Energy Big Data Center Policy



Overview

While the Department of Energy has identified federal sites for large-scale AI and data center developments, the prevailing policy now emphasizes rapid expansion of digital infrastructure by streamlining permitting and scaling back environmental oversight. A new report from the IEA assesses how the relationship between energy and artificial intelligence (AI) is evolving rapidly, drawing on the latest data and analysis and close tracking of technological and economic developments in the AI sector. Building on the IEA's landmark Energy and AI report. As digitalisation accelerates, data centres are a vital and quickly growing infrastructure across Europe and the world, supporting our ever-growing use of cloud services and storage, AI, streaming services and more. However, their rapidly increasing energy demand is a challenge. They also have a. In a rare display of bipartisan urgency, United States senators from both parties have launched a coordinated legislative assault on the unchecked energy consumption of AI data centers. On March 26, 2026, Senators Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) sent a formal letter to the Energy. In 2025, the European Union has drawn a clear line: data center sustainability is no longer optional. data centers consumed more than 4%. Much of this growth is concentrated in clusters such as Northern Virginia and Texas, where utilities warn that digital demand is beginning to reshape entire state energy plans.



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Article Content

Data centre electricity use surged in 2025, even with tightening ...

New IEA report explores AI''s growing energy footprint, options for meeting data centre power demand, and impacts on energy affordability, security and wider economy

Energy performance of data centres

To measure the energy consumption and the environmental and climate impact of EU data centres, greater transparency from data centre operators is key. The

Senate GRID Act: $100B Data Center Energy Rules

The GRID Act could add $100B in energy costs to AI data centers. What it means for AWS, Google, and Microsoft cloud pricing.

EU plans energy standards for data centres amid concerns over

The European Union will develop minimum energy-efficiency standards for data centres, it said on Wednesday, as concerns grow over their rapidly rising power use.

How EU Data Center Sustainability Rules Are Shaping the Future

The EU is leading the way in data center sustainability with new emissions regulations under the Energy Efficiency Directive. Learn how colocation and cloud providers are innovating to

Data Center Power Demand | MIT Energy Initiative

MITEI''s Data Center Power Forum provides member companies with reliable insights into energy supply, grid operations, load management, the built environment, and electricity market design and

Regulating the Digital Giants: Policy and Public Responses to the

While the Department of Energy has identified federal sites for large-scale AI and data center developments, the prevailing policy now emphasizes rapid expansion of digital infrastructure

From EU Framework to National Action: How Germany Regulates

With the Energy Efficiency Act, the German legislature introduced comprehensive and legally enforceable provisions specifically aimed at improving the energy efficiency of data centers.

Data Centre Energy Use: Critical Review of Models and Results

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Presented a new, narrower range of data centre energy estimates based on the high-quality studies at the global, regional, and country levels and analysis of company-level data.

Energy-Efficient Data Centres

The report explores both current approaches and emerging solutions, offering an overview of sustainable data centre operations across Europe. It also provides practical, evidence

Insight: US utilities grapple with Big Tech''s massive power demands

U.S. electric utilities are fielding massive requests for new power capacity as Big Tech scours the country for viable locations for new data centers to keep up with the compute demands of AI.

Data centers'' energy demand threatens Trump''s “Made in America” plan

US manufacturers in many Rust Belt cities and towns are paying significantly higher electricity costs as growing energy demand from data centers strains the largest power grid operator

Europe must choose between AI and climate goals, data center

BRUSSELS —Europe must prioritize artificial intelligence over its immediate climate ambitions or risk surrendering its tech sovereignty to China. That''s the view of the president of the

America''s AI industry faces big energy and environmental risks : NPR

What are data centers? Data centers are big buildings that house computer hardware to store and process digital information. They essentially function as the backbone of the internet.

Data centres & networks

As the world becomes increasingly digitalised, data centres and data transmission networks are emerging as an important source of energy demand.

EU weighs weaker data centre climate rules in win for Big Tech

A previous draft in March stipulated that data centres could only offset fossil fuel emissions by investing in clean energy certificates from projects commissioned in the past decade that

Big Oil eyes powering Big Tech''s data center demand

Chevron Corp and Exxon Mobil are considering entering the electricity business, with the U.S. oil majors working on deals to use natural gas

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Inside Form Energy''s Big Google Data Center Deal

The project, developed in partnership with the utility Xcel Energy, will help power a new Google data center in Minnesota that will also be supplied by

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