



Our Commitment to Product Sustainability

Vision

Cisco's commitment to sustainability extends through all phases of our product's life cycle, from design and manufacturing to support and end of life. Our considerations focus on reducing resource consumption in our development process and reducing resource and related emissions consumption by our products.

In addition, we interact with regulatory and standards groups, such as [The Green Grid](#), [Energy Star](#), and [GridWise Alliance](#), to help increase product-level and system-level energy efficiency through public and private sector policies.

Cisco Products

Design, Support, and End of Life

Our green product design considerations include energy consumption, materials selection, packaging, upgradeability, and recyclability.

Because the vast majority of energy consumption is attributed to the data center and other high-end network equipment, we are committed to developing advanced, energy-efficient data center architectures at the systems level.

A simple but effective measure also involves the addition of automatic shutdown capabilities in many of our high-volume products, such as telephones, set-top boxes, and modems. Another focus area is on the power requirements created by the additional equipment needed to work alongside our products, such as power and cooling units for the Cisco Carrier Routing System.

Material selection can also affect the environment, so we incorporate materials and components that will reduce our overall carbon footprint. Likewise, we extend innovation to the packaging materials of our products, choosing those that help to reduce costs and minimize environmental impact.

We also work with customers to maximize the installed life of our products. This includes modular designs, backward and forward model compatibility, and standardized chassis dimensions. Given the longer life cycle of our products, they generally generate less waste over time compared with personal computers and electronics.

Finally, Cisco offers a number of trade-in, take-back, and upgrade programs that encourage our customers to responsibly manage the end of life of our products. We also conduct internal programs to help recover e-waste from our own use of our products.

Supply Chain

With nearly 200 product families, Cisco has one of the most complex and diverse global supply chains in the industry. Our Green Supply Chain (GSC) initiative ensures that all of our products are sourced, built, and sold in the most environmentally responsible manner. GSC focuses on supply chain practices that increase energy efficiency while decreasing energy costs, reducing product waste, and decreasing or altogether eliminating the use of hazardous or restricted materials.



Our recent program accomplishments have included the successful compliance with the European and China Restriction of Hazardous Substances (EU RoHS and China RoHS) directives and the Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) program.

In addition to the internal cross-functional efforts associated with GSC, Cisco is an active member of a number of industry organizations that seek to drive standards and codes around supplier requirements and ethics. We have our own Supplier Code of Conduct that reflects common industry concerns and specifications, along with additional requirements that are unique to our business.

Energy Efficiency Leadership

Along with integrating energy-efficient functionality into our products, Cisco is active in driving energy-efficient standards globally. We continue to partner with industry organizations, regulatory groups, academia, and governments to research and develop energy standards.

Standards and Compliance

The regulatory environment continues to evolve, with sustainability now a global imperative. Our Regulatory Affairs and Government Affairs teams monitor policy and compliance directives that impact areas such as materials selection, product development, energy consumption, packaging, and end of life.

Driven by our Corporate Compliance team, we are committed to implementing all applicable regulatory compliance, often exceeding mandated standards to ensure that current and future customer and partner needs are met.

In addition to our successful compliance with the RoHS and ODS programs, we are making significant progress with regulations impacting battery recycling and take-back.

For More Information

To learn more about Cisco's green initiatives, go to <http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ac227/ac333/the-environment/index.html>