Connect Europe & UNI Europa AST Project

Sustainability and ICT sector

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Florian Feillet

The ICT sector and the green transition

The digital sector has a special role to play in the green transition

- It enables energy savings thanks to innovative solutions (smart cities, IoT, etc.)
- And it is also engaged in a massive reduction of its own emissions, which represent between 3 and 4% of global emissions
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The telecom operators are mobilized to reach the objectives of the Green Deal

- reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels
- achieve climate neutrality by 2050

Orange's carbon footprint:

- Scope 1: includes direct emissions from buildings and service vehicles (5% of Orange's carbon footprint).
- Scope 2: indirect emissions linked to the consumption of electricity to power networks and data centres (14% for Orange).
- Scope 3: all other emissions generated by supplier activities, customer equipment and business travel (81%).

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Orange and its decarbonation strategy

Orange's objectives:

- Become net zero carbon by 2040
- Reduce scopes 1 and 2 emissions by more than 30% in 2025/ 2015 base (already achieved in 2024)
- Reduce its scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 45% by 2030/2020 base.

Our means of action:

- To reduce its Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions, Orange will take action in several areas:
- Enhancing the energy efficiency of its networks and data centers,
- Developing its circular economy programs for network equipment and smartphones
- The use of low-carbon energy
- The use of electric vehicles for its business fleet

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I - To tackle the scope 3: Circular economy

Scope 3 emissions related to the supply chain equate to 81% of the telecoms carbon emissions which are the harder to have an impact on.

OSCAR (network equipment) and Orange RE (smartphones) are two circular economy programs which have an important potential in order to decrease scope 3 emissions.

For network equipment: OSCAR

Orange Sustainable and Circular Ambition for Recertification

Through the reuse of network equipment between our subsidiaries, this programm allows:

- Significant reduction of the supply chain's greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reduction of electronic waste, through the promotion of refurbishment (life cycle extension) and improved recycling;
- Better management of raw materials;
- Great potential for job creation in the EU

- In 2023, more than 70k Orange TV boxes and decoders were reconditioned and reused in all countries in the Africa and Middle East zone.

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For mobile: Orange RE

- The main part of smartphone carbon footprint is their manufacture, which accounts for 78% while around 21% for utilization and 1% for selling.
- Therefore proposing refurbished smartphones to our customers allow to avoid the manufacturing emissions of a new smartphone while decreasing our scope 3 emissions
- It also leads to cheaper devices for our customers
- In 2024 Orange sold 244K refurbished devices, 23% growth in comparison to 2023 and 11.2kT of CO2e emissions avoided

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II – To tackle the scope 2 emissions: energy efficiency

- With the use of AI the energy consumption of data centers increased within the EU.
- Orange built a new kind of data center at Val de Reuil in Normandie which uses free cooling
- It operates for more than 10 months a year without the need for air conditioning, thanks to the wind.
- The outside air and the design of the buildings ensure that the IT equipment is cooled naturally, reducing its energy impact by 30% compared with conventional data centres.

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