

# DATA CENTER PUBLIC FORUM



Bloomington Center  
for the Performing Arts



Wed, May 6, 2026  
2:00pm - 4:00pm  
6:00pm - 8:00pm



# Public Forum Format

- ❖ **Time for Speaking:** Participants will have 3 minutes to share their opinion and make their voice heard.
- ❖ **Q&A:** Time will not allow for questions and answers; however, staff will take note of all questions presented.
- ❖ **Further Comments:** If time does not allow you to speak or you wish to add more information, please send your comments to [publiccomment@cityblm.org](mailto:publiccomment@cityblm.org).



# Help the City Council formulate a policy on Data Centers



City Staff &  
Council  
*Initial* List of  
Concerns



Water usage and capacity



Energy costs



Potential noise issues



Landscaping / Buffering



Lighting



Environmental Impacts

# Energy

The large energy grid that serves Illinois means data centers elsewhere can influence our community's energy landscape.

The white “dot” on the map represents the City of Bloomington.



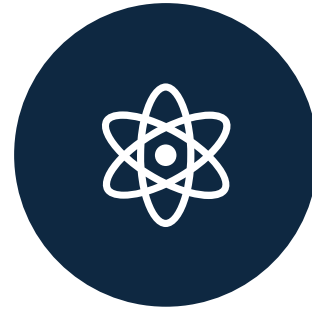
# Are there any benefits that should be considered?



JOBBS?



PROPERTY TAX  
RELIEF?



QUANTUM  
COMPUTING?



COMMUNITY  
FUNDING?



# Water Conservation

The City has a limited water supply. This remains a critical consideration for the City Council.

This is the City's water use:

- **10MGD** Average per Day
- **17MGD** on a Peak Day
- Estimated Safe Yield: **12MGD** to **14MGD**

Would a hyperscale data center with **guardrails** (i.e., limited water use, its own energy, well landscaped and screened with limited noise) be welcomed by the community?





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Your feedback  
matters!

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Most concern seems to focus on larger “**hyperscale**” data centers (like the one pictured) and the ability and interest to house such facilities within the community.

# POWER ACT

## Protecting Our Water, Energy & Ratepayers

SB4103/HB5513

### Bring Your Own Power

Data Centers must use new clean energy (solar, wind, battery storage) not the existing grid



### Protect Ratepayers

Prevents infrastructure costs from being passed on to residents

### Protect Water & Environment

- Water usage reporting
- Water security planning
- Water Impact Permits required



### Community Transparency

- Community Benefits agreements required
- No NDAs on environmental impacts



## Data Center Water and Energy Transparency Act

Introduced March 26, 2026 by **Senator Dick Durbin**

- ❑ Require energy & water reporting to states for existing and proposed data center
- ❑ Share data with local governments
- ❑ States to aggregate energy and water consumption reports and submit to the USEPA, DOE, USDA
- ❑ Allow the EPA, DOE, and USDA to fine noncompliant data centers

# Next Steps

The City Council will likely consider a policy on data centers at an upcoming meeting.

Please share your opinion at this forum!



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# Metropolitan Mayors Caucus / Municipal Data Center Task Force



## Local Planning & Policy

### Municipal Data Center Task Force

- ❑ Convened to help municipalities considering data center developments in their communities
- ❑ Local governments share experiences & best practices
- ❑ Learn from experts
- ❑ 10 meetings over 4 months
- ❑ 17 municipalities, 20 experts



## Introduction

### Who are we? Why are we doing this?



- ❑ 275 municipal members in NE IL
- ❑ Non-profit council of governments
- ❑ empower and support municipalities to improve the region's quality of life
- ❑ Greenest Region Compact - largest municipal collaborative for sustainability in US
- ❑ First regional climate action plan - won 5 awards
- ❑ Led next 2 regional climate action plans with USEPA & CMAP

## What are Data Centers?

Source: Metropolitan Mayors Caucus / Municipal Data Center Task Force

- Buildings that house IT infrastructure like servers, storage;
- They provide computing power to store data and run the digital world

### Physical Requirements:

- **Servers, racks, wires**
- **Primary Energy** to power computer chips
- **Backup power source** – usually diesel
- **Cooling systems** – usually water based
- **Access to power and fiber infrastructure**
- **Land**



## Tax Impact Example

Source: Metropolitan Mayors Caucus / Municipal Data Center Task Force

### City of DeKalb - Meta Data Center

- Unprecedented increase in EAV
- Raised Tax Levy
- Reduced aggregate tax rate over 5 years

11.5%

11.1%

10.1%

9.4 %

7.9 %



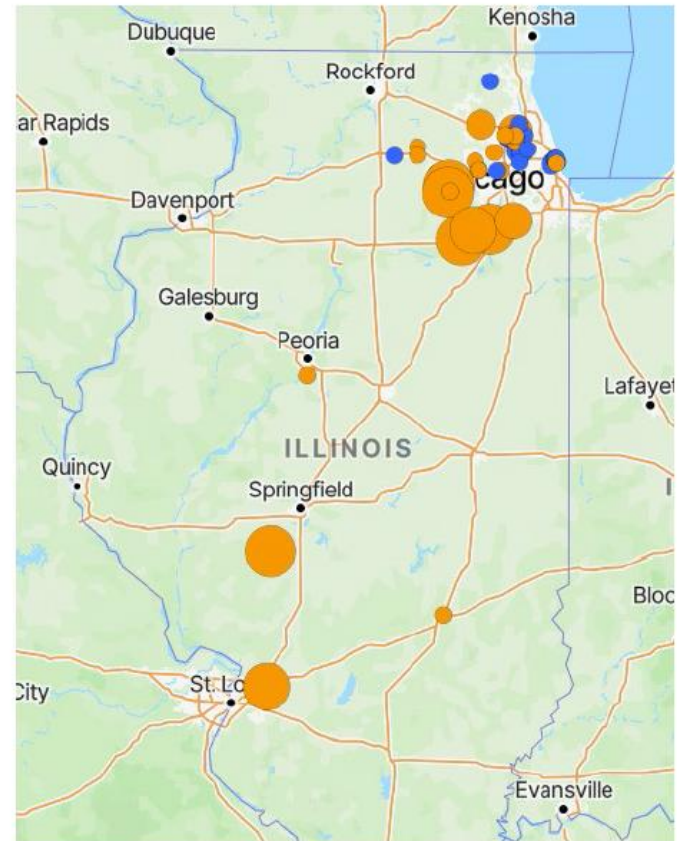
- School district received +\$20,000,000
- Tax bill for homeowners went down while property values increased
- *DeKalb is an environmental justice community*

# Data Center Market

Source: Metropolitan Mayors Caucus / Municipal Data Center Task Force



Illinois is #5



- Planned
- Existing

## Potential Community Revenue

Source: Metropolitan Mayors Caucus / Municipal Data Center Task Force



Property Tax



Sales Tax



Municipal Utility Tax



Water Supply Revenue



Infrastructure Investments

## Data Center Types

Source: Metropolitan Mayors Caucus / Municipal Data Center Task Force



Enterprise -Small



Multi-Tenant -  
moderate



Hyper-Scale - massive



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