

Let's Talk About Energy: Affordability, Clean Energy, and Data Centers

July 21st, 2026



Let's Talk About Energy: Affordability, Clean Energy, and Data Centers

RECORDING

The webinar is being recorded and a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registered within the next 24-48 hours.

Questions

Please submit your questions in the Q/A box.

Chat

Please remember to be respectful and civil in all chat interactions.

Let's Talk About Energy: Affordability, Clean Energy, and Data Centers

Magnifica Humanitas Prayer (CAFOD)

A prayer inspired by *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical

God of all, you created us in your image, and we praise you for our magnificent humanity fully revealed in the face of your Son, Jesus. Grounded in your goodness and grace and guided by the social teaching of the Church, may we always recognize and insist upon the dignity and value of each person.

God of every gift, move us to love tangibly, as we seek depth in an era of distraction. Give us wisdom in our use of new technologies, so that, inspired by the spirit of Nehemiah, we may build authentic solidarity, connection, compassion and community, rejecting Babel's monument of pride.

God of Shalom, fill us with your gentle strength and disarm our hearts and words. Rejecting the culture of power, may we, through our small, steadfast acts, build a civilization of love. In our world wounded by conflict, may all people choose the path of peace.

God who dwells among us, we sing your praise with Mary, the woman of the Magnificat. May we weave new hope in this new day sharing who we are and what we have, with creativity, courage and generosity. With the Kingdom of God in our hearts, strengthen us to build a better world for all.

Let's Talk About Energy: Affordability, Clean Energy, and Data Centers

Previous webinars on AI and Data Centers:

*June 2026: Magnifica
Humanitas: Disarming AI,
Being Fully Human, and
Integral Ecology*



March 2026: The Growing
Impacts of Data Centers
on Our Neighbors and
God's Creation



February 2025: AI's
Sustainability and Climate
Challenges: A Catholic
Response to Protect Our
Common Home

Let's Talk About Energy: Affordability, Clean Energy, and Data Centers



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Ian Moise
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Catholic Energies

Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant



{ *Data Center Power Play in Wisconsin*

Union of
Concerned Scientists

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[Union of
Concerned Scientists]

A man and a young boy are standing in a field of tall grass and yellow wildflowers, looking up at three large white wind turbines in the distance under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The boy is pointing towards the turbines. The man is standing behind him, also looking up. The scene is bright and sunny.

SCIENCE *for a* HEALTHY PLANET *and* SAFER WORLD

Data Centers

In 2010: 'internal' data centers

- Small amount of power < 1 MW
- 2,700 sq feet



Today: Hyperscale and large-scale

- Large energy capacities 100 MW +
- 30,000 – millions sq feet
 - Largest data center in U.S. is 4.6 million sq feet



x25



Water use



Direct Use

66 Billion liters/year = Water use
of **500,000 people/year**



Indirect Use

800 Billion liters/year = Water use of
over **6 million people/year**

Pollution and Public Health



On-site backup generation



Electricity usage



Manufacturing



→ Over **\$20 Billion** per year in
2030 in public health costs.

Wisconsin has become a data center battleground

PLUGGED IN

Wisconsin residents raise cost, environmental concerns over We Energies data center rate

Francesca Pica Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Feb. 10, 2026 | Updated Feb. 11, 2026, 9:42 a.m. CT

Protesters gather at Wisconsin Capitol to oppose data center expansion

Nash Darragh 17 hrs ago

NEWS

'Doesn't go nearly far enough': Wisconsin residents, officials express energy rate concerns to Public Service Commission

BY BLAKE DIETZ | WISCONSIN
PUBLISHED 7:05 PM ET FEB. 10, 2026

MILWAUKEE — The demand for energy has reached record levels across the U.S. One reason why is new data centers being built across the country, including in Wisconsin.

According to [research from S&P Global](#), data centers were estimated to use close to 60 gigawatts of power in 2025, with that number expected to rise to over 75 gigawatts this year.

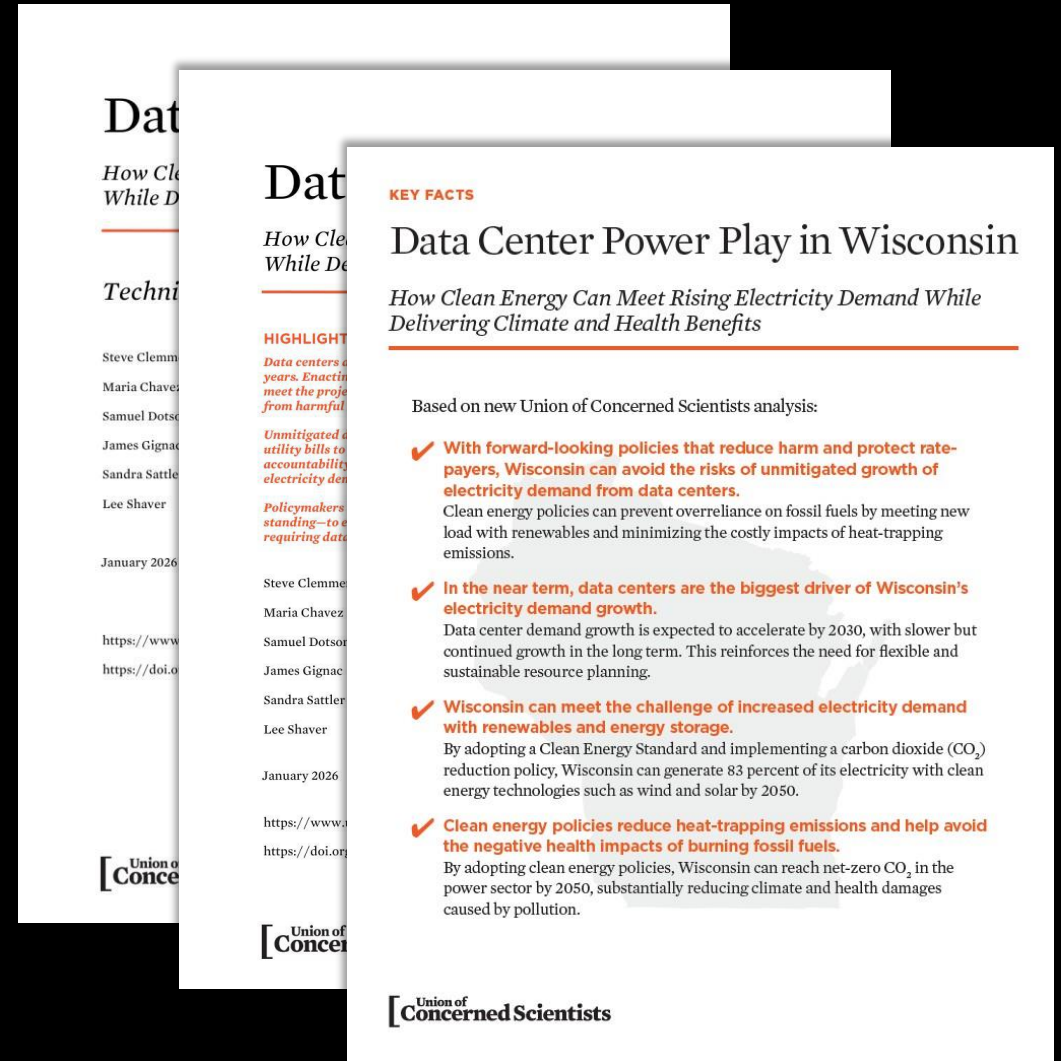
What You Need To Know

- The Wisconsin Public Service Commission hosted a public hearing on We Energies' rate structure proposal for large data centers
- The energy company has stated it will not pass increased energy demands from data centers on to customers
- Many residents expressed concern, urging the commission to protect the public from increasing energy costs

- It took 120 years for one utility to go from 0 to 5 GW
- A 5 GW increase would be enough to power over 3 million homes.
- Two data centers are proposing to add up to 5 GW in the next few years.

Project overview

- UCS modeled how the US can meet electricity demand from data centers across demand and policy scenarios.
- Evaluated the impacts on wholesale electric costs, emissions, public health, and climate damage.
- Outputs include a national report, technical appendix, and state-specific fact sheets for Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan.



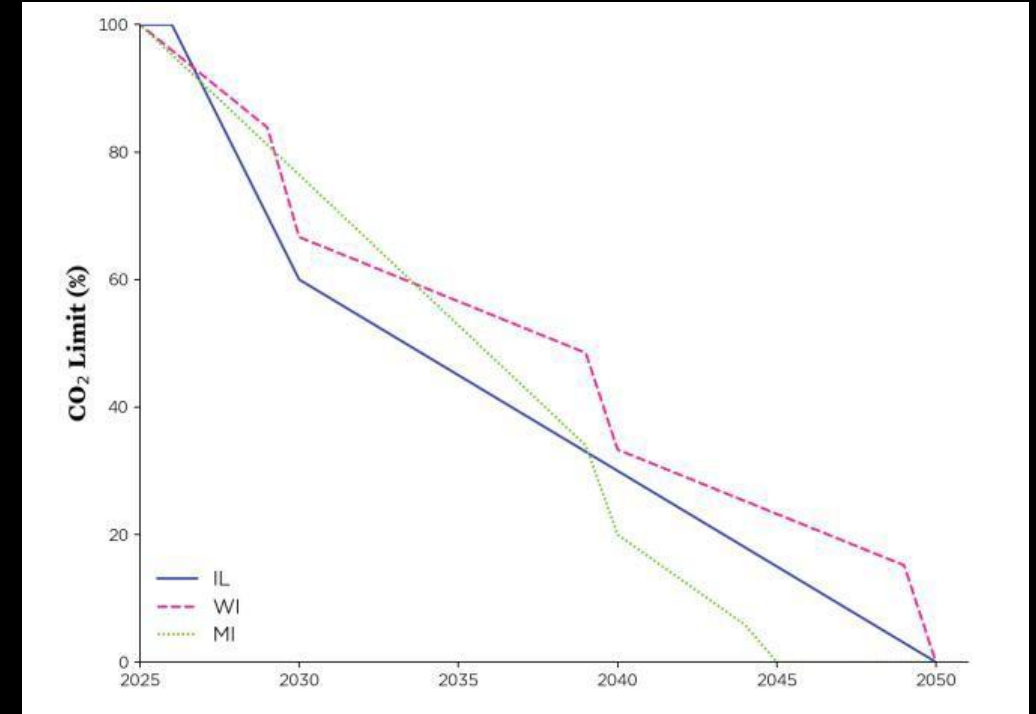
Wisconsin Policy Scenario

Wisconsin Clean Energy Standard and CO₂ Reduction Policy

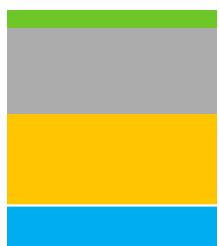
Adopts a Clean Energy Standard (CES) by 2050 and reduces power plant CO₂ emissions attributable to in-state and imported generation sources.

