

Water Stewardship

Critical resource monitoring and conservation approach

Introduction

At Akamai, we recognize that water is a critical resource for the environment and the communities in which we operate and a fundamental component of our Environmental Management System (EMS). As a global cloud services provider, Akamai acknowledges the importance of water stewardship and is committed to implementing sustainable water management practices. This policy outlines Akamai's approach to water usage, conservation, and community impact, ensuring our operations contribute both locally and to the global environment and society.

Scope of Influence

Our team of engineers is constantly pushing the boundaries to improve the performance of Akamai Connected Cloud while minimizing our environmental footprint through process, software, and hardware enhancements. Despite Akamai not having operational control of facilities across a predominant share of our network and office footprint today, we are committed to working with and encouraging our suppliers to evaluate their water-related risks, prioritize a well-defined approach to water stewardship, and implement effective water efficiency and conservation efforts.

Importance of Water

Water is an indispensable resource that is fundamental to supporting life, sustaining ecosystems, and fostering the sustainable development of communities. It plays a critical role in providing drinking water and sanitation, supporting agricultural activities, facilitating industrial processes, and enabling recreational pursuits. Responsible and effective water management is vital for preventing water scarcity, preserving ecological equilibrium, and safeguarding the well-being of present and future generations.

Akamai's Water Stewardship Commitment

Where Akamai has operational control, we are committed to acting as a responsible water steward by practicing:

1. **Water Use Reduction:** Implement efficient water use methods across all operations to minimize consumption and reduce waste.

2. **Water Recycling and Reuse:** Incorporate technologies and processes that enable water recycling and reuse to reduce dependency on freshwater sources.
3. **Pollution Prevention:** Take measures so that all releases into water bodies adhere to or surpass regulatory standards to prevent pollution and safeguard water quality.
4. **Community Engagement:** Engage with relevant stakeholders to tackle water-related challenges and advance sustainable water management projects where possible.
5. **Transparency and Reporting:** Regularly report on water usage, conservation efforts, and the impact of our operations to maintain transparency and accountability.

Site Location and Placement Strategy

To minimize the impact on local communities and ecosystems, for sites under Akamai's operational control, our site selection process incorporates:

1. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** Conduct comprehensive EIAs to evaluate the potential effects of our operations on local water resources and ecosystems.
2. **Community Consultation:** Engage with local stakeholders, including community members, government authorities, and environmental organizations, to gather input and address concerns regarding water use and site placement.
3. **Proximity to Sustainable Water Sources:** Operate in areas with access to reliable water sources while minimizing the impact on local water supplies. Prioritize operating in locations with sustainable and reliable water sources, avoiding water-stressed areas where possible.
4. **Avoiding Water-Stressed Areas:** Avoid locations already experiencing water scarcity to the best of our ability to prevent exacerbating existing water challenges.
5. **Integrated Water Management:** Design facilities with integrated water management systems that include rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling, and efficient irrigation systems to reduce the demand for local water resources.
6. **Supplier Engagement:** Encourage our data center and office partners to use advanced cooling technologies that minimize water consumption, including air cooling, liquid cooling, and hybrid systems. Incentivize suppliers for providing high-quality water consumption and efficiency data.

Implementation and Monitoring Approach

Akamai is committed to monitoring the impact of our water stewardship through our EMS. We will use the EMS to review the effectiveness of our policy, and so that we can work toward continuous improvement in the sites we have operational control over by:

1. **Establishing Water Use Targets:** Establish specific, measurable water use reduction and conservation targets.
2. **Regular Audits:** Conduct regular water audits to monitor usage, identify areas for improvement, and comply with our commitment.
3. **Employee Resources:** Provide resources to employees on sustainable water practices and the importance of water conservation.
4. **Technology Adoption:** Invest in and adopt advanced technologies that enhance water efficiency and reduce environmental impact.
5. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Collaborate with industry partners, NGOs, and research institutions to share best practices, innovate, and promote water sustainability.

Water Stress Assessments Process

Sites under Akamai's operational control should not contribute to water stress, so we employ the World Resources Institute (WRI) Aqueduct tool to monitor our impact globally, focused on network deployment, site location, and services provided by:

1. **Site Data and Analysis:** Comprehensive data and analysis on water risks worldwide, helping us identify areas of high water stress and scarcity. Assess various water risk indicators such as baseline water stress, interannual variability, seasonal variability, and drought risk.
2. **Annual Assessments:** Conduct, at minimum, yearly assessments to evaluate the water stress levels of our existing and potential site locations. Assessment allows us to review our deployments and water management strategies in order to align with the latest data, water availability, and risk trends.
3. **Adaptive Management:** Based on the annual assessment results, we adapt our water management practices in our EMS to address any identified risks. As a component of our EMS, this would include flagging the need for additional conservation measures, investing in water-efficient technologies, and engaging in local water management initiatives where possible.

Summary

Akamai's commitment to water stewardship reflects our dedication to environmental sustainability, community well-being, and our ability to continuously improve our environmental performance. Through our water stewardship policy, we are committed to minimizing our water footprint, safeguarding local water resources, and making a positive impact on the communities in which we have operational control. Embedding responsible water management as a core tenet of our EMS will enable us to strike a harmonious balance between business expansion and environmental sustainability, ultimately doing our part to secure a brighter future for all.