Project | Sustainability Impact Analysis for Intel

INTRODUCTION: As you learned listening in on the strategy meeting with Dr. Alvarez and Intel's Sustainability Team, Intel is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving the sustainability of its devices – not just during manufacturing, but throughout the entire lifecycle.

A key part of this effort is their repurposing programs, which play a central role in achieving these sustainability goals. Repurposing and recycling programs aim to reduce e-waste, energy consumption, and CO_2 emissions by extending the life of existing devices, and thus reducing the need for new device manufacturing. Like Michael Campbell said: the average household in the US has anywhere from 3–5 PCs devices, tablets, notebooks, desktops that are perfectly functional, but not being used!

One challenge Intel faces is determining which devices in its repurposing program should be prioritized for the maximum environmental benefit. That's where data analysis comes in! To help with this, Intel gathered data on each device repurposed or recycled in 2024.

Your task is to evaluate the effectiveness of Intel's current repurposing strategy and provide a data-driven recommendation to help guide the program's direction and optimize sustainability efforts.

HOW IT WORKS: Follow the prompts in the questions below to investigate the data. Post your answers in the provided boxes: the **yellow boxes** for the queries you write and **blue boxes** for your text-based analysis. Once you're done, you'll submit your ***completed*** .pdf file to HQ for feedback from The Accelerator Team.

SQL App: Here's the link to our specialized SQL app, where you'll write your SQL queries and interact with the data.

NOTE: The dataset you are working with is designed for The Global Career Accelerator to reflect the key characteristics and structure of Intel's real data, while protecting their confidentiality and proprietary information. Be aware that any conclusions or results derived from this dataset should be viewed as hypothetical and for illustrative purposes only.

— Data Set **Descriptions**

In this project you'll query 2 different datasets, `intel.device_data` and `intel.impact_data`, that you will join together for your analysis. Here you'll find the data dictionary for each dataset.

`intel.device_data`

- `device_id`: Unique identifier for each repurposed device
- `device_type`: Type of device, values are either "Laptop" or "Desktop"
- `model_year`: The year the device was manufactured (e.g., 2018, 2019, etc.)

`intel.impact_data`

- `impact_id`: Unique identifier for the repurposed device's impact record (e.g., "LP20NA141592")
- `device_id`: Unique identifier linking the impact record to a specific device in the `intel.device_data` table
- `usage_purpose`: The specific purpose for which the device is being repurposed, values are Education & Digital Literacy, Corporate & Enterprise, Government & Public Sector, Environmental Sustainability Programs, and Social Impact & Non-Profit
- `power_consumption`: Power consumption of the device in watts (W) when in use (e.g., 50W, 75W)
- `energy_savings_yr`: Estimated energy savings per device per year when repurposed compared to a new device, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh)
- `co2_saved_kg_yr`: Estimated CO2 emissions saved per device per year from manufacturing a new device, measured in kilograms (kg).
- `recycling_rate`: The percentage of the device that is recyclable (e.g., 80%, 90%).
- `region`: The geographical region where the device was repurposed, values are "North America", "Europe", and "Asia"

— **Task 1:** Organizing and Understanding the Data

We'll start by **joining** the device data with the impact data, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of device types, model years, repurpose regions, and energy savings in one dataset.

A. Simply write a query that returns all of the columns from both tables, joining the two on the `device_id` column. Be sure to choose the appropriate join so that all relevant

data is included in your result. **Note:** your query will have more than 150,000 rows (the max display for SQLPad!)

(paste your query below 👇)

```
SELECT
  *
FROM
  intel.device_data as d
  INNER JOIN intel.impact_data as i ON d.device_id =
i.device_id
```

B. To your joined dataset, add a new column called `device_age` calculated by subtracting the model_year from 2024. Paste your query below and double check that the values in your new column make sense. For example, a 2019 device should be 5 years old.

(paste your query below 👇)

```
SELECT
  *,
  (2024 - model_year) as device_age
FROM
  intel.device_data as d
  INNER JOIN intel.impact_data as i ON d.device_id =
i.device_id
```

C. Order your joined data by model_year (oldest to newest). Do you notice more older (5+ years) or newer (under 5 years) devices being repurposed? What might that indicate?