CES: Includes all renewable energy, nuclear power, carbon capture & storage, and imports from Canada

CO₂ reduction requirements address exports and imports.



CO₂ Reductions by State



The Reality of Data Center Demand

ENERGYWIRE

Wisconsin OKs gas-fired power to offset coal closures, serve data centers

By JEFFREY TOMICH | 05/23/2025 06:55 AM EDT

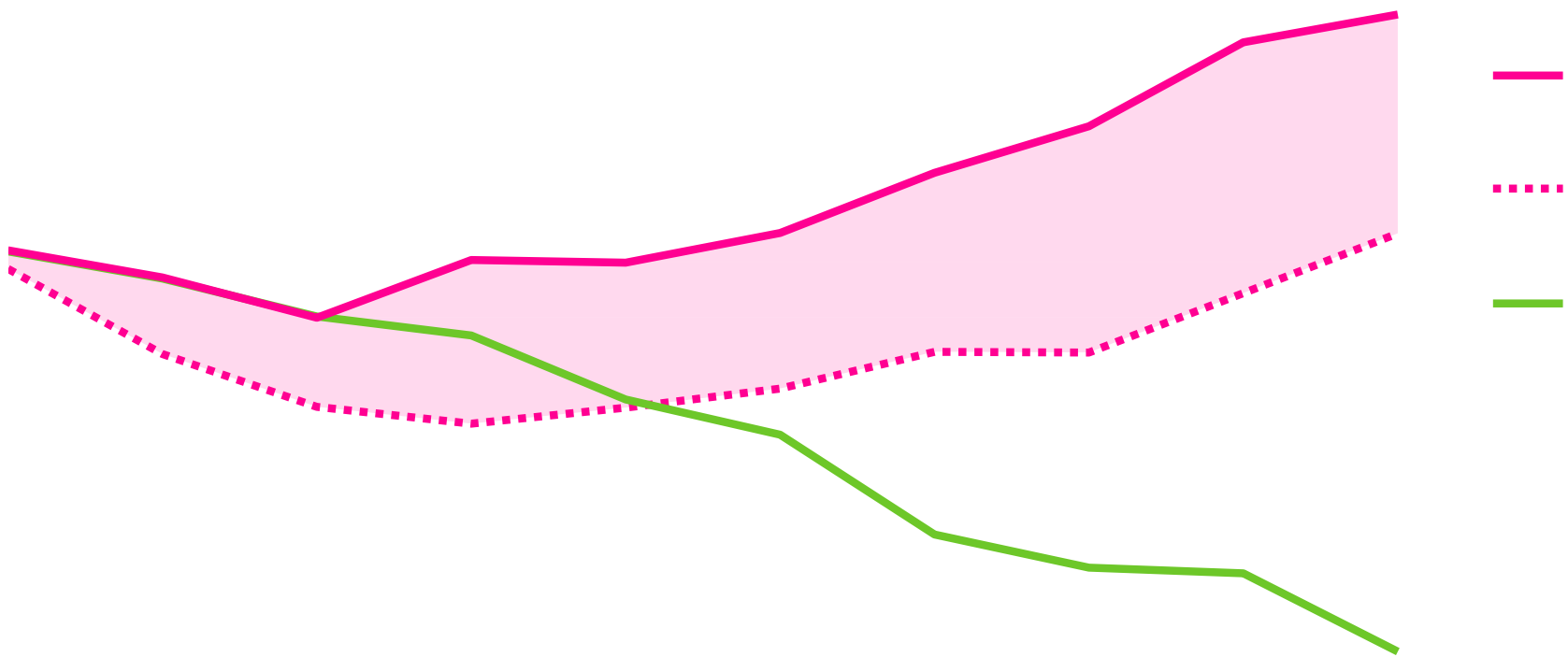
State regulators signed off on new generation to help boost power supply as a \$3.3 billion Microsoft cloud computing campus is built outside of Milwaukee.



We Energies' 1950s-era Oak Creek coal-fired power plant on the Lake Michigan shoreline is scheduled to close by 2025.

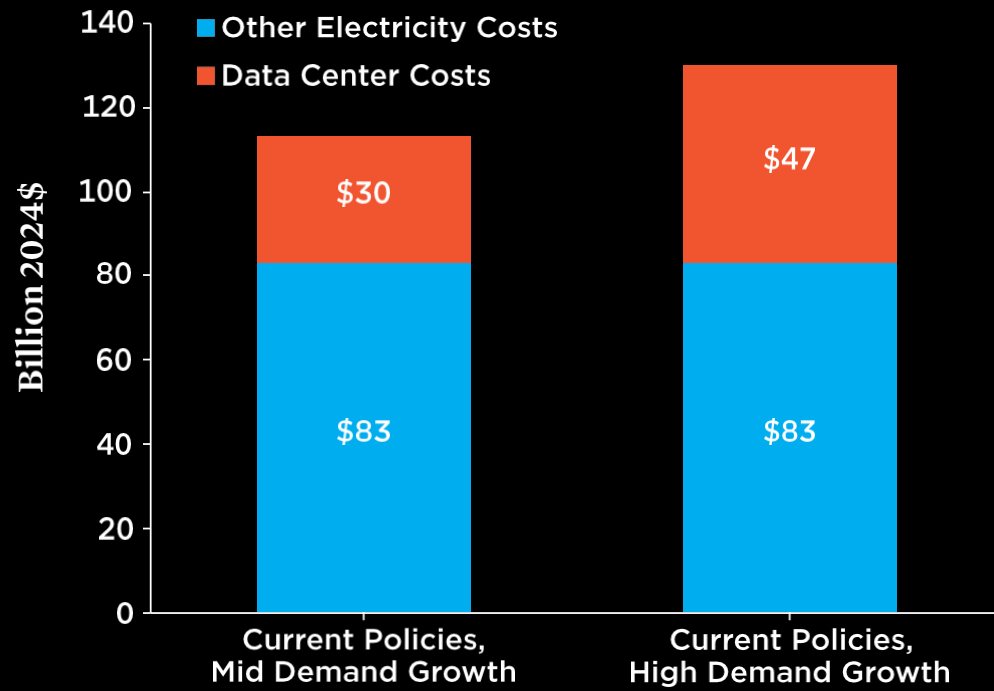


We Energies hopes to add almost 3GW to the electric grid to help meet data center demand



Data Center Costs Will Be Significant

Data Center Share of Total Electricity System Costs, 2026–2050



Key Facts

Data centers could be responsible for **over a third** of electricity system costs by 2050.

A lack of consumer protections puts ratepayers at risk of absorbing data center costs.

Data Center Costs Will Be Significant

Key Facts

Avoided Health and Climate Costs of Stronger Policy Action

Impact Type	Avoided Impact, Annual Average	Cumulative Avoided Impact, 2026-2050
Mortalities	23 to 88	576 to 2,191
Health Costs	\$346.9 million	\$8.7 billion
Climate Damages	\$17.1 billion	\$428.2 billion

The costs of decarbonizing the power sector are outweighed by the avoided health and climate damages.

Implementing clean energy policies could help avoid thousands of mortalities over next few decades.

How do we protect ratepayers?

- Large Load Tariffs (aka special rates for data centers) that make data centers pay their fair share.
- Data center legislation that mandates more accountability and transparency of environmental impacts.
- Challenge projects that power data centers with carbon emitting sources.
- Build in long-term energy planning that creates sustainable pathway for communities.



Planning protects against unchecked data center growth | Opinion

Legislators must pass a long-term energy planning requirement and clean energy portfolio standard to prevent utilities from continuing to exploit regulatory processes.





Thank You

Want to Learn More?

For national report, technical appendix, and state-specific fact sheets, visit:
www.ucs.org/resources/data-center-power-play

**Union of
Concerned Scientists**

Supplemental Slides

Key Findings: Wisconsin

Based on UCS analysis, data center load growth under current (modeled) policies:

- Accounts for up to **72% of electricity demand growth** by 2030 and 52% by 2050.
- From 2026-2050, increases total electricity system costs by **\$30 to \$47 billion**, or 26 to 36%.
- Results in **increased fossil gas** generation and less wind generation.
- Leads to **increased carbon emissions**.



Reliability, Clean Energy, and Data Centers

July 21, 2026

Catholic Climate Covenant

Jamie Dickerson

Senior Director, Climate and Clean Energy Programs

Acadia Center

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Boston, MA • Hartford, CT • New York, NY • Providence, RI • Rockport, ME



WHO IS ACADIA CENTER?



MISSION

Acadia Center's mission is to advance bold, effective, and equitable clean energy solutions for a livable climate and a stronger, more equitable economy.

PROGRAMS

Acadia Center focuses on eight areas of climate and clean energy, within which we prioritize consumer benefits, public health, economic growth, and equitable distribution of benefits:

- Energy Efficiency and Building Decarbonization
- Clean Energy and Grid Reform
- Utility Innovation and Accountability
- Transportation and Mobility
- Climate, Energy, and Equity (CLEAN-E) Analysis
- State and Regional Climate Policies
- Equity, Environmental Justice, and Outreach
- Public Engagement and Communications

SUPPORT

Acadia Center is funded by foundation grants and individual donations. It does not accept corporate or government funding.

Climate, Affordability, and Courage

Climate, Affordability, and Courage

March 31, 2026

Contact: Jamie Dickerson, jdickerson@acadiacenter.org



Climate and Affordability Do Go Hand in Hand. So Must Courage.

New York's Opportunity to Stand Firm and Cement Its Climate Legacy

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win."

— President John F. Kennedy, September 12, 1962.

On March 20, 2026, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signaled her Administration's proposal to roll back the state's landmark Climate Act in critical ways. At a pivotal moment for energy policy and affordability politics nationwide, Hochul argued that changes to the nation-leading law would be necessary to "protect New Yorkers' pocketbooks and economy."

Climate action and energy affordability indeed must go hand-in-hand. In fact, they already do. But so too must courage: courage to do what is right based on the facts, even though and because it is hard, and even though failure is possible. But more importantly, because we know that if we succeed, the improvements to New Yorkers' everyday lives will be deep and widespread – for their pocketbooks, their homes, their mobility, their jobs, their health, and their communities. This courage hangs in the balance as the State reaches a key crossroads on climate, energy, and affordability.

The New York Times

Northeast States Set Big Climate Goals. Now Those Plans Are in Trouble.

