

for West Virginians



a pocket guide

data centers

Data center developments in West Virginia:

- 1) threaten local control,
- 2) overuse critical energy, water, and land resources,
- 3) create noise & light pollution.

Statewide legislation in 2025 enabled data center growth by stripping local control & diverting tax dollars away from neighboring communities.



The health of local residents and the benefits of ecosystem services should be prioritized in data center policy!

Communities should have authority over where and how data centers are built, and local governments should receive property tax revenue to support schools and public services!

It's not that radical!!!

HB 2014 – Microgrids for Data Centers prevents this.



On site power generation and data center operation increases noise and light pollution for residents and can disrupt local ecosystems services and migratory patterns. Data center noise pollution can reach 96 decibels on-site. Noise pollution affects animals and plants at 40 decibels and can damage hearing at over 70 decibels.

Data centers are some of the heaviest energy consumers in the US. WV requires the stockpiling of coal and forced operation of uneconomic coal plants paid for by automatic rate hikes to advance data center development. The energy-intensive build-out & maintenance of them should not mean higher electricity rates for consumers, strain the power grid, or prevent local communities from accessing and benefitting from clean, affordable energy .

ENERGY

WATER CONSUMPTION

Large data centers consume **5 MILLION** gallons **PER DAY**.

That's like the water use of

a town populated by 10,000 people (Bridgeport, WV) – 50,000 people (Charleston, WV)!

Medium-sized data centers consume **110 million** gallons

PER YEAR for cooling.

That's the average annual water usage of ~1,000 households (almost Davis + Thomas, WV combined)!