

FEEL  
YOUR  
PHONE  
HARD  
WARD

Learn to love your  
phone a little longer



# REALITY CHECK

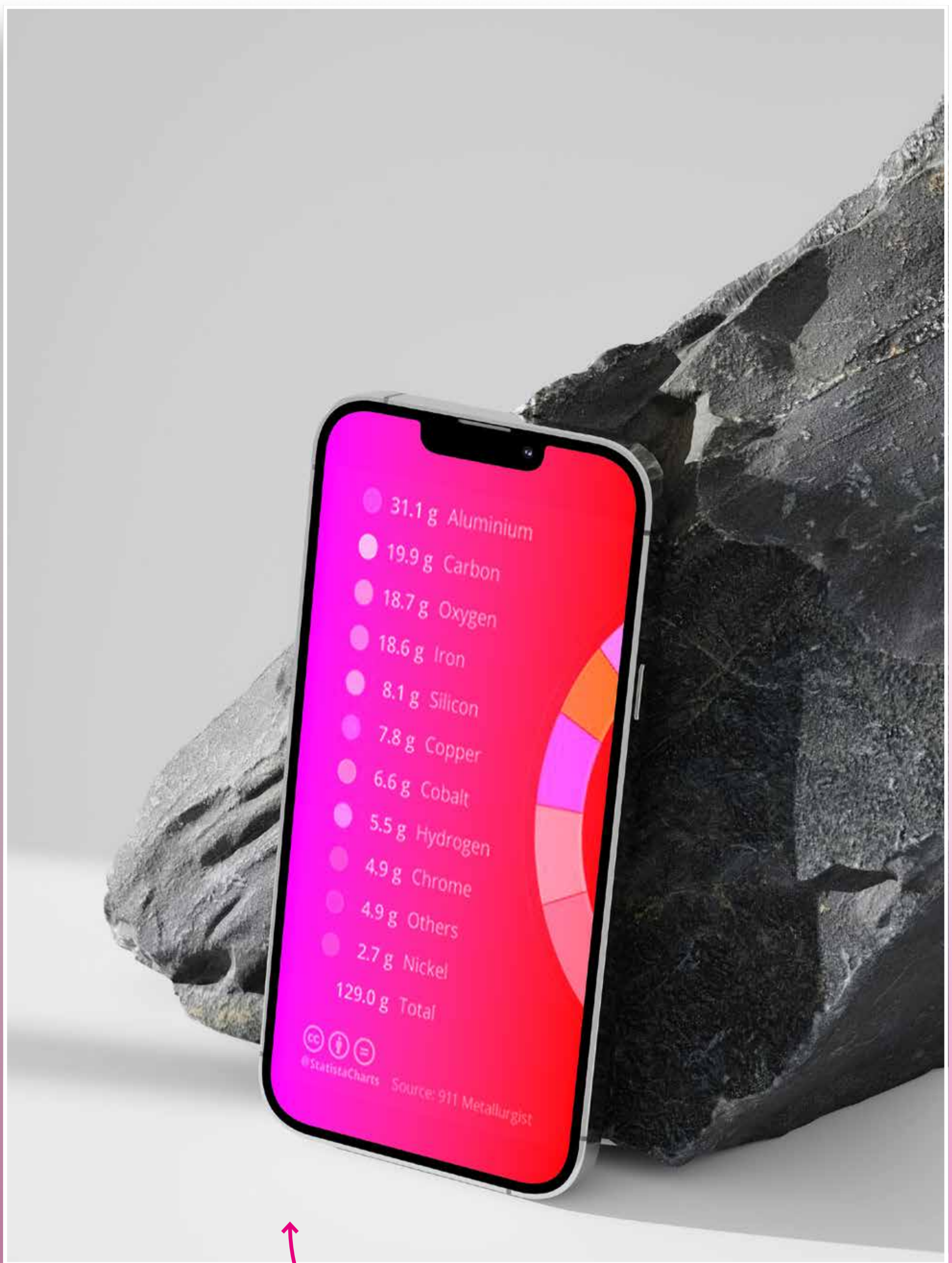
There are now more mobile phones than people in the world. And, every device represents a production process with a huge impact on people and planet.

How many phones have you owned in your life?

Your phone roughly consists of a processor, a camera, a screen, a battery, many sensors, and memory. Together, we call this the hardware: all the physical components that are required to make the phone work.



Pexels / Tyler Lastovich



Pexels / Leonid Altman

Many different rare earth materials are used in mobile devices

There will be an estimated 18 billion phones in use by 2025, which contain highly sought after minerals including copper, gold, cobalt and other precious earth elements. These resources are often mined under poor working conditions, their violent extraction is putting a huge strain on our planet's ecosystem.

# WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

When our phones break or become obsolete they are usually discarded in a drawer somewhere, reaching the end of their use but by no means the end of their life cycle.

