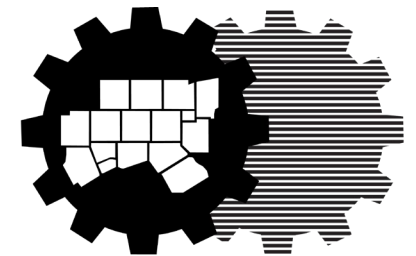


Data Centers in Texas - Energy Resources Impacts and Policy Updates

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

August 28, 2026



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

Welcome & Housekeeping



Please keep your microphone on mute until the Question-and-Answer session at the end of both presentations.



This webinar is being recorded. The presentation slides and recording will be posted under the **Events Calendar** icon on the Regional Energy Management Program webpage linked here:

<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency>



Follow-up email to come with links to the webinar materials. If you did not RSVP in advance but would like to receive these materials, please email Energy@nctcog.org.

Webinar Sponsor



NCTCOG receives funding through the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to work on energy management and efficiency projects within the region.

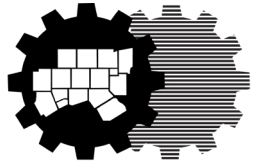
As part of this work, we provide workshops, webinars, and technical assistance on a variety of energy management, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy topics.

What We Do

How do we support energy management efforts for entities across the region or state?

NCTCOG's Regional Energy Management Program is an ongoing effort to:

- Identify energy management needs
- Increase awareness on the local government energy reporting requirements
- Provide resources to assist local governments in energy and water management and conservation efforts



North Central Texas
Council of Governments



SECO partners with local governments, public K-12 schools, public institutions of higher education and state agencies, across Texas to reduce utility costs and maximize energy efficiencies.



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- **Presentation:** Aparajita Datta, Ph.D.; University of Houston
- Q/A with Aparajita Datta, Ph.D.
- **Presentation:** Jeff Newpher, CPC; City of Granbury
- Q/A with Jeff Newpher, CPC
- Closing Remarks



Aparajita Datta, Ph.D.

Energy Policy Associate, University of Houston



Data Centers in Texas

Energy Resource Impacts and Policy Updates

Aparajita Datta

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University of Houston

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North Central Texas Council of Governments | August 28, 2026



PART ONE

Growing Data Centers, Electricity Supply and Demand, and the Texas Grid

Public Opinion in Texas

UT / Texas Politics Project

57% oppose • 30% support

construction of a data center in their community (August 2026, n=1,200 registered voters)

- Statistically unchanged from June (56% opposed, 29% support) — two consecutive surveys
- Rural and suburban Texans: about 60% opposed. Urban: less lopsided, still net negative
- Republicans split 45% support to 43% oppose; Democrats 75% opposed
- 55% say nearby data centers have a negative impact on quality of life; 22% positive

UH Hobby School — SPACE City Panel

63% oppose proximal projects

a data center within one mile of their home — while 85% use AI (Greater Houston, May 2026)

- Among opponents, 80% cite electricity demand as their main concern
- Water ranked third — a long-term policy issue rather than a present crisis
- 57.6% hold Texas regulators and lawmakers responsible for water supply challenges; 31.5% blame technology companies
- 58.5% expect AI to have negative effects over the next five years; 19.2% positive

Opposition is conditional - 32% of Houston-area opponents would support a project powered by renewables instead of fossil fuels. More than 75%, across party lines, say data centers and technology companies — not residents through higher rates — should bear the cost of infrastructure upgrades.

Scale of the Opportunity

400+

statewide facilities

#2

data center market in the U.S. — Dallas

~8 GW

current electricity demand

~30%

below the national average cost of
electricity

~34%

below the national average cost of water

3%

of statewide water use by 2030

Location determines the economics, feasibility, and lifecycle impacts of a facility — and the larger socioeconomic effects for the state

What 8 GW Actually Means

9%

of the state's 87 GW
peak demand

12–18%

of average demand,
which runs 45–65 GW

1.2 GW

a single campus at Abilene
Stargate scale — over 1% of
ERCOT summer peak at one
interconnection point

One customer is now the size of a city, at a single point of interconnection, on a timeline far shorter than the infrastructure built to serve it

Speed and Scale

Past industrial load

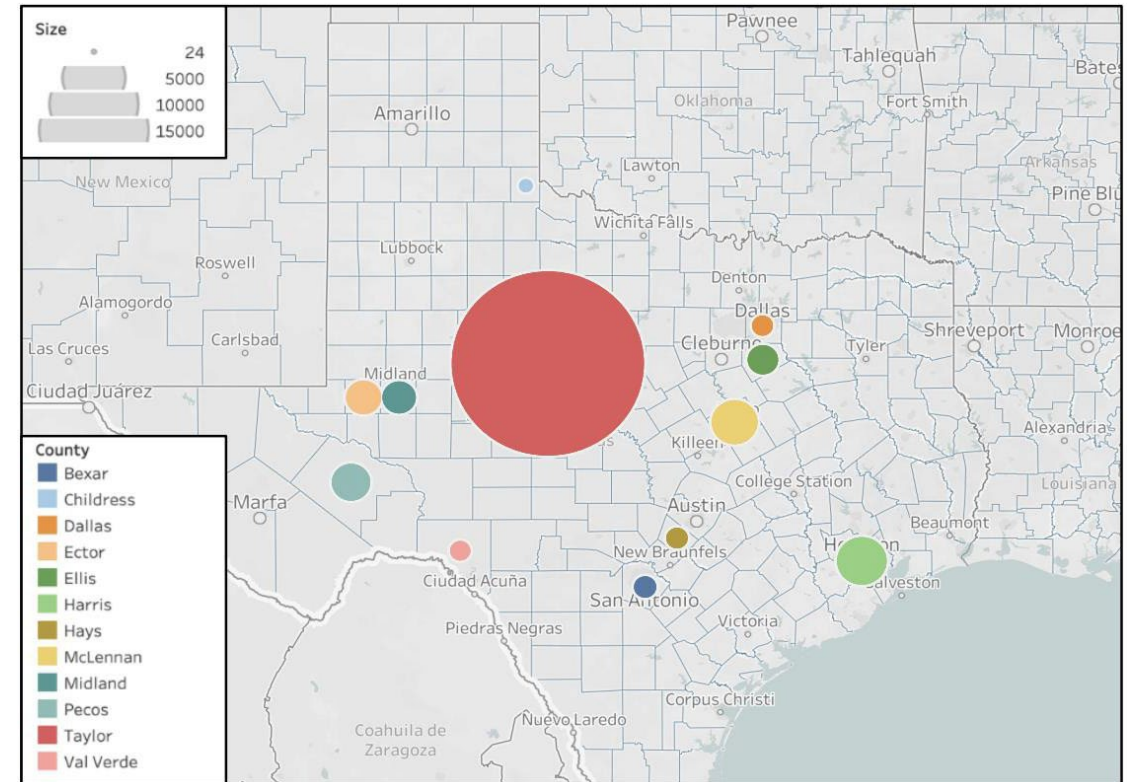
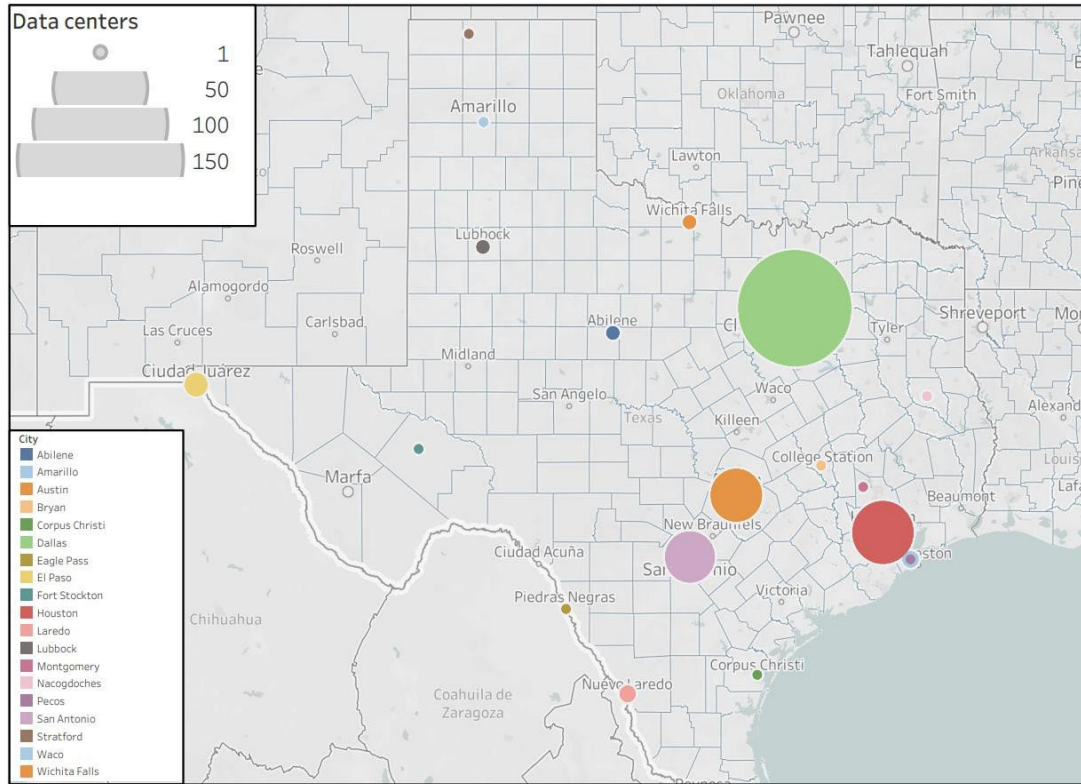
- Entered through longer planning, permitting, and construction cycles
- Incremental and geographically dispersed
- Often treated as flexible demand that could shift with grid conditions

