

Lithium mining machine moves a salt by-product at the mine in the Atacama Desertin Salar de Atacama, Chili on October 25,2022. The Chemical and... Lithium Production in the Northern salt flat of Jujuy province, Argentina. Silver Peak Lithium mine in Clatton Valley, Nevada.

Should lithium be mined?

As it stands, demand for lithium is unprecedented and many say it is crucial in order to transition to renewables. However, this doesn't come without a cost - mining the chemical element can be harmful to the environment. German aerial photographer Tom Hegen specialises in documenting the traces we leave on the earth's surface.

How does lithium mining affect the environment?

According to a report by Friends of the Earth (FoE), lithium extraction inevitably harms the soil and causes air contamination. As demand rises, the mining impacts are "increasingly affecting communities where this harmful extraction takes place, jeopardising their access to water," says the report.

Where is the Soquimich lithium mine?

Taken by photographer Tom Hegen, this image of the Soquimich lithium mine in the Atacama desert, run by major mining operator SQM, is part of his new project, The Lithium Series I, which documents lithium extraction in Chile.

Does Australia mine lithium containing ore?

The mining of lithium-containing ore, which is especially common in Australia, accounts for the rest. NASA Earth Observatory image by Lauren Dauphin, using Landsat data from the U.S. Geological Survey. Story by Adam Voiland.

How do miners extract lithium?

Though it's rich in lithium, it is one of the driest places on Earth, and to extract lithium, miners need a lot of water, reported Wired in 2018. "To extract lithium, miners start by drilling a hole in the salt flats and pumping salty, mineral-rich brine to the surface," wrote the publication.





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Video: How lithium-ion batteries work. Lithium-ion batteries work much like other batteries ??? there's a positive electrode and a negative electrode, and the electrons move from one end to



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The Statement. A Facebook meme, posted by a New Zealand user, shows an image of a large open-pit mine that the text suggests is used to produce lithium for electric car batteries.. The text over the image reads, "Lithium mine. Because nothing says "I care for the planet" like a battery powered car." At the time of writing, the January 31 post had been viewed ???



Spodumene ore from the open cast mine. lithium mines stock pictures, royalty-free photos & images. Mine drill platforms. Drilling machine makes bore holes for explosives in open cast mine. Lithium Mine in Western Australia. Lithium - ion batteries, metallic lithium and element symbol. 3d illustration. Lithium - ion batteries, metallic





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a dump truck drives along an access ramp at a lithium mine site - lithium mining stock pictures, royalty-free photos & images A dump truck drives along an access ramp at a lithium mine site An excavator moves lithium ore at the Sigma Lithium Xuxa mine near Itinga, Minas Gerais state, Brazil, on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.



In northern Chile, lithium mining is booming. The metal is used for batteries in everything from cell phones to electric cars, and it's crucial for the transition away from fossil ???





What are the environmental impacts of lithium mining? Lithium mining, like any other mining activity, has potential environmental impacts. The extraction and processing of lithium ores can result in soil erosion, habitat destruction, and water pollution if not properly managed. Additionally, the energy-intensive nature of mining operations



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Photo: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection A US district court judge has upheld the federal government's decision to approve the Thacker Pass lithium mine ??? North America's largest



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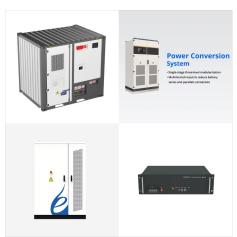


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The vivid swathes of minerals in this lithium extraction field, photographed by Tom Hegen, make for a dazzling sight but also represent a worrying aspect of our electrifying world



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A 2021 study found that lithium concentration and production from brine can create about 11 tons of carbon dioxide per ton of lithium, while mining lithium from spodumene ore releases about 37 tons of CO 2 per ton of lithium produced. 5 . The social impacts of lithium mining depend on how mining companies behave and how governments regulate them.



Exploding white dwarf stars are thought to be the ultimate source of much of our solar system's lithium. But on Earth, there are certain environments where the soft, light, silvery-white metal is most concentrated and easily mined???notably in briny groundwater aquifers found beneath desert salt flats.. An ideal climate for mining lithium is generally arid, punctuated by seasonal rains or



Bleak photos show the reality of the cobalt mining industry responsible for the batteries in your phone, computer, and car a crucial ingredient used to make lithium batteries, has skyrocketed.





In northern Chile, lithium mining is booming. The metal is used for batteries in everything from cell phones to electric cars, and it's crucial for the transition away from fossil fuels.

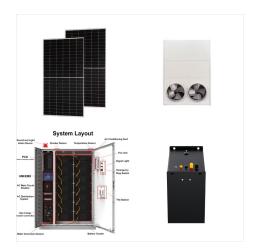


Photos of other copper mines, such as this photo of the Escondida mine in Chile, have also previously been co-opted and falsely identified as lithium sites in other viral Facebook posts. The photo



Phone and electric car batteries are made with cobalt mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Cobalt Red author Siddharth Kara describes the conditions for workers as a "horror show."





According to the consulting firm McKinsey, the current global lithium supply will not meet the projected demand for large lithium-powered batteries by 2030. But despite that demand, lithium mining is not without controversy in the U.S.??? and for good reason. "Lithium mining is still very difficult to get approved, because of how messy it can be.



Demand for batteries has sent lithium prices soaring. But building new mines is controversial and time-consuming. So existing mines are hitting overdrive and boosting production as much as they can.