

# Towards a more environmentally sustainable Wikimedia Movement

Lukas Mezger

Wikimedia CEE Online Meeting 2021



An aerial photograph of a forest fire. The fire is intense, with bright orange and yellow flames consuming the trees. Thick white and grey smoke billows from the fire, partially obscuring the forest. The background shows a clear blue sky with some light clouds. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing the text.

**The New York Times**

***A Hotter Future Is Certain, Climate Panel Warns. But How Hot Is Up to Us.***

Some devastating impacts of global warming are now unavoidable, a major new scientific report finds. But there is still a short window to stop things from getting even worse.

An aerial photograph showing a flooded village. In the upper right, a grey military helicopter with the number '71995' and 'AIR FORCE' is visible. The village below is surrounded by brown floodwater. Several people are wading through the water, and some structures are partially submerged or damaged. A white text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

 **wyborcza.pl**

NIE MA WOLNOŚCI BEZ SOLIDARNOŚCI

**Klimatolodzy nie wierzą, że politycy ograniczą globalne ocieplenie do 1,5 st. C. Boją się 3 st.**

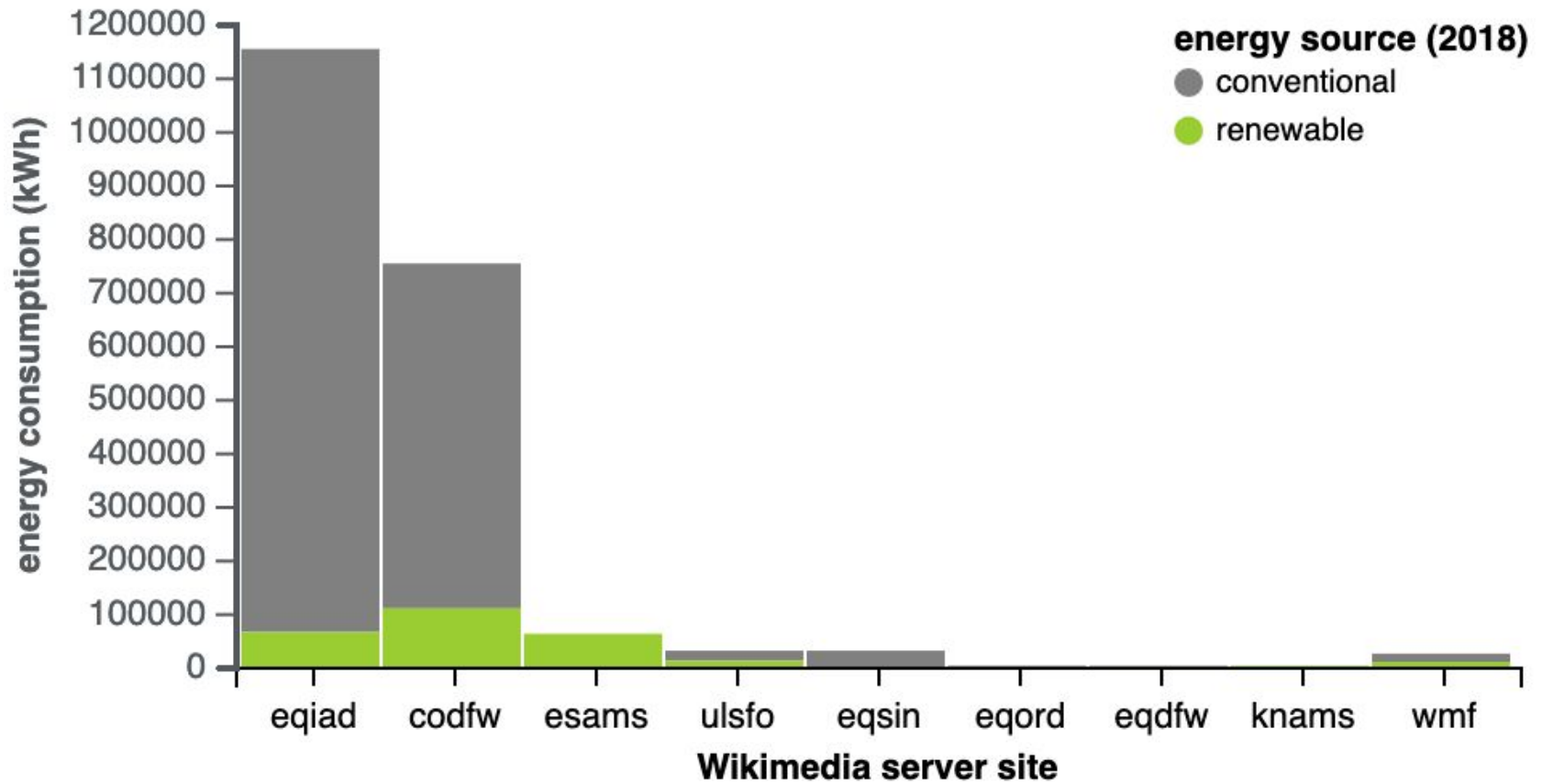
**Life on our planet is dying.  
We must act now.**