(write your **answer** below 👇)

There are more newer devices being repurposed, meaning that Intel's focus is on repurposing new devices instead of older ones.

D. Bucketing the `device_age` will allow us to analyze trends and patterns in energy savings and CO_2 reductions more effectively than using individual ages. Use a `CASE WHEN` clause to add one more column, called `device_age_bucket`, to your data, that is based on the device_age:

- `WHEN` the `device_age` is less than or equal to 3, `device_age_bucket` should be "newer"
- `WHEN` the `device_age` is greater than 3 but less than or equal to 6, `device_age_bucket` should be "mid-age"
- `WHEN` the `device_age` is greater than 6, `device_age_bucket` should be "older"

HINT: Instead of using e.g. `device_age <= 3`, you need to reference the calculation directly: `2024 - d.model_year <= 3`.

Double check that the values in your new column make sense! For example, a 2019 device should be characterized as "mid-age".

(paste your query below 👇)

```
SELECT
  *,
  (2024 - model_year) as device_age,
  CASE
    WHEN (2024 - model_year) > 6 THEN 'older'
    WHEN (2024 - model_year) > 3 THEN 'mid-age'
    ELSE 'newer'
  END as device_bucket_age
FROM
  intel.device_data as d
  INNER JOIN intel.impact_data as i ON d.device_id =
i.device_id
ORDER BY
  model_year ASC
```

— **Task 2:** Key Insights

Now it's time to analyze the overall impact of Intel's repurposing program. You will use your final query from **Task 1** together with the `WITH` keyword for the remainder of this Project as you aggregate and analyze the data you've organized and prepped. For a refresher, rewatch "🍿The `WITH` Keyword" in SkillBuilder 6.

A. What is the total number of devices Intel repurposed in 2024?

HINT: The dataset **is** representing all devices repurposed in 2024! You just need to COUNT all the rows in your joined data from Task 1!

(write your **answer** below 👇)

601740 devices were repurposed in 2024.

B. Write a query that returns the total number of devices repurposed, the average age of repurposed devices in 2024, the average estimated energy savings (kWh) from repurposed devices per year, and the total CO_2 emissions saved (in tons) from repurposed devices.

Note: CO_2 emissions are typically measured in tons. Since `CO₂_saved_kg_yr` is measured in kg, divide the `SUM(CO₂_saved_kg_yr)` by 1000 to report the total CO_2 emissions saved in tons.

(paste your query below 👇)

```
WITH table1 as (
  SELECT
    *,
    (2024 - model_year) as device_age,
    CASE
      WHEN (2024 - model_year) > 6 THEN 'older'
      WHEN (2024 - model_year) > 3 THEN 'mid-age'
      ELSE 'newer'
    END as device_bucket_age
  FROM
    intel.device_data as d
```

```
    INNER JOIN intel.impact_data as i ON d.device_id =
i.device_id
  ORDER BY
    model_year ASC
)

SELECT
  COUNT(*) as total,
  AVG(device_age) as avg_age,
  SUM(energy_savings_yr) as energy_saved,
  (SUM(co2_saved_kg_yr) / 1000) as co2_saved
FROM
  table1
```

C. Now that you have calculated the average estimated energy savings (kWh) and CO_2 emissions saved (tons), use ChatGPT to help put these numbers into perspective.

Try this prompt: I found that each repurposed device saves approximately of XXX kWh of energy per year and Intel's repurposing program saved XXX tons of CO_2 emissions in one year. Help me understand the significance of these numbers. How would this compare to the energy consumption of a small city or the amount of CO_2 produced by cars? What is the environmental impact of these savings?

What comparisons did you find most impactful in terms of scale? Summarize how much energy and CO_2 emissions were saved and how it compares to something familiar, like powering households or reducing car emissions.

