

Global Citizen Working Group

Antoine Lécroart and Nicole Starosielski, co-chairs

Purpose:

to identify ways for the submarine cable industry to better itself and the world

2021 Project Spotlight: Decarbonizing the Subsea Cable Network

Reducing carbon emissions is becoming more important for individual citizens, governments, and companies – as well as for the stability of the planet as a whole.

In this research project, we explore how the subsea cable industry might reduce its carbon emissions. We will develop new avenues for energy conservation, including operational and policy recommendations.



Key research questions:

- What is the carbon footprint of the subsea network?
- What best practices currently exist?
- What are potential sector areas of decarbonization?
- What economic and social effects can decarbonization produce?

Timeline and Funding

The research project is in the process of being awarded a \$200,000 “Greening the Internet” grant by the Internet Society Foundation for a two-year period, beginning February 2021.



SubOptic Foundation

Our research is a project of the SubOptic Foundation, a charitable organization with a focus on education and research initiatives that will lay the groundwork for a better future for our industry.

Method

We are partnering with subsea cable companies to collect energy use data for:

Cable landing stations

- to develop granular reporting of energy MWhrs, variable demand times, and consumption for site locations from six continents

Corporate operations

- to assess employee transportation, building energy use, and existing green incentives

Installation and repair

- to assess fuel consumed and to identify potential areas for carbon mitigation

We will synthesize legal and policy frameworks including international conventions dealing with carbon emissions, and regional and local laws and policies that regulate cable operations.



Outcomes

The research project aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Identify best environmental practices in the industry
- Identify cost-benefits of greening, including long-term economic gains
- Develop plans to help companies adopt renewable energy
- Generate legal and policy recommendations that make “greening” more economic

For more information, contact Nicole Starosielski at nicole.starosielski@nyu.edu.

Principle Investigators

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The SubOptic Association is operated by the industry, for the industry

www.suboptic.org

