



COMING  
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COMMUNITY

## What you need to know about AI data centers



### Water

AI data centers consume **1-10 million gallons of water per day**. Some studies estimate AI data centers will consume over 1.7 trillion gallons of water per day worldwide by 2027. Neighbors to a Meta AI data center in Georgia are claiming they “**can’t drink the water**” due to contamination, and they’re not alone; Amazon and others are being linked to an **influx of rare cancers**.



### Energy

Hyperscale data centers use 200MW to 1.4GW per day. DTE and Consumers Energy want to provide 12.8 gigawatts of power to AI data centers—the equivalent of adding **seven major cities to Michigan’s energy grid**. This load will require many new **gas turbine and nuclear power plants**, as well as battery energy storage systems (BESS), which are notorious fire hazards. This kind of strain and additional load on the grid has been known to cause **rate spikes, distortions, and intermittent outages** for residents and businesses.



### Pollution & waste

AI data centers:

- discharge wastewater into local streams
- emit electromagnetic frequencies (EMF)
- pollute the air with backup gas turbine generators
- cause light pollution which disrupts residents
- wildlife and the migratory patterns of birds
- electronic equipment must be replaced every 2-5 years, creating a steady supply of toxic waste



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## AI vs regular data centers

AI, or “hyperscale,” data centers are different from the standard data warehouses which store cloud servers and power the internet. AI data centers **process vastly more data** by using Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) instead of Central Processing Units (CPUs); these require **significantly more cooling (i.e. water) and more energy** than CPU warehouses.

## Problems with AI

AI is being used to **replace human jobs, to automate government surveillance and warfare, and to run scambots which prey on the young and the elderly.** Furthermore, use AI tools like ChatGPT is being linked to **cognitive decline, psychosis, and even teen suicides.** AI tools are not improving quality of life for humans; they’re actually hurting us.

## The myth of the “closed loop” system

Some AI developers claim their systems are “closed loop” or “air chilled” and therefore require less water. While these systems do use less water on the site itself, they also **consume 40% more energy** and they still **produce toxic wastewater.** Power plants require a lot of fresh water, so the increased energy usage of these allegedly low-water systems simply **shifts the high water usage onto the energy producer.**

## What can local residents do?

- ☐ Express your concerns to local township and county officials.
- ☐ Examine **local zoning** What can be done to discourage hyperscale data center development?
- ☐ Tell your state legislators to **END all state subsidies and tax breaks for data centers** and strengthen local zoning.
- ☐ Discourage use of AI tools in your household; tell your friends.
- ☐ **Connect & organize with neighbors.**



For source links & more information, visit **[edraofmi.org/ai-data-centers](https://edraofmi.org/ai-data-centers)**

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