



Michigan AI Data Center Report

June 2026

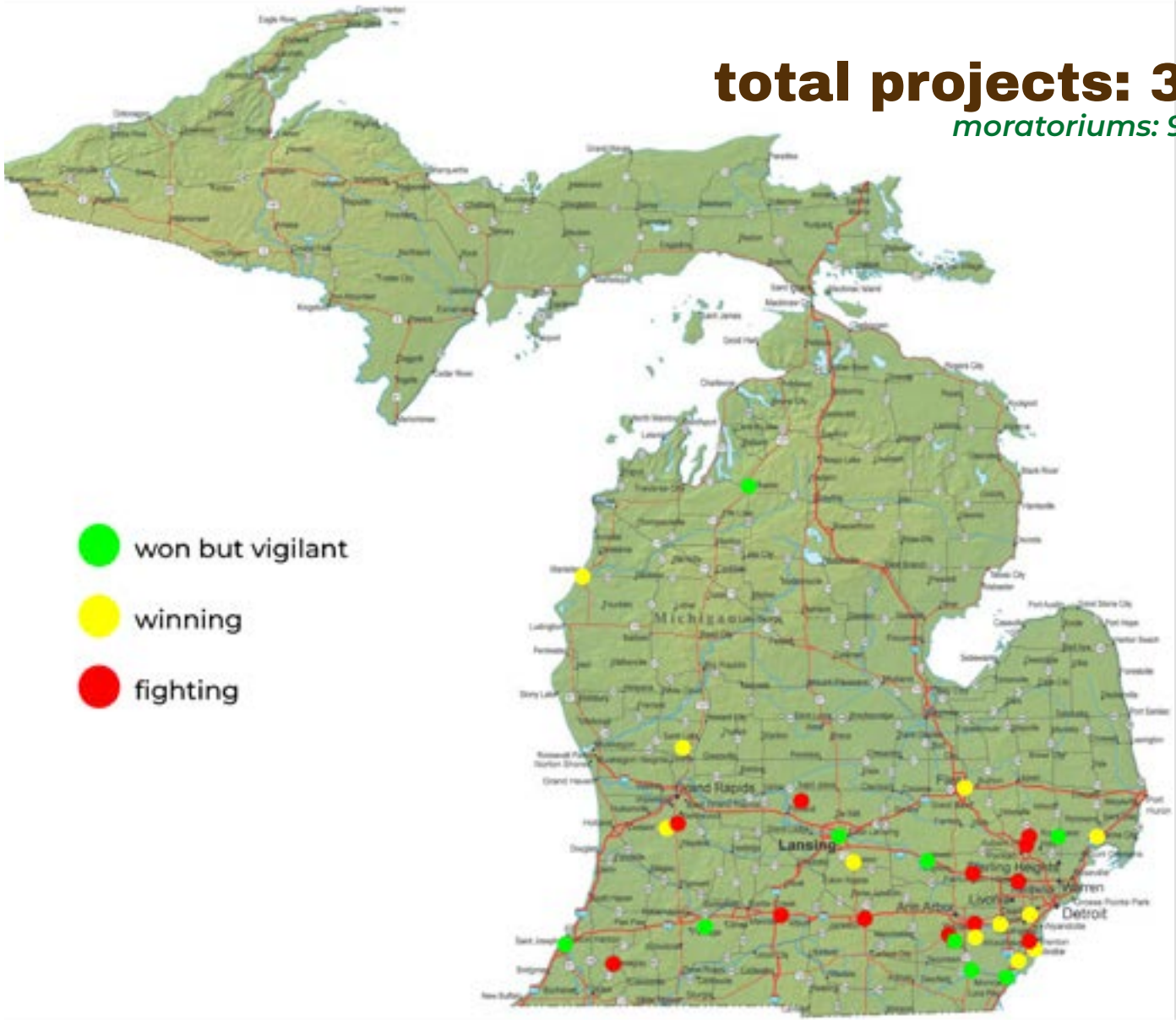
collected & written by:



EDRA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RESPONSIBILITY ALLIANCE
of Michigan

total projects: 32

moratoriums: 98+



1. Howell
2. York Twp
3. Frenchtown Twp / Monroe
4. Dundee Twp
5. Kalkaska
6. Pavillion Twp
7. Lansing
8. Benton Harbor
9. Washington Charter Twp



1. Van Buren Twp / Belleville
2. Allen Park
3. Augusta Charter Twp
4. Lenox Twp
5. Gibraltar
6. Flint
7. Mason & Vevay Twp
8. Dorr Twp
9. Solon Twp
10. Stronach Twp
11. Berlin Charter Twp / Newport



1. Ypsilanti
2. Saline
3. Southfield
4. Lyon Twp / New Hudson
5. Auburn Hills
6. Oakland University
7. Lowell
8. Gaines Twp - Switch
9. Gaines Twp - Microsoft
10. Jackson County
11. Dowagiac
12. Marshall



Executive Summary

of the fight against AI data centers in Michigan

The war for Michigan's water has come, and Michiganders from far and wide are assembling to protect it.

Water, land, and the right to self determination. That's what the fight against AI data centers is about, to the sons and daughters of Michigan.

