

## **Modern technology owes ecology an apology**

As technology gains more and more momentum in the developing world, and gets even stronger in the developed world, we start to wonder how much of an impact it's making on the planet. As it turns out, it is making a huge impact on all aspects of our planet. It goes without saying that this impact is very negative.

The number of people with access to modern tech is rapidly increasing. Accordingly, the demand for such devices and machines is expanding too. To manufacture such an unfathomable amount of electronics, huge amounts of raw materials are required. These range from metals to chemicals, but the most common materials in the industry are silicon, plastic and copper, as well as lithium for batteries. Mining these materials and, more importantly, the long road they have to endure before they even get close to their final destination (the customer) uses a lot of energy. A ridiculous amount of energy, at that.

It takes roughly 1 gigajoule to create a modern smartphone. That's enough energy to charge the phone 73 times a year. Now we start to see the true scale of technology manufacturing. 1.53 billion smartphones were sold last year alone. That's (very roughly) 1.53 billion gigajoules of energy. That's just for smartphones. This puts into perspective how much raw energy is required to produce tech, not even considering how much fuel is required to transport and deliver said tech. All this energy has to come from somewhere, and it usually comes from gas/coal power plants since renewable energy sources are not in use in sufficient amounts right now. This energy production takes a massive burden on the atmosphere, simultaneously polluting it and raising its temperature.

Thankfully, tech companies around the world are "making promises" to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and are trying to go fully renewable by 2030 and onwards. It is up to them to keep their promises. No more are the days where the bare-bones radio was the bleeding edge of consumer technology. Nowadays the devices in our pockets have abilities that can only be described as magic to a person from 100 years ago. Consequently, to make these devices for everyone, the environment is taking a beating. Now, it's up to humans to say "Sorry, I've made a mistake".