



ICCT Policy Statement on Data Center Development

September 28, 2026

[Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle](#) (ICCT) supports a moratorium on new data center applications, approvals, and permits that would allow enough time to develop consistent standards for responsible data center development, including updates to zoning, permitting, environmental, utility, and public-participation regulations, as well as plans for implementation and enforcement. Hyperscale data centers are of particular concern and should be defined broadly enough to cover multi-building campuses, phased developments, large backup-generation systems, and projects designed to expand after initial approval.

The purpose is not to prohibit all data centers permanently. It is to ensure that there are enforceable safeguards in place before new data centers are built with potentially long-term, substantial impacts on communities and our shared sacred home. As Desmond Tutu said, “Our destiny must be as guardians of the earth, not users and abusers of the only home we have. We all have a responsibility to learn how to live and develop sustainably in a world of finite resources.” (1)

ICCT supports the recent repeal of the state’s sales and use tax exemption on electricity purchases by data centers. We do not support other tax breaks for data centers, including exemptions for qualifying equipment and other capital investments. We support a special rate category for data centers connected to the grid that covers their demand for power and protects North Carolinians from utility bill increases. In addition, we support the development of specific, enforceable regulations in these areas:

1. Transparency throughout the process including clear records of ownership and who bears the responsibility and cost when problems arise, disclosure of all tax abatements, rate concessions, subsidies, and other public incentives being considered, and the prohibition of nondisclosure agreements
2. Opportunities for resident involvement prior to permitting data centers to determine a) if the community wants a data center, b) the short and long-term needs of the community, and c) measurable community benefits such as profit-sharing with host communities
3. Requirement for clean energy as the primary source of electricity and prohibiting use of “temporary” polluting generators (e.g., diesel) with no firm end-date
4. Mandatory formal cost-benefit analysis that includes financial, environmental, social, and quality of life factors as well as projected permanent jobs, wages, tax revenues, and end-of-life costs before any other approvals go through
5. Closing loopholes and providing adequate tools for enforcement of all zoning and permitting regulations
6. Limits on electrical and water usage; guaranteeing that the data center’s construction and operation will not lead to utility bill increases or to power or water shortages for the surrounding communities
7. Enforceable limits and controls for air emissions, wastewater discharge, e-waste, noise, vibration, and nighttime lighting, with continual monitoring and public reporting
8. Protections for natural resources including wetlands, streams, forests, and animal habitats
9. Requiring all necessary approvals before any site work begins

(1) <https://www.loe.org/shows/segments.html?programID=22-P13-00001&segmentID=6>