



AI DATA CENTERS:

OHIO

Ohio is the epicenter of data center construction. Right now, there are more than 200 operational data centers in Ohio. Think of these massive facilities as where the internet physically lives. They use incredible amounts of water and electricity — one building equals one entire city's water and electricity usage. Ohio's grid is currently unable to keep up with proposed projects.

Read below for facts and talking points about data centers in our communities – and what we're demanding from Ohio leaders.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Data centers affect everyone, from the communities surrounding the development sites to the suburban areas that share a tax base, water source, or electrical grid with them.

Data centers swallow enormous amounts of energy, which can result in rising utility costs, infrastructure overload, and shortages. Despite their rapidly growing energy footprint, studies have shown that data centers do not function as major engines of job creation — meaning data centers are costing taxpayers more than they are giving back.

Ohio families are paying for data centers two ways:

- State and local governments have offered about \$2.5 billion in tax incentives since 2017 to attract data centers to Ohio, allowing companies to avoid paying property taxes for a set number of years and keeping that money instead of paying back into the system that supports Ohio communities and schools.
- A new report from Innovation Ohio shows that electric bills for the average Ohio family will rise by \$70 a month — all to pay for data center-related electricity demand.

In addition to the economic costs, there are considerable environmental concerns. Currently wastewater from the data centers does not have to be monitored for toxic chemicals, like PFAS, and there are no standards for what can go into the cooling water in the first place.

With this amount of money we could create more jobs improving the foundational infrastructure that all Ohioans rely on — things like roads, bridges, and teacher pay. Corporations are trying to influence our legislators so they give them tax breaks, we need to make sure the people we elect are working for us not them.

Ohio communities are pulling together to stand up for their future — we won't let billionaires and giant corporations suck up our resources and then leave us holding the bill. We need leaders who will prioritize our kids, our schools, and our needs.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

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.

Sign the Petition: Ohio regulators and lawmakers have begun taking steps to address the rapid expansion of data centers. Red Wine & Blue is working with Conserve Ohio on a petition to stop the construction of any additional data centers that consume over 25 megawatts (MW) of energy per month. (25 MW is the threshold between a manageable, community-friendly facility and an industrial scale data center that can use as much power as a small town.)

Go [here](#) to sign the petition and get involved!

Check the zoning in your communities. Go to your local city planning board website to see what your area is zoned for. If a data center is in the works, this is where you'll see it first.

Get Educated on Policy Solutions

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

Elect leaders who will put communities before corporate profit.

- The Republican nominee for Governor, Vivek Ramaswamy, has made the unchecked expansion of AI data centers and Bitcoin mining facilities a central part of his agenda for Ohio. Being invested in all levels of data production, Ramaswamy stands to make money when they are approved, built, operated, or sold. Both Ramaswamy's firm and his campaign are heavily funded by tech interests, and he has ignored local opposition, like concerns about the loss of farmland, high water consumption, and increased noise. Make sure Ohio elects a governor who will make sure who puts our communities first!
- Ohio also needs a legislative body that will provide guidance and perform oversight that protects communities like we elected them to do — instead of just handing our tax dollars to tech corporations. Make sure Ohio House and Ohio Senate seats go to people who will work with communities and represent their interests.
- Don't forget County Commissioner races! These are farther down the ballot, but they're the ones who ultimately decide what gets built in your neighborhood.