Yes, it's about fighting a job-killing industry run by out of control technocrats. Yes, it's about not wanting to live in a digital surveillance state. And yes, it's about not wanting to



participate in a global war machine which only serves the rich and powerful.

But more than any other reason, Michiganders are allying together to protect their water. To protect the health of their habitat, gardens, and farmland. And to protect their communities' right to choose who and what they will become.

In every one of the 32 communities across Michigan facing an AI data center development, there is naturally organized grassroots opposition—and there are residents already forming ranks against potential projects in hundreds more. Ninety-eight townships have passed data center moratoriums, and that number is rising rapidly.

And the message is clear: AI data centers are NOT a partisan political issue. It's about us all. This issue has accomplished the impossible: it has united Michigan's residents across political lines, across ideological lines, and across both agricultural and urban communities. Michiganders of every creed, race, religion, political affiliation, age, and type of rural or urban residency are joining together to fight against the technocracy of AI; to defend our home, that we love. To defend Michigan.



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Washtenaw County



Ypsilanti: Los Alamos

Washtenaw County

- Developer: University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory (US Department of Energy)
- Size: 225 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks, \$100M grant from MEDC's Michigan Strategic Fund
- Water: ~5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: Commercial & residential village
- Status: Township & village boards oppose; UofM is exempt from local zoning; construction slated for 2027

In December 2024, Michigan's House and Senate Appropriations Committees voted to approve \$100M in taxpayer funding for a new Los Alamos National Laboratory AI data center to be built, in partnership with the University of Michigan, in quaint Ypsilanti. This was done, according to Ypsilanti's Township supervisor, without the knowledge of either local residents or elected officials. Los Alamos National Laboratory is the US Department of Energy government research facility which was responsible for the development of the atomic bomb, among many other warfare related technologies. The Hydro Park lab is slated, according to Los Alamos, "to support drone warfare and surveillance activities". Further reporting has uncovered evidence that the facility is also to be used for nuclear weapons design and testing.

Ypsilanti Township officials, who were initially in favor of what they thought was slated to be a small, 26 acre research facility, have since expressed strong negative sentiment towards the 225 acre government supercomputer greenfield development, and towards University of Michigan's conduct. Local officials claim that the public ivy league university misled them about the size and scope of the project, and their representatives acted in deliberate bad faith. The site borders the Huron River and currently provides critical savannah habitat to a wide range of wildlife.

In a June 2025 letter, Supervisor Brenda Stumbo stated that the developers "are not to be trusted and do not do what is best for the community, the people, or the environment. They do what is best for them, and their money grabbing



Ypsilanti: Los Alamos

Washtenaw County

purchase of land should scare the hell out of all elected officials across the state.” To make matters worse: Article VIII Section 5 of Michigan’s constitution exempts schools such as University of Michigan from local zoning regulation. This means that the Hydro Park Los Alamos project isn’t subject to the township and county’s zoning regulations.

In August, township officials adopted a resolution which urged the developer to relocate the project into what they considered to be a more industrial district. In October, Ypsilanti City Council unanimously passed a [resolution opposing the AI supercomputer](#).

Local residents have been actively fighting against the data center, at local meetings and at street corners. Locals are concerned not only about the environmental impact of the data center itself, but also about the economic and moral implications of the work being done within the facility.

“Even if we’re living in the imaginary land that the University of Michigan has created,” local grassroots leader Samantha Stewart told Michigan Daily, “where there’s somehow no backup generators in the data center and it’s all daisies, I don’t want to build better weapons to bomb children in other countries.”

The Los Alamos construction timeline has been pushed back a year, to 2027. On March 31st 2026, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority passed a one year moratorium on supplying water to data centers. In March, Ypsilanti Township unanimously passed a [resolution opposing the development of the Los Alamos facility](#). Supervisor Brenda Stumbo credited local activists, who had been working for 10 months to educate local officials and the community about the project’s dangers.

“We are up against a very powerful organization,” Supervisor Stumbo said during the March 31st meeting, “but we can read, U of M, we can talk, U of M, and we can represent our people,” Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo said. “And you will never shut us up or or stop us from doing that.”



Saline: Project Stargate

Washtenaw County

- Developer: OpenAI, Oracle, Related Digital (Stephen Ross)
- Size: 250 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~5-10 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 1.4 gigawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: agricultural & residential
- Status: under construction

Governor Whitmer herself has hung her star on this \$7B hyperscale AI data center, giving it the ominous title “Project Stargate”. This facility, slated for agricultural Saline, is being developed by a partnership of OpenAI, Oracle, and Related Digital. Stephen Ross is the billionaire developer who owns Related Digital, and who has been a heavy financial patron to his alma mater, University of Michigan.

The 250 acre greenfield site that’s been targeted is in the middle of a quiet residential-agricultural community just south of Ann Arbor; it’s currently occupied by 31 individual owners, whose land use is residential and agricultural. In spite of shoddy advice from consulting firm Carlisle Wortman, which advised that the data center’s minimal benefits would outweigh its environmental impacts, the township board voted 4-1 to deny rezoning the site to industrial, at the developers’ request.

