**Microsoft Commitment to Environmental Sustainability**

**Fact Sheet**

**October 2008**

Microsoft Corp. is committed to environmental sustainability and continuously works to explore and implement new ways to preserve and improve the environment. Environmental efforts at Microsoft are focused in two key areas:

* Applying Microsoft technology expertise to help solve environmental challenges
* Reducing the company's environmental footprint

**Applying Microsoft Expertise to Environmental Challenges**

* **Creating technology solutions.** Microsoft believes that technology can significantly contribute to promoting environmental sustainability. The company works with customers, partners, governmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to build solutions that enable consumers, businesses, and governments to reduce their environmental footprints.
* The Microsoft operating system Windows Vista® is the company's most energy-efficient operating system to date. It features significant changes to power management infrastructure, functionality, and default settings that can reduce computer energy consumption. More information is available at <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/features/2007/mar07/03-21vistapowermgmt.mspx>.
* Together with a consortium of partners, Microsoft and the Clinton Foundation's Climate Initiative are developing a Web solution that enables cities to clearly understand their environmental footprint and to make more informed choices about how to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. The Web-based software tools will be provided to cities free of charge and should be available in the second half of 2008.
* In 2007 Microsoft, Google, Intel, the World Wildlife Fund, and other industry leaders announced the Climate Savers Computing Initiative, a commitment to purchase and produce computing products that meet specified power-efficiency targets. The initiative will also educate consumers and IT personnel about managing a computer's power usage and how to reduce the electrical footprint of computers.
* Microsoft is a leader in the development of collaboration solutions, such as Microsoft® Office Live Meeting, SharePoint®, and Microsoft Office Groove® 2007. These technologies enable virtual meetings, thereby reducing the need for the physical transfer of documents and business travel.
* Using the familiar interface of Microsoft Office, Microsoft Dynamics™ is developing an environmental dashboard that will enable companies to manage data about greenhouse gases, as well as other sustainability-related data. The dashboard will work with other Microsoft Dynamics business management solutions. Read more at <http://www.microsoft.com/dynamics/environment.mspx>.
* **Addressing e-waste.** Microsoft is committed to enhancing the reusability of personal computers and other devices so that they are kept in use and out of the waste stream as long as possible—and so that they can be recycled properly when they reach the end of their useful life. Through the Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR) programs and by supporting other programs such as Digital Pipeline (DP), Microsoft helps extend the life of older retired computers by providing low-cost licenses for Microsoft software.
	+ Information on how to contact a MAR refurbisher can be found at [www.microsoft.com/communitymar](http://www.microsoft.com/communitymar) or [www.microsoft.com/oem/mar](http://www.microsoft.com/oem/mar).
	+ Tips for donating computer hardware can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/Education/TenTips.mspx>.
	+ The MAR program in the United States has supported more than 900 [refurbishers](http://www.microsoft.com/mar) and supplies over 200,000 licenses each year. In addition, Microsoft now operates the Community MAR program all over the world to help educational and charitable organizations access technology.
	+ When the life of consumer electronics and their components cannot be extended, Microsoft supports the mandatory collection and recycling of consumer electronics funded by individual producers and recognizes that this will foster the creation of more sustainable products and waste reduction. Microsoft belongs to Electronic Recycling Programs where they are available and feasible for its products, and the company participates in voluntary recycling events throughout the world.
	+ In 2007, Microsoft funded the collection and recycling of over 2.46 million kgs of consumer electrical and electronic goods.  This represents approximately 17 percent of our year worldwide sales volume assuming a seven year end of life.
* **Vendor requirements.** As a global company manufacturing all over the world, Microsoft requires that all vendors abide by the applicable environmental laws and follow environmental practices that reflect the spirit of those laws.

**Reducing the Company's Environmental Footprint**

Microsoft is focused on reducing the impact of its business operations on the environment. It is a leader in several areas, particularly at its headquarters in Redmond, Wash. In the Puget Sound region, Microsoft has been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its employee commuting programs, which provide environmentally sound options for more than 45,000 employees and onsite consultants who work in the region.

