

Ambition is good; Action is better

Making progress on our climate change commitments

By Lucas Joppa

Chief Environmental Officer

The dialogue at this year's United Nation's Climate Summit has a refreshing air of sober reality. The urgency of the climate crisis has by now fully been absorbed, and the conversation has turned to the practical matter of what needs to be done to mitigate the worst impacts of a rapidly changing climate and adapt to that which we cannot avoid.

This means that the time of raised ambitions and grand announcements without clear action plans is also past. That is why we are focusing this week on new and specific contributions both inside and outside our four walls that have the potential to meaningfully impact environmental outcomes. We have been doing this work for more than a decade and, in April of this year, we doubled down on our ambitions with a clear focus on doing more where it makes the most difference — beyond operational changes and increasingly on how we put technology to work for the planet. With that in mind, I'm sharing several concrete developments and markers of progress, including:

Aligning our operations with a 1.5C climate scenario

It's clear, given the science, that targets should be even more ambitious than the Paris Accord targets, which mapped to a 2 degree rise. Today, we're pleased to say that our renewable energy target has been certified by the Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi) as aligned to a 1.5-degree Celsius future. The certification is meaningful for two reasons — first, we believe that actions should be driven by the best available science, and SBTi uses that as a core criteria for approval and second, because what is most important is not just setting targets — it's meeting them.

Science-based targets offer important measurement and accountability that is critical to assess if we're making the progress the world needs, in the time frame we have available.

Extending carbon reduction work into our supply chain

Today, we're setting a target reduction for our value and supply chain via our new SBTi-certified target, which will see us cut these emissions by at least 30 percent by 2030. Our supply chain, referred to in carbon accounting as Scope 3 emissions as indirect carbon emissions associated with anything from manufacturing to customer use of devices to employee airline travel, are far larger than our operational footprint. This is true for many companies and



Johns Hopkins Glacier - Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve NPS Photo/Preston Filbert

nearly all technology companies. We have already worked to drive transparency in this space, with more than 105 of our top suppliers reporting through the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project), and will look to continue to do more in this space in the coming year.

Going from carbon neutral operations to carbon neutral products

Microsoft's business operations have operated carbon neutral since 2012. Today we are beginning the journey of extending that to our products and devices with a pilot to make 825,000 Xbox consoles carbon neutral.

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While just a pilot, we're already looking at what we can do to further reduce and neutralize carbon across devices in the future.

Putting technology in the hands of others for the good of the planet

The investments we've made to make our devices and datacenters and supply chain greener are good for the planet but have exponential impact when the world is using these greener computing resources to power new AI breakthroughs for the planet. That's why we're continuing to expand our AI for Earth program with new grant partners like Conservation X Labs, National Geographic Society and World Resources Institute. We now have more than 430 grantees in 71 countries and just released our first APIs and code repositories on our website and GitHub. The newest members of AI for Earth include the young leaders who participated in the Youth Summit's Summer of Solutions.

It's important to note that while we've made progress on several fronts, there is still much work to do within Microsoft to embed sustainability more deeply across the company and into all that we do. We are committed to doing this work and being transparent about our journey. And we'll continue to work with external organizations like the Science Based Target Initiative and CDP, which have done so much to drive concrete, measurable change to hold us accountable and aligned to the best science.

Standing up for every Dreamer

By Brad Smith
Microsoft President

They came to the United States as children, brought into the country undocumented by parents with dreams of a better life. Many were so young when they arrived that they have no recollection of their place of birth. We call these young people Dreamers – students, employees and military soldiers who aspire to make the country where they have lived most of their lives a permanent home.

In 2012, the United States created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

This summit comes at a pivotal moment in time. I'm encouraged by the passion and participation I've seen already at the Youth Summit and new corporate announcements as well. It's a welcome antidote to the fatalistic worldview that is all too easy to adopt when it comes to the future of the planet.

We must also not give in too easily to optimism unless it's paired with real action. The road ahead will be challenging, and progress will certainly require everyone to do more. We're committed to doing our part. Microsoft sees a responsibility and opportunity as a leading cloud and AI provider to play a major role in deploying solutions, applying capital and market power and reducing our sizable environmental footprint.