Data center load

- Arrives in clusters, requesting large amounts of firm power
- Moves on timelines significantly faster than industrial projects with similar electricity needs
- Once at final investment decision, deployment outruns the time to build generation, transmission, gas delivery, and water infrastructure

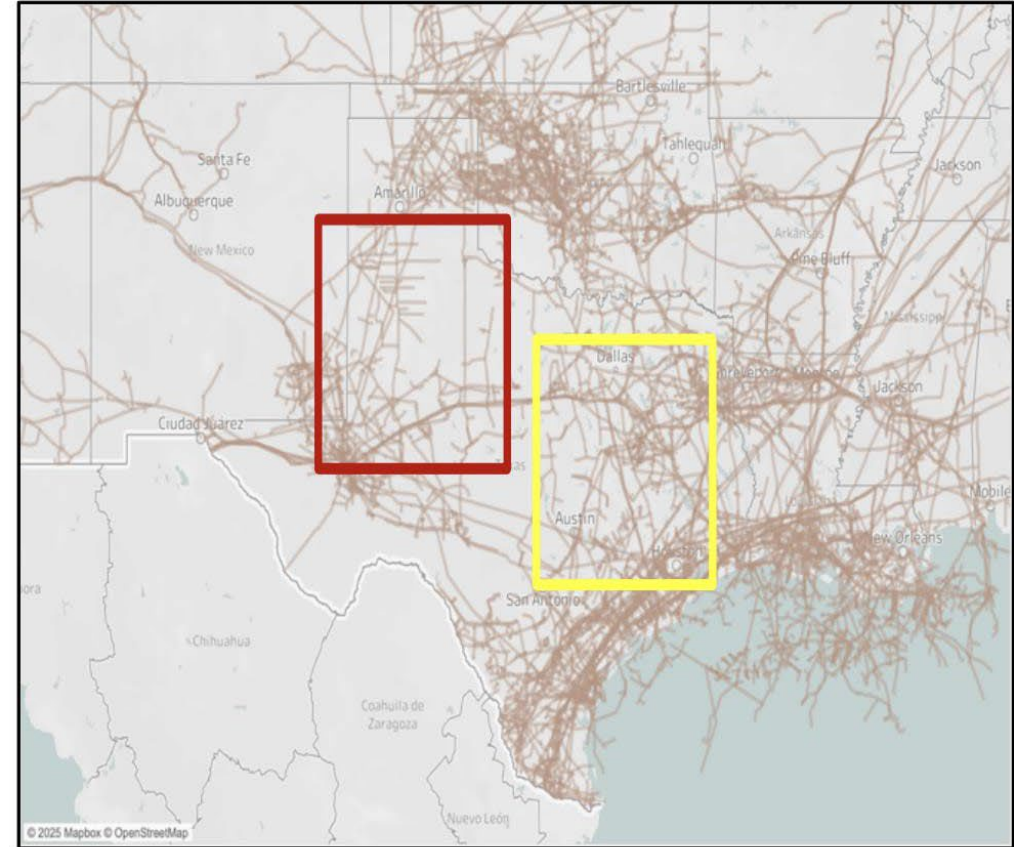
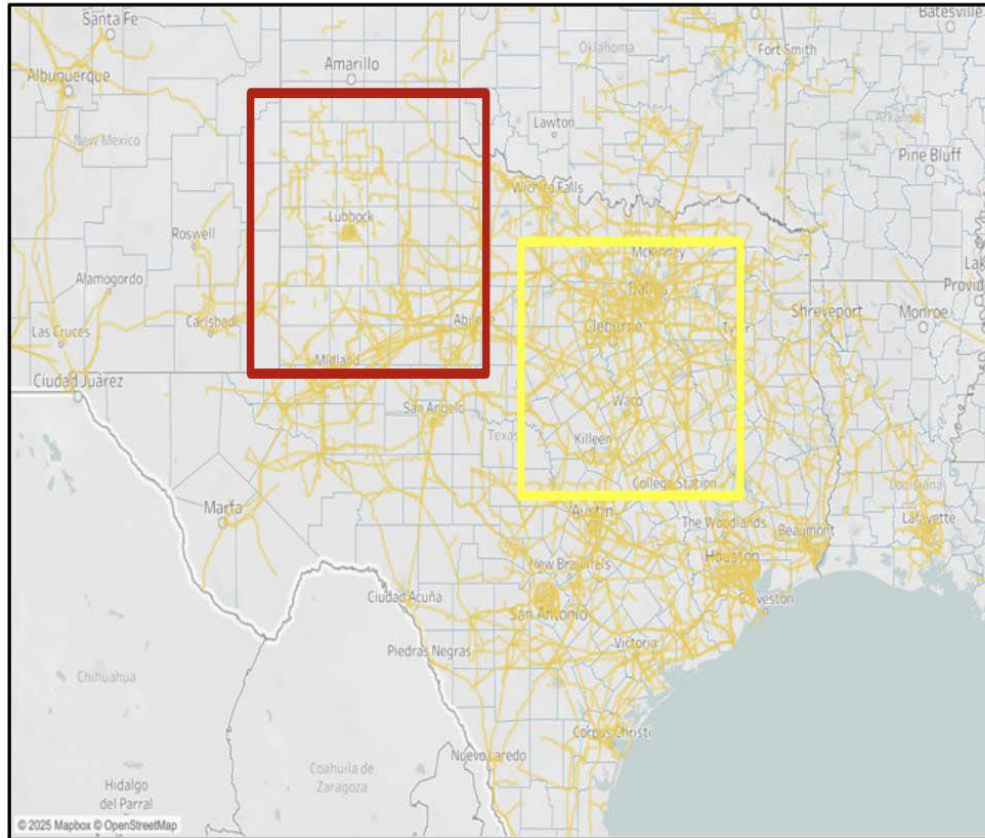
**The challenge is cumulative:
projects are not arriving in a way
that lets the system absorb one
major load before planning for the
next**

Why Location Matters?



