

Climate Action and AI Use



Artificial Intelligence is transforming our world — from education and healthcare to city planning and road safety. But behind every chatbot and algorithm is a network of energy-intensive data centres.

Did you know?

In Richmond Hill, **7 data centres** at full capacity, can use **170 MW** of electricity just for IT equipment — enough to power **170,000 homes** ([Source 1](#), [Source 2](#), [Source 3](#)). As data centres expand in Canada, Greenhouse gases emissions are very likely to rise if renewable energy can't keep pace ([Source 4](#)).

Embrace AI — Mind Its Environmental Footprint

- Limit AI queries — one ChatGPT request uses ~10× more electricity than a Google search
- Delete unused cloud data. Save data on external hard drives.
- Replace streaming with low-impact options — e.g. [Richmond Hill Public Library DVD](#) collection.
- Unsubscribe and delete emails, unnecessary apps, and files
- Talk about AI's hidden cost, and work with local leaders to strengthen sustainability of data centres

To meet Richmond Hill's 2050 **net-zero** target, let's make mindful digital choices, so we can **harness AI power** without sacrificing our planet!

Richmond Hill has a [Climate Plan](#) - you have a role to play in it!