* **Responsible building design and global operations.** Microsoft invests in new technology to ensure that its buildings are efficient and take advantage of alternative energy opportunities. Through participation in the US Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program, Microsoft-owned newer buildings in the United States use 10 to 15 percent less energy than older buildings do. All new construction is being built to the Silver LEED standards.
	+ - * In 2007, renewable energy supplied 24.4% of Microsoft’s total electricity load associated with its owned facilities and data centers. We are currently investigating opportunities to significantly boost this percentage.
			* The Microsoft Data Center Services team closely monitors and manages current power consumption and the design of future data centers to maximize efficiencies. The company's data center in Quincy, Wash., is an example of how Microsoft is building for the future: Using clean, renewable hydropower from the Columbia River Basin as its primary energy source, the Quincy data center is designed to have a minimal or nonexistent carbon footprint. Microsoft has also broken ground on its San Antonio data center, which is scheduled for completion in July 2008. This data center will leverage the city's environmental recycled water program and wind power opportunities as its primary energy sources. Microsoft is also working closely with energy companies to research new power generation, transmission, and distribution technologies that will drive even greater efficiencies at the data centers.
			* In April 2006, Microsoft dedicated a system of over 2,000 solar panels that cover more than 30,000 square feet of rooftop area at its campus in Mountain View, Calif. This system generates 480 kilowatts of power at peak capacity, enough energy to supply 12 percent of the campus's peak energy needs.
			* Microsoft UK purchases 100 percent renewable electricity at the main office in Thames Valley Park and plans to extend this renewable resource to all other offices in the United Kingdom when development is complete.
			* At the new Microsoft campus in Hyderabad, India, double-glazed windows and sunshades reduce reliance on air conditioning (AC), lights turn off automatically if offices are unoccupied for more than 10 minutes, and a reservoir recycles 36,000 cubic meters of rainwater to irrigate the 48-acre campus and to run energy-efficient, water-cooled AC units.
* **Recycling and conservation.** Microsoft has an extensive recycling and conservation program at its corporate headquarters in Redmond, Wash., that reduces waste and conserves resources. Examples on the Redmond campus include the following:
	+ **Water.** An advanced irrigation system saves about 11 million gallons annually.
	+ **Paper.** Paper is required to contain 35 percent recycled content. Copiers default to double-sided copies, so less paper is used.
	+ **Waste.** An average of 141 tons of material is recycled each month, including glass, plastic, aluminum, cardboard, paper, organic waste, wood pallets, and copper wire. Microsoft also recycles at least 50 percent of construction waste. In addition, the Redmond-based cafeteria kitchens direct more than 1,000 gallons of used fryer oil to a Seattle area bio-diesel refinery each month.
* **Employee transit.** At many of its campuses, Microsoft offers public transportation passes to its employees and onsite consultants. Microsoft also assists with ride sharing and reductions in bicycle maintenance costs. Examples include the following:
	+ In the Redmond area, Microsoft has increased the commuter group to 30 percent of all employees. In addition to offering public transportation and ride-sharing benefits, the company offers lockers and showers for bikers and walkers, flexible work schedules, and a guaranteed ride-home program.
	+ The Connector, a free Microsoft bus service available to full-time employees, transports employees from five residential neighborhoods to the Redmond campus. Providing a convenient option for commuting to work, the Connector will eliminate approximately 800 vehicle trips and 32,200 miles of travel each day, resulting in the a reduction of approximately 3,800 tons of carbon emissions annually.
	+ Microsoft has a fleet of 41 hybrid vehicles that are used for shuttle service on the Redmond campus.
* **Manufacturing environmentally compliant products and packaging**
	+ **Elimination of PVC from packaging.** In 2005, Microsoft removed polyvinyl chloride (PVC) from product packaging and reduced the use of plastic clamshells by 70 percent. Based on historical product shipments, over a two-year period these measures will reduce PVC packaging by more than 1.6 million pounds.
	+ **Commitment to sustainable consumer electronics.** Microsoft software and hardware products are designed to comply with and exceed worldwide environmental regulations. Microsoft does not use heavy metals such as lead and cadmium in packaging or plastics for any of its products, and it restricts the use of toxic substances in its hardware products. Microsoft is committed to eliminating PVC and brominated fire retardants from all of its hardware products by or before 2010. Microsoft offers electronic products that are both Phthalate and/or BFR free with the exception of the printed circuit board. The most recent example is the Xbox 360 Wireless Microphone product that will be provided with the game “Lips.” That product is BFR, PVC and Phthalate-free. The only exception is BFR in the printed circuit board.
	+ **Improving product packaging.** Microsoft is researching ways to improve product packaging further by using environmentally friendly ingredients and decreasing the amount of disposable packaging. Through participation in the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, a cross-industry group of more than 100 global companies, Microsoft created packaging made out of recycled plastic beverage containers for the Microsoft Streets and Trips GPS case.
	+ **Energy Efficient Hardware:** Microsoft is collaborating with the Natural Resources Defense Council to help make the Xbox 360 more energy-efficient, which means less power consumption with no impact on the console’s performance.  We have lowered the Xbox 360’s energy use by 34% from product launch in 2005 through 2008, and have committed to reduce its energy consumption by an additional 10% by 2010.

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**For more information, press only:**

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