

## Environmental Policy for GÉANT

### GÉANT's Environmental Sustainability Policy

#### *Motivation*

ICT is one of the fastest growing sectors in terms of energy consumption. The increasing pervasiveness of ICT and the continuously growing demand for more computing and bandwidth creates a significant footprint within organizations and as whole. Optimizing energy and material efficiency of ICT services is imperative to ensure both economical and environmental sustainability.

The need for the smart use of ICT for sustainability is naturally relevant to GÉANT, which refers to the organization in this document; this objective has been recognized since GN3 and subsequent GÉANT projects, in which activities related to Green ICT have been carried out.

GÉANT is co-located in Cambridge, U.K., and Amsterdam in the Netherlands. It has a special position due to its role as network provider to the European research and education community, its intimate relationship with higher education and research and its advocacy of leading-edge technology and applications. In this sense, we have a duty both to adopt environmental best practices, and to promote appropriate networking technology as an alternative to practices which act as large pollution and emission sources.

Therefore, we will integrate environmental best practices into our business activities while maintaining an appropriate balance between environmental and economic considerations, working with everyone involved to minimise waste and the organisations' carbon footprint.

#### *Statements*

GÉANT will:

- **Apply** responsible standards in areas not already covered by existing laws and regulations;
- **Report** on the environmental footprint and be transparent about how it is built up;
- **Consider** environmental issues in all our business activities, including procurement decisions for goods and services, and in the management of equipment during the normal course of business, and will seek to minimise energy use;
- **Develop** and promote the use of services that naturally reduce GHG emissions of their users through substitution and optimization effects of ICT as an environmentally positive alternative;
- **Observe** pragmatism and cautiousness in our use of resources and reduce wastage as much as possible;
- **Promote** the use of appropriate ICT services as an environmentally positive alternative and work with project participants to collaborate on innovations in such services, and work collectively towards sustainable operations and development;
- **Encourage** and support employees to adopt green practices by positively influencing simple ideas to save energy, such as, making conscious travel plans;
- **Save** energy through the monitoring of energy use and by identifying sources of energy waste (by ensuring equipment is switched off when not in use, for instance);
- **Re-use and recycle** where possible, and dispose of what is left, including e-waste, in a responsible way;
- **Share** experiences and work with the NREN community to improve standards to foster wider improvements and communicate with the Research and Education community on environmental matters;
- **Push** vendors and other suppliers to improve their environmental standards through procurement and service level agreements;