

Leading environmental sustainability in a digital-first world

Across APAC, organisations are under growing pressure to reduce environmental impact while continuing to grow digitally. Governments, businesses, and communities are making progress, but sustainability outcomes remain uneven across markets and sectors.

Progress is real, but uneven

As digital adoption accelerates, leaders must balance opportunity with responsibility. Understanding where progress is being made, where gaps remain, and how digital systems influence both is the first step toward meaningful action.

What we are seeing across APAC

- A growing focus on environmental sustainability and ESG
- A greater use of digital tools to improve efficiency and visibility
- Policy and technology are playing a stronger role in driving change

Where progress is strongest



Energy and infrastructure



Transport and mobility



Buildings and urban systems

What this means for leaders

- Some markets are moving faster than others
- Progress varies by sector and organisational maturity
- There is no single sustainability model that works everywhere

Where organisations struggle most

These are the areas where sustainability efforts most often stall or break down.

Scope 3 emissions

These are emissions beyond direct operations

- Emissions across suppliers and partners
- Limited visibility beyond direct operations
- Data spread across complex value chains

Digital-to-carbon footprint

The environmental impact of digital systems

- Growing energy use from cloud and data centres
- Rising demand driven by AI and digital services
- Increasing e-waste from short device lifecycles

Why this matters

Together, these pressure points represent the hardest sustainability challenges for organisations. They are difficult to measure, span multiple stakeholders, and often sit outside traditional reporting boundaries.

Without better visibility and digital governance, these impacts can quietly grow, even as sustainability efforts elsewhere improve.

The trade-offs of digital sustainability

Digital systems such as cloud platforms, data infrastructure, and AI play a central role in modern sustainability efforts. They help organisations monitor impact, optimise operations, and scale action. At the same time, they consume energy and resources, creating trade-offs leaders must actively manage.



Where digital systems enable sustainability

- Cloud platforms that improve visibility and coordination
- Data and analytics that optimise energy and resources
- AI and automation that support better decision-making



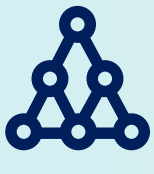
Where digital systems add environmental impact

- Energy-intensive data centres and cloud infrastructure
- AI models and workloads with high compute demand
- Devices, networks, and growing volumes of e-waste

The challenge is not choosing one over the other, but managing both responsibly.

Where organisations can focus

It's not about adopting more technology, but using it to align digital growth with sustainability goals.



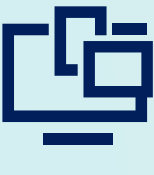
Improving visibility across supply chains



Managing energy use more intelligently



Designing software and systems with efficiency in mind



Engaging stakeholders through digital platforms

How NCS helps organisations move from intent to action

By combining strategic advisory with deep digital capabilities, NCS helps leaders understand trade-offs, prioritise the right initiatives, and apply cloud, data, and AI systems to support long-term sustainability goals.

What NCS brings

- Clear frameworks to identify where sustainability impact matters most
- Deep experience across cloud, data, and AI systems
- Strong understanding of APAC regulatory and operating contexts
- A focus on responsible, measurable digital outcomes

How this supports sustainability

- Better visibility across emissions and digital footprints
- More informed decisions on technology design and deployment
- Alignment between sustainability goals and digital strategy

Explore the full perspective

Read the full web article to explore the questions leaders need to consider when navigating sustainability challenges.

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