



# Product Environmental Report

## iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus

Date introduced  
September 12, 2023

### Progress toward our 2030 goal

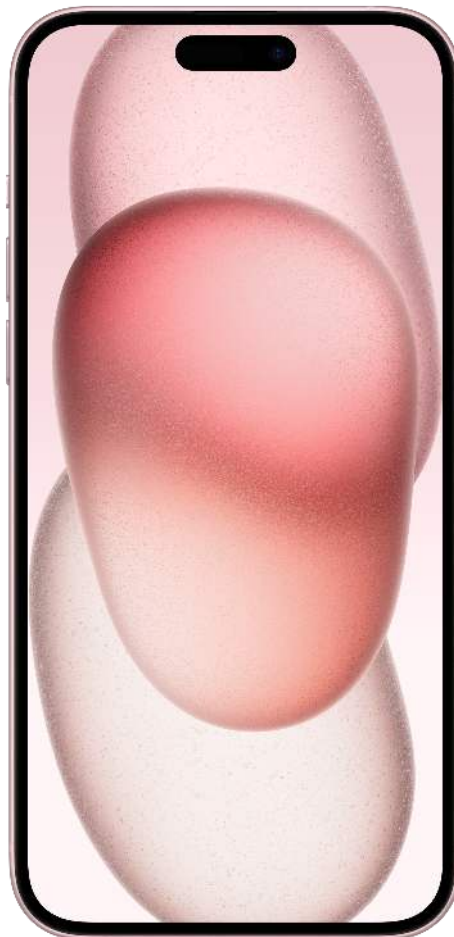
- 23%** recycled or renewable content<sup>1</sup>
- 31%** of manufacturing electricity sourced from supplier clean energy projects<sup>2</sup>

### Smarter chemistry<sup>3</sup>

- Arsenic-free display glass
- Mercury-free
- Brominated flame retardant-free
- PVC-free
- Beryllium-free

### Longevity

iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus feature Ceramic Shield as well as IP68 water and dust resistance that enhance durability.<sup>4</sup>



### Responsible packaging

- 99%** fiber-based, due to our work to eliminate plastic in packaging<sup>5</sup>
- 100%** recycled or responsibly sourced wood fibers

### Recovery

Return your device through Apple Trade In, and we'll give it a new life or recycle it for free.

### Responsible manufacturing

Apple Supplier Code of Conduct sets strict standards for the protection of people in our supply chain and the planet.

## 100% recycled cobalt in the battery<sup>6</sup>

# Our product carbon neutrality strategy

Our goal is for Apple and all the products we make to be carbon neutral by 2030, reducing our total carbon emissions to no more than 9.6 million metric tons—at least a 75 percent reduction against our 2015 baseline. The only way to reach this ambitious goal is to substantially decarbonize our products.

Our plan to decarbonize products is rigorous and focuses on transitioning to clean electricity, designing with recycled and low-carbon materials, and prioritizing lower-carbon ways of shipping products, like with ocean freight. Only after we've substantially reduced emissions will we apply credits from high-quality carbon removal projects to achieve carbon neutrality.

## How we are reducing emissions

- **Transition to 100% clean electricity for manufacturing:** To eliminate emissions from the electricity used to make products, we're prioritizing manufacturing energy efficiency and helping to transition our entire supply chain to 100 percent clean electricity.<sup>8</sup>
- **Transition to 100% clean electricity for product use:** To gradually negate emissions from the electricity our customers use to charge their Apple products, we're prioritizing product energy efficiency and investing in clean energy projects around the world.
- **Prioritize non-air transportation:** To reduce emissions from transporting products, we're prioritizing the use of lower-carbon non-air shipping modes, like ocean or rail.
- **Use recycled and low-carbon materials:** To address emissions generated by using primary materials, we're increasing the recycled content of our products, maximizing material and manufacturing efficiencies, and improving yields. And where we've not yet fully transitioned to recycled content, we're prioritizing low-carbon materials, such as aluminum smelted with hydroelectricity.

