Data Center Impacts – Resources to Share

MN Interfaith Power & Light Webinar

When a Data Center Comes to Town:
What are Minnesota communities gaining (or losing)?

Recording Here | Slides Here | Rewiring America Report Here

Resources Referenced within Webinar:

Coalition for Responsible Data Center Development (Farmington, MN Community Group)
Website | FB Page
Litigation **Go Fund Me** Page: Help Protect All Neighborhoods from Hyperscale Data Centers

More Perfect Union video
"I Live 400 Yards from Mark Zuckerberg's Massive Data Center"

Good Jobs First Materials:
Pertaining to Tax Subsidies to Data Centers – Impact on State Budgets
Cloudy with a Loss of Spending Control: How Data Centers are Endangering State Budgets
→ Minnesota subsidy to data centers (not including proposed hyperscalers) in 2025: $114 million

NEW Feb/26: Georgia estimates $2.5 billion in losses to data center tax breaks in a single year

Info on MN Subsidies Generally | Blogs on Safeguards Needed for Data Centers

BTW, check out these other resources from Good Jobs First
* Corporate Misconduct Violations Tracker
* Government Give Away Subsidy Tracker | Tax Break Tracker

MN Environmental Quality Board Meeting on Data Centers | October 15, 2025
Recording includes compelling testimony from members of the public
from Hermantown | from Pine Island | this testimony and this on abuse of AUAR process

Rewiring America Report: Homegrown Energy
– See also this Volts podcast: Could we get hyperscalers to buy heat pumps for households?

Resources Referenced in the Chat:

Clean Energy Group Webinar on Data Centers
- See specifically the local community's experience with The Hyperion project in Richland Parish, LA around minute 9:00

Messages to Share with Governor Walz and Legislators

Really important to let elected officials know you are concerned about the data center explosion across the country and Minnesota's approach.

1) See how your legislator voted on last year's Data Center Bill.

   Also, particularly for Hermantown residents, Senator Hauschild (who represents Hermantown) was the chief author in the MN Senate for last year's bill to give hyperscale data centers tax exemptions into the extended future.
   Consider sharing your thoughts on this by contacting Sen. Hauschild.

2) Email / call both your State Senator and your House Representative with either

   a) **Thanking them for voting against the bill** AND **Sharing your concerns** about the way Minnesota is treating data centers

   OR

   b) **Thanking them for serving as a legislator** AND **Sharing concerns about the way Minnesota is treating data centers**, AND possibly, asking for a meeting

Concerns Include:

- TAX BREAKS: Giving away hundreds of millions in tax breaks to billionaire tech companies and their CEO's who are the richest people in the world.

  - ***NEW Feb/26:***
    Georgia estimates $2.5 billion in losses to data center tax breaks in a single year

  - Cloudy with a Loss of Spending Control: How Data Centers are Endangering State Budgets
    → MN subsidy to data centers in 2025 (not including proposed hyperscalers): $114 million

- Insufficient regulation around water and land use

- Inappropriate (and not legal) use of non-disclosure agreements which is keeping communities in the dark about what is happening

- Energy to power data centers will increase the emissions that are driving climate change when we must be on a path of continually reducing those emissions to zero.

  - Eventually getting to carbon free energy doesn't help if they emit more until then.

Solutions We Need:

If we build data centers in Minnesota, they should be a good neighbor:

- **Data Centers Should Facilitate Our Community Clean Energy Transition**

Solutions We Need (Continued):

- **Data Centers Should Facilitate Our Community Clean Energy Transition**

  → Household upgrades can meet 100% of data center demand growth
  See (and share) the new report by Rewiring America: Homegrown Energy

  → Hyperscalers should pay for heat pumps, rooftop solar, and storage to get the capacity they need on the grid now, while setting us up for an affordable, reliable, and clean energy future.

- **Require Data Centers Use Already Developed Land In Need Of Repurposing**

  → Think K-Mart stores, empty parking lots, and now vacant office buildings.

  This turns blight into productivity with these additional benefits:

  - Heat from the data center could supply networked geothermal
  - Created jobs would be in proximity to community infrastructure and surrounding businesses
  - Set-backs and berms could host plants and trees that counter pollution. (See Mini-Forest Revolution)

- **Require Decommissioning Bonds**

  → Developers should be required to give the community money so if the project doesn't come to fruition, or if the data center is no longer being used, the land used can go back to a workable condition.

  Note: This is similar to how Alaska requires decommissioning bonds for oil wells in order to properly plug them at end of usable life.

