

Road to Geneva - Assessing AI's Environmental Footprint

Roundtable at the Swiss Embassy, London - 23 June 2026

A Road to AI Summit London milestone in Resilio's AI Footprint Study

CONTEXT

The [Geneva AI Summit 2027](#) (21–22 June) is organised by [DETEC](#) with the [FDFA](#), runs back-to-back with the [ITU's AI for Good Global Summit](#), and continues the AI Summit lineage from Bletchley Park (2023) through Seoul, Paris and New Delhi (2026), anchoring the global AI conversation around shared prosperity and trustworthy, responsible AI, priorities that meet at environmental transparency.

Ahead of the Summit, Switzerland's Road to Geneva track invites independent pre-events. The gathering on the 23 June was the first **Road to Geneva** event of at the Swiss Embassy in London and was the first milestone for Resilio's AI Footprint Study, in a series of events that will be held until the AI Summit in Geneva.

The study, led by [Resilio](#) and including partners like the [ITU](#), EPFL AI Centre, SATW, etc, is building the largest benchmark of real-world AI usage across the ICT value chain, using the [ITU L.1801](#) methodology and the [GHG Protocol](#). It closes a real gap: corporates adopting AI cannot today quantify its footprint, find the levers to reduce its emissions against SBTi, CSRD or other commitments, since existing references (Ecologits, the AI Energy Score, academic LCAs) measure *lab conditions*, not production deployments.

These real measurements want to answer some of the following questions:

1. What metrics should we be looking at? Is it still tokens?
2. What is driving the marginal impact of inference?
3. What are the most efficient levers to reduce their AI emissions, both for providers and adopters.

One of the outputs will be a parametric model any organisation can use to estimate and plan its AI footprint.

THE EVENT

The discussion at the Embassy was meant to create a space for dialogue where each stakeholder could present their concerns, questions and suggestions to other actors of the supply chain. The discussion was structured around two forward-looking questions:

1. Standing at the 2027 Geneva AI Summit, what will the ecosystem have collectively solved on AI's environmental impact; and how did we get there?
2. As stakeholders in that outcome, what are your specific requests today? Which aspects are clear, and which need to be better understood?

KEY THEMES FROM THE ROOM

We have summarised the main themes that were discussed, whether consensus was reached or not. These notes don't reflect the position of the mention participants, but are a summary of the discussions from Resilio's Point of view.

01 Adoption is faster than our understanding AI adoption is scaling faster than our ability to fully understand and manage its footprint. The impact needs to be understood better by users. We should use AI when we need to use it and when it makes sense, thus proper governance is necessary.	02 Embodied is overtaking operational As Cloud providers increase their share of renewable energy, the part of the emissions related to hardware increases. Semiconductors are 60–90% of hardware embodied carbon, also one of the sectors with the least transparency.
03 Looking at better units than tokens Tokens are a financial metric. This virtual metric is the one used to bill clients, and so, it doesn't necessary mean that it's the most appropriate environmental KPI. Gigabytes, FLOPs or watt-hours per functional unit would be preferred, other metrics should be explored	04 Efficiency is a means, not an end Large adopters want to move from "bigger is better" to "fit-for-purpose". Users would like to have more insights on what are the levers that are decided upfront, and those they can have an active role upon, to make it possible to make decisions based on CO2e and not only costs
05 Common standards are not yet a reality A defining hurdle is the systemic fragmentation in environmental accounting. Too many standards are developed around lab environments, not around deployment frameworks. In addition, these are not applied, used by industry, not any consensus has been built around them.	06 Governments should send clear signals A global legislative framework should be established, driven by momentum from the G7 Digital Ministers and the OECD. The EU Commission should align the AI Act, the Directive on Datacentres with AI sustainability frameworks, while taking into account technologies' full life cycle impacts, and not only focusing on energy.
■ What is clear – Tokens are not the right metric, but are the only one we have available for now – Disclosure regimes are arriving regardless (CSRD, EU AI Act, UK SDR, SEC, California SB 253) – Carbon and energy are the right beachhead; water and materials must follow – Embodied vs operational impacts require distinct policy treatment – Enterprise & Government adopters are lacking the necessary information from their suppliers to understand AI's footprint	□ What remains open – What are the right KPIs to look at? – How should we harmonise standards and common frameworks across industry? – How should we assess compound AI systems (RAG, agents, multi-step)? – How do we reach Tier 2/3 suppliers, foundries, Global South actors, responsible for most of the embodied emissions – How do we increase transparency while maintaining trade-secrets and confidentiality – Equity and distributional impact: who benefits, who bears the burden

THE ROAD TO GENEVA: AI'S ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT



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