Project Report

01 March 2025 - 28 July 2025

Engage Albemarle

Data Center Regulations





Aware Participants	1,357	Engaged Participants		92	
Aware Actions Performed	Participants	Engaged Actions Performed	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Visited a Project or Tool Page	1,357		3		
Informed Participants	354	Contributed on Forums	0	0	0
Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Participated in Surveys	8	0	28
Viewed a video	0	Contributed to Newsfeeds	38	10	0
Viewed a photo	0	Participated in Quick Polls	0	0	0
Downloaded a document	122	Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0
Visited the Key Dates page	144	Contributed to Stories	0	0	0
Visited an FAQ list Page	29	Asked Questions	2	10	0
Visited Instagram Page	0	Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0
Visited Multiple Project Pages	263	Contributed to Ideas	0	0	0
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	92				

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



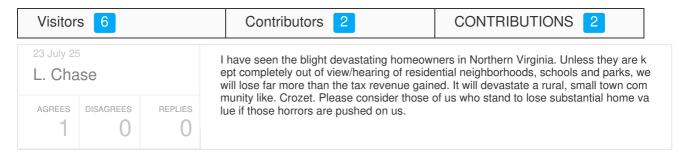
Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
	Engagement roomvame		VISILOIS	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Newsfeed	Help Shape Data Centers Regulations for our Community	Published	145	26	10	0
Newsfeed	Read the Draft Ordinance	Published	77	13	0	0
Newsfeed	Community Meeting Materials	Published	6	2	0	0
Qanda	Ask a Question	Published	56	2	10	0
Survey Tool	Share Your Feedback on the Draft	Archived	95	8	0	28

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY

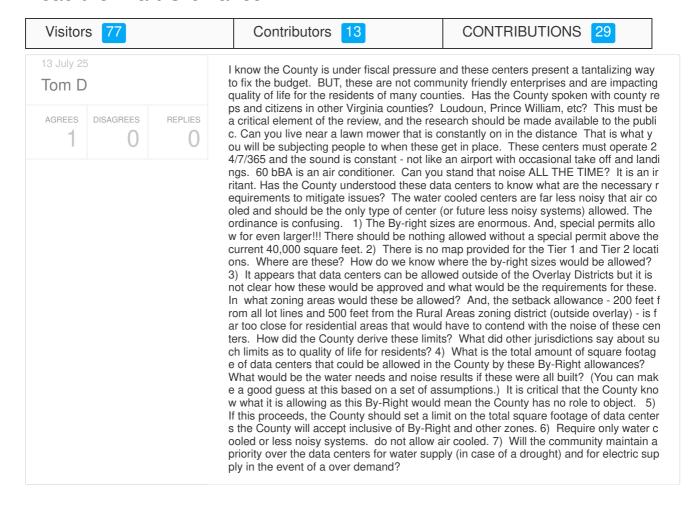


Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Key Dates	Key Date	144	193
Document	Data Center Draft Ordinance.pdf	117	134
Document	Data Center Ordinance Presentation	10	11
Document	Data Center Ordinance Handout	7	7
Faqs	faqs	29	29

