Wikimedia Foundation

Environmental Sustainability Report 2022

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Agenda

- Sustainability at the Wikimedia Foundation
- Key Concepts
- Major Takeaways and Sources of Emissions
- Year over year Comparison
- Internal Carbon Fund **New!**
- Get Involved

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Sustainability at the Foundation

February 2017 - Board adopts Environmental Impact Resolution in response to community-led Sustainability Initiative

June 2019 - the Wikimedia Foundation publishes its first ever carbon footprint report on calendar year 2018

May 2020 - Movement Strategy recommendations prioritize environmental sustainability

June 2022 - The board updates its 2017 resolution, formally committing us to the publication of periodic environmental sustainability reports

July 2022 - Internal Carbon Fund established

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Key Concepts

Greenhouse Gas[1] - a gas that traps heats in the atmosphere (e.g., carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases)

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO2eq)[2] provides a common scale for measuring the climate effects of different gases

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol[3] provides a global, standardized framework for measuring and managing emissions. It classifies emissions into:

- **Scope 1:** Direct GHG emissions that occur from sources controlled or owned by a company.
- **Scope 2:** Indirect emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling.
- **Scope 3:** Indirect emissions resulting from activities from assets not owned or controlled by a company, but that it indirectly impacts through its operations or supply chain.

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What is 1 ton of CO2-eq?

- Average emissions of direct flight between NYC and London[1] ✈️
- ⅕ of the global average per capita emissions[2]
- 2,564 miles[3], or 4,126 kilometers, driven by an average American passenger vehicle 🚗
    - The distance between Madrid and Moscow

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Major Takeaways from 2022 Report

Our scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions totalled 2.9kt Co2-eq – less than 1% of other top ten website platforms like Google[1] and Meta[2]

We expanded our scope 3 emissions to include remote work impacts, which added another 0.5kt Co2-eq

Travel-related emissions were 25% below 2019 levels despite almost doubling our staff

Wikipedia is an important resource for climate education, recording 346M page views[3] across 31,000+ articles about climate change in 2022

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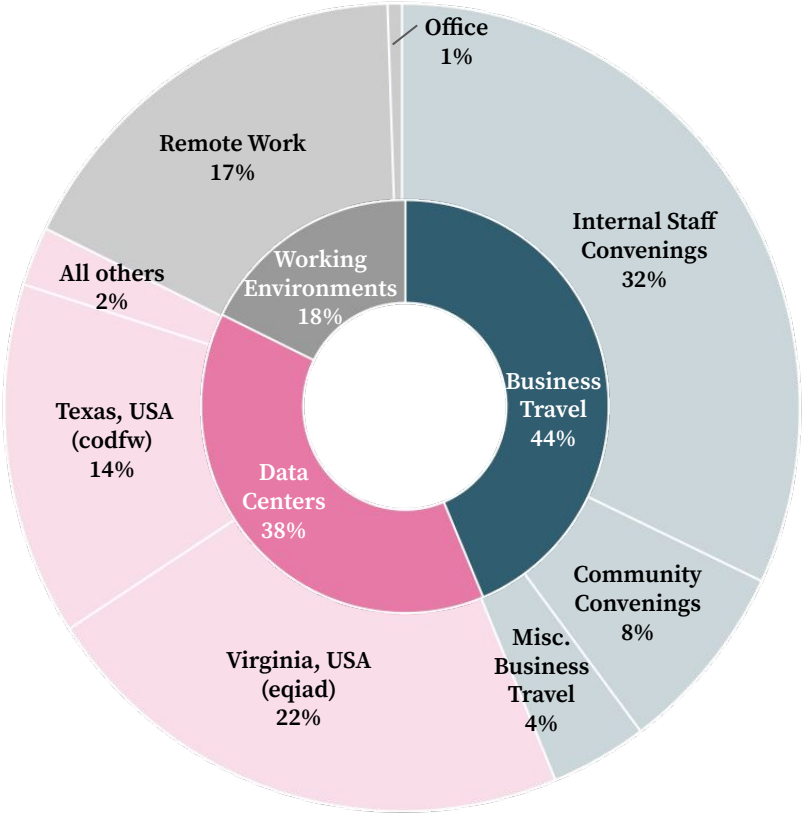
Sources of Emissions



