

Checklist for teachers: reducing the environmental impact of AI

1. Choose energy-efficient tools

- Select more environmentally friendly AI tools, for example use platforms that advertise 'green AI' certification or sustainability statements.
- When possible, choose simpler AI tools, like basic chatbots or image generators, rather than advanced versions with 'Plus' or 'Premier' in the title.
- Prioritise tools that run locally as downloadable software rather than cloud-based tools, when available.

2. Minimise unnecessary AI use

- Only use AI when it adds real value, e.g. to improve learning or automate repetitive work.
- Avoid over-reliance on AI for simple tasks that could be done with existing tools.
- Set time limits on AI-assisted tasks.
- Discourage repeated or 'exploratory' prompting without purpose in the classroom.

3. Reduce data processing and storage

- Delete unnecessary data and outputs instead of storing large volumes of files in the history.

4. Promote responsible learning

- Educate learners about AI's environmental impact as part of digital literacy.
- Encourage 'green prompting' by using precise and targeted prompts to reduce energy consumption.