Community Meeting Materials



Read the Draft Ordinance



Read the Draft Ordinance



[This comment form does not save paragraph breaks, so they are indicated with | .] Da ta centers require tremendous amounts of power. According to MIT, as of 2022, the clo ud had a greater carbon footprint than the airline industry, with individual data centers c onsuming the equivalent electricity of 50,000 homes. Since then, data centers have co ntinued to expand in number, size, energy needs, and environmental impact, particular ly to support the growth of Al. yet the industry has not broadly adopted new technologie s and approaches to mitigate this. The hunger for energy has exploded such that "Gro wth in data center power demand in Virginia is increasing at a rate far exceeding Domi nion Energy's capacity to provide it," according to a Northern Virginia case study from L andApp.com, a pro-data center company. This drives an increasing reliance on fossil f uels, perhaps even more so now that the federal government is slashing incentives for renewable energy development. Indeed, Dominion has used data centers to justify its i ncreased reliance on methane gas and pipelines. As such, allowing data centers in Alb emarle County in the near future is contrary to the county's Climate Action Plan (https:/ /www.albemarle.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5432/637382865947300000). | Th e Board of Supervisors adopted the Climate Action Plan plan just five years ago, with many of the same members who sit on the Board today. According to the document, "T his is the community's plan. The Albemarle County Climate Action Plan reflects the wor k of scores of community members attending outreach events, committing time to servi ng on sector work groups, and generating hundreds of comments about opportunities, i deas, and challenges that the plan must address." It is a betrayal of our community and their dedication and work over years to create this plan to set it aside because the pote ntial tax revenue is too enticing. | How would allowing data centers, of up to half a millio n square feet developed by right and even larger by special permit, impact the county's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 (from 2008 levels) and achie ving net zero emissions by 2050? The Climate Action Plan says, "We cannot achieve t hese goals without the partnership of our residents, business community, and institutio nal partners." By nature, data centers today are not in a position to be these kinds of pa rtners. Admittedly, there are incredible developments happening to move them in that direction, so Albemarle County need not prohibit data centers forever, but should perio dically revisit the ability of data centers to exist in harmony with our goals and evolve o ur policies as appropriate. | The Climate Action Plan is about more than greenhouse ga s emissions, however. It also clearly asserts the county's commitment to a climate prot ection program that will, in part: | * Benefit the health of all residents; * Protect the local natural environment; * Stimulate the creation of green jobs to support a thriving local e conomy; | Data centers are contrary to these goals, as well. | The noise generated by d ata centers and its impact on the health of residents has been documented in studies a nd anecdotally in many news stories. There are several types of noise, such as the con stant hum of industrial-scale cooling fans and the rumble of backup diesel generators, t hat can ruin the peace of neighbors' homes, even at a distance. One of the reasons for this is that the volume is often quiet enough that it does not meet the noise ordinance t hreshold, yet the pitch is low and able to travel through walls, interfering with sleep, wor k, and leisure activities. According to the Data Centers in Virginia 2024 Report to the G overnor and the General Assembly of Virginia (https://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt 598-2.pdf), "Some residents described physical symptoms such as migraines from the facilities' constant noise. Others said that they experience health problems caused by disrupted sleep, and some residents described an inability to concentrate on tasks. A c ommon theme was poorer quality of life, with some residents avoiding their decks and yards because the sound is louder outdoors." Moreover, noise studies have shown that even when one adapts to hearing particular noises and may not notice them as much, t he body still reacts by releasing cortisol, the negative health impacts of which are widel y known and documented. | If Albemarle County decides to move forward with data ce nters at any time, there are recommendations from the aforementioned report to help g uard against problematic noise. First, it should "develop a supplemental noise limit defi ned using a metric that better accounts for low frequency sounds, such as 'C-weighted' decibels," as A-weighted decibels do not fully capture the lower frequency noise that da ta centers produce. Second, because "state law limits civil penalties for noise ordinanc e violations to \$500 after the first offense," the fine is not a deterrent to wealthy compan ies that own data centers, so noise restrictions should be addressed in zoning ordinanc es which can better "prescribe a process for measuring potential noise violations and p enalties for not addressing them." | Air pollution is another significant risk to the health of residents. Take what has been happening in Memphis as an example. A data center supporting xAI has been running enough methane turbines without emission controls to power 280,000 homes. At first xAI lied and said they were not, but when the SELC prov ed otherwise, they argued that the turbines are "temporary" and as such, do not require federal permits for emitting hazardous air pollutants like nitrogen oxides, formaldehyde, and fine particulate matter due to an apparent loophole in federal regulations. These da ngerous pollutants cause COPD, asthma, cancer, and heart disease, and the local co mmunity has seen notable increases in these diseases since the onset of the turbines. The air smells like gas and is so polluted that residents in the neighborhoods closest to the data center wear masks outdoors. Neighbors have been fighting against this to no avail, and in fact, xAI is now slated to build an even larger data center there. | If Albem arle County allows data centers, it is risky to tie our regulations to EPA Tier 4. Given th e current goals and actions of the federal government, and specifically the EPA, there i

s no guarantee that those regulations will not be gutted or removed. Additionally, there needs to be a way to prevent companies from abusing the "temporary" generator looph

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Data centers consume huge amounts of electricity and huge amounts of water to cool t hem. They can also be an eyesore in the local landscape. Unless they can be design ed to avoid draining power needed for the residents and businesses in Albemarle and adjacent counties without raising rates and unless they can be designed to use only rec irculated water and not drain water in our often water-starved county they should not b e allowed.

No one should be encouraging data centers. They are a huge waste of natural resourc es. We are essentially subsidizing harebrained bit coin scams. Our beautiful county sh ouldn't have anything to do with these monstrosities. No to data centers.

comptrguy AGREES DISAGREES

complex issue that needs experienced people to assist in determining benefits versus negatives. There are already some 5000 in the world and, I believe, 2000 or so in the USA. Already, Loudun County has 26M sq.ft. of data centers and another 5M under co nstruction, adding 300 jobs and revenue to the County. Albemarle County needs altern atives to its current taxation mode that unduly burdens homeowners. I spent 40 years i n the computer business and worked with Montgomery Co. and Bucks Co. in PA. as w ell as Los Angeles County, on the "other"side of the table(Honeywell, Inc. and software companies), and might be of help.

John Smith AGREES DISAGREES REPLIES

As a resident of Albemarle County, I do not want these data centers blighting our lands cape and our environment. I will work to oppose any Albemarle County officials who s upport imposing these monstrosities on our beautiful Albemarle County landscape. I'v e seen what they've done to our neighbors in northern Virginia, and it's not acceptable. Please oppose them. Thank you.

