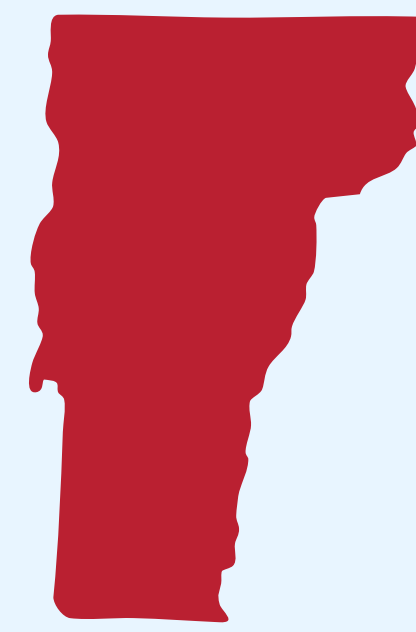


DATA CENTERS IN VERMONT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



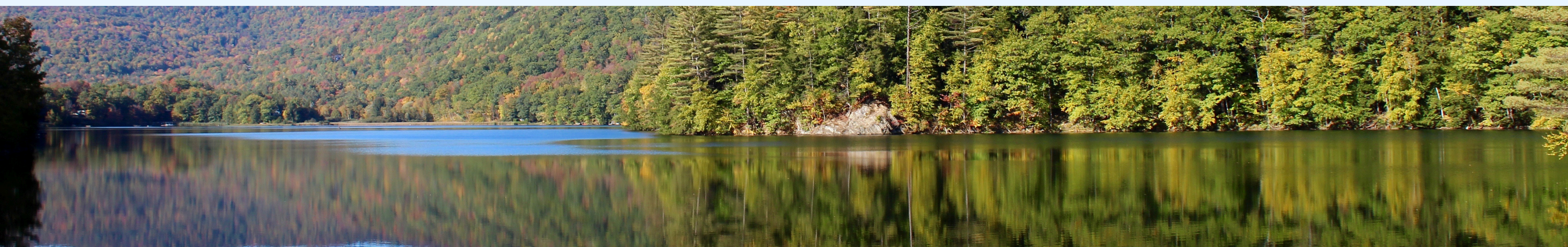
TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Vermont policymakers and pundits. As state Rep. Laura Sibilio (I) notes, “Vermont has had some smaller data centers that support local businesses, hospitals, schools, and communications systems for years. Those facilities operate in the background and help provide ‘in the cloud’ services.” New proposals threaten to curtail data center operations, jeopardizing jobs, investment, and growth.

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * Introduced in January by state Sen. Rebecca White (D), Senate Bill 205 proposed a temporary statewide moratorium halting the permitting, site preparation, and construction of new artificial intelligence (AI) data centers. Defined as facilities requiring more than 100 megawatts of new dedicated electrical load, these projects would have been prohibited from operating or beginning construction prior to July 1, 2030—a pause of four and a half years. The restriction was intended to give the Vermont Public Utility Commission time to study the industry’s impacts on electric grid stability, regional water resources, and ratepayer costs, with a required report to the General Assembly due by January 15, 2027.
- * Sponsored by Rep. Sibilio and passed by the Vermont General Assembly in May, House Bill 727 sought to establish regulatory hurdles halting the expansion of large-scale data centers (generally facilities exceeding 20 megawatts). While not a blanket moratorium, the bill enacted stringent restrictions requiring developers to comply with strict environmental reviews, ratepayer cost-protection measures, and mandatory contributions toward local energy-saving projects. Gov. Phil Scott (R) vetoed the measure, and the veto was sustained.
- * Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has been hostile toward data center projects in his rhetoric and legislative proposals. In reference to data centers and AI, he stated in March, “We cannot sit back and allow a handful of billionaire Big Tech oligarchs to make decisions that will reshape our economy, our democracy and the future of humanity.” He co-introduced the Artificial Intelligence Data Center Moratorium Act with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), which would halt the construction and expansion of large-scale AI data facilities until safety and economic restrictions are enacted.