## How we'll get to net zero emissions

For emissions that remain after reductions, we and our suppliers are supporting nature-based solutions that result in high-quality carbon credits. These play an important role in addressing our climate crisis, as nature-based solutions contribute to the health of ecosystems in addition to removing carbon from the atmosphere. We are aligned with the scientific consensus that these solutions should only be deployed alongside aggressive emissions reductions.

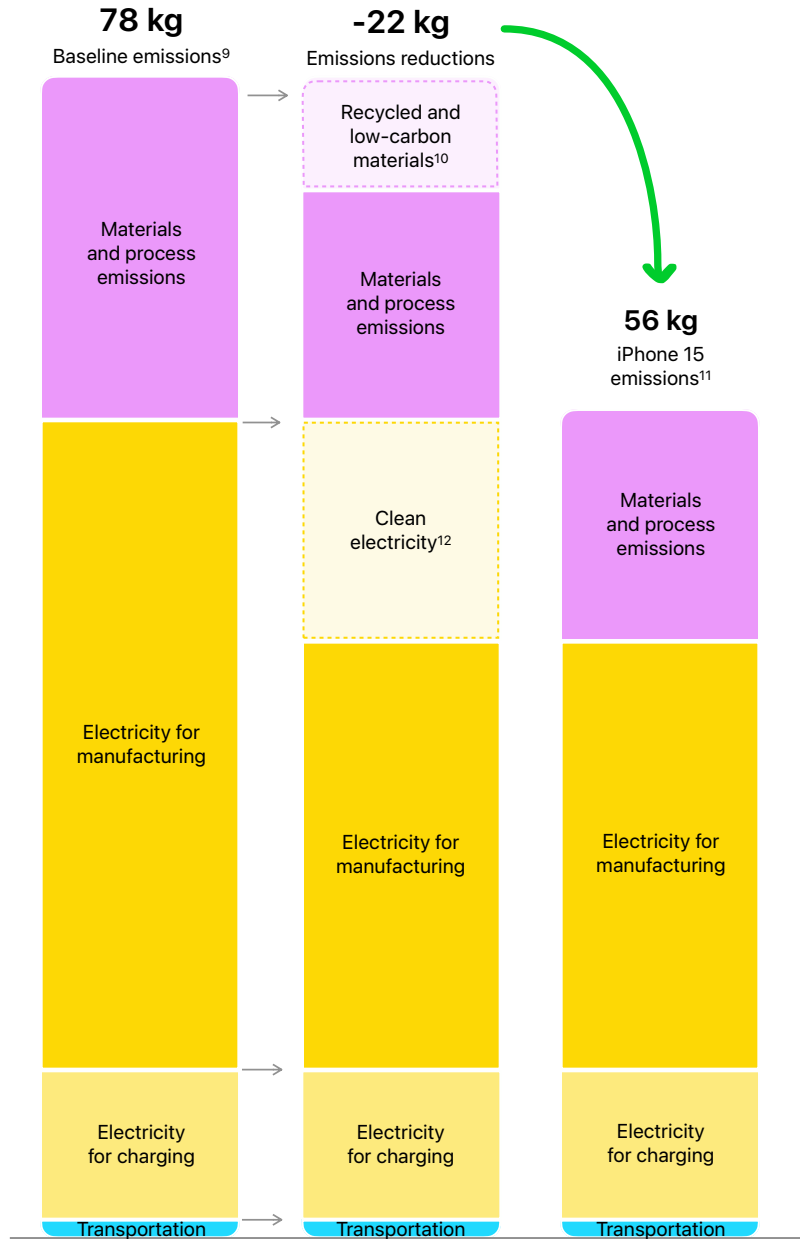
## How we're monitoring progress

We first calculate the final carbon footprint of the product using a life cycle carbon analysis approach, in accordance with international standards. To help ensure our work is translating to real reductions, we consider what emissions would have been without our actions. We apply the following assumptions to create this baseline scenario:

- No use of clean electricity for manufacturing or product use, beyond what is already available on the grid (based on regional emissions factors).
- Apple's carbon intensity of key materials as of 2015. Carbon intensity of materials reflects use of recycled content and production technology.
- Apple's average mix of transportation modes (air, rail, ocean, ground) by product line across three years (fiscal years 2017 to 2019) to best capture the baseline transportation emissions of our products.

