The State of Sustainability in UK IT Teams

Significant sustainability gains are sitting on your desk

Content

Introduction

Rapid advances in technology and the computerisation of many workplaces have led to e-waste becoming one of the fastest-growing sources of waste in the world. By 2030, annual e-waste production is on track to reach 75 million metric tons — the equivalent of 12.5 million builders' skips per year.

Sustainability is front-of-mind for most of the public with 70% of people wanting to see businesses take more action on climate change. This will only grow as the impacts of climate change become more pressing every day.

Moreover, many businesses have begun recognising and adhering to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as a way of proving their commitment to the environment and combatting climate change. In particular, Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) are highly relevant to business and IT leaders.

Reducing e-waste by choosing more sustainable IT equipment is one effective way of reducing your business' environmental footprint and energy consumption. Technology is a significant contributor to climate change, not just in the 83% of equipment that ends up in landfills, but also in global CO2 emissions which are higher than that of the travel sector.

It is only a matter of time until CEOs and other stakeholders hone in on IT's sustainability.

To understand the scale of the challenge ahead of us, EIZO spoke with IT Managers currently working in organisations of 50+ employees. We asked them about their current pressures, sustainable practices, and IT equipment lifespans.

What's keeping IT leaders up at night?

When asked about the pressures that IT departments face the most, unsurprisingly IT Managers ranked energy use as the highest at 71%. Energy use is something many business leaders keep a close eye on, especially because rising energy costs can have a significant impact on the bottom line. Indeed, more IT departments feel pressured to reduce energy usage compared to any other factor, including capital expenditure and operating expenditure.

		Gender		Age				Employees				
		Male	Female	25-34	35-44	45-54	54+	50-99	99-249	250-499	500-999	1000+
		121	131	20	89	92	51	2	7	5	18	220
Energy usage	71%	72%	70%	80%	73%	75%	57%	0%	86%	100%	56%	72%
Capital expenditure	67%	67%	68%	40%	72%	72%	63%	0%	71%	40%	50%	70%
Operating expenditure	56%	63%	50%	60%	57%	59%	49%	100%	86%	60%	72%	54%
Number of suppliers	52%	56%	47%	50%	53%	53%	47%	0%	43%	40%	28%	55%
Extend usage lifecycle of IT equipment	34%	31%	37%	70%	35%	27%	31%	50%	57%	40%	61%	31%
Carbon emissions	22%	20%	24%	40%	25%	17%	20%	0%	29%	40%	33%	21%
I do not feel my department is under any pressures	4%	7%	1%	5%	1%	4%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%

Eight in ten IT Managers expect to be required to report on IT equipment energy use and carbon emissions in annual reports, with 70% of respondents already measuring it. Considering this and that 96% of FTSE 100 companies currently report sustainability metrics, the contribution of IT equipment to a business's overall carbon footprint will be closely scrutinised - so it is vital for IT leaders to 'get their house in order' before this expectation arises.

It's already leading to an increased focus on sustainability when choosing what IT equipment to invest in, with 90% of respondents considering the energy usage of a potential IT investment — 56% more than a manufacturer's brand. It is a shrewd move, as all the IT equipment in your organisation can soon add up.

Keeping an eye on sustainability

What's on your desk?

A typical office desk setup consists of multiple electrical devices and peripherals. Over time and across multiple desks in your workplace, this energy usage quickly adds up and can have a significant impact on your department's sustainability.

Keep on top of your monitors energy usage, CO2 emissions and annual costs with EIZO's eco-calculator.

Energy savings don't just come from switching off items when you leave the office. Many IT Managers are missing a crucial simple step to becoming more sustainable and reducing energy consumption — choosing IT equipment with better eco-credentials.

Saving just 10W of power from every workstation can result in significant savings over the working year. For example, an organisation with 250 desks used 8 hours a day for 250 working days can reduce energy consumption by approximately 5000kWh each year, the equivalent of 1125kg CO2 emissions (IEA, 2022), or the equivalent of 54 trees in carbon offsetting terms. This saves an additional £1700 in electricity costs based on Q1 2023 energy prices of approximately 34 p for non-domestic consumers in the UK.

The manufacture, transport, and disposal of IT equipment are the most significant contributors to total carbon emissions. Therefore, the lifespan of your IT equipment also plays a huge part in the overall sustainability of an IT department.

