



WHEN
DATA CENTERS
COME TO TOWN

JUNE 25 | 6:00 PM
NORWICH TOWNSHIP HALL





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Ohio Environmental Council

OHIO'S DATA CENTER **BUILDOUT**

SETTING STANDARDS
BEFORE COSTS LOCK IN

Spencer Dirrig

VP of Government Affairs





Key Takeaway

Ohio is encouraging rapid data center growth *without* the **transparency, cost** protections, **water** safeguards, or **local control** that responsible growth requires.

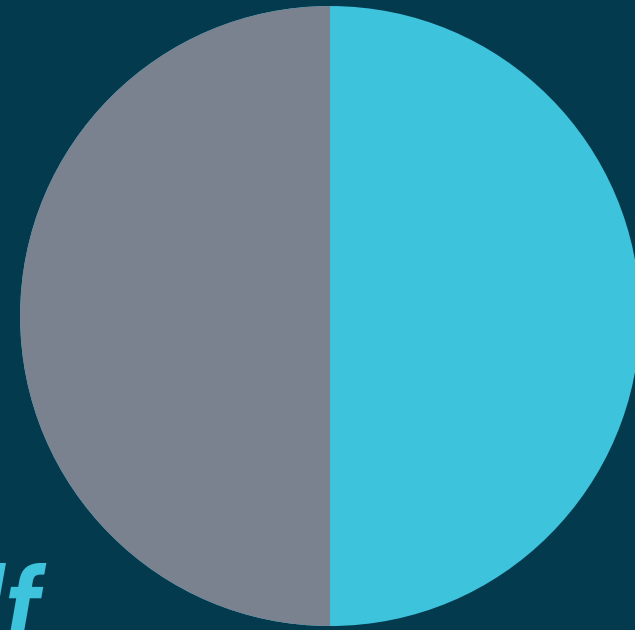
We can change course, but we need **action** from our leaders **now**. *You* have the power to make an impact.