# Progress toward carbon neutral

We've reduced emissions for iPhone 15 by 28 percent against our baseline.<sup>9</sup> iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus contain 23 percent recycled or renewable content, including 75 percent recycled aluminum in the enclosure, reducing emissions by over 9 percent. We're also working with our suppliers to transition to 100 percent clean electricity for Apple production. The clean electricity solutions that suppliers have already implemented to date have reduced iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus emissions by 16 percent.



# Taking responsibility for our products at every stage

We take responsibility for our products throughout their life cycles—including the materials they are made of, the people who assemble them, and how they are recycled at end of life. And we focus on the areas where we can make the biggest difference for our planet: reducing our impact on climate change, conserving important resources, and using safer materials.

**We sell millions of products. So making even small adjustments can have a meaningful impact.**





# Source Materials

iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus contain a total of 23 percent recycled or renewable content.<sup>1</sup>

To conserve important resources, we work to reduce the material we use and aim to one day source only recycled or renewable materials in our products. And as we make this transition, we remain committed to the responsible sourcing of primary materials. We map many materials, some to the mineral source, and establish the strictest standards for smelters and refiners. Apple also requires 100 percent of identified tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold, cobalt, and lithium smelters and refiners to participate in third-party audits.<sup>13</sup> We're proud to be recognized as a worldwide leader in the responsible sourcing of minerals in our products. Our product designs also consider the safety of those who make, use, and recycle our products, restricting the use of hundreds of harmful substances. Our standards go beyond what's required by law to protect people and the environment.



**Aluminum.** Our focus on Apple's carbon footprint extends to the materials we source. We use 75 percent recycled aluminum in the enclosure of iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus.



**Plastic.** For iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus, we use 35 percent or more recycled plastic in multiple components. This includes upcycled plastic bottles in the antenna lines.



**Tin.** We use 100 percent recycled tin in the solder of multiple printed circuit boards.



**Rare earth elements.** We use 100 percent recycled rare earth elements in all magnets, representing 100 percent of the total rare earth elements in the device.<sup>14</sup>



**Tungsten.** We use 100 percent recycled tungsten in the Taptic Engine. This represents 99 percent of the total tungsten in the device.



**Gold.** Apple is building a gold supply chain of exclusively recycled content. We're now using 100 percent recycled gold in the plating of multiple printed circuit boards and—in a first for Apple—the USB-C connector as well as the wire of all cameras in iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus.



**Copper.** We're now using 100 percent recycled copper foil in the main logic board and—in a first for Apple—the MagSafe inductive charger, as well as 100 percent recycled copper wire in the Taptic Engine.



**Cobalt.** We use 100 percent recycled cobalt in the battery—a first for Apple.<sup>6</sup> This achievement is part of our April 2023 commitment to transition to 100 percent recycled cobalt in all Apple-designed batteries by 2025.



## Smarter chemistry

iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus are free of harmful substances like beryllium, brominated flame retardants, PVC, phthalates, arsenic in the display glass, and mercury.<sup>3</sup> And 100 percent of the materials in iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus are covered by our [Regulated Substances Specification](#). We go beyond what's required by aiming to understand the non-regulated substances in every part of every product—an effort that requires an industry-leading level of transparency through the entire supply chain. We consistently identify the makeup of over 80 percent by mass of iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus devices.



# Make

The Apple Supplier Code of Conduct sets strict standards for the protection of people in our supply chain and the planet that we all share. Every year, we assess our suppliers' performance in upholding the standards required by our Code.

