

# Independent Limited Assurance Report

ERM Certification & Verification Services Incorporated ("ERM CVS") was engaged by Cisco Systems, Inc., ("Cisco") to provide limited assurance in relation to the Selected Information set out below and presented in the FY24 Purpose Report (the "Report") and Cisco Purpose Reporting Hub (the "Reporting Hub").

## ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

**Scope of our assurance engagement** Whether the following Selected Information for FY24 is fairly presented in the Report and Reporting Hub, in all material respects, in accordance with the reporting criteria.

Our assurance engagement does not extend to information in respect of earlier periods or to any other information included in the Report and Reporting Hub.

### Selected Information

#### GHG Emissions & Energy

- Scope 1 GHG emissions [metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e]
- Scope 2 (location-based) GHG emissions [metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e]
- Scope 2 (market-based) GHG emissions [metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e]
- Scope 3 GHG emissions (total and by category) [metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e]
  - Category 1: Purchased goods and services
  - Category 2: Capital goods
  - Category 3: Fuel- and energy-related activities
  - Category 4: Upstream transportation & distribution
  - Category 5: Waste generated in operations
  - Category 6: Business travel
  - Category 7: Employee commuting
  - Category 9: Downstream transportation and distribution
  - Category 11: Use of sold products
  - Category 12: End of life treatment of sold products
- Total Energy Consumption [MWh]
- Total Energy Consumption [GWh]

#### Waste

- Total waste generated [metric tonnes]
- Waste disposed to landfill [metric tonnes]
- Waste disposed via incineration [metric tonnes]
- Waste diverted from landfill [metric tonnes]

#### Water

- Total water withdrawal [m<sup>3</sup>]
- Total water discharge [m<sup>3</sup>]
- Total water consumption [m<sup>3</sup>]
- % of water withdrawn from water stressed locations [%]

#### Progress Against Goals

- FY24 progress to reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 (market-based) 90% by FY25 against FY19 base year [%]
- FY24 progress to reduce Cisco supply chain-related Scope 3 GHG emissions & Scope 3 category 11 emissions by 30% absolute by FY30, compared to FY19 base year [%]
- FY24 progress towards goal that 80% of Cisco component, manufacturing, and logistics suppliers by spend will have a public, absolute GHG emissions reduction target by FY25 [%]
  - Total supplier spend in the component, manufacturing and logistics sectors
  - Number of suppliers with a public, absolute GHG emissions reduction target

**Reporting period** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

<b>Reporting criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cisco's basis of reporting as described in applicable footnotes in the FY24 Purpose Report and Reporting Hub</li> <li>• ISO 14064 – 1 (2018) Standard for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals</li> <li>• The GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (WBCSD/WRI Revised Edition 2015) for Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions</li> <li>• GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance (An amendment to the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard (WRI 2015) for Scope 2 GHG emissions</li> <li>• The Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard (WBCSD/WRI 2011) for Scope 3 GHG emissions</li> </ul>
<b>Assurance standard and level of assurance</b>	<p>We performed a limited assurance engagement, in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements ISAE 3000 (Revised) 'Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information' and in accordance with ISAE3410 for Greenhouse Gas data issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and ISO 14064:3 for Greenhouse Gas data.</p> <p>The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.</p>
<b>Respective responsibilities</b>	<p>Cisco is responsible for preparing the Report and Reporting Hub and for the collection and presentation of the information within it, and for the designing, implementing and maintaining of internal controls relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Selected Information.</p> <p>ERM CVS' responsibility is to provide a conclusion to Cisco on the agreed assurance scope based on our engagement terms with Cisco, the assurance activities performed and exercising our professional judgement.</p>

## OUR CONCLUSION

Based on our activities, as described below, nothing has come to our attention to indicate that data and information for the Selected Information as listed above are not fairly presented in the Report and Reporting Hub, in all material respects, in accordance with the reporting criteria.

### GHG Emissions & Energy

Scope 1 GHG emissions	32,562 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2 (location-based) GHG emissions	563,518 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2 (market-based) GHG emissions	28,418 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 3 GHG emissions (total & by category)	17,092,306 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 1: Purchased goods and services	4,054,081 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 2: Capital goods	135,438 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 3: Fuel- and energy-related activities	76,535 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 4: Upstream transportation & distribution	643,904 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 5: Waste generated in operations	400 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 6: Business Travel	219,934 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 7: Employee commuting	78,362 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 9: Downstream transportation & distribution	3,443 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 11: Use of sold products	11,875,948 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Category 12: End-of-life treatment of sold products	4,261 metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Total energy consumption	1,572,646 MWh
Total energy consumption	1,573 GWh