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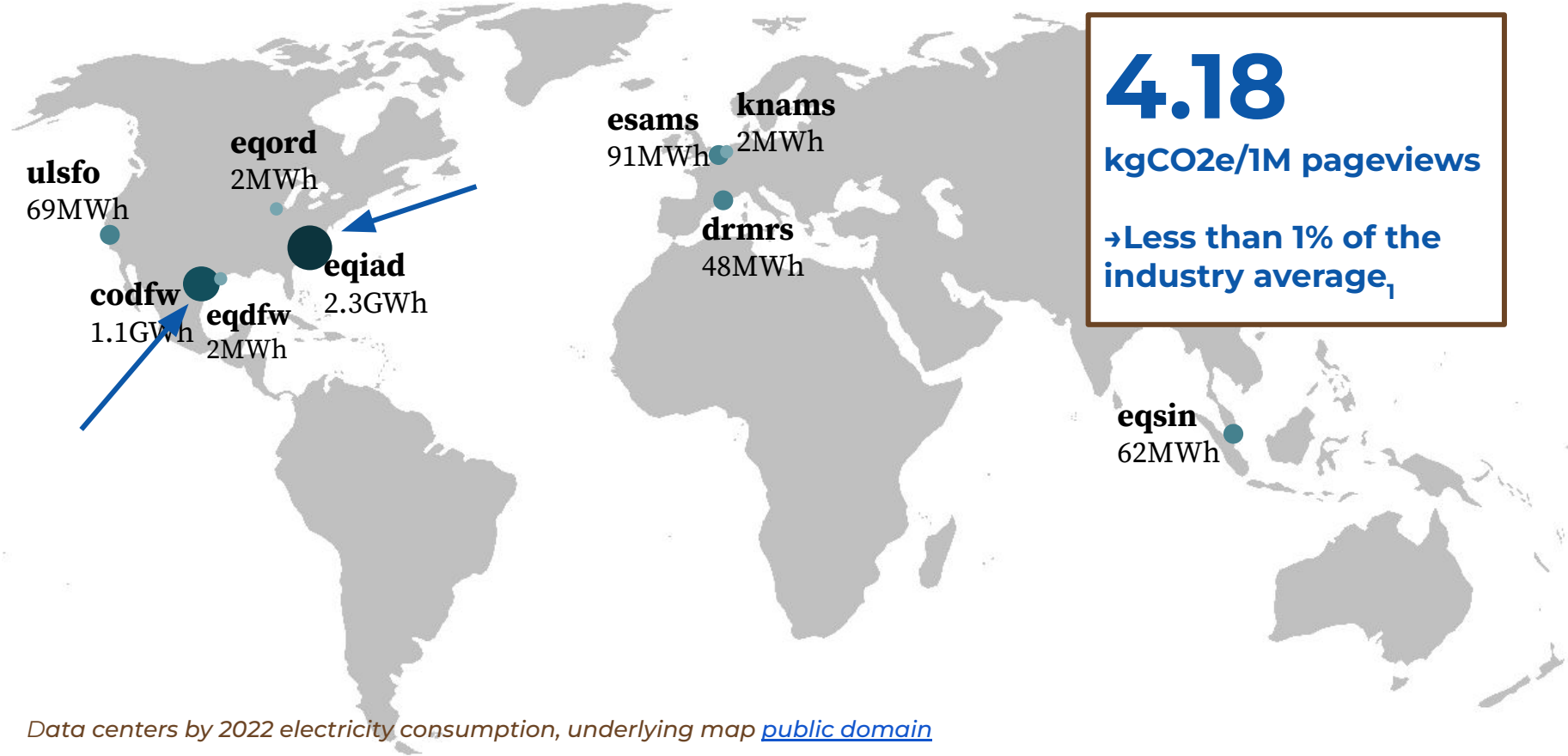
Data Centers



