



NEW YORK DATA CENTERS: **MAKE BIG TECH PAY**

THE PROBLEM

YOUR BILLS ARE RISING & BIG TECH IS TO BLAME

Big Tech companies like **Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta, Microsoft, and OpenAI** are racing to build massive data centers across the country to power artificial intelligence (AI). These facilities are big-time electricity guzzlers, and all that power costs money at a time when families are already stretched by grocery, gas, and housing costs. Big Tech isn't paying for it – **you are**.

Average New York electric bills rose by **11.4%** in 2025, an increase of roughly **\$190** per household. ¹

Data centers have asked to plug nearly **12 gigawatts** into New York's grid, and more than **two-thirds** of those requests were filed in a **single year**. The cost of the upgrades they require lands on everyone's bill. ²

Data center growth could raise electricity bills by as much as **25%** in some regional markets. ³

THEY PROFIT. YOU PAY.

BIG TECH CASHES IN

\$11.7 million in public subsidies for every permanent job at one New York data center ⁸

YOU PAY

+\$190 more on your electric bill in 2025 ¹

BIG TECH GETS MILLIONS. YOU GET HIGHER BILLS

Taxpayers are subsidizing the data center boom, through backroom deals for subsidies, tax incentives, and special treatment that amount to **giveaways to Big Tech**.

Data centers nationwide receive industry-specific **tax breaks** that shift costs onto households and small businesses.⁴

New York reports giving up only **\$12 million a year** to its data center tax exemption – but the state graded its own estimate at the **lowest possible reliability**, meaning the real cost is likely higher.⁵

THE JOB CREATION MYTH

FEWER JOBS. RISING COSTS

"Tech companies are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in data centers across the country. But despite the record-setting price tags, the centers create few jobs."

NPR'S ALL THINGS CONSIDERED⁶

Big Tech promises economic development, but data centers create **few permanent local jobs** while raising costs for existing small businesses.

Data centers are among the least labor-intensive structures in the economy, generating roughly **one permanent job per 5,000 square feet**.⁷

One Genesee County project – **\$19.5 billion** across 2.2 million square feet, drawing enough power for half a million homes – is expected to create about **125 permanent jobs**. That is roughly **\$11.7 million in subsidies per job**, and the county's own development agency acknowledged it creates few of them.⁸

THE SECRECY

THEY'RE HIDING WHO THEY ARE

Local officials are forced to sign **non-disclosure agreements**, and companies **sue towns that say no**.^{10 11}

That \$19.5 billion project has never publicly named its tenant. New Yorkers are told only that it is a **"Fortune 50 company."** The public is being asked to back the grid for a customer it is not allowed to know.⁹

PUBLIC OPINION

NEW YORKERS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSE BIG TECH'S DEMANDS

A Siena College poll found New Yorkers back the state's pause on new large data centers by **52 to 25** – including a plurality of Republicans, and majorities both upstate and down.¹²

Nationally, **71% of Americans** oppose building an AI data center in their local area – **more than oppose a nuclear power plant** nearby (53%).¹³

Overall, **85% of Americans** want lawmakers to pass a law that forces Big Tech, not taxpayers, to pay for the true cost of data centers.¹⁴

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

- **Big Tech creates these costs, so Big Tech should pay them.** Not the family down the road, and not the small business trying to keep the lights on.
- Stop the false choice between community investment and giving trillion-dollar companies **blank checks**. Force tech giants to pay for their data centers, instead of hardworking New Yorkers.
- Pass **real state-level ratepayer protections** into law and end the billions in annual state and local tax breaks for data center construction. That's money that should fund schools, healthcare, and strategic, sustainable long-term economic development.
- New York has paused permits for large data centers while it writes the rules. But the pause only reaches projects at **50 megawatts or more** – more than double the threshold the Legislature passed – and only where a state environmental permit is needed. Projects going through **local zoning alone are untouched**, and the tax exemption is still law. ¹⁵
- **Repeal the sales tax exemption** for massive data centers, which the Governor has said she will pursue, and make the cost rules **binding before the pause lifts** – so the companies, not households, pay for the grid upgrades they require. ¹⁵

MAKE BIG TECH PAY!

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