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How AI will practically change charity work 💡

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You've probably heard
AI will either be really
good or *bad* for the
sector. 🧠

So the current discourse is a bit like this...



As always, the truth is
somewhere in the
middle...



A practical understanding is key



- (1) Practical steps to reach the mountaintop 
- (2) Exploring the shadows 

People don't like being
specific because it means
they're more likely to be
wrong 🧠

Disclaimer:
I'm about to be *really*
specific...

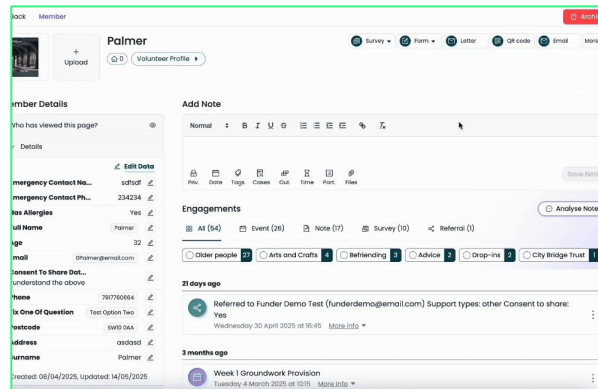
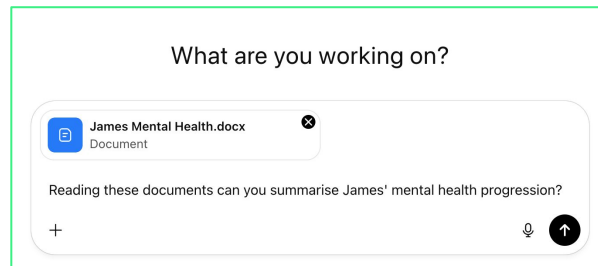
Case notes

Goal: record member wellbeing, track engagements across events and understand progression over time.

- Meeting Transcriptions
- Survey Information
- Manual notes

Automate these processes by feeding data to a LLM.

- Convert conversation into case note template.
- Ask it questions about user history.
- Create custom reports.



Grantmaking

Goal: give funding to organisations who meet your criteria.

- Due Diligence (Governance + Safeguarding)
- Assessment + Feedback
- Monitoring + Reporting

Have AI read applications and your criteria.

- Automate due diligence.
- Automate feedback to applicants.
- Monitor progress of successful grants.
- Generate custom impact reports.

The screenshot shows a web interface for 'Scottish Funders' with a 'Building Resilient Communities Grant Application Form' submitted on 19/02/2025. A progress bar at the top indicates the current stage is 'Due Diligence', with other stages being 'Application', 'Assessment', 'Communication', and 'Monitoring'. The 'Application Documents' section lists items for due diligence checks: 'Governing Document', 'Accounts', 'Safeguarding Policy', and 'Equality and Inclusion Policy'. Below this, a list shows 'Governing Document', 'Safeguarding Policy', and 'Equality Policy' each with a green status indicator. A 'Select Files' link and a 'Check' button are also present. A sidebar on the right offers 'Help from Pippin' and a 'Run Checks' button.

Fundraising

Goal: get funding for your organisation.

- Get impact data
- Find Funders
- Write grant application.

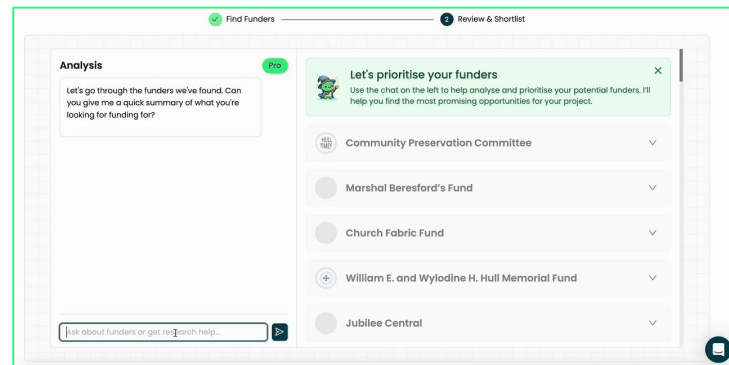
AI can do all of this with your data.

- Find funders using agents.
- Create draft applications.
- Generate impact stats.

What are you working on?

 Past grant applications budget sheet 
Document

Read through all the information attached and by taking a look at <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england> this page - write a first draft for me to the application questions outlined



Referrals



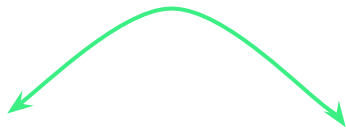
Goal: match people to the services or opportunities they need.

- Refer members to get relevant help.
- Match to volunteer opportunities

AI can read and understand member data.

- Automate member referrals to projects.
- Instant matching and alerts of volunteer opportunities.

Safeguarding



Goal: manually check potential concerns about members.

- Read through case reviews.
- Coordinate with volunteers and team members.
- Report on progress at team meetings.