> "A simple change to a more energy efficient monitor with better eco-credentials presents an effective, easy and immediate win that improves sustainability through a longer product lifespan, energy savings, and lower emissions."

Dave Hadden
Head of Solutions at EIZO.

A quick and practical way to become more sustainable

A simple switch to a monitor with lower power consumption, like an EIZO FlexScan, can quickly add up to significant savings in energy and carbon emissions while limiting the risk for your department from an increase in electricity prices.

Table 1
Estimated annual reductions in energy use and CO2 emissions when comparing EIZO solutions to the industry standard

Modern Standard	Typical Power Consumption	EIZO Solution	Typical Power Consumption	Annual Energy Use Reduction[1]	Annual CO2 Emissions Reduction[2]
24" Full HD	20W	FlexScan EV2490	11W	18kWh	4.05kg CO2
27" 4K UHD	26W	FlexScan EV2740X	16W	20kWh	4.5kg CO2
32" 4K UHD	30W	FlexScan EV3240X	18W	24kWh	5.4kg CO2
49" UW Curve	47W	Dual FlexScan EV2795	32W	30kWh	6.750kg CO2

87% of respondents estimate that the energy cost for running a single computer monitor in their organisation is more than £150 per monitor, per year. But with the EIZO FlexScan EV2795 it only costs £11 per year on electricity.

Table 2
Estimated annual savings based on the number of monitors within an organisation[3]

EIZO Solution	50 monitors	100 monitors	250 monitors	500 monitors	1000 monitors
FlexScan EV2490	£306.00	£612.00	£1,530.00	£3,060.00	£6,120.00
FlexScan EV2740X	£340.00	£680.00	£1,700.00	£3,400.00	£6,800.00
FlexScan EV3240X	£408.00	£816.00	£2,040.00	£4,080.00	£8,160.00
Dual FlexScan EV2795	£510.00	£1,020.00	£2,550.00	£5,100.00	£10,200.00

27% of IT Managers surveyed deploy dual-monitor setups in their organisations – effectively doubling the savings in Energy Consumption, CO2 Emissions, and Electricity Costs of their department.

1 - Calculation completed using EIZO's Eco calculator (EIZO, 2023) based on typical modern monitor power consumption figures used 8 hours a day for 250 working days.
2 - Calculation based on carbon intensity of electricity generation in the EU (IEA, 2022).
3 - Calculation based on Q1 2023 energy prices of approximately £0.34 for non-domestic consumers in the UK (NimbleFins, 2023)