Many blue states are rethinking ambitious strategies to cut emissions as they struggle with rising electricity costs and new hurdles for renewable energy.

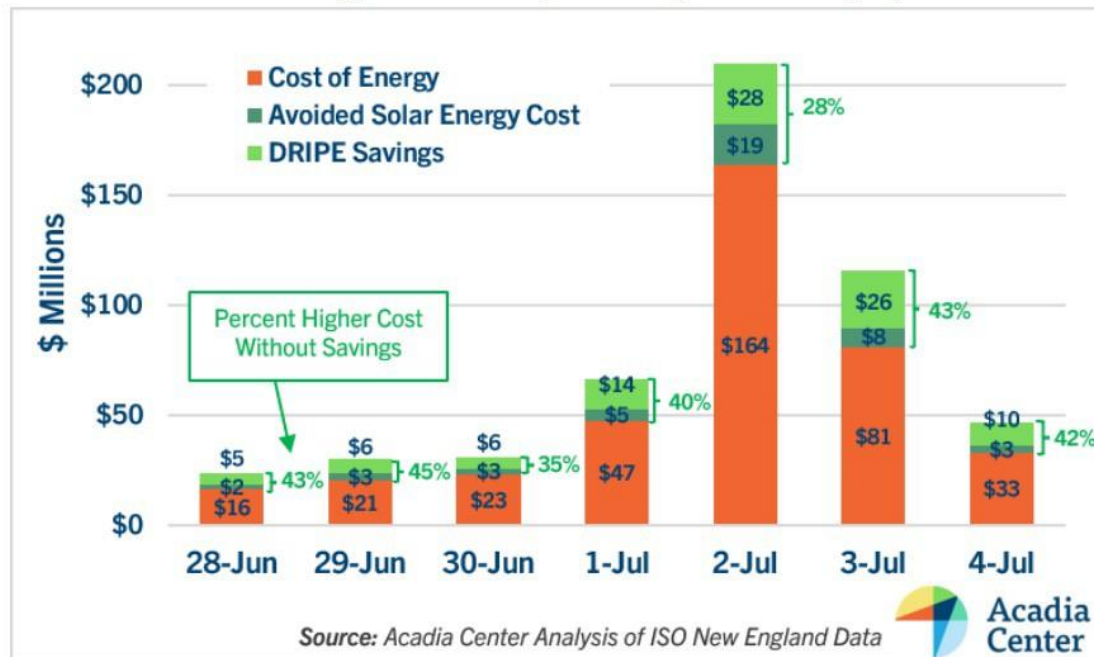
Environmentalists [have opposed many of these changes](#), arguing that expensive natural gas is the biggest reason for high energy prices in the region, and the quicker utilities can get off gas, the better. That means doubling down on efficiency and conservation measures, solar power and batteries while investing less in extending gas pipelines to new homes, they say.

"We could cut all these clean energy programs now and save a little on bills, but we're still going to be in a constant cycle of natural gas costs going up unless we figure out how to break the cycle," said Mr. Murray of Acadia Center.

Solar Savings Shine During July 4th Heat Wave

- Distributed solar saved New England ratepayers \$130-149 million in wholesale electricity (energy) costs during the week of June 28 through July 4, 2026.
- In 2025, distributed solar accumulated \$1.26 to \$1.37 billion in savings in the wholesale energy market over the entire year.

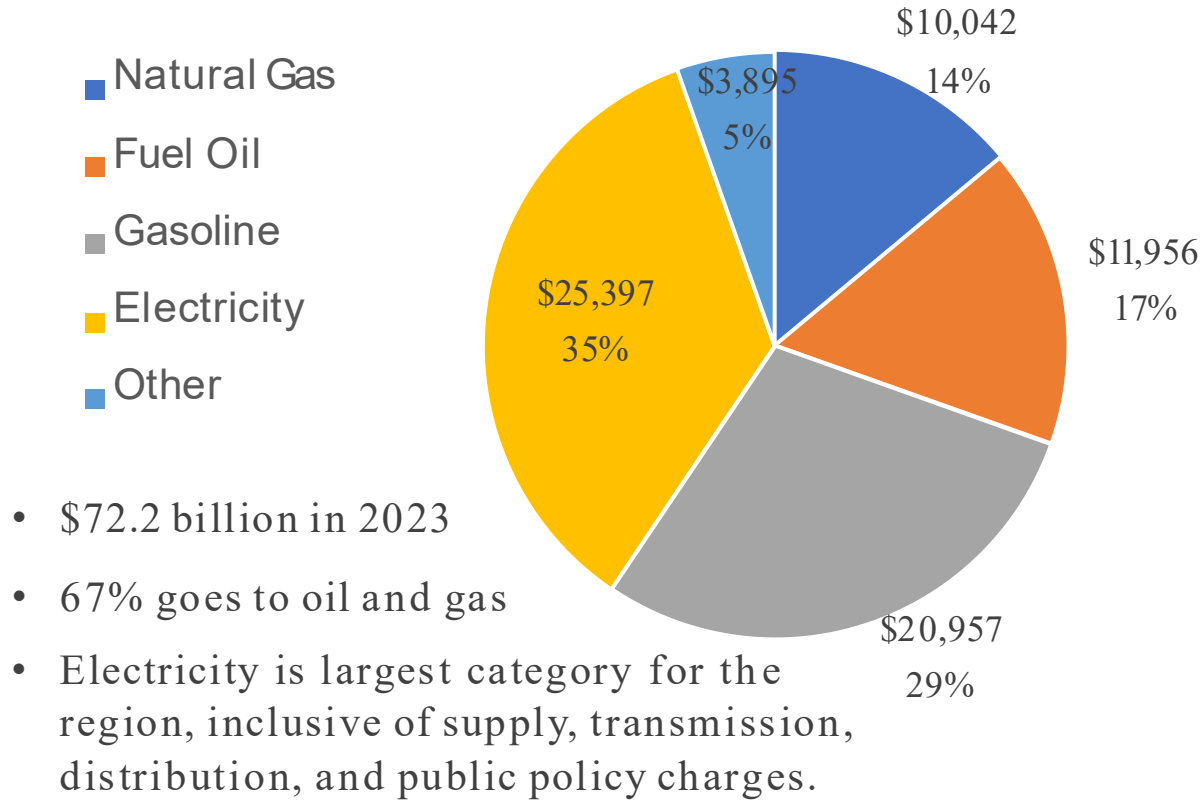
Figure 4. The Wholesale Cost of Energy, With and Without Avoided Energy & DRIPE Savings from Solar, June 28, 2026 - July 4, 2026



Two Views on Affordability: Macro (Economy-Wide) and Micro (Household)

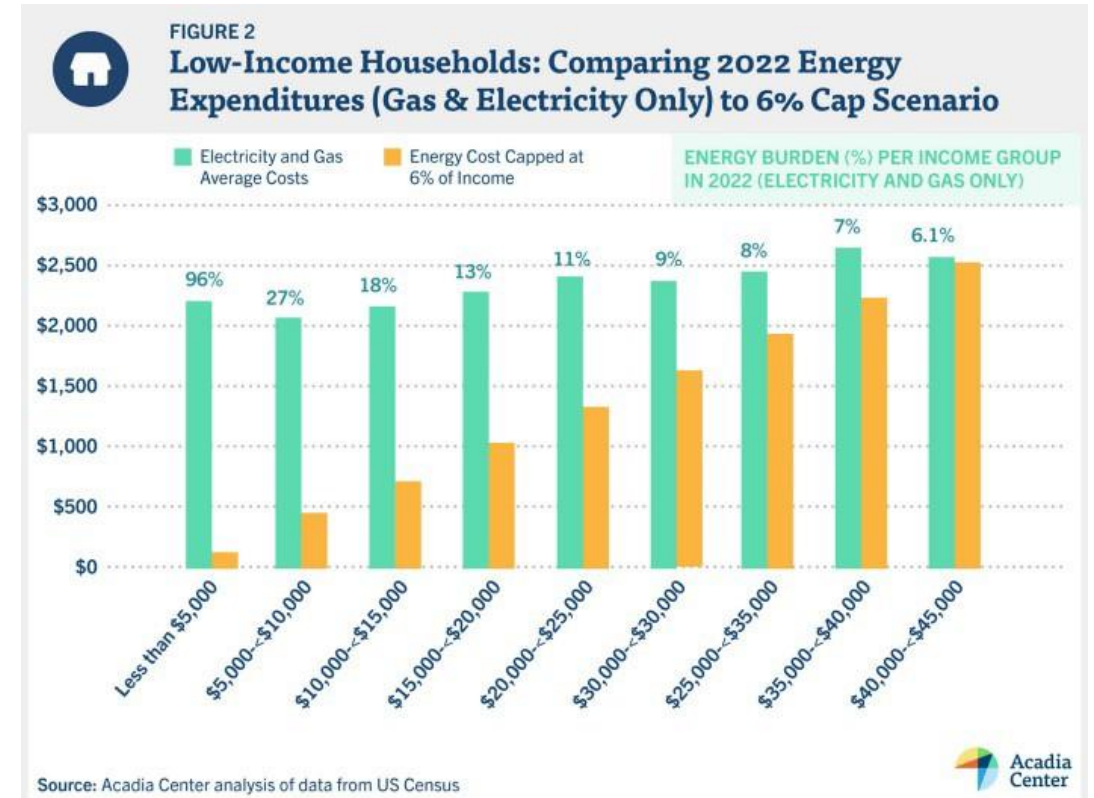
New England Energy Expenditures (\$millions)

(2023 estimates - [US E.I.A.](#))



New York Household Energy Burdens (2022)

(2022 data – [Acadia Center and WE ACT 4 Change](#))



Today's Rising Energy Bills

U.S. Energy Bills

Electricity up 30% since 2021, has risen >2x as fast as inflation in the last year; T&D biggest driver