Ohio Is the **Epicenter**



+200

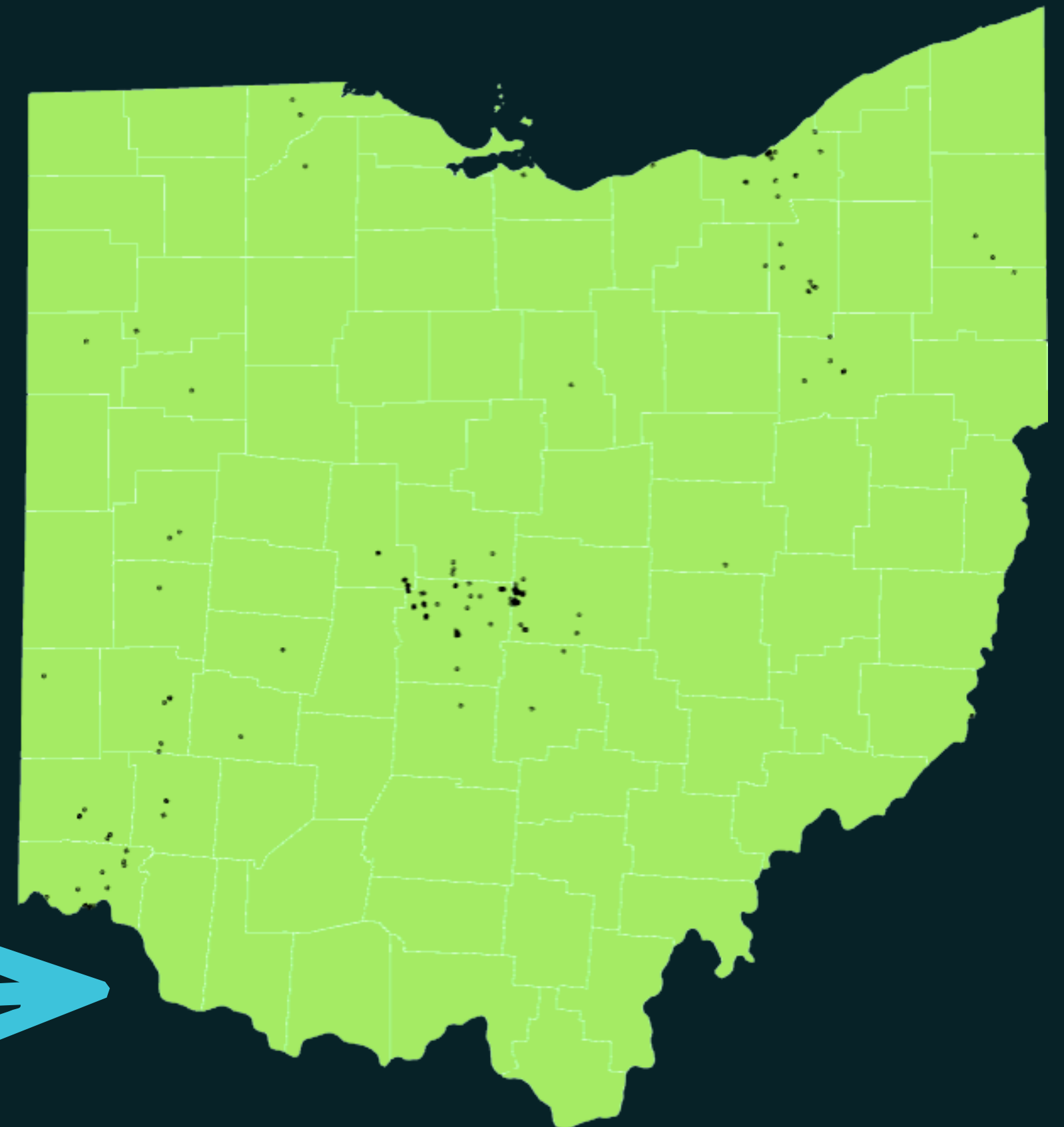
data center facilities



Roughly *half*
just in **Central Ohio**



70%+ of Great Lakes
hyperscale capacity





This Is Not Your Old Server Room

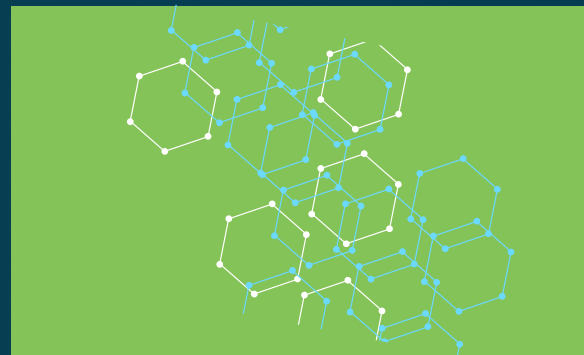
Hyperscale Data Centers are incredibly large.



2014 avg
~50,000 sq ft



Statehouse
~194,000 sq ft



2030 avg
~300,000 sq ft



**Prometheus
(New Albany)**
~900,000 sq ft



The Shoe
~694,000 sq ft

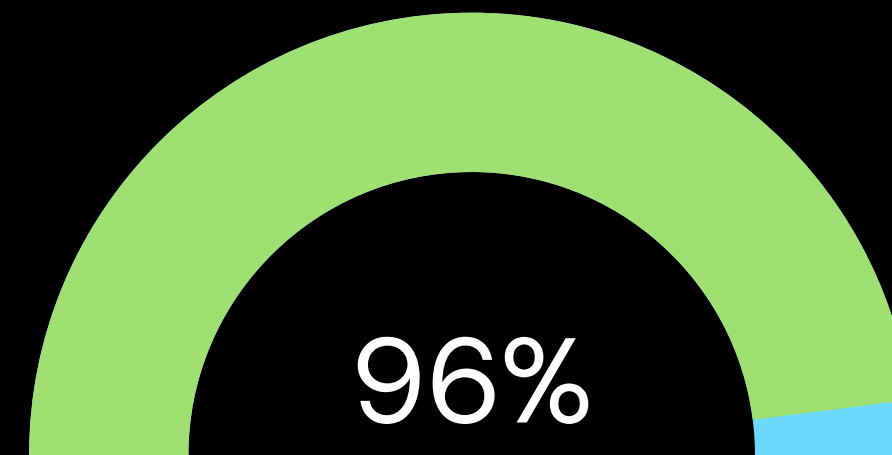


The Pipeline Is **Hyperscale**

96% of planned Ohio facilities are hyperscale or wholesale (100 MW+)

Planned Facilities

- <100 MW
- >100 MW



+77

Planned by 2030



One Building, **One City's** Worth of Power and Water



1 Hyperscale
Data Center

ELECTRICITY

75,000–100,000 homes



DAYTON, OH

WATER

50,000 People



DUBLIN, OH



Built to **Never Turn Off**

Data Centers must run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



ENERGY DEMAND

Computing Load

100 MW



Total Infrastructure Load

200 MW



Uptime Standard



99.9999%

The Grid Can't Keep Up

Data centers are on track to consume 11% of Ohio's total electricity by 2030.