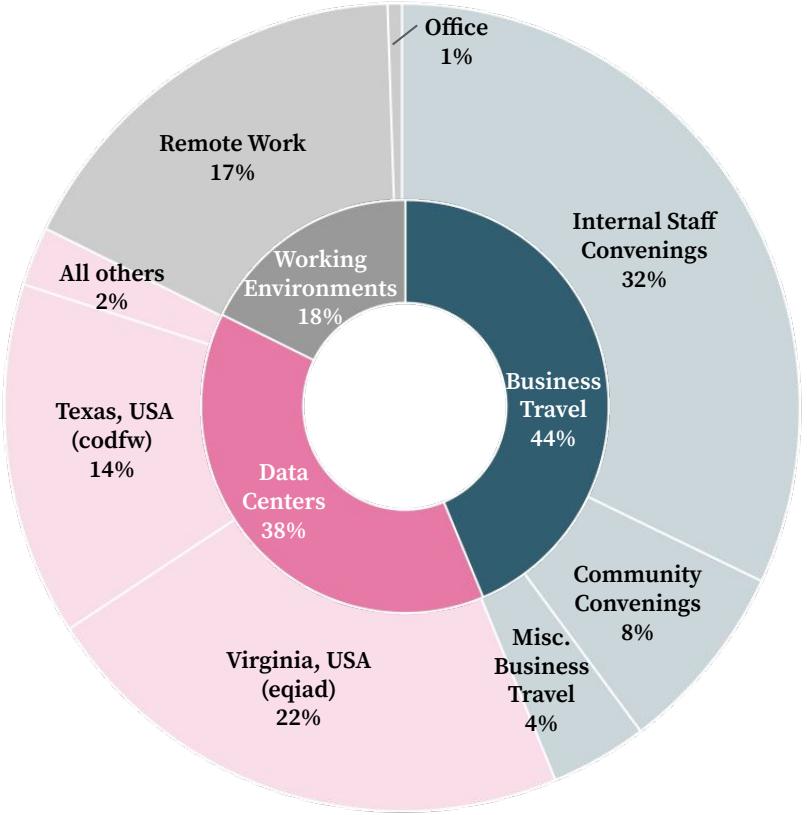
4.18

kgCO2e/1M pageviews

→Less than 1% of the industry average[1]

Data centers by 2022 electricity consumption, underlying map [public domain]

Sources of Emissions



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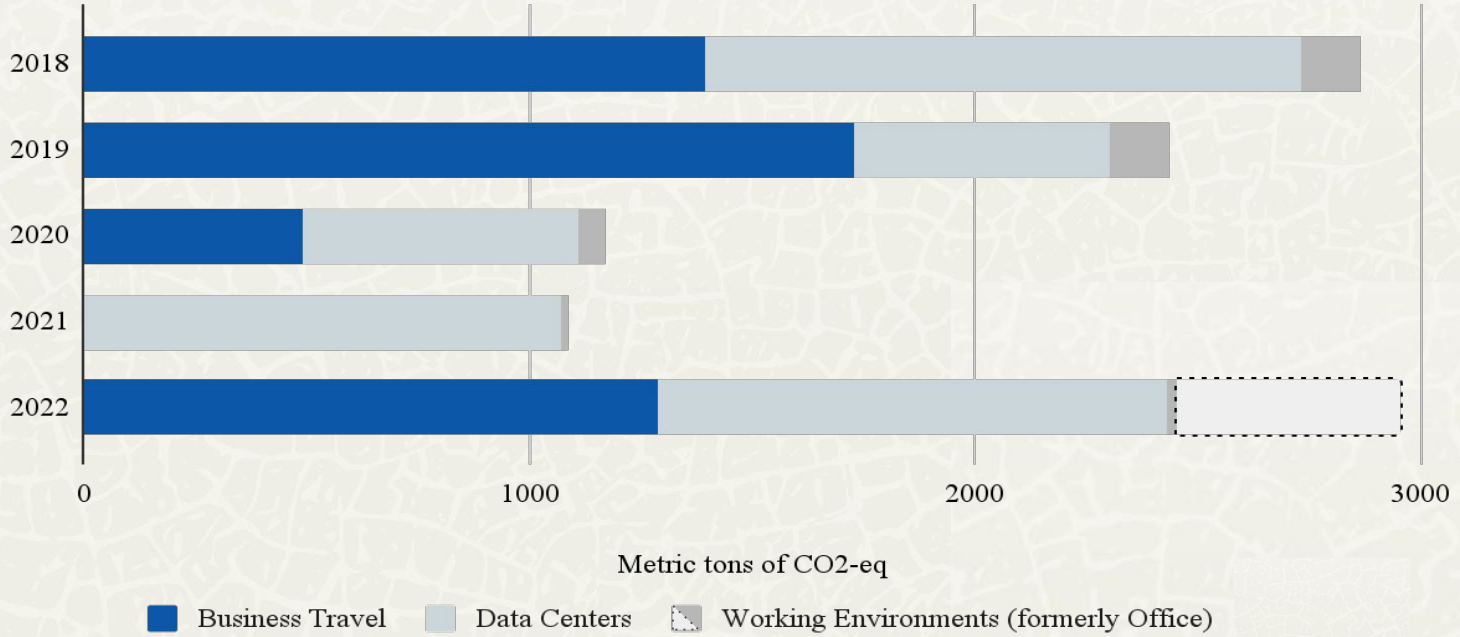
Year over Year Comparison



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Internal Carbon Fund

- **US$50/ton internal fee** on our scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions
- **Year 1** (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)
  - **US$113k** used to run a organizer lab pilot
  - 21 graduates, 6 projects funded
- **Year 2** (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)
  - **US$150k** available to support community-led sustainability campaigns

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Learn More

- 2022 Environmental Sustainability Report
  - Full Report on Wikimedia Commons
  - Summary on Diff
- https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Sustainability for links to our old reports
- **Get in touch**
  - Ask us a question on the talk page or email us at sustainability@wikimedia.org

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