We work closely with our suppliers to provide safe and healthy workplaces where people are treated with dignity and respect, and to reduce suppliers' environmental impact. Our requirements apply across our supply chain and include the responsible sourcing of materials. From the strong foundation set by our Code, we go further—from helping suppliers transition to clean electricity, to providing educational opportunities for their employees, to supporting final assembly suppliers in reducing waste. For more information, see [apple.com/supplier-responsibility](https://apple.com/supplier-responsibility).

## Greener chemicals

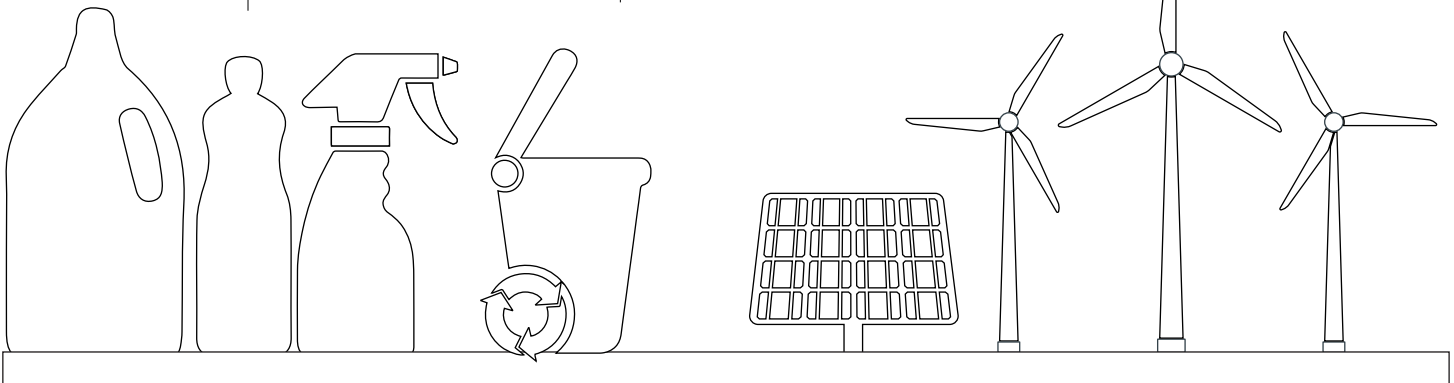
All established iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus final assembly supplier sites use safer cleaners and degreasers in their manufacturing processes, as determined by methodologies like the GreenScreen® assessment.<sup>15</sup>

## Zero Waste to Landfill

No established iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus final assembly supplier sites generate any waste sent to landfill.<sup>16</sup>

## Supplier energy use

Over 30 percent of manufacturing electricity is sourced from supplier clean energy projects, supported by Apple's Supplier Clean Energy Program.<sup>2</sup>





## Package and Ship

iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus packaging is 99 percent fiber-based, which brings us one step closer to our goal of removing plastic from all our packaging by 2025.

To improve our packaging, we are working to eliminate plastics, increase recycled content, and use less packaging overall. All of the wood fiber in our packaging is either recycled or comes from responsibly managed forests.<sup>17</sup> And we have protected or created enough responsibly managed forests to cover all the virgin wood fiber we use in our packaging.<sup>18</sup> This ensures working forests are able to regrow and continue to clean our air and purify our water.

As we transport our products from our manufacturers to our consumers, we're prioritizing less carbon-intensive shipping modes than air transport, such as rail and ocean.

**99%**

of the packaging<sup>5</sup> is fiber-based, due to our work to eliminate plastic in packaging

**68%**

recycled content in fiber packaging

**100%**

of the virgin wood fiber in the packaging comes from responsibly managed forests<sup>17</sup>





# Use

iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus use at least 47 percent less energy than the energy efficiency standard.<sup>19</sup>

We design our products to be energy efficient, long-lasting, and safe. iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus use software and power-efficient components that intelligently manage power consumption. We also run our own Reliability and Environmental Testing Labs, where our products go through rigorous testing before they leave our doors. Our support continues throughout each product’s life cycle, with regular software updates to keep devices current and a network of authorized repair professionals to service them, if necessary. To address emissions tied to the electricity our products use, we are building clean energy projects and engaging with our customers to educate and provide opportunities to support the decarbonization of the grid.

