E-waste is growing — because of software!

×17

44.7 million metric tons of e-waste were generated in 2016 — equivalent to 4,500 Eiffel Towers, which, when stacked, is 17 times higher than Mount Everest.

E-waste is the **fastest-growing waste stream** in the world.[1,2]

Although e-waste makes up only 2% of trash in landfills, it contributes **70% of toxic waste.**[3]

E-waste is often **driven by software.** In 2025, end of support for Windows 10 is estimated to make e-waste out of 250 million devices.[4]

⚠ Continuing to use out-of-date software is a security risk!

Sources

[1] World Economic Forum (2019), "A New Circular Vision for Electronics, Time for a Global Reboot"

[2] United Nations University (2017), "E-waste Rises 8% by Weight in 2 Years as Incomes Rise, Prices Fall"

[3] Weee Forum (2021), "International E-waste Day: 57.3M Tonnes Expected in 2021"

[4] Canalys (2023), "The end of Windows 10 support could turn 240 million PCs into e-waste"

[5] Apple (2019), "Environmental Responsibility Report: 2019 Progress Report, covering fiscal year 2018"

[6] UBA (2012), "Zeitlich optimierter Einsatz eines Notebooks unter ökologischen Gesichtspunkten"

[7] Free Software Foundation Europe (accessed 2024), "What is Free Software"

[8] CE Delft (2021), "Carbon footprint of unwanted data-use by smartphones: An analysis for the EU"

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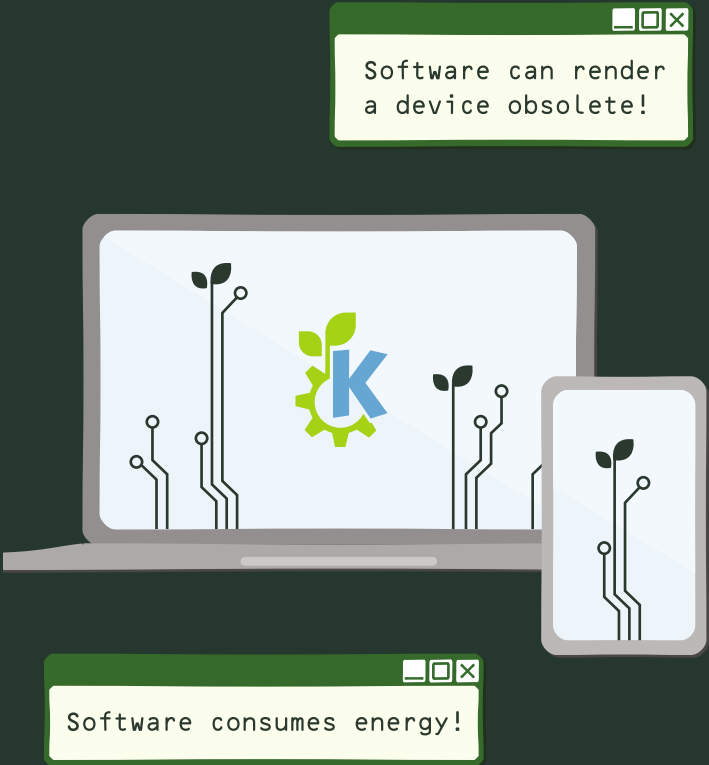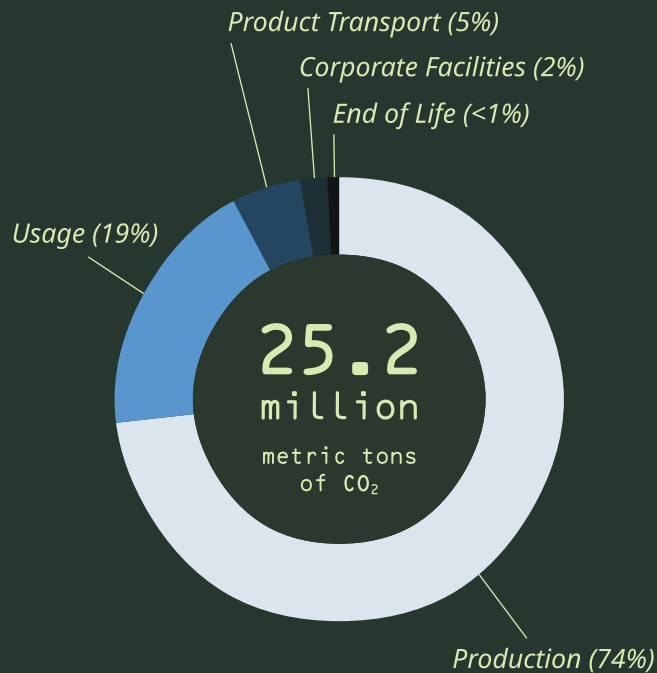# Environmentally-Friendly Software?!

Software can render a device obsolete!

Software consumes energy!

You can opt green today!

For the efficient and long-term use of hardware, install sustainable and independent **Free & Open Source Software**

The most environmentally-friendly device is the one you already own!

Product Transport (5%)
Corporate Facilities (2%)
End of Life (<1%)
Usage (19%)

25.2 million
metric tons of CO_2

Production (74%)

Apple's carbon footprint (2019)

Production of a device accounts for 50-80% of CO_2 emissions over the device's lifecycle.[5][6]

A German Environment Report estimates you'd need to use a computer for **30+ years** before efficiency gains in newly-produced devices justify their purchase.[6]

What's FOSS* got to do with sustainability?

FOSS guarantees **user autonomy & transparency** by design.

Remove vendor dependencies: **use your device how you want for as long as you want!**[7]

Avoid software bloat and stop unwanted ads from **consuming energy unnecessarily.**[8]

Use software designed for the hardware you have — **lean, efficient FOSS runs on devices that are decades old!**

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* Free & Open Source Software
(FOSS) is software that anyone can
use, study, share, and improve.

Unlike proprietary software, FOSS
allows you to take full ownership
of your software, and thus
hardware. Software freedom can
make premature hardware
obsolescence a thing of the past.
```

Combat e-waste, install FOSS!

You don't need a new computer to use secure, up-to-date software — **you just need the right software!**

PCs

Newer hardware
Kubuntu
Ubuntu
Linux Mint

Older hardware (10+ y)
Lubuntu
Xubuntu

...and more!

Install Blue Angel eco-certified software

Smartphones/Tablets

Android/Linux
LineageOS
CalyxOS
/e/OS

Install FOSS apps from the F-Droid app store

GNU/Linux
postmarketOS with
 Plasma Mobile
 Phosh
Ubuntu Touch

...and more!

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Spotlight: Okular

KDE's PDF and universal document
reader Okular is the first ever
Blue Angel eco-certified software!

Read more at okular.kde.org/eco
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