OHIO STATEWIDE ELECTRIC LOAD

2026 Data Center Share

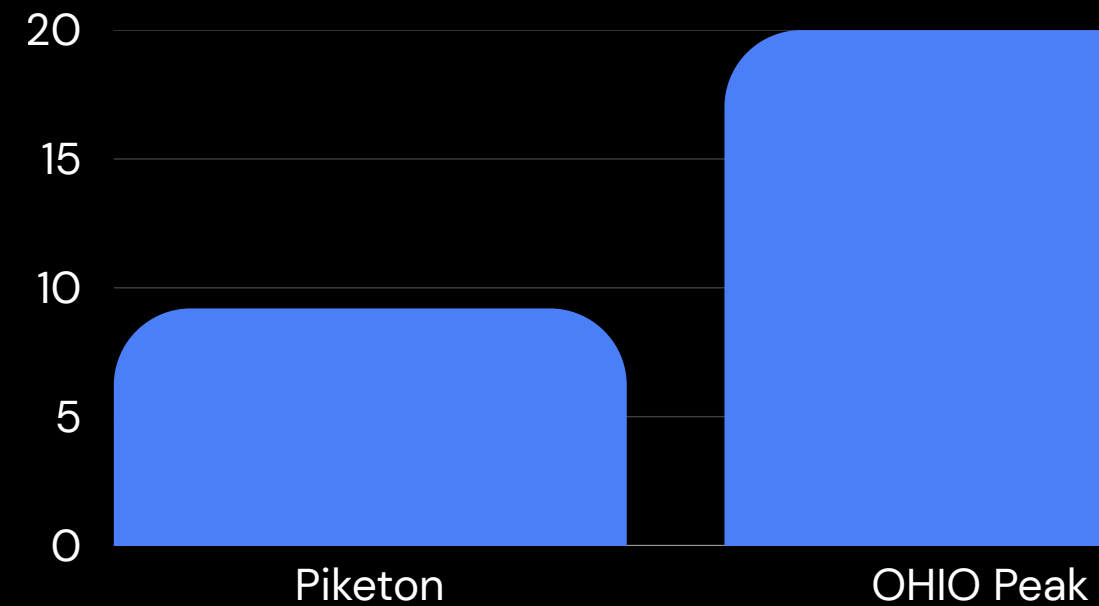
4%

2030 Projected Data Center Share

11%

PIKETON GAS PLANT

9.2 GW



Feds announce huge natural gas plant, data