## Designed to last

iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus feature Ceramic Shield as well as IP68 water and dust resistance that enhance durability.<sup>4</sup>

## Made with smarter chemistry

We apply rigorous controls for materials users touch—all based on recommendations from toxicologists and dermatologists.



# Recover

Return your product with Apple Trade In, and we'll ensure it has a long life or recycle it for free.

When products are used longer, fewer resources are extracted from the earth. And we want the materials in our products to live on in other products. That's why we launched Apple Trade In—it offers customers a seamless way to return their old devices and accessories to Apple. Eligible devices can be traded in for credit or an Apple Store Gift Card, while accessories and other devices can be recycled for free.<sup>20</sup> We also offer and participate in [product take-back and recycling collection programs](#) for 99 percent of the countries where we sell products—and we hold our recyclers to high standards. Our efforts to keep harmful substances out of our products mean our materials are safer to recover and reuse.

We're also creating [Apple Recycler Guides](#) to provide guidance for professional electronics recyclers on how to safely disassemble Apple products to maximize recovery of resources. The guides provide valuable insight into the steps for recycling, as well as the recommended downstream material recycler for the disassembled parts.

## iPhone Recycling

We designed a disassembly robot, Daisy, to take apart iPhone devices into distinct components. Our newest disassembly robot, Dave, takes the next step: disassembling the Taptic Engine to recover materials like rare earth elements and tungsten.

[See Dave in Action](#)



# Definitions

**Bio-based plastics:** Bio-based plastics are made from biological sources rather than from fossil-fuel sources. Bio-based plastics allow us to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

**Carbon footprint:** Estimated emissions are calculated in accordance with guidelines and requirements as specified by ISO 14040, ISO 14044, and ISO 14067. There is inherent uncertainty in modeling carbon emissions due primarily to data limitations. For the top component contributors to Apple's carbon emissions, Apple addresses this uncertainty by developing detailed process-based environmental models with Apple-specific parameters. For the remaining elements of Apple's carbon footprint, we rely on industry average data and assumptions. We calculate carbon emissions using the 100-year time horizon global warming potentials (GWP100) from the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), including biogenic carbon. Our carbon footprint calculation includes emissions for the following life cycle phases in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalency (CO<sub>2</sub>e):

- **Production:** Includes the extraction, production, and transportation of raw materials, as well as the manufacture, transport, and assembly of all parts and product packaging.
- **Transport:** Includes ground, air, and sea transportation of the finished product and its associated packaging from manufacturing site to regional distribution hubs. Transport of products from distribution hubs to end customers is modeled using average distances based on regional geography.
- **Use:** Apple assumes a three-year period for power use by first owners for iOS, iPadOS, and watchOS devices and a four-year period for macOS and tvOS devices. Product use scenarios are based on historical customer use data for similar products. Energy use is simulated in various ways; for example, by modeling daily battery drain or through performing activities like movie and music playback. Geographic differences in the power grid mix have been accounted for at a regional level.
- **End-of-life processing:** Includes transportation from collection hubs to recycling centers and the energy used in mechanical separation and shredding of parts.

For more information on our product carbon footprint methodology, visit [apple.com/environment/answers](https://apple.com/environment/answers).

**Low-carbon materials:** Refers to materials created using production techniques with reduced carbon impact, such as Elysis (a patented technology that eliminates direct greenhouse gas emissions from the traditional aluminum smelting process) or aluminum smelted using hydroelectricity instead of coal.

**Recycled materials:** Recycling makes better use of finite resources by sourcing from recovered rather than mined materials. Recycled content claims for materials used in our products have been verified by an independent third party to a recycled content standard that conforms to ISO 14021.