# And we are part of the problem.



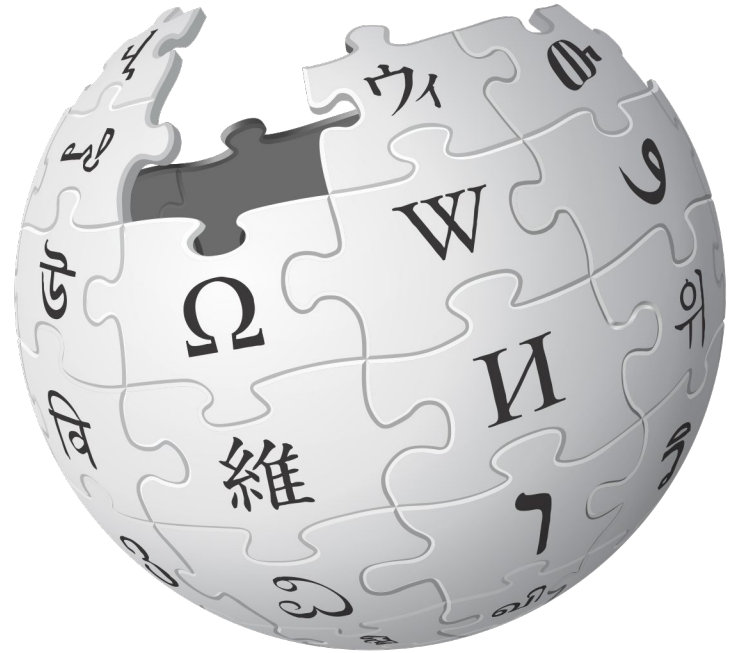
# Wikimedia data centre power sources



**But we are also  
part of the solution.**



**We have a  
powerful  
brand.**





**And we are a  
movement  
that can make  
great things happen.**



# The Community is covering the scientific reality of a climate crisis.

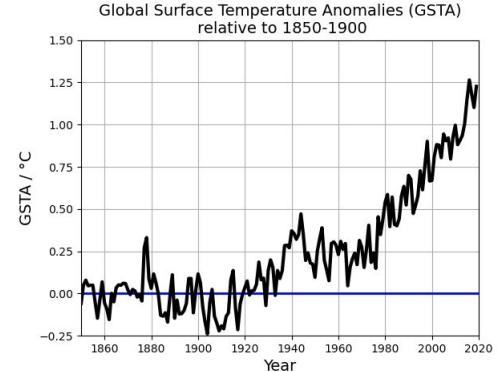


## تقرير التقييم السادس للجنة الدولية للتغيرات المناخية

من ويكيبيديا، الموسوعة الحرة

تقرير التقييم السادس (AR6) من الفريق الحكومي الدولي المعني بتغير المناخ (IPCC) التابع للأمم المتحدة، هو التقرير السادس في سلسلة من التقارير تهدف إلى تقييم المعلومات العلمية والتقنية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية المتعلقة بتغير المناخ. ساهم عالمًا في هذا التقرير النهائي.<sup>[1]</sup>