Developers OpenAI, Oracle, and Related Digital responded by suing the township. The board has caved to what residents have described as “bullying,” and have settled on an agreement to the project, with minor concessions.

Since then, DTE has struck an agreement with the developers to increase total demand by 25%, adding 1.4 gigawatts—the equivalent of an entire nuclear power plant. DTE plans to spend \$6B over the next five years on infrastructure to serve the data center, \$2B of which will allegedly be paid for by the data center developer. DTE claims rates for residents will not increase.

Demolition for the project began spring of 2026, and [construction began June 1st](#). Ongoing legal efforts began by residents, funded by the Rural Michigan Legal Defense Fund, have been unsuccessful to date.



Augusta Charter Township

Washtenaw County

- Developer: Thor Equities
- Size: 1,000 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: agricultural & residential
- Status: zoning has been taken to a referendum, awaiting ballot vote

In Augusta Township, an agricultural and residential community south of Ann Arbor, local residents have been fighting a 1,000 acre AI data center project proposed by Thor Equities. The greenfield development required rezoning from agricultural to industrial—a rezoning which the township’s planning commission rejected, but which the board approved in July, in spite of the planning commission’s recommendation.

Local residents have been at odds with some members of the Township board. Since then, local grassroots efforts have successfully petitioned a [referendum on the board’s rezoning decision](#). Volunteer activists delivered nearly 1,000 signatures to the clerk, over 800 of which were formally verified. The issue of whether or not to rezone for the AI data center will now go to the ballot for voters to decide in August 2026.



York Township

Washtenaw County

Withdrawn

- Developer: Sansone Group
- Size: 412 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: residential & commercial
- Status: developer officially withdrawn

Conversations began between Sansone Group and local officials about a potential data center in York Township, east of Saline, in 2025. The real estate group was considering a 412 parcel owned by Toyota for the project.

But after a local outpouring from local residents, York Township officials passed a six month moratorium on data centers on March 10th. In late April, Toyota informed local officials that Sansone had officially pulled out of the project. Toyota and local officials are now discussing mixed-use developments for the parcel, including residential and commercial.



Wayne County



Allen Park

Wayne County

- Developer: Solstice Data
- Size: 45,000 square feet
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~500K million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 26 megawatts per day
- Neighborhood: residential & commercial
- Status: Planning Commission has denied the developer's site plan

AI data center developer Solstice Data has proposed to build an “Edge AI” facility in Allen Park, near Detroit. The developer has stated that they intend to build a “cluster” of these facilities around the metro Detroit area.

In response to early, strong pushback from residents, Allen Park City officials delayed the approval of Solstice Data's site plan application for the project three times. City Council delayed the initial vote in January 2026, then again in March, and again in May, citing the need for further due diligence including sound impact studies, fire department evaluations, neighboring community outreach, and information from the developer regarding planning and water consumption.

On June 4th, Allen Park's Planning Commission voted to deny the developer's proposed site plan, on the grounds that the developer had failed to submit the necessary information.



Belleville: Project Cannoli

Van Buren Township, Wayne County

- Developer: Panattoni (for Google)
- Size: 280 acres / 1.5M square foot
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 3-4 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 1+ gigawatt per day
- Neighborhood: residential
- Status: pending application submission

The AI data center developer Panattoni presented their plans to the community at an Open House at Van Buren Township on December 11th, 2025. The local community had already been facing the slated expansion of an AI data center at Tyler and Haggerty Roads, and quickly mobilized.

In March 2026, Google [announced](#) that it was behind the development, and revealed its [plans to build](#) a hyperscale data center with over one gigawatt in capacity.

In May, the township Planning Commission approved a one gigawatt substation for the project, in spite of a room packed with concerned citizens. In June, the township board approved an agreement to cut Google's local property taxes in half for 12 years on the project, equaling almost \$125M in savings for the tech giant.

Local residents have filed recall petitions for the entire township board.



Gibraltar

Wayne County

- Developer: Raeden
- Size: unknown (superfund site DSC Mclouth Steel Gibraltar Plant)
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons per day
- Energy: ~100 megawatts per day
- Neighborhood: residential & commercial
- Status: site plan application has been submitted; moratorium is in effect

When Raeden announced its plans to build a 100-megawatt hyperscale data center on a superfund site in Gibraltar in spring of 2026, local officials and residents began pumping the brakes immediately. City Council passed a one year moratorium in early March, citing the need to have time to perform due diligence in drafting zoning ordinances, and to not be pressured by rapid developer timelines.

Raden has submitted a site plan for review by the Planning Commission. Local zoning permits data centers, according to the city. The developer may seek a waiver from the [moratorium](#).

The developer has also been working with DTE Energy to develop [plans](#) to build 30-35 “backup” diesel generators to provide power “during an outage”—or to sell energy back into DTE’s grid.



Oakland County



Southfield, Detroit

Oakland County

- Developer: Metrobloks
- Size: 109,000 square feet
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~500,000 gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~30+ megawatts per day
- Neighborhood: commercial
- Status: approved by City Council

Southfield, which is the corporate home to many Tier 1 and 2 automotive suppliers and a thriving residential community, is facing an AI data center development by the urban developer Metrobloks, which specializes in building AI data centers in urban areas.