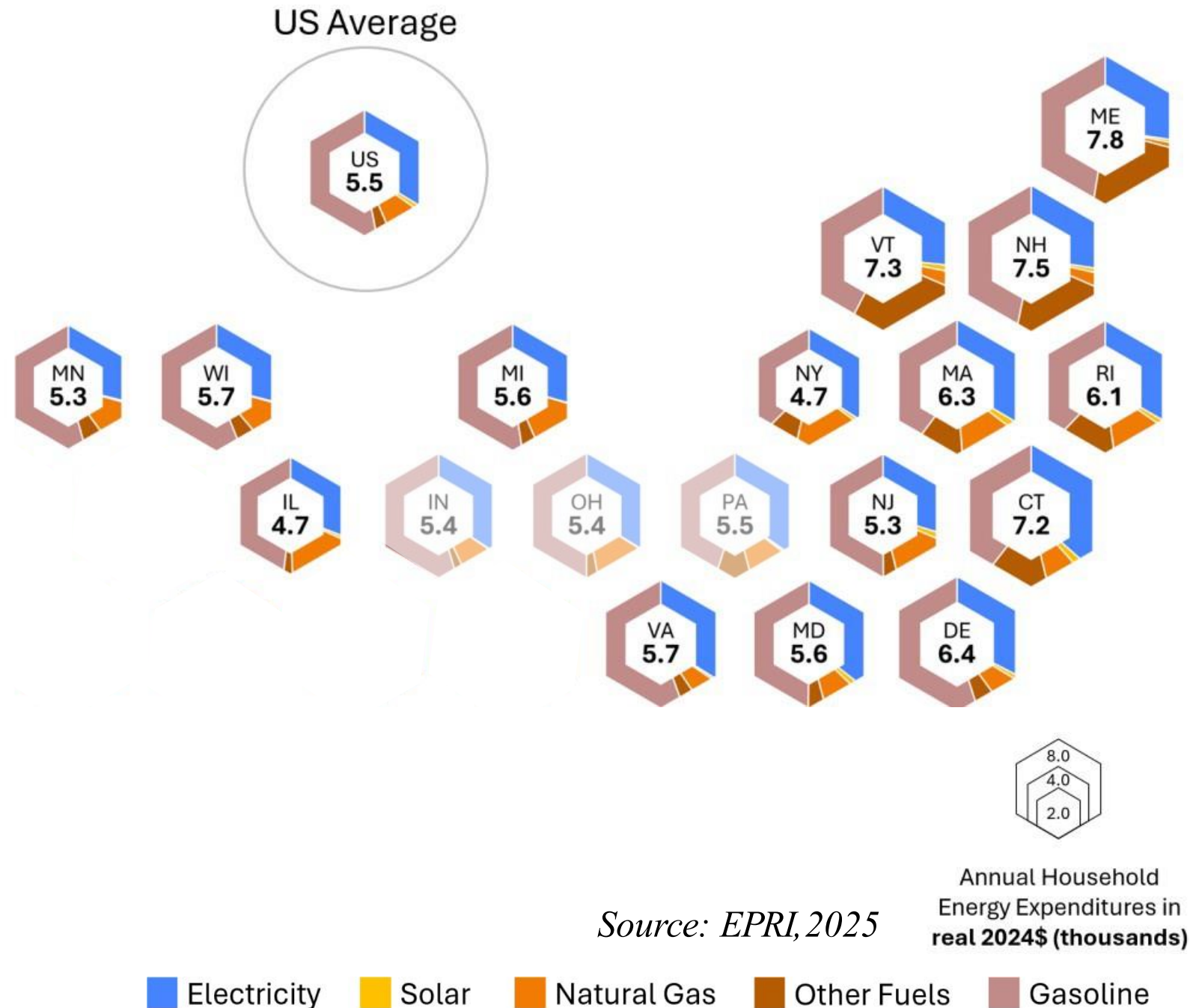
Natural gas up +40% YoY

Northeast Energy Bills

Generally higher energy burdens than rest of U.S.

Electricity rates generally higher and rising faster than rest of U.S.

Household electricity demand lower than U.S. average



How We Got Here

- **Why today's fossil systems are struggling**

- **Inefficiency:** combustion-based system loses some 2/3 of energy inputs.
- **Inflexibility:** Low utilization of the grid and energy systems (52% load factor in ISO-NE).
- **Lack of scale:** insufficient connections and plannings between neighboring grid regions.
- **Fuel Costs:** increasingly globalized fuel supply chains leave all users exposed to volatile swings in fuel prices.
- **Innovation:** Failure to invest in low-cost advanced technologies (e.g., GETs/ATTs).
- **Cost recovery:** Legacy utility business models, funding methods, and rate designs for infrastructure investment and programs.

Why a clean, electric future will be better

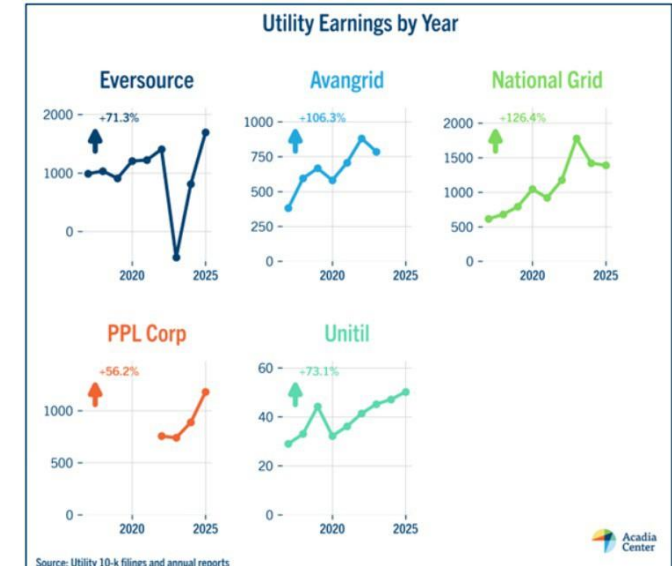
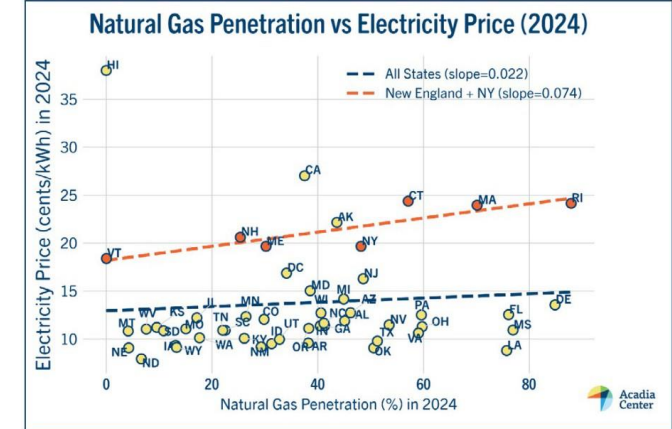
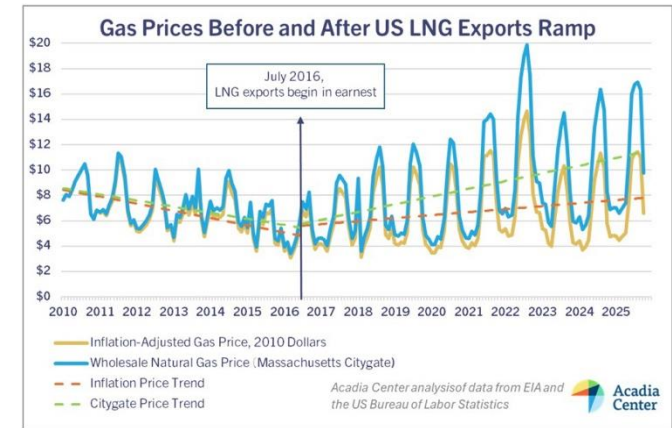
- **Use less energy** than we did before, replacing the waste of combustion with electrification (3x more efficient).
- **Better utilize the grid** – which sits vastly underutilized most days/hours.
- **Make the grid wider** – to benefit from resource diversity benefits, weather patterns.
- **Stabilize rates** by investing in diverse set of energy resources with free fuel, and rapidly advancing technology platforms.
- Make the grid and customers **more resilient** to outages and extreme weather events.
- Improve how we measure and charge customers for energy use, incentivize utilities, and invest in resources to reduce **expensive peaks**.

Energy Cost Drivers: Fact Sheets

Acadia Center's research on energy cost drivers:

- Natural Gas Price Volatility in New England
- How Utility Profits Contribute to Rising Energy Bills
- Renewables Aren't Behind Energy Cost Increases
- Gas Pipe Replacement: A Major Cost Driver Delivering Little Benefit
- Electricity Cost Drivers: Why Prices in the Northeast Are Climbing
- Five Ways Natural Gas is Driving Costs Up for Heating Customers
- Why New England Must Say No to New Gas Pipelines

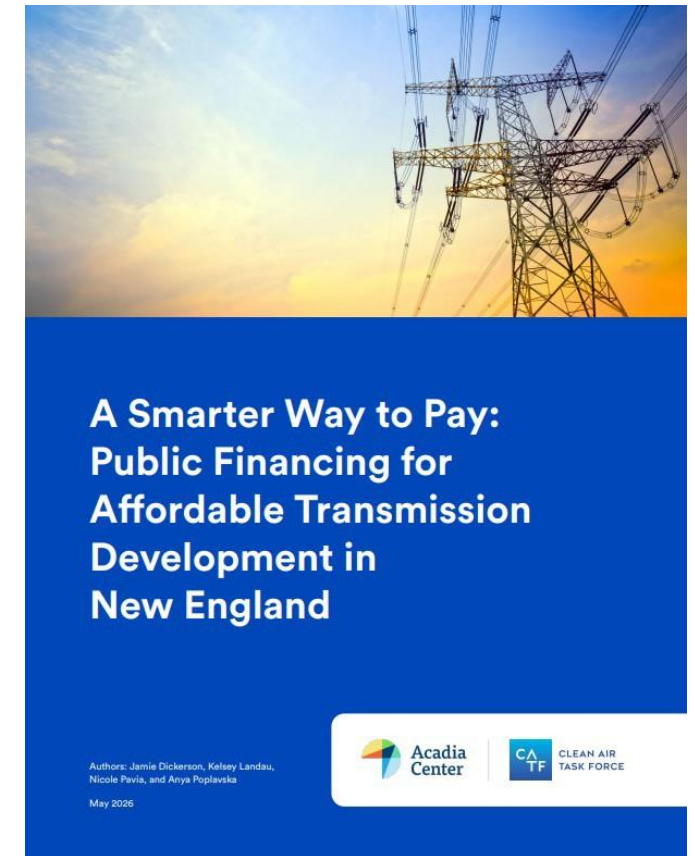
Online at: <https://acadiacenter.org/resources/fact-sheets/>



A Smarter Way to Pay ... for Transmission in N.E.

New public financing tools for electricity transmission can unlock billions of savings for New England ratepayers.