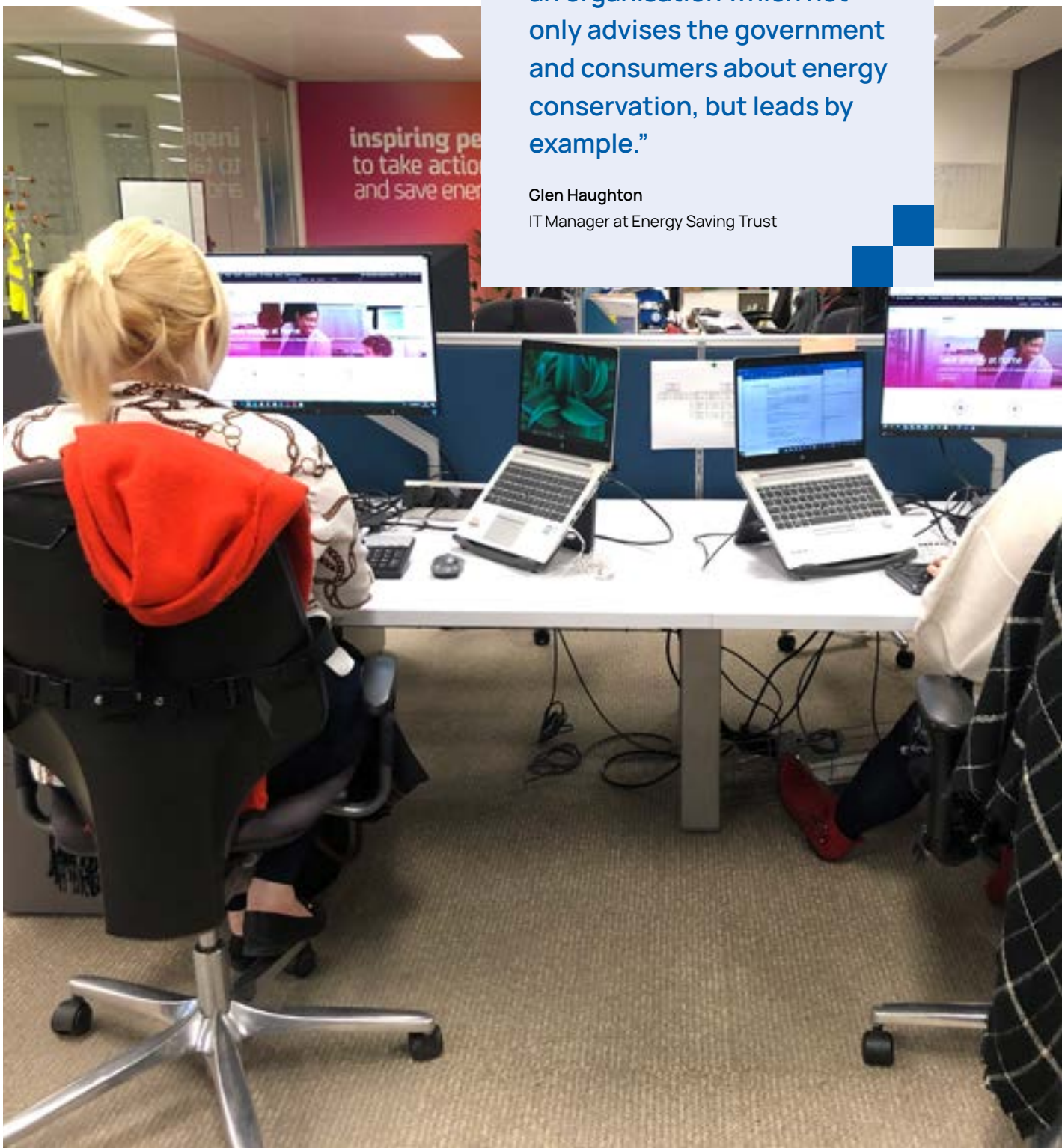
IN ACTION:

Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust is an independent organisation dedicated to promoting energy efficiency, low-carbon transport and sustainable energy use to help mitigate climate change and deliver the wider benefits of clean energy. As an organisation that works hard to manage its environmental impact, it is important that only the most energy-efficient appliances are purchased.

EIZO's FlexScan monitors, deployed into workflows across offices in London, Cardiff and Edinburgh, have reduced monitor power consumption by 35% - according to tests carried out by the Energy Saving Trust team.

> "When selecting new monitors for the organisation, I felt it was important to select a product with impeccable energy-saving credentials. These monitors are an appropriate choice for an organisation which not only advises the government and consumers about energy conservation, but leads by example."
>
> **Glen Haughton**
> IT Manager at Energy Saving Trust



What makes a monitor sustainable?

Many IT Managers may feel unsure about the criteria for choosing a truly sustainable computer monitor. The following checklist will help you to find the best sustainable solution.

- The manufacturer can prove that their product development puts sustainability at the core with recycled materials and no volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
- The manufacturer has assessed the environmental impact of equipment at each stage including the material procurement, manufacturing, transportation, use, and disposal – meeting industry standard and certification.
- The manufacturer can reinforce sustainability claims and innovations with clear figures.
- Packaging is designed with the environment in mind. EIZO FlexScan products are safely packed using moulded pulp which is made from recycled cardboard and paper.
- There are options to reduce packaging further for large orders. EIZO FlexScan products can be purchased in multi-screen and free-stand boxes.
- An extended length of warranty period which indicates a longer operational lifespan, reducing the volume of products for manufacture, transportation, and disposal.

EIZO and sustainability standards

EIZO FlexScan monitors meet the following environmental standards:

- EPEAT Gold (international environmental standard for computers and monitors, established in the USA)
- ENERGY STAR 8.0 (international energy efficiency standard established in the USA)
- TCO Certified Generation 9 (global environmental standard for IT products)
- PC Green Label (Japanese environmental standard for computers and monitors)

Ensuring a long life(cycle)

Product lifecycle is often not immediately obvious as a sustainability saving for IT Managers. Of the IT Managers surveyed, only 37% (or 1/3) of IT managers measure the lifespan of IT equipment and 34% (or 1/3) feel they are under pressure to extend the usage lifecycle of IT equipment.

