



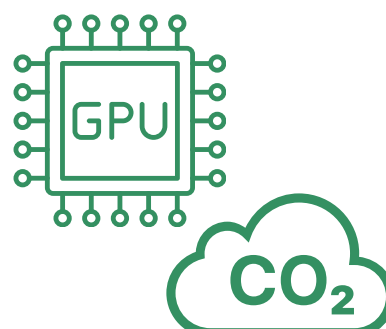
How AI Use Impacts The Planet

Artificial intelligence is promising a brighter future for everyone. But does that include a healthier environment and a liveable world for us, for our children? Are AI companies growing with sustainability and ethical environmental practices in mind?

The evidence so far, suggests not. Here are some of the most problematic environmental concerns.

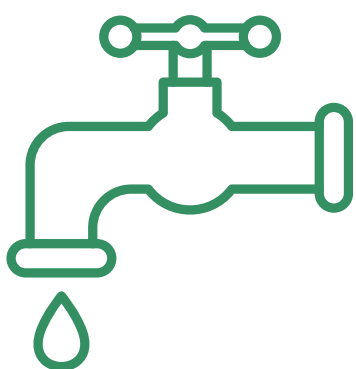
ENERGY DEMANDS

AI uses energy intensive hardware. Compared to standard data center racks using CPUs, AI racks use 25x the energy, much of which has a high GHG footprint. The cost is increasingly higher energy bills for us all and more dirty CO2 producing energy production. AI - it's been described as "using nuclear fission to fry an egg".



1

2



FRESH WATER

AI data centers run extremely hot. Air cooling isn't sufficient and most are liquid cooled with potable water. Precious water resources are diverted from human needs for use by data centers. At the end of the cooling process, water is significantly contaminated with chemical coolants and heavy metals are discarded. Importantly, the drive to build new data centers is focused on regions without abundant, existing fresh water reserves.

3

RAW MATERIALS

AI requires specialized hardware and conductors that use large amounts of lithium, cobalt, zinc and especially copper and silica sand (for silicon). The mining of these materials is already depleting world reserves and causing immense environmental destruction and human rights abuses. Their demand as AI grows, will make an already horrific situation worse as companies race to secure these materials at any cost.



4



HUMAN LABOR - NIMBY

Under the hood of most of today's AI models lies the labor of millions of workers from the Global south. The training of models comes at a high cost to workers who are poorly paid and faced with horrendous working conditions and pay. There is nothing ethical about the current labor practices of AI companies and the future looks bleak without government oversight and regulation and compliance measures.

5

ETHICS AND BELIEFS

The world has limited resources. Decisions regarding the use(s) of AI technology should be made in the light of environmental sustainability and not hyper-visions of a planet awash with data centers and profit at all costs.

We need to educate the public about the environmental harms of AI development and create a mindset that puts planet earth first.

