Executive summary

The Intel Sustainable Intelligence Index ranks 11 key sectors on their use of AI to drive progress towards net-zero goals and have a positive impact. Organizations are scored across three key pillars: Knowledge, Investment, and Innovation.

Top 3 sectors overall	
1	TMT
2	Financial services
3	Manufacturing

The intention-action gap

The Index reveals a missed opportunity for organizations to leverage AI for sustainable progress: while 72% of C-suite leaders in our study believe sustainability-related AI solutions could have a great impact on their business, only 37% report that these solutions are currently being deployed in their organization.

Tech zero_

62%

of leaders say their organization is utilizing AI to reduce the carbon footprint of the IT function.

Only # 20%

are currently performing as a 'Visionary' organization for tech-zero indicators (i.e. ranking in the top-third of the scoring range).

Tech positive_

66%

of leaders say their organization is using AI as a lever for the whole organization to reach its net-zero goals and to have a positive impact.

Only # 17%

are currently performing as a 'Visionary' organization for tech-positive indicators (i.e. ranking in the top-third of the scoring range).

The ROI of AI

Organizations investing in sustainability-related AI solutions see average annual savings of **$11.7 million** due to efficiencies, with the greatest reported annual savings in our research being **$53 million.**

The Tech Trilemma

Knowledge_	Investment_

Top 3 sectors for this pillar

1 TMT

2 Financial services

3 Engineering, energy, & infrastructure

Knowledge is the strongest performing pillar for most sectors, with two-fifths of organizations in the Visionaries group (i.e., ranking in the top-third of the scoring range). However, there is still scope to build expertise around tech zero and tech positive.

Visionary organizations

- Demonstrate a strong level of knowledge and understanding around the use of AI for sustainable outcomes and are actively applying this knowledge to reach sustainability targets and deliver positive impact.

- Provide regular training on sustainable AI, both for the IT function and the wider workforce, run by internal and external experts.

- Currently have, or are recruiting for, roles with a focus on AI within both the IT function and across the wider organization.

Top 3 sectors for this pillar

1 Financial services

2 Transportation & automotive

3 TMT

Investment is the greatest barrier to embracing sustainability-related AI, with a fifth of organizations (21%) in the 'Followers' group (i.e., ranking in the bottom-third of the scoring range).

- While 70% of C-suite leaders expect general AI investment to triple in the next 12 months, budgets for sustainability-related AI are only predicted to rise by an average of 7%.

- 71% of leaders say their organization's investment in sustainability-related AI is heavily weighted towards the IT function.

Visionary organizations

- Allocate a substantial proportion of their annual IT budget and total revenue to sustainable AI R&D and solutions.

- Deploy a range of sustainable AI use cases, both within the IT function and across the wider organization.

Innovation_

Top 3 sectors for this pillar

1 TMT

2 Financial services

3 Manufacturing

While less than a quarter of C-suite leaders (23%) believe AI is making a significant contribution towards their organization reaching its sustainability goals, 72% have a roadmap or specific goals for further deploying AI technologies to enhance environmental sustainability.

- IT decision-makers have a pivotal role to play in driving this transition: 71% of C-suite leaders say their IT function is the most innovative within the whole organization.

Visionary organizations

- Have filed successful patents for sustainable AI tools or solutions, both within the IT function and across the wider organization.

- Encourage collaboration among internal teams and with a range of stakeholder and external partners to advance knowledge and innovation around the use of AI for sustainability.

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