Data Center Factsheet

What Are Data Centers?



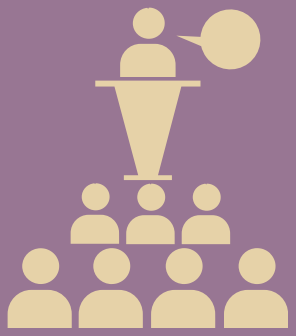
- Data centers are large facilities that house computer servers and the equipment needed to keep them running reliably
- Because these servers generate significant heat, data centers need cooling systems—and some of those systems use water
- Water use is an important issue to understand in Indiana since our communities rely on groundwater, rivers, lakes, and municipal water systems for drinking water, agriculture, etc.
- The amount of water a data center uses can vary widely depending on its size and cooling technology
- This factsheet provides Indiana residents with the information and tools they need to ask those questions and participate in decisions about data-center development



Questions to Ask



- Data Center companies and the municipalities approving their permits should be able to answer your questions. Here are some to consider asking your local decision-makers:
  - Water:
    - How much water will the center use?
    - What practical steps are the developers making to minimize water consumption?
    - Will the water use be measured and reported publicly?
    - How will wastewater and cooling systems be managed?
  - Conservation:
    - Are there any public lands or protected ecosystems nearby? If so, how will they be impacted?
  - Public participation: Do residents have a meaningful opportunity to review the information and comment before decisions are made?



Advocate to Your Elected Officials

- You do not need to be an expert in water policy to make your voice heard!



- Reach out to your local City Council Leadership and/or state legislators, asking them to support Data Center regulations
    - Ask questions like:
        - Will the city council require the developer to provide public documentation of projected water demand before approving the development?
- Attend public meetings
- Bring your questions and ask where supporting documents can be reviewed.



- Written comments matter, but showing up at public meetings can also be valuable. Check your city or town's website for:
    - City council meetings
    - Planning commission meetings
    - Zoning hearings

What Does Save the Dunes Do?

- For over 70 years, Save the Dunes has been a leading force in protecting the unique natural heritage of Northwest Indiana
- As an official partner of Indiana Dunes National Park, we work to advance shared goals in land preservation, habitat restoration, and public access—ensuring the dunes are protected for future generations to enjoy
- Learn more about our work and all our free resources at savedunes.org/Resources