24 July 25 Nicoll AGREES DISAGREES REPLIES

I would have to say I am against having these data centers in the county. A really big re ason is the water use. With changing weather patterns we have had more extremes wi th lack of rain predominating. Even though we have recently had an abundance of rain , we are only 3" over where we should be year to date. Most of last year we were seve rely dry. It is really unwise to build these things when we can't reliably provide the wate r they need.

KeepltGreen DISAGREES REPLIES AGREES

We say no to data centers. In addition to the huge amount of energy and natural resour ces these data centers use, I think people minimize the effect of the constant sound th ey emit. Countless scientific studies prove the harm done to human, animal and plant c ells when exposed to constant sources of unnatural sound. Not to mention disrupting t he necessary communication of birds and bees in order to survive. The unique, protect ed beauty of Albemarle is priceless and is also why people want to live, work and pay t axes here for health and quality of life. Plus the suggested distance from lot lines and o ther buildings is not nearly enough if one of these was built next door to your house. Th e county will be making a shortsighted mistake to allow these anywhere near people, s chools and animals.

Read the Draft Ordinance



And I just saw this today: '... the independent watchdog for PJM, the power grid that c overs Virginia and all or parts of 12 other states plus the District of Columbia, issued a r eport that said the grid essentially had no more capacity. If data centers want to locate in PJM territory, the watchdog said, they should provide their own power.' So, we are distinctly short on the ability to provide power. This goes along with my previous comment about the strain we will have in drought conditions with any new data centers in the county. We really should not build these here.



I live on watts passage and I am 100% against this ordinance noise level near resident ial/rural populated areas given that the noise will be constant, 24 hrs per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. It is above recommended levels by the epa. You are proposi ng acceptable levels of noise near land with residents that is 10 dba over even when at its lowest level and 20 dba over at highest level. Noise that will be 24 hrs a day, nonsto p. Would you want this next you, ant your andjoining property line? Out of sight out of mind seems to be what is in play here. As long as it's not my backyard it's ok? This is shameful that you are even proposing this next to populated areas with such minimal s etbacks and allowable noise levels at the property line for 24 hrs per day. Data centers will not be big employers of the local population data centers do not require a large nu mber of persons running the equipment onsite. Nor will the local construction compani es likely be building any of these buildings, that will go to out of county businesses as w ell. At best a few dump truck drivers and a local quarry will gain some business. Will th e rules of land disturbance be overlooked for this construction, where will all of the dirt t hat is removed go? We already are told by the county and landfill that we don't have e nough approved sites to places fill dirt and the county seems not to enforce rules upon projects that they are vested in. How will this large of a land disturbance affect the loc al streams and river? Will a road that adjoins watts passage be built for access to the property where construction is proposed? What upgrades will be made to watts passa ge road for construction vehicles. This is a tar and gravel non paved road that if acces s is made from watts passage will be detrimental to the already poor road. What rights will adjoining landowners have? Will adjoining landowners be notified if a permit is app lied for? Will adjoining landowners be able to make note of their objection and a permit for construction be denied? What mitigation will be implemented if noise levels are not met? What will this do to home and land values of adjoining landowners? Is this land currently zoned for data centers or is it zoned for rural residential? Will it be changed t o industrial? Will the county be as lenient when or if I want to change my rural resident ial zoning? If I buy property surrounded by zoned rural land than I expect that it will be just that. Not a an industrial 24 hr per day noise generator. How will this affect me, my land values, my livestock, my bees? The county makes a huge show of preserving rur al areas until it decides that it can make more money if it turns that rural area to industr ial to benefit them, not the residents it proclaims to serve. Will the data centers be give n tax breaks like the university which is a major landowner in the county. Will they pay their fair share just as residents are required to do? How much more will the local resi dents be burdened with? From The Acoustical Society of America vol 50 publication (h ttps://pubs.aip.org/asa/poma/article/50/1/040007/3268631/The-FAA-s-65-dBA-DNL-isnot-a-safe-noise-exposure) . The Environmental Protection Agency, however, calculate d that the safe noise levels for the public are DNL =<55dB to prevent outdoor activity interference and annoyance and =<45 dB to prevent indoor activity interference and annoyance. Noise has both auditory and non-auditory health effects.

Read the Draft Ordinance

27 July 25 Aw1		
AGREES	DISAGREES	REPLIES

This has a maximum impact on me, and my land and the health of my livestock which i s on watts passage. I do not approve of this change to zoning on the boulders rd proper ty. The setbacks are minimal and unacceptable given the constant 24 rs a day 365 day s a yr noise generated. I also find it offensive that I was not notified of this by the count y when it affects me directly. Hidden actions abound from the current administration it seems. If it directly affects citizens/residents in a certain or proposed area those citizen s/residents should have been notified!

27 July 25

Resident

AGREES DISAGREES REPLIES 0

No to these environmentally destructive data centers. The County (along with the City and UVa) is already destroying the environment with all the building and growth. A big NO!