نشرت مجموعة العمل 1 *The Physical Science Basis of Climate Change* الأساس العلمي الفيزيائي لتغير المناخ) في 9 أغسطس 2021، والذي ذكر إنه إذا جرى تخفيض انبعاثات غازات الاحتباس الحراري إلى النصف بحلول عام 2030 لتصل إلى صافي الصفر بحلول عام 2050، فيمكن إيقاف ظاهرة الاحتباس الحراري.<sup>[2]</sup> اعتمد مؤلفو التقرير البالغ عددهم 234<sup>[3]</sup> على أكثر من 14000 ورقة علمية ثم وافقت عليها 195 حكومة.<sup>[4]</sup> صيغ الملخص الخاص بصانعي السياسات من قبل العلماء وجرت الموافقة عليه سطرًا بسطرًا من قبل الحكومات خلال الأيام الخمسة التي سبقت 6 أغسطس 2021.<sup>[3]</sup>



**So let's reduce  
the environmental impact  
of the Wikimedia Movement.**





*“[W]e will also align our practices to support the environmental sustainability of our planet.”*

Movement Strategy Recommendation #1.8, May 2020





Abbad (he/him)



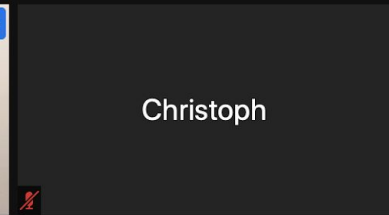
Mehrdad (he/him)



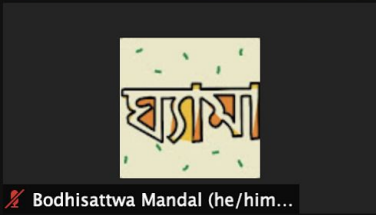
deb tankersley (she/her)



DrMel Ganus (z/zer)



Christoph



Bodhisattwa Mandal (he/him...)



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Alex Stinson



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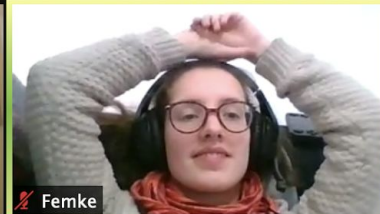
Ryan Merkley (he/him)



Ben Vershbow (he/him)



Phoebe Ayers



Femke



Lukas Mezger



Lydia Hamilton (she-her)



(silent) Butch Bustria (he/him)



