



## 2026 AGM – Submit a motion

Please fill up the form below, explaining what is the motion that you would like to be put forward at the 2026 AGM. The submission deadline is the **22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2026**.

Reminder that both proposer and seconder must be members of Friends of the Earth Scotland.

Motion Title:	Resist AI
Motion:	<p>Amidst the global arms race on Artificial Intelligence (AI), the UK government has championed AI as a central pillar of transforming the economy and boosting economic growth. The UK already is the <a href="#">third largest nation</a> (behind US and Germany) hosting AI data-centres, and has designated them as part of critical infrastructure. The Scottish government similarly <a href="#">“is supporting initiatives to transform Scotland into a global centre for AI”</a>, and Scotland has been deemed a prime location for “green” AI data-centres due to lower temperatures, water supply, available land, and renewable energy capacities. Currently, there are 16 data-centres across Scotland, but there are plans for massive expansions of AI infrastructure across the UK, with <a href="#">a bulk of them planned for Scotland</a>.</p> <p>AI-data centres are mostly run by large multinational tech-companies such as Meta, Microsoft, or Alphabet, which often do not share data on the environmental impact of their infrastructure. Concerns have been raised already by local and international campaigners about current and future AI infrastructure in Scotland resulting in much higher water usage, pressure on the electricity grid, noise pollution for local communities, and threatening Scottish climate targets. Such impacts are already felt in Ireland, where data centres are using <a href="#">over 20% of all electricity</a> in the country.</p> <p>These environmental harms from AI data-centres are in addition to other wide-spread concerns about AI, including its links to usage for <a href="#">automated weapons systems</a>, enabling <a href="#">sexual objectification</a> and <a href="#">violence against women</a>, <a href="#">replacing skilled workers in multiple industries</a>, as well as its</p>

	<p>contribution to <a href="#">cognitive degradation of its users</a>. Taken together with its climate and environmental harms, the lack of clarity on the impact of their growth on Scotland’s carbon budget, as well as the recent case of <a href="#">spreading misinformation about the Scottish national elections</a>, there is a powerful and urgent need to oppose the expansion of AI infrastructure in Scotland and beyond.</p> <p>This motion aims to commit Friends of the Earth Scotland, in line with its principles on climate and environmental justice, to take an active role in researching, informing, and challenging AI infrastructure expansion in Scotland and beyond. The motion asks for Friends of the Earth Scotland and its members to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• research and evaluate climate, environmental and social harms from AI-data centres and other AI Infrastructure, in order to create transparency and counter misinformation attempts by tech companies</li> <li>• use the information gathered to inform the Scottish public about the harms of AI and its infrastructure, with the goal of creating a critical consciousness in Scotland able to challenge AI expansion</li> <li>• support existing local, national and global campaigns opposing AI data-centres with information, research, and practical support, such as the recent campaign resulting in a <a href="#">moratorium in Edinburgh</a>.</li> <li>• Inform and pressure public policy makers to ensure government limits and regulations on AI infrastructure in line with our global environmental commitments</li> <li>• Campaign for a national moratorium on AI data-centre expansion across Scotland</li> </ul> <p>The motion recognises the potential positive applications AI technologies may bring, including in research, healthcare, and other areas, and does not ask Friends of the Earth Scotland to oppose all usage of AI. However, given that the vast majority of AI is used for either useless, unnecessary or harmful purposes, Friends of the Earth Scotland should take a leading role in challenging Scotland’s participation in the global frenzy for more AI in the service of corporate profits.</p>
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