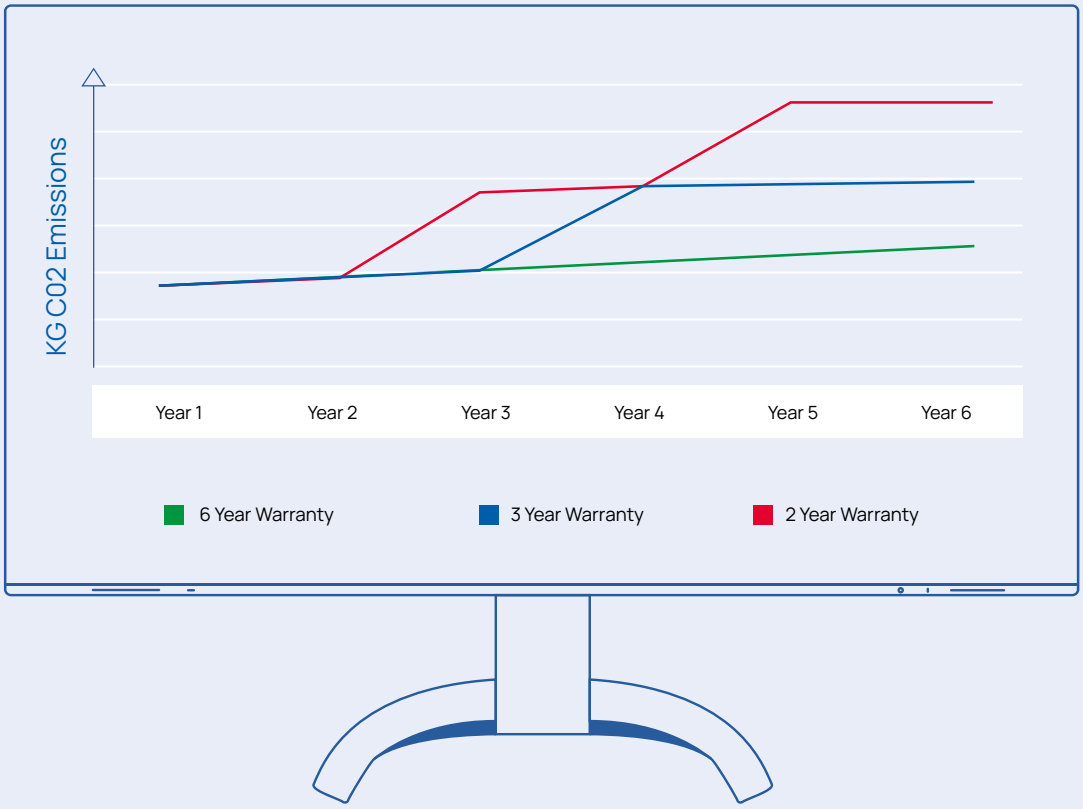
The majority don't know how long their equipment has been in use.

Extending the useful lifecycle of a monitor has a knock-on impact on the procurement, manufacturing, transportation, and eventual disposal, which are the most significant contributors to CO2 emissions from IT equipment.

One way to ensure a longer lifespan is to choose monitors with longer warranty periods. EIZO offers a 5-year "Return to Base Warranty" by default and can be extended to 6 years at a low additional cost. This is backed by confidence in strict quality controls that allows EIZO to guarantee its products will last longer in the hands of the user. In addition, replacement parts for repair are retained by EIZO in case of failure or technical trouble to further support long-term, reliable use.

The graphic below demonstrates how extending your product lifecycle can significantly reduce your Scope 3 CO2 emissions over time.

Visual representation of CO2 usage over time for monitors with different product lifecycles



Our survey found the vast majority (83%) of IT Managers currently have a 3-year warranty. Opting for a monitor with a longer 5-year warranty increases the equipment's operational lifespan by 66%, reducing carbon emissions from the manufacture, shipping, and disposal of this equipment.

Evidently, warranties are a key area of improvement for most IT Managers, leading to more sustainable supply chains and providing quantifiable savings.