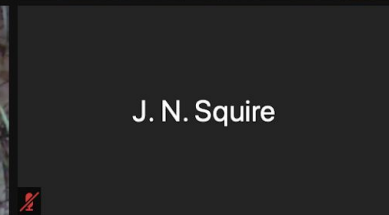
Agustín Peña



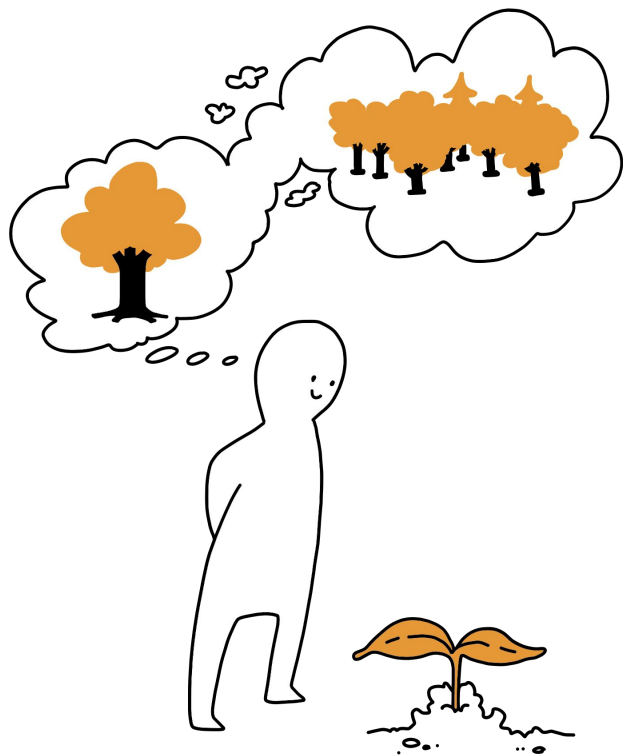
Marajozkee



Blech



J. N. Squire



- A **carbon-neutral Wikimedia movement** by 2030: moving to carbon-neutral data centers, providing infrastructure for virtual meetings
- Provide reliable and accessible **information about the climate crisis**: identify content gaps and create partnerships to close them

*Movement strategy implementation discussion, 7 February 2021*



# Introducing the Wikimedia Affiliates Environmental Sustainability Covenant



# Wikimedia Affiliates Environmental Sustainability Covenant

The undersigned Wikimedia affiliates,

- Recognising the urgency of the climate crisis caused by anthropogenic global warming,
- Affirming that the Wikimedia Movement shares the global responsibility to limit climate change through drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Seeking to align the Wikimedia Movement with the goals of the [2016 Paris Agreement](#),
- Recognising that, in the spirit of the principle of climate justice, the more privileged must help carry the burden otherwise disproportionately borne by those less privileged and those experiencing the harshest effects of climate change (Most Affected People and Areas),
- Implementing the movement strategy recommendation "[Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement](#)", specifically the prioritised initiative no. 8, which calls on the entire Wikimedia Movement to "align our practices to support the environmental sustainability of our planet",
- In the spirit of the movement strategy recommendation "Evaluate, Iterate, and Adapt",
- Following the example set by the board of trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation in its 2017 [resolution](#) to reduce its environmental impact,
- Recognising the broad community support for climate action evidenced by the [Wikimedia Sustainability Initiative](#),
- Considering that the carbon footprint of the Wikimedia Movement is [predominantly](#) caused by flights taken by WMF and affiliate staff, representatives, and community members,
- Considering the role of the Wikimedia Movement allowing it to set an example for the ecosystem of free knowledge and the greater non-profit sector,

Agree as follows:

1. Affiliates commit to reducing their carbon footprint through a variety of measures, including but not limited to:

- drastically limiting the number of kerosene-based flights taken by affiliate staff and representatives and community members, through measures such as
  - caps for flights taken on behalf of the affiliate,
  - increased technical and organisational support for remote events,
  - travel policies that discourage flights over other means of transport and that encourage the use of public transportation, and/or
  - travel policies that require compensation for the environmental cost of air travel,
- switching to renewable energy for their electricity consumption, where possible,
- divesting their financial investments from carbon-intensive industries,
- when engaging in carbon offset programmes, supporting only the planting of native trees in uninhabited areas and not using offsets as an 'excuse' for their carbon emissions,
- implementing other practices listed below.

Affiliates related to Most Affected People and Areas shall only have limited responsibilities in this regard, and shall receive support from other affiliates to meet them.

2. Affiliates call on other Wikimedia Movement entities, including and especially the Wikimedia Foundation, to follow their example, specifically concerning the sustainable operation of the Wikimedia Foundation's data centres.
3. Affiliates commit to supporting initiatives aimed at improving the coverage of the climate crisis on Wikimedia projects.
4. Affiliates commit to regularly (at least yearly) sharing their experiences adhering to this covenant to inspire each other and others inside and outside of the Wikimedia Movement.



The undersigned Wikimedia affiliates,

- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Affirming the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Seeking to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Implementing the movement strategy recommendation “[Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement](#)”, specifically the prioritised initiative no. 8, which calls on the entire Wikimedia Movement to “align our activities with the goal of reducing our carbon footprint”
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- Recognising the broad community support for climate action evidenced by the [Wikimedia Sustainability Initiative](#),
- Considering that the carbon footprint of the Wikimedia Movement is [predominantly](#) caused by flights taken by WMF and affiliate staff, representatives, and community members,
- Considering the role of the Wikimedia Movement allowing it to set an example for the ecosystem of free knowledge and the greater non-profit sector,

