

# DATA CENTERS

## INDUSTRY IMPACTS IN VIRGINIA

### ABOUT THE ISSUE

Virginia today holds the largest global concentration of data centers — the physical structures that store our digital footprint — anywhere in the world. This multibillion-dollar industry has grown rapidly in the past few years, requiring huge amounts of energy, land, and water to operate and resulting in widespread community impacts.

Without swift intervention from our elected officials, the continued proliferation of data centers in the Commonwealth will derail critical climate goals and efforts to improve air and water quality, advance land conservation, and protect national and state parks.



#### **Continued reliance on polluting fossils fuels**

According to PJM, nearly all projected electricity demand growth through 2045 is attributable to data centers. Dominion Energy claims it will not be able to meet this projection without keeping coal on the grid and expanding natural gas facilities.



#### **New and expanded transmission lines**

Utilities are legally obligated to serve data centers, no matter how much power is requested or where the data center is located. New and expanded transmission line rights-of-ways have cut through conserved lands, parks, and neighborhoods.



#### **Water usage and surface runoff**

A data center can consume millions of gallons of water a day depending on its cooling system. The buildings also cover large acreages with impervious surfaces, leading to increased stormwater runoff into local waterways sourced for drinking water.



#### **Direct costs to ratepayers and taxpayers**

Virginians currently subsidize the data center industry in two big ways: (1) by paying for its required transmission upgrades through their monthly electric bills, and (2) through billions in state tax exemptions.



#### **Local impacts to communities**

Many localities have and continue to approve the siting of data centers adjacent to parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, medical facilities, and nursing homes — bringing noise pollution, diesel generators, and other potential impacts with them.



# BILLS TO SUPPORT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Please join the Virginia Data Center Reform Coalition in asking legislators to advance bills that provide meaningful oversight and reform of the data center industry.

HB116 - Sullivan (D)/SB192 - Subramanyam (D), HB910 - Srinivasan (D)	Energy efficiency and usage
HB337 - Lovejoy (R), Thomas (D)/SB284 - Roem (D), HB338 - Helmer (D), Lovejoy (R), Thomas (D), HB1010 - Lovejoy (R), SB285 - Roem (D), SB288 - Roem (D), SB289 - Roem (D)	Siting assessments and requirements regarding location, water usage and management, noise, carbon emissions, etc.
HB340 - Lovejoy (R), Thomas (D), SB286 - Roem (D), SB708 - Perry (D)	Undergrounding of transmission lines
HB1288 - Webert (R), SB191 - Subramanyam (D), SB664 - Stuart (R)	Industry pays
SB667 - Stuart (R)	Permitting process