The developer held an informational meeting on December 8th, 2026; Southfield City Council [approved](#) the developer's site plan the next week.



New Hudson: Project Flex

Lyon Township, Oakland County

- Developer: Verrus
- Size: 172 acres, greenfield (1.8 million square feet)
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: Rural residential
- Status: residents are urging board to deny site plan application

California developers have proposed a 1.8 million square foot AI data center for quiet, residential Lyon Township; township officials praise the deal, while residents have been left in the dark.

In September of 2025, Lyon Township's board unanimously approved the Site Plan for a 172 acre AI data center by the California-based developer Verrus. Treasurer Carcone stated this project is "a dream come true" for the community. Yet when residents found out about the project in December, hundreds of local residents packed township board meetings to express concern, dismay, and outrage over being left in the dark while the board quietly rubber stamped the developer's site plan.

The land Verrus intends to develop is owned by municipal consulting firm Walbridge, which has been actively attempting to sell the land for industrial development for decades. Walbridge has been an active developer of AI data centers in other communities across Michigan. Walbridge's land is currently zoned general and light industrial, and the developer has stated they see no need to seek zoning changes.

Verrus submitted a site plan to the township in August 2025; in September, the plan was conditionally approved by the Planning Commission, on the condition that noise studies be conducted. Township officials are claiming that the site plan does not need to be approved by the board of trustees. Residents are skeptical of this, as well as whether or not the township's master plan and zoning ordinances allow the project.



New Hudson: Project Flex

Lyon Township, Oakland County

On May 27, an attorney representing Verrus, submitted a Final Site Plan response letter arguing the project meets all applicable township codes, zoning ordinances, and Planning Commission conditions since its initial September 8, 2025, approval, and [threatening to sue](#) the township if it continues to “delay approval”.

Residents have urged the board to reject the site plan, insisting that Verrus has failed to meet key conditions for approval, including completing a sound study, addressing stormwater and drainage problems, and clarifying utility and lighting plans.



Auburn Hills: Detroit North

Oakland County

- Developer: US Signal
- Size: over 17,000sf
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~500,000 gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~5+ megawatts per day
- Neighborhood: residential & agricultural
- Status: Operational data center has been acquired, expansion announced

In August 2024, developer US Signal acquired the Detroit North Data Center at 1035 West Entrance Drive in Auburn Hills.

According to [DBusiness](#), US Signal has plans for substantial facility “enhancements”, including more than 5 megawatts energy load, facility expansions, and the installation of a six mile fiber loop. The site is “designed to accommodate the surging demand for AI and high-power consumption applications”.

No formal announcements have been made regarding the facility’s expansion yet.



Oakland University

Oakland County

- Developer: unknown
- Size: unknown
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 500,000 gallons per day
- Energy: 26 megawatts per day
- Neighborhood: university / commercial / residential
- Status: pending approval from board of trustees

In spite of vocal opposition by students, faculty, and the local community, University officials are [actively working](#) with Brailsford and Dunlavey, a consulting firm, to attract an AI developer to build a project on campus.

Local organizers have assembled a [petition against the project](#).

Pending the outcome of a “feasibility phase,” the project is slated to advance to the university’s Board of Trustees for approval during June 2026’s Formal Session.



Genesee County



Flint: Old Buick City

Genesee County

- Developer: Hillwood-Sterling
- Size: 200 acres (old Buick City brownfield site)
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~500+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a mid-sized city)
- Neighborhood: agricultural & residential
- Status: pending applications & moratorium

In May 2026, news began to leak that high profile developers Hillwood-Sterling have been eyeing Flint’s old Buick City brownfield site for redevelopment into a large, hyperscale AI data center. Hillwood is owned by Ross Perot Jr. from Texas, and Sterling Group was founded by Huntington Bank board chair Gary Torgow. Developers have entered into a purchase agreement with Ashley Capitol on 200 acres of the site.

One of the largest brownfield sites in Michigan, Buick City is also a designated Renaissance Zone with tax incentives for developers. These incentives, however, could not be combined with Michigan’s data center tax breaks, according to Michigan law.

Consumers Energy spokespeople [have asserted](#) Buick City is an “Energy Ready” site, and that they “stand ready to serve the site and support” developers. As of June 2026, the developer has yet to submit any zoning or site plan applications to Flint City Council, which would need to approve them. The City Council approved a 12 month moratorium in early June, citing the need to perform proper due diligence on such an impactful project.



Monroe County



Dundee

Monroe County

Withdrawn

- Developer: Cloverleaf Infrastructure
- Size: 750 acres, encompassing Dundee Township, Milan Township, and Dundee Village
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: Residential & agricultural
- Status: developer has withdrawn pre-application

The rolling farm community of Dundee Village, in Monroe County, has been battling a large AI data center greenfield development spearheaded by Cloverleaf Development. The 750 acre site would, presumably, be developed as a turnkey AI data center site for a major tech company like Google, Meta, Amazon, or Microsoft.

Residents were quick to express their concerns to local officials. “Dundee is known for its warmth, history, and community spirit, not for being a hub of heavy infrastructure,” commented a local resident in a public organizing group. “I love the nature, the Great Lakes, and the way people here care about each other. We have something worth protecting...and I believe we can grow responsibly without giving away our peace, our water, and our way of life to a data center that won’t give back what it takes.”

