



Panelist Bios

The Growing Impacts of Data Centers on Our Neighbors and God's Creation

Amanda Garcia, Senior Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC)



Amanda Garcia is a senior attorney in the Tennessee office of the Southern Environmental Law Center. Amanda leads SELC's regional data center advocacy and works directly alongside communities to help build a more resilient, just, and livable future in the South. Amanda's legal practice centers on energy, air, and environmental justice. She led the SELC team that helped the southwest Memphis community defeat the Byhalia crude oil pipeline and co-led the SELC team that supported community opposition to xAI's Colossus 1 data center in southwest Memphis. Amanda regularly collaborates with a dedicated coalition of local community leaders to create more environmental justice in predominantly Black communities in Memphis. In 2025, SELC's work in Memphis was recognized with Young, Gifted & Green's EJ x Ally award. Amanda graduated from Stanford University with distinction and from NYU School of Law *magna cum laude*. She clerked in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

Ann Bennett, Chair of Sierra Club Virginia Chapter's Data Center Campaign



A native of Virginia, Ann Bennett worked for many years on Capitol Hill on a range of environmental issues including clean air, nuclear power, the National Estuary Program and is especially proud to have been part of successful efforts to preserve public lands in Alaska and Virginia. Ann has held numerous leadership positions in the non-profit sector, with a particular interest in leadership, governance and strategic planning and continues to serve on numerous non-profit boards. She was chair of the Fairfax County Non-motorized (Trails) Transportation Committee. Currently, she chairs Sierra Club Virginia Chapter's Data Center campaign and is Land Use Chair of the local Sierra Club Great Falls Group. She earned a B.A. in History from the University of Virginia and has a Masters in Environmental and Resource Policy from George Washington University.

Robin Lewis, Director of Climate Equity at Interfaith Power and Light DMV (IPL DMV)



Robin Lewis is a Maryland-based environmental justice activist, community organizer, public speaker, and entrepreneur. She has worked with various nonprofit organizations in the DMV region on campaigns addressing issues such as trash incineration, water quality, renewable energy, affordable housing, and green jobs. As the current Director of Climate Equity at Interfaith Power & Light (DC, MD, NoVA), she leads the Beloved DMV Environmental Justice Collective, which comprises Black faith leaders advocating for equitable environmental solutions in underserved communities. Additionally, she directs the Social Justice Ministry at Beloved Community Church UCC and serves on the boards of WhyHunger, the Baltimore Green Justice Workers Cooperative, and other state environmental justice coalitions. Robin holds a Bachelor's degree and an MBA from Rutgers University, as well as a Master's in Sustainable Urban Planning from George Washington University, with a focus on affordable housing and gentrification.