center project in southern Ohio

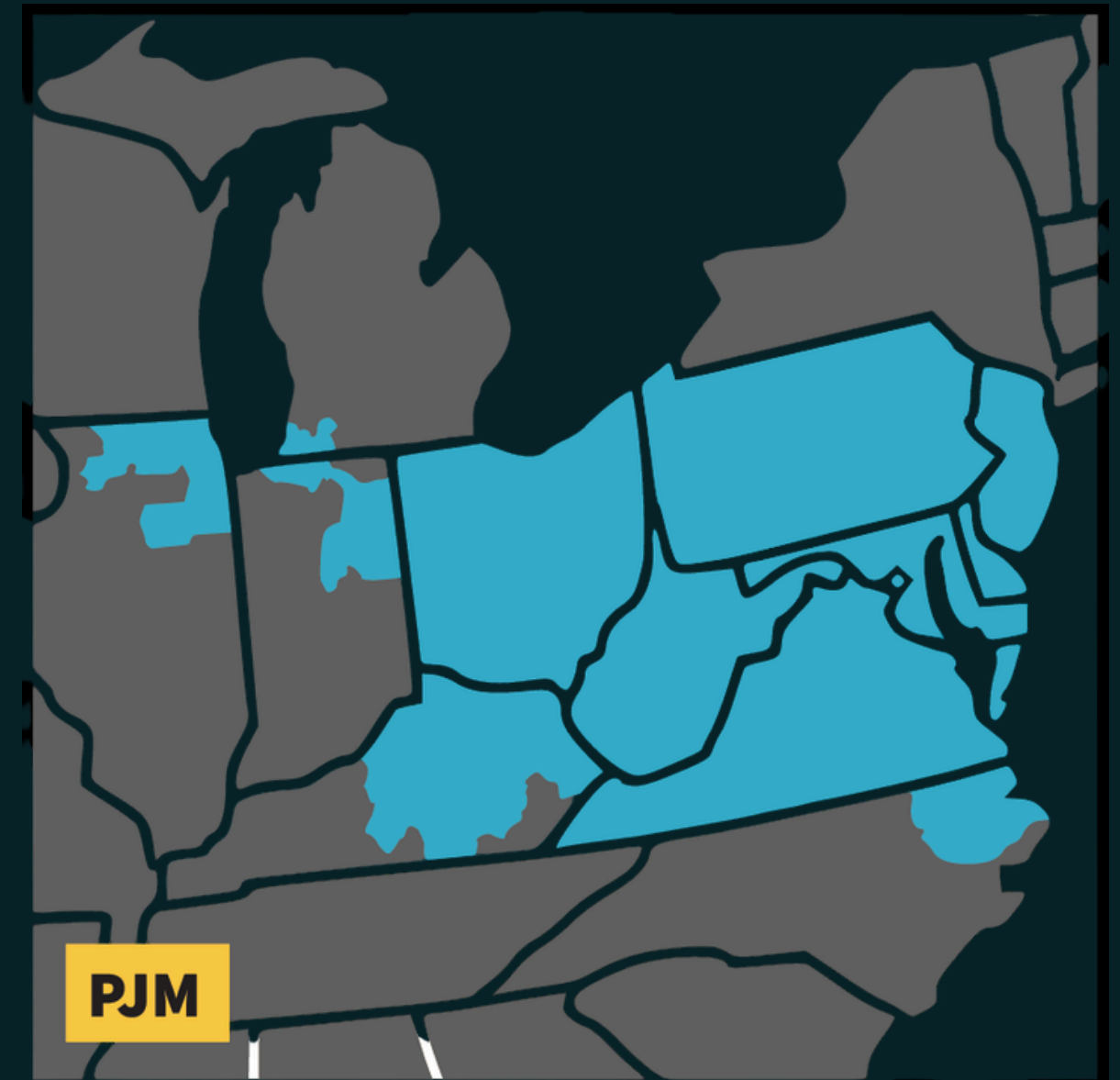
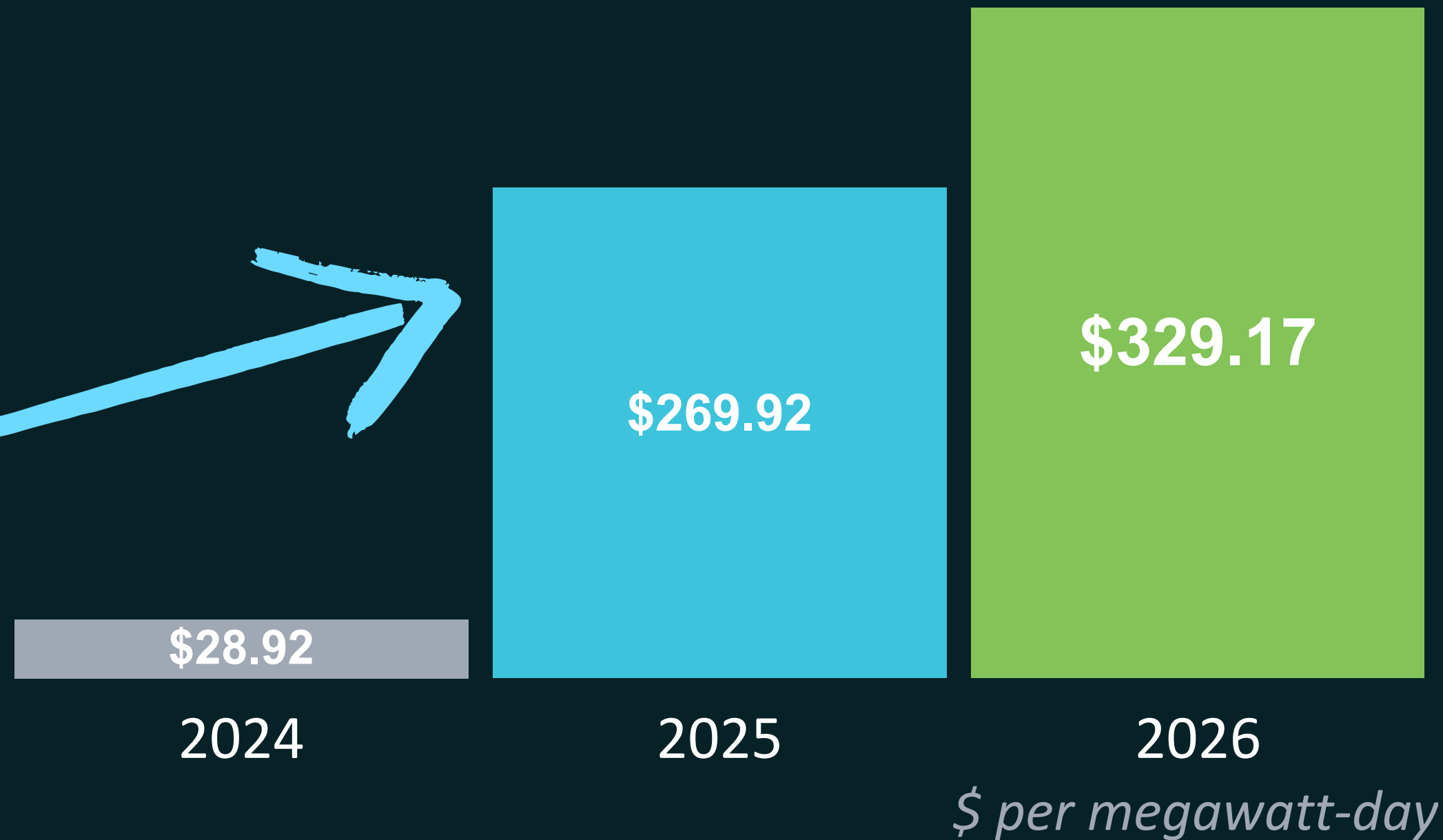
The Statehouse News Bureau | By Sarah Donaldson
Published March 20, 2026 at 11:02 AM EDT



