Interview with Dr. Joe Church, CEO of New York Green Cloud.
Conducted by phone, May 4th, 2026
This interview has been edited for clarity.

Ledger:

For the people in Ione who are hearing about New York Green Cloud for the very first time, what exactly is New York Green Cloud? What makes the New York Green Cloud approach different from a typical data center company?

Dr. Church:

New York Green Cloud is two different things. We're energy production and focused on green energy production. And then also the data center side of it as well.

What makes it different, I guess, is first our focus on green energy. We do this in stages where we want to take phase one here, which is repowering an existing but idle source of green energy, which is the biomass plant. Then step two is upgrading this to what's called pyrolysis. Instead of burning wood chips, it's like superheating them and then burning the vapors. As you do that, you don't get smoke. You also get some byproducts that are used in carbon capture. It turns it to a not just green, but net negative carbon energy production, which is very hard to do, but in this model, it is truly achievable. That's one. As we produce our energy, we're focused on that.

We're focused on net negative carbon and creating a viable source of power that is green, but different than your other green energy types. There are opportunistic energy sources, such as solar and wind, which the solar works when the sun is shining and when the wind is blowing, you get power. This is a dispatchable type of power, so you get the same amount of power 24/7.

And by doing that, what it does is it helps to stabilize the grid, meaning if you have different power sources at different times, maybe there's not enough power to the area at nighttime, for example. This helps to stabilize the grid, which is very important in the energy world. These disparities or these changes in the amount of power that's available affects how the grid is structured and what energy can be used, but also the rates, power rates as well.

That's the power side of it. At the data center side, we have a strategic partner that we work with named 2CRSI. And 2CRSI has been a company that builds servers.

They've been doing this for over 20 years, and works in the global market building these servers and selling them.

Their focus on this for the past 20 years has been finding an efficient way to do this. They look at efficiency. And two key examples of what they do is, in their models, heat reuse is important. As they're creating a lot of power, they get the byproduct of heat. And they'll use these, for example, using the heat from servers to heat buildings. Heat reuse has always been important for them.

And also, more recently over the past, especially five or six years, liquid cooling. Your regular servers are cooled by air cool. It's just blowing air across using fans and blowing air across.

This is what you see in your typical data center or the image that people have of a typical data center. This would be a large footprint, so a very large building. Usually, they're either old warehouses or something of several hundred thousand square feet.
And a lot of fans in them. And then this is just blowing air across to cool the machines that way.This model is in about 95% of data centers right now.

It's a very common model and it's a standard way of doing it. This is, I think, where people see or misinterpret modern data centers. They think this is a large building that's going to create a lot of excess heat, excess noise, and waste a lot of energy.

Those are air cooled. Liquid cooled is what this company focuses on and what our data centers would be. The reason why this became important or why the market is so good for it now is that as the AI boom has kicked off, and you have all these, the power of these servers is just so much more than it was even two or three years ago.

Which is amazing. It's amazing on the compute power and the abilities of them. But in order to do that, it requires a lot of power in a little space.

Whereas a few years ago, a server might use 50 watts of power. Now, something of the same size would be using 600 watts of power or assumed to be 1,200 watts of power. It's not to say that it's using up more, it's just they're more dense.

In order to do that and to get the compute power, it's a smaller space, but it's a lot of power going through this small space. And what happens is, when you do that, you can't cool those down by the old methods. Something to cool it down if it's generating 50 watts of power, you can use an air cooled system.

You can't use the air, there's no way you can blow enough air across these to cool them down. So, that is where the liquid cool technology comes in.

Ledger:
And this is 2CRSI technology, correct?

Dr. Church:
Yes, it is. Okay.

Ledger:
I was looking at the Impact Capital PowerPoint. I saw that Mr. Alain Wilmoth, he's also assigned CEO.

Dr. Church:
CEO of 2CRSI.

Ledger:
Okay, not New York Green Cloud?

Dr. Church:
No, 2CRSI is his business.

