

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Use these questions as a starting point to help you think through the impacts that technology or a product can have on the environment now and in the future.**

Does the technology or product use many different materials types?

Are the materials used to make the technology renewable or non-renewable?

Does the technology cause pollution of any kind?

Can the product's materials be replaced as quickly as they are being used?

Does the product limit the ability of future generations to meet their needs satisfactorily? Are we "stealing from the future" by using up too many resources?

Have any habitats been damaged in extracting and producing the materials?

Are the materials and product transported far? How are they moved around? What's the environmental impact?

How much energy and water is used to produce, use and dispose of the technology or product?

Is the technology or product durable? Has the product been designed to last?

Has the technology been designed so that it can be repaired easily?

Have the manufacturer's thought about the sustainability of the technology or product's packaging?

What will happen to the technology at its end of life stage? Can it be reused or recycled? Or will it end up in landfill?