




# Embedding sustainability

at the core of our digital  
journey



Climate change is one of the most critical risks facing humanity. It is incumbent on businesses to stand by governments and communities and address climate issues by considering their own carbon footprint, framing the right strategy to minimise it, and even advocate for policy change and engage customers and employees on the issue. At Airtel, we endeavour to create holistic and sustained value for our stakeholders while protecting our environment and the planet. We stay customer-obsessed and innovation-driven as we reimagine possibilities in the digital world led by a purpose beyond profits.

We have identified Climate Change, Energy Efficiency, Emissions Reduction and Resource Efficiency as some of our high priority material issues and have set targets to help the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

## At one with global goals

Having aligned to the Paris Climate Accord, we adopted Science Based Targets for emission reduction. We have also been working consistently to reduce our network's carbon footprint significantly over the past few years. We are the first Indian telecom company to join the UN Global Compact.

As an active member of Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA), we are working on enabling the industry to move towards cleaner operations and more energy efficient networks to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

## Change within Airtel

We have created a Board-appointed committee as well as a dedicated management council to drive our in-house ESG initiatives. We are also building sustainable operations with a focus on reverse logistics, end of use recycling, site sharing and transformative digital initiatives.

Use of solar-DG hybrid systems, energy-efficient lighting and equipment at our facilities and power purchase agreements are helping us optimise our energy consumption and reduce emissions. We aim to have green data centres and increase the use of renewables at the data centres from 34% to 50% to meet their power requirements. To achieve this, we have expanded our green energy footprint with the commissioning of a total of **49.37** MWp solar power units in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh this year, taking our total installed renewable energy capacity to 146,549 MWh.

We were also able to reduce our dependence on diesel for our tower operations by using our proprietary tools, built on AI and ML technologies, by switching off power based on our projections of the traffic, installing additional batteries and restricting DG run by improving the site's hygiene. Our other initiatives include equipment optimisation, outdoor BTS sites, minimising e-waste and paper waste.

## Strengthening social connect

Better and faster communication can bring multi-dimensional transformations, ensure smooth functioning of life and business, and help society become inclusive. At Airtel, we devote our core competencies, technological solutions and innovations towards 'enriching lives' by catering to the emerging needs of millions in the countries we operate.

During the second wave of the pandemic, when it was critical to stay connected, we doubled the benefit for smaller recharge of ₹79 and also provided free packs worth ₹270 crores to empower over 55 million customers, mostly in rural areas, to stay connected and access critical information when needed.

### FY 2030-31 targets

# 50%

Reduction in GHG emissions across operations

# 42%

Target for reducing absolute Scope 3 GHG emissions

Base year 2021