- Public financing could **reduce the cost of new transmission by up to 43%** - well more than a 30% Investment Tax Credit – **saving ratepayers up to \$8.4 billion** on projects needed to achieve load growth and decarbonization goals.
- Public financing could **reduce the cost of Asset Condition Projects (ACPs) by up to 34%**, saving ratepayers over \$1.1 billion on Planned and Proposed projects, and **generate further savings on future projects**.
- Building on successful collaboration to-date, **public financing could be incorporated** into the Longer-Term Transmission Planning process and Voluntary Agreement mechanism by one or more New England states **without requiring participation by all states or reforms to the ISO-NE tariff**, subject to implementation details.
- Public financing of transmission will expose public financing entities to project development risks including cost overruns and delays, though **revenue certainty for transmission projects is high in comparison to other infrastructure supported with public financing** (e.g., public transit, toll roads, etc.). Risks can be mitigated by preserving participation of private entities experienced in development and financing.
- Implementation options include creating a new state or multi-state financing authority or expanding authorities of already-existing entities.



Data Centers and Their Energy Impact

Acadia Center's recent explainer(right)

- Require significant amount of energy to operate; the profitability of AI and other data applications gives data center companies a huge appetite to consume, even at high costs (see: [Compute Heat Rate](#)).
- In some states, a single, very large data center could require more than 20% of the state's entire energy supply. For instance, the largest data center in the U.S., owned by Meta, uses the same amount of electricity as Rhode Island's all-time electric peak (about 1,400 MW).
- The amount of electricity consumed at a data center will vary considerably, based on the kind of work being performed (e.g., cloud computing vs. AI "inference" vs. training of new models) as well as the facility's Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE), which reflects non-IT loads such as air conditioning to keep servers cool.

"In PJM's last four base capacity auctions, data center-driven capacity charges totaled \$29.4 billion — 46% of the \$63.6 billion in total capacity charges in that period."

ACADIA CENTER EXPLAINS

Data Centers and Their Energy Impact

Summer 2026



WHAT IS A DATA CENTER?

Data centers are physical locations, as small as a room or as big as a warehouse, that contain information technology (IT) infrastructure—large computer systems used to run software and store and manage associated data. Though data centers started out as on-premises facilities housing traditional IT infrastructure for one company's local use, they have evolved into large, centralized facilities owned or leased by cloud service providers, like Amazon or Google, and artificial intelligence (AI) companies, like OpenAI or Anthropic. These data centers house and sell virtual IT infrastructure services to multiple customers.¹ In the last few years, increasing numbers of very large data centers have been built specifically to serve cryptocurrency mining and AI platforms like ChatGPT or Claude. These facilities, sized to meet the enormous computational requirements of the so-called hyperscalers, are one factor causing energy bills to rise and taking up increasing amounts of electricity, fuel, and grid capacity.²



Source: MapLibre | © MapTiler | © OpenStreetMap contributors via [Clean View](#)

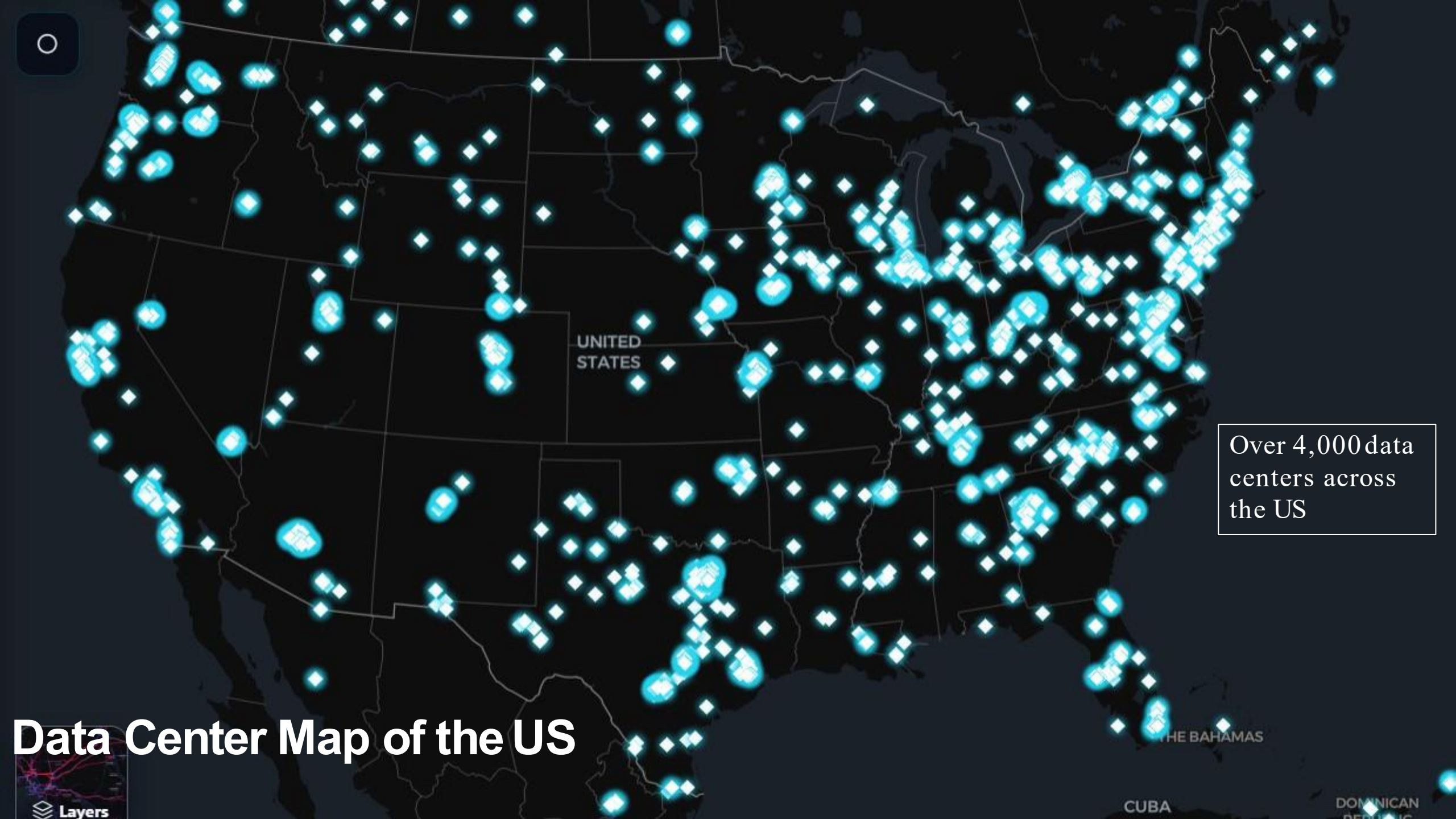


WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WITH SUPPLYING ENERGY TO DATA CENTERS?

- **Large Amounts of Energy are Required:** Data centers generally need a significant amount of energy to operate, and the profitability of AI and other data applications gives data center companies a [huge appetite to consume](#), even at high costs. In some states, a single, very large data center could require more than 20% of the state's entire energy supply. For instance, the largest data center in the U.S., owned by Meta, uses the same amount of electricity as Rhode Island's all-time electric peak (about 1,400 MW).²⁴ The amount of electricity consumed at a data center will vary considerably, based on the kind of work being performed (e.g., cloud computing vs. AI "inference" vs. training of new models) as well as the facility's Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE), which reflects non-IT loads such as air conditioning to keep servers cool.
- **Use of Dirty Fuel Sources:** The electric grid is still very reliant on fossil fuels, and energy-hungry data centers can increase the demand for these expensive and polluting energy sources. Data centers also often install back-up generators onsite that operate on diesel and other fossil fuels. Concerningly, some data centers are electing to bypass the grid entirely and install onsite fossil-fuel generation to serve all their demand.
- **EJ and Community Concerns:** Data centers are frequently located in marginalized Environmental Justice (EJ) communities that have less political power to push back. However, community opposition to data center development has recently been mounting (see: [Lowell, MA](#)). Building data centers in these communities unfairly continues to burden those who have already been harmed by proximity to power plants, contaminated sites, and other sources of pollution. The presence of and periodic reliance on back-up generators (or around-the-clock onsite fossil generation) also may present severe local public health impacts through the emissions of NOx and other particulates: recent analysis from Sierra Club found that the [10,000 backup diesel generators](#) at data centers in Virginia could cause 177 premature deaths per year from particulates and ozone if operated at permitted levels.
- **Other Concerns:** [Grid stability](#) issues; high [water consumption](#); local [noise pollution](#) impacts.

The rapid data center build-out has been found to raise bills in many places, but in other circumstances data center load growth can actually lower bills. This is counter-intuitive, but the reason is straightforward: in some places, the cost to add a new data center to the grid is less than the average cost of the system. In such instances, the data center