AlbemarleLiving

AGREES DISAGREES REPLIES

1 0 0

Data centers are notoriously energy and water intensive, using millions of gallons of wa ter daily and consuming electricity at rates that rival entire cities. We do not have the inf astructure for that. We don't even have fiber yet in the area where you want to build thi s! And phone service is notoriously spotty. We have regular power outages, and Albem arle and surrounding counties already have water shortages and quality issues. Where will the millions of gallons of water come from? How will you prevent citizens' wells from running dry because of the data center, leaving people who have been living here for d ecades without clean drinking water? And what about the noise and air pollution? Plant ing a few bushes will not address the serious and on-going issues being experienced by people who live near data centers. Albemarle County has already issued building per mits that far exceed what our roads and infrastructure can handle. A data center will ne gatively impact all residents living near it by tanking their property values, adversely eff ect both public water and water tables, electric utilities and our roads and services, whi ch you KNOW are already stressed. This area is NOT equipped for a data center.

Read the Draft Ordinance

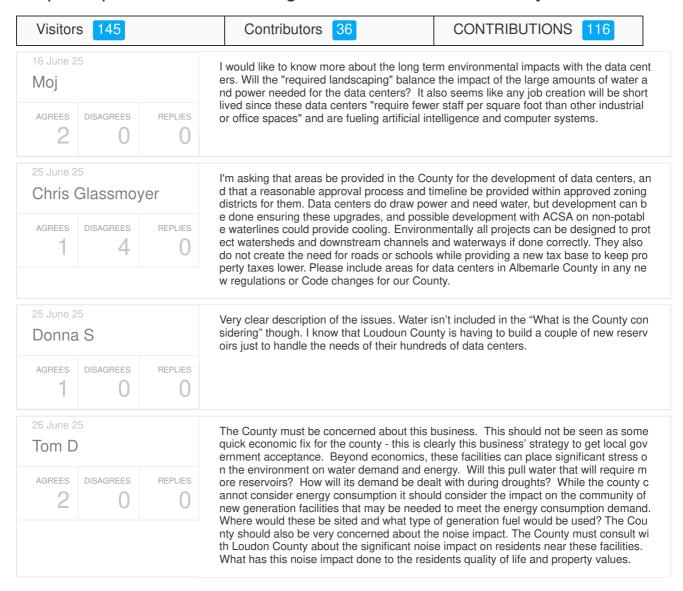


How far does data center noise travel? Somehow I think if the proposed sites of these data centers were closer to where our supervisors lived or if the residents that this wou ld actually affect had been properly informed by the county of these proposed changes there would be much more opposition. If I want to have a business home kitchen in my home I am required to notify every adjoining landowner to my property before the count y even considers this for approval. Why is the county not held to these standards whe n they want to make changes to zoning that affects residents to that adjoining property or affected property within one to two miles of proposed sites as that is the dance that t he noise will travel all day every day. They all have our information and ability to contac t and inform us of the proposed changes and choose not to hoping that there will not b e opposition as we are uninformed by those purporting to be serving in our best interes ts. Info on noise from data centers Data center noise, primarily from cooling systems. can travel a considerable distance, potentially affecting nearby residents. While the ex act distance varies based on factors like the size and design of the data center, and sur rounding terrain, it's not uncommon for noise to be noticeable up to a mile or even two miles away. Here's a more detailed breakdown: Sources of Noise: . Data centers gene rate noise from various sources, including cooling fans, air handling units, and generat ors. These are often located on the roof or outside the building, allowing noise to propa gate more easily. Low-Frequency Noise: . Data centers are known for producing low-f requency "humming" sounds. This type of noise can travel further and be more disrupti ve than higher-frequency sounds. Community Impact: . The impact of data center noi se on communities is a growing concern. Residents near data centers have reported e xperiencing sleep disturbances, stress, and other health issues related to the noise. F rom Tech Policy Press 6/12/25 Because many data centers use backup diesel generat ors, generating harmful fine particulate matter (PM2.5), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and nitrog en oxides (NOx), as well as increasingly using fossil fuels for their energy sources, loc ation is crucial in determining the potential disproportionate scale of pollution impact on communities. Chart 1. There is cause for concern. A 2024 paper from researchers at th e University of California, Riverside and Caltech found that data centers could contribut e to 600,000 asthma-related symptom cases by 2030, with overall public health costs e xceeding \$20 billion. These findings highlight that the rapid expansion of AI infrastructu re poses an emerging public health crisis in the communities where data centers are lo cated and the surrounding areas. However, in regions already burdened by public heal th challenges stemming from environmental racism and gentrification, these troubling h ealth impacts will disproportionately affect communities of color and exacerbate existin g health disparities.

