SURF 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 a whole. Optimizing energy and material efficiency of ICT services is imperative to ensure both economical and environmental sustainability.

SURF is aware of the impact of greenhouse gases (GHG) on our climate and on prospects for society now and in the future. We accept that people and organisations at all levels have obligations to control GHG emissions and to act responsibly in our lives and our businesses.

Furthermore, SURF has a special position due to its national standing, 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 and computing technology as an alternative to practices, which act as large pollution and emission sources.

We see ICT as an important factor to reduce the total energy consumption and GHG emissions of ourselves as well as the higher education and research institutions. This can be achieved by not only reducing the significant impact of ICT itself, but also by using ICT as a beneficial factor to reduce the impacts of other processes (education, research, business operations).

Therefore, we will integrate environmental best practices into our business activities while maintaining an appropriate balance between environmental, social and economic considerations.

In addition, we will help and support the higher education community in their transition to a low-carbon operation through our services and through sharing our knowledge and expertise.

SURF will:

- Report on our environmental footprint and be transparent about how it is built up;
- Apply responsible standards in areas not already covered by existing laws and regulations;
- Support staff in the use of sustainable practices at the office, during travel or at home;
- Consider environmental issues in all our business activities, including procurement decisions for goods and services;
- Stimulate HE institutions to share best practices on environmental sustainability within the community;
- Participate in research activities to discover new innovations in Green ICT.