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Rapporteurs' findings

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www.oecd.org/sti/ict/green-ict

Key messages:

1. The current crisis is an **opportunity for change** towards knowledge-driven growth; ICT is the key ingredient.
2. The ICT sector can take **leadership** in a low-carbon economy and drive socio-economic change.
3. ICT does not save the climate automatically, **Business as usual** may lead to disaster.
4. Beyond energy efficiency, the use of **renewable energy** is important (e.g. for data centers).
5. A sustainable society is more than a low-carbon economy. There are issues **beyond climate change**: resources, recycling, working conditions, human rights. We should maximize both „quality of life per bit“ and „bits per nature“.
6. **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)** is a key methodology to measure ICT impacts (first and second order).
7. In order to stimulate **behavioural change**, Green IT solutions must be simple and seamless, but should not exculpate users from responsibility.
8. **Extending the service life** of ICT end-user devices is key to reduce the life cycle impact per time.

Recommendations:

1. ICT policies and information society strategies must be **integrated** into climate and environmental policies and strategies.
2. Green ICT policies must rely on a **life cycle perspective** (not only consider the use phase)
3. Support the exchange, standardization and integration of **Life Cycle Inventory data**.
4. Develop **standardized metrics** for net CO2 emission reductions by ICT applications (including 2nd- and 3rd- order effects) and other environmental impacts.
5. **Public procurement** should consistently demand for „green“ improvements (e.g. thin client solutions).
6. To promote Green IT, rely on **flagship projects** and disseminate best practices.
7. Governments should **lead by example** (by using Green ICT solutions in public administration, including instruments such as Green ICT scorecards and reducing the energy consumption of public buildings)
8. **Fiscal tools** should be used to stimulate investments in energy efficient technology and to set up the system environment for positive third-order effects.