

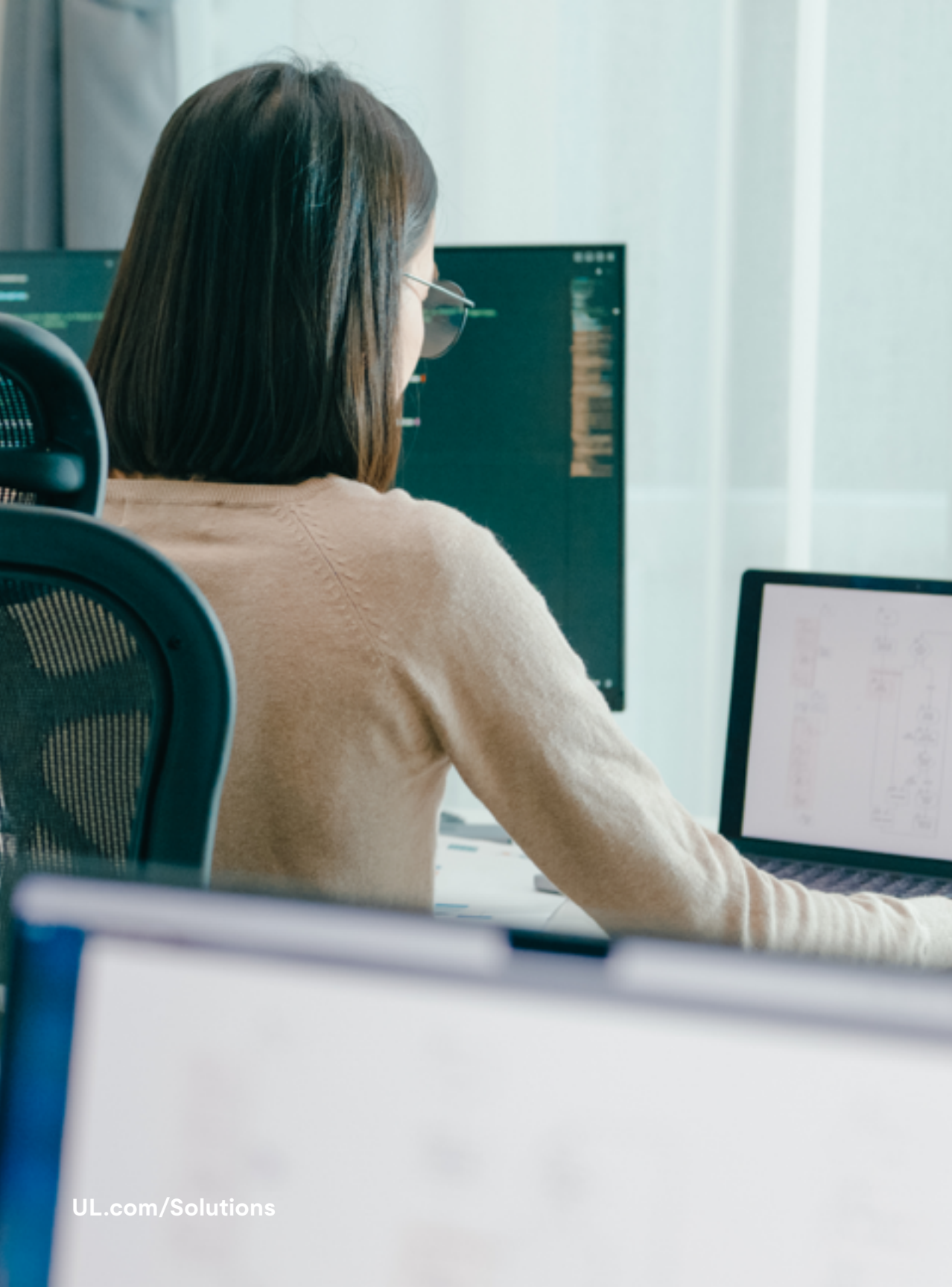
EdgeConnex and UL Solutions:

Working Together
in Promoting
Sustainability



Customers • People • Planet





The Challenge

EdgeConneX, a leader in the data center industry, has built a reputation on its ability to deliver customized, high-performance digital infrastructure solutions across the globe. The company's core strengths lie in its ability to build scalable, AI-driven infrastructure, provide reliable services with 99.999% availability, and maintain a strong commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability. As EdgeConneX continues to expand its footprint with over 80 data centers built and in development across more than 50 markets on four continents, sustainability remains a top priority.