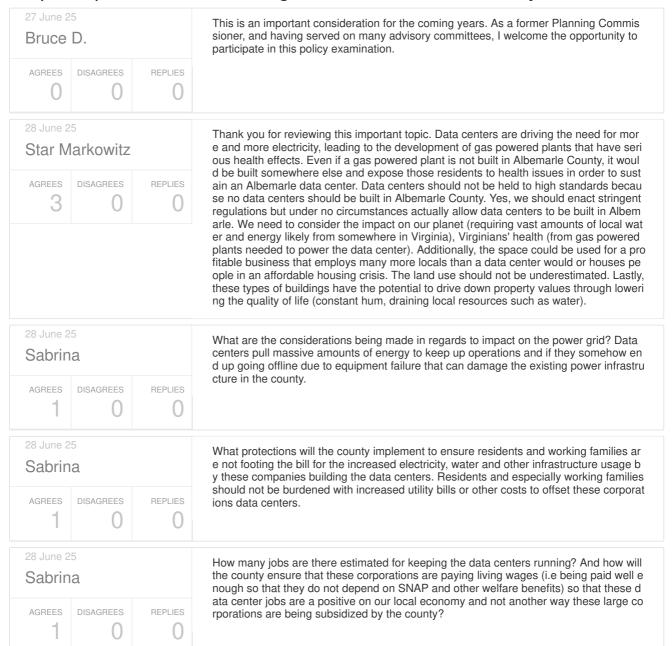


Based on how well the county has upheld commitments in the past, I am opposed to the data center. It will not bring in a significant number of jobs, once construction is completed. The constant noise, unless strictly managed, would impact neighbors and wildlife. The water required would ultimately take from reservoirs. Other than commercial tax income, I see little benefit and many potential problems.

Help Shape Data Centers Regulations for our Community



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Finally, these data centers have large environmental costs that can impact not only our county but environments across the state to power these centers. This environmental i mpact also includes the batteries, generators and fuel needed to ensure operations for the data centers. What happens if a natural disaster such as a large flood, tornado, or hurricane comes through the region and destroys the data center? As we are seeing more and more large scale natural disasters, we could potentially have heavy metal and other pollutants leached into the soil and waterways from the equipment and batterie s used in the data center's operations. The county must consider these very possible outcomes and ensure that protections are in place to protect our environment not only f rom daily operation environmental costs (such as noise, GHG, water use) but REQUIR ED disaster clean-up plans (bills footed by the data center not taxpayer dollars) in the e vent of a large scale adverse weather event.

29 June 25

Cville citizen

AGREES DISAGREES REPLIES 0

The side effects of gas plants, noise pollution, precious resources such as water and h uman/animal/plant/ HEALTH are not worth this frivolous construction. Every single sum mer is record breaking heat, we do not need to speed up the process. This is asinine.

Andre Surles

AGREES DISAGREES REPLIES

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Water in the albemarle area is already at a premium, particularly the quality. Having a I arge data center combined with additional housing growth will put a further strain. Ple ase consider another option that is projected for less growth for this project.

29 June 25

khawkey

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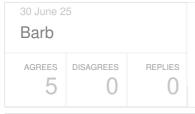
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These data centers run counter to the stated goals in the zoning ordinance for a health y community for for the following reasons: *Energy Consumption: Data centers consum e vast amounts of electricity, posing a significant strain on power grids and increasing c arbon emissions. *Cooling Systems - huge amounts of energy and water use causing our own rates to go up: The heat generated by servers necessitates robust cooling sys tems, which also consume considerable energy and water. *Security Threats: Data ce nters are prime targets for cyberattacks, including ransomware, malware, and data bre aches, demanding strong security measures. *Sustainability: Growing concerns about the environmental impact of data centers are leading to increased scrutiny and pressur e for sustainable practices, including reduced water and energy consumption and mini mizing electronic waste. *Capacity Planning & Discounting the state of asing data loads requires efficient space utilization and careful capacity planning to avo id over-provisioning and wasted resources. *Supply Chain Issues: Shortages of critica I components and materials can disrupt data center operations and increase costs. Outages: Despite improvements, outages remain a concern, with high costs associate d with downtime and potential data loss. *Labor Shortages: The data center industry f aces challenges in finding and retaining skilled personnel. *Cost Management: Balan cing cost controls with efficiency and the need for robust infrastructure is an ongoing c hallenge. *Community Impact: Data centers can have a significant impact on local co mmunities, including land use, water consumption, and noise pollution. *Regulatory L andscape: Governments are implementing stricter regulations for data centers regardin g energy efficiency, sustainability, and data security. "For all of these reasons, data ce nters are not a good option for our community.

Help Shape Data Centers Regulations for our Community



Charlottesville and Albemarle County planners have already proven themselves to be shortsighted. The quality of life has decreased significantly with the incredible amount of building they are doing with no concern for traffic, schools, or water. Every traffic "im provement " has made the situation worse or done nothing at all but cost the tax payers money. The addition of a data center would insure that our already skyrocketing electricity costs will increase and that power outages become a regular occurrence. The environmental impact would be significant, especially since water is already an issue and over the years nothing has been done to improve the situation. If you think a data center would decrease your taxes, think again. We don't need or want a data center in Albe



I wholeheartedly wish to keep these data centers OUT of Albemarle County. They are a huge waste of resources - electricity and water. Also, in a time when we need to find more affordable housing options, the use of land in our county for this is unconscionabl e. And it would denigrate our beautiful County - something that most residents agree i s worth preserving.

