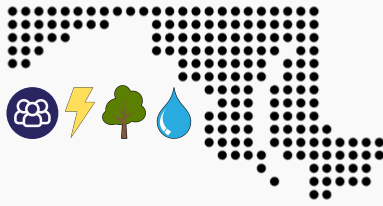


MARYLANDERS FOR DATA CENTER REFORM



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“One hyperscale data center uses the same amount of energy as 50,000 homes and consumes 5,000,000 gallons a day to cool its equipment.”

Mission and Goals

- Nature Forward launched the Marylander's for Data Center Reform in July 2025. The Coalition's goal is to promote a sustainable, transparent, equitable, and accountable data center industry by mounting a coordinated campaign to require the industry to reduce and mitigate its extreme energy use, utilize renewable resources, and limit the construction of new fossil fuel power plants.
- We recognize the vital importance of data centers in our society. We are not opposed to data centers or the expansion of artificial intelligence. However, we are deeply concerned about the impacts data center development will have on ratepayers and land use decisions.

Background

Surging demand for computing power, fueled by artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency, is placing unprecedented strain on the state's energy grid, land, water resources, and the health of local communities. Hyperscale data center projects require massive amounts of infrastructure and are often built near neighborhoods, schools, farms, daycares, and local businesses.

Legislative Priorities

Understand Environmental Impacts

Pass the Data Center Study Bill to better assess the impacts of data center development.

Protecting Communities & Air Quality

Incentivize the use of clean energy and utilize the best available technology for backup power and energy storage.

Establish a Regulatory Framework for Data Centers, Ratepayers, & Community Benefits

Implement statewide siting and comprehensive grid planning. Ensure that developers pay their fair share and contribute to our communities.

Increase Transparency

Add disclosure and transparency to make the public aware of new data center locations, size, number of diesel generators (used for backup power), air quality monitoring, electricity and water usage with state tracking and reporting.

Address Water Usage

Ensure that developers pay their fair share and contribute to our communities.





Questions to ask for responsible data center development

A guide for Community Members to get answers from developers and legislators



Rate Payer Impacts

- What are you doing to ensure that I don't see dramatic increases in my electric bill?
- If you are subsidizing data center developers, how are you supporting low-income energy assistance programs?



Energy

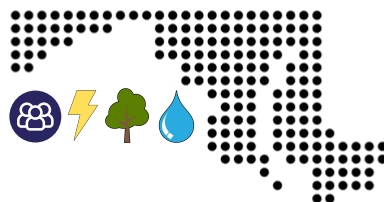
- Do you plan to collocate energy production on-site?
 - How will you support additional renewable energy in the state?
 - Are you building any battery storage?
 - How will you power this data center? Gas? Nuclear?
 - What kind of backup energy will this data center use?
 - Are you using diesel generators?
 - How much diesel fuel will be stored onsite?
-
- Are you using diesel generators for backup power?
 - How much diesel fuel will be stored onsite?
-
- How are you going to add air quality buffers for my neighborhood?
 - What will you do about diesel fuel spills?
 - Will you plant trees between my house and the data center?
 - How much noise should I expect on any given day? How are you going to mitigate the noise impact?



Water Use

- How will you use our water responsibly?
- What kind of cooling system will your data center use?
- For "used" water going back into our waterways, how will you prevent PFAS from contaminating our drinking water supply?

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Labor and Jobs

- Are you using union labor for the construction of your data center?
- How many construction workers will be hired?
- Will you hire workers from within the local community?
- How many people will be employed with the data center following construction and equipment installation?
- Will those be remote or on-site positions?



Economic Impacts

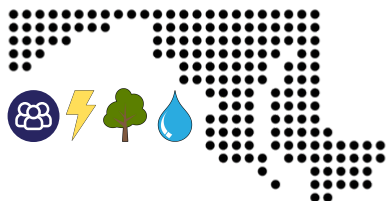
- Will the construction of your data center impact my local business?
- What are the opportunity costs? Data centers can price out other companies from using the land.



Transparency

- What sorts of tax incentives are data centers receiving to come to our community?
- What will you do to make sure that community voices are heard?
- Did you issue or sign any non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) as part of the development process?
- Who is the developer for this project?
- What sort of work will be done at the development site?
- Are there clients yet? What is the vacancy rate?

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