(write your **answer** below 👇)

I learned that Intel's energy savings could provide at least a year's worth of energy for a small town of 1600–2000 homes. In addition, their carbon dioxide emission savings is equivalent to removing ~1,470 cars off the road! From an environmental perspective, Intel's repurposing

program contributes to climate change mitigation, e-waste production, and air/water quality.

— **Task 3:** Identifying Trends & Maximizing Sustainability

By grouping our data in different ways, we can uncover patterns in energy savings and CO_2 reductions. These insights will help us determine which categories of devices contribute the most to sustainability efforts and where Intel should focus its repurposing strategy for maximum impact.

A. Write a query that returns the total number of devices, the average energy savings, and the average CO_2 emissions saved (in tons), grouped by device_type.

Note (again): You'll need to divide `AVG(CO₂_saved_kg_yr)` by 1000 to report the average CO_2 emissions saved in tons.

(paste your query below 👇)

```
WITH table1 as ... --same as prev. part

SELECT
  device_type,
  COUNT(*) as total,
  AVG(energy_savings_yr) as avg_energy,
  (AVG(co2_saved_kg_yr) / 1000) as avg_co2
FROM
  table1
GROUP BY
  device_type
```

B. Based on the results, which device type contributes the most to energy savings and CO_2 reduction? Why might that be the case?

Hint: Don't forget you can use ChatGPT as your Teammate to help think through your response!

(write your **answer** below 👇)

Laptops contribute the most to energy savings (25.8 kWh) and carbon dioxide reduction (0.0113 tons) because they consume less energy than desktops, which also means less indirect CO_2 from electricity generation.

C. Write a query that returns the total number of devices, the average energy savings, and the average CO_2 emissions saved (in tons), now grouped by `device_age_bucket`.

(paste your query below 👇)

```
WITH table1 as ...

SELECT
  device_bucket_age,
  COUNT(*) as total,
  AVG(energy_savings_yr) as avg_energy,
  (AVG(co2_saved_kg_yr) / 1000) as avg_co2
FROM
  table1
GROUP BY
  device_bucket_age
```

D. Based on the result of your query, what do you notice about the relationship between device age and the number of devices repurposed versus the average energy saved?

(write your **answer** below 👇)

As devices become newer, more of them are repurposed, but their average energy savings decrease. For instance, around 20,000 older devices have an average energy saving of 48 kWh , while over 300,000 new devices have an average energy savings of 19 kWh only.

E. Finally, write a query that returns the total number of devices, the average energy savings, and the average CO_2 emissions saved (in tons), now grouped by region.

(paste your query below 👇)

```
WITH table1 as ...
SELECT
  region,
  COUNT(*) as total,
  AVG(energy_savings_yr) as avg_energy,
  (AVG(co2_saved_kg_yr) / 1000) as avg_co2
FROM
  table1
GROUP BY
  region
```

F. How does the carbon intensity of electricity in each region impact the total CO_2 savings from repurposed devices? Are there regions where repurposing leads to significantly higher environmental benefits? Why might that be?

(write your **answer** below 👇)

Repurposing leads to higher environmental benefits in Asia (25.8 kWh energy savings, 0.02 ton CO2 savings), followed by North America and Europe. Since Asia also has the highest carbon intensity, this confirms that repurposing in regions with the highest carbon intensity of electricity leads to higher energy and carbon dioxide savings. This is because each unit of electricity saved avoids the emission of more CO_2 and the production of new electronics that generate additional emissions due to fossil-fuel-powered factories.

— **Task 4:** Data-Driven Recommendations

Using the findings from this analysis, we need to summarize key takeaways and develop actionable recommendations for Intel. Remember: the goal is to refine Intel's repurposing strategy to maximize energy savings and CO_2 reductions while ensuring the most effective use of resources.

A. Based on your analysis of the repurposed devices (including energy savings, CO_2 emissions, and device age), write **four** key takeaways in succinct sentences/bullets that summarize the most important patterns and insights from the data. These should be specific, concise, and focused on the implications of repurposing newer versus older devices.