Operating (left) and planned (right) data centers in Texas as of Summer 2025. Size of the marker on the left indicates number of facilities and on the right indicates cumulative electricity demand in MW.

Why Location Matters?



Pipelines (left) and electricity transmission lines (right) in Texas as of Summer 2025. Yellow and red contours represent current and anticipated areas of significant data center development.

Where is the Growth Located?

West, Far West, and North zones

- Half of all large-load interconnection growth
- Not previously projected for major population, GDP, or water demand growth — state planning assumptions do not contemplate them
- Least served by transmission and natural gas pipeline capacity
- Result: developers turn to on-site co-location, which shifts the planning problem rather than solving it

Dallas and Houston metros

- Lack the generation and transmission headroom to absorb their own projected data center and EV growth
- Already the densest load centers in ERCOT
- Served predominantly by natural gas generation — which carries the largest water footprint per MWh
- North Texas sits on both sides of this line: a mature metro market adjacent to the constrained rural zones absorbing new build

The geographic mismatch is the core infrastructure problem: demand is materializing where the network is least prepared for it

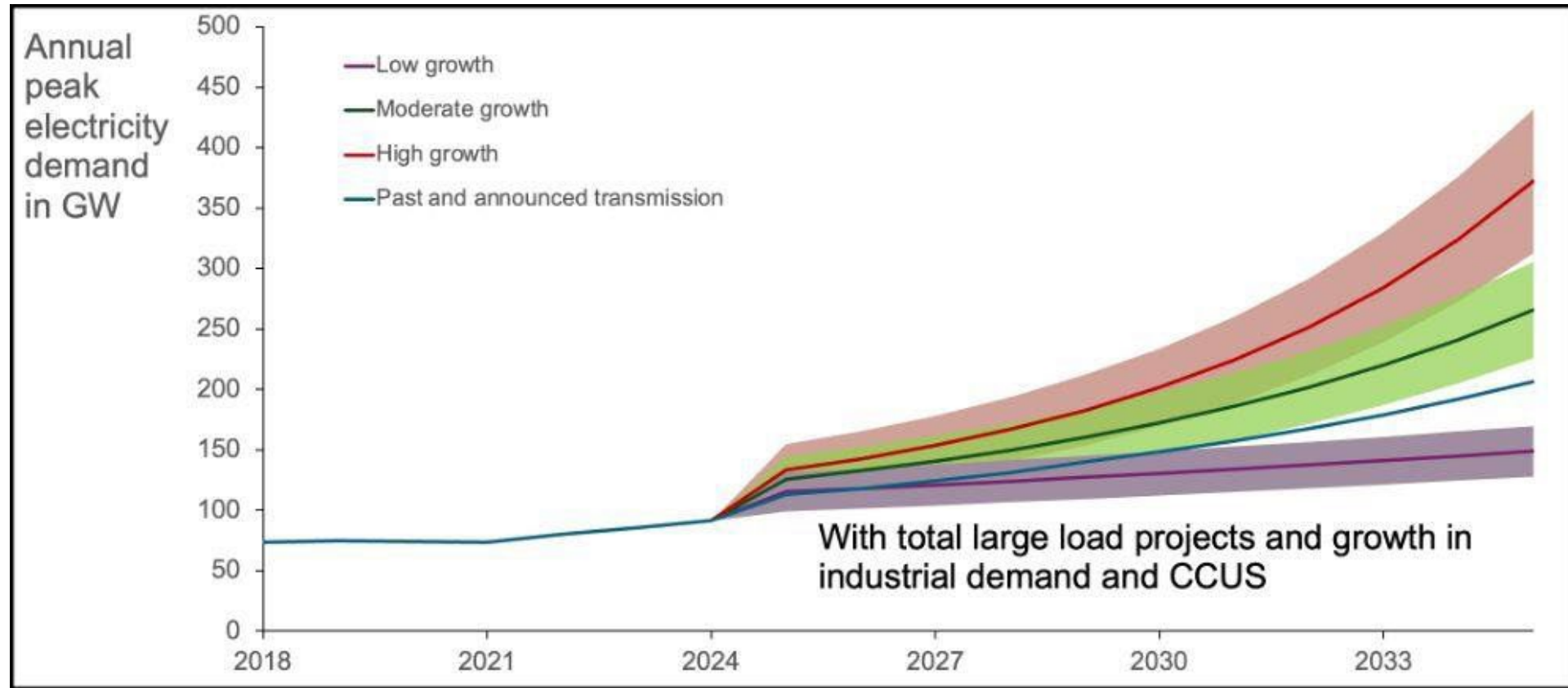
Four Modeled Scenarios to 2035

Texas consumed roughly 475 TWh in 2022. Where that goes depends entirely on which projects move forward.

Scenario	What it counts	2035 consumption	Change vs. 2022
Baseline	Historical trend only	580–600 TWh	+25%
Approved to energize	Projects ERCOT has approved	670–1,030 TWh	+40–115%
Total interconnections	Approved, under review, and unstudied	830–1,900 TWh	+75–300%
New industrial growth + CCUS	Adds industrial growth and carbon capture load	830–2,180 TWh	+80–360%

The most likely outcome is at least a doubling of statewide consumption

Annual Peak Electricity Demand to 2035



Generation options, emissions control technologies, rate of electrification, population growth, economic growth, and the rate at which data centers grow will determine outcomes: Modeling assumptions matter

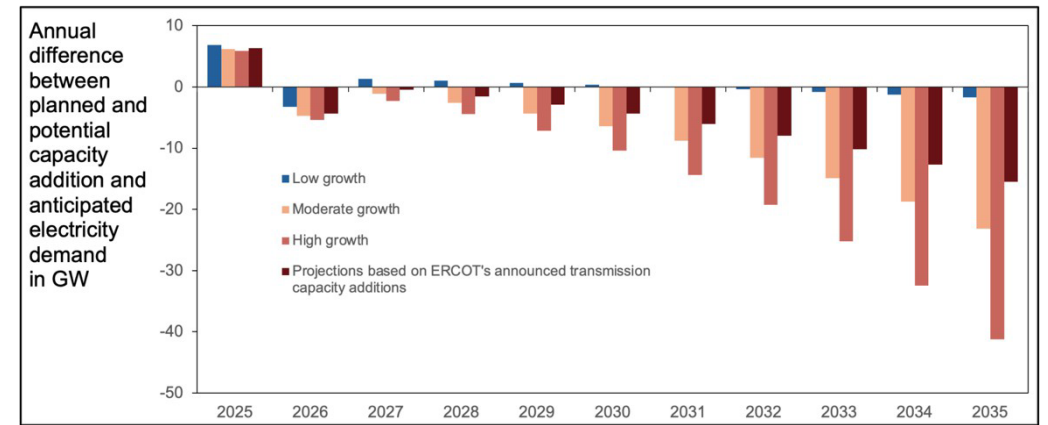
The Anticipated Electricity Deficit

17–40 GW

annual capacity shortfall by 2035
without significant new generation
and transmission — most likely 27 GW