Additional benefits of a longer lifecycle

Investing in IT equipment with a longer lifespan also impacts business continuity and the total cost of ownership. By spreading the initial capital expenditure over more years, the annual cost at the end of the useful lifecycle is reduced – something 92% of respondents believe is an important or extremely important consideration for specifying IT equipment.

Recycling and waste reduction

The latest EIZO FlexScan monitors are designed and manufactured with a sustainable product lifecycle in mind.

Industry leading eco-credentials and technology to reduce energy consumption

- At least a 5-year warranty to encourage a longer lifespan
- Conscious selection of materials including an outer shell made from more than 70% recycled materials
- Laser etched labelling instead of regular sticky labels
- Safely packaged using moulded pulp which is made from recycled paper and cardboard to reduces the amount of plastic waste
- Optimised size for packaging and multi pack options of monitor-heads with or without stands for large orders (up to 4 in a single box as pictured on the right)
- Reduced overall size and volume of each shipment to increase the number of boxes that can be shipped in a single container– minimising the carbon footprint of each monitor and associated costs

Up to
47%
reduction in carbon footprint

Up to
47%
smaller packaging footprint

Up to
45%
reduction in packaging waste

Recycle your EIZO monitors

During 2023, EIZO UK will begin a new recycling programme for end-of-life EIZO monitors - where they will collect, process and dispose of their products in a 100% eco-friendly process. They are working with IT disposal experts to determine whether the equipment can be reused or recycled, with 0% going to landfill, to reduce e-waste and contribute towards a circular economy.

Early 2023 saw EIZO complete the construction of its new Logistics centre with Net-Zero CO2 emissions. With a solar power generation system capable of generating 400,000kWh per year.

Choosing a sustainable manufacturer

Create a more sustainable supply chain by choosing products from a sustainable organisation. EIZO group's corporate philosophy extensively incorporates its commitment to the sustainable development of global society through global initiatives and innovative products, systems, and services.

EIZO global sustainability initiatives

- The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) has approved EIZO's near-term science-based reduction targets for GHG emissions for all its business activities.
- 70% reduction of scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by FY2030 and 100%, net zero, by FY2040.
- Reduce scope 3 emissions, indirect emissions from procurement, manufacturing, distribution and waste disposal, by 27.5% by 2030.
- Participation in the UN Global Compact, involving the development of a global framework for sustainable business growth.
- CDP Score Report, where EIZO received an A- for its environmental performance (in the leadership band, and among the top 18% of companies to reach this level in its category).
- The development of environmentally sound products, in accordance with the ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certifications.
- Compliance with international laws and regulations regarding environmental protection and the effective use of energy including the RoHS Directive, WEEE Directive, and REACH Regulation.
- Meeting the latest sustainability and environmental standards, in particular, TCO 9 Certification.

EIZO UK's commitment to sustainability

EIZO UK also works towards independent sustainability goals with their own initiatives.

Energy efficiency

The UK HQ is a new building designed to meet EIZO's needs for growth, ergonomics and sustainability. The office is equipped with LED lighting activated by motion sensors on all floors and every desk is fitted with EIZO FlexScan monitors to help to reduce energy consumption.

Waste and recycling

EIZO UK recycles and upcycles as much as possible, including donating unwanted office furniture to a local hospital and laptops and monitors to a local school. Zero waste from the UK HQ goes to landfill, with all office paper and printer cartridges recycled.