FIND MY ELECTED OFFICIALS



TAKE ACTION ON DATA CENTERS



ATTEND LOBBY DAY



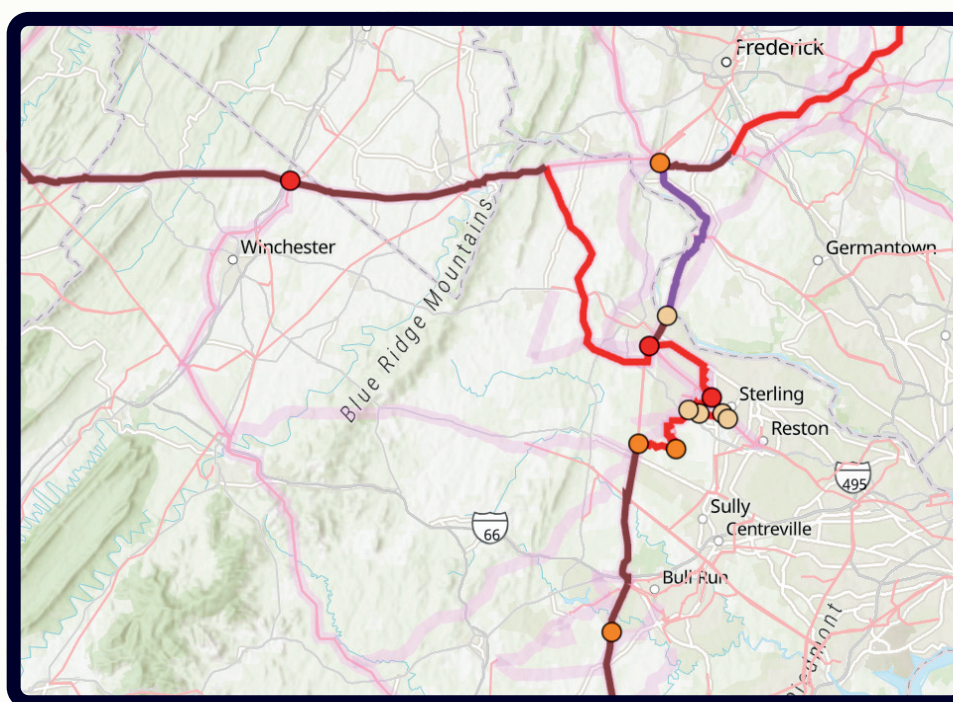
Want to speak to your delegate and senator in person? Attend Water & Conservation Lobby Day with the Virginia Conservation Network on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 30-31. PEC will be participating on January 31. Sign up for one or both days by midnight on January 24 at [vcnva.org](http://vcnva.org).

## RESOURCES TO SHARE

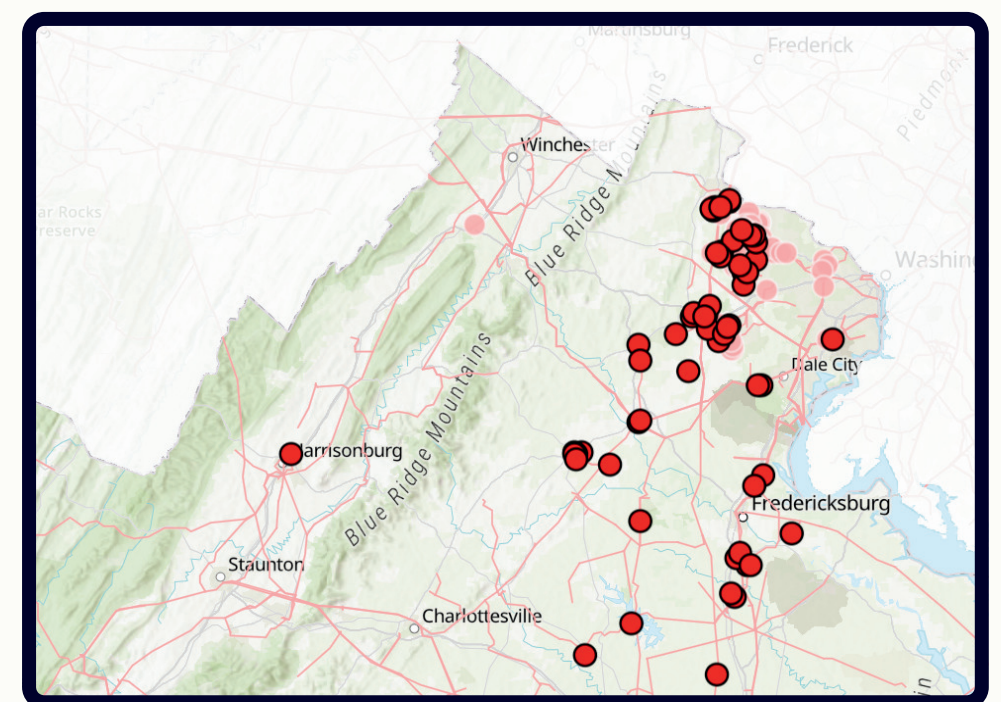
Find everything you need to get engaged at [pecva.org/datacenters](http://pecva.org/datacenters).



“Hidden Costs of the Cloud: Data Centers in Virginia” video



Transmission line proposals map



Existing and proposed data centers map