



Creating the Sustainable IT Department

IT leaders have a key role to play in the
push for environmental sustainability

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What's good for people and for the planet is also good for your organization's bottom line.

As environmental sustainability and climate action continue to set organizations apart, few business maxims seem more applicable.

Everything in the world is connected. Companies that ignore this do so at their own peril. It's more important than ever for organizations to prioritize initiatives that help them achieve their sustainability goals. It's what customers, partners, and investors expect—and you need to have a clear strategy for success.

In the pages that follow you'll learn why IT departments in particular are perfectly positioned to lead the way. You'll learn how your technologies and infrastructure can have an outsized impact on your company's carbon footprint, and you'll see that careful IT planning and procurement is where your organization's path to sustainability should begin.



72%

of CEOs globally say sustainability is an immediate priority.¹



79%

of corporate IT leaders say sustainability is an "important" factor in equipment planning and procurement.²





Sustainable IT: Technology That Makes a Difference

High-performance computing, artificial intelligence and machine learning—the “revolutionary” digital technologies we now have at our fingertips—are growing more powerful by the day. So how can these and other innovative tools help companies tackle the biggest challenges associated with the climate crisis? The answer depends on the organization, but it always starts with IT.

One organization, for example, might turn to data and analytics to identify manufacturing processes where making certain changes could help save energy. Another organization could use AI to maximize transportation efficiencies and reduce their logistics footprint, while a construction company could use 3D printing to drastically reduce waste of building materials. In each case, the IT team would play an important role in every aspect of the initiative. But the department could contribute to sustainability in other ways as well, largely by ensuring smart technology decisions are made.

Choosing IT Equipment: Sustainability Matters

As organizations look to reduce their impact on the environment by cutting emissions, minimizing waste, and becoming more efficient overall, many are now insisting their partners adopt similar measures in their own operations.

The logic behind doing so is solid: if you're going to take responsibility for how your company's actions affect the lives of people for generations to come, it's important to ensure the organizations you do business with aren't compromising your mission.

For IT departments, this boils down to choosing to work with vendors that offer technology solutions in line with your organization's sustainability goals. These companies should be focused on their own carbon footprints and have programs in place to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainability should be embedded in their technologies, part and parcel to everything they sell.



Among the many questions an IT department might ask in determining whether a vendor meets its sustainability needs:



Product materials: What is the product made of? Does it include components made from sustainably sourced and/or recycled materials? Can these materials themselves be re-used or easily recycled when the device is decommissioned?



Product packaging: Is the product packaged in a way that minimizes waste? Is this packaging derived from recycled or renewable materials, and is it recyclable itself? **Product energy consumption:** What are the power requirements of the product? Is it designed to be as energy efficient as possible?



Product repairability/re-usability: If the product breaks, can it be fixed without compromising on performance and employee productivity? Are parts easily accessible and replaceable? Does the vendor provide a service for keeping products in circulation once their original owners no longer need them? Does the vendor offer remote diagnostics and repair services that minimize or eliminate the need for workers to commute to a dedicated IT service depot?



Productivity: Will the product allow you to be more productive, thereby reducing the need for power consumption?

83%

of corporate IT decision makers say it's important for their firm to track a vendor's carbon footprint and sustainability³



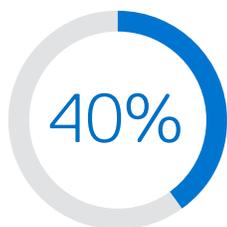
Choosing a Procurement Model: Flexibility Drives Sustainability

While the way a product is made is important, so too is the approach a department takes to putting that device to use. By implementing an “as-a-service” procurement model that allows it to scale as an organization grows, it can reduce waste, move end-of-life management to the vendor, and potentially realize significant cost savings.

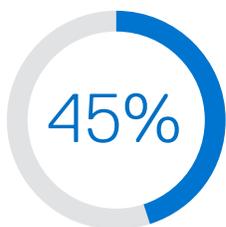
Also known as “aaS” or “XaaS,” as-a-Service makes it easy for organizations to fine-tune their use of IT resources. With Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), for example, a company can slash its on-prem energy requirements by leveraging cloud and virtual infrastructure resources provided over the internet. PC-as-a-Service (PCaaS) can provide similar benefits by optimizing an organization’s computer fleet: the IT department leases PCs—and software, if applicable—on a subscription basis, and the vendor takes back the equipment at end-of-life to either recycle or reuse it.



The flexibility aaS provides is the primary reason most organizations turn to this procurement model, but many are also realizing it can help them on the sustainability front. In one recent sustainability-focused survey of more than 500 corporate IT decision makers⁴, respondents highlighted the following advantages of the as-a-Service approach:



said the aaS model could reduce their sustainability-related management costs.



said the model could reduce overall e-waste generation.



said it could lower the cost of managing end-of-life equipment.

Perhaps most important, **more than half of the survey participants said they lacked in-house capabilities to measure, manage, or analyze IT-related sustainability data.** Utilizing an aaS model—and working with a vendor that prioritizes sustainability—would not only give them access to this information, it would mean tasks like optimizing data center and cloud operations could be handled by a qualified third party.

Driving Sustainability with IaaS

A 2022 survey of more than 500 corporate IT decision makers asked participants to estimate how much they'd be able to reduce each of the following by implementing an Infrastructure-as-a-Service model⁵:

Sustainability Target Expected Reduction



41%

E-waste generation



38%

Energy consumption



39%

Water consumption



41%

IT carbon footprint

End-to-End Sustainability with Dell Technologies

While IT departments clearly have a wide range of vendors with whom they can choose to work, that list narrows considerably once sustainability becomes a factor.

At Dell Technologies, our commitment to sustainability is core to everything we do, and we believe the products we make should help our customers become more sustainable as well. Our mission: to help our customers drive climate-positive solutions to achieve their sustainability goals through the power of the industry's broadest and most innovative products and services designed to reduce waste, energy and emissions.

Working together and providing customers with eco-friendly tech and solutions that put the environment at the forefront is the new industry standard. Dell and Intel® aim to continue to lead by example and make our social impact a positive one. Reach your sustainability goals with advanced technology and solutions from Intel® and Dell. Let's work together to drive innovation while making a lasting impact on our planet.

 [Learn more about sustainable devices and infrastructure at Dell Technologies powered by Intel®.](#)



Sources

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3. "Sustainability Starts Here: Accelerating Sustainable IT Programs With As-A-Service Models," A commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting on behalf of Dell Technologies, February 2022. Results based on a survey of 502 decision-makers in sustainability at global companies. Actual results will vary. Full report at <https://www.delltechnologies.com/asset/en-us/products/multi-product/industry-market/accelerating-sustainable-it-programs-with-as-a-service-models.pdf>
4. ibid
5. ibid
6. CLM-003538 - *Based on Dell Internal Analysis, November 2021. Percentage of Bio-based and recycled content by weight. Statements apply to Latitude 5000 series and future devices, starting April 2022.
7. CLM-003990 - Enhanced Packaging: Approximately 95% recycled content and 5% renewable content in the form of FSC paper fibers. Excludes optional items added to order and included in box.
8. PROJ-000263 - Based on internal analysis, October 2021.
9. PROJ-000503 - Based on internal analysis, June 2022.
10. PowerStore storage guarantees a 4:1 data reduction to support infrastructure consolidation, reducing physical and carbon footprint in the data center. PowerStore 4:1 data reduction (AD #: G20000055) - 4:1 average rate guaranteed across customer applications. Rates for individual applications may vary. See Future-Proof Program terms and conditions for details.