

SourceAlternatives (to Data Center Construction) Question List

This question bank has been created to help communities come up with more and more ways to question their local officials and tech companies about the current and future effects of data centers on the local community and the region. The bank was created based on information from Media Justice's "The People Say No: Resisting Data Centers in the South" and this Data Center Watch [report](#). This Question List will be updated over time as new questions arise. Please feel free to use these questions or update them to meet your community's needs. We hope our questions help you come up with even more of your own!

If you have a question or question category that you think should be on the list, [contact us](#) and let us know! Please note that bolded questions refer to an existing document related to our specific pushback against local data center plans, so the exact wording may not apply to all data center construction situations.

Data Center construction:

1. How long will the data center take to build?
2. Will local contractors be hired to manage and complete the construction project?
3. Will local construction workers, plumbers, electricians, concrete pourers, etc. be hired to complete the construction project?
4. How will local traffic be affected by construction?
5. How will tractor trailers and heavy construction equipment and vehicles enter and leave the construction site?
6. How many of the current standing trees will remain?
7. What are the planned precautions for affecting hospital and medical center traffic?

Data Center mechanics:

1. How large will the data center be? Will it count as a hyperscale center?
2. How many gallons of water will the data center use per day? Per year?
3. How much energy will this data center use per day in wattage? Per year?
4. Who pays for this energy use? What is the plan for energy use? How will this energy use and plan affect current energy use in the city?
5. How is water used in the center?
6. What happens with waste water from the center?
7. What will be emitted into the air from the data center? Will these emissions increase the humidity in the area?
8. What happens to data center water use when the region experiences drought?
9. Is there data about outside temperatures rising near data centers?
10. What will the noise emissions be? What is the consistency of these emissions?
11. Can the center use no water?
12. Recycled water and renewable energies are already seen as false solutions for data centers' use of water. Why?

Data Center sale agreement:

1. What company/companies will own and/or use this data center? And this may or may not be the answer to the next question, which is:
2. Are you able to publicly say who your affiliates are, as defined in the sales agreement with our Development Authority?
3. Why is it not a practice to inform surrounding communities these centers are coming before the sale agreement – or even after the sales agreement is signed – given their purported effects? Other businesses put up “coming soon” signs, why not yours?
4. **What is the reason for the confidentiality clause at the end of the sales agreement with our Development Authority?**
5. Do you currently have a supply agreement with our local water utility authorities?
 - a. If so, can you disclose the contents of the agreement? If not, why not?
 - b. If you do not have the agreement, when do you think you will? Can you disclose what the contents will be? If not, why not?
6. Have you yet received your Army Corps of Engineer’s jurisdictional determination of wetlands boundaries and streams, or JD Letter?
7. Will you need a Wetlands Permit?
8. **Your sales agreement with our Development Authority notes, in 6.d.iv, “required mitigation credits” for “contemplated development” in proximity to wetlands. Please describe in detail the concept of a mitigation credit as it applies to a wetland.**
9. **Why does your sales agreement say (in 6.d.i) that you will submit a signed NDA with Georgia Power within 30 days of the agreement’s effective date?**
10. **Will your Proposal and Request for Service from Georgia Power be publicly accessible?**
11. **Why would collateral be required for a contract with Georgia power, as noted in 6d.iv? And, again, who is the “end data-center user of the Property” mentioned in this clause?**

Resources:

1. How will **Atlas** or the center’s operator address water shortages that will be at least partially caused by data center usage?
2. How will **Atlas** or the center’s operator address the lower property values that tend to be associated with homes’ proximity to data centers?

Data Center futures:

1. How many employees will the data center need? How many of those will be local hires?
2. How long will these data centers be needed vis-a-vis the evolution of AI?
3. In other words, if the plan is for current tech to become obsolete fairly quickly, how long will these data centers actually be in use?
4. What happens when these centers are no longer needed or in use?

5. How will the land have been affected by their presence?
6. What and where are the plans for decommissioning this data center?

Data Center Vision:

1. Do you believe that the proliferation of AI is worth humans having less drinkable water?
2. Do you think the proliferation of AI is worth this community having less drinkable water?
3. Do you think evaporating water for machine use is preferable to having it to drink, bathe with, irrigate crops, and clean with?
4. Is AI necessary for life? Is water necessary for life? Do you think it's worth it to trade something unnecessary for life with something that is necessary for life?
5. Would you donate your household water to AI proliferation? Do you think other people should be willing to? Explain.