



AI Water Use Could Surpass Human Consumption, Warns UN

Description

Data centers use a lot of energy and resources. A new United Nations report shows that this can be a big problem. It estimates that by 2030, data centers could use 3% of the world's electricity. This would be like the energy used by the UK. Additionally, the water needed for cooling would exceed the drinking water needs of everyone on Earth.

The report talks about a concept called the "Jevons paradox". This means that when we make something more efficient, people may use even more of it. For example, better technology might make AI cheaper, which can lead to more use. Higher demand can erase any energy savings from improvements.

The report suggests responsible AI use. This means being clear about how we use AI and considering the environment. Some countries like New Zealand and Australia are starting national AI programs. However, these plans do not always include checks on energy use and environmental impact.

The report warns we need to focus on both what AI does for us and how it affects our planet. It says the natural environment should be central to our thinking.

Vocabulary List:

1. **estimates** //ˈɛstɪˌmeɪts// (verb): guesses an amount using available information
2. **paradox** //ˈpærəˌdɒks// (noun): something that seems impossible but is true
3. **cooling** //ˈkuːlɪŋ// (noun): making something less hot, often with water
4. **erase** //ɪˈreɪs// (verb): remove something so it is not there
5. **impact** //ˈɪmpækt// (noun): a strong effect on people or the environment
6. **responsible** //rɪˈspɔːnsəbəl// (adjective): showing careful behavior, thinking about results

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What percentage of the world's electricity could data centers use by 2030?

Option: 1%

Option: 2%



Option: 3%

Option: 4%

2. Which country is mentioned as having energy needs comparable to data centers by 2030?

Option: Australia

Option: New Zealand

Option: UK

Option: USA

3. What does the Jevons paradox suggest?

Option: Efficiency leads to less usage

Option: Efficiency leads to increased usage

Option: Efficiency has no impact

Option: Efficiency reduces costs

4. What is one of the suggestions from the report regarding AI?

Option: Ignore environmental impact

Option: Focus on energy savings only

Option: Use AI responsibly

Option: Eliminate AI technology

5. Which two countries are starting national AI programs mentioned in the report?

Option: USA and Canada

Option: New Zealand and Australia

Option: UK and USA

Option: France and Germany

6. What should be central to our thinking according to the report?

Option: Profit maximization

Option: Natural environment

Option: Technological advancement

Option: Political stability

True-False

7. Data centers are projected to use 5% of the world's electricity by 2030.

8. The Jevons paradox implies that increased efficiency can lead to decreased use.



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9. The report encourages consideration of environmental impacts when using AI.
 10. Countries like New Zealand and Australia are starting national AI programs.
 11. The report states that water use for cooling data centers will meet global drinking water needs.
 12. Responsible AI use is a suggestion made in the report.

Gap-Fill

13. By 2030, data centers could use _____ of the world's electricity.
14. The Jevons paradox suggests that efficiency may result in _____ of the product.
15. The report emphasizes that the natural environment should be _____ to our thinking.
16. The report warns of a focus on both what AI does for us and how it affects our _____
.
17. Some countries are starting national AI programs without checking for energy use and
_____ impact.
18. The water needed for cooling data centers would exceed the drinking water needs of
_____ on Earth.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 3% 2. UK 3. Efficiency leads to increased usage 4. Use AI responsibly 5. New Zealand and Australia 6. Natural environment

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 3% 14. increased usage 15. central 16. planet 17. environmental 18. everyone

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is typically required to formalize agreements in business?
Option: Oral agreements
Option: Contracts
Option: Verbal agreements
Option: Agreements
2. Who oversees compliance with laws and regulations in various sectors?
Option: Shareholders
Option: Investors
Option: Regulators
Option: Boards
3. Which group is primarily concerned with the potential return on their investments?
Option: Employees
Option: Investors
Option: Governments
Option: Nonprofits
4. What field involves building projects and managing related activities?
Option: Architecture
Option: Engineering
Option: Construction
Option: Real estate
5. What term describes the effect one action has on another situation?
Option: Influence
Option: Outcome
Option: Result
Option: Impact
6. What action involves bringing a legal case against someone?
Option: Settle
Option: Sue
Option: Negotiate
Option: Compromise
7. What term is used to describe an increase in size, number, or value?
Option: Reduction
Option: Decline
Option: Growth



Option: Stagnation

8. What refers to punishments imposed for breaking laws or regulations?

Option: Rewards

Option: Penalties

Option: Incentives

Option: Bonuses

9. What term describes the act of committing money to an enterprise for profit?

Option: Saved

Option: Invested

Option: Borrowed

Option: Spent

10. What term identifies a seemingly contradictory statement that may actually be true?

Option: Anomaly

Option: Mystery

Option: Paradox

Option: Contradiction

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The financial decisions made by the board affect the interests of the _____.

12. The new _____ was expected to enhance customer satisfaction significantly.

13. The economy was showing signs of _____ after several years of growth.

14. Companies must acquire the necessary _____ to operate legally in their respective industries.

15. The board addressed the shareholders' _____ regarding market instability.

16. The company specializes in _____ technologies, focusing on innovation in vision solutions.

17. The CEO stated that the firm is _____ for ensuring sustainable practices.

18. The financial reports included various _____ regarding future earnings and expenses.



19. Trade secrets must be effectively _____ to maintain a competitive advantage.
20. The product was developed to be viable _____ in the market.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The architect designed the building with tall columns that enhance its grandeur.
22. Her original artwork received praise for its creativity and depth.
23. His vision for the future included advancements in technology and sustainability.
24. The company implemented sustainable practices to minimize environmental impact.
25. She invested in her education to secure a better future.
26. Regulators often conduct audits to ensure compliance with legal standards.
27. The construction of the new bridge was completed ahead of schedule.
28. The new policy had a significant impact on the local economy.
29. They signed contracts to formalize their partnership.
30. Analysts noted a cooling of demand in the housing market.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Contracts 2. Regulators 3. Investors 4. Construction 5. Impact 6. Sue 7. Growth 8. Penalties 9. Invested 10. Paradox

Gap-Fill: 11. shareholders 12. project 13. cooling 14. licenses 15. worries 16. optical 17. responsible 18. estimates 19. protected 20. commercially

Matching sentence: 1. columns 2. original 3. vision 4. sustainable 5. invested 6. regulators 7. construction 8. impact 9. contracts 10. cooling

CATEGORY

- 1. Business - LEVEL1

POST TAG

- 1. AI



2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. humanity
5. Level 1
6. UN report
7. water

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