

DATA CENTER MYTHS

A practical guide for communities facing big decisions.



As data center projects reach more communities, concerns about power bills and infrastructure are understandable — but many of the loudest claims are simply wrong. This guide clears up the most common myths with facts.

Myth

Data centers will raise my electric bill.

There is no evidence that data centers systematically raise residential electricity rates.

In reality, large power users often **lower long-term prices** by signing long-term contracts that make it economical to build new generation and grid infrastructure. More customers sharing grid costs spreads those costs out.

Blaming data centers for high bills is like blaming FedEx for gas prices, it's misplaced anger.

Myth

We don't have enough power for them.

We have plenty of power potential, it's just stuck in permitting and red tape.

The U.S. has nearly **2,000 gigawatts of power stuck** in interconnection queues. That's roughly 40 times more than all projected data center demand combined.

The real constraint isn't physics or fuel ... it's policy.

Myth

Data centers use an insane amount of power.

A blended average modern data center uses about 60–70 megawatts, comparable to an auto manufacturing plant, large chemical facility, or medium industrial campus. **Steel mill, battery plants, and refineries often use more.**

We've built grids around industrial growth for a century. Data centers fit squarely in that tradition — they just produce information instead of steel.

Myth

They don't help out the community.

Data centers deliver unusually strong local benefits for their footprint. A single large project typically brings:

\$30–100 million in **local tax revenue** over 10 years

\$50–200 million in **grid and fiber upgrades** for the community

100's of **construction jobs** and 30–100 permanent, high-wage technical roles.

Myth

We should ban them while we "figure it out."

Bans don't lower bills or protect communities — they just push investment elsewhere.

Once government starts deciding which uses of electricity are "worthy," the line never holds. Today it's data centers. Tomorrow it's EVs, manufacturing, or home air conditioning.

Only adding power capacity will help.

Myth

Data centers just power ChatGPT and fake content.

Data centers power all the core systems of our modern life. New tech built on data centers will make life better, healthier, longer, and more prosperous for all of us.

Medicine & Health

Improving cancer detection accuracy, enabling earlier diagnoses, speeding drug discovery, and helping doctors identify strokes, sepsis, and other conditions faster.

Emergency Response

Powering faster 911 dispatch, better disaster response, and helping predict and respond to wildfires, floods, and severe storms in real time.

Food Security

Helping farmers predict yields, reduce water and fertilizer use, detect pests earlier, and manage crops more efficiently.

Fraud Prevention

Detecting financial fraud, identifying cyber threats, and protecting critical infrastructure from attacks in real time.

Public Health

Supporting disease surveillance, outbreak modeling, hospital capacity planning, and vaccine research during public health emergencies.