You're Already Paying. Ohio Is Still Subsidizing.

Grid capacity prices jumped more than tenfold in two years.

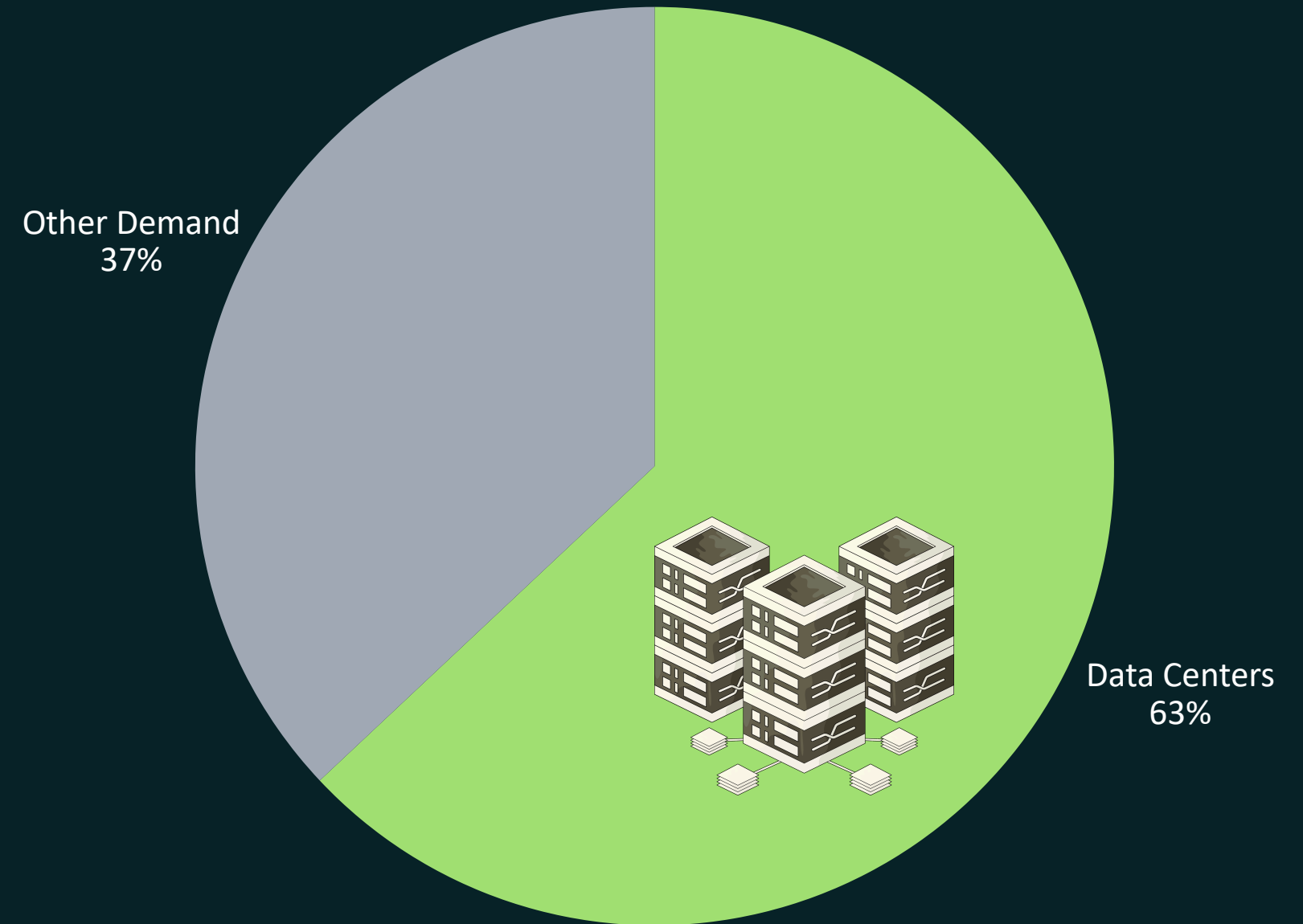
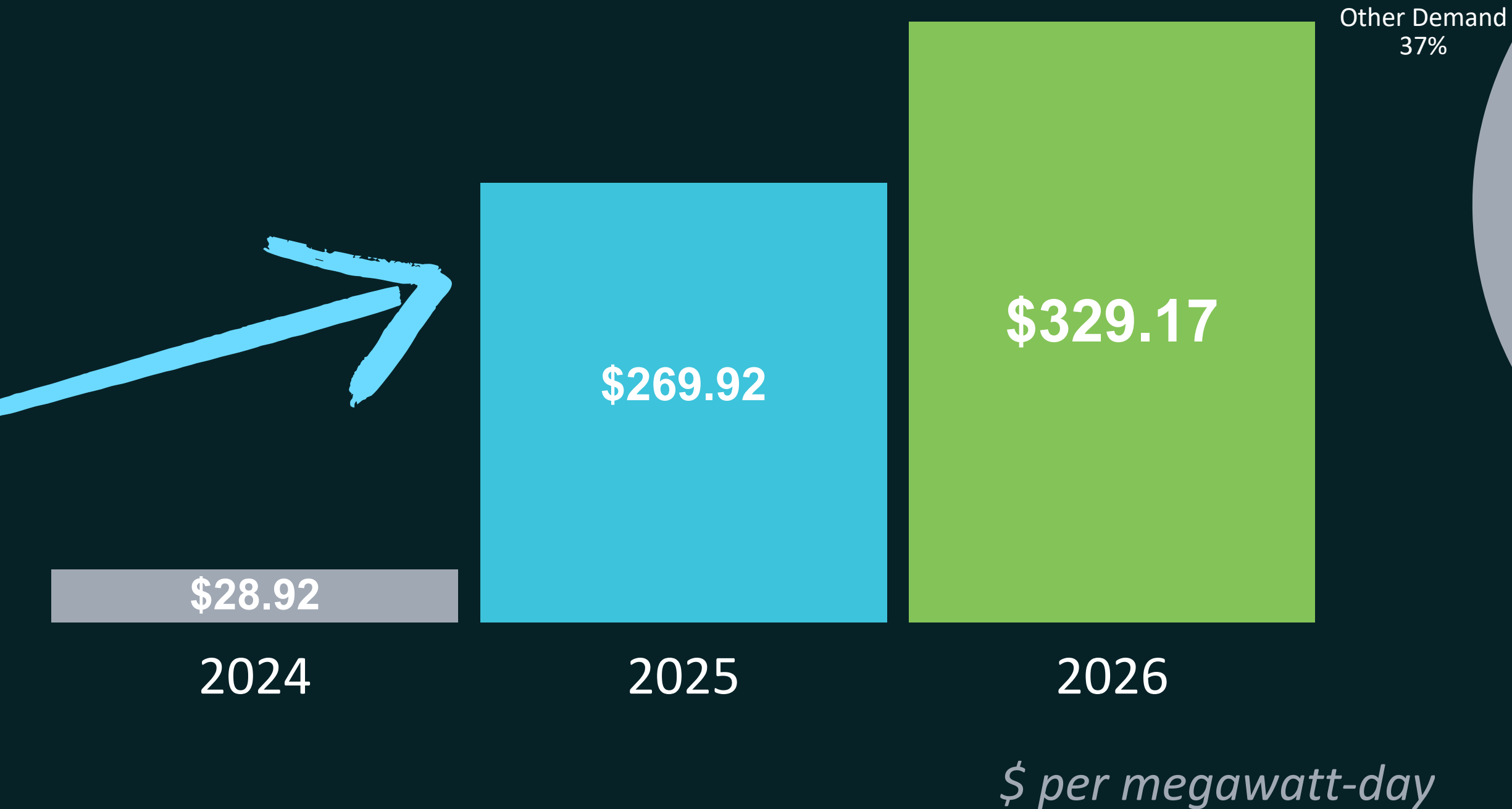
11x increase in grid capacity prices
The largest spike in PJM's 25-year auction history





Data Centers **Drove** the Spike

Independent market monitor found data centers responsible for 63%



Data Centers accounted for **63% of the Spike**



This Shows Up on Your Bill

Three levels of ratepayer impact - confirmed, estimated, projected.

