Sustainability and the Free Knowledge Movement

Examining Wikimedia Foundation's environmental footprint and what is being done to improve it.

1. Energy Usage

Data Centers are our biggest consumers of energy.
- Two US-based data centers
- Two edge caching data centers (Netherlands, Singapore)

Current (Small) Mitigations
- Partially sourced with alternative energy
- Purchasing energy-efficient equipment
- Possible to offset with carbon credits

Solana Generating Station, Author: Jjaayyt
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Solana_Generating_Station_3.jpg

2. Travel & Events

Global Air Travel

The IPCC has estimated that aviation is responsible for around 3.5% of anthropogenic climate change, a figure which includes both CO2 and non-CO2 induced effects. The IPCC has produced scenarios estimating what this figure could be in 2050. The central case estimate is that aviation's contribution could grow to 5% of the total contribution by 2050 if action is not taken to tackle these emissions, though the highest scenario is 15%.

Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_of_aviation

Other Considerations

Water Usage & Conservation

Food Selection

Waste Management

3. Investments

"*Socially responsible investing (SRI), or social investment, also known as sustainable, socially conscious, "green" or ethical investing, is any investment strategy which seeks to consider both financial return and social/environmental good to bring about a positive change.*"

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socially_responsible_investing

The WMF Board recently approved a new Investment Policy

On May 8, 2018, the WMF Board approved the creation of a Long-Term Reserve Fund with a focus on investing in "companies that are focused on environmental stewardship and sustainability strategy while yielding a total return."

Among the primary objectives is the building of a "Sustainable Investing Portfolio," which will "focus on companies with a superior sustainability profile, particularly relating to environmental factors.

Source: https://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation_Investment_Policy

Author: Santeri Viinamäki
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Different_cash_banknotes_and_coins_20180208.jpg

The WMF Board Resolution

The Wikimedia Foundation is committed to seeking ways to reduce the impact of our activities on the environment. We aim to always act responsibly and sustainably as possible, including favoring renewable energy for our operations. We believe that a long-term commitment to sustainability is an essential component of our work towards the Wikimedia mission and vision. To this end, the Wikimedia Foundation makes the following commitments:

We will seek to minimize our overall impact on the environment;
We will consider sustainability as an important part of decisions around servers, operations, travel, offices, and other procurement;
We will use green energy where it is available and financially prudent; and
Starting in 2018, we will include an environmental impact statement in our annual plan.

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https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Sustainability_Initiative

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

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Let's make sustainability something we pursue as a movement!