

An aerial photograph of a vast landfill filled with a dense layer of discarded plastic waste, including bottles, bags, and other debris in various colors. A small figure of a person is visible in the middle ground, providing a sense of scale to the immense volume of waste.

# Waste Image Classification

A potential strategy for  
increasing the purity of  
recyclable waste



# The Data: Images

Created by Mindy Yang & Gary Thung

403 Cardboard



501 Glass



410 Metal



594 Paper



482 Plastic



137 Trash



# The tool: Deep Neural Networks



## Compute Intensive

The best model in this project has 22,910,480 parameters



## Time Intensive

Testing models is slow because each one takes so long to run



## Faster on a GPU

Graphical Processing Units are optimized for performing operations on matrices



# Climate/NGO Commitments



**Google Compute  
Cloud**



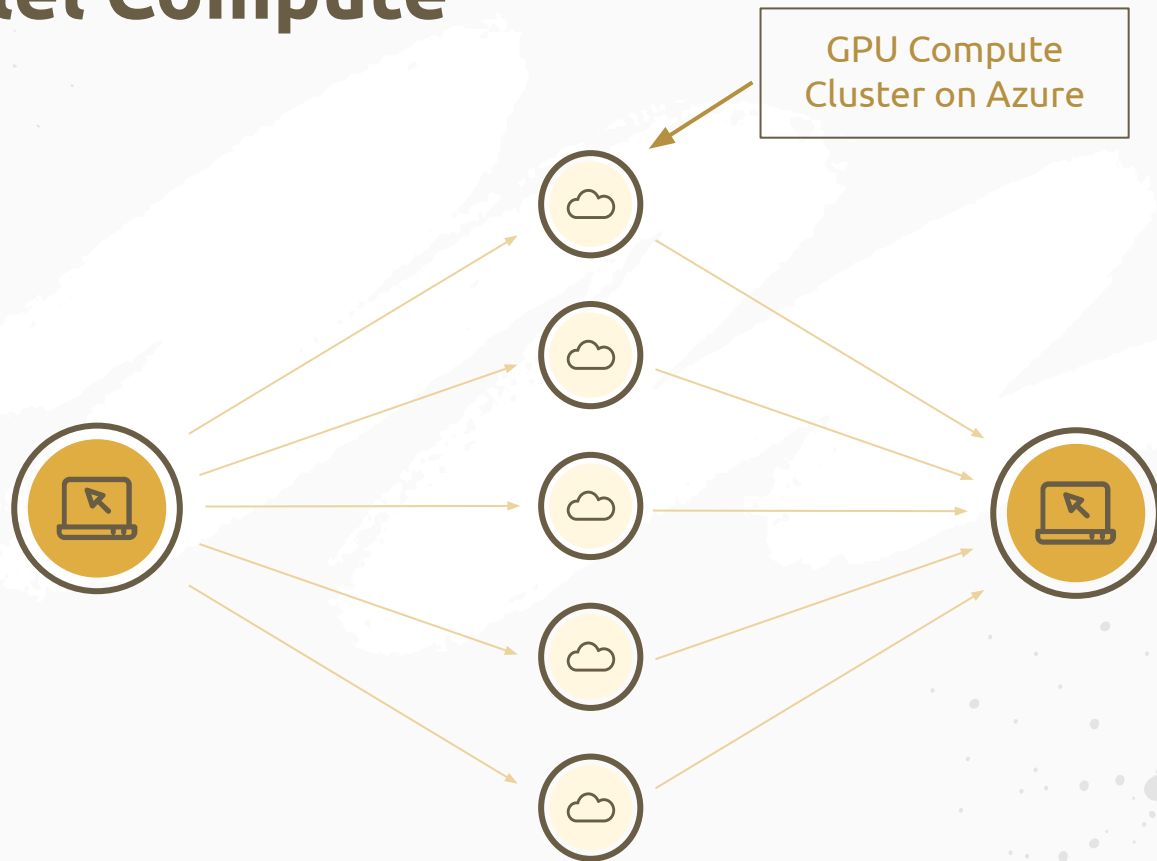
**Microsoft  
Azure**



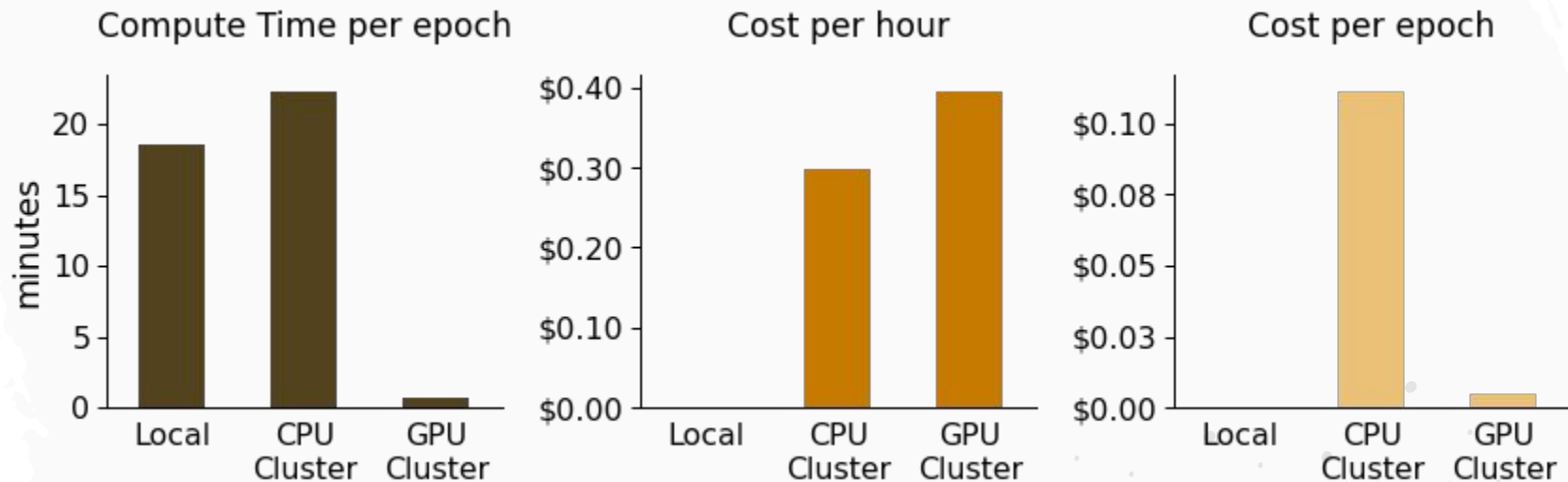
**Amazon Web  
Services**

	Google Compute Cloud	Microsoft Azure	Amazon Web Services
<b>% renewable energy</b>	100%	60%	42%
<b>Energy Emissions Offset</b>	100%	100+%	50%
<b>Renewable by</b>	2017	2025	2025
