

Big Data, Data Centers, and their Environmental Impacts



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Exchanging email messages, streaming a favorite movie, engaging in multi-player online computer games, sharing photos on Facebook, shopping with the touch of a button, communicating via social media, searching for information on the web, seamlessly backing up computer files to the cloud – all utterly transformative to the economy and society at large. And most recently the advent of AI which promises to further revolutionize daily life. But all of this has come at a cost, a cost that has only recently gained the attention of the public: very substantial and rising environmental impacts linked to data centers. This report examines current and projected environmental impacts of cloud computing and large data centers, highlights technologies for mitigating impacts, and identifies management strategies that businesses and individuals can utilize to reduce their electronic footprints.

[Read Full Report Here!](#)

**Dovetail Partners 2026 Webinar Series**

A safe place to get a little uncomfortable with the complexities of managing natural resources today and learn about the best solutions available.

Q1: FORESTRY AT THE DINNER TABLE
• MARCH 6TH 9:30-10:45AM EASTERN

Q2: WALK IN THE WOODS
• JUNE 12TH 9:30-10:45AM EASTERN

Q3: DATA CENTERS
• SEPT 18TH 9:30-10:45AM EASTERN

Q4: READER'S CHOICE
• DEC 11TH 9:30-10:45AM EASTERN



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[Register for the webinars Here!](#)



[The Only Certainty is Uncertainty!](#)

That was the conclusion about the state of global forest products markets by the annual United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in Geneva, Switzerland on 4-6 November 2025. In addition to assessing the timber markets, the Committee also heard the outcomes of the forest products assessment in their region. Dovetail Partners participated in the discussions. We provide a synopsis of outcomes of the markets in section I and the forests in section II.

[Read Full Report Here!](#)



[American Hardwood Assured \(AHA\) Jurisdictional Risk Assessments for 37 U.S. States](#)

The American Hardwood Export Council commissioned Dovetail Partners to conduct independent jurisdictional risk assessments of hardwood production across 37 major U.S. hardwood-producing states, in accordance with the AHA Framework for Jurisdictional Risk Assessment. These assessments evaluated the risk of illegality in hardwood production and were designed to support due diligence under emerging regulations, including the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). Each assessment examined the strength of state-level forest governance, including laws, enforcement, monitoring, reporting, and legal recourse. The findings show a negligible risk across all criteria and states, reflecting the strength of U.S. forest governance and confirming that U.S. hardwood is legally sourced and responsibly managed.

[View Full News Release Here!](#)



[Policy Identification Survey – We Need Your Insight!](#)

We invite you to take part in our Policy Identification Survey, a brief but important opportunity to help shape the direction of future policy work at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Your input will help us identify key policy activities and emerging priorities across these areas.

All responses will be carefully analyzed to generate meaningful research insights and inform future initiatives. Your voice directly contributes to smarter, more responsive policy development.

Thank you in advance for sharing your perspective and supporting this important effort!

Updates & Recaps



[Dovetail Partners Announces Eliza Meyer as Executive Director](#)

Meyer steps into the role with a strong record of project leadership and program development, and she brings a deep commitment to bridging science and community needs across sectors.

"I'm thrilled to be stepping into a new role with Dovetail and to continue working alongside our talented team and partners to deepen our impact, strengthen collaboration across sectors, and advance solutions that support both healthy forests and healthy communities," said Meyer. "What has always excited me about Dovetail is its ability to bring research and innovative ideas together with real-world applications, and I look forward to furthering this important work together."

[Read Full Announcement Here!](#)



[Welcome to the Team, Abby Andrus!](#)

We're excited to welcome Abby Andrus to the team as our new Community Ecology Strategist. Based in Duluth, Minnesota, Abby works across sectors to plan and implement ecologically based land management initiatives, with specialties in prescribed fire, forestry, land management, and biochar creation. They bring a strong background in forest ecology, community collaboration, and hands-on land stewardship, drawing on experience as an ecologist, forester, project manager, educator, and community organizer, and hold an M.S. in Forest Ecosystems and Society from Oregon State University and a B.A. in Biology from Macalester College. We're thrilled to have their expertise and perspective on board!



[WI-MN Rx Fire Conference Recap](#)

Several Dovetail staff participated in the Wisconsin-Minnesota Prescribed Fire Conference in Winona, Minnesota on January 9 and 10. This conference was collaboratively planned and executed by representatives from the Wisconsin and Minnesota Prescribed Fire Councils, including Dovetail's Abby Andrus. The event brought together a diversity of prescribed fire practitioners, academics, and enthusiasts to network and share knowledge across state lines. The first day featured optional workshops (Burn Plan Writing or Prescribed Fire and Grazing) followed by each Prescribed Fire Council's Annual Meeting and a social dinner. A field trip to a remnant bluff prairie actively managed with fire and grazing was popular, with 90 participants who braved the steep slopes and icy conditions and were rewarded with spectacular views of the Mississippi River Valley. The second day followed a traditional conference format with keynote speakers, presentations, and panel discussions covering a range of topics including fire ecology in prairies and forests, prescribed burn associations, Indigenous cultural relationships with fire, communicating about fire, and climate trends. The mission of the Minnesota Prescribed Fire Council is to promote and expand the use of safe and beneficial prescribed fire. Some strategic goals of the Council in the coming years include developing and delivering high quality training for fire practitioners, supporting prescribed fire implementation, sharing knowledge and resources to decision-makers on building a supportive regulatory and liability framework for prescribed fire, and building a community of practice throughout Minnesota.



[Sustaining Forests and Securing Family Legacies: The Impact of the SFLR Network](#)

Bethaney Wilkinson, Executive Director of the Sustainable Forestry & African American Land Retention (SFLR) Network, joined Dovetail's team meeting to present on Sustaining Forests and Securing Family Legacies. Her talk explores the SFLR Network's impact on sustainable forestry and its work to support African American and rural landowners. Learn more about the SFLR Network at their website!

[Visit the SFLR Website Here!](#)



In and About the Woods!

Each month, Dovetail team members are invited to share what they are seeing, doing, or experiencing in and around the woods, from personal land to public green spaces and places they visit. Photos are always welcome, and the newsletter will feature a few highlights to celebrate the ever changing forest and the many ways people can engage with it.



[January 2026](#)

A rare glimpse into the Northwoods, this beautifully captured video showcases the American pine marten in Northeast Minnesota. Filmed by Mark Jacobs, it offers a quiet and striking moment with one of the region's forest residents.

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Dovetail supports progress and change to address inequality.

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