

Community Data Center Accord

This Accord is a shared, community-first framework to guide how data centers are proposed, evaluated, and developed. It brings together local governments, utilities, developers, and residents with a simple idea: growth should work **with** communities, not around them.

We keep this practical, collaborative, and adaptable—so every community, planning commission or county, can shape it to fit local priorities while staying grounded in common values.

1. Protect Critical Resources

We look after what matters most—our water, land, and ecosystems. Projects should actively avoid strain on natural systems and support long-term environmental health.

2. Resource Efficiency

Efficiency is the baseline. From cooling systems to building design, we encourage smart technologies that reduce water and energy use without sacrificing performance.

3. Reliability and Resilience

Infrastructure should hold up—no matter the conditions. Facilities must be designed to perform reliably through local weather, demand shifts, and long-term growth.

4. Infrastructure Responsibility

Growth shouldn't burden existing systems. New developments help fund and support the infrastructure upgrades they depend on, including both physical and cyber security.

5. Clean and Reliable Energy

Energy should be both dependable and forward-looking. We promote access to stable power sources while accelerating the move toward lower-carbon solutions.

6. Community Benefit First

Communities should clearly gain from development. That includes tax base, public investment, and meaningful partnerships.

7. Workforce and Education Investment

We build local opportunity, not just facilities. That means training, partnerships with schools, and career pathways that last beyond construction.

8. Strategic and Smart Siting

Where we build matters. Priority goes to sites with existing infrastructure, redevelopment opportunities, or locations that fit cleanly into surrounding land use.

9. Climate-Responsive Design

Design choices should reflect local conditions. From cooling methods to materials, facilities should adapt to regional climate to improve efficiency and durability.

10. Accountability and Transparency

Commitments should be easy to track and verify. Incentives and outcomes—like jobs, energy use, or investment—should be clearly reported and measurable over time.

11. Ongoing Oversight

This isn't a one-and-done agreement. Independent monitoring and regular reporting help ensure facilities continue to meet expectations as conditions change.

12. Net Positive, Long-Term Impact

At the end of the day—and even at the end of a facility's life—communities should be better off. Planning ahead for reuse or redevelopment is part of responsible growth.

This Accord is meant to evolve with its community. By working together early and often, stakeholders can ensure data center development delivers reliable infrastructure, economic value, and lasting community benefit—without compromising the resources and character that make each place unique.