2031

the year Texas runs an electricity
deficit under every scenario we
modeled, absent new capacity



The queue is not the constraint

- Approved-to-energize load grows from ~2,500 MW to ~5,500 MW by 2028
- Total interconnection requests grow from ~2,500 MW to over 56,000 MW over the same period
- **Batch Zero improves how projects enter the system; it does not create generation, wires, pipelines, or water infrastructure**
- Any new generation faces its own constraints: interconnection rights, permitting, transformer and turbine shortages, labor
- Gas turbines ordered now are not delivered before 2029

Data Center Typologies

Data Center Type → Feature ↓	Hyperscale	Co-located	Enterprise	Edge	High-Performance Computing
Typical Customer	Large Companies	Multiple customers sharing the facility	Single consumer for internal business use	Mobile, Media and Entertainment, IoT, Streaming and Gaming	Research organizations, universities, & businesses
Load Profile Consistency	High, typically operate at near full capacity continuously, 24X7	Variable load patterns	Moderate, with higher load through business hours	Predicated upon local demand	Sharp peaks, computation-intensive loads
Power Demand	Very High 20 - 100+ MW	High 1 - 20 MW	Medium 500 kW - 5 MW	Low 100 kW - 1 MW	Medium-High 5- 50+ MW
Load Shifting Flexibility	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Variable
Cooling Needs	Constant	Moderate	Moderate	Variable	High

Demand flexibility determines grid burden

- A single large hyperscale facility can consume the energy of about 80,000 U.S. households annually
- Most data centers without dedicated generation behave as firm load — unlike earlier large industrial interconnections, which could be treated as flexible demand



PART TWO

The Energy Water Nexus



Energy and Water are Connected Policy Challenges

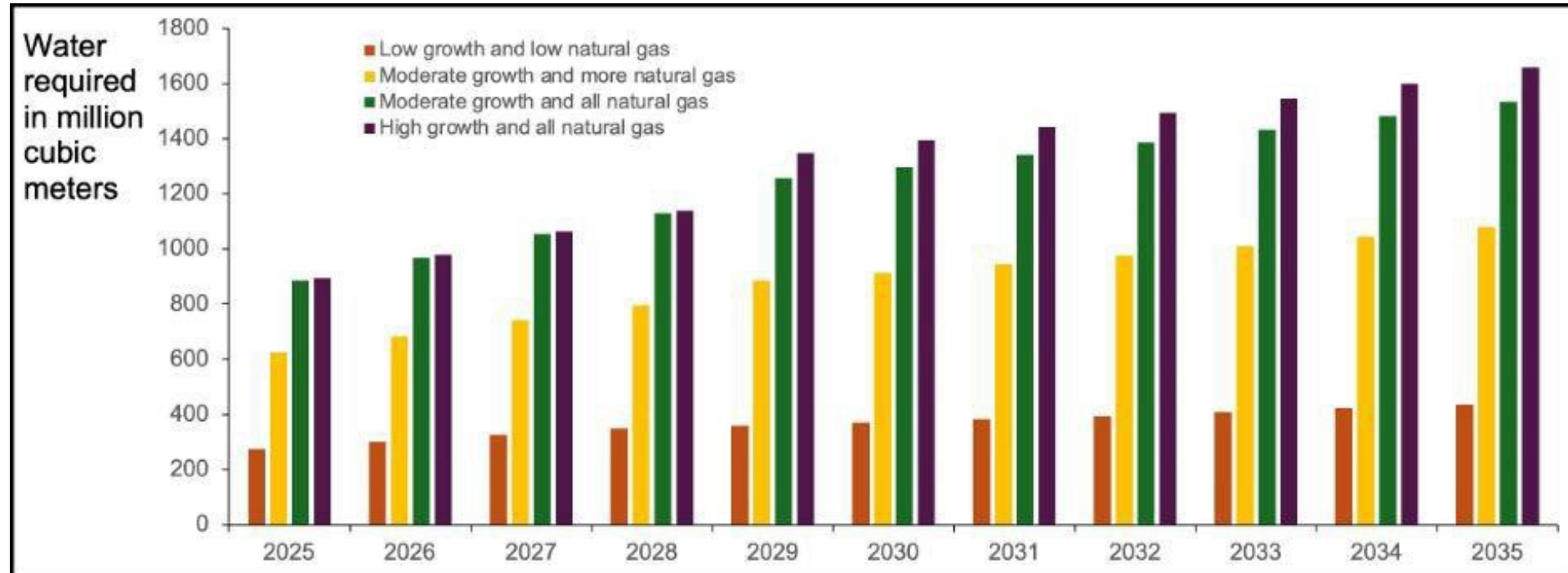
- **Texas policy still treats electricity and water as three separate regulatory domains. Data center growth links them directly**
 - **Add to this our reliance on natural gas**
- Every megawatt of new load carries a water footprint through the generation serving it — behind the meter or not — in addition to any on-site cooling water
- For large, high-utilization facilities this makes water a system-level planning issue

The reporting gap

- The TWDB does not collect data on indirect water consumption at all
- It is not captured in reporting, not evaluated in interconnection or permitting, and not incorporated into water impact assessments

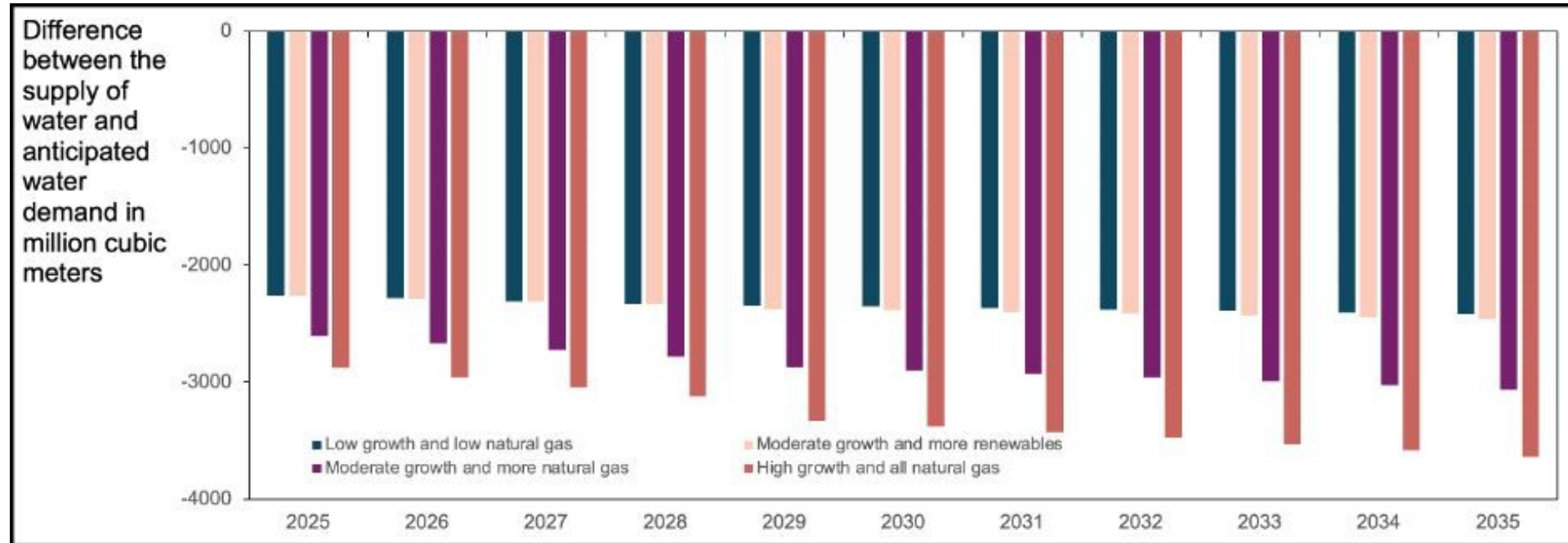
Most policy attention is on direct cooling water; larger and less visible impact is indirect

