Wikipedia and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

WIKIMEDIA

Wikipedia

Wikipedia is the largest collection of free, collaborative knowledge in human history. Millions of people from around the world have written and added to Wikipedia since it was created in 2001: anyone can edit it, at any time. Wikipedia contains more than 40 million volunteer-authored articles in more than 300 languages.

How do we work towards sustainability in the Wikimedia movement*?

*That's 40 organizations and hundreds of thousands of volunteers behind Wikipedia and other projects around the world
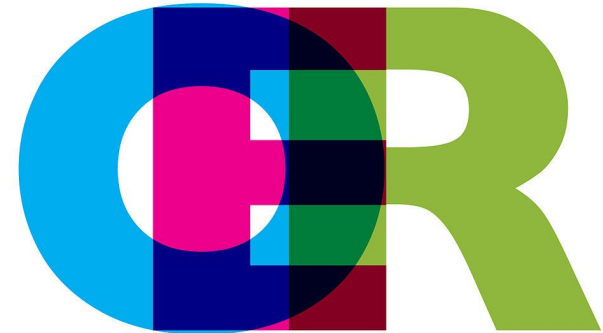
Participation through Open Education

- We believe that the right to access education is indispensable for functioning and sustainable societies.

- We advocate for the breakdown of social, political, and technical barriers preventing people from accessing and contributing to education.

- We promote and enforce global activities and advocacies on Open Education and Open Educational Resources (OER).

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Leonard Wolf, Forum Open:Education, CC BY 4.0

Wikipedia as a free and open learning resource

- Open Educational Resources are materials under an open licence that can be legally and freely copied, used, adapted and re-shared.

- They are an instrument to bridge knowledge gaps and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 4.

- Wikipedia, for example, can be seen as the largest Open Educational Resource in the world!

Markus Büsges, leomaria, OER-Logo, CC BY-SA 3.0

Knowledge equity

- Access to broadband is still distributed unequally around the world

- We optimise Wikipedia to lower the barrier to access, necessitating lower internet speed

- As part of our Wikimedia Strategy 2030, we are going to focus our efforts on the knowledge and communities that have been left out by structures of power and privilege

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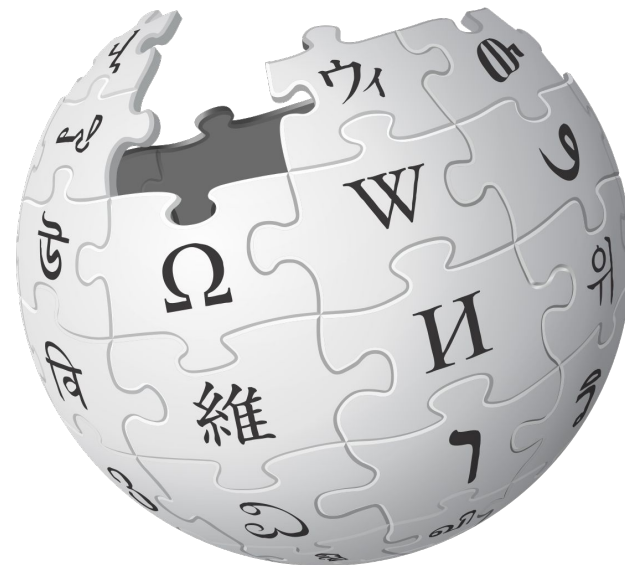Patricia Costillo, Wikimania 2019 Group Photo, CC BY-SA 4.0

Making Wikipedia more energy-efficient

- Wikipedia's energy use per pageview is very low compared to other websites – because we only do minimal tracking
- Emissions are comparable to 250 US households
- Some data centers completely green (e.g. Amsterdam)

Motiur Rahman Oni, Wikipedia School Program at Agrabad Government Colony High School (Boys' Section) 01, CC BY-SA 4.0

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Making Wikipedia more energy-efficient

- Increased the performance and the energy-efficiency by reducing the amount of data that are sent around the globe

- These efforts saved up to the energy amount of up to twenty people flying from Berlin, Germany to San Francisco, USA every day

- By using new methods of encryption (TLS v1.3) for our users, soon we will be more secure and drastically faster

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Further reading:

[WMF Sustainability Report](#)

[Wikimedia Strategy 2030](#)

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Questions?

Contact us at politik@wikimedia.de

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