

ESG Statement



1. Introduction

Echelon Data Centres is an international data centre infrastructure developer providing large-scale assets to support the growing global demand for data and computing resource - sustainably, responsibly and with due regard for the environment.

The demand Echelon seeks to satisfy is driven by the changing way we live our lives, reflected in increases in mobile device ownership and usage, growing reliance on videoconferencing and virtual meetings, the expansion of e-commerce, and the continuing integration of AI and the IoT into everyday life.

The company's goal is to achieve the provision of this essential infrastructure in a sustainable and ethical manner, recognising its responsibilities to its people and its partners, the communities in which it operates and to the planet.



2. Environment

Echelon Data Centres supports the measures and targets outlined in the Irish government's climate action plan 2019, and believes that, as a minimum, data centres should be powered wholly by renewable energy.

The company supports the PPA model - facilitating the development of renewable energy generation infrastructure - however believes that, in the longer term, other (potentially off-grid) solutions need to be examined, developed and implemented.

In November 2020, Echelon Data Centres and SSE Renewables signed a deal to fund and construct grid infrastructure – on the site of Echelon's DUB20 100MW data centre – that will facilitate the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.

The windfarm, with a capacity of 520MW, will connect to the grid via a co-located substation which will also supply the energy needs of the data centre.

A hydrogen production facility is also planned for the DUB20 site. With ample access to water from the Avoca River and the proximity of a source of large-scale renewable energy – plus a national grid connection – DUB20 is ideally suited to facilitate the creation of a long-term, sustainable solution to energy storage.

3. Sustainability

Echelon Data Centres recognises that in the short to medium term, as the industry moves towards genuinely renewable and environmentally friendly operation, 'halfway house' solutions will be required to mitigate against ageing and overburdened grid infrastructure.

At Echelon's DUB10 and DUB40 sites, gas-powered energy centres will be constructed, connecting via grid-administered substations, through an energy distribution facility (containing battery arrays for back-up purposes) to the data centre buildings.

While the gas powering the energy centres – which will only be run as required and not on a constant basis – is a source of carbon emissions, it is less impactful than traditional diesel generation, which will not be part of the data centre's operations.

Echelon's DUB20 site will be the location of an AD/biogas generation facility, another short-to-medium term solution to use of fossil fuels and overloaded grid capacity.

The gas produced would be used in one of two ways:

- Cleaned, and supplied to the gas grid
- Run through a CHP generator to provide power for back-up battery arrays

Waste heat from the DC (and from CHP generators) would be used to facilitate the AD process, and to dry the by-products to produce valuable fertiliser for agriculture. Cleaning the gas for injection into the gas grid produces quantities of CO2 which could be used to help establish greenhouse fresh produce operations, also located on the data centre campus.

At Echelon's LCY10 site, located in London's Docklands, plans to use the adjacent dock resource as a heat exchange will reduce the energy consumption of the data centre, with a resultant impact on harmful emissions and localised heat pollution.

4. Community (CSR/Stakeholder)

Echelon Data Centres will be a good neighbour to the communities in which it operates and will contribute to those communities in two areas:

- Education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)

Initially, Echelon's educational programme will be focused on local schools and helping them obtain equipment – computers, interactive whiteboards, televisions – to enhance the learning experience and environment for their pupils, particularly in the area of STEM.

- Cultural/historical

As Echelon's operations develop, the company will begin to look at ways of supporting – and developing awareness of – local cultural activities and institutions.

Echelon Data Centres will also look for opportunities to become involved in sustaining and preserving history and heritage, both locally and nationally.

5. Ethics and Integrity

Echelon Data Centres is committed to honesty, integrity and fair play and, in all its dealings, it will be open, fair and impartial.

These principles guide the company when it is faced with difficult legal and/or ethical decisions and in facing those decisions, it seeks resolutions that embody the principles.

The principles are fundamental to the commitments we make to our customers, to our investors, and to our people.

Echelon's principles define the character of the company and guide its thinking, its decision-making and its actions. This means:

- Complying with the law, protecting the company from harm and building success
- Attracting and retaining the best people
- Building trust in the marketplace
- Opening doors to new markets

6. Governance

At Echelon we believe that high standards of business conduct and corporate governance are essential to the successful and efficient running of our business.

Strong corporate values are central to how we support colleagues and customers, as we drive innovation in our infrastructure and our business models, investing in becoming the market leader in providing sustainable and ethical datacentre ecosystems.

Our board is central to our strong governance ethos and is tasked with oversight of our commitments to the ESG agenda.

We have policies in place to ensure that a diverse candidate slate is developed for new hires as the organisation grows.

At Echelon we believe that respecting the environment is a social imperative.

We have a key role to play in solving our customers' sustainability challenges by embedding energy efficiency and sustainability throughout our datacentre offerings.

Echelon's stated ambition is to lead the industry with policies, programs and solutions that reduce our customers' environmental impacts helping them to reduce their carbon footprint and achieve their short, medium and long term carbon reduction goals.

7. Summary

Echelon Data Centres believes it has an opportunity to make a difference in the world. It is committed to growing its business while reducing its environmental impacts and intends to support its customers in doing the same in the facilities it provides.

Echelon recognises that it has a duty to create social value in the communities in which it operates and is committed to delivering that duty through investment and involvement, on a local and on a national level.

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