- **Require Environmental Impact Statements**

→ Data Centers are adept at hiding information through the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) process. Communities deserve better.
State law must require each hyperscale data center to undergo an Environmental Impact Statement – a document that
gives regulators and the community an opportunity to understand the specific environmental impacts the data center would have.

- **Require Each Hyperscale Data Center to Get its Own Water Permit**

→ Hiding a data center's water use in the municipality permit means the public won't know how much water the center is using, and it will be shielded from needing to use less in times of drought.

House Vote on the 2025 Data Center Bill (passing 85 - 43):

To see the full House discussion on HF 16, the data center bill, see here.

To narrow in on Rep. Athena Hollins' great comments, click here.

Green = voted for the data center bill that extended tax breaks from 2042- 2076.

Red = voted against the bill.

Summary of the bill from Sarah Mooradian.

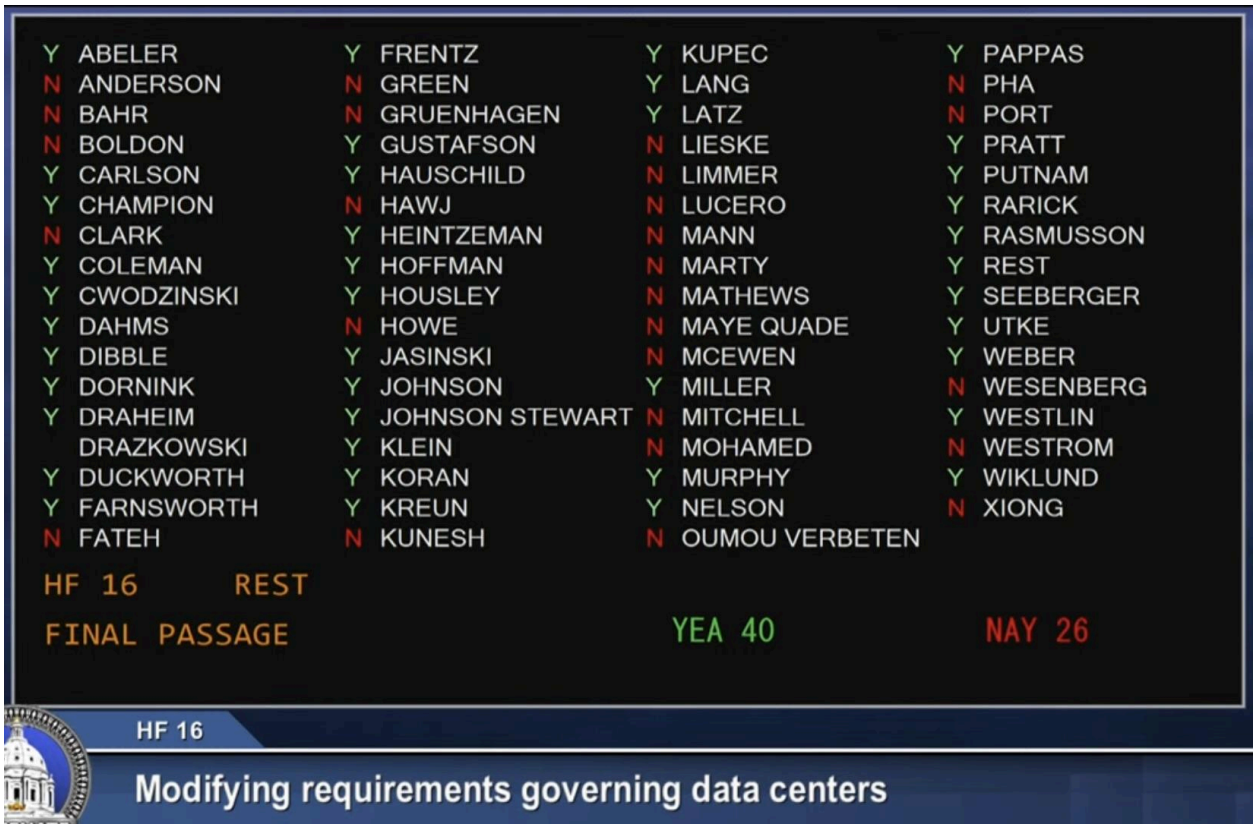


Senate Vote on Data Centers (passing 40 - 26): (next page, scroll down)