Water Required for Data Centers, 2025–2035



Data center water use: cooling needs (direct) & energy use (indirect)
Electricity generation is the dominant driver for water use at data centers
Energy and water are not separate problems

Water Supply and Anticipated Demand



**Parts of the state had a water stress problem even before data centers arrived
Now, data center siting, technologies, and transportation methods matter more**

The Texas-Specific Challenge

Energy — Market Structure

- Large load growth cannot be absorbed from neighboring states
- Every new facility is a net new burden on a closed system
- Natural gas demand for new electricity capacity could reach 2–3× current in-state consumption by 2035
- Gas turbine and compressor lead times are already stretched by global supply chain delays
- Data centers want low-carbon power — but meeting that demand through gas + CCUS adds significant additional water burden

Water — Rule of Capture

- Texas uses the rule of capture for groundwater — landowners can pump what's beneath their property
- Groundwater conservation districts have limited authority, and no statewide allocation system exists
- A data center can legally draw down the same aquifer serving municipalities and agricultural communities
- No mandatory disclosure, no mitigation requirement
- No regulatory review authority until 2027 (earliest)

Additional things to consider

- Surface water sits with TCEQ
- Where do GCDs have control, and where do they not — and what about the areas outside any GCD?

Does Location Matter?

West Texas (Permian)

- Ogallala Aquifer: recharge rate near zero
- Data centers compete directly with agricultural irrigation
- Rule of capture: first-pump-wins, no state allocation
- Groundwater conservation districts vary widely in authority
- Dramatic projected depletion: 25% drop by 2070

Central Texas

- Edwards Aquifer: highly regulated, has an Authority with production caps
- Carrizo-Wilcox: less regulated but recharge-sensitive
- Higher population density: more competing municipal demand
- Existing data center cluster (Austin/SA): siting pressure growing
- Some recycled water infrastructure available

East Texas / Gulf Coast

- Abundant surface water; higher average rainfall
- Infrastructure still limited outside major metros
- Fewer aquifer stress concerns: most viable region hydrologically
- Emergent opportunity: co-location with municipal wastewater reuse; potential tradeoff with urban density

Location determines the economics, feasibility and lifecycle impacts of the facility, and larger socioeconomic effects for the state.

Cooling Technologies

Air Cooling

Advantages

- No direct freshwater draw
- Eliminates water except domestic use
- Best suited for cooler climates or high-altitude sites

Disadvantages

- Higher PUE in Texas summers
- More electricity needed for fans and chillers
- Performance degrades above 85°F

Evaporative / Cooling Towers

Advantages

- More energy efficient
- Well-understood technology, widely deployed
- Cost-effective at large scale

Disadvantages

- Significant freshwater consumption: 1–2 billion gal/yr for hyperscale
- Dominant method in Texas today
- Competes directly with agriculture and municipal supply in West TX

Direct Liquid / Immersion Cooling

Advantages

- Lowest WUE and PUE of any method
- Ideal for hyperscale
- Emergent shift

Disadvantages

- High upfront capital cost
- Requires custom facility design: can't retrofit easily
- Dielectric fluid supply chains still maturing

PUE and WUE trade off against each other. The state should set performance thresholds, not pick a technology winner.

Why "Require Closed-Loop Cooling" Is Not a Standard

Evaporative

PUE 1.1–1.2

Dominant in the existing Texas fleet
High direct water use

Air cooling

PUE 1.4–1.8 in heat

Near-zero direct water, but performance
degrades with ambient temperature

Immersion / direct liquid

PUE approaching 1.03

Best long-term combination of low PUE
and low WUE, well matched to GPU-
dense AI

But high capital cost, purpose-built
design, immature supply chains

In Texas's generation mix, the electricity penalty from air cooling shifts water burden from the site to the power plant. Mandating air cooling in a hot climate may increase total water impact rather than reduce it.

- **The Governor's "closed-loop cooling systems" language is too broad to function as a water management standard**
- Reasonable recommendation: enforceable total WUE and PUE thresholds — adjusted by region, facility size, and workload — rather than picking a technology winner

Alternative Water Options in Texas

Produced water

Permian produces ~20 million barrels per day

High salinity and variable composition require extensive treatment that consumes energy, creates concentrated waste, and needs transport and disposal

Availability at hyperscale quality, volume, and location has not been demonstrated at scale

Brackish groundwater

Substantial Texas resources

Viability depends on location, depth, salinity, treatment cost, disposal, and effects on adjacent freshwater systems.

Most feasible in South Texas and the Gulf Coast

Municipal recycled

The most geographically constrained

Requires proximity to a large metro wastewater system with sufficient effluent volume and distribution capacity

Many facilities site outside metros precisely because of land, power, or gas access

Enable, incentivize, and measure, paired with treatment standards, verified freshwater-reduction targets, and total-footprint reporting



PART THREE

Impacts on Texans



What is the Current Cost Model?

- **Texas recovers transmission cost through the TCRF, spreading expense across ratepayers in proportion to demand**
- Logic held when demand growth was incremental, geographically dispersed, and correlated with population
- **Data centers are operating at different scale and speed- Once a project reaches final investment decision, deployment can be far faster than the generation, transmission, gas delivery, and water infrastructure needed to serve it.**
- Challenge is cumulative — projects are not arriving in a way that lets the system absorb one major load before planning for the next

If new infrastructure serves only new large loads, socialized cost recovery is no longer the appropriate model

SB 6: Significant, but Incomplete

What it did

- Requires large loads above 75 MW to bear interconnection infrastructure costs
- Mandates remote-disconnect capability
- Establishes a demand response framework for large loads
- Gives ERCOT and the PUCT oversight of generation directly connected to large private users
- Directs review of the 4CP transmission cost methodology

What it does not

- **The statute is prospective — it applies to loads connecting after its effective date**
- It does not reach facilities interconnected under the prior framework
- If earlier interconnections triggered transmission or reliability investment now embedded in the rate base, future rules will not correct that shift
- Address water use, reporting, or conservation in any form
- Create a registry, cooling standards, or community benefit requirements

Understanding the Fiscal Impacts

\$14.6M

state cost of the qualifying data center sales tax exemption, 2014–15 biennium

\$3.3B

projected state cost, 2028–29 biennium

225×

growth over fourteen years — a 47% compounded annual rate

- **This expansion occurred without performance conditions tied to grid contribution, water efficiency, local resilience, or community benefit**
- The qualifying bar — 100,000+ sq ft, \$200M investment, 20 employees above the average county wage — was written for a different industry at a different scale
- Repeal is now actively discussed at the state level, with no replacement framework yet proposed

The Costs and Benefits

Benefits are diffused

- Data center and AI services are consumed by national and global users
- Productivity gains land in digital markets, not in the host community
- These facilities are less labor-intensive than the legacy industrial users the incentive model was built around