Agree as follows:

1. Affiliates commit to reducing their carbon footprint through a variety of measures, including but not limited to:

- drastically limiting the number of kerosene-based flights taken by affiliate staff and representatives and community members, through measures such as
  - caps for flights taken on behalf of the affiliate,
  - increased technical and organisational support for remote events,
  - travel policies that discourage flights over other means of transport and that encourage the use of public transportation, and/or
  - travel policies that require compensation for the environmental cost of air travel,
- switching to renewable energy for their electricity consumption, where possible,
- divesting their financial investments from carbon-intensive industries,
- when engaging in carbon offset programmes, supporting only the planting of native trees in uninhabited areas and not using offsets as an ‘excuse’ for their carbon emissions,
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2. Affiliates call on other Wikimedia Movement entities, including and especially the Wikimedia Foundation, to follow their example, specifically concerning the sustainable operation of the Wikimedia Foundation’s data centres.
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- Considerin
- Considering the role of the Wikimedia Movement allowing it to set an example for the ecosystem of free knowledge and the greater non-profit sector,

# Wikimedia Affiliates Environmental Sustainability Covenant

## Affiliates commit to:

# — reducing their carbon footprints

Agree as follows:

1. Affiliates commit to reducing their carbon footprint through a variety of measures, including but not limited to:

- drastically limiting the number of kerosene-based flights taken by affiliate staff and representatives and community members, through measures such as
  - caps for flights taken on behalf of the affiliate,
  - increased technical and organisational support for remote events,
  - travel policies that discourage flights over other means of transport and that encourage the use of public transportation, and/or
  - travel policies that require compensation for the environmental cost of air travel,
- switching to renewable energy for their electricity consumption, where possible,
- divesting their financial investments from carbon-intensive industries,
- when engaging in carbon offset programmes, supporting only the planting of native trees in uninhabited areas and not using offsets as an ‘excuse’ for their carbon emissions,
- implementing other practices listed below.

Affiliates related to Most Affected People and Areas shall only have limited responsibilities in this regard, and shall receive support from other affiliates to meet them.

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- Implementing the movement strategy recommendation “Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement”, specifically the prioritised initiative no. 8, which calls on the entire Wikimedia Movement to “align our activities with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals”.
- In the spirit of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals,
- Following the example set by the board of trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation in its 2017 resolution to reduce its environmental impact,
- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Considering the role of the Wikimedia Movement in the global climate crisis,
- Considering the role of the Wikimedia Movement in the global climate crisis,

# Wikimedia Affiliates Environmental Sustainability Covenant

## Affiliates commit to:

- reducing their carbon footprints
- improving sustainability topics on Wikimedia projects

Agree as follows:

1. Affiliate

- drastically limiting their carbon footprint, through measures such as
  - caps for flights
  - increased technical and organisational support for remote events,
  - travel policies that discourage flights over other means of transport and that encourage the use of public transportation, and/or
  - travel policies that require compensation for the environmental cost of air travel,
- switching to renewable energy for their electricity consumption, where possible,
- divesting their financial investments from carbon-intensive industries,
- when engaging in carbon offset programmes, supporting only the planting of native trees in uninhabited areas and not using offsets as an ‘excuse’ for their carbon emissions,
- implementing other practices listed below.

Affiliates related to Most Affected People and Areas shall only have limited responsibilities in this regard, and shall receive support from other affiliates to meet them.

2. Affiliates call on other Wikimedia Movement entities, including and especially the Wikimedia Foundation, to follow their example, specifically concerning the sustainable operation of the Wikimedia Foundation’s data centres.
3. Affiliates commit to supporting initiatives aimed at improving the coverage of the climate crisis on Wikimedia projects.
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## Affiliates commit to:

- Following the example set by the board of trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation in its 2017 resolution to reduce its environmental impact,

- Recognisin
- Considerin
- Considerin the role of the Wikimedia Movement allowing it to set an example for the ecosystem of free knowledge and the greater non-profit sector.