In October 2025, both Milan Township and Dundee Village [rejected](#) Cloverleaf’s development agreement, which cut the project off from the public water and sewer utilities on which the AI data center was going to rely. Since then, the developer has withdrawn its development agreement, stating they “should have done more public communication and listening” before moving forward with the project.

Still, local grassroots remain vigilant against Cloverleaf or other future potential efforts by AI data center developers.



Monroe: Project Cherry Blossom

Frenchtown Charter Township, Monroe County

Withdrawn

- Developer: Cloverleaf
- Size: 275 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: residential & commercial
- Status: developer has withdrawn

All data center developer Cloverleaf approached Frenchtown Township about purchasing an unused golf course owned by the township just north of Monroe, in May of 2025. Most residents [found out](#) in fall of 2025; the township held an informal town hall about the project on November 17th 2025.

There are currently two nearby nuclear power plants drawing water from Lake Erie for cooling. Local residents have expressed concern about the integrity of the Great Lakes, and about nearby William C. Sterling State Park—the only state park on Lake Erie.

Meanwhile, in fall of 2025, local residents successfully collected and certified enough signatures to hold a ballot initiative to pass a zoning ordinance on Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) sites, which often accompany data center development. DTE Energy has sued the Township and the township clerk who certified the signatures, to stop the petition from being voted on. The case is being heard by Michigan's 38th Circuit Court in July 2026.

In February 2026, Supervisor VanWashenova was stripped from his duties and banned from township property due to screaming at residents and damaging township property. Residents pressed local officials to adopt a data center moratorium, which the board finally began drafting in April.

At a May 12th board meeting, township officials informed residents that Cloverleaf had not renewed its exclusivity agreement with the township, and there has been indication that the project is “dead”.

As of June 2026, local residents are collecting recall signatures on the remaining three board members who support the project.



Newport

Berlin Charter Township, Monroe County

- Developer: unknown
- Size: unknown
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: residential & commercial
- Status: pending developer announcement

No formal announcements have been made yet by developers, but Berlin Charter Township officials have been considering making ordinance amendments which allow for AI data center development.

The Township board passed a 6 month moratorium on data center ordinance revisions on November 24th, 2025. On March 16th 2026, the planning commission tabled a vote on a proposed data center ordinance. The following week, the township board voted to extend the moratorium another six months, until November 2026.



Macomb County



Washington Charter Township

Macomb County

- Developer: Prologis
- Size: 312 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 760 megawatts per day
- Neighborhood: residential & agricultural
- Status: developer has withdrawn

The developer Prologis has targeted Washington Charter Township for a “32 Mile Road Technical Campus”, to become home to a large AI surveillance company—which is rumored to be Palantir. In late 2025, Prologis requested rezoning from the Township board for a 312 acre site. Public hearing took place on December 11th 2025; the rezoning request was delayed until June.

Thanks to the dedicated work of the local community, on May 19th 2026, Prologis withdrew their zoning application from the township, indicating their intention to resubmit the application, pending the adoption of zoning ordinance amendments. The next day, the township board unanimously passed a 6 month moratorium.

According to local grassroots group Stop the Washington Township Data Center, “To fight a data center, several township residents realized attending one meeting and making their voices heard wouldn’t be enough. They assembled as one to out-manage the corporate conglomerate. A chairwoman, committee members, liaisons, industry experts, zoning experts, and researchers joined forces. Later, community captains joined the cause to spread the word.

None of this would’ve been possible without all of you. The community showed out. Your continued attendance of board meetings, rallies, and interaction on this Facebook group moved the needle.”

In June 2026, the developer officially withdrew, on the grounds that DTE would not be able to supply power within the necessary timeline.



Lenox Township

Macomb County

- Developer: Spartan Real Estate Group and/or Cloverleaf
- Size: 1,500 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: agricultural & residential
- Status: board refused to extend moratorium; planning commission has paused data center and I-94 District ordinances

Despite the Lenox Township Supervisor's adamant assertions that local officials have had no conversations about data center development, local residents have confirmed that conversations with developers have been in the works since early 2024 [through FOIA documents](#).

Initially slated for a state-funded Strategic Site Readiness Program (SSRP) project with the developer Spartan Real Estate Group, the 1,500 acre I-94 Development District encompasses nearly 20% of the township's agricultural and residential land. After enacting a four month data center moratorium in March of 2026, township board members pushed hard for zoning ordinances for the I-94 Development District and for data centers. Residents learned through FOIAs that township officials had been communicating with the developer about the ordinance drafts.

Residents and Planning Commissioners urged the township board to extend the moratorium another eight months, to give proper due diligence to these important zoning ordinances, but the board has flatly refused. On June 2nd, the Planning Commission voted not to send the rushed data center and I-94 Development District zoning ordinances on to the board for review. Local residents are gearing up for both a recall and a referendum.



Livingston County



Howell: Project Splitrock

Livingston County

withdrawn

- Developer: Meta (allegedly)
- Size: 1,077 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: agricultural & residential
- Status: application withdrawn

An undisclosed developer (rumored to be Meta) has been pursuing an AI data center project titled “Splitrock” on a 1,077 acre greenfield site in agricultural Howell Township. Residents of the community found out in August 2025, and by mid September, local grassroots were flooding town hall meetings regarding the developer’s zoning request.