<https://acadiacenter.org/resource/acadia-center-explains-data-centers/>



Over 4,000 data centers across the US

Data Center Map of the US





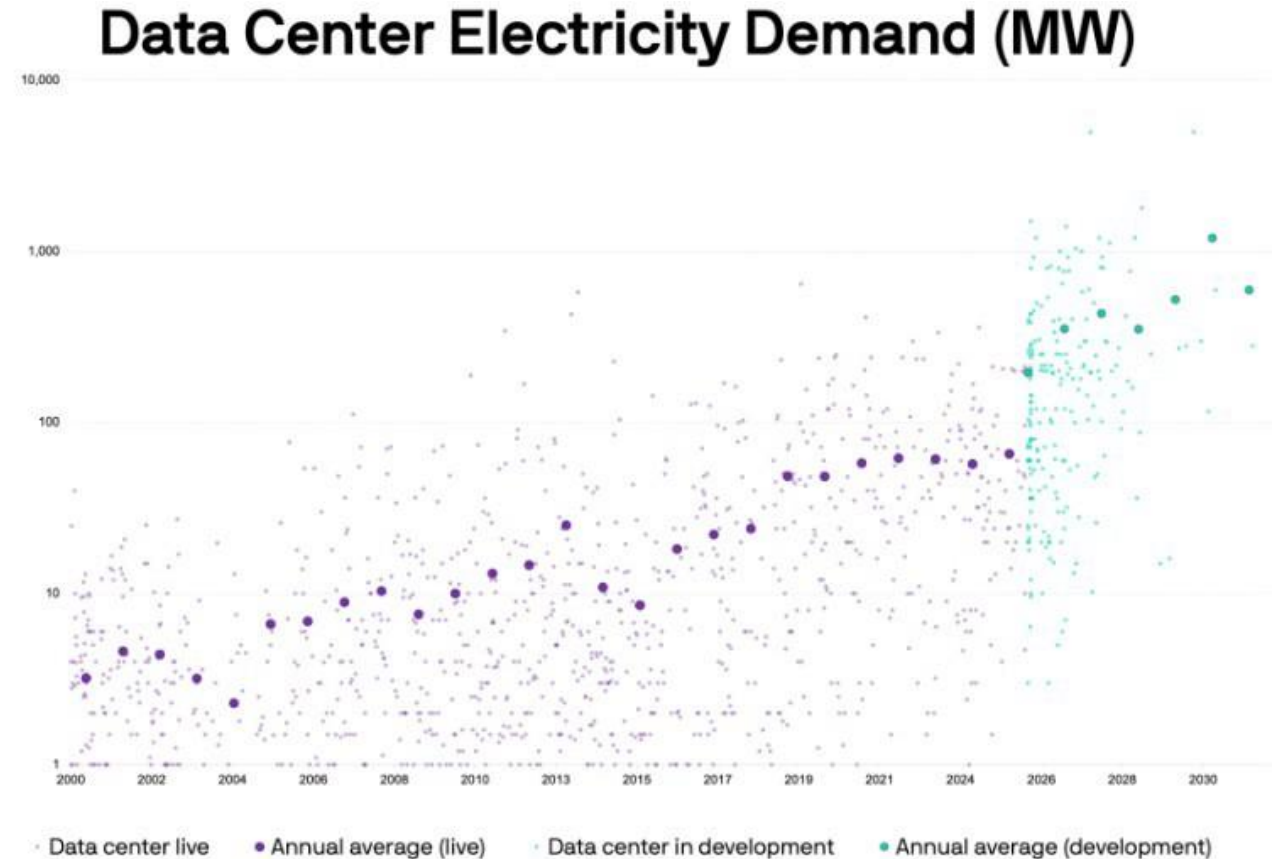
Data Centers and Electricity

- 2018 to 2023, data center energy use increased from ~76 TWh (1.9% of America's total annual electricity consumption) to ~176 TWh (4.4%)
 - Some projections show DC energy use doubling or tripling to 12% of national consumption by 2028 (though others show a tripling by 2035).
- As grid constraints grow, more DCs are opting for behind the meter power supply
 - Frequently, but not always, natural gas generation
 - Order books for new natural gas turbines are full through 2029 or later
 - Orders are in for at least 63 GW of natural gas capacity additions from 2026–2030
 - Cost to build a new combined cycle NG plan has spiked 66% in the last 2 years

Data Centers and Electricity

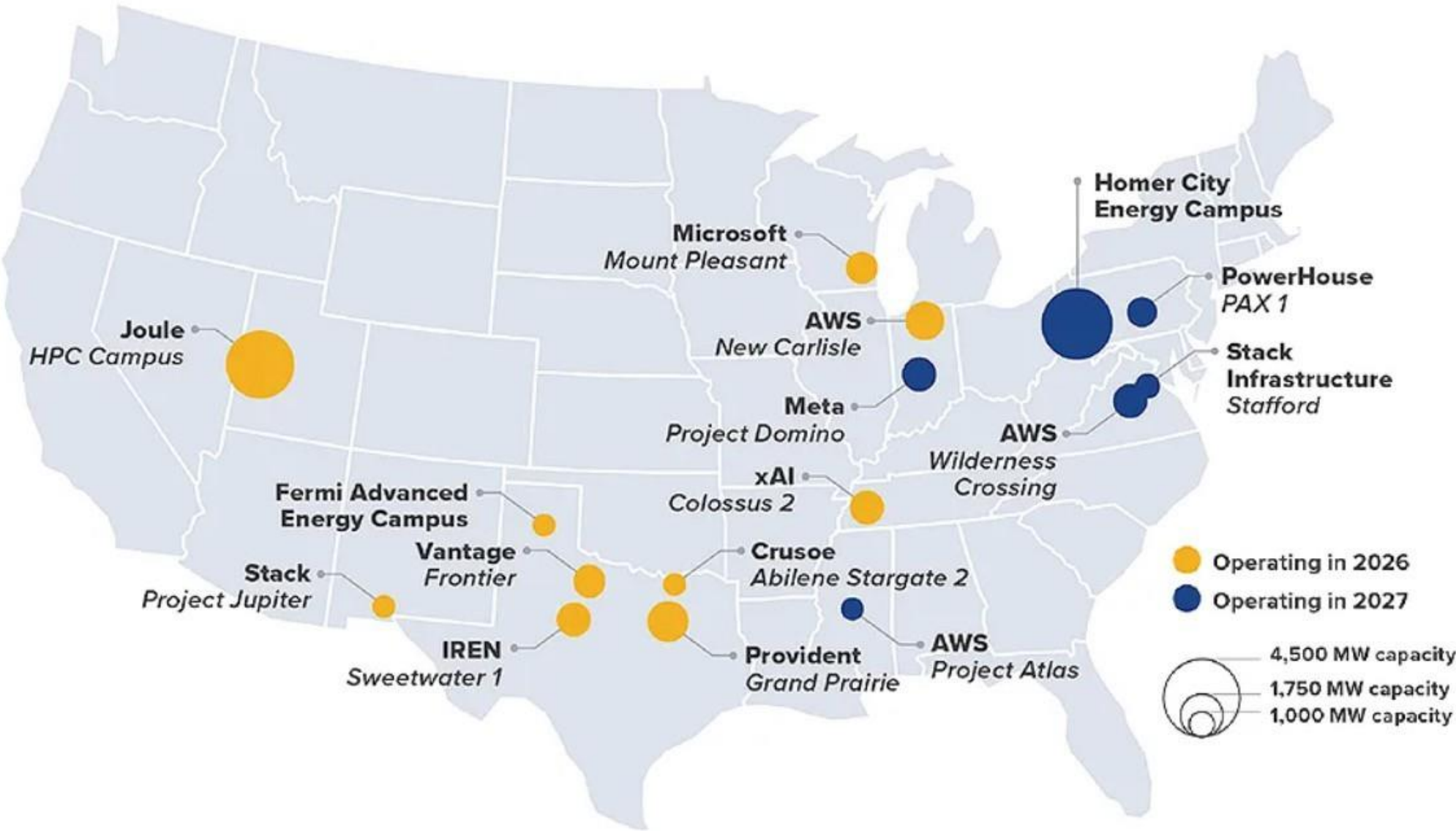
- Of DCs currently built, only around 10% are larger than 50MW
- Over the next decade, planned DCs will average over 100MW

NERC just released a Level 3 alert mandating grid operators manage grid reliability risks “following instances of data centers unexpectedly dropping load or oscillating demand rapidly, creating reliability concerns”



PLANNED DATA CENTERS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN THOSE CURRENTLY IN OPERATION

IMAGE CREDITS: BLOOMBERGNEF

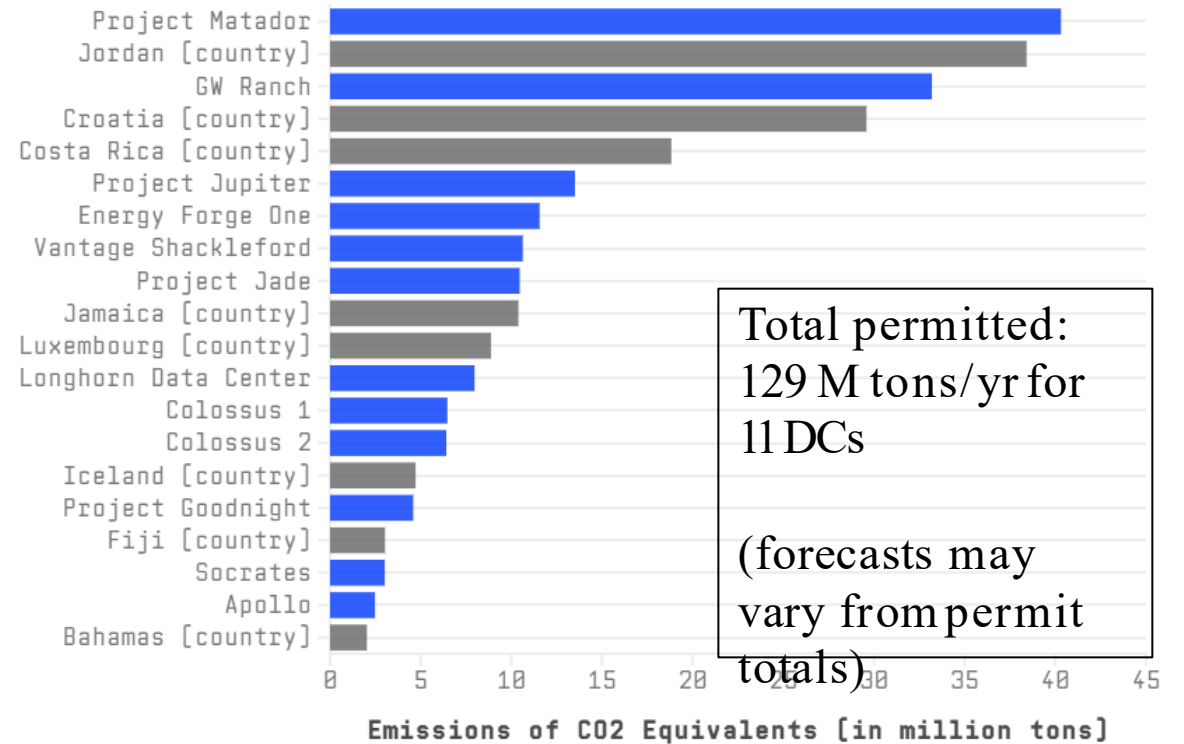


Existing and Planned DC Emissions

The carbon footprint of AI systems alone is estimated to be between 32.6 and 79.7 million tons of CO2 emissions in 2025

Potential Data Center Emissions Similar to Entire Countries

Comparison of greenhouse gas emissions, based on maximums listed in state permits and European Commission data from 2024.