**Renewable materials:** We define bio-materials as those that can be regenerated in a human lifespan, like paper fibers or sugarcane. Bio-materials can help us use fewer finite resources. But even though bio-materials have the ability to regrow, they are not always managed responsibly. Renewable materials are a type of bio-material managed in a way that enables continuous production without depleting the earth's resources. That's why we focus on sources that are certified for their management practices.

**Supplier Clean Energy Program:** Since the electricity used to make our products is the largest contributor to our overall carbon footprint, we're helping our suppliers decarbonize their Apple production, including by transitioning electricity use to 100 percent clean sources.

# Carbon Footprint

Greenhouse gas emissions were calculated using a life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology in accordance with ISO 14040, ISO 14044, and ISO 14067 standards and based on iPhone 15 128GB. The LCA boundary for this product includes the physical product and all of its components, as well as all in-box accessories.

Greenhouse gas emissions	iPhone 15 128GB	iPhone 15 Plus 128GB
<b>Total product footprint</b>	<b>56 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>61 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
Apple emissions from utility-purchased electricity (scope 2)	0 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	0 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Life cycle product emissions (scope 3)	56 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	61 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
• Production	80%	79%
• Transportation	3%	3%
• Product use	18%	18%
• End-of-life processing	<1%	<1%
GHG reductions achieved <sup>9</sup>	↓28%	↓25%

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

We've also calculated the product carbon footprint for different configurations.

Configuration	iPhone 15	iPhone 15 Plus
256GB	61 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	66 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
512GB	74 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	79 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e

# Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Product recycled or renewable content is the mass of certified recycled material relative to the overall mass of the device, not including packaging or in-box accessories.
- <sup>2</sup> We estimate the percentage of electricity-related emissions in our manufacturing that is sourced from clean electricity by attributing to our carbon model clean energy procured by our suppliers in the prior fiscal year, based on the supplier manufacturing allocations at time of product launch. Included in this number is only clean electricity that Apple or its suppliers have procured as part of Apple's Supplier Clean Energy Program.
- <sup>3</sup> [Apple's Regulated Substances Specification](#) describes Apple's restrictions on the use of certain chemical substances in materials in Apple products, accessories, manufacturing processes, and packaging used for shipping products to Apple's end customers. Restrictions are derived from international laws or directives, regulatory agencies, eco-label requirements, environmental standards, and Apple policies. Every Apple product is free of PVC and phthalates except for AC power cords in India, Thailand (for 2-prong AC power cords), and South Korea, where we continue to seek government approval for our PVC and phthalates replacement. Apple products comply with the European Union Directive 2011/65/EU and its amendments, including exemptions for the use of lead such as high-temperature solder. Apple is working to phase out the use of these exempted substances for new products where technically possible.
- <sup>4</sup> iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus are splash, water, and dust resistant and were tested under controlled laboratory conditions with a rating of IP68 under IEC standard 60529 (maximum depth of 6 meters up to 30 minutes). Splash, water, and dust resistance are not permanent conditions and resistance might decrease as a result of normal wear. Do not attempt to charge a wet iPhone; refer to the user guide for cleaning and drying instructions. Liquid damage not covered under warranty.
- <sup>5</sup> Breakdown of U.S. retail packaging by weight. Adhesives, inks, and coatings are excluded from our calculations of plastic content and packaging weight.
- <sup>6</sup> All cobalt claims/references are on a mass balance allocation.
- <sup>7</sup> iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus achieved a Gold rating in the United States and Canada, in accordance with IEEE 1680.1 or UL 110, and are listed as such on the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Registry. EPEAT registers computers, displays, and mobile phones based on environmental requirements in these standards. For more information, visit [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net).
- <sup>8</sup> We recognize that even clean sources of electricity have residual carbon emissions across their life cycle (e.g., from manufacturing), which we account for when calculating our product scope 3 emissions.
- <sup>9</sup> Carbon reductions are calculated against a baseline scenario: 1) No use of clean electricity for manufacturing or product use, beyond what is already available on the grid (based on regional emissions factors). 2) Apple's carbon intensity of key materials as of 2015 (our baseline year for our 2030 product carbon neutrality goal). Carbon intensity of materials reflects use of recycled content and production technology. 3) Apple's average mix of transportation modes (air, rail, ocean, ground) by product line across three years (fiscal years 2017 to 2019) to best capture the baseline transportation emissions of our products.
- <sup>10</sup> We calculate emissions savings from the use of recycled or low-carbon materials in our products by comparing the carbon intensity of key materials today with their 2015 baseline for Apple products. We currently only quantify the carbon savings from the use of recycled aluminum, which means the actual emissions avoided are likely larger. We plan to improve our accounting of recycled content over time.
- <sup>11</sup> Greenhouse gas emissions were calculated using a life cycle assessment methodology in accordance with ISO 14040, 14044, and 14067 standards and based on iPhone 15 with 128GB storage configuration. The life cycle assessment boundary for this product includes the physical product and all of its components and packaging, as well as all in-box accessories.
- <sup>12</sup> We estimate emissions savings from supplier clean electricity by allocating to our carbon model clean electricity generated by our suppliers in the prior fiscal year, based on the supplier manufacturing allocations at time of product launch.
- <sup>13</sup> We map materials in our supply chain and publish a list of identified tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold (3TG), cobalt, and lithium smelters and refiners in our supply chain. Third-party assessments seek to confirm sourcing practices and are part of our responsible sourcing program. In addition, our efforts consider a broad range of risks, including social, environmental, human rights, and governance risks.
- <sup>14</sup> Excludes trace amount of rare earth elements found outside of the magnets.
- <sup>15</sup> Chemicals that meet GreenScreen® benchmark 3 or 4 or other equivalent methodologies like U.S. EPA Safer Choice are considered safer and preferred for use. GreenScreen® is a comprehensive hazard assessment tool that evaluates substances against 18 different criteria. For more information, visit [www.greenscreenchemicals.org](http://www.greenscreenchemicals.org).