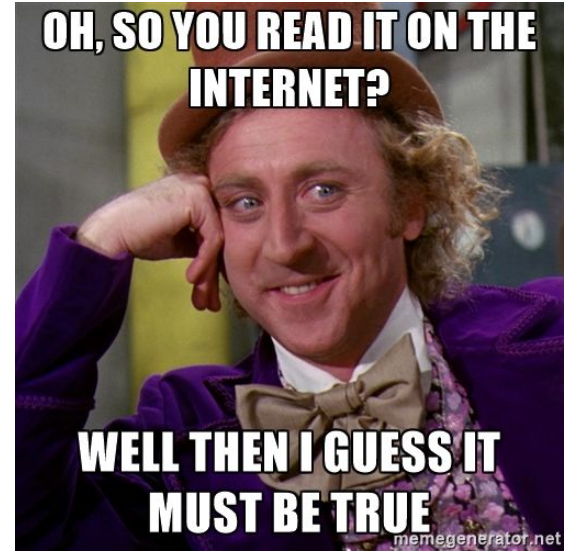
AI can do this automatically.

- AI can have access to your case notes.
- Give context on what your flag framework is.
- Automatically flags potential concerns.

The big benefit:
AI reduces frictions, lowers
barriers to engagement
making it easier to fund
impact.



Addressing some misconceptions 🤔



Data privacy

Any online service that process data *can* undermine your privacy – read the fine print.

Use platforms which respect your data ownership, e.g. at Plinth:

- Data centres stored in Europe.
- Do **not** share personal data or train large language models with it.
- Ensure your data belongs to you.
- GDPR compliant

The large language models don't do this.

Environmental Concerns

Energy usage and AI is often misunderstood.

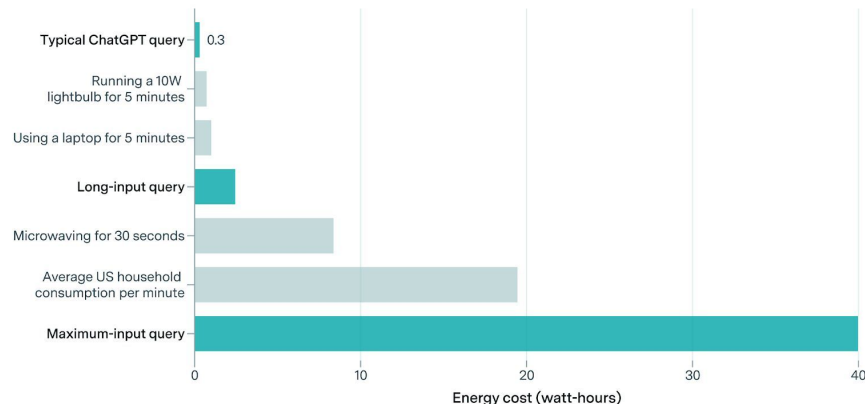
An AI query is equivalent to:

- Microwaving for 1 second
- Running a laptop for 17 seconds
- Charging a mobile phone to 2%

There's also been a **33x increase** in efficiency in the past 12 months.

Energy consumption per ChatGPT query is small compared to everyday electricity use

EPOCH AI

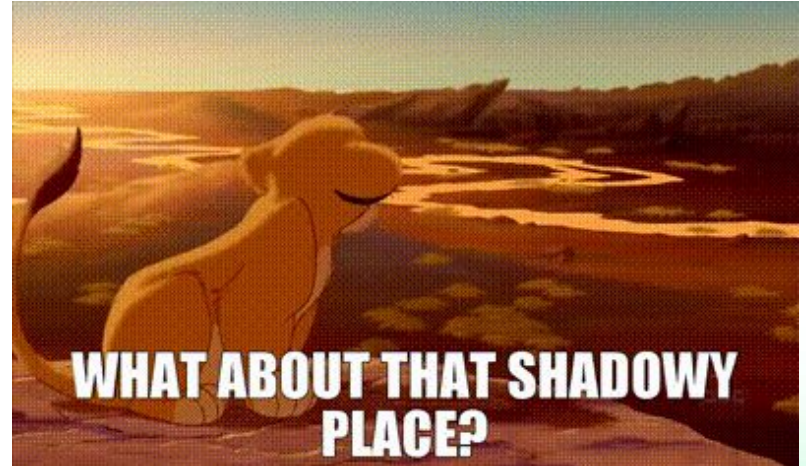


Pessimistic estimates of the energy usage of ChatGPT with GPT-4o across for different query lengths: typical (<100 words), long (~7,500 words), and maximum context length (~75,000 words), with an average response length of 400 words.

CC-BY

epoch.ai

Now for the *real*
concerns.



Sector Concerns

1) **How does AI work for complex and new organisations?**

What happens to the organisations who have no data?

Does this entrench funding inequality?

2) **Over-reliance and the hollowing out of skills**

Will grantmakers and key decision makers get lazy?

How do we keep the human in the loop?

Are you excited by the prospects of AI?

Let's discuss.

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