

From: [K P](#)
To: [planadmin](#)
Subject: Data Center at Midtown
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Hello!

For the below reasons listed by the NAACP, Milwaukee should reject all projects involved with data centers. As a Milwaukee resident, this is the last thing we want here. Thank you!

Kendall Holewinski

“ Air Quality

Data centers increase air pollution because the processes use some level of fossil fuel generation, that leads to greenhouse gas emissions in the air. Since 2023, some communities have seen a 48% increase in greenhouse gas emissions because of data centers. These emissions cause air pollution because they add more toxins into the air. Air pollution has a long-lasting impact on human health, contributing to chronic asthma and other respiratory issues, in some cases, air pollution can be fatal. Additionally, some companies, who previously stated they would get rid of their coal-fired power plants, have gone back on their promises to get more AI data centers online. Coal-fired power plants have been known to xxx. Moreover, many AI data centers are using gas turbines and back-up diesel generators because traditional energy grids cannot power their operations, leading to even more pollution in communities.

Water Quality

When data centers use water, it must be removed from local water cycles. What this means is that it can often no longer be suitable to drink or use for everyday needs as well as agricultural uses. Moreover, recently news articles exposed tech companies for actively hiding information about water usage and what it could mean for communities. What is known is that the water cycles will ultimately use processes that have heavy metals and other contamination for billions of gallons of water to run the data center.

Water Usage

The amount of water needed to cool down a data center causes concern in all communities but can cause immediate concerns where a community may face water scarcity issues. A study by the Houston Advanced Research Center found that data centers just in Texas will use 49 billion gallons of water just in 2025. This number can increase to 399 billion gallons by 2030, just for that one state. Where water is scarce, because of the large amount of water needed, there could be massive shortages for communities for an unknown period of time.

Energy Grid and Utilities

Data centers must have energy to operate. The same way communities use a grid to use everyday appliances, turn on lights, and power their items; data centers must use a source of energy to power their data center. By 2030, data centers may consume as much as 12 percent of all U.S. electricity and could be largely responsible for quintupling the annual growth in electricity demand.

Communities do not have infinite access to energy and the more energy used, the more people have to pay to continue to power everything in the area. This is why utility bills are often more expensive when there is extreme weather, particularly heatwaves. Data centers use those same grids. Residents also pay the cost to subsidize a data center update for the grid infrastructure. Some reports estimate electricity bills can double by 2039 if data centers continue to show up in communities at this rate“