Environmental policy

Facts and figures / February 2024

In summary

At Orange, our commitment to the planet is at the forefront of our Lead the Future: we have made the commitment to be Net Zero Carbon for our digital sector activities by 2040, which is ten years earlier than the target set by the GSMA. The first step is to reduce our CO2eq emissions for scopes 1 and 2 (direct and indirect emissions) by 30% by 2025, compared to our levels in 2015 and by 14% compared with 2018 for scope 3 (other emissions).

Orange is making the additional commitment to reduce by 45% its CO2eq emissions across scopes 1, 2 and 3 by 2030 (from a 2020 base).

The group's commitment to address the world's challenges is reflected in its purpose:

"As a trusted partner, Orange gives everyone the keys to a responsible digital world".

Key figures

+50% The share of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) coming from the digital sector has increased by half since 2013, rising from 2.5% to 3.7% of total global emissions.

(Source : The Shift Project (2018)

330 The data centres and data transmission networks that underpin digitalisation accounted for around 330 Mt CO2eq in 2020 (including embodied emissions).

(Source : IEA (International Energy Agency)

Digital is part of the environmental problem, but it is also a big part of the solution:

Digital technology Therefore provides many opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint and can also help change consumption patterns. It enables us to reduce the need for travelling (one of the 3 main factors of CO2eq emissions) and optimise processes. We are transitioning towards a functional economy.

Find out more

How to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040?

1. Reduce our CO2eq emissions

To achieve this goal – despite a rise in network footprint and usage (estimated 10-fold traffic growth between 2018 and 2025) – we will:

Improve the energy efficiency of our networks and IT equipment (i.e., 85% of the Group's energy consumption and 80% of the Group's direct and indirect CO2eq emissions, scope 1&2):

- Implementation of our Green ITN program, which helps optimize technical deployments and energy efficiency equipment (free cooling, server virtualization, use of data and AI etc.). Green ITN helped save at least 4.2 million metric tons of CO2eq between 2015 and 2023, representing 5.3 TWh of electricity saved and 430 million liters of fuel. On the mobile network, the amount of data carried increased 7-fold between 2014 and 2018, and energy performance improved by 80%.
- Creation of eco-efficient data centers across Europe: the first was commissioned in Val de Reuil in 2012 and 2 others have been since opened in France and are operational. The new data centers consume 30% less than the older generation for an equivalent capacity, thanks to a new natural ventilation technology that consumes 80% less energy.
- Decommissioning old network equipment (such as copper) and older generations of mobile network (2G, 3G) to replace with more energy efficient architecture. New architectures reduce energy consumption up to 2,5 times for the same amount of traffic.

Improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and transports:

- Commercial buildings account for 9.5% of the Group's energy consumption and 12% of its CO2eq emissions (in 2023). Energy consumption and CO2eq emissions from buildings decreased by 17% and 17% respectively compared to 2022.
- The use of business vehicles accounts for 6% of the Group's energy consumption and 8% of its CO2eq emissions, representing an increase of 0.6% and 0.3% respectively compared to 2022.

Use renewable energies:

- In 2023, the Group covered 46.6% of its electricity needs with electricity from renewable sources, compared with 37.4% in 2022. It is important to note that in 2023, Orange's renewable energy sources (e.g. PPA and solar farms) covered 29% of its electricity needs, compared to 18.8% in 2022.

Result: In 2023, Orange reduced its CO2eq emissions from scopes 1 & 2 by 37.4% compared to 2015 (SBTi).

Reduce our "scope 3[2]":

- By developing the circular economy:

  - An increase of 3.7% in CO2eq emissions in scope 3 in 2022 (vs 2018).

  - By 2025, 100% of our products sold under the Orange brand must be included in an eco-design initiative.

  - Launch of the RE program in France on 8th October 2020 to speed up the recycling, recovery and refurbishment of mobile phones. In October 2021, Orange extended this initiative to include repairs. In 2022, the RE program was launched across all European countries where the Group operates (except Spain).

  - Creation of the OSCAR (Orange Sustainable and Circular Ambition for Recertification) program to significantly increase the use of refurbished IT and network equipment by 2025 while maintaining the same quality of service.

  - Orange Business launched its Circular Mobility offer in France to reduce the carbon footprint of mobile fleets by 26% to 40%. The offer integrates equipment, connectivity, financing, and the recycling of the old mobile fleet. In order to strengthen the credibility of its value proposition towards its customers, Orange Business has chosen to base its carbon footprint calculation method and data validated by the AFNOR Certification, the French leader in third-party certification auditing.

- Encouraging our suppliers to reduce their emissions through virtuous programs aimed at reducing their environmental footprint.

- CSR already accounts for 20% of the overall score awarded to bidders in all our IT and network calls for tender.

2. Work on our residual emissions

Reducing our CO2eq emissions by 90% via the drivers mentioned above will not enable us to completely reach net zero emissions. We will still emit residual CO2eq that must be sequestered.

Therefore, at the end of 2021, Orange launched its own carbon fund, Orange Nature:

- A €50 million investment that will remunerate Orange in the form of carbon credits and nothing else (no financial return)

- Will meet most carbon sequestration needs by 2040

- As the sole investor in Orange Nature, Orange will be able to choose to invest only in natural capital projects, which will deliver high-quality carbon credits. Orange will take special care to select projects that are, over and above the question of carbon, deemed to be positive for biodiversity and society.

In addition, in November 2022, Orange and Sia Partners agreed to support Planète Urgence in:

- Restoring close to 1,000 ha of mangroves in Cameroon (2.6K tons CO2eq/year)

- Support a Pongamia plantation project in Madagascar (74k tons CO2eq/year).
  The first carbon credits are expected around 2025-2026.

1 Scope 1 "direct emissions" from the energy consumed: fuel for buildings and vehicle fleets. Scope 2 "indirect emissions" from purchasing energy, such as energy consumed by the network and buildings.

2 Scope 3 is all the emissions generated upstream by our suppliers and downstream by our customers (e.g., purchasing raw materials, services or other products, especially smartphones, employee travel, transporting goods, waste management, use and end of life of the products and services sold, etc.)