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

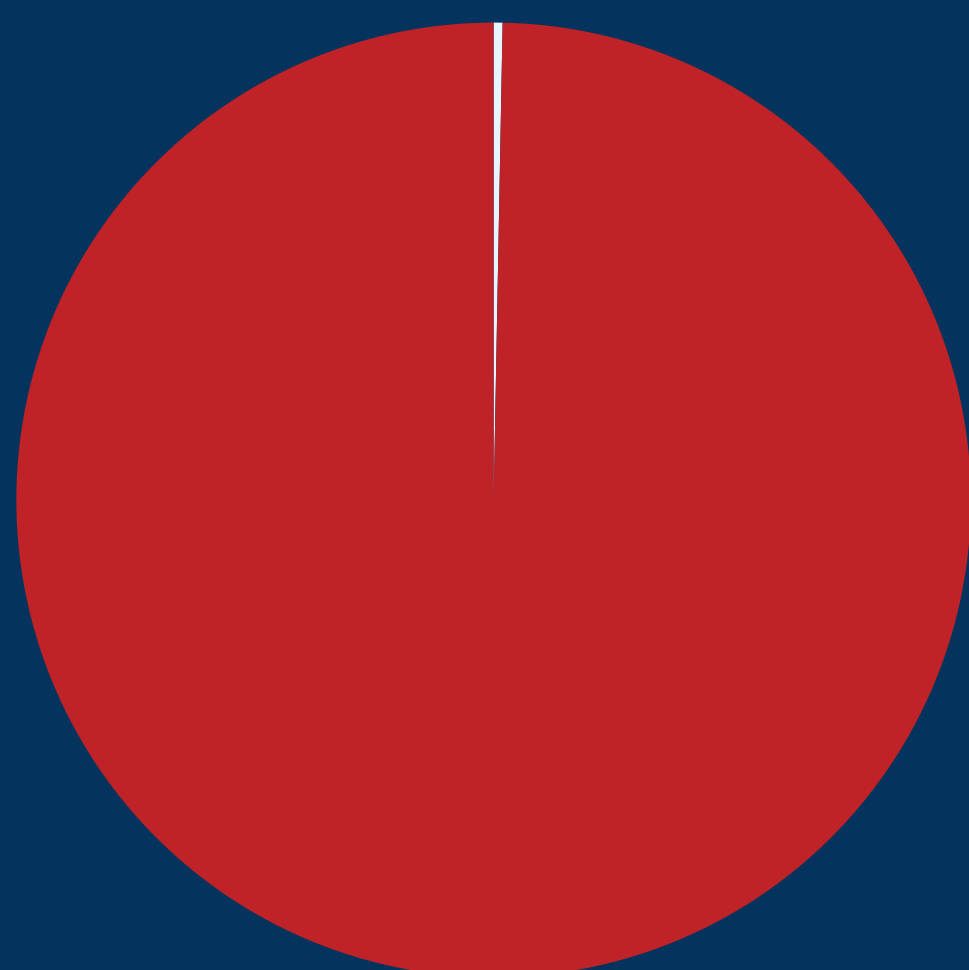
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. Sen. Sanders claims, “Data centers will have a profound impact on land and water use, and will drive up electricity costs.” The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in Vermont.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



VERMONT WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Vermont, data centers accounted for **0.3 percent** of all water consumption in 2025.

Brookings Institution data center water use estimates; Baxtel data center count; U.S. Geological Survey state-level aggregate water consumption figures.

VERMONT ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

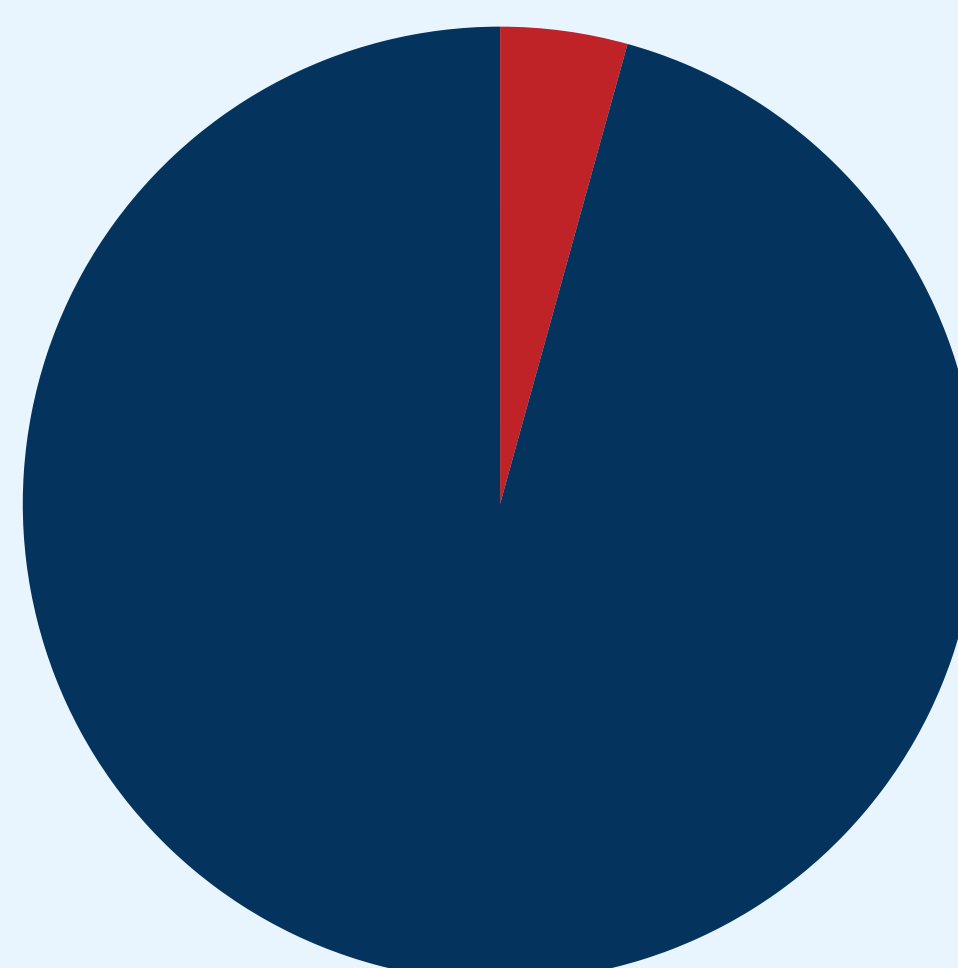
MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Vermont, data centers accounted for **4.4 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
- All Other Consumption



Electric Choice data center power consumption figures; U.S. Energy Information Administration state-level net generation figures.

To learn more about the long-term projected water and electricity demands of data centers, visit the Q&A section at protectingtaxpayers.org/datacenters

Taxpayers Protection Alliance
1101 14th St NW, Ste 500,
Washington, DC 20005
protectingtaxpayers.org

TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE