Transparency and Accountability | Types of Disclosures

The tables below summarize different types of information that policymakers may require from data centers, the purpose for the disclosure, where or how that information should be disclosed, and relevant examples of state legislation.

WATER DISCLOSURES

TYPE OF DISCLOSURE	WHY IT MATTERS	RELEVANT PROCESSES OR BODIES	EXAMPLES
Water Withdrawals	Reporting water sources and changes to sources, withdrawal amounts, potential water use conflicts, and impacts to drought or water vulnerability risk are necessary to understand data center impacts on water networks.	Local water use permits	**Virginia HB 2035** (failed, 2025); **Maryland SB 978** (failed, 2025)
Water Usage and Efficiency	Reporting monthly gross and net on-site water consumption, end uses, water usage effectiveness (WUE), water efficiency technologies used, and water usage reduction efforts are necessary to plan for data center water consumption and ensure measures are being taken to reduce water usage.	State or local water discharge permits	**New Jersey S 4143** (failed, 2025); **Virginia HB 2035** (failed, 2025)
Indirect Water Consumption from Energy Production	Data centers that host on-site power generation or contract with specific generators should disclose the water use of those facilities, as this will typically be far higher than on-site water consumption. This data creates an accurate view of the indirect impacts associated with data centers.	Local water use permits, and public interest	**Illinois SB 4016**/ **HB 5513** (proposed, 2026)
Effluent Discharge	Reporting the amount, temperature, and toxicity of discharge; pollutants present in discharge; pollutant prevention efforts; and impacts to the amount and quality of local water supply is essential to regulating water pollution.	State or local water quality division	**Minnesota HF 2928** (proposed, 2026); **Utah HB 76** (enacted, 2026); **Illinois SB 3830** (proposed, 2026)
Water Costs and Infrastructure Impacts	Reporting the costs of providing water service and wastewater treatment (to be estimated before construction), the necessary changes to water infrastructure, and the potential impacts to water rates are necessary to determine the full scope of all short- and long-term costs.	Local water boards and authorities	**Illinois SB 4016**/ **HB 5513** (proposed, 2026)
Study Results	Key to understanding measurable environmental, economic, and community impacts. Reporting requirements should extend to the state, localities, and data center owners that conduct any studies.	Relevant to different stakeholders depending on the type of impact studied	**Virginia SB 1448** (failed, 2025)
Impact Mitigation Efforts	Important to ensuring that data centers are taking the proper measures to reduce any negative impacts and meet state goals. This can include any voluntary or involuntary efforts for energy and water efficiency, emissions reductions, land use, etc.	Relevant to different stakeholders depending on the type of impact mitigated	**Illinois SB 2181** (proposed, 2026)

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ENERGY DISCLOSURES

TYPE OF DISCLOSURE	WHY IT MATTERS	RELEVANT PROCESSES OR BODIES	EXAMPLES
Electricity Consumption Profile	Maximum electricity consumption will influence electricity reliability and affordability for regional customers, particularly as data center demand overlaps with system peaks. Data centers should disclose the peak coincidence of their power demands, how flexible their load may be, and efficiency efforts. States may also demand operational characteristics of on-site resources like batteries.	PUCs in setting contracts, data center tariffs, or other utility planning processes	**Florida HB 1517** (proposed, 2026)
Energy Sources	The types of energy sources serving data centers will influence the GHG emissions attributable to their power demand. States may demand estimated GHG intensity of energy sources serving their load, as well as their location, to verify the deliverability of their power. This may include reporting what sources are on- or off-site.	PUCs in Clean Transition or other green tariffs, statewide GHG and clean energy targets	**New York A.9086** (proposed, 2026)
Redundancy of Interconnection Request	Knowing whether a proposed project is seeking to interconnect in other jurisdictions will influence grid planning.	PUCs monitoring interconnection requests and conducting planning processes	**Texas SB 6** (enacted, 2025); **Texas SB 1641** (failed, 2025); **New Jersey A5462** (failed, 2025)
Backup generation	The type of generator and pollution control technology, operational profiles, and efficiency of backup generation will be key for assessing local air impacts.	State air quality permitting	Minnesota **HF 2928** (proposed, 2026)
Energy Efficiency	Reporting Power Usage Effectiveness, or other metrics for on-site energy efficiency, is key for reducing energy consumption.	Building Codes, Zoning Codes, PUC tariff or contract proceedings	**Maryland SB 0947** (failed, 2025)
Ventilation, Weatherproofing, and Waste Heat	Ventilation and weatherproofing are key metrics for understanding data center power efficiency. Reporting can cover estimated recovered waste heat and methods to reduce heat loss. These factors are also important in ensuring data centers' energy efficiency and effects to surrounding communities.	State and Local Building Codes, PUCs	**New Jersey S 4143** (failed, 2025); **New York A.9086** (proposed, 2026)
Study Results	Key to understanding measurable environmental, economic, and community impacts. Reporting requirements should extend to the state, localities, and data center owners that conduct any studies.	Relevant to different stakeholders depending on the type of impact studied	**Virginia SB 1448** (failed, 2025)
Impact Mitigation Efforts	Important to ensuring that data centers are taking the proper measures to reduce any negative impacts and meet state goals. This can include any voluntary or involuntary efforts for energy and water efficiency, emissions reductions, land use, etc.	Relevant to different stakeholders depending on the type of impact studied	**Illinois SB 2181** (proposed, 2026)

