

AI in Environmental Due Diligence: Trust Has to Be Earned

Adoption Is Real. Trust Is Limited.

AI is no longer experimental in environmental due diligence. Adoption is happening. Professionals are using it to accelerate research, extract data, and draft content. But alongside that adoption comes hesitation.

According to the 2026 LightBox AI Benchmark Survey of Environmental Professionals:

- 47% report using AI in professional work
- 78% cite output accuracy and reliability as their biggest concern
- 61% identify legal liability and accountability as a top risk
- 12% rate AI as effective today
- 51% report having no formal company guidance governing AI use

Concerns about the accuracy of output and distrust of outputs is real. In an industry where conclusions must be defensible, speed without reliability is a liability.

The risk isn't the model. It's how we use it.

In February 2026, LightBox CTO Eric Bollens addressed the Environmental Bankers Association on responsible AI use in environmental due diligence. These are the principles he outlined for earning trust in AI-driven workflows.

Five Tested Practices for Better AI Outcomes



1. Task-by-task workflows

Break work into small, checkable units. Review and validate each output before moving forward.



2. Section-by-section drafting

Avoid the zero-shot report. Draft in the smallest defensible unit of truth before synthesizing.



3. Structured and tagged inputs

Provide labeled, normalized data so the model reasons over defined elements instead of inferring structure.



4. Traceability and lineage

Ensure every claim ties back to explicit source records, making review evidence-based rather than impression-based.



5. Deterministic validation

Follow probabilistic generation with rule-based tie-outs, reconciliations, and external checks.

“The tools are powerful. But the responsibility remains ours.”

Eric Bollens, Chief Technology Officer, LightBox

For more detailed insights, [click here](#)

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