CSR-A Accreditation

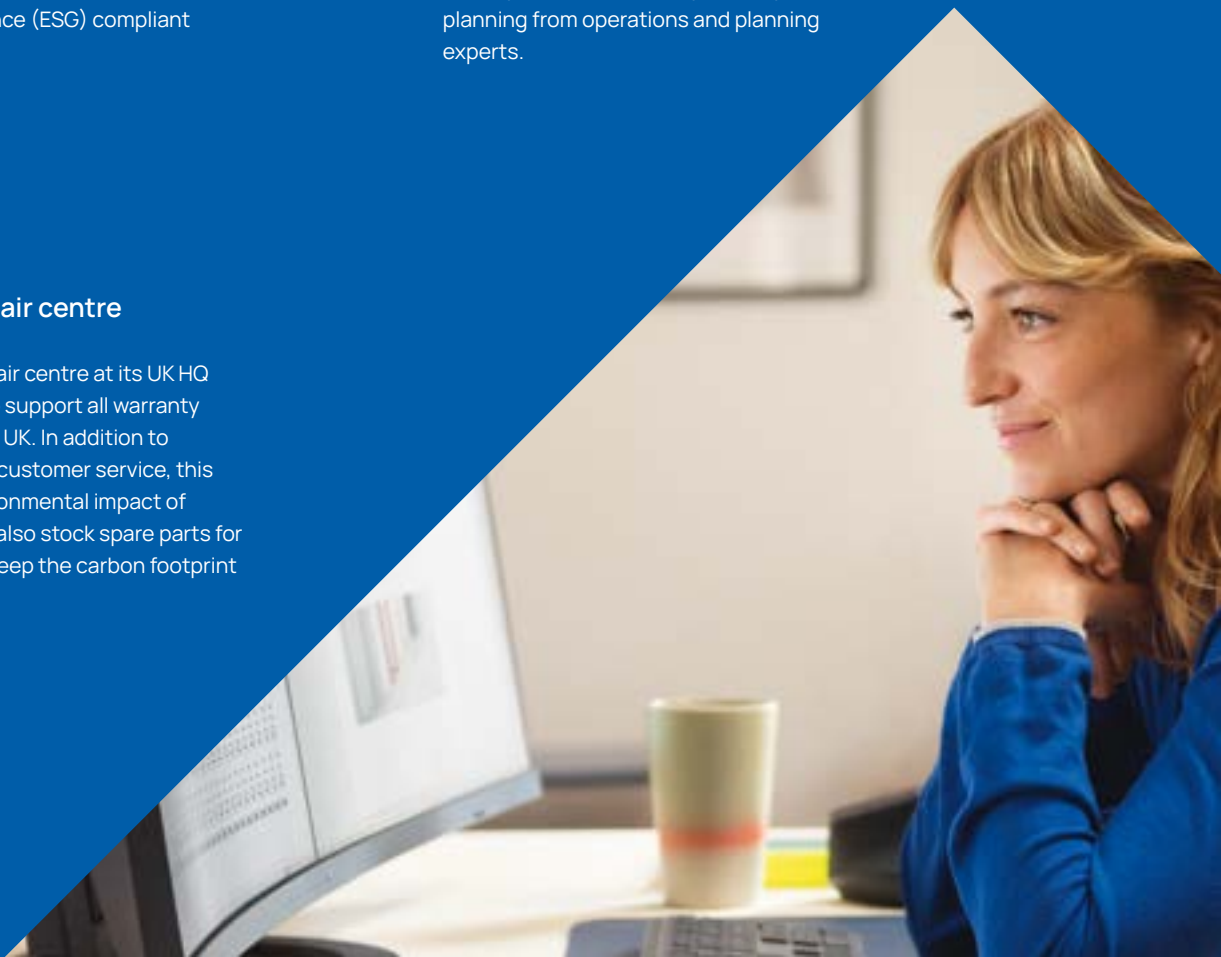
EIZO UK's environmental impact has been audited as a part of its Silver CSR-A Accreditation which demonstrates independent validation of environmental, social and governance (ESG) compliant actions and policy.

Supply chain improvements

The UK business has committed to removing air freight from its supply chain. This is possible thanks to EIZO's resilient supply chain, production from Japan and proactive planning from operations and planning experts.

A UK-based repair centre

EIZO has a local repair centre at its UK HQ in Ascot, England to support all warranty requirements in the UK. In addition to providing excellent customer service, this minimises the environmental impact of transportation. We also stock spare parts for product repairs to keep the carbon footprint as low as possible.



Sustainability is rising in importance

With carbon emissions and energy usage high on everyone's agendas, it's little surprise that boosting sustainability is becoming part of the IT Manager's job description. Simple changes to the equipment purchased and the manufacturers you partner with can make a world of difference in meeting sustainability and carbon goals. Make the right, informed decisions about the sustainability and lifespan of your IT equipment and you'll have an easy win to report back to the C-Suite.

How green is your monitor?

To understand the impact that switching to an EIZO FlexScan sustainable monitor can have on your organisation, we've created a simple eco calculator.

Find out how much you could save in energy consumption, CO2 emissions and annual costs, compared to your current monitor: https://www.eizoglobal.com/products/flexscan/ecoview_microsite/ecocalculator/

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