

Elizabeth Huggins

What a waste!

The greener the company,
the cleaner the world

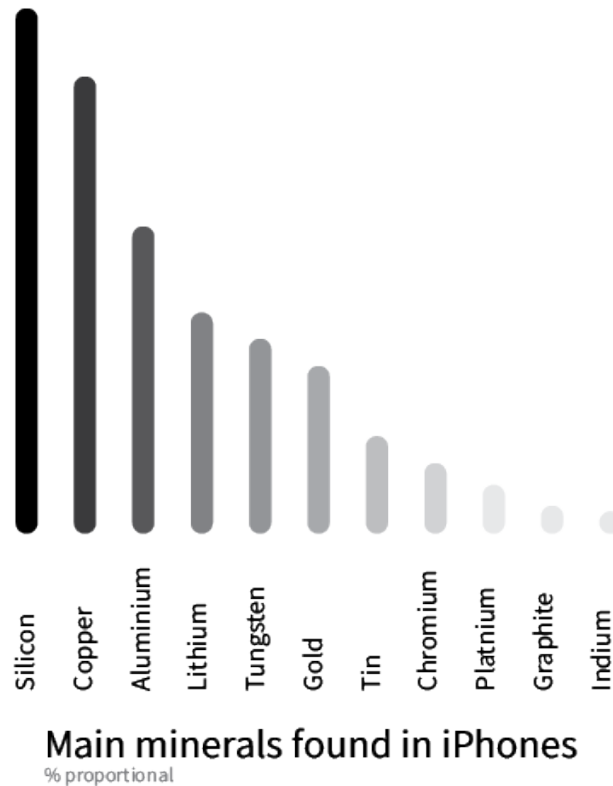


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E-waste is a major problem for the environment as there are many toxic materials that are leaching into the natural world. Apple is a company that has many of its products exported across the globe, which makes the company a large contributor to e-waste. Without taking any action, this issue will only continue to grow, which is why Apple has implemented programs and strategies to make the company greener. This includes the creation of recycler robots, changing packaging materials and promises made to be carbon neutral.

E-waste is electrical waste and according to a UN report, it is the fastest-growing form of domestic wastage globally. With 50 million tonnes being produced in 2019 alone, it has a major impact on the environment and needs to be controlled. Within this waste, there are many precious metals such as gold and copper, all of which have the potential to be recycled and reused in the production of new iPhones. Apple is the largest tech company in the world with over \$3 trillion market value as of January 3, 2022. This means Apple leads a major role in the production of E-waste. If nothing is done to change the ever-growing amount of waste, The World



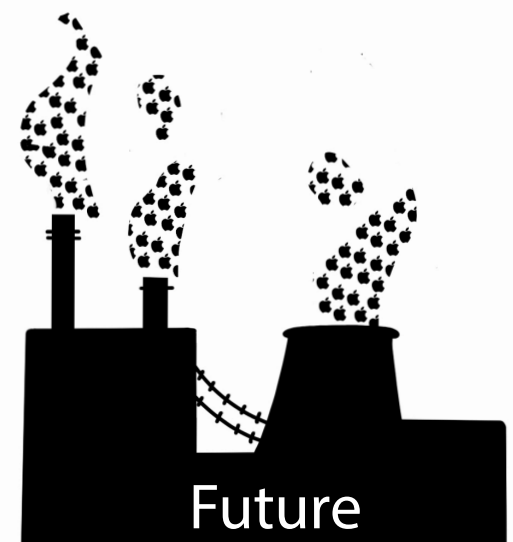
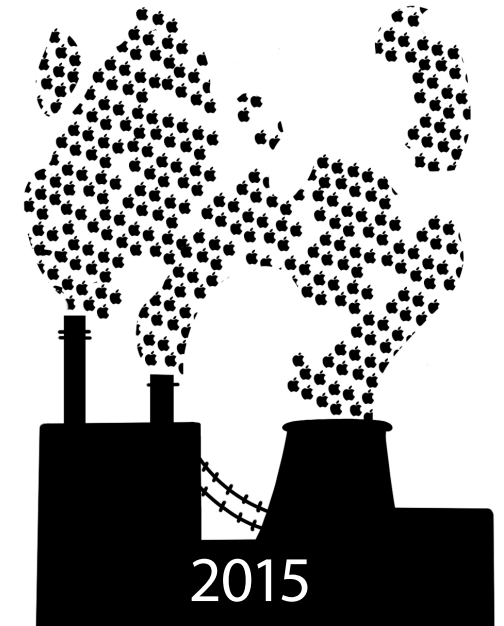
Economic Forum states that 'by 2050, the volume of e-waste could top 120 million tonnes annually.

With over 2.2 billion iPhone users in the world, the wastage produced by Apple is some of the largest compared to other companies. Due to this Apple has created a holistic recycling program that aims to make durable and long-lasting products. This will ensure people are buying new iPhones less frequently and make it harder to break the ones they have. The use of recycled or renewable resources in the production of the iPhone is also a strategy being implemented within the program. To make sure that they are not continuously mining into the environment for new materials, Apple has created a recycling robot that uses parts from a previous robot Liam. Daisy can disassemble 200 old iPhones per hour and extract their materials for reuse. This leads to a reduction of e-wastage as from just one tonne of the materials taken from old iPhones, Apple recovers a similar amount of copper and gold that other companies would be extracted from the environment. This is important as the availability of materials needed for electronics is decreasing as time goes on, with e-waste containing many of these scarce materials.

To further help the problem of e-waste and Apple's environmental impact, the company has made a rather aggressive approach to becoming greener. Apple has made a promise to achieve total carbon neutrality for their iPhones and other products, as well as reduce emissions by 70% compared to 2015. In 2021, Apple managed to make sure that 59% of all aluminium products they shipped in were recycled, with many products, including the iPhone, being made of 100% recycled aluminium. Along with this, Apple has made progress in eliminating plastics from their packaging as this is a hard material to recycle. By 2021, plastics only made up 4% of the packaging and by 2025, Apple wants to have eliminated all of it.

E-waste will continue to be a rising environmental issue if there is nothing done to change the current trends of throwing away used electronics. With over 2 billion iPhones across the world, Apple has a large impact on the environment when it comes to electronic waste. In face of this issue, the company has made many promises and programs to reduce their impact and has already implemented

successful changes. With recycler robots taking apart old iPhones, lowering the number of plastics in packaging, and using recycled materials, Apple is well on the way to being green and decreasing the amount of e-waste created.



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