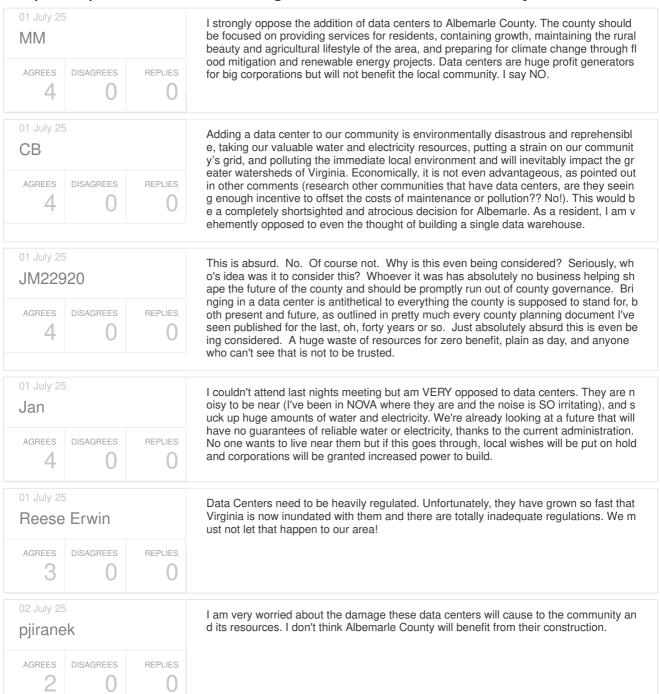


I would vote to keep data centers from Albemarle County. They suck up resources suc h as electricity and water and are noisy. Don't put our water up for sale.



I went to the meeting on 6/30 and came away with more questions and a bit surprised at the little concrete info available. My impression is that this would be a disaster for Al bemarle in every way. Our water supply is iffy at best in reservoir areas during drough t. We can only expect more droughts in seasons to come, due to global warming and t he absurd amount of unconscionable building of homes and apartments already allowe d by this board. Also, Is there any guarantee that RWSA won't raise rates when water supplies are limited, or allow for reduced rates to the data bank and pass an increase o n to the citizenry? Does Albemarle have any control of that? Is there a guarantee that it would never affect our groundwater and therefore our wells? Just stating that they are required to use RWSA water is no guarantee at all. If Google gives us any hint to th e electric costs, note that they have made deals for reduced rates with the electric com panies, with the higher rates passed on to the homeowners and businesses to make u p the difference. The county has no control of this happenstance and no doubt it will h appen here too. The sound regulation proposed for this is ridiculous in the case of dat a banks. 2-3 tree lines and a courtyard would do nothing or very little as a sound barri er. We need to limit the allowable decibels and make clear to the populace exactly what the level would be comparable to, so that we can decide if we can live with that consta nt never ending drumbeat in our lives. I doubt any of us would be a willing acceptor of that at any decibel level. It would be like tinnitus in the best of circumstance. All in all t here is too much at risk for Albemarle, though I do understand and applaud the effort t o get in front of this possible disaster before we get any interest. But my vote would be to ban all data banks and data centers in Albemarle written into the code. In 60 years of living here, the desirability of living Albemarle has gone so far down as to nearly be unrecognizable. Newcomers will never know the bucolic beauty and quiet agricultural, I ow traffic area it used to be. This last bite out of the apple of Albemarle might just be it' s last.

Help Shape Data Centers Regulations for our Community



Help Shape Data Centers Regulations for our Community



Help Shape Data Centers Regulations for our Community



Speaking from conversations with pretty much anyone I know in albemarle, we do not want any data centers here. Aside from the massive environmental impact they have, most of what data centers are being used for right now is AI training, resulting in the th eft of tons and tons of private digital property to be regurgitated back out of algorithms, crypto currency and bitcoin mining and monitoring (something frequently used in online scams and very difficult to regulate, so this particular aspect wouldn't bring any addition al currency or tax money to the community, and finally the fact that our power grid will be massively impacted, driving up prices for everyone.



I am far from being an expert in understanding the pros and cons of data centers but I am concerned about the impact of these proposed regulations on the citizens of our co unty. Has there been a study to estimate the economic impact, beneficial and otherwis e, of a single maximum-size data center? Has there been a study to determine whethe r our current water and electric infrastructure is adequate to support even one large dat a center without negatively impacting residents, such as water restrictions in times of d rought (which we experience regularly) and electricity rate hikes due to additional dem and? How many data centers will the proposed overlay zones accommodate? Aesthetic concerns are valid ones. Noise pollution and destruction of the landscape and wildlife habitat are just two areas that need to be carefully studied. We should look to other localities to help us understand the actual, real life impacts on our community. Has any ou treach been done in this regard?



