Telcos' New Energy Imperative

Telecom executives are focusing on nine steps to counter rising energy costs and reduce emissions.

Energy costs are ballooning

Energy usually has accounted for just 3%-4% of a typical telco's spending, but now that's **doubling** or tripling for some operators

9 actions to control energy costs and reduce emissions

IMPROVE SUPPLY

Less than 1 year

Procurement: Protect against price volatility by hedging energy spending, striking long-term power purchase agreements, and competitively sourcing energy, which can also help move power grids to green agreements

Potential financial impact: Hedge up to 90% of next year's energy spending



Storage: Adopt smart batteries as network towers' backup power source, which can also support sustainability initiatives and generate revenue from peak/off-peak load shifting

Potential financial impact: 10%-20% cost savings



-3 years

Internal production: Invest in telco-owned renewable energy, such as solar cells or micro wind turbines installed on or near tower sites

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Less than 1 year (solar) to more than 3 years (wind)

Potential financial impact:

Up to 30% of energy from internal production and partners

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for additional renewable energy; often requires long-term purchasing commitment



1-3 years

DECREASE DEMAND



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Equipment: Switch to more energy-efficient equipment (e.g., outdoor base transceiver stations) and migrate data to public cloud providers

Potential financial impact: 40% operational cost savings



More than 3 years

Legacy decommissioning: Accelerate shutdowns of legacy networks and shift network controls from hardware to software to increase efficiency

Potential financial impact:

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Standby modes: Turn off noncritical services during nonpeak operating hours, but beware trade-offs in customer experience and technical challenges

Potential financial impact:

40%–50% decrease in power consumption

More than 3 years

5% energy savings

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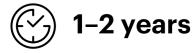


Less than 1 year

Passive cooling/heating: Design sites for energy recovery, such as heating offices using energy generated by data center operations

Potential financial impact:

3%-5% energy savings



Temperature control: Reduce facility energy usage by matching temperature settings with equipment warranty specifications

Potential financial impact: 20%–30% savings on cooling costs



Less than 1 year