(write your **answer** below 👇)

1) More newer laptops and desktops are being repurposed by Intel than older ones, but their average energy savings decrease.
2) Intel's energy savings could provide at least a year's worth of energy for a small town, and the total CO2 emissions saved are equivalent to removing over a thousand cars off the road
3) Laptops contribute the most to energy savings and carbon dioxide reduction because they consume less energy than desktops
4) Repurposing leads to significantly higher environmental benefits for regions with high carbon intensity, like Asia.

B. Based on your four key takeaways and ChatGPT as your teammate, write a recommendation for Intel on how to improve the repurposing program. Your recommendation should include a clear action or strategy for Intel based on the data and a data-driven justification for why this approach would maximize energy savings and CO_2 reductions.

(write your **answer** below 👇)

Based on these results, Intel should first look to repurpose more older laptops to increase the average energy savings. In addition, they should focus on regions with high carbon intensity, like Asia, to improve total CO_2 savings from repurposed devices. By doing so, this plan will maximize energy savings and CO_2 reductions that could be provided to houses and cars.

C. Briefly reflect on how ChatGPT's suggestions influenced your recommendation. Did it help you see something you hadn't considered? What parts of your recommendation were improved based on its response?

(write your **answer** below 👇)

> ChatGPT's suggestions helped me support my data findings with evidence and understand the implications of Intel's repurposing program. It also helped me learn the reasoning behind some trends, such as why repurposing older devices in regions with high carbon intensity leads to significantly higher environmental benefits.

— **LevelUp:** Optimizing Repurposing Strategy for Maximum Impact

Now that you've gained insights into the energy savings and CO_2 reductions across different device types and regions, let's use this data to optimize Intel's repurposing strategy for maximum environmental benefit.

A. Add to your final query of Task 3 that returns the total number of devices, the average energy savings, and the average CO_2 emissions saved (in tons), grouped by region, **the percentage** of the total energy savings and CO_2 reductions contributed by each device type within each region.

HINT: To calculate the percentage of the total energy savings, use this formula:
`Total energy savings for the device type / Total energy savings for the region) * 100`
You'll use a similar one for the percentage of the total CO_2 reductions.

> **Try this prompt:** What's the best way to calculate the percentage of CO_2 reductions contributed by each device type in each region?

(paste your query below 👇)

```
WITH table1 as …
```

```
region_totals as (
  SELECT
    region,
    SUM(energy_savings_yr) as total_energy,
    SUM(co2_saved_kg_yr) / 1000 as total_co2
  FROM
    table1
  GROUP BY
    region
),
per_device as (
  SELECT
    region,
    device_type,
    COUNT(*) as total_devices,
    SUM(energy_savings_yr) as device_energy,
    SUM(co2_saved_kg_yr) / 1000 as device_co2
  FROM
    table1
  GROUP BY
    region,
    device_type
)
SELECT
  a.*,
  b.*,
  ROUND((a.device_energy / b.total_energy), 3) as
pct_energy,
  ROUND((a.device_co2 / b.total_co2), 3) as pct_co2
FROM
  per_device as a
  INNER JOIN region_totals as b ON a.region = b.region
```

B. Based on the results of your query, analyze the data to answer:

- Which device types in which regions contribute the most energy savings and CO_2 reductions relative to their numbers?
- How can this analysis help Intel prioritize specific device types in certain regions to maximize environmental benefits?

(write your **answer** below 👇)

Laptops in Asia contributed the most to energy savings and carbon dioxide reductions, averaging around 25.8 kWh of energy savings and 0.016 tons of carbon dioxide savings. This finding would help Intel prioritize repurposing laptops in Asia to maximize environmental benefits.

C. In addition to focusing on sustainability, imagine Intel needs to optimize for cost-effectiveness in their repurposing program. How might you adjust your query to incorporate cost data (e.g., cost per repurposed device)? What strategies could Intel use to balance sustainability goals with cost constraints?

(write your **answer** below 👇)

I would need to add a cost column that tracks the average and total repurposing cost by region and device type. Then, I would calculate the cost per ton of CO_2 saved and per kWh saved by region and device type to determine which is most cost-effective in Intel's repurposing program.