But progress is indeed possible. That's not a naïve hope but one based on evidence: technology breakthroughs over the past few years, new work underway across our business, and a growing appetite from customers to digitally transform their businesses with sustainability in mind. We're celebrating today in New York, and tomorrow we get back to work. I hope you'll join us.



Protest in response to the rescission of Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in New York City
Wikimedia Commons/Ryan McGrady

(DACA) program to protect these young people from being deported. Yet just five years later, the program was rescinded, putting close to 700,000 DACA recipients at risk of being banished from the only home they've ever known.

More than five dozen of these DACA recipients at risk are Microsoft employees. These young people contribute to our company and serve our customers. They help create our products, secure our services, and manage our finances. And like so many young people across our nation, they dream of making an honest living and a real difference in the communities in which they reside. Yet they now live in uncertainty.

We've told our Microsoft Dreamers that we will stand up for them along with all the nation's DACA recipients. We'll represent them in court and litigate on their behalf. That's why we joined Princeton University and Princeton student Maria De La Cruz Perales Sanchez to file one of the three cases challenging the DACA rescission that will be heard on Nov. 12 by the United States Supreme Court. We will be there in person, along with a group of our employees, to show our support for DACA recipients.

For Microsoft, the decision to bring this case was straightforward. We believe Dreamers are worth protecting. The case speaks to the impact the rescission has on our business, company, employees and the hundreds of thousands of Dreamers across the country. It also has a broader impact on the country's flow of talent and innovation economy, a perspective that we share with Princeton. Like all research- and innovation-focused organizations, both Microsoft and Princeton depend on the ability to attract talent from around the world. It's essential not just to us, but also to our country's ability to compete on the world stage.

Amidst this broader discussion, we also need to remember the individual stories of Dreamers and the contributions that they make. While the number of Dreamers is large, every number is a person and each person is an individual. In short, behind each number there is a unique and important story.

For example, one of the nation's Dreamers is a young woman, a Microsoft service and security engineer, who was born in Mexico and brought to the U.S. at the age of 4. She thought she was an American citizen until the day, years later, when she asked her mother to sign a permission slip for a school experience in Japan. That was the day that, with tears in her eyes, her mother told her she could never leave the country because she would not be allowed to come back.

Inspired by her mother's sacrifices for her and her siblings, in 2012 she followed her passion for technology through DigiGirlz, a program supported by Microsoft YouthSpark that gives girls the opportunity to learn about careers in technology. After years of commitment, further coursework, and unending grit, she is now building the next chapter of her story at our headquarters in Redmond with our Microsoft 365 team, thanks to DACA. At a time when cyber-attacks are increasing, she is using her skills and experience to help protect our customers across the country and around the world.

Another one of our employees is a Dreamer and software engineer who was born in Tepic, Mexico, and brought to the U.S. when he was only four months old. Growing up in Los Angeles, he and his family lived close to the poverty line for most of his childhood. He excelled in school and earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from California-Polytechnic State University. His talents led to multiple offers for engineering roles at top technology companies, and we are thrilled that he is now part of our software development team near Seattle. Today he works to enhance productivity and performance for Azure, the cloud platform that is empowering customers of all sizes across the country – including government agencies – to transform their work. He is part of the team that helps make this transformation possible.

There are so many more stories like those, within and beyond Microsoft. For us, this fight is not just about our employees. It's also about the potential impact of DACA rescission on the hundreds of thousands of Dreamers, on businesses across the country, and on the innovation economy that is central to the nation's prosperity. Roughly three-quarters of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies have confirmed that they employ Dreamers.

While we are the only company among the plaintiffs of the consolidated cases now before the Supreme Court, we know we represent employers of all sizes in making the case to uphold DACA. Last month, more than 140 companies and associations showed their support in a brief filed before the Court. They wrote about the serious harm that would be inflicted on the economy if we were to lose the contributions of Dreamers.