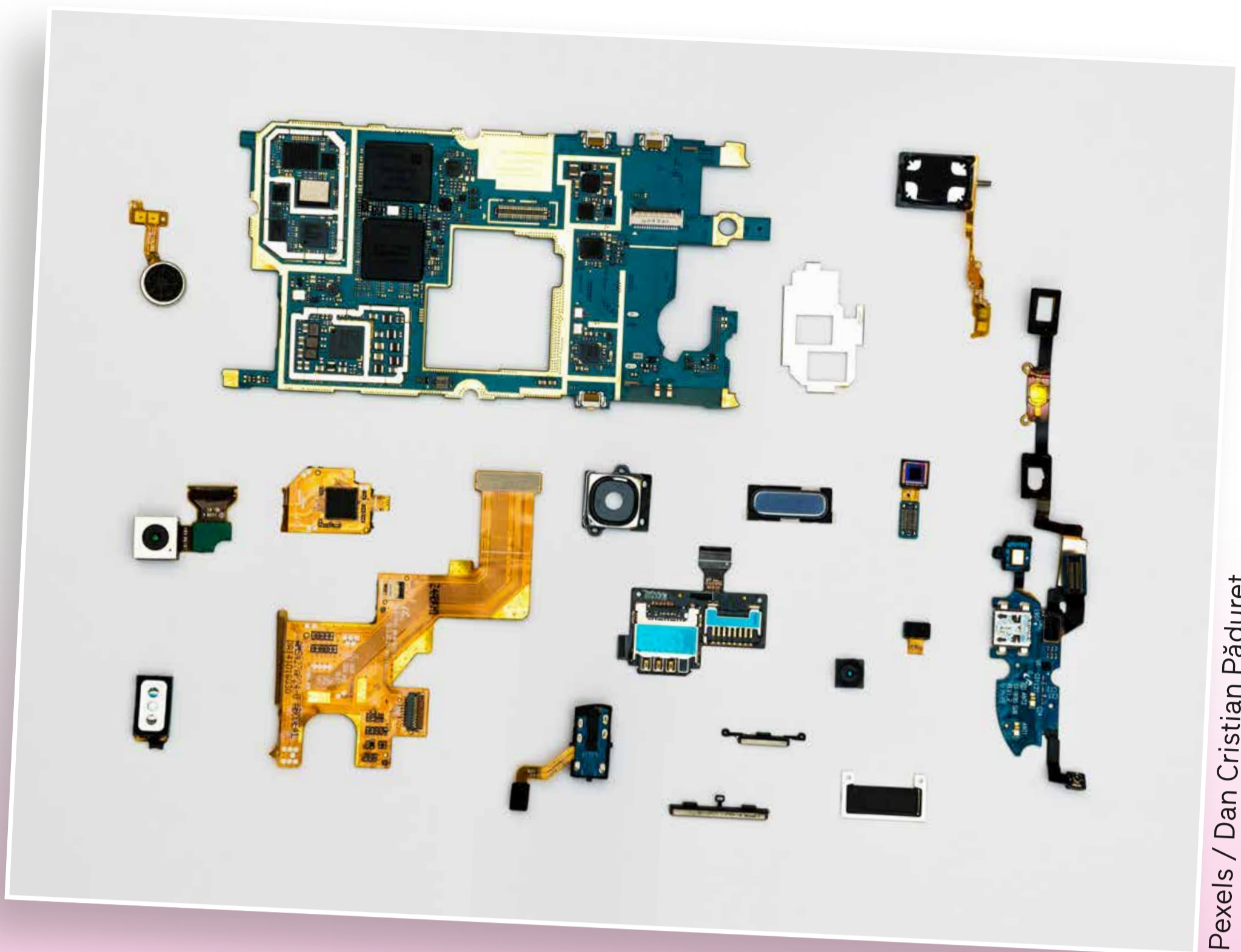
Companies encourage us to buy new phones rather than repair our own devices and salvage valuable parts.

In many aspects we are losing the right to repair our phones.



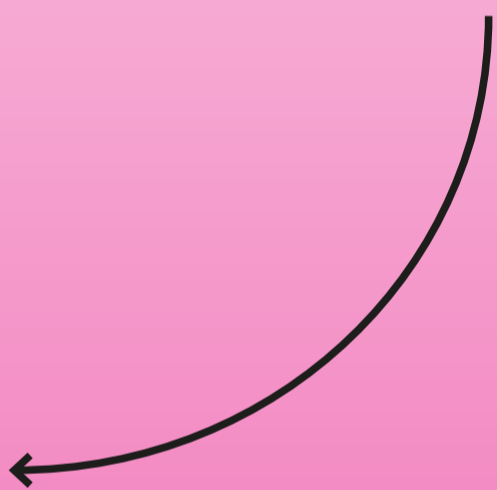
Fairphone lets you replace separate components easily





Pexels / Dan Cristian Pădureț

Instead of being forced to buy a new phone every few years you should be able to repair and reuse your phone's material!



Over 5 billion phones were thrown away 🗑️ in 2022, while less than 20% of e-waste was recycled

LET'S FIX IT!



Pexels / Tima Miroshnichenko

**Damaged,  
but fixable**

On an individual level there are things we can all do to help mitigate these problems and push for change. Conscious consumption is one avenue – using your current phone as long as you can, fixing it when it's broken, or by buying a refurbished model or Fairphone.

New 'Right to Repair' laws introduced in 2024 will make it easier for you to repair and reuse your phone.



Want to know which measures are taken with these laws?  
Check out:



## **You don't have to replace your phone if your operating system isn't supported anymore**

When your phone tells you your OS is not supported any longer don't start shopping for a new device just yet. There are many alternative apps that still support older models - check out our 'Apps' book for tips on how to replace common apps.



### **DIY: Fix your phone!**

You can try to repair your own phone. Some models are easier to repair than others. The website [IFixit.com](https://www.ifixit.com) offers repair guides.



### **Repurpose or upcycle an old phone by using it as a GPS tracker.**



waag  futurelab

The text 'waag' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. It is followed by a circular icon containing a white house-like shape with a chimney. This is followed by the word 'futurelab' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.