<b>Goal</b>	Net 0	Net Negative	Net 0
<b>Nonprofit support</b>	\$0	\$3500/yr	\$2000/yr (-\$175 admin fee)

# Parallel Compute



# Cloud Cost



# The final model: Xception



## 134 Layers

22,910,480 possible  
adjustments



## Pretrained

On imagenet dataset  
with 1000 categories



# How the model “sees”

- Filters move across the images looking for different details
- Those details form abstractions of the images



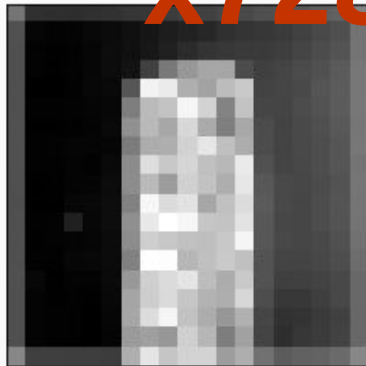
**x128**



**x256**



**x728**



**x1024**



# Predictive Accuracy: 91.1%

plastic



plastic



plastic



paper



glass



paper



glass



plastic



# Recommendations

- Increase number of images in dataset
- Review categories

## Future Work

- Evaluate Trash vs Recyclable first, then recycling type
- Can the difference between types of plastics?
- If this proves effective release versions for as cell phone apps and for recycling facilities.







# Thank you!



Ben Bogart  
[ben@benbogart.com](mailto:ben@benbogart.com)

See [github.com/benbogart/waste-classification/](https://github.com/benbogart/waste-classification/)  
for more a more detailed report.

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