Connecticut discusses banning new data centers



The K100 data center prepares to install the AMD-powered Lux AI cluster in 2026. Connecticut lawmakers have discussed temporarily banning the construction of new AI data centers across the state.
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Connecticut lawmakers are expected to talk this winter about temporarily banning construction of new data centers across the state, according to the Hartford Courant. This could stop the production of several projects around the state.

Before being elected as the incoming state Senate president, Sen. Bob Duff had said he expects to put forward legislation to stop the state from building new data centers as towns across the state decide whether they should even be in Connecticut at all.

"I think at this point we would start probably with a moratorium on all data centers," Duff said in an interview with CT Insider. "We just need to contemplate all of those things in the legislative session and come up with rules of the road or not."

A moratorium is an official temporary delay that stops or pauses an activity, law or legal obligation.

Recent debate has focused on hyperscale data centers, meaning they are massive facilities that are owned by a major technology firm, telecommunications company or a cloud provider. They are built to handle enormous computing and storage demands. A hyperscale data center consumes 1 million to 5 million gallons of water per day. This amount is comparable to the daily water demand of a town with 10,000 to 50,000 residents, according to Nature Forward.

"AI data centers are so much bigger; they use so much more electricity," Duff said. "The water usage, the same concerns that Connecticut residents have as we're seeing around the country."

Duff said the state cannot address the issue town by town since the region's electric grid is interconnected, according to CT Insider.

Individual towns throughout the state of Connecticut are turning to temporary bans on data centers due to worries over massive electricity and water usage. As well as noise pollution and the loss of agricultural or open land, CT Mirror reported. The number of bans continues to grow.

Cromwell Mayor James Demetriades is considering enacting a six-month moratorium on data centers, according to a Facebook post. Demetriades said that he would put forward an ordinance that would prevent tax breaks for data centers. Ellington also agreed to look into a moratorium proposal before Thanksgiving, the Hartford Courant reported.

Other towns like New Haven, Trumbull, Groton, Morris and West Haven have also voted to prohibit data centers from being built. Harwinton and Beacon Falls officials are talking about possible bans. East Lyme's Zoning Commission voted unanimously to adopt an indefinite ban on all data center development.

The ban came into effect before anyone announced any plans to construct a data center in the coastal town, CT Mirror reported.

Senator-elect Joe de la Cruz of Groton said he would back a temporary statewide ban.

"I'm calling for a moratorium until we know exactly what these projects will cost our ratepayers and our environment," Cruz said to the Hartford Courant.

In Danbury, state Rep. Raghib Allie-Brennan announced that he would be willing to support a precisely focused moratorium. Allie-Brennan said this after a meeting with residents that had been opposing a data center near a new complex of condos and houses being built.



The Connecticut State Capitol Building located in Downtown Hartford. Connecticut lawmakers have discussed temporarily banning the construction of new AI data centers across the state.
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