However, achieving this level of sustainability, particularly in waste management, presented a significant challenge. EdgeConneX set a goal to become Zero Waste to Landfill

(ZWTL) across its portfolio by 2030. This goal required not only internal commitment but also external validation to assure stakeholders of their genuine progress toward environmental responsibility. The challenge was to find a partner who could provide the rigorous verification needed to validate EdgeConneX's efforts and guide them through the complex process of achieving ZWTL status.



The Solution

EdgeConneX turned to UL Solutions, a global leader in safety science, to help them achieve their ambitious sustainability goals. Known for its expertise in environmental sustainability and robust verification processes, UL Solutions was a natural fit for EdgeConneX. The company's decision to partner with UL Solutions was driven by their extensive experience in guiding companies through the ZWTL validation process and their reputation for credibility and thoroughness.

“UL Solutions has a proven record of guiding customers successfully through the verification process,” said Haley Willis, Senior Environmental and Regulatory Engineer for EdgeConneX. “This was especially helpful to us in the data center space as we validated our facilities – and worked to

demonstrate our holistic commitment to zero waste, which encompasses both downstream and upstream efforts.”

The process began with a thorough evaluation of EdgeConneX's waste management practices, including an assessment of the waste generated by operational activities such as emergency backup generator maintenance. UL Solutions worked closely with EdgeConneX to ensure that all waste streams were accurately accounted for and managed according to the strict requirements of the UL 2799 ZWTL validation.

UL 2799, the Standard for Environmental Claim Validation Procedure (ECVP) for Zero Waste to Landfill, requires at least 90% diversion through methods other than waste-to-energy to achieve a Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWTL) designation.



The Implementation

The journey to validation was not without its challenges. As this was EdgeConneX's first project of this nature, there was a learning curve involved in understanding and implementing the necessary procedures. From the initial reach-out to UL Solutions to the final verification, the process took approximately one year - with the actual validation process taking only four months from the project kick-off with the UL Solutions Environmental Project Handler. Although the company had hoped to achieve validation in a shorter time frame, the experience provided valuable lessons that will streamline future validations across their global data center portfolio.

“Determining the scope of waste produced onsite was an early lesson learned,” explained Raj Chudgar, Chief

Power Officer for EdgeConneX. “We had to consider not just what was leaving on a regular basis through our on-site waste receptacles via our general waste vendor, but also operational activities that occurred on a regular basis and generated waste. For us, this included our emergency backup generator maintenance.”

Throughout the process, EdgeConneX's project lead for waste worked closely with on-site operations managers, technicians, and vendors to gather information and support the desktop review and on-site audit. The collaboration between EdgeConneX and UL Solutions was key to the successful validation, with UL Solutions providing ongoing support and guidance to support a process that was both efficient and effective.

The Result

The successful achievement of UL 2799 Zero Waste to Landfill validation at EdgeConneX's Amsterdam Campus marked a significant milestone for the company. This validation not only demonstrated EdgeConneX's commitment to sustainability but also positioned them as a leader in environmental stewardship within the data center industry.

“It enhances our reputation by demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainability, fostering trust and loyalty among customers and stakeholders. Streamlined recycling processes reduce environmental impact, minimizing the need for landfill space and preserving natural landscapes.”

Haley Willis

Senior Environmental and Regulatory Engineer
for EdgeConneX

The validation has already begun to yield tangible benefits for EdgeConneX. By streamlining their recycling processes and avoiding landfill disposal, the company has minimized its environmental impact and contributed to preserving natural landscapes.

Moreover, by minimizing waste incineration, EdgeConneX has preserved air quality, supporting both community health and environmental well-being.



Looking Forward

EdgeConneX's experience with UL Solutions has set the stage for future sustainability initiatives. The company plans to leverage the lessons learned from this first validation to achieve ZWTL status across all its facilities by 2030. The collaboration with UL Solutions will continue to play a vital role in this journey, helping EdgeConneX to remain at the forefront of sustainable practices in the data center industry.





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