

Plastics

Critical resource monitoring and conservation approach



Introduction

Akamai has taken proactive measures to reduce the use of plastic throughout its value chain. This initiative is part of their broader sustainability strategy to minimize environmental impact, especially at the end of our hardware's useful life. By identifying and analyzing the points across its lifecycle where plastics are used, Akamai is better equipped to reduce, replace, or recycle these materials.

Although the use of plastics is crucial in Akamai's server and infrastructure deployments and our data center operations, we are dedicated to exploring and incorporating sustainable practices and the use of alternatives when possible. Our direct control over the use of plastics in our operations is currently limited and mainly contingent on the manufacturing processes of the hardware and devices we employ. Akamai remains committed to reducing our environmental footprint when a mainstream alternative becomes available.

It is also essential to note that Akamai does not directly manufacture products with plastics for consumer use. All our services are virtual, providing much less plastic for direct consumer use, specifically in the security and network device appliance space.

Scope of engagement

Our engagement in reducing plastics use includes:

- **Supplier engagement:** Akamai collaborates with suppliers to understand the types and quantities of plastics used in their products and packaging.
- **Product design:** The company considers the use of sustainable materials during the design phase of their products, aiming to reduce reliance on single-use plastics.
- **Lifecycle analysis:** Akamai conducts lifecycle assessments to understand the environmental impact of plastics from production to disposal and identify opportunities for improvement.

Supplier influence

Akamai actively collaborates with our suppliers to reduce plastic waste, especially single-use plastics. We have optimized the packaging for our hardware, using materials other than plastics, such as recycled cardboard for padding, to minimize plastic use while ensuring the safe transport of our servers and hardware to their destinations.

In areas where Akamai can influence the use of plastic, we are working to implement sustainable practices that reduce plastic consumption where possible. Most plastic reduction efforts pertain to the suppliers of the products we procure and how we handle e-waste at the end of the product's useful life.

Managing retired network components

Akamai has committed to a 100% recycling rate for its e-waste, adhering to the e-Stewards standards. Akamai's e-waste program is tracked through our ISO 14001 attested Environmental Management System (EMS) to ensure we track disposed weights and gain insight in the recycling process.

The e-Stewards program is a globally recognized certification that ensures responsible recycling and refurbishment of electronic waste, preventing it from ending up in landfills or being processed under unsafe conditions.

Critical aspects of Akamai's e-waste recycling commitment

- **e-Stewards certification:** By adhering to the e-Stewards standards, Akamai ensures that our e-waste recycling processes are ethical and environmentally sound. This includes the prohibition of exporting hazardous e-waste to developing countries and the commitment to health and safety standards for workers involved in the recycling process.
- **Vendor selection:** Akamai partners with certified e-Stewards recyclers who meet stringent environmental and social criteria, ensuring that all e-waste is handled responsibly.
- **Comprehensive recycling program:** Akamai's program covers all types of e-waste generated by the company, from servers and networking equipment to smaller electronics. Akamai works with our recycling partners to ensure that all components are either recycled or repurposed, minimizing environmental impact.
- **Tracking and reporting:** Akamai tracks our e-waste volume and recycling outcomes, reporting on our progress as part of our sustainability disclosures. This transparency helps Akamai maintain accountability and continually improve our practices.

Conclusion

Akamai's commitment to working with suppliers and recycling 100% of its e-waste at the end of its helpful life demonstrates its responsible approach to waste and plastics management. We adhere to the e-Stewards standards, which are globally recognized as the most rigorous for e-waste recycling. This approach ensures that our e-waste is handled responsibly, focusing on protecting human health and the environment. By adhering to the e-Stewards standards, Akamai ensures that our e-waste recycling processes, including the processes directly related to the recycling of plastics, are ethical and environmentally sound.