Costs are local

- Infrastructure, water, land, and rate base — all concentrated where the facility sits
- Capital investment and tax revenue are real; however, the durability and scale of local benefit remain uncertain, particularly relative to the infrastructure commitments required to serve the facility

If local benefits are uncertain but infrastructure costs are immediate, durable, and recovered through regulated rates, the current cost recovery model is harder to justify

- **This is not an argument against data centers – the local share of the benefit must be negotiated fairly**

Knowns and Unknowns

Known knowns

- 400+ facilities at ~8 GW
- SB 6 cost-sharing and curtailment authority in force
- No Texas statute governs data center water use
- The spring 2026 water reporting rule is administrative only
- TWDB self-reporting compliance is low; the data is incomplete

Known unknowns

- No centralized water registry
- 2030 ERCOT peak somewhere in a 22–78 GW range
- Co-location versus grid connection split
- Whether produced water scales as a substitute
- Which committee even carries the issue in 2027

Unknown knowns

- Other states have workable good-neighbor models Texas has not adopted
- Rule of capture makes aquifer protection structurally difficult
- The exemption grew 225× and safeguards did not follow
- Industry accepts accountability frameworks when cost-shifting becomes politically untenable — SB 6 proved it

Unknown unknowns

- Long-run aquifer drawdown on adjacent agriculture and municipal wells
- Supply chain limits on cooling technology at scale
- How federal AI permitting interacts with state authority
- Cumulative grid effects if 20+ hyperscale campuses co-locate

Some Questions to Ask Developers

- 1 Which typology, and what is your load-shifting flexibility?**
Will you commit to demand response?
- 2 What is your committed total WUE, direct and indirect?**
Against what measurement standard?
- 3 What is your cooling configuration?**
And its PUE consequence in a Texas summer?
- 4 What is your water source?**
If alternative, where is the treatment and disposal infrastructure?
- 5 How is power procured — grid, behind-the-meter, hybrid?**
What is the water footprint of that generation?
- 6 What is the full incentive stack you are seeking?**
What survives a state exemption repeal?
- 7 What infrastructure will you fund upfront?**
Versus expect the community to build?
- 8 Who owns and controls the entity?**
Do these commitments bind the developer and operator in the same way?



Thank you!

Please share questions and comments

Aparajita Datta | University of Houston | adatta3@uh.edu

Common Questions & Discussion – General Energy

Policy Questions:

Do any U.S. municipalities have ordinances regulating water and/or energy use by data centers?

What is the latest on the Governor's executive orders related to the data centers and what we can expect to see in the coming legislative session?

Will local planning & revenue streams be impacted by the halting of new data center developments?

What is the current state and local approval process for data center development?

Common Questions & Discussion – General Energy

Technology Questions:

What are the different types of data centers (bitcoin vs. data centers) and their resource impacts?

What are potential issues with bring your own power vs. behind-the-meter generation vs. connecting to the electrical grid?

What are various cooling systems used by data centers and the inverse relations to demand for water and energy?

What are other new technology opportunities, such as small modular reactors (SMR), that data centers can adopt?

What is the overall expected data center impact on the Texas grid and personal utility bills?

Other Questions?



Jeff Newpher, CPC

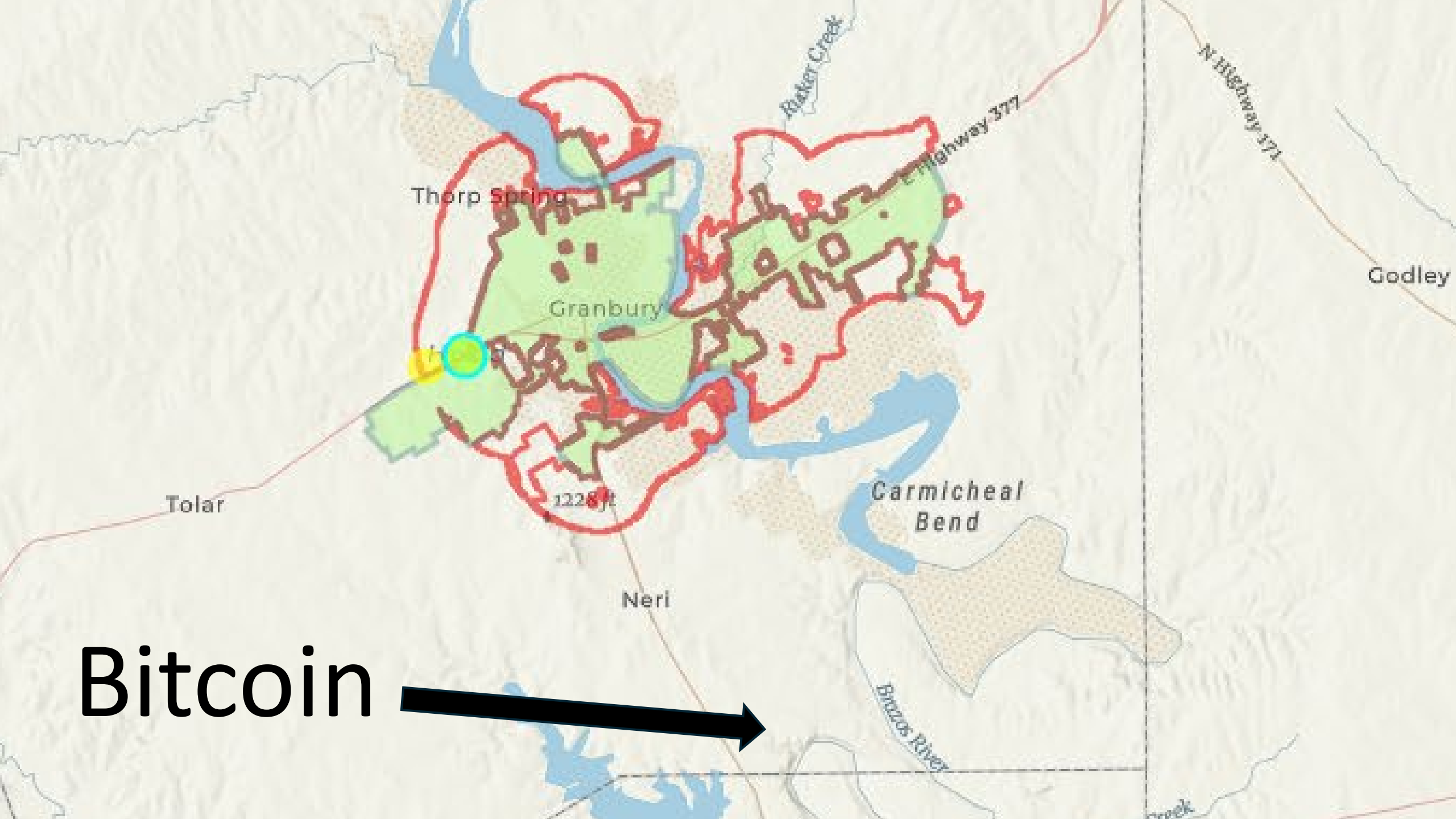
Communications Manager, City of Granbury

Granbury:
Celebration Capital of Texas
Best Historic Small Town in America
(five times)

&

Telling the City's Story of Data Centers





Bitcoin

Repeat it enough times...
using AI to create new stories by combining
previously written ones,
repeating the same errors...
...even if it's wrong, it becomes "fact."



Dear Mr. Lessig and Mr. Wong,

On behalf of the City of Granbury, Texas, I am pleased to extend our formal support for Project Patriot and express our genuine enthusiasm for the opportunity to welcome your company to our growing and vibrant community.