ESTIMATED

+\$16
/month

IEEFA estimate: PJM
capacity spike alone
estimate

OBSERVED

+\$27
/month

AEP Ohio customers
actually saw this increase
on their bills in summer
2025

PROJECTED

+\$70
/month

NRDC Projection by 2028

PROJECTED

+\$840
/YEAR

NRDC Projection
by 2028



One Building. One City's Water.

Data centers don't just use water, they consume it.



Water Withdrawn

Single facility: up to 5 million gallons/day



Blowdown / Discharge
small share



Evaporation

Most water leaves as vapor. Simply gone.

Evaporative cooling: water in, vapor out — not returned to the river or aquifer.



70M gallons/day

Central Ohio data centers could require this much water by 2040.



Equivalent to 14 Dublin-sized cities, every single day.



Only 1 in 3

data centers track water use comprehensively.

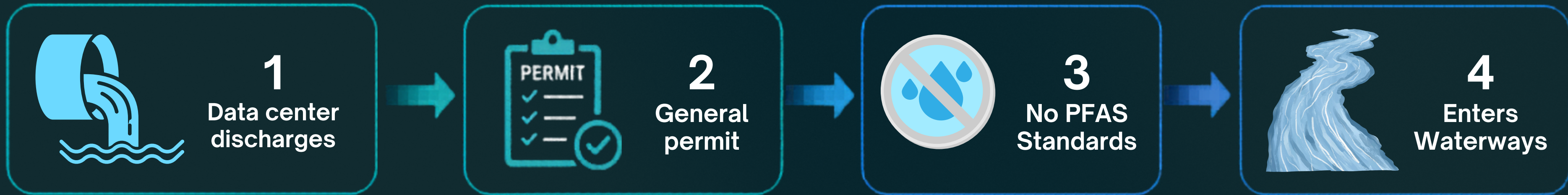


Communities are asked to approve projects without the data to evaluate them.

What Goes Into the Water? **We Don't Know.**



Ohio EPA proposed a permit allowing data centers to discharge wastewater with no PFAS standards. **It's still pending.**



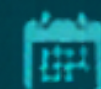
Cooling water is treated with **proprietary chemical additives** that are not publicly disclosed.



These can include compounds that **may introduce PFAS** or other substances into waterways.



Ohio EPA's draft general NPDES permit includes **no PFAS regulations** and **no monitoring** requirements.



Comment period: Dec 2025 – Jan 2026



Status: Pending director action



NDA's Are **Hiding the Truth** from Local Officials

In some cases, NDAs have prevented local officials from sharing basic project information with their own constituents.

What Communities Don't Know



ADAMS COUNTY CASE

Ohio EPA confirmed a

1,300 MW

facility through records requests.

NDA PREVENTED RESIDENTS FROM LEARNING WATER USE OR PROJECT DETAILS.



The Policy Gap



WATER REPORTING
No state requirement.



NDA PROTECTION
NDAs block transparency.



DECOMMISSIONING REQUIREMENTS
No plan required.
No financial assurance.
No cleanup standards.



