

Environmental Sustainability Scope

ICANN Org
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Overview

For fiscal year 2025, ICANN org has scoped a proposed environmental sustainability audit, to be conducted by a third-party consultancy team. The scope has been informed by best practices research and numerous discussions with potential vendors. The audit would focus on five focus areas: ICANN's offices, ICANN servers, travel, events, and org-wide products and purchases. There will be an emphasis on greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting, improving data tracking for more in-depth calculations and targets in subsequent years, and defining short- and long-term goals.

Potential Focus Areas for Initial Audit

ICANN offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples: Office building systems (heating, cooling), lighting, energy sources, waste and water, sustainable commuting and telecommuting
ICANN L-Root server and colocation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data centers, L-Root instances for which we are responsible (with tech on a five-year upgrade schedule)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board, staff and funded travelers' flights and other types of travel impacts
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples: Event materials, catering, accommodation, cargo shipping
Org-wide products/purchases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples: Plastic and single-use items; IT equipment and services; supply chain

Terminology on Scope

For a sustainability audit, there are three types of scope for greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting:

Scope: Definitions

Scope

01



Direct emissions

Emissions from combustible fuels and other sources that occur directly on site and mobile emissions sources.



Scope

02



Indirect emissions

Emissions that occur off-site to produce electricity or steam purchased for use at a company's location.



Scope

03



Other Indirect Emissions*

Emissions from activities upstream or downstream from a company's core business such as waste disposal, commuting, financed emissions, and business travel.



*No direct control over these emissions but do have influence

Goals for Initial Audit

- Calculate ICANN's carbon footprint
 - Calculate emissions for Scopes 1 and 2 for one year
 - Screen and estimate for Scope 3 calculations across all supply chains, begin to track broader emission sources, conduct research into peers with similar supply chains, identify and refine data sources
 - Understand and start to track ICANN's events footprint
- Establish a baseline understanding of desired outcomes, identify current attitudes and perceptions, establish future aims
- Define short- and long-term goals, with roadmaps for Scope 1 and 2 improvement, and data collection improvements for Scope 3
- Understand what sorts of changes would be necessary to achieve a [science based target](#) and understand what it would take and how long it would take to become carbon neutral (across each of the five focus areas of the audit)
- Engage and educate internal decision makers to enhance awareness of understanding of key environmental sustainability topics
- Improve data tracking, monitoring, and reporting
- Understand upcoming regulations in order to set targets and lead the way among peer organizations
- Establish guidelines for future decision making (events, leases, purchases, travel, etc)

Year One: Expected Activities

Scope	Focus	Expected Activities	Expected Deliverables
Scope 1 emissions	<p>Data centers and offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data centers in Los Angeles and northern Virginia Several hundred globally distributed instances of the L-Root server Offices in Los Angeles, USA; Istanbul, Türkiye; Singapore; Montevideo, Uruguay; Brussels, Belgium; Beijing, China; Geneva, Switzerland; Nairobi, Kenya; Washington, DC, USA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define emissions sources Calculate one year's worth of data regarding fuel use from back-up generators, natural gas use, and refrigerant leakage in data centers and offices Acquire one year's worth of data from electricity and fuel utilities where possible; assess data quality and completeness and make estimates to fill in gaps as needed Acquire data on company car usage; identify areas for improvement with regard to provider and availability of electric/hybrid vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculate direct emissions (i.e. natural gas, refrigerants, etc) Improvement roadmap
Scope 2 emissions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define emissions sources; gather additional data required - some data collection will overlap from Scope 1 Explore the integration of renewable energy sources, such as those aligned with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards, in applicable ICANN office locations Identify areas for enhanced energy management strategies with regards to the building's heating and cooling, and determine what options are available locally for renewable energy providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculate indirect emissions (i.e., purchased electricity, steam heating and cooling) Improvement roadmap
Scope 3 emissions	<p>Screening to be carried out by consultant, but categories likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchased goods and services Waste generated in operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify which Scope 3 categories are relevant Identify and refine data sources Identify most material categories for further investigation <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate current waste production; identify ways to encourage recycling and minimize waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Scope 3 footprint based on existing data and examples Roadmap for improvement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business travel • Employee commuting • Leased assets • Transport and distribution • Investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore available opportunities for water replenishment ○ Identify current commuting habits and patterns to determine ways to best support carbon-free transportation and reduced emissions ○ Identify key focus areas for Phase 2 (for example, ways to further limit single-use plastics, identifying areas in the supply chain that would most benefit from improvements) 	
Events footprint	3 years of ICANN events (including ICANN Public Meetings, DNS Forums, Board meetings, all-hands meetings, UA events, KSK ceremonies, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect data from three years' worth of events (some overlap will occur with Scope 3 assessment) • Assess data quality and make estimates to fill in gaps as needed • Calculate event footprint for three years • Assess data on business travel for staff and funded travelers, gather data on cargo shipping for events materials, estimate event venue emissions and hotel emissions based on area and estimated room nights • Identify key focus areas for Phase 2 (for example, vendor code of conduct to address catering best practices, working with venues to encourage sustainable practices, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational footprint based on representative activity data and estimates • Recommendation on data collection process • Improvement roadmap
Workshop	A virtual workshop for Executives, Board, and relevant team members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared understanding of sustainability language and acronyms to facilitate efficient and effective communications • Educate about voluntary standards, regulation, key terminology, as well as the difference in industry standards in different locations globally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 to 2 hour presentation, held live twice and recorded

Disclaimer: This list of activities is illustrative rather than exhaustive; it is informed by ICANN org's best practices research and initial conversations with sustainability vendors; additional expertise from the vendor is required.

Timeframe and Next Stages of Audit

Scope: Initial Audit

The initial audit would span Q3/Q4 of 2024, to allow ICANN org time to gather data from various teams.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 calculation

- ▼
- Data gathering
4-6 weeks
- ▼
- Methodology and improvement roadmap
2 weeks

Scope 3 screening

- ▼
- Initial screening of material topics
3 weeks
- ▼
- Data gathering and initial calculations
6-8 weeks
- ▼
- Improvement roadmap
2 weeks

Events footprint

- ▼
- Data gathering of 3 years of events and calculation
6-8 weeks
- ▼
- Recommendations and improvement roadmap
2 weeks

Note: The work on Scope 1 and 2, Scope 3, and the events footprint will overlap, so it is expected to take approximately 16 weeks of work from the vendor, with time for ICANN org to gather data. Findings from the initial audit will inform the length of subsequent phases of the audit.

Scope: Phases of Audit

Subsequent phases are expected to take 2-5 years.

Phase One

- Develop calculations for Scope 1 and 2
- Complete screening for Scope 3
- Gather initial data on events footprint
- Create recommendations for improvements

(One year)

Phase Two

- Implement targeted data collection strategy to develop an accurate Scope 3 inventory
- Improve data tracking and process
- Set targets for emissions
- Begin implementing suggested changes

(One to two years)

Phase Three

- Implement a long-term data management process
- Continue implementation of changes
- Show progress against targets

(One to two years)

Sustainability is an ongoing effort of measuring ICANN's footprint and making continuous improvements.



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