We understand the scale and significance of your proposed investment of **\$2.7 billion capital commitment** and the creation of **60 high-wage permanent jobs, each averaging \$90,000 per year**. This represents not only a transformative economic development opportunity for Granbury, but also a partnership with long-term benefits for your company and our city alike.

In acknowledgment of the significant investment and the economic vitality it is expected to generate, the City of Granbury is prepared to extend the following preliminary incentive package, contingent upon the successful annexation of the project site into the city limits. **Final terms and conditions will be subject to refinement pending the evaluation of environmental considerations, finalized site plans, and projected resource utilization.**

Incentive Package Overview

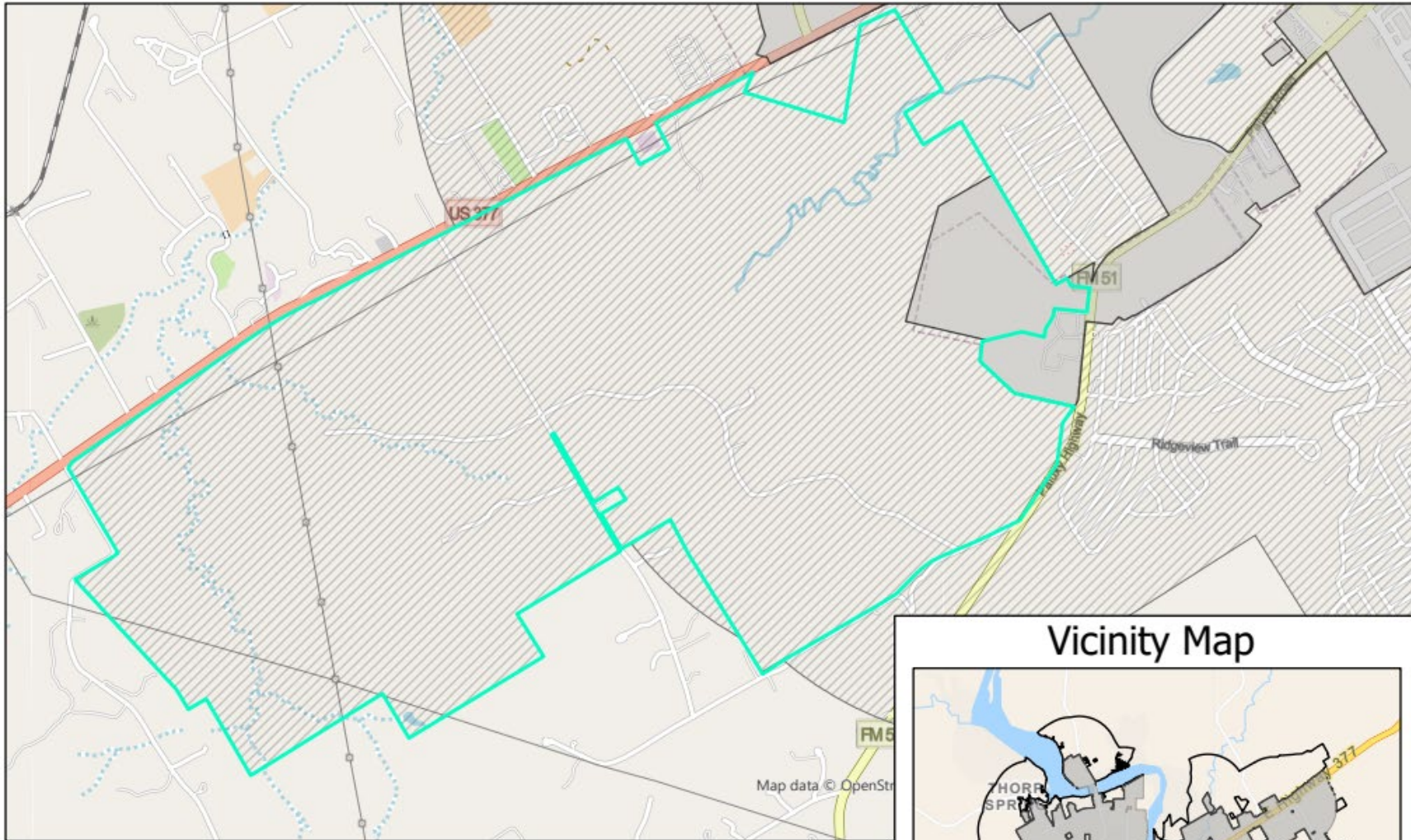
- 60% Property Tax Abatement on both real and personal property for a period of ten (10) years.
- 1% Electricity Sales Revenue Share derived from the project's onsite electricity generation and sales.
- Support for Removal of the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to allow for municipal utility service integration and operational flexibility.

The City is fully committed to working closely with your team to ensure a seamless annexation and permitting process. Our staff and leadership are aligned in supporting Project Patriot every step of the way and will remain an accessible, engaged partner as you bring this landmark project to life.

Prevailing Guidance

Let the City leadership, elected and professional, get educated and let whoever was going to do the project in the private sector speak for themselves.





Location Map

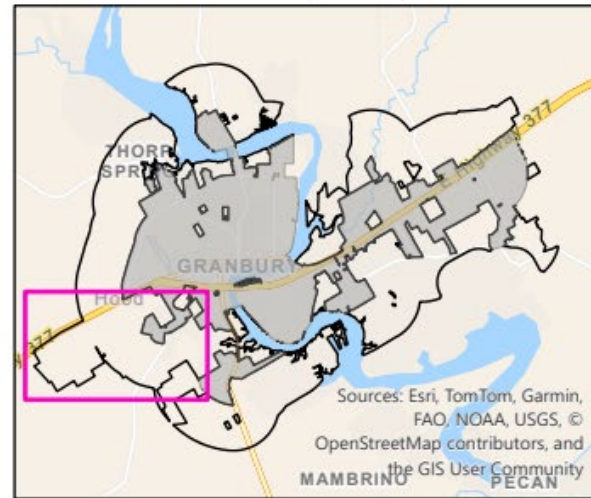
-  Subject Property
-  Granbury City Limits

0 1,000 2,000 4,000
US Feet

-  Current ETJ



Vicinity Map



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin,
FAO, NOAA, USGS, ©
OpenStreetMap contributors, and
the GIS User Community

Authority	City of Granbury			Hood County (Outside City Limits)		
	Yes	No	Limited	Yes	No	Limited
Zoning Power	✓					!
Permits & Approvals	✓					!
Subdivision & Platting	✓					!
Exterior & Design Standards	✓				✗	
Noise Limitations Requirements	✓				✗	
Height Limits of Structures	✓				✗	
Visual Buffers & Landscaping	✓				✗	
Water Consumption	✓				✗	
Air Emission Requirements	✓				✗	
Traffic Impacts Analysis/ Mitigation	✓					!
Lighting Impacts (Dark Sky)	✓				✗	
Construction Management	✓				✗	
Compliance Requirements	✓				✗	

This is going to move fast.
It didn't.
Lawsuit
5 of 6 Councilmembers &
City Staff
Recall Petitions



It's now a City problem.

People are angry.

Misinformation ramps up.



Mid-May 2026 Goal Transparency

- timelines
- community meetings
- web page
- scientific surveys
- documents
- TV show





"Bad Actors" in the Data Center Industry

58 views • 2 months ago



What Is the Best Location for a Data Center?

