Sustainability Overview
Our Mission

Facebook’s mission is to give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together.

Our Sustainability Vision

We believe sustainability is about more than operating responsibly; it is an opportunity to support the communities we are a part of and have a positive impact on the world. Our vision is a just and equitable transition to a zero-carbon economy, where no one is left behind. At Facebook, we have achieved net zero emissions in our global operations and plan to reach net zero emissions for our value chain in 2030.

Facebook is committed to fighting climate change. Beyond doing our part to reduce our environmental footprint, our approach is to accelerate access to authoritative information and encourage positive action on climate through our core products and services, while working with others to scale solutions that help create a healthier planet for all.
Our Operations

Climate
We are doing our part to fulfill the spirit of The Paris Agreement. Facebook is an active supporter of the We Are Still In coalition and we are constantly innovating to minimize our environmental impact.

In 2020, we achieved net zero emissions in our operations by reducing our GHG emissions by 94 percent, compared to 2017 levels, and supporting high-quality carbon removal projects. Over the next decade, we will continue to decarbonize our value chain and enable GHG reduction and carbon removal technology advancements.

Energy
In 2011, Facebook was one of the first to commit to supporting our facilities with 100 percent renewable energy. In 2020, our global operations achieved 100 percent renewable energy and we now have over 2.8 gigawatts of wind and solar projects online.

Our data centers are among the most energy efficient facilities in the world. For each new data center Facebook builds, we partner with utilities and developers to support new projects and approaches that increase access to renewable energy, as well add renewable capacity to the grids that support our data centers. Today, we are one of the largest corporate renewable energy purchasers in the world.

Water
At Facebook, we believe every drop matters. We prioritize water stewardship across our operations, creating circular systems that reuse water as much as possible. Beyond maximizing efficiency in our operational water use, we support projects that help restore local watersheds near our data center communities.

In 2020, Facebook locally restored nearly as much water as we consumed to the watersheds where we operate. We also added three new restoration projects in New Mexico, Utah, and California.

Our data centers are 80 percent more water-efficient than the average data center.
Responsible Supply Chain

We work to ensure safe, healthy and fair working conditions and sustainable environmental practices in our supply chain, and we are committed to engaging meaningfully and proactively with our supply chain partners, building supplier capacity, and responding quickly to challenges as they arise.

Standards like our Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement, which outlines our commitment to combating forced labor in our supply chain and our Conflict Minerals Policy, which promotes responsible sourcing in our consumer electronic products, are also examples of this commitment.

During the global pandemic, we deepened our collaboration with priority suppliers, working to address labor, human rights, health and safety, and environmental issues across our supply chain.
Data Centers

We work to minimize our impact by incorporating design elements and construction practices that prioritize resource efficiency and clean energy, while continuing to grow our presence to connect more people around the world.

In 2020, five of our new construction projects – located across Denmark, Ireland and the U.S. – were awarded LEED Gold certification. We also explored innovative strategies to reduce the environmental impact of our construction activities and building materials, including piloting the use of electric construction equipment, Cat D6XE, the world’s first electric drive dozer that uses 25 percent less diesel fuel compared to traditional bulldozers.

Workplaces

Enhancing employee well-being and maintaining sustainable workplaces are key aspects to the way in which we operate our facilities. We are proud to design, build, and operate some of the most sustainable workplaces in the world for both our employees and the environment.

We implement stringent sustainability standards, as well as follow third-party green building certifications to ensure that our buildings are constructed with responsible materials, reduce the need for artificial light, and are energy conscious. Our Menlo Park headquarters includes a LEED Platinum certification and all of our data centers have achieved LEED Gold certification.

In 2020, we completed our first offices slated for WELL and Fitwel® certifications, which focus on improving the health of a building’s occupants.
Climate change is too great of a challenge to tackle alone. To scale impact, we work closely with our stakeholders and partners – including government, academic institutions, industry peers, nonprofits, and local communities – to increase knowledge access and provide a platform that helps empower and activate climate action.

During the global pandemic, we pivoted our approach towards virtual collaborations, leveraging our platform and products to provide a unique way for us and partners to connect seamlessly online.
Amplifying Content during Climate Week 2020

During Climate Week NYC and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2020, we helped the Climate Group reach a bigger, wider audience online via Facebook Watch Live. We also hosted a virtual panel titled, “Working Together to Accelerate Climate Action,” where viewers tuned into the discussion via the FBxUNGA microsite, a dedicated page on our platform to showcase Facebook’s presence at UNGA.

Virtualizing World Water Week

With events going virtual in 2020, we partnered with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) for the second year in a row to help bring World Water Week to a global online audience, working closely with the organization to develop digital presentation best practices and provide capacity-building training on Facebook and Instagram tools.

Advancing a Sustainable Events Framework

We understand the environmental impact that large scale, in-person events can have on the environment. In 2020, internal teams across Facebook developed a Sustainable Events Framework to help ensure Facebook’s global events align with our sustainability goal to reduce our GHG emissions and environmental footprint. Beyond using the new framework to guide how we host Facebook events, we hope to share these practices and learnings broadly to accelerate progress across industries globally.
Climate action will require innovative solutions that build on the world’s understanding of how climate change affects businesses and local communities. We are leveraging the capabilities of our platform to accelerate our work to advance sustainability solutions through our core products. Through strategic partnerships with sustainability industry experts and NGOs, we identify emerging trends and new opportunities for our products.

In 2020, we launched two new products to help partners better understand conversations around climate change across our platform and enabled access to credible climate science information for users.
Climate Information Science Center

The Climate Science Center as a hub to provide authoritative information from the world’s leading climate science sources. Following the launch, we continued to add new features to the tool, which is now available in 16 countries, including a new section with facts debunking common climate myths and information labels on some posts directing people to the Center.

Climate Conversation Map

The Climate Conversation Map uses data science research and anonymized, aggregated data to show how climate conversations ebb and flow throughout the world and over time.

Sustainable Business Program

In 2020, we also explored ways to expand our support for businesses focused on sustainability to connect with new consumers on our platforms. In EMEA, we developed the Sustainable Business Program to help businesses better engage with sustainability-minded customers on our platform, and to educate and empower consumers to make sustainable choices.
To learn more about our sustainability efforts, please visit https://sustainability.fb.com/.

Download our latest Sustainability Report to read more about our 2020 highlights.