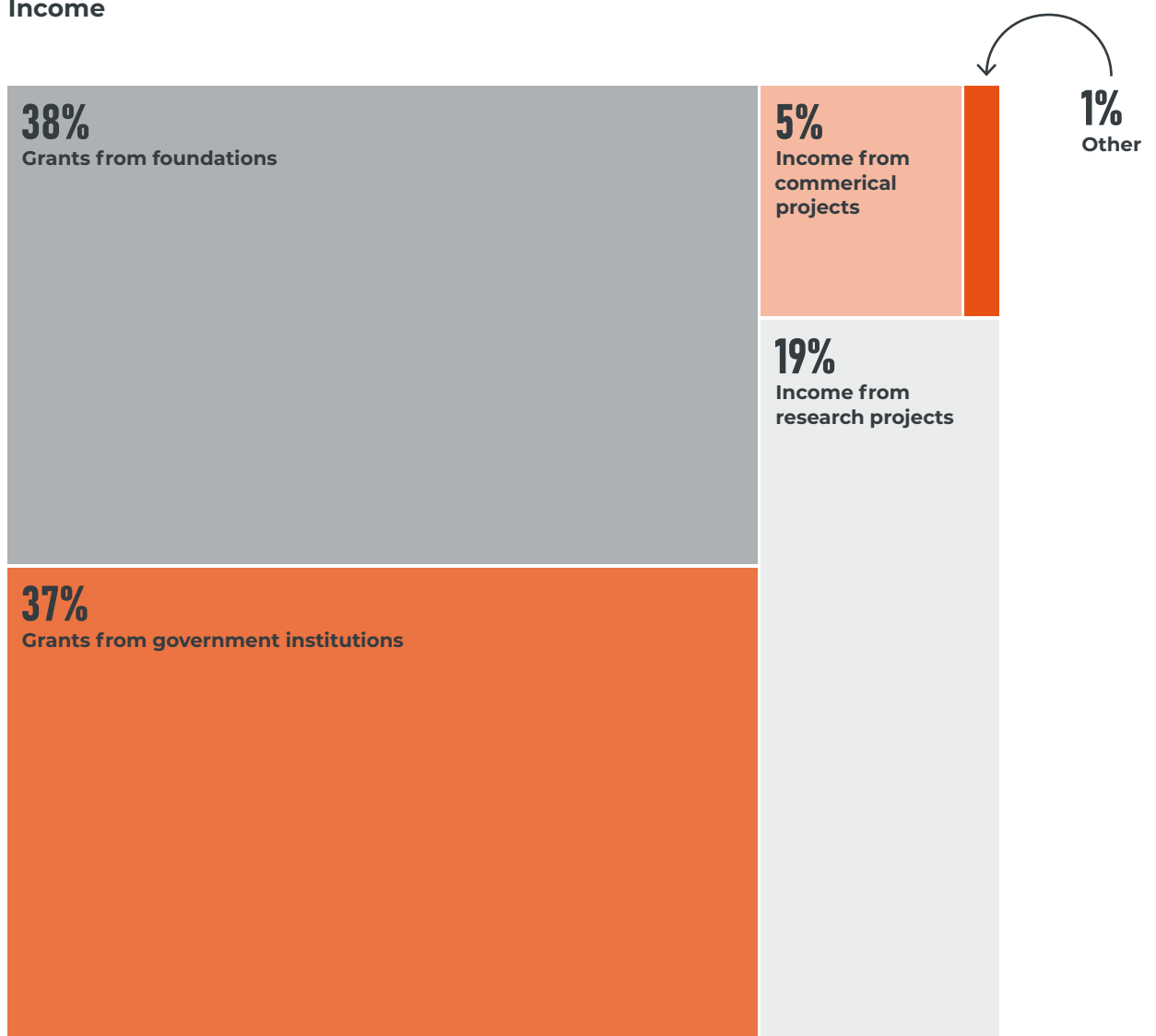
In this context, NewClimate Institute carried out a scenario study, commissioned by Greenpeace Germany and Germanwatch, to assess the consequences of continued inaction in the transport sector. The study, titled '[How a lack of climate action in transport burdens future generations \(Wie ausbleibender Klimaschutz im Verkehr künftige Generationen belastet\)](#)', found that delayed mitigation would greatly increase the burden on future generations and require more disruptive interventions later.

