

During the time of rapid expansion of technology, it is especially important to be aware of the finite sources in our world. With increasing reliance on Artificial Intelligence (AI), usage of fresh water has been increasing.

AI may feel like nothing, just a chatbot, a tool, but mostly a quick answer. But behind every interaction or even a silly question is a physical system of data centers that depend on freshwater. These facilities use fresh water to cool servers that power these AI systems. As AI usage grows in classrooms, so does the demand placed on these infrastructures that we are ignoring.

Research shows that data centers already place significant weight on water systems. Studies find that data center operations require large volumes of water, which replace evaporated supplies with freshwater, directly impacting local resources. By rapidly increasing the expansion of AI, this strain intensifies, with water consumption rising.

Though AI may seem significantly important during today's time, it is necessary to encourage mindful usage. This includes only using AI when you actually need help, not putting in unnecessary prompts such as “hello” or “thank you”, and avoiding it when a google search will give you the same answers. The first way to approach this solution is through awareness which teaches students about the actual way AI works. This approach can help reduce the waste of freshwater resources while informing the youth to create wiser choices.