Policy Matters Ohio's platform for responsible data center development

**State &
local taxpayer
subsidies**

**Community
benefits &
guardrails**

**Good jobs
& labor
standards**

**Democracy &
transparency**

**Energy
affordability &
environment**

Policy Matters Ohio's platform for responsible data center development

State & local taxpayer subsidies

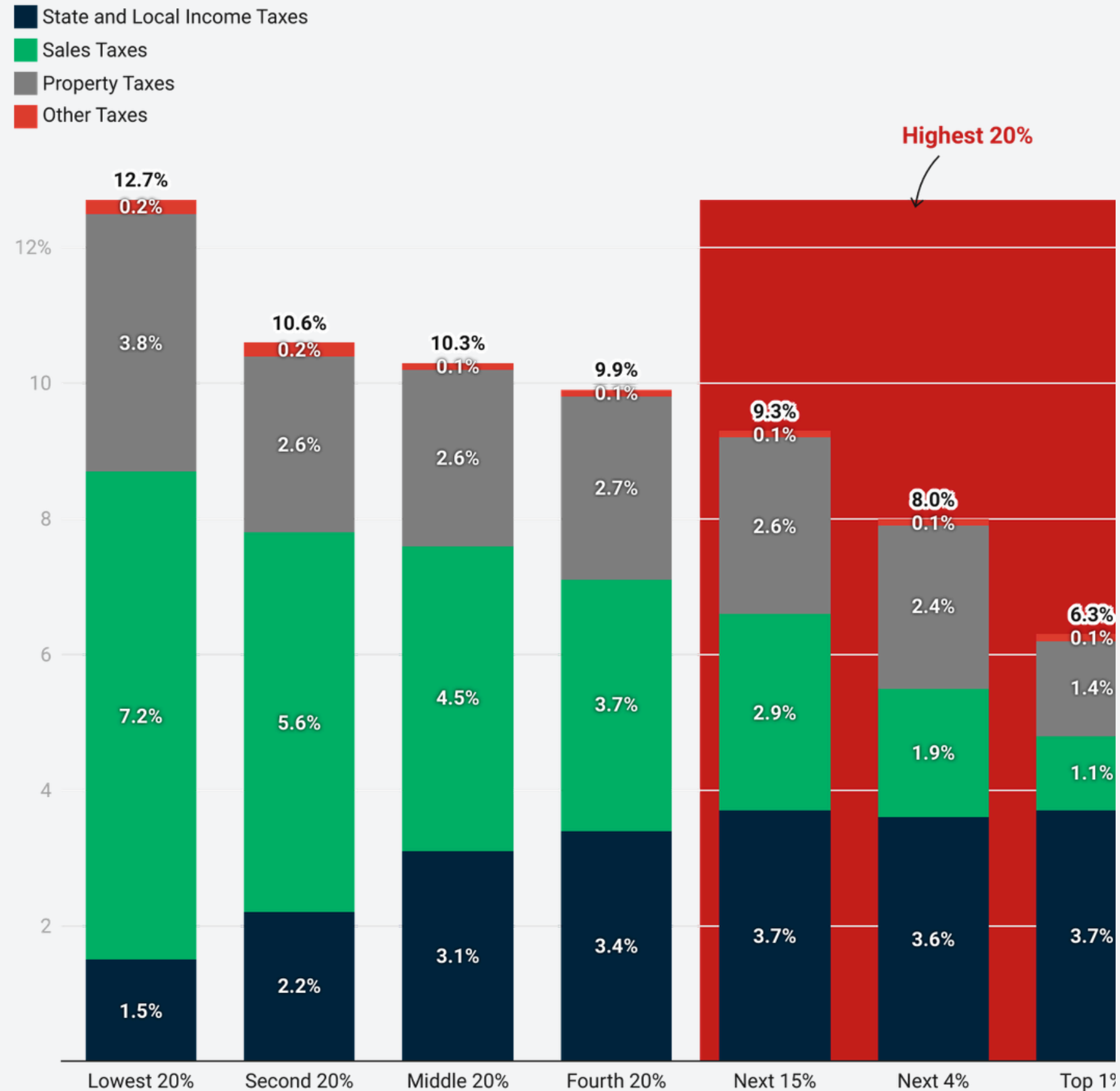
Protect state and local revenue by eliminating or limiting taxpayer subsidies for data center operators.

"I can't think of a site selection or placement decision that was decided on a set of tax incentives."

– Bo Williams, Microsoft executive responsible for data centers in North America, in The New York Times, Dec. 29, 2024.

As a share of income, top 1% pay less than half as much as lowest-paid in state and local taxes.

Total state & local taxes as a share of income, by income group, by type of tax.