### Water

Total water withdrawal	2,688 m <sup>3</sup>
Total water discharge	1,924 m <sup>3</sup>
Total water consumption	764 m <sup>3</sup>

Total water withdrawn from water stressed locations	37%
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## Waste

Total waste generated	2,878 metric tonnes
Waste disposed to landfill	704 metric tonnes
Waste disposed via incineration	2 metric tonnes
Waste diverted from landfill	2,172 metric tonnes

## Progress against Goals

FY24 progress to reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by (market-based) 90% by FY25 against FY19 base year	74%
FY24 progress to reduce Cisco supply chain-related Scope 3 GHG emissions & Scope 3 category 11 emissions by 30% absolute by FY30, compared to FY19 base year	35%
FY24 progress towards goal that 80% of Cisco component, manufacturing, and logistics suppliers by spend will have a public, absolute GHG emissions reduction target by FY25 [%]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total supplier spend in the component, manufacturing and logistics sectors</li> <li>Number of suppliers with absolute GHG emissions reduction target</li> </ul>	90%

## EMPHASIS OF MATTER

Without affecting our conclusion, we draw attention to the explanatory notes provided by Cisco on page 36 of the FY24 Purpose Report and within the Cisco Purpose Reporting Hub that provide a quantity for total e-Waste generated during the reporting period. To understand total waste generated in Cisco’s operations it is important to understand this number in conjunction with the reported total operational waste generated data in the *Solid waste from operations (trash)* table (Cisco Purpose Reporting Hub) and *Reducing Waste in Our Operations* (FY24 Purpose Report).

## OUR ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES

Considering the level of assurance and our assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the Selected Information a multi-disciplinary team of sustainability and assurance specialists performed a range of procedures that included, but was not restricted to, the following:

- Evaluating the appropriateness of the reporting criteria for the Selected Information;
- Performing an analysis of the external environment, including a media search, to identify sustainability risks and issues in the reporting period that may be relevant to the assurance scope;
- Reviewing the materiality determination process including the results of stakeholder engagement processes;
- Interviewing management representatives responsible for managing the Selected Information;
- Interviewing relevant staff to understand and evaluate the management systems and processes (including internal review and control processes) used for collecting and reporting the Selected Information;
- Obtaining an understanding of the procedures performed by the internal audit department;
- Reviewing of a sample of qualitative and quantitative evidence supporting the Selected Information at a corporate level;
- Performing an analytical review of the year-end data submitted by all locations included in the consolidated FY24 group data for the Selected Information which included testing the completeness and mathematical accuracy of conversions and calculations, and consolidation in line with the stated reporting boundary;

- Conducting in-person visit to Cisco's campus in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina to interview staff responsible for the metrics in scope, confirm understanding of scope, definitions and boundaries and the associated data/management systems for consolidating, reviewing and reporting the information within the Report and Reporting Hub;
- Performing desk-based reviews for select Cisco locations based on material contribution to FY24 metrics to test the accuracy and completeness of energy, waste, and water data at the site-level.
- Reviewed the restatement of FY19 Scope 1 GHG emissions to capture the reallocation of emissions from Scope 1 to Scope 3, as it affects subsequent GHG emissions accounting periods;
- Evaluating the conversion and emission factors and assumptions used; and,
- Reviewing the presentation of information relevant to the assurance scope in the Report and Reporting Hub to ensure consistency with our findings.

## THE LIMITATIONS OF OUR ENGAGEMENT

The reliability of the Selected Information is subject to inherent uncertainties, given the available methods for determining, calculating or estimating the underlying information. It is important to understand our assurance conclusions in this context. We have not assured the FY19 Scope 1 GHG emissions baseline figure as it was previously assured by another third party.

## OUR INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY AND QUALITY CONTROL

ERM CVS is an independent certification and verification body accredited by UKAS to ISO 17021:2015. Accordingly, we maintain a comprehensive system of quality control, including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards, and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Our quality management system is at least as demanding as the relevant sections of ISQM-1 and ISQM-2 (2022).

ERM CVS applies a Code of Conduct and related policies to ensure that its employees maintain integrity, objectivity, professional competence and high ethical standards in their work. Our processes are designed and implemented to ensure that the work we undertake is objective, impartial and free from bias and conflict of interest. Our certified management system covers independence and ethical requirements that are at least as demanding as the relevant sections of the IESBA Code relating to assurance engagements.

ERM CVS has extensive experience in conducting assurance on environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes, and provides no consultancy related services to Cisco in any respect.



April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Malvern, PA

ERM Certification & Verification Services Incorporated

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