



## Letter to the Editor from Jeremy Auerbach

**Subject:** Re: May 2026 LANv23n4 "Global Lead News" is online

Hi all,

We can't support the use of AI. AI leads to more lead in our environment!

AI chip production uses lead along with cancer-causing forever chemicals (PFAS) and data centres are dumping their liquid cooling chemicals, including lead, in our environment. The primary application of water in data centres is for cooling and during this process chemicals contaminate the water[5]. The most common are biocides[6] as liquid cooling creates ideal conditions for organic buildup, but exposure to biocides can disrupt nervous systems and cause organ damage. Anti-corrosives are also added[7], with some of which are carcinogenic, while dangerous heavy metals, such as copper, zinc and lead are used in components and over time can release trace amounts into the water[8]. A single data centre can consume up to 5 million gallons of water per day, equivalent to the daily water usage of more than 15,000 homes, and at this scale, even minor impurities in wastewater can scale and cause significant environmental harm, especially where wastewater is concentrated. The issue is further exacerbated because centres don't always discharge wastewater into public sewage systems, which typically route water to treatment facilities capable of filtering out many contaminants. Instead, centre wastewater may be released directly into nearby lakes, streams, or groundwater aquifers, where pollutants can enter the ecosystem unchecked.

Jeremy

Jeremy Auerbach, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Geography, University College Dublin

12 June 2026

Stop using AI, technology and voting won't save us

Join the [Climate Justice Universities Union](#)

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## Letter to the Editor from Margaret

**Subject:** Re: April 2026 LANv23n3 "Leaded Humans Weigh Heavily on the Earth" is online

Elizabeth,

Could you please unsubscribe me from newsletters? I get too many emails and I don't get round to reading them and storing them is contributing to the problems of data centres - too much electricity and water use, too much noise for nearby residents, too many greenhouse emissions, too much fire risk and too much use of valuable land.

Regards, Margaret, Victoria, Australia

12 June 2026

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