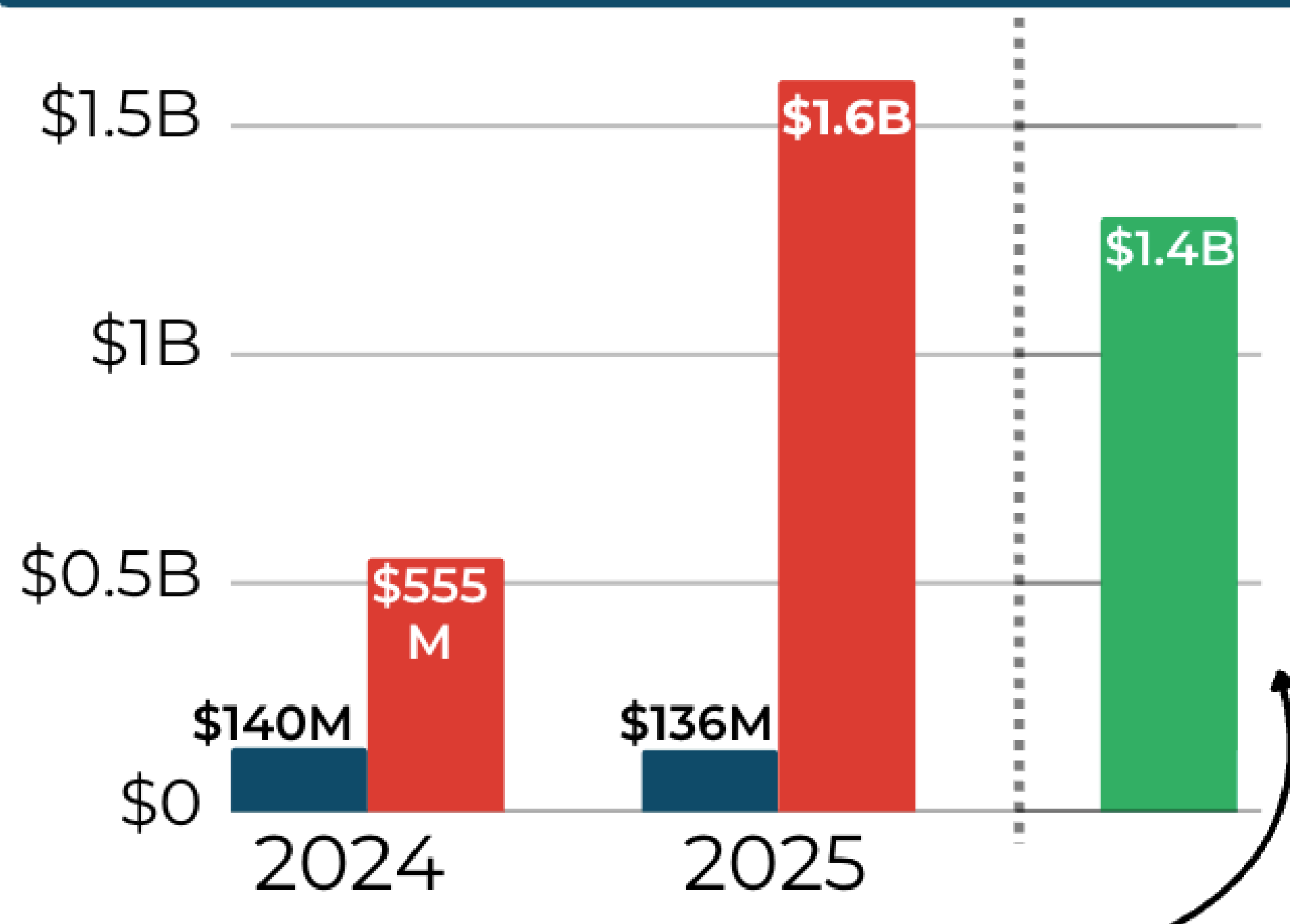


STATE OF OUR STATE

Ohio has *no* statewide corporate income tax.

Source: Policy Matters Ohio. Based on data from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy's "Who Pays?" report. 2024.

Cost of Ohio's data center sales tax exemption: Missed state revenue



vs. the remaining amount needed to fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan in each year of Ohio's budget for FYs 2026-27

Ohio's Data Center Sales & Use Tax Exemption

Sep. 2013

Data center sales & use tax exemption enters ORC 122.175.

May 2026

Governor DeWine 'pauses consideration of any new data center tax exemption requests.'

DeWine vetoes elimination of the exemption and claims it's necessary to compete economically.

June 2025



Policy for Change: Tangible Personal Property Taxes (TPP)

Prior to 2005, Ohio businesses were taxed on tangible personal property. This included things like business machinery and equipment, such as that used in data centers.

Most states, including four of our five neighbors and Virginia, the home of the largest concentration of data centers, have such a tax on tangible personal property. Loudoun County, VA, expects to raise nearly \$800 million from that tax on data centers this fiscal year. Ohio did, too, until 2009, and still has one on such property owned by public utilities.

Local Property Tax Abatements and Deals

A 2025 law, HB 184 (Just REFORMED) exempted information about local economic development assistance from public information requests and criminalized such disclosures by local officials.

NDA's still widely used however Microsoft testified before the data center committee that it will no longer seek local NDAs. If Microsoft can do it, surely the other data center companies can do so as well.

Policy Matters Ohio's platform for responsible data center development

Good jobs & labor standards

Establish strong labor standards for data center construction jobs. Enable communities to negotiate agreements with commitments for high-road O&M jobs.

Construction job creation

Data center construction projects generate substantial work for skilled tradespeople, including construction & electrical workers, which opens pathways to good union jobs & training opportunities.

Operations & maintenance job creation

Relatively small number of “permanent,” operational or full time equivalent (FTE), jobs. However, there are also long-term, **non-FTE jobs** for maintenance & security personnel – often contracted out.

Policy Matters Ohio's platform for responsible data center development

Community benefits & guardrails

Increase use of community benefits agreements (CBAs) for large-scale data center projects.

CBAs are legally binding tools negotiated between developers and community coalitions representing residents, labor, and environmental advocates.

A CBA could include provisions to secure investments in residential weatherization programming, local biodiversity or resilience efforts, other infrastructure upgrades, while setting requirements for renewable sourcing, emission control equipment, efficiency measures, & strong labor standards.

Current Ohio's policy & regulatory landscape for data center development

Pending legislation

HB 646: Create the Data Center Study Commission

HB 695: Prohibit nondisclosure agreements for certain local officials

HB 706: Impose certain minimum requirements on data center customers

HB 710: Prohibit public support, limit construction of, new data centers

SB 367: Allow a sales & use tax exemption for certain projects

With potential veto override to eliminate new data center sales tax exemptions & more to come...

Current Ohio's policy & regulatory landscape for data center development

Proposed policy interventions under substitute HB 646

- Requires data center operators to implement water conservation measures, like closed-loop systems, requiring OEPA to adopt rules around water quality & efficiency standards, regular reporting on/methodology for tracking water use
- Requires utilities to file data center tariffs with the PUCO, creating a separate rate class for data centers while preventing cost-shifting onto other customers.
- Reduces sales tax exemption for most new projects from 100% to 50%, though we've been calling for a full repeal and this will not stop the exemption for those with existing agreements like Amazon, Google and Meta.

Despite progress, a lot more must be done to create comprehensive regulatory guardrails around data center development, and the effectiveness of many of these provisions hinges on OEPA & ODNR rule making authority, without specific stipulations amended into the bill.



THANK YOU!

**POLICY MATTERS
OHIO**



**PMO'S DATA CENTER
RESOURCE PAGE**



**DATA CENTER
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