Source: Permit data, [European Commission's Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research](#)

WIRED

New England: Limited Data Center Growth on the Horizon

Key Takeaways: Large Load Outlook in New England

Current Status

- Limited, but potential for growth
- Only a few projects in formal study (<300 MW)

Near-Term Impact

- Minimal impact before **2027-2028**



Long-Term Outlook

- ~**110–130 MW** impact to peak demand by 2030s–2040s
- Large loads expected to consume ~**800 GWh** from 2030 to 2035, rising to ~**1,000 GWh** in the 2040s

Large loads are **not yet a major driver of load growth in New England**, but **ISO-NE is proactively planning** for potential acceleration

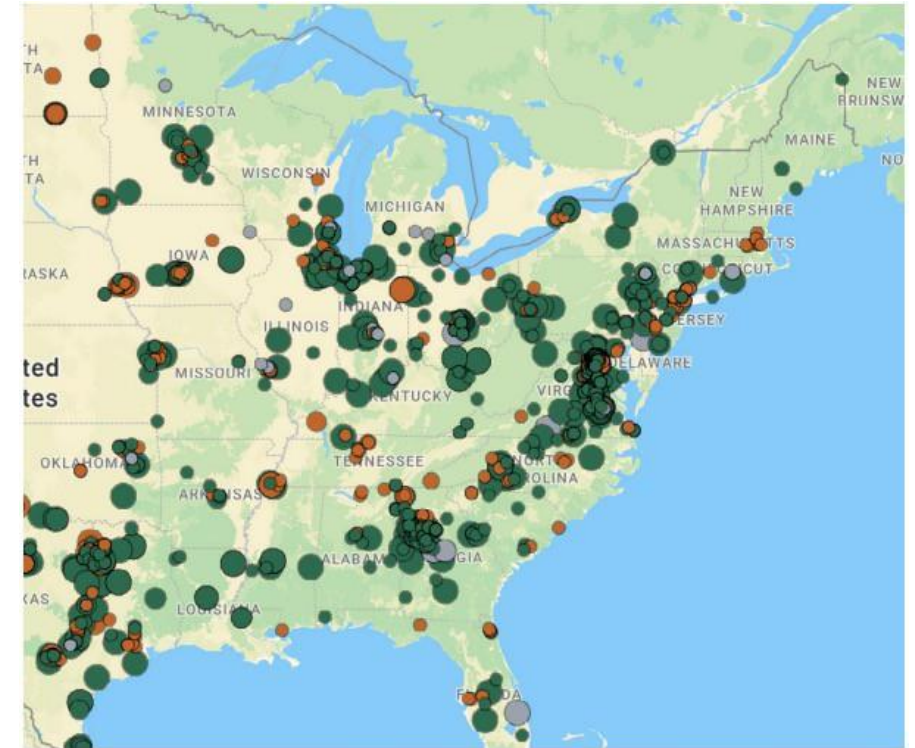
Learn more: [ISO-NE establishes forecast framework for data centers, other 'large loads' - ISO Newswire](#)

Source: ISO-NE

Data Centers and Their Energy Impact

General approach and principles

- There need to be proactive protections to ensure that ratepayers are not subsidizing these facilities in any way, including at the distribution level, the transmission level, or at the supply level.
- Data center developers should be required to bring their own new clean energy generation to protect local communities from the serious public health impacts of fossil generation, both baseload and back-up, and abide by states' binding clean energy and emissions policies.
- Data centers should be working with utilities to enable demand flexibility as a means to defray system costs and avoid reliability concerns during peak periods and expedite interconnection.



Source: MapLibre | © MapTiler © OpenStreetMap contributors via [Clean View](#)

Data Centers and Their Energy Impact

- Acadia Center's policy recommendations

- Bring Your Own New Clean Energy (BYONCE)
- Large Load Tariffs with strict terms and exit fees
- Mandatory demand flexibility (with clean resources)
- Robust, enforceable community benefit agreements
- Data centers bear full cost of grid costs they cause (T&D) and their fair share of policy charges
- Regulations reduce data center energy efficiency power quality impacts
- Do not put data centers on a fast-track to connect at the expense of other generators/load
- Stricter regulation of onsite diesel backup generation and BTM/co-located generation
- Maximize beneficial reuse of waste heat, and low-demand cooling options (e.g., geothermal)



Above: Markley data center and diesel generators in Lowell, MA

Zooming in: Key policies to help ratepayers and the climate

• BYONCE

- Building their own new clean energy resources
- Signing a PPA with a new (additive) project(s)
- Procuring DERs and demand-side resources from within local communities
- Efficiency measures like waste heat reuse
- Or any combination of the above.

• Flexibility Requirements

- Even a small amount of flexibility in data center operations to reduce peak demand could:
 - **Reduce new generation needs by tens of GWs**
 - **Shift investment in generation from NG to renewables**
 - **Reduce electricity prices**
 - **Reduce long-term emissions**

• Targeted Large Load Tariffs

- With suitable protections for residential ratepayers like:
 - **Capacity charges, lengthy contract terms, early exit fees, ramp up periods, collateral requirements, minimum billing, increasing block rates.**

Google has agreed to buy the output of a massive solar power project to offset its fossil fuel emissions, in a show of continued demand for renewable energy despite US President Donald Trump's efforts to kill it.

The search company will take 100 per cent of the initial output of the Steel River Energy Center in Arkansas when it becomes operational in 2029. The project is the biggest of its kind to break ground in the US and will initially deliver 1.6 gigawatts of [solar power](#) and 2 gigawatt hours of battery storage, enough to power more than 315,000 homes each year.

Upon completion it will reach 2.5GW of solar and 2.9GWh of storage. The deal is a virtual power purchase agreement, in which [Google](#) will pay for the project's electricity at a fixed price without receiving the energy. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.



Regional Policy Action on Data Centers – Northeast

Recent notable actions include:

- Massachusetts: Governor Healey issued new data center framework, pauses sales and use tax exemptions and requirements for new clean energy supply
- Maine: Legislature passed statewide data center moratorium, but was vetoed by Governor Mills over impacts to project in recovering paper mill town.
- New York: Legislature passed bill, and Governor Hochul signed Executive Order imposing a one-year moratorium on new large data center development in the state, and directing a Community Investment Framework for host community benefits; signaling expectation it will not become a ban.
- New Jersey: Legislature and Governor Sherrill enacted law providing data centers with opportunity to speed deployment times by funding state programs for demand-side/distributed energy resources.
- Virginia: Governor Spanberger rejoined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) cap and trade program, and reached agreement with Legislature on new data center electricity consumption tax/fee (1.1c/kWh, capped at \$600m per year) that will partially offset the incentives/tax credits data centers receive each year in VA.
- Pennsylvania: Governor Shapiro launched new ‘Governor’s Responsible Infrastructure Development’ (GRID) initiative, establishing standards that data centers must comply with to receive support, streamlined permitting from PA.

PRESS RELEASE

Governor Healey Halts Data Center Tax Incentive and Calls for Strict Guardrails to Protect Ratepayers, Environment & Public Health

Governor releases one of the most comprehensive frameworks in the nation, covering cost, energy, water, air, noise, jobs and other impacts

Daniel Sosland, President, Acadia Center:

“We appreciate Governor Healey for thoughtfully addressing the economic and competitive issues arising from data centers in a way that prioritizes the very real potential impacts on Massachusetts’ climate, consumers and communities. The continued growth of data centers is a reality that needs a comprehensive response, putting guardrails in place to protect both local host communities as well as energy ratepayers writ large. Massachusetts can be a leader in setting the right framework and criteria to pave the way for clear data center policies that reflect stakeholder interests and ensure their participation in the process.”

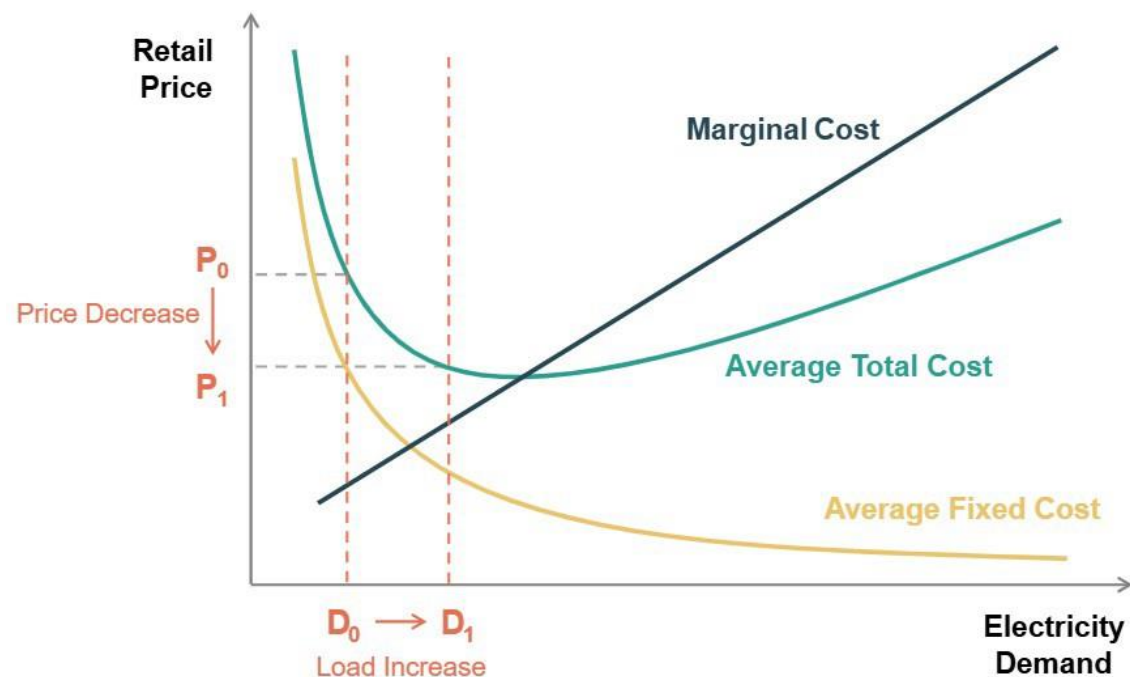
A photograph of several offshore wind turbines in the ocean. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water is dark blue with some white foam from the waves.

Possible ratepayer benefits from data centers...but unlikely in the Northeast

- Though data centers are causing problems on the grid, under the right circumstances, DCs could potentially lower power bills
 - This can happen when any large loads enter a power system: if the fixed costs of the system can be spread over a larger-enough portion of kWhs, then the cost per kWh can go down...
 - Note: this is also broadly a major benefit of electrifying homes and cars!
 - IF the cost to serve the large load do not raise the fixed costs too high.
 - Basically, if there is headroom on the system, or if the costs to serve the large load(s) can be explicitly and directly recovered by the large load(s), then the costs for everyone can go down.
 - This seems to have happened in the last few years in North Dakota, New Mexico and Nebraska – which are also places that have seen booms in renewable energy development over the same period. This low-cost energy supply is also an important piece of this puzzle.

