

GREEN IT AT VOLVO IT

For Volvo IT, it is very important to try, as far as it is possible, to minimize the environmental impact from our organization. Several measures have been taken to ensure environmental care in all our processes.

Our purchasing processes are certified according to the ISO 14 000 standard to make sure we work as efficiently as possible with these issues throughout the entire purchasing procedure. The ISO 14 000 standard stipulates that when purchasing new hardware, we should only consider purchasing products that can present an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

EPD is an information system used for describing environmental impact of products and services from a lifecycle perspective. One of the most prominent areas for using EPD is within environmentally certified purchasing.

One focused area from an environmental perspective is our data centres. Our main data centers, located in Gothenburg, Sweden, only use “green” electricity, which means that the power has been produced from non-fossil sources. To use electricity efficiently, we make sure that the processors are in hibernate mode when their capacity isn’t needed, and then switch over to ‘on! mode when the need for extended processor capacity increases.

We have chosen to locate our newest data center just by the ocean, to be able to use the sea water in an efficient way. Sea water is pumped from a depth of 12 meters and used to cool the data center. After

the water has done its cooling job it is pumped out into the ocean again, this time just at the surface in a small bay, where the temperature is higher by nature. This area is part of a natural protection area, which means that the water temperature cannot be altered. By pumping the water from a considerable depth and releasing it back into the water just at surface level, we make sure that water with a normal oxygen level is released into the bay, and thus this has a positive effect on the local wild life.

We also use virtualization to use our hardware in a more efficient way and hence avoid unnecessary hardware purchases as well as maintenance costs. As an example, consolidation within our Mainframe environment has reduced eleven computers to only two. Not only does this save electricity; it also lowers our spending on hardware.

For hardware, the entire lifecycle, from purchasing to disposal of used products, has been certified to ensure an environmentally friendly handling process.

By applying a “Green IT” way of thinking we save costs for ourselves and our customers, while at the same time taking a corporate responsibility for the environmental impact of what we do – a true win-win concept.



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Volvo IT provides specialist skills and cost-effective solutions for all areas of industrial IT, from product development to sales and the aftermarket. Volvo IT's range includes superior data centre operations and IT infrastructure. Volvo IT is a global organization and part of the Volvo Group.