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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DISCLOSURES

TYPE OF DISCLOSURE	WHY IT MATTERS	RELEVANT PROCESSES OR BODIES	EXAMPLES
Noise Levels	Data centers produce audible humming from their processors that may violate local noise limits. This noise has the potential to reach decibel levels **unsafe to public health** if exposed long-term.	Local Siting and Zoning Bodies	**Georgia HB 528** (failed, 2025)
Air Emissions	Backup generators and on-site gas turbines at data centers, even when permitted for "emergency use", may operate a substantial percentage of the year and contribute to local air quality concerns.	State Air Quality Permitting	**Virginia SB 285** (failed, 2025)
Efforts to Reduce Fossil Fuel Consumption	Reporting any plans to enlist clean energy sources, either on- or off-site. Using fossil fuel energy sources is one of many contributing factors to high GHGs associated with data centers.	State Air Quality Permitting	**New York A.9086** (proposed, 2026)
Odors	Often associated with GHGs, odors from data centers are an area of contention from surrounding communities.	Local Siting and Zoning Bodies	**Maryland SB 0978** (failed, 2025)
Study Results	Key to understanding measurable environmental, economic, and community impacts. Reporting requirements should extend to the state, localities, and data center owners that conduct any studies.	Relevant to different stakeholders depending on the type of impact studied	**Virginia SB 1448** (failed, 2025)
Impact Mitigation Efforts	Important to ensuring that data centers are taking the proper measures to reduce any negative impacts and meet state goals. This can include any voluntary or involuntary efforts for energy and water efficiency, emissions reductions, land use, etc.	Relevant to different stakeholders depending on the type of impact mitigated	**Illinois SB 2181** (proposed, 2026)
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Results	Key to understanding environmental impacts outside of emissions, energy, and water. Impacts examined in EIAs include those to wildlife and their habitats, soil and groundwater quality, historic and cultural resources, etc.	State siting and air quality permitting, local zoning, and public interest	**Maryland SB 0978** (failed, 2025)

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ECONOMIC DISCLOSURES

TYPE OF DISCLOSURE	WHY IT MATTERS	RELEVANT PROCESSES OR BODIES	EXAMPLES
Taxes Paid	Publicly reporting data center taxes paid is key to having trusted, vetted state data center policy and critical when assessing state budgets.	Public interest, governors and state legislatures for budgets	**Georgia HB 528** (failed, 2025)
Incentives Received	Publicly reporting data center incentives and costs (per project and per recipient) is key to having trusted, vetted state data center policy. Also critical when assessing state budgets.	Public interest, governors and state legislatures for budgets	
Jobs Created, Wages, and Local Labor	Publicly reporting jobs created by data centers and wages paid to workers is key to having trusted, vetted state data center policy.	Public interest, and qualifying for tax incentives	**New York A.9086** (proposed, 2026)
Contracts with the State	If a state uses contracts with data centers, it's important to keep the public informed of specific details of each agreement, such as community benefit agreements and promised subsidies.	Public interest	
Study Results	Key to understanding measurable environmental, economic, and community impacts. Reporting requirements should extend to the state, localities, and data center owners that conduct any studies.	Relevant to different stakeholders depending on the type of impact studied	**Virginia SB 1448** (failed, 2025)
Impact Mitigation Efforts	Important to ensuring that data centers are taking the proper measures to reduce any negative impacts and meet state goals. This can include any voluntary or involuntary efforts for energy and water efficiency, emissions reductions, land use, etc.	Relevant to different stakeholders depending on the type of impact mitigated	**Illinois SB 2181** (proposed, 2026)