DATA CENTERS IN INDIANA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS PROTECTION ALLIANCE



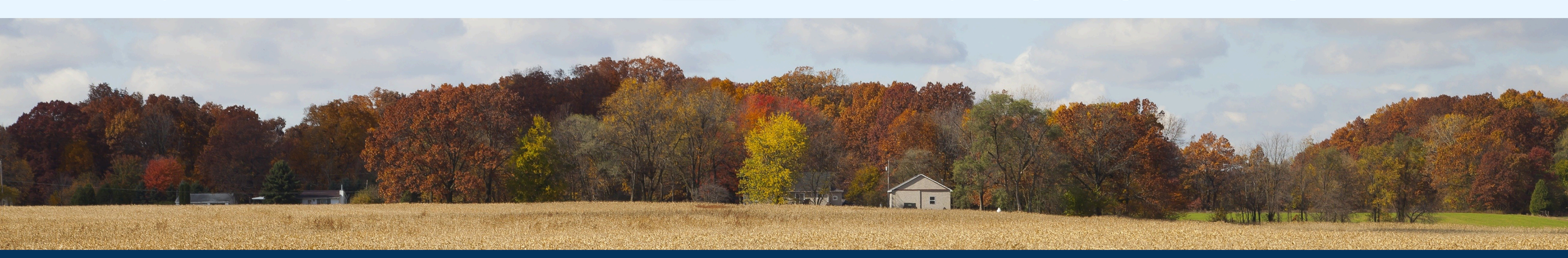
Recently, Indiana data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. A recent report by NetChoice Vice President of Public Affairs Robert Winterton notes, "Amazon has now committed roughly $26 billion to data centers in Indiana, the largest set of technology investments in the state's history...When Amazon Web Services announced its New Carlisle campus, state officials called it the largest capital investment announcement in Indiana's history, about $11 billion across roughly 800 acres. The campus has already hired about 80 percent of its workers from the surrounding community and runs training programs that prepare local residents for technical careers."

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- Passed Indianapolis Moratorium: On August 19, 2026, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Development Commission unanimously approved a moratorium on new data center development through December 31, 2027. The measure follows an August 10 City-County Council vote and allows officials to study additional zoning restrictions. Three previously approved data centers are exempt.

- Madison County Moratorium: In June, Madison County Commissioners voted unanimously for a moratorium on new data center projects. The county originally enacted a six-month pause, but the Board of Commissioners formally extended the local data center moratorium to a full 12 months, keeping it active through June 16, 2027. Monique Flores, Project Manager for the Madison County Economic Development Corporation, spoke out against the moratorium, stating, "The moratorium would diminish our efforts with companies, site selectors, and brokers who are looking for a business-friendly place to make an investment. We just want to ensure that the updated standards and ordinances address these concerns without restricting future opportunities."

- Failed Utility & Reporting Mandates: Legislative efforts to establish a state-level working group at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to track electricity usage, impose ratepayer shields (SB 257), and require mandatory local site assessments (SB 79) stalled without passing during the 2026 legislative session.



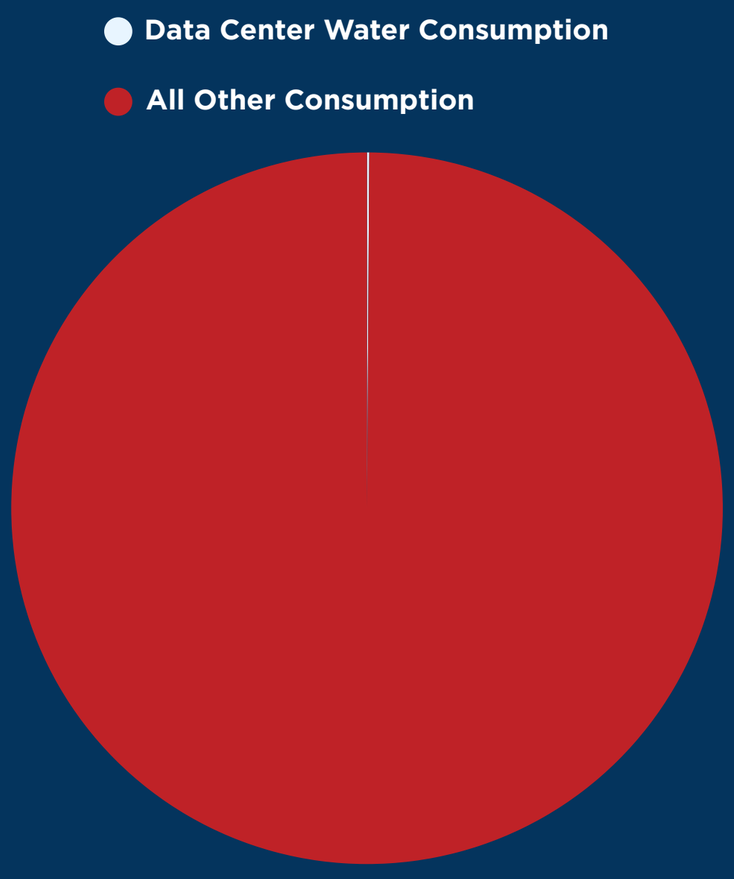
DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. The Citizens Action Coalition claims, "The AI data centers pushed by tech giants need unprecedented amounts of energy...AI data centers, and the coal- and gas-fired plants that power them, [also] need substantial amounts of water." The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in Indiana.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



INDIANA WATER USAGE, 2025



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Indiana, data centers accounted for **0.1 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.

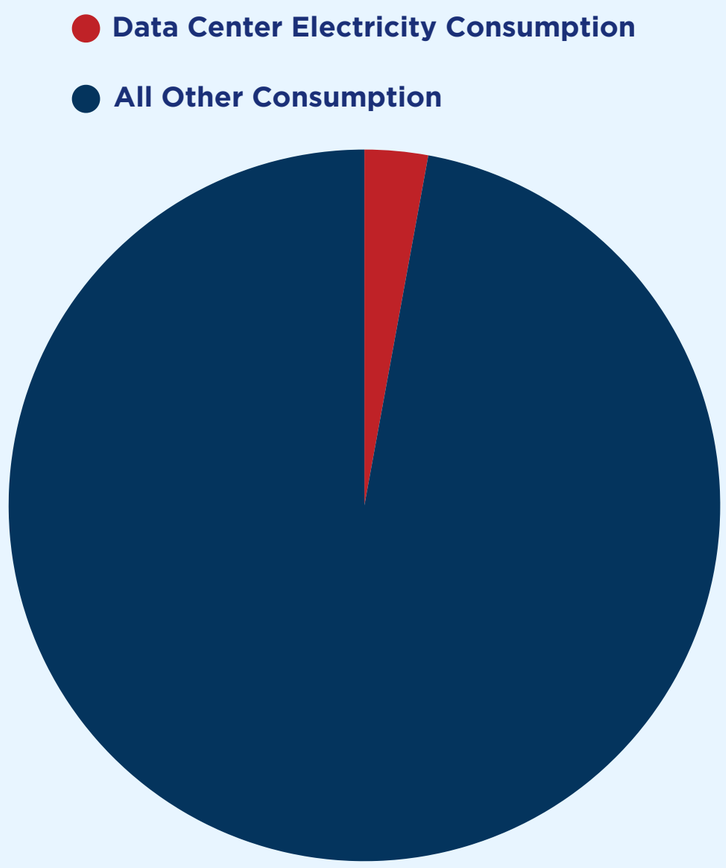
INDIANA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Indiana, data centers accounted for **2.9 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.



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

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