I have several concerns, all outlined below: First: We need a ROBUST effort from the c ounty to engage residents to educate them about the pros and cons of data centers an d give them MEANINGFUL opportunities to provide input. The community engagement tactics you outlined above are insufficient as they reach only residents who are actively engaged on this topic and/or have signed up for email updates. Second: Only after the education of county residents and meaningful opportunities for their input should decisions be made. Third: My input is as follows: data centers should be significantly limited to the minimum size required by law. This will reduce their impact on water, electricity, lighting, and other infrastructure and quality of life stresses on our community. Fourth: Just because we can increase the speed of artificial intelligence and data use does not mean we should. As a society, we should be examining the pros and cons before marching forward into what we do not fully understand. A hard look at intended and unintended consequences is required by all, especially by county officials who are charged with responsibly leading our government.

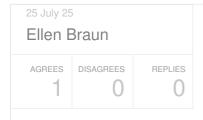


I am opposed to the construction of data centers in Albemarle County. We want to keep our historic and rural character and do not need the extra money from data centers. PI us, they are not compatible with residents or businesses. I would support a ban on the m entirely in our county.



Please do not put Data centers in Albemarle for the known reasons ,too much power a nd water . the latter we have barely enough for a dry spell! Of course you will always p ut it in a poor or needy region where the fewest people will make a fuss. Say No to dat a centers. Maureen Minor

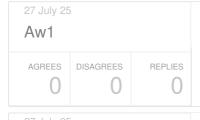
Help Shape Data Centers Regulations for our Community



Please put strong limitations on data centers in Albemarle County. They are not a fit for our county. Here's why: (1) Data centers use highly disproportionate resources (water, power). (2) Data centers are capital intensive, not labor intensive, employing very few people. They are intended to run with virtually no support on-site by design. (3) Based on the real-life experience of citizens of Prince William County in Virginia, data centers and the huge power-lines/ electrical infrastructure they require make for bad neighbors (big footprints, big noise pollution, terrible aesthetics). (4) Major data center developer s have made little to no effort to offset their extreme use of resources. The many acres of data centers in PWC have immense roof surfaces and are next to electrical sub-stati ons but virtually have no solar installations.



Data Centers would be a complete blight on the landscape here. They use huge amounts of electricity and water, even if recycled. They create a ton of noise pollution, even during normal operations. Storage of diesel fuel for the generators is a concern. They will add to our already egregious light pollution, which is honestly embarrassing for our population density. It's not like they will be creating thousands of low impact, highly desi rable jobs vs their huge environmental impact. Data centers are minimally staffed. -- "What is the economic benefit of allowing data centers in Albemarle County?" 'If developed, data centers could add significantly to the County's commercial tax base. A strong er commercial tax base can help fund public services and infrastructure while potentiall y reducing the County's reliance on residential property taxes.'-- Can you stop saying s tuff like this? It's honestly rage inducing. You have *ZERO* credibility for rolling back taxes here, EVER. A fiscal sleight of hand that even a 3rd grader could see, is insulting. In closing, we don't need to aspire to be more like dystopian Northern Virginia.



I am opposed to data centers in the boulders rd property area. This would negatively i mpact residents that back to this property on watts passage.



I am against data centers in Albemarle County. This summer and last, we can see the drastic effects of climate change. High energy use fuels that. In addition, the beautiful c ountryside and wildlife habitat would be destroyed.



As a long time resident (born/raised) I am against data centers in Albemarle County for the following reasons: 1. Lose of the beautiful countryside - no more development (hou ses etc) 2. Wildlife losing their habitat - love seeing the deer, rabbits, foxes and other a nimals 3. Water - how this will affect the groundwater that residents on Watts Passage I ive off of - is there going to be enough water in 50 years 4. Road System are already 5 0+ years behind - Watts Passage doesn't need anymore traffic (cutting through) 5. Imp acted this will have on our real estate - will it lower our taxes or make us pay more - will the value of our home/land depreciate 6. Pollution - how will this have an effect on our I ivestock, trees, and us humans. 7. Noise - I already have government planes flying ove r my house day & night 8. Our privacy - will you keep those from trespassing on pr operty property Albemarle County already sh!ts on the rural residents now. Keep the d ata centers out of my back yard.

Ask a Question

Visitors 56 Contributors 12 CONTRIBUTIONS 16



Could a data center be placed in an existing unused building such as the old Kmart?



Publicly Answered

Data centers may use existing buildings. However, due to the specific design needs of a data center, existing buildings are often inadequate. Demolition and reconstruction on the same site may be an option.



Shouldn't data centers pay a tax to compensate for their extraordinary high energy consumption? The heat signature generated is also detrimental to our environment.



