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Are iPhone's Enviornmentally Friendly?

Through every success there's a consequence.



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When society thinks about the iPhone, their first thought is a large-scale screen that is programmed with a ton of apps and high-quality camera functions, rather than the consequences that iPhones could have towards the environment. Although Apple is considered as a company that is 100% carbon neutral in all their products, including iPhones, there are many positive and negative aspects regarding the impact that iPhones have towards the environment.

Apple is heavily praised for its ingenious strategies, regarding how they update new versions of the iPhone, whilst also helping the environment. Lisa Jackson (vice president of Apple's Environment, Policy & Social Initiatives) had stated in her Environmental Responsibility Report (2019) that, *"At Apple, we are committed to building ground-breaking products and services with the mission to leave our world better than we found it"*, which is linked towards their actions for developing the iPhone, whilst being more aware about

their actions towards the environment. From 2020, study shows that Apple is more focused on using low carbon and about 100% recycled earth elements for the new iPhones, which allows them to be more energy efficient. Although most of the minerals that are used to create these iPhones, such as aluminium and carbon dioxide, are identified as non-renewable sources and that can cause serious side effects towards the natural habitat, another strategy was formed. For this, Apple had decided to use low carbon aluminium, which is a smelting process that instead of releasing greenhouse gases, it releases oxygen. Due to this new development, recent carbon emissions have been reduced.

Because of the iPhone's success internationally, more natural resources are needed, which would still worsen the environment from the amount of minerals taken. So, Apple had decided to launch another campaign, with the help of the Conservation International company,

allowing them to support, protect and restore those dying forests that they have been extracting those minerals from for their iPhone products. Lastly, although the iPhone enormous quantities of natural resources, which damages most of the earth, Apple had proved to being fully committed to helping the environment through several ways.

Despite all the positive impacts of the iPhone towards the environment, there are some negative factors. Hans-Knud Arndt had confirmed that, *"The different models of the iPhone have increased the number of emissions of CO2 that are used to create the updated versions"*. Although Apple had stated that the latest iPhones are 100% recycled, their recent reports had stated that each year carbon emissions increase from mining the minerals to the last stage. From a UN study (2014), it explains how the older iPhones are not being properly recycled, and instead 41.8 million tons of waste are being dumped into countries like

China, Africa and India who don't properly recycle the devices. It is encouraged for iPhone owners to repair their devices, however, due to the expensive prices many choose to buy the new versions instead. The major resources to create the iPhone are aluminium, lithium, cobalt, water and carbon dioxide, which leads to the side effects of pollution, deforestation, and the harm to animals and plants. Since the demands for the latest iPhones are high, more mining is needed to, the iPhone is demolishing more natural habitats than saving them. Furthermore, even though there is a lot of positive effects of the iPhone towards the environment, the negative effects are needed to be further examined and properly cared for in terms of carbon dioxide and recycled iPhones.

Overall, there are many positive and negative effects of the iPhone towards the environment.



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