The zoning request to allow the Van Gilder family’s farm to be turned into a “research and technology” site would have required the township to make changes to their master plan, which made no allowances for such heavy industrial zoning uses.

On September 23rd, after public comments opposing the data center which stretched past 2AM, Howell Township’s planning commission rejected the request to change their master plan and allow the data center. Latest update: Then in November 2025 board meeting, Howell Township voted unanimously to place a six month moratorium on any data center development project. This move came after over 2,200 county residents signed a petition demanding a moratorium.

Unfortunately, the moratorium the board approved was not the moratorium local residents had asked for. It specifically excluded rezoning of the site from the moratorium—which means that rezoning of the land from agricultural to heavy industrial could proceed, even with the moratorium in effect. Local residents and organizers expressed their disappointment in this addition.

During the board meeting, Livingston County Road Commissioner Paul Funk made comments about the road commission’s initial work with the developer.



He stated that the developer found their recommended design posed an “undue hardship.” The developer also asked the Road Commission to “consider moving the Grand River,” which runs adjacent to the southern portion of the property. Regarding the AI data center project, Commissioner Funk concluded by stating: “I’ll be a hard no on any vote.”

Days before the Township Board was slated to vote on whether or not to rezone the property from agricultural to heavy “research and technology” industrial, the developer [withdrew its application](#), at the request of the township. Livingston County planning director has been told the developer “wants to reevaluate the project”.

Since then, the township board and local residents have been working to revise the current master plan. In May, the board voted to extend the six month moratorium another six months.



Ingham County



- Developer: Deep Green
- Size: 2.7 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 24+ megawatts per day
- Neighborhood: commercial & residential
- Status: withdrawn

Late in 2025, the UK-based developer Deep Green announced it was pursuing a 25,000 square foot AI data center project in Lansing. City of Lansing Planning Commissioners denied a rezoning request for the project in a 4-3 vote in December.

In response to public outcry, City Council delayed voting on the rezoning until April. Just hours before the Council was slated to vote on the rezoning, on April 6th, representatives from Deep Green informed the Council that they were [withdrawing](#) their rezoning application, stating that the project would not move forward in Lansing.

Deep Green has yet to take down its [webpage for the project](#).



Mason

Mason & Vevay Townships, Ingham County

- Developer: rumored to be Microsoft
- Size: multiple potential sites, 100s of acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~2-10 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100 megawatts - 1 gigawatt per day
- Neighborhood: residential & commercial
- Status: pending developer announcement

In February 2026, City Council approved an M3 zoning ordinance, which would have paved the way for hyperscale data centers and other heavy industrial developments, in [spite of public outcry](#). City council members had publicly acknowledged that a data center developer had expressed interest in the community, and that they hope to work with one or two developers. Local grassroots quickly rallied to collect enough signatures to successfully put the zoning to a referendum vote. This prompted the City Council to vote to repeal the M3 zoning ordinance (266) in March.

Local residents suspect multiple sites are being eyed for development, as normal agricultural activities have been suspended. One of the sites is the 300+ acre Hall Farm, which overlaps into Vevay Township. Residents have expressed concern that the data center in Mason overlapping into Vevay Township could result in land being annexed from Vevay.

Now, local grassroots are collecting signatures on a petition to enact a zoning ordinance to regulate noise, specifically to address hyperscale data centers' low-frequency sound emissions. They're also collecting signatures to recall City Council members.



Jackson County



Rives Township

Jackson County

In April 2026, Jackson County officials [disclosed to Mlive](#) that they were actively working with Consumers Energy to bring a data center developer to the county. Commission Chair Jim Shotwell referred to data centers as “an inevitable need” and cited the benefits of their tax base.

It’s rumored among local residents that developers are eyeing 150 acres in Rives Township.



Calhoun County



Marshall

Calhoun County

- Developer: Alterra
- Economic Developer: Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance
- Size: 270 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 1-5 millions of gallons per day
- Energy: 1.4 gigawatts per day
- Neighborhood: residential & agricultural
- Status: pending developer application

Marshall residents battle an EV megasite—and now an AI data center, too. As if battling a 2,000 acre megasite development on prime farmland wasn't enough—now Marshall residents face an AI data center development in their peaceful, agricultural community.

A land sale contract for wetlands near Brooke Nature Center was inked between the City of Marshall to the developer Alterra through the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), with the land intended use being an AI data center. City commissioners held a special meeting with the developer, during which they voted on the sale of the land, in October 2025. Residents were reportedly given 48 hours notice before the meeting.

Alterra is [proposing](#) to generate 1,000 megawatts behind the meter with gas turbines.

Marshall City Council is currently considering passing noise ordinances to regulate the data center.



Kent County



Solon Township: Project Peninsula

Kent County

- Developer: Venerly LLC, in partnership with The Right Place
- Size: 800+ acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: residential & agricultural
- Status: pending moratorium and data center ordinances

The rural, agricultural community of Solon Township, just northwest of Cedar Springs, has been targeted for another of public-private economic development corporation The Right Place's west Michigan data center projects. This 800+ acre proposed hyperscale data center, codenamed "Project Peninsula" by The Right Place, is being developed by Venerly LLC, which is suspected to be a shell corporation for Meta (Facebook).

