

# 7 Steps to ICT Sustainability

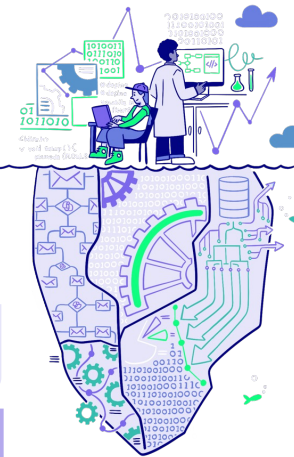
Supported with Research England research culture funding via Imperial College London

IMPERIAL

## 2. Use Better - With great AI power comes great responsibility

AI comes with a significant environmental cost, consuming vast amounts of electricity and water, with its impact growing exponentially each year.

It has been predicted that during 2026 the electricity used by data centres will reach a level equivalent to the fifth largest electricity consuming country\*



\*A. Zew. Explained: Generative AI's environmental impact. MIT News. 17th Jan 2025

For everyday use, ask: **Is it truly necessary for this task?** e.g. Do you need to use Copilot for that email?

For research, use it **well, wisely** and **efficiently** and when it adds real **additional value**. Thoughtful use helps us **balance innovation** with **sustainability**.

## 4. Use better - Delete what you don't need.

Data is filling up OneDrive and BOX at a fast pace, like millions of garages filled with filling cabinets. But this storage uses electricity and water!

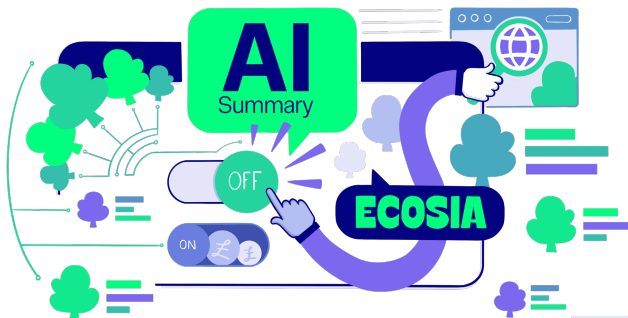


Please delete any documents and data you **no longer need**.

Set a **6 monthly reminder** to do this within your calendar. **Let's spring clean our cloud garages!**

## 6. Use better - Switch your Search Engine to Ecosia.

Ecosia is a privacy friendly search engine that uses **100% of its profits to plant trees** and fund climate action. You can also **switch off automatic AI summaries** in Ecosia, which you cannot do easily with other search engines.



**Turn off AI summaries** in Ecosia and save electricity and water! Switch to Ecosia and plant trees whilst searching the web. Go to: [Ecosia.co/ImperialCollegeLondon](https://Ecosia.co/ImperialCollegeLondon) or follow the QR code:



## 1. Buy less and buy better

A large volume of greenhouse gas emissions are released during the manufacturing process of ICT equipment including phones, laptops, desktops, workstations and servers. **This is called embodied carbon.**



Consider using Imperial's **Research Computing Service** instead of buying workstations/new servers for your research

**Only buy what is needed** Consider purchasing certified refurbished & remanufactured devices

## 3. Use better - Geek out, the green way

Researchers! Carrying out computational research has an environmental impact.



Look out for Imperial's **sustainable research computing courses** to be launched in summer 2026.

## 5. Use better - Close the lid to save the grid and think before you print

The electricity our devices use create greenhouse gas emissions when running. Also, Imperial prints over **5.1 million pages** a year, using **over 600 trees** annually just for our paper demand!



Please **turn devices off** when not required and **don't print** unless you really need to.

## 7. Use for longer

We have extended the warranty of **ICT managed laptops to 5 years**.

And would like to encourage everyone to keep their laptops for at least **5 years**.



Please **reuse devices** less than 5 years old within your team/department when staff members leave.

Please ensure that good quality computers, monitors, keyboards, etc are reused during property refurbishment projects.