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Welcome to the first edition of BetterBlocks

With this newsletter, our goal is to help you learn about crypto in just a few minutes. In this edition, we'll look at what's new with one of crypto's largest assets and platforms: Ethereum.

Remember this date: September 15, 2022

Okay, so the exact date may not matter in 20 years, but what happened on that day most likely will. On September 15, Ethereum successfully completed the Merge, the first of five upgrades planned for the Ethereum blockchain.

Here are three things to know about the Merge:

- 1 The Merge migrated Ethereum from Proof of Work to Proof of Stake to validate transactions. Proof of Stake uses less energy and has speedier transaction times than the mining process used in Proof of Work.
- 2 It's [estimated](#) that the Merge reduced worldwide electricity consumption by 0.2%.
- 3 The rate at which new ETH enters circulation went down about 90% because Proof of Work mining rewards are no longer paid. Reducing the amount of ETH in circulation may impact ETH's price over time but keep in mind that many market variables impact prices.

Crypto quiz

By what percent will the Merge decrease Ethereum's estimated total energy usage?

- ✓ 69.95%
- ✓ 99.95%
- ✓ 20.50%

[Read our blog to find the answer](#)

Crypto quote: What rhymes with the Merge?

“The Merge is just the beginning. Ethereum developers are working on future upgrades dubbed the Surge, the Verge, the Purge, and the Splurge. Funny sounding names aside, if successful, these upgrades could result in faster transaction speeds and allow Ethereum to further scale, expanding its use for decentralized finance and metaverse applications.”

- Matt Heater, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Betterment

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