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While the case before the Supreme Court is of fundamental importance, we also appreciate that it is insufficient in addressing the permanent needs of the nation's Dreamer population. The only path to stability for Dreamers is a pathway to citizenship. And citizenship in this case can only come from Congress.

We also recognize that the Dreamers are one part of the broader immigration challenges we face as a nation. We are committed to constructive steps to attract and retain talent that helps fuel innovation and grow our economy for the benefit of every American. This includes reducing the green card backlog and constraints on high skilled visas. Innovation has been vital to the nation's history. It needs to be equally fundamental to the country's future – a future that requires creating more opportunities for those born in the United States as well as long-lasting solutions that support individuals like the Dreamers that have come as children from other nations



Protesters rally in support of DACA Flickr/Steve Rhodes

Statement from Microsoft President Brad Smith on Supreme Court decision to hear DACA cases

Brad Smith
Microsoft President

On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments in three consolidated cases concerning the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. One of those cases is a suit brought by Princeton University, one of its undergraduate students and Microsoft which challenges the federal government's termination of the DACA program. Microsoft joined the lawsuit based on concern about the decision's business and humanitarian impacts, including on its employees who are DACA registrants.

"Dreamers make our country, community and company stronger, and their protection is both a humanitarian obligation and an economic imperative." - Brad Smith, Microsoft President

"Dreamers make our country, community and company stronger, and their protection is both a humanitarian obligation and an economic imperative. Today's decision means the clock is now running, with even more reason for Congress to act," said Brad Smith, president of Microsoft.

Microsoft releases biannual digital trust reports

Microsoft has released its latest biannual digital trust reports on the Microsoft Reports Hub.

Microsoft Corporate Blogs
These reports consist of the Law Enforcement Requests Report, U.S. National Security

Report and Content Removal Request Reports. We continue to strive towards building and maintaining trust in technology, and we know that transparency is a key component to that trust. Our digital trust reports are intended to help our customers understand how Microsoft responds to government and law enforcement requests for data and for content removal.

When Microsoft receives a law enforcement request – from any government – we review the request to ensure it is consistent with controlling law and our Microsoft principles. We disclose customer data only in response to a legally valid warrant, order or subpoena, and only after we confirm the request details specific accounts or individual identifiers. We object to improper legal demands — even through litigation when necessary.

Please also visit our Data Law website for more information about Microsoft’s principles, policies and procedures for responding to government requests for data.

Law Enforcement Requests

Law Enforcement Requests

The Law Enforcement Requests Report encompassing the period from January to June 2019 remains largely consistent with previous reports.

Requests for consumer data:

During the first half of 2019, Microsoft received a total number of 24,175 legal requests related to our consumer services from law enforcement agencies around the world, which is an increase from the previous six-month period, where we saw 21,433 legal requests.

A majority of the law enforcement requests Microsoft received during this period continued to come from a handful of countries, including France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Specific to United States law enforcement, Microsoft received 4,860 legal requests for data related to our consumer services.

Requests for enterprise customer data:

In the first half of 2019, Microsoft received 74 requests from law enforcement around the world for data associated with enterprise

U.S. National Security Orders

The U.S. National Security Orders Report, which encompass the period from July to December 2018, is largely consistent with the previous reports:

For the latest Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) data reported, Microsoft received 0-499 FISA orders seeking content disclosures affecting 13,500-13,999 accounts, which is a slight increase from the previous period where we saw 13,000-13,499 accounts affected. We received 0-499 National Security Letters in the latest reporting period, which is unchanged from the previous period.

Content Removal Requests

The latest Content Removal Request Reports details acceptance rates regarding requests received from governments, copyright holders, individuals subject to the European Union’s “Right to be Forgotten” ruling and victims of non-consensual pornography.

Looking ahead

In recent months, Microsoft has been working with civil society, governments and other technology companies to collectively implement the Christchurch Call to Action and to evolve the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT). As part of our commitment to these initiatives, among others, that require public disclosure of how we are handling terrorist and violent extremist content, we will conduct multi-stakeholder consultations and other efforts to identify and make available additional information via our digital trust reports.