

DATA CENTERS IN VANCE COUNTY

WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW AND WHAT CAN WE DO?

DATA CENTERS & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

AI refers to computer systems that can perform complex tasks normally done by humans. The boom in huge data centers right now is due to big tech companies investing in AI, rather than regular internet use.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **Data centers employ very few people** in the long term. AI can even take jobs away.
- Data centers' back-up generators release **chemicals** into the air **that can harm heart & lung health**.
- **Data centers are loud**- 55-85 decibels. Can be as loud as a vacuum cleaner & run 24/7.
- **High utility bills**- A large data center can use more electricity and water than all of Person County combined. AI data centers are a reason electric bills are rising 2x faster than inflation nationwide.



WATER CONCERNS

- Data centers can use **millions of gallons** of water each day for cooling, often from public water supplies.
- Data centers often do not have to disclose the amount used & receive discounted rates.
- A "closed loop" cooling system uses less water, **but the system uses chemicals** to improve flow and prevent corrosion. The water is flushed out periodically. Such systems need more power to run.
- **Power generation requires large volumes of water, too.**

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