— reducing their carbon footprints

Agree as follow

— improving sustainability topics

1. Affiliate

- drastically limi
- caps for fil
- increased technical and organisational support for remote events

on Wikimedia projects

— supporting affiliates

- switching to re
- divesting their
- when engagin
- implementing other practices listed below.

from most heavily affected areas

Affiliates related to Most Affected People and Areas shall only have limited responsibilities in this regard, and shall receive support from other affiliates to meet them.

2. Affiliates call on other Wikimedia Movement entities, including and especially the Wikimedia Foundation, to follow their example, specifically concerning the sustainable operation of the Wikimedia Foundation’s data centres.
3. Affiliates commit to supporting initiatives aimed at improving the coverage of the climate crisis on Wikimedia projects.
4. Affiliates commit to regularly (at least yearly) sharing their experiences adhering to this covenant to inspire each other and others inside and outside of the Wikimedia Movement.

The undersigned Wikimedia affiliates,

- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Affirming the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Seeking to align our activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals,
- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Implementing the movement strategy recommendation "Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement", specifically the prioritised initiative no. 8, which calls on the entire Wikimedia Movement to "align our activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals",
- In the spirit of the Wikimedia Foundation's commitment to environmental sustainability,
- Following the example set by the board of trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation in its 2017 resolution to reduce its environmental impact,
- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Considering the role of the Wikimedia Movement in the global community,
- Considering the role of the Wikimedia Movement in the global community,

# Wikimedia Affiliates Environmental Sustainability Covenant

## Affiliates commit to:

- reducing their carbon footprints
- improving sustainability topics on Wikimedia projects
- supporting affiliates from most heavily affected areas

Agree as follows:

1. Affiliate

- drastically limiting the number of members, through measures such as
  - caps for file uploads
  - increased technical and organisational support for remote events
- switching to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass, public transportation, and/or other low-carbon energy sources
- divesting their investments from fossil fuel companies
- when engaging in travel, choosing low-carbon modes of transport, such as public transportation, and/or other low-carbon modes of transport
- implementing other practices listed below.

Affiliate

2. Affiliate



3. Affiliate

4. Affiliates commit to regularly (at least yearly) sharing their experiences adhering to this covenant to inspire each other and others inside and outside of the Wikimedia Movement.

The undersigned Wikimedia affiliates,

- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Affirming the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Seeking to reduce the carbon footprint of Wikimedia projects,
- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Implementing the movement strategy recommendation "Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement", specifically the prioritised initiative no. 8, which calls on the entire Wikimedia Movement to "align our activities with the Paris Agreement on climate change"
- In the spirit of the Paris Agreement on climate change,
- Following the example set by the board of trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation in its 2017 resolution to reduce its environmental impact,
- Recognising the need to take more drastic measures to reduce carbon emissions,
- Considering the role of the Wikimedia Movement allowing it to set an example for the ecosystem of free knowledge and the greater non-profit sector.

# Wikimedia Affiliates Environmental Sustainability Covenant

## Affiliates commit to:

- reducing their carbon footprints
- improving sustainability topics on Wikimedia projects
- supporting affiliates from most heavily affected regions

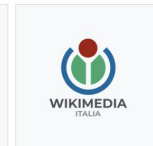
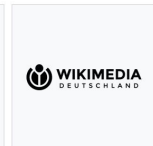
Agree as follows:

1. Affiliate

- drastically limit the carbon footprint of Wikimedia projects, through measures such as
  - caps for flights
  - increased technical and organisational support for remote events
- support the use of public transportation, and/or
- switching to renewable energy
- divesting their investments from fossil fuels
- when engaging with external organisations, to ensure they are aligned with the Paris Agreement on climate change
- implementing other practices listed below.

Affiliate

2. Affiliate



3. Affiliate

4. Affiliates commit to regularly (at least yearly) sharing their experiences adhering to this covenant to inspire each other and others inside and outside of the Wikimedia Movement.

ask your affiliate to join!

# Towards a more environmentally sustainable Wikimedia Movement

Lukas Mezger

Wikimedia CEE Online Meeting 2021

