

code save the green news_letter(5);

Blockchain & environment

Amongst other hints, the rising price of Bitcoin and matters of cybersecurity show a growing interest of people around the world for the blockchain technology. This economic and democratic feat raises now the question of its impacts on the environment.

NB: there's a lot of applications of the blockchain, however, for clarity's sake, we decided to publish a non-exhaustive list of our researches about its most common application, cryptocurrencies (the two most important ones being Bitcoin and Ethereum).

»» What if Bitcoin and Ethereum were countries...

In terms of carbon footprint, Bitcoin would be Switzerland and Ethereum would be Tanzania. In terms of power consumption, Bitcoin would be Finland and Ethereum would be Ireland.

source : digicomist.net (EN)

»» Ethereum 2.0 : a new protocol consuming less energy

Since December 1st, 2020, Ethereum launched a new protocol. Mining is giving way to staking. The transition might take a while but the goal is, at some point, to be secured by staking not computer power which means the equipments needed to validate the blocks would consume a lot less energy.

source : ethereum.org (EN)

»» Cryptocurrencies, a way of exploiting otherwise lost energy...

To this day, almost 50% of the mining facilities are located in China, a country relying mostly on coal-based power.

Event though laws are not the same everywhere, could mining cryptocurrencies be a solution to the fluctuations of renewable energies and to the facilities producing more power than needed ?

sources : [The Carbon Footprint of Bitcoin, 2019](#) (EN), [BigBlock](#) (EN)

»» ... but a heavy toll in terms of equipments

We can use CPU and GPU to mine cryptocurrencies but they have to be powerful enough so we actually make money out of them. In 2013, a powerful tool, ASIC miner, was created **solely for mining** cryptocurrencies. Ultra-specialized systems with a huge ecological rucksack flooding the market.

source : digitaltrends.com (EN)

»» What else does the future hold ?

- Because there's still so much to discuss, we're planning conferences on the subject with [42 Blockchain](#) on the intra, starting April 2021
- With no relation to the blockchain, except for the collaborative work, young engineers on a boat take us on a tour of the low-tech solutions and around the world [Low Tech on the High Seas](#), til the end of April 2021
- And what's more, with the [NFT](#), "non fungible tokens", the blockchain technology enters the art market [Beeple Brings Crypto to Christie's](#) (EN)