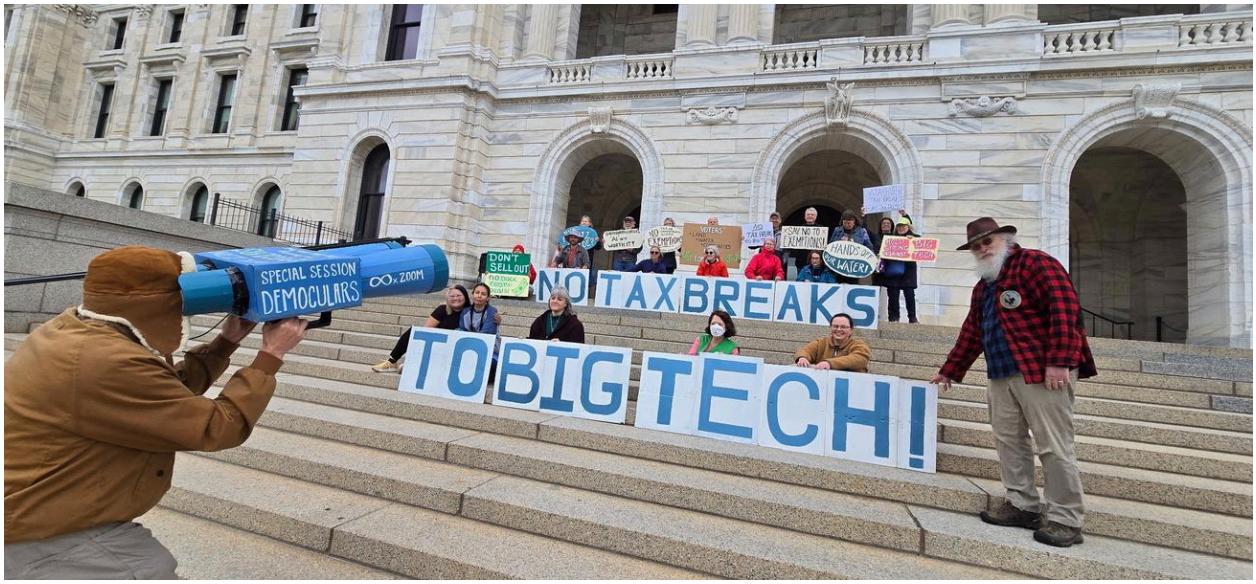
To see the full Senate discussion on this bill, see here.

Senator John Marty made great comments, here.

For Sen. Erin Maye Quade's amazing speech, click here.



And below is the amazing group that showed up when session started on Monday with signs and "Special Session Democulars" (a photo of this observational tool made it into MPR news coverage -- scroll to the 6th photo) :


SPECIAL SESSION
DEMOCULARS
∞ x ZOOM
DON'T SELL OUT
NO TAX BREAKS
TO BIG TECH!


SPECIAL SESSION
DEMOCULARS
∞ x ZOOM
NO EXEMPTIONS


House File 16
Data center regulatory bill
MN House
Monday, June 9, 2025

Tax Loss Impact Resources

NEW Feb/26: Georgia estimates $2.5 billion in losses to data center tax breaks in a single year

Cloudy with a Loss of Spending Control: How Data Centers are Endangering State Budgets
→ Minnesota subsidy to data centers (not including proposed hyperscalers) in 2025: $114 million

Resources on AI's Impact on Jobs

Washington Post | Saturday, November 1, 2025
[Nation's Largest Employers are Putting Their Workers on Notice]

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

The nation's largest employers are putting their workers on notice

Amazon and Walmart are among firms warning employees of layoffs or disruption from AI as leaders across corporate America talk of increasing efficiency.

By Danielle Abril



The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

The nation's largest employers are putting their workers on notice

Amazon is cutting jobs in an efficiency drive and Walmart says its headcount will stay flat as artificial intelligence disrupts some roles.

Today at 5:00 a.m. EDT

8 min | Summary | 180



Inaccuracies Associated with AI

Washington Post | October 29, 2025
Federal judges using AI filed court orders with false quotes, fake names

Two federal judges in New Jersey and Mississippi admitted this month that their offices used artificial intelligence to draft factually inaccurate court documents that included fake quotes and fictional litigants — drawing a rebuke from the head of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

“I’ve never seen or heard of anything like this from any federal court,” Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) said in a Senate floor speech Monday.