Publicly Answered

Data centers would help diversify the County's tax base; however, taxation issues are not evaluated during the zoning ordinance amendment process. Virginia's General Assembly limits the County's regulatory authority. The County cann ot regulate the heat signature of a data center.

Ask a Question



Mark

27 May 25

How will noise be controlled to not impact the environment and neighbors?



Publicly Answered

The County has noise regulations that apply to data centers, including limits on sound from generators and when gen erators can be run for maintenance. The County is also considering new rules to address noise further. These may in clude setback requirements, tree plantings to reduce noise, and regulations for submitting sound studies and monitoring noise after projects are completed.



Annie

01 June 25

How much water will the data centers use? Will the water come from our underground reservoirs of water? If our wells run dry from the excess water, will the County build a pipeline to run water to County residents? Where will the electricity for this project come from? How will this center affect the population of Albemarle County?



Publicly Answered

The County currently requires data centers to be located in areas served by public water and sewer, and to use a clos ed-loop or recycled water system if water cooling is proposed. No changes to this regulation are being proposed. The County does not have the authority to regulate where the electricity comes from. The State requires the electric power companies to provide power to any user. Data centers coordinate with the power suppliers to verify that the existing in frastructure is adequate and to install new infrastructure if necessary.



Brian Sosdian

07 June 25

Is it possible for Albemarle County to ensure that we will remain free of any and all data center facilities in order to pre serve the health of our land, communities and natural resources?



Publicly Answered

The Board of Supervisors has the authority to limit and/or ban data centers in Albemarle County.

Ask a Question



Dell Erwin

10 June 25

How can we keep them out of our area. I want them PREVENTED FROM BEING BUILT IN OUR COUNTY—not regul ated!



Publicly Answered

The Board of Supervisors has the authority to limit and/or ban data centers in Albemarle County.



Jenny

30 June 25

How will these data centers affect our water table for well users? And what will happen in drought years when water u se is restricted?



Publicly Answered

Data centers are required to connect to public water and are not permitted to use groundwater. The County is coordin ating with the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority and the Albemarle County Service Authority to determine what, if a ny, regulations are appropriate to provide for an adequate water supply, including during periods of drought.



Michelle de Stefano

02 July 25

Much is stated about the water usage these centers require for cooling. That means massive amounts of heat dissipat ing into the local environment. How does that square with the county's climate change initiative of cutting emissions, t he goal of which is to ultimately reduce the rise in temperature? Wouldn't a large center be completely at odds with thi s goal, a goal that taxpayers are already paying for? Where is all this heat going if not into our local environment?



Publicly Answered

As we develop data center regulations, we are considering a wide variety of information, including our Climate Action Plan (CAP). The strategies included in the CAP call for removing barriers to and creating incentives for emission reduction. The CAP strategies do not discourage specific land uses.

Ask a Question



Nancy B

27 July 25

Why did you say in the June 30 community meeting that Tier One Data Center projects guidelines were for 40,000 sq ft...and yet below, I see that's been changed to 125,000 sqft?



Publicly Answered

The County is considering the establishment of one or more overlay districts for data centers:On property zoned industrial and outside of the overlay district(s), the maximum data center size without Board of Supervisors approval is 40,000 square feet. This is the current zoning regulation. Within the overlay district, the County is considering allowing data centers of up to 125,000 square feet or 500,000 square feet. For sizes larger than this, Board of Supervisors approval is required. The proposed regulations, which address issues such as noise, generators, water use, and building design, would apply to all data centers, regardless of size.



Nancy B

27 July 25

Looking through docs n slides (very unrealistic expectations) Example time of day to perform and no weekend mainte nance... My biggest Q is What assurances have you received from Dominion Energy that they will be able to provide all the Electrical Power requirement demands of to operate these data center(s)? There is so much to unpack here lik e sites proposed; like Rivana district, airport CHO area, pantops That's my 30 min quick read coms. Looking through docs n slides (very unrealistic expectations) Example time of day to perform and no weekend maintenance... My biggest Q is What assurances have you received from Dominion Energy that they will be able to provide all the El ectrical Power requirement demands of to operate these data center(s)? There is so much to unpack here like sites pr oposed; like Rivana district, airport CHO area, pantops That's my 30 min quick read coms. What assurances have you received from Dominion Energy that they will be able to provide all the electrical power demands to operate the se data centers?



Publicly Answered

The County does not have the authority to regulate or address power consumption. County staff have contacted Dominion for information on the process used by Dominion to analyze and approve data center projects. Dominion is required by the State to provide power to anyone requesting power. Dominion has a complex and extensive review an d approval process for data centers. Currently, the process used by Dominion takes five to seven years for approval to be granted. Construction time adds additional time before any data center becomes operational.

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

Share Your Feedback on the Draft



No Graphs to show

Pro Tip:

The following types of questions are shown here as graphs.

Dropdown Type Question

Checkbox Type Question

Radio Type Question

Region Type Question

Number Type Question

Text based responses are not shown in this report.