The analysis was submitted as supporting evidence in a [constitutional complaint](#) requesting the German government to implement measures to meet the transport sector targets.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

NewClimate Institute is entirely project funded and does not receive general base funding. Our projects were financed by a diverse range of organisations, including foundations (e.g. European Climate Foundation, ClimateWorks Foundation, Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, IKEA Foundation), government institutions (e.g. The International Climate Initiative of the German government, GIZ, the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) as well as non-governmental organisations.

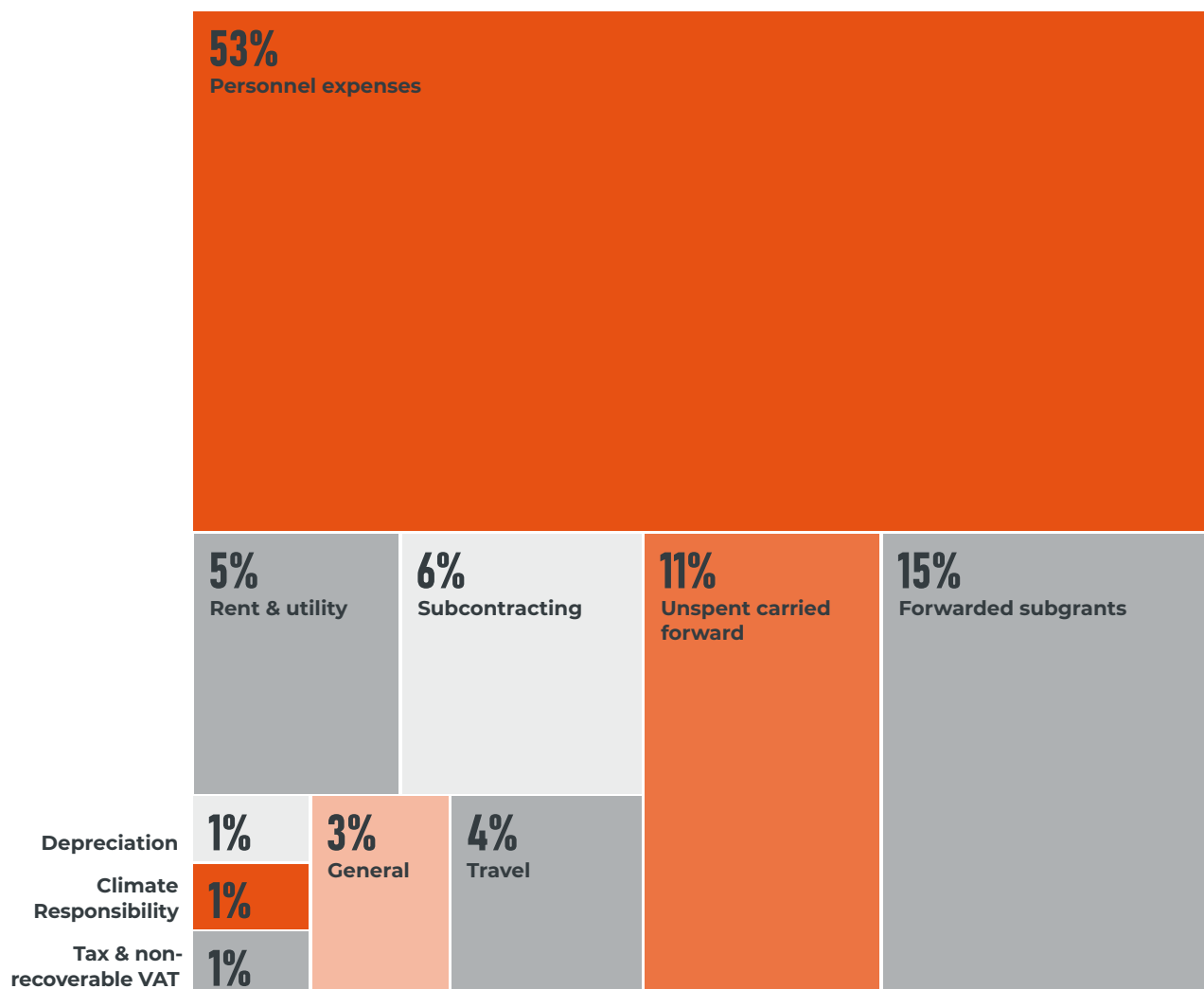
6.1 MILLION EUR Income



Our expenditures are dominated by personnel expenses for our staff. Another significant share is sub-granted or subcontracted to project partners. Other cost categories such as travel and operational costs (rent, utilities and administration) account for a small share. Some unspent resources were carried forward to the next year.

Note: The financial data presented reflects the year 2023, which is the most recent complete financial year at the time of report preparation.

6.1 MILLION EUR Expenditures



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