

IBM's 30th Annual Environmental Report Highlights Reduction In CO2 Emissions

Commitment to "good tech" solutions helps clients address environmental challenges

ARMONK, N.Y., July 14, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- IBM's (NYSE: [IBM](#)) operational CO₂ emissions have been reduced by 39.7% since 2005, according to IBM's 30th annual *IBM and the Environment Report*, released today. The achievement puts IBM well ahead of schedule in reaching its current goal of a 40% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2025.

In addition, 47% of the electricity IBM consumed in 2019 came from renewable sources, keeping the company on track to get 55% of its electricity from renewables by 2025.

"IBM was instrumental in establishing corporate environmental reporting three decades ago because we saw that embracing openness drives results," said Wayne Balta, vice president of environmental affairs and product safety. "Our continual and dependable progress throughout the years has been underscored by our dedication to transparent reporting and IBM's values."

Other highlights from the report; in 2019:

- IBM implemented 1,660 energy conservation projects at nearly 230 locations globally. These projects delivered annual energy savings of 136,000 MWh, equal to 3.2% of the company's total energy use during 2019 and surpassing the corporate goal of 3%. IBM has sustained a goal for energy conservation since 1975 and began reporting annual energy conservation savings in 1992. Getting the same work done with less energy has long been a top priority at IBM for addressing climate change.
- IBM became a Founding Member of the Climate Leadership Council and supports its bipartisan roadmap for a carbon tax with corresponding carbon dividend.
- Technical experts at IBM across the company's business units and research division continued to develop new ways of helping to solve difficult environmental problems based upon data and today's exponential information technologies -- including AI, analytics, IoT and blockchain, which have the power to change business models, reinvent processes, and reimagine work.

These solutions demonstrate "good tech" and the art of the possible. For example, IBM Research developed an AI-based forecasting and control system that improves electricity storage in photovoltaic systems. And IBM created a digital farming platform that will provide farmers with hyperlocal weather forecasts in addition to offering real-time recommendations tailored to the specific needs of individual fields and crops, helping to increase crop production, save water and decrease the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

Transparency in Carbon Reporting

The report codifies IBM's longstanding practice of transparency in carbon reporting to ensure that IBM's disclosure of energy consumption, CO₂ emissions, and renewable energy be done in a way that is clear.

"Climate change represents a serious threat to our planet that must be addressed right now," Balta continued. "Transparent communications are essential to secure popular support for action."

A long history of excellence

In addition to being one of the first multinational companies to produce its own environmental report, IBM also led the creation of the first cross-industry guidelines for voluntary corporate environmental reporting back in the early 1990s. Upon working with industry peers, learning from business associations, and with input from the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES), IBM and nine other companies published the Public Environmental Reporting Initiative (PERI) Guidelines in 1994. These guidelines marked a beginning of what has since become a common business practice for many companies.

Read the [report](#) and a related [blog](#) from IBM President Jim Whitehurst.

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