



AI Policy for the Climate Land Leaders Initiative **Approved by Board 07.28.2026**

The Climate Land Leaders (CLL) policy regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) is for staff and contractors to refrain from its intentional use when engaged in CLL work. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the integrity of CLL as outlined in its vision and mission statements and guiding principles. AI in this policy refers to any technology or system that uses machine learning, natural language processing, or other forms of artificial intelligence to process data, generate output, or make decisions.¹

CLL's AI policy addresses the following concerns:

- AI is not advanced enough to synthesize and summarize accurately. AI relies on complex algorithms to generate content. AI is "trained" on an initial model to identify the most probable outputs, which then could be used to predict and produce outputs. It may provide inaccurate, unreliable, or misleading information (also known as "hallucinations"), or merely a lower quality output.
- AI takes work away from people. Content creation is people's work and can be part of their livelihoods. Much of AI training data has been sourced from individuals without their consent and is then used to take away work from artists and writers.
- AI use that replaces the potential for people to earn a living contributes to wealth inequality and thus to inequities that limit access to land tenure.
- AI has a significant negative environmental impact in terms of carbon emissions, land use, water use, and energy and may contribute to climate change.

¹ "AI" is an umbrella term used for technologies including machine learning, predictive algorithms, and natural language processing. Technologies like the Spotify algorithm, Google translate, smart thermostats, and self-driving cars run models that could be called AI. The latest major development in AI is the advent of general purpose, consumer-facing generative AI models. These "GenAI" tools (like ChatGPT, Meta's Llama, Google's Gemini, Elon Musk's Grok, etc.) are trained on huge models to process language and generate language or images.

- AI data centers may disrupt small rural communities.
- Information input into AI may enter the public domain. This can release non-public information, breach regulatory requirements, and compromise information and strategies critical to the CLL movement.
- AI may store sensitive data, which could be at risk of being breached or hacked.

The CLL Board of Directors have agreed that refraining from the use of AI is a prudent policy to maintain until such time that the implications of AI use are more clearly understood. The Board will review this plan annually and staff shall audit its use of AI annually and report its findings to the Executive Committee.

Mission: To provide community and support for land stewards creating climate resiliency

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