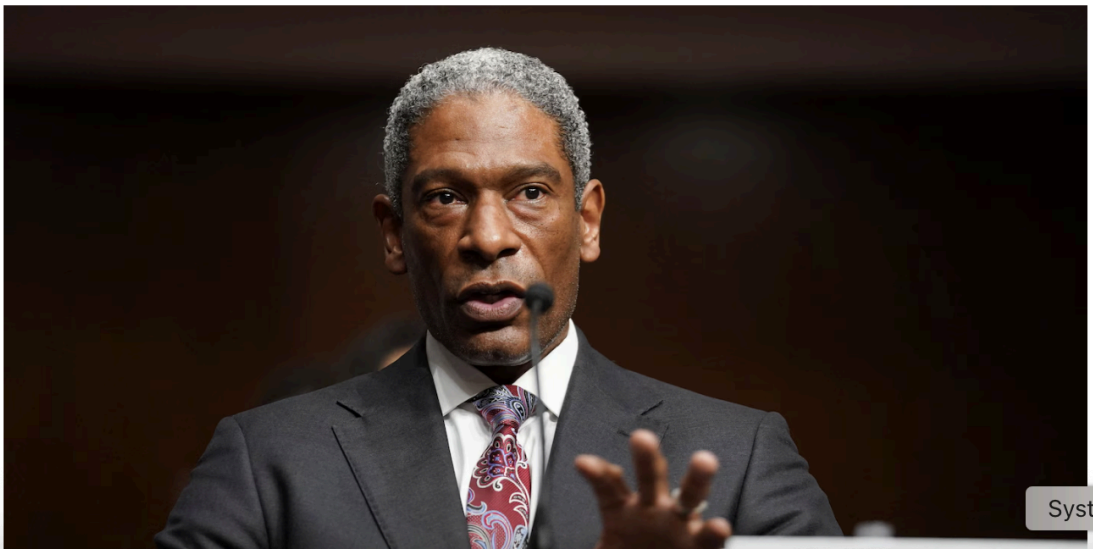
The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Federal judges using AI filed court orders with false quotes, fake names

The erroneous filings prompted inquiries by the Senate Judiciary Committee and a call for new regulations on AI use in federal courts.

October 29, 2025

6 min Summary 96



Scale of Projects

Local Strategies for Data Center Reform | **Clean Energy Group**

Highlights:

- At minute 9:09 – Meta's Hyperion Project in Richland Parish, Louisiana

Secrecy

Superior Mayor Jim Paine Bans Use of NDAs by City Staff | Northern News Now

https://www.northernnewsnow.com/2025/11/06/superior-mayor-jim-paine-bans-use-ndas-by-city-staff/

North Star Data Center Policy Toolkit:
State and Local Policy Interventions to Stop Rampant Local AI Expansion
Link
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x8KsCVOhJS97rxzdd_bWW4Me1Errpj6ggyU5dAdNKUM/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.pqsbr7poxsvd

Other Webinars and Resources

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, November 12 | 1 - 4 pm | Mankato
Data Center Forum - Sponsored by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Other Resources:

Local Strategies for Data Center Reform | **Clean Energy Group**
Highlights:

- At minute 9:09 – Meta's Hyperion Project in Richland Parish, Louisiana



Minnesota Data Center Proposals Timeline

Below is a list of data center proposals in various Minnesota communities, ordered by the date the proposal was first made public. This information is intended to track the timeline of data center announcements and public discovery across the state.

Community	Proposal Announcement/Public Discovery Date
Farmington	
Pine Island	
Hermantown	
Becker 1	
Becker 2	
Monticello 1/Monticello Industrial Park	
Monticello 2/Scannell Technology Park	
Chaska	
Rosemount	

Community	Proposal Announcement/Public Discovery Date
Faribault	
Apple Valley - Oppidan	
Lakeville	
Cannon Falls	
North Mankato	
Hampton	
Nobles County	

Minnesota Data Center Proposals Timeline

Below is a list of data center proposals in various Minnesota communities, ordered by the date the proposal was first made public. This information is intended to track the timeline of data center announcements and public discovery across the state.

Community	Proposal Announcement/Public Discovery Date
Becker 1	2018
Chaska	2021
Becker 2	October 2022
Farmington	February 2023
Pine Island	February 2023
Faribault	August 2023
Monticello 1/Monticello Industrial Park	September 2023
Monticello 2/Scannell Technology Park	October 2023
Hermantown	November 2023
Rosemount	December 2023
Nobles County	January 2024
Lakeville	March 2024
Apple Valley - Oppidan	March 2024
North Mankato	April 2024
Cannon Falls	October 2024

Community	Proposal Announcement/Public Discovery Date
Hampton	December 2024

Water Issues

Questions to understand:

The chunky brown water pictures from AOC.

The contaminants in water – get the list from Meghan.

Contamination increases when the

- People don't test their wells as much as they should. Most people do not test at the frequencies they should. And most wells have present contaminations.

Policy Recommendations slide

Wondering if this statement is true:

In an air-cooled system, you still need water, but that water is used to cool the air, so that water can't be reclaimed — because it evaporates.