The neighboring Algoma community has been struggling with water access, and both Algoma and Solon Townships have been dealing with mitigating PFAs contamination from groundwater supply for several years. The Right Place proposes to draw water for the data center from Cedar Springs.

In addition to concerns about water consumption and toxification, energy use, and environmental impacts, local residents have expressed concerns about potential conflicts of interest between township officials and The Right Place. Supervisor Bob Ellick signed an NDA with The Right Place in May of 2025 to discuss "Project Peninsula".

In February of 2026, the Solon Township Board unanimously approved a 6 month moratorium on data centers. Neighboring Algoma Township passed a 4 month moratorium on data center applications a few days earlier.

Local officials have since been working to draft zoning ordinances which address data center development.



Lowell: Project Birch

Lowell Township, Kent County

- Developer: Franklin Partners, for Microsoft, in partnership with public-private EDC, The Right Place
- Size: 237 acres (+ four additional parcels)
- Subsidies: \$17.5M SSRP grant (SOAR) from the MEDC
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: residential & agricultural
- Status: pending water agreements and site plan application

The Lowell area is rich in water and abundant agriculture; the Flat and Grand Rivers meet in Lowell Charter Township, and its many valleys contribute to the watersheds which flow into Lake Michigan. The community here prizes its many hiking trails and historic landmarks.

In January of 2024, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) approved a \$17.5M Strategic Site Readiness Program (SSRP) grant, under the state Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) legislation, for local public-private economic development corporation The Right Place to prepare a site in Lowell for “Project Birch”.

The Right Place also managed the \$175M SSRP grants for the now-defunct \$2.4B EV battery factory in Big Rapids by Gotion, which have since been called into default by the MEDC.

Under the development of Franklin Partners and with the help of The Right Place, Microsoft is pursuing several AI data center projects in Michigan, including Project Birch in Lowell. Project Birch has identified 237 acres of agricultural land which is currently owned by the Barnabas Foundation, and which lies within a 425 agreement between Lowell Charter Township and the City of Lowell. This means both municipalities will have a say in the process, in terms of zoning and utilities.

In early 2026, the developer asked Lowell Township for rezoning from a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to light industrial, and to change the township’s zoning ordinance to specify that “data warehousing” is allowable within light industrial.



Lowell: Project Birch

Lowell Township, Kent County

The developer requested Data Warehousing be defined as:

“Data Warehousing Facility: A warehouse-style building or buildings that store computer and networking systems, servers, and related equipment within a climate-controlled environment, as well as office support facilities, utility structures and equipment, all of which serve the purpose of storing, managing, processing, and transmitting digital data.”

In April, The Right Place requested the City of Lowell and Lowell Township boards sign an SSRP subgrant agreement. Lowell residents requested that local township boards enact a moratorium on data centers and table decisions on signing the SSRP subgrant until further due diligence can be done by the board.



Gaines Township

Kent County

Gaines Township is currently facing two AI data center projects: a new campus by Microsoft, and a campus expansion by Switch.

- Developer: Switch
- Size: 124+ acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: commercial & residential
- Status: expansion is under construction

Data center developer Switch is expanding its Steelcase Pyramid data center into a large campus in Gaines Township, just south of Grand Rapids. The first data center was opened in the old landmark Steelcase Pyramid building by the data center developer in 2017. A second data center, built on the 124+ acre property, opened in 2025, and Switch has plans to build a third data center on the campus.

- Developer: Microsoft
- Size: 316 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: residential & agricultural
- Status: pending rezoning and site plan application

Microsoft has entered into a \$43M+ land contract agreement with Steelcase for 316 acres in Gaines Township, with the intention of building an AI data center. This development has been facilitated by public-private economic development corporation The Right Place, as have other west Michigan data center developments in Lowell and Solon Townships.

Local residents were left completely in the dark about the existence of the project, not finding out about the proposed data center until spring of 2026. Microsoft requested rezoning of a 40.5 acre parcel from a PUD to light industrial, which precipitated a five hour township board meeting on April 15th. The board tabled a vote on the zoning, citing a need for time to draft “a more thorough agreement”.



Alleghan County



Dorr

Allegan County

- Developer: Microsoft, with Lakeshore Advantage
- Size: 272 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 600,000+ gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: residential & agricultural
- Status: pending moratorium

In 2023, Microsoft quietly purchased two parcels of land in Dorr Township, at the same time they purchased parcels in Gains Township, in neighboring Kent County. In January of 2026, Microsoft finally made the public announcement it intends to build a data center on 128 acres of the 272 parcel. The regional public-private economic development firm Lakeshore Advantage has been working with Microsoft as a local partner.

Although the land is zoned industrial, township zoning ordinances do not list data centers as a permitted use, for either industrial or mixed-use. Local residents have accused Township Board members of violating the master plan with their rezoning of the Microsoft land. Some [locals also allege](#) that officials have known about the project since 2023, when Microsoft first purchased the two parcels. Microsoft has claimed their hyperscale data center will use a “closed loop” system, but they have yet to release figures for water and energy consumption. Closed-loop systems require notoriously more energy, which also consumes significant water.