What will data centers do to prices? It depends

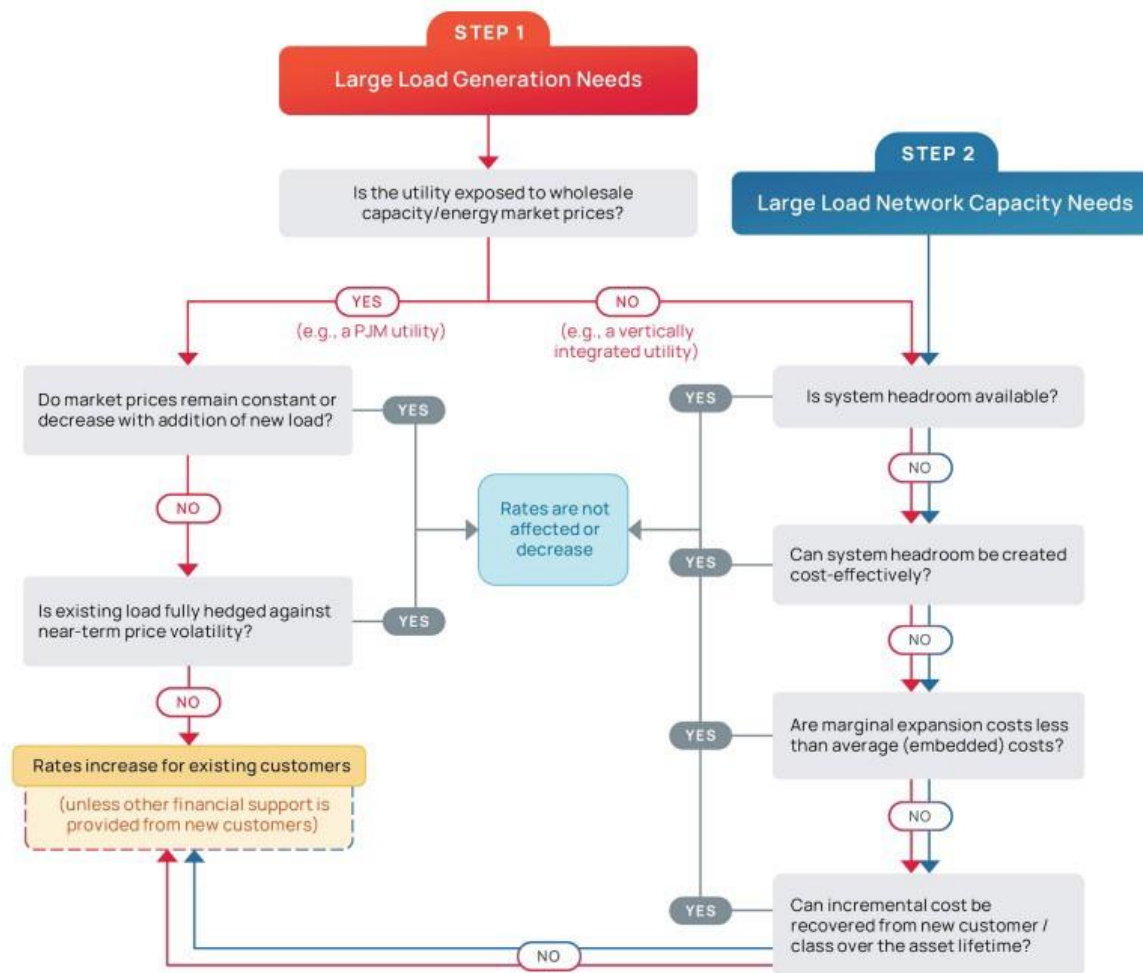
The Economics of Load Growth: When New Loads Lower (or Raise) Electricity Prices



Source: EPRI

FIGURE 2

Flowchart Showing Factors That Affect Rate Impacts of Large Loads



Source: Energy Systems Integration Group.

A Closing Reminder: Getting From Here to There

• **Why today's fossil systems are struggling**

- **Inefficiency:** combustion-based system loses some 2/3 of energy inputs.
- **Inflexibility:** Low utilization of the grid and energy systems (52% load factor in ISO-NE).
- **Lack of scale:** insufficient connections and plannings between neighboring grid regions.
- **Fuel Costs:** increasingly globalized fuel supply chains leave all users exposed to volatile swings in fuel prices.
- **Innovation:** Failure to invest in low-cost advanced technologies (e.g., GETs/ATTs).
- **Cost recovery:** Legacy utility business models, funding methods, and rate designs for infrastructure investment and programs.

Why a clean, electric future will be better

- **Use less energy** than we did before, replacing the waste of combustion with electrification (3x more efficient).
- **Better utilize the grid** – which sits vastly underutilized most days/hours.
- **Make the grid wider** – to benefit from resource diversity benefits, weather patterns.
- **Stabilize rates** by investing in diverse set of energy resources with free fuel, and rapidly advancing technology platforms.
- Make the grid and customers **more resilient** to outages and extreme weather events.
- Improve how we measure and charge customers for energy use, incentivize utilities, and invest in resources to reduce **expensive peaks**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Support: acadiacenter.org/get-involved/donate
Sign up: acadiacenter.org/about



Clean Energy and Data Centers

**Why Catholic
Energies?**

JULY 21, 2026

**Sustainability is our
Expertise.
Stewardship is our Mission.**

CATHOLIC ENERGIES

Mission-aligned with two objectives in supporting Catholic institutions:

- Live out Laudato Si.
- Reduce costs and garner savings through increased energy efficiency.



**Would you rather
invest in your
ministry or your
utility company?**



WHAT MAKES CE DIFFERENT?

- Goal: To accompany the Catholic Church in achieving two objectives, whether it is today or in 10 years.
- Non-profit
- Solution-agnostic
- Finance: Solving a big barrier to the work
- Vetted Partners: YOU choose.
- Serves parishes, schools, dioceses, hospitals, and other Catholic ministries

FIVE SERVICE OFFERINGS

1. Energy Analysis & Efficiency

2. Renewables & Storage

3. Clean Energy Procurement

4. Net Zero Planning

5. Carbon Drawdown

**Move from reactive
budgeting to
proactive
stewardship.**

OUR PROCESS

Catholic Energies walks with Catholic institutions the whole way. Together, we will explore facility challenges, identify practical solutions, and make a plan to support moving forward.

EXPLORE

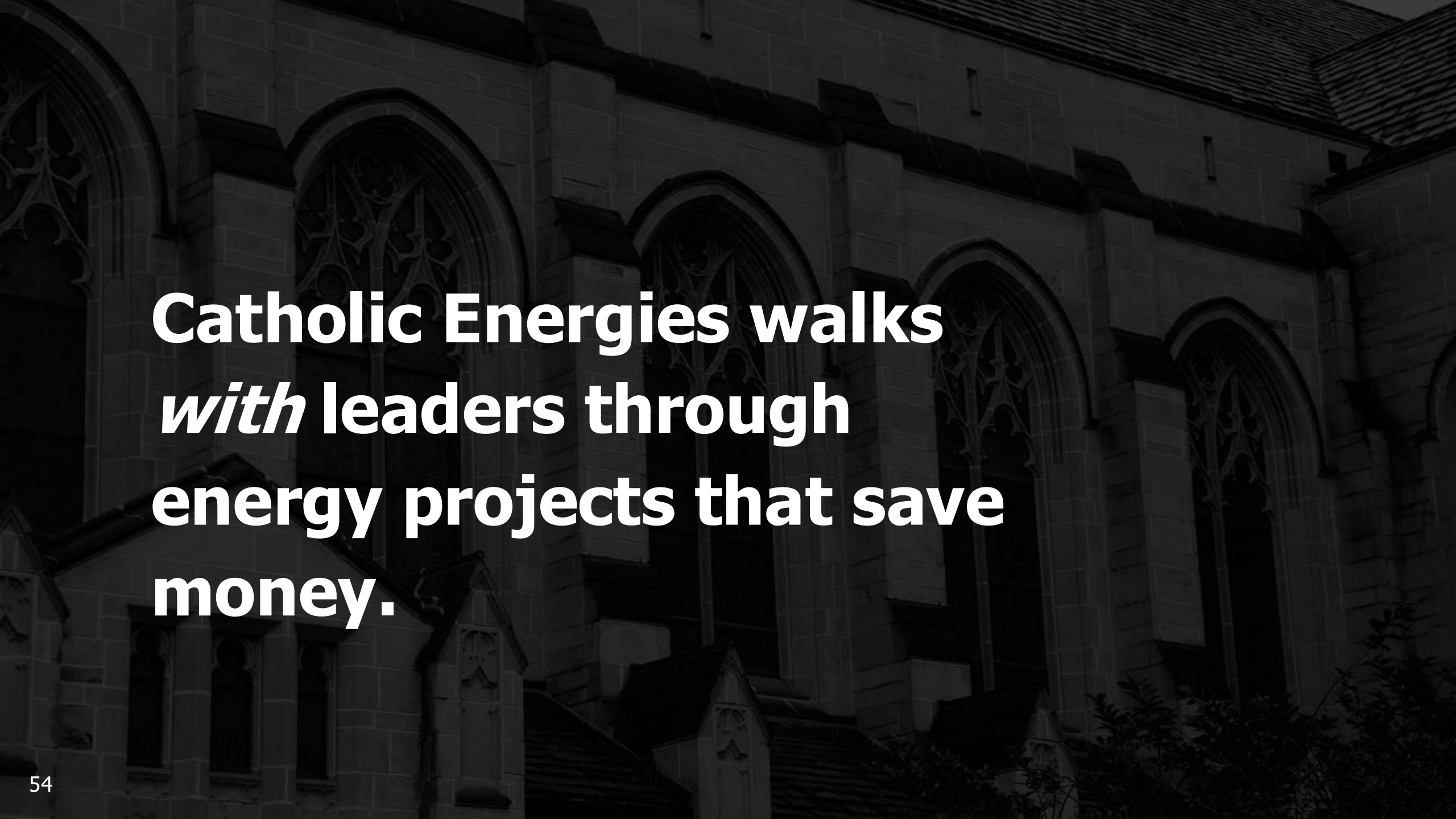
Talk with our team about your current challenges and share your energy data.

ENVISION

We create a roadmap to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and strengthen long-term stewardship.

EXECUTE

Our network of service companies implement the right solutions for your diocese, and we continue to walk alongside you, helping to review agreements and advise on next steps.



**Catholic Energies walks
with leaders through
energy projects that save
money.**

LET'S TALK

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THANK YOU

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Let's Talk About Energy: Affordability, Clean Energy, and Data Centers

For Our Common Home
& The Common Good
2026 Summer
Advocacy Campaign

*AI Datacenters
and Growing
Energy Demands*

Join us in calling for responsible oversight of datacenter development and meaningful community participation in decisions that affect local land, water, air quality, and energy resources.

Learn more and sign our letter to the EPA at bit.ly/SignEPALetter

Action Alert!

Catholic Climate Covenant
Together for our Common Home

Across the U.S., communities are facing proposals for new AI datacenters that require enormous amounts of electricity and water, place new demands on local infrastructure, and increase environmental hazards. And at the same time, the EPA has proposed changes to permitting rules that could make it easier for companies to begin constructing large projects — including datacenters — before obtaining major air quality permits.

YOU can act by adding your name to our letter to the EPA. Learn more and sign: bit.ly/SignEPALetter