

Data Center Benefits and disadvantaged

(A Bipartisan Issue)

Key Benefits:

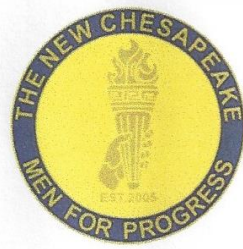
Data Centers are critical to modern digital infrastructure, offering major economic and technological benefits, but they also impose significant environmental and community costs. In terms of economic growth and job creation, data centers are major economic catalyst, especially in rural and underserved areas. They generate substantial property and sales tax revenue, which can fund local services. Construction and operations create thousands of jobs, from electricians and engineers to security and maintenance staff, and can generate six indirect jobs for every direct job.

To build-out data centers often require upgrades to power grids, water systems, and broadband network, benefiting surrounding communities. They also provide centralized, scalable infrastructure for cloud computing, AI, and enterprise IT., enabling high availability and performance through redundancy and load balancing. Data Centers power innovations in AI, e-commerce, and global communications, positioning regions as hubs for tech and research.

Key Disadvantages:

Data Centers are massive energy users, with electricity demand projected to double by 2030. This can strain local power grids, raise electricity rates, and contribute to carbon emissions if power by fossil fuel. The cooling systems in data centers require large volumes of water, which can be a concern in drought-prone or water-stressed regions. The carbon footprint of data center is significant, and their rapid expansion, especially of “hyper scale” facilities, has raised concern about sustainability and climate change. Many new data centers are in disadvantaged communities, raising concerns about environmental justice, unequal benefits, and overburdening local resources. Residents often push back over rising utility costs, water use, and perceived lack of meaningful local job creation, despite corporate claims of economic benefits.

As we approach the Data Center consideration here in Chesapeake, understand as far as possible that they are essential for the digital economy, driving jobs, tax revenue, and infrastructure upgrades. However, their high energy and water demands, environmental impacts, and uneven distribution of benefits can create significant local cost. Policymakers and communities must balance these trade-offs through sustainable design, equitable siting, and strong regulatory oversight.



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NO DATA CENTERS DEMONSTRATION AT CITY HALL JULY 21, 2026





**NO CENTER DEMONSTRATION AT ROUTE 17 AND GEORGE WASHINGTON
HIGHWAY JULY 18 2026**