The Dorr Township board approved a 12 month moratorium in February of 2026.



Kalamazoo County



Pavillion Township

Kalamazoo County

withdrawn

- Developer: Franklin Partners
- Size: 265 acres, greenfield
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: 5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: Residential & agricultural
- Status: developer has withdrawn zoning request

Real estate development firm Franklin Partners set their sights on 265 acres of farmland in agricultural Pavilion Township, just outside of Kalamazoo, in fall of 2025. The planned AI data center greenfield development would have required Pavilion Township to make changes to its master plan in order to accommodate the heavy industrial zoning.

But local residents quickly formed a grassroots movement and began expressing concerns to township officials. By September, town halls were filled. By November, the developer withdrew their request to the township. Still, local residents remain watchful for activity from Franklin Partners, or from other developers.



Cass County



Dowagiac

Cass County

- Developer: Hyperscale Data (formerly Ault Alliance)
- Size: 34+ acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 340 megawatts per day
- Neighborhood: residential & commercial
- Status: expansions are active

Developer Hyperscale Data Inc (formerly Ault Alliance), of Las Vegas, has targeted a former Sentium Bitcoin mining complex in Dowagiac for conversion into a “pureplay” hyperscale AI data center. This project will expand the current 30 megawatt system more than tenfold to a massive 340 megawatt, which is the energy usage equivalent to a mid-sized city.

Local city leaders and residents alike learned about the expansion from a press release, published by the developer. No permit requests or development proposals have been submitted to date.

In January 2026, Cass County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution [urging transparency](#) and a comprehensive regulatory framework for proposed data center development. Dowagiac City Council refused to pass a data center moratorium in order to bulwark zoning ordinances; Mayor Patrick Bakeman said he did not consider a moratorium to be appropriate.

Facility expansions into hyperscale began shortly after.

In late May, a group of local residents filed a class action [lawsuit](#) against the developer over noise nuisance, which has reached up to 70 decibels. Locals say the noise has increased exponentially since the conversion to hyperscale began. Mayor Bakeman’s wife is one the plaintiffs named in the lawsuit. Bakeman told media that he just wants to be able to enjoy his yard without a constant drone.



Berrien County



Benton Harbor

Berrien County

Withdrawn

- Developer: unknown
- Size: unknown
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: up to 15 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100 megawatts to 1.4 gigawatts per day
- Neighborhood: residential & agricultural
- Status: no project formally announced; Mayor is welcoming developers

Berrien County residents paused an AI data center; now the mayor wants to bring one in

In 2024, Benton Harbor city administrators pitched state regulators on a plan to cover a roughly \$2.5 million annual operating deficit by selling water wholesale to a large data center which developers are trying to lure to the community. At the time, the project failed to launch due to community pushback—and because state tax breaks weren't in place to subsidize development. Since the passage of Michigan's data center tax breaks in December of 2024, however, the situation has changed. Residents have remained watchful for city administrators and developers to restart the project.

Most recently, Benton Harbor's Mayor Marcus Muhammad has been [taking a strong stance in support](#) of data centers, citing the “immense abundance of water” in the area.



Manistee County



Stronach Township

Manistee County

- Developer: Tondu Corp.
- Size: 150 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: ~100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: rural agricultural & forestry
- Status: Land is purchased; no formal applications have been submitted.

Local property owner Joe Tondu has been “exploring options” with tech companies for data center development on his 150 acres in forested Manistee County. Residents became aware of this during a Planning Commission discussion in April 2026. After an outpouring of concern from residents, township officials held a town hall at a May 12th planning commission meeting, where Mr. Tondu addressed a packed room of over 225 people.

According to the Township Supervisor, no formal applications have been made by the developer, and the board is currently drafting a six month moratorium. The township’s Master Plan is currently in a state of being revised—a process which began before Mr. Tondu’s inquiry. Neighboring Filer Township is also drafting a six month moratorium.



Kalkaska County



Kalkaska

Kalkaska County

withdrawn

- Developer: none currently (formerly Rocklocker)
- Size: 1,500 acres
- Subsidies: CHIPS Act, Michigan Data Center tax breaks
- Water: ~1-5 million gallons of water per day
- Energy: 100+ megawatts per day (equivalent to a small city)
- Neighborhood: Rural residential & agricultural
- Status: currently without a developer

Residents of the remote, northern community of Kalkaska brought the fight swift and hard, when announcements emerged in October 2025 that carbon capture startup Rocklocker wanted to build a nearly 1,500 acre AI data center—on primarily state land, no less.

Two days after a very rowdy public meeting between developer representative Matt Rine and local community members on November 18th, Rocklocker announced that they were ending their “pursuit of a data center” in Kalkaska. Furthermore, DNR officials have unequivocally stated that the “door is shut” to allowing an AI data center to be built on public land.

Although these are tremendous wins, it’s unlikely that Kalkaska has seen the last of potential AI data center developers.

And Rocklocker will now be looking for a new site in Michigan for its 1,500 acre data center.

