

# UN SDG impact

2020 began the Decade of Action to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). As a leading communications technology company, we believe that our technology is an essential tool for achieving all 17 UN SDGs and it is incumbent on us to use our scale and innovation to accelerate progress. As we look for opportunities to integrate the UN SDGs into our corporate strategies and investments, we are focusing on specific goals and targets that align with our corporate purpose to create the networks that move the world forward.

## Our approach

We are diligently working to integrate sustainability and responsible business practices across our business — from how we conduct business to how we build our networks, develop our products and serve our customers. Our CEO, with support from our Board of Directors, has pledged to operate responsibly in alignment with the principles of the UN Global Compact and to collaborate with its members to bring about positive change. The Verizon Responsible Business Council (RBC), chaired by our CEO and composed of members of our senior leadership team, oversees these efforts.

In 2020, we launched Citizen Verizon, a company-wide responsible business plan that expands our long-standing dedication to corporate social responsibility. With Citizen Verizon we are leveraging our technology, innovation and people to make the world a better place, focusing on three key areas where we believe we can have the greatest impact: Digital Inclusion, Climate Protection and Human Prosperity. To hold ourselves accountable to making a difference in these key areas, we have set ambitious goals against which we measure and report our progress. We expect that our investment in Citizen Verizon initiatives will exceed \$3 billion by the end of 2025, as we work to help close the digital divide, uplift vulnerable communities, and contribute to the achievement of the UN SDGs.

We believe that businesses can play a critical role in supporting the achievement of the UN SDGs by leveraging corporate investments as catalysts for sustainable growth and social impact. Our Chief Financial Officer is a member of the Leadership Group of the [UN Global Compact's CFO Taskforce for the SDGs](#), a multi-stakeholder group of corporate finance leaders working to mobilize companies to align their financial strategies with sustainable development. Verizon is one of the largest corporate green bond issuers in the U.S., having issued four \$1 billion green bonds to date. Our [Green Financing Framework](#) articulates how our sustainable finance strategy aligns with the UN SDGs and supports our progress on our environmental initiatives. This year we furthered DEI in the capital markets and pledged for our green bond transactions to only engage underwriters which have established clear and impactful commitments in support of the UN SDGs, are a diverse-owned firm or have a core mission of promoting DEI.

The following chart provides more information on our efforts to drive progress to achieve the UN SDGs.

## Our UN SDG-aligned goals and progress

UN SDG targets	Verizon goals	Progress
 <p><b>4.4:</b> By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2030, provide 10 million youths with digital skills training.</li> <li>By 2030, prepare 500,000 individuals for jobs of the future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 1.3 million youths reached since 2012.</li> <li>Over 6,100 individuals reached since 2019.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>7.2:</b> By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.</p> <p><b>7.3:</b> By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2025, source or generate renewable energy equivalent to 50% of our total annual electricity consumption.</li> <li>Achieve net zero emissions in our operations (scope 1 and 2) by 2035.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~2.6 GW of anticipated renewable energy capacity under contract.</li> <li>6.3% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions in 2020 over a 2019 baseline.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>8.3:</b> Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.</p> <p><b>8.4:</b> Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.</p> <p><b>8.5:</b> By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2030, provide 1 million small businesses with resources to help them thrive in the digital economy.</li> <li>By 2030, enable the avoidance of 20 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually with Verizon solutions.</li> <li>Annually, have 100% pay equity in salary for women and men globally, as well as with respect to race and ethnicity in the U.S.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 40,000 small businesses reached since 2021.</li> <li>Over 16 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e avoided in 2021.</li> <li>In 2021, across all of Verizon, we had 100% pay equity in salary for women and men. In the U.S., we also had 100% pay equity in salary with respect to race and ethnicity.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>13.3:</b> Integrate climate change into national policies, strategies and planning.</p> <p><b>13.3:</b> Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2030, reduce Verizon's absolute scope 1 and 2 emissions 53% over a 2019 baseline.</li> <li>By 2035, reduce Verizon's absolute scope 3 emissions 40% over a 2019 baseline.</li> <li>By the end of 2026, enroll 50% of Verizon's workforce as Green Team members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.3% reduction in 2020.</li> <li>7.7% reduction in 2020.</li> <li>43% of employees are Green Team members.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>15.1:</b> By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of 2030, sponsor the planting of 20 million trees globally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 9.5 million trees planted.</li> </ul>
 <p>We are aiming to promote inclusive societies where the rights of all people are respected and where rule of law is observed, through our corporate actions, policy development, donations and employee volunteering. We have taken steps to identify and manage our human rights impacts; established comprehensive policies, processes and systems to address corruption and bribery; and through our advocacy, volunteering and financial donations supported issues including criminal justice reform and efforts to fight online child exploitation.</p>		