# Endnotes

<sup>16</sup> All established final assembly supplier sites—those that have been Apple suppliers for more than one year—for iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus are third-party verified as Zero Waste by UL LLC (UL 2799 Standard). UL requires at least 90 percent diversion through methods other than waste to energy to achieve Zero Waste to Landfill (Silver 90–94 percent, Gold 95–99 percent, and Platinum 100 percent) designations.

<sup>17</sup> Responsible sourcing of wood fiber is defined in Apple's Responsible Fiber Specification. We consider wood fibers to include bamboo.

<sup>18</sup> For more information about our work to protect and create responsibly managed forests, please read our [Environmental Progress Report](#).

<sup>19</sup> Efficiency performance is based on the U.S. Department of Energy Federal Energy Conservation Standards for Battery Chargers. Please note that ENERGY STAR does not certify smartphone devices. Energy efficiency terms: The energy efficiency values are based on the following conditions.

- Power adapter, no-load: Condition in which the Apple 20W USB-C Power Adapter with the USB-C to Lightning Cable (1m) is connected to AC power, but not connected to iPhone.
- Power adapter efficiency: Average of the 20W USB-C Power Adapter with the USB-C Charge Cable (1 m) measured efficiency when tested at 100 percent, 75 percent, 50 percent, and 25 percent of the power adapter's rated output current.

Mode	Power consumption for iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus		
	100V	115V	230V
Power adapter, no-load	0.04W	0.04W	0.04W
Power adapter efficiency	87.49%	88.06%	87.81%

<sup>20</sup> Trade-in values vary based on the condition, year, and configuration of your trade-in device, and may also vary between online and in-store trade-in. You must be at least 18 years old. In-store trade-in requires presentation of a valid, government-issued photo ID (local law may require saving this information). Additional terms from Apple or Apple's trade-in partners may apply.