111 views • 2 months ago



Power Islands

31 views • 2 months ago



A Day without a Data Center

55 views • 2 months ago



What a Texas Lawmaker Learned After Dozens of Hours of Data Center Testimony and Research

128 views • 2 months ago



Who Pays for the Grid? Legislative Priorities for 2027

44 views • 2 months ago

Faced with a lawsuit...limited
outgoing communication



“The intentional dissemination of misinformation for personal, financial, and political reasons has crossed a threshold. We may never recover.”





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Project Patriot-City News

Communications & News Releases

Posted on June 25, 2026 / Last Updated on August 18, 2026

Factual information and documents regarding Project Patriot

This page will continue to grow as additional information becomes available.

August 18, 2026 **Bilateral Energy** has published a web page
<https://projectpatriotusa.com/>

Granbury City Council meeting Aug. 4, 2026 **City Manager Chris Coffman's** comments about the Knox
Ranch property vesting [VIDEO LINK](#)

How Development Rules Apply to a Project

Late June 2026 Strategy Shift

www.Granbury.org/datacenter

- Central source of truth for residents looking for factual information
- A living resource, updated as new information becomes available
- What is known and what is not known
- Directly addressing whether a data center has been approved, what has actually been submitted to the City, and what decisions **have not** been made
- Explained the process, not just the position



Late June 2026 Strategy Shift

www.Granbury.org/datacenter

- Addressed residents' biggest concerns directly
- “Rumor vs. Truth” to address misinformation and recurring questions in plain language
- Explained the limits of local government authority. Explained what the City can regulate and where state law limits local control
- Put local authority in context by comparing what Granbury can regulate inside city limits with what can be regulated in unincorporated Hood County
- Provided primary-source documentation rather than asking residents to rely solely on the City's interpretation



Late June 2026 Strategy Shift

www.Granbury.org/datacenter

- Used outside voices and educational content
- Repeatedly distinguished between a high-level concept plan and an actual development application/site plan
- Recognized that not every question has a City-controlled answer
- Point residents to one continuously updated resource
- Focused on education rather than persuasion



Why

www.Granbury.org/datacenter ?

Facebook posts

Comments on
social media

News reports

Meeting videos

Agendas

Rumors

“Our goal is to make sure residents can go directly to the City for the City's information.”



Scientific Surveys

1. Explain the facts: especially water, power, noise, and economic impacts, in plain language
2. Make the review process visible, including timelines, technical studies, and how public input is considered
3. Communicate primarily through email and a dedicated City webpage, supplemented by public meetings and **mailed information** rather than relying heavily on social media





Chamber of Commerce “Leaders in Government”

Questions

(not related to lawsuits)



Common Questions & Discussion – Local Government

Questions:

What are example ordinances referenced by U.S. municipalities to regulate water and/or energy use?

What options are available for counties to address Data Center development?

How can communities work with data centers already operating in their jurisdictions?

What data can cities or counties ask for ahead of a project to ensure public resources are protected and used wisely?

Other Questions?

Closing Remarks

Webinar Feedback

Please provide feedback on today's webinar through this brief Workshop Evaluation.

[Webinar Evaluation: Data Centers in Texas - Energy Resources Impacts and Policy Updates – Fill out form](#)



Data Center Resources & Readings

- National League of Cities – [A Primer for Local Governments: Understanding Data Centers](#)
- National Association of Counties – [Informational Primer and County Considerations: Data Centers](#)
- Bipartisan Policy Center – [Key Considerations for Data Center Development](#)
- South Cost AQMD - [Fact Sheet on Energy Generators](#)
- Hill Country Alliance – [Data Centers & Water Use: A Community Guide](#)
- Cuyahoga County - [Data Center Recommendations](#)
- South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) – [2027 Texas Legislative Priorities](#) and [Policy webpage](#)
- Texas Water Foundation – [Gallons + Gigawatts: Texas Data Center Water Use and Policy Considerations](#)
- NCTCOG Data Center Survey Results – [Impact of Data Centers on Municipal Communities](#)
- NCTCOG Webinar- Data Centers in Texas – [Water Resources Impacts and Policy Recommendations](#)

Funding Resources – Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Program	Eligible Activities	Funding Amount	Key Dates
Texas Volkswagen Emission Mitigation Program All-Electric Grant Round (TCEQ)	Replace or repower Class 4-8 diesel vehicles/equipment/freight switchers with zero emissions versions	Varies depending old vehicle age: Governmental: Up to 100% Nongovernmental: Up to 75%	Closes 8/31/2026
North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicle Call for Projects (NTxZEV)	Replace older Class 6 and 7 vehicles with zero-emission versions	Varies depending on fuel and vocation type: 33% to 80%	Next deadline is 9/18/2026; ongoing deadline every 3 rd Friday
Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants Program (TCEQ)	Replace or repower locomotives, marine vessels, stationary equipment, and select non-road equipment	Up to 80%; Subject to cost-per-ton cap	Closes 9/4/2026
North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction CFP (NCTCOG)	Replace or repower Class 5-8 diesel vehicles/equipment with lower-emitting versions	Varies depending on fuel type: Replace: Up to 45% Repower: Up to 60%	Closes 9/11/2026
Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP)	Replace or repower eligible medium- and heavy-duty gasoline/diesel vehicles with natural gas-powered vehicles/engines.	Up to 90% or max amount per activity type set by TCEQ, whichever is lesser	Closes 10/20/2026

Learn More at: www.nctcog.org/aqfunding - Funding for Fleet Vehicles and Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Projects

Funding Resources – Energy Efficiency and Distributed Energy Resources

Program	Eligible Activities	Funding Amount	Key Dates
New Technology Implementation Grant (TCEQ)	Implement technologies to reduce emissions from facilities and other stationary sources	Up to 50%	Closes 9/25/2026
TX LoanSTAR Program	Provides low-interest loans for public institutions for energy-related, cost reduction, projects.	Up to \$8 million	Closes 8/31/2026
Community Center Energy Efficiency Retrofits for the State Energy Program: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Program	Energy efficiency retrofits for community centers	Up to \$3,000,000	Closes 12/18/2026
Texas Backup Power Package Program	Provide funding to public and nonprofit that directly serve community safety and human health to design, procure or install backup power packages at facilities necessary to support community health, safety, and well-being	Up to \$500 per kwh;	Applications expected to open 2026

Learn More at: www.nctcog.org/aqfunding - Funding for Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects

SECO Programs & Resources



Preliminary Energy Assessments (PEAs)

- Provided at no cost to qualifying entities and facilities.
- Detail recommendations for cost-effective resource efficiency measures that entities can implement to decrease utility consumption or costs.



Technical Assistance for Local Governments

- Provides customized, on-site, energy-related services ranging from basic consultation to feasibility studies.
- Eligible entities may request assistance with either energy or water-related technical matters.

Go to: comptroller.texas.gov/programs/seco/programs/local/ to learn more

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Community Leadership about Data Centers in Texas

- **Date:** September 24, 10:30 a.m.
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom
- [Registration Link](#)

Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition Meeting

- **Date:** October 21, 9:30 a.m.
- **Location:** 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011
- [Registration Link](#)

DFWCC Technical Advisory Committee

- **Date:** October 26, 2:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Hybrid
- [Meeting Link](#)



NCTCOG Resources

WEBSITES:

- Conserve North Texas - www.conservenorthtexas.org
- Regional Energy Management Program - www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency

UPCOMING NCTCOG EVENTS

- Environment and Development: <https://nctcog.org/envir/events>
- DFW Clean Cities: www.dfwcleancities.org/events

NCTCOG'S FREE E-MAIL LISTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

- NCTCOG General: www.nctcog.org/stay-informed
- Environment & Development General: www.nctcog.org/envir/mail



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