Ledger:

Oh, okay. I was confused about that. I didn't know. Because also, when I was with Adam [Adam Muston of BucSha Energy]**,** he said something like, oh, Dr. Church is “technically” the CEO.

Dr. Church: They are a strategic partner, we call them. 2CRSI is not a partner in New York Green Cloud. But they are who we work with for the technology..

Ledger:
Why did you choose Ione for this project? Was it specifically just because of the Buena Vista location?

Dr. Church:

Well, the power plant is one. And then what we do is we have a checklist or certain criteria that we look for across the area. Access to power.

We like the power plant. We like these biomass power plants specifically because it gives us an availability to achieve power much sooner than anyone else. If you were to build a data center and take power from the grid, which is now it's becoming even more of a hot topic. You can't just take that much power. Think of the hyperscalers doing this. You can't take that much power from an area and potentially deplete the area.

Having access to a power source is very important. Having access to an interconnect is important as well. So is the ability to have this grid.

And that's what this sites give us is that availability of power at about a six-month time.The average time that it would take to get power to other sources is about three years. And if you wanted to create from ground up, it would probably be about seven years in California.

Having access to it is important. Also, this is how we achieve our green energy. Again, not using a different source.

One of the other models that's out there now, when you look at things like hyperscalers, are using natural gas as a common one. They'll bring in a lot of natural gas turbines to create power. And then use that until they get a hookup to the grid.
Natural gas is going to burn a lot of fossil fuels. Ours is not. We like Ione because of its availability. The biomass as well. The biomass plant is part of it. And then also, there's other checklists that go in there as far as what is the power source, the rates of power, availability of fiber to help with data transmission. It's all part of a model. And then we select from there.

Ledger: Ione is a small town. The population is like a little over 5,000 people. And there's locals who are a little bit worried about the data center coming in. There are claims of bills going up by residents. What would you say to her and to other Ione community members that are concerned about this rollout?

Dr. Church:

First, our data center, what we look at is creating our own power for the data center. That would not take power from the community. It wouldn't affect the rates in that way.
And in any other way, by doing this grid stabilization, by creating a power source to create continuous power, that's what stabilizes the grid and brings power in. It would actually help the rates, if anything.

Ledger:
I see.

Dr. Church:
And as far as rates going up on the potential of a data center, no, that just doesn't happen. I don't know the inner workings of the utility companies. But, no, you can't use speculation to drive people's rates higher. And, again, the simplest answer is that we're going to be creating our own power. It doesn't have any relation to it.

Ledger:
Behind the meter, is that right?

Dr. Church:
Behind the meter is the term, yes.

Ledger:
On the NYGC website, I saw the Buena Vista factory overview video. And in it, it said that there would be thousands of long-term jobs created.

Dr. Church:
Yes, that's right. And the thousands of jobs are the jobs calculated. There are jobs, primary, secondary, and tertiary jobs created. Primary jobs would be at the site. And there would be two main companies there. One is the biomass plant itself. And the second is the AI factory, the data center. Both will have staffing there. And then, both of these are 24/7 facilities as well. That's one.The secondary jobs are companies like probably the best example is we need to bring in wood chips for the biomass plant. In order to bring in wood chips, you need a lot of wood chips. And you need trucks to deliver them. You have the truckers and every associated business with them. As you go further on the data center side, there is the data center build and staffing. There's also production. And the thousands come to the amount that it takes to build the servers. There will be hundreds of jobs created by the biomass plant alone through the energy production. And then, as you get to the very high numbers, it's because the complexity of the servers and what it takes to build.

Ledger:
There might be an over-reliance on NVIDIA chips. Do you feel this and what risk comes with this, especially if the AI field cools off? What happens to the Buena Vista plant at this point?

Dr. Church:
What we're doing is building a data center. And although it's not entirely dependent on AI chips or NVIDIA chips, that's where the market is. Even if the market cooled off now, there is no place to put any of these. All the customers that are purchasing these chips or the servers right now do not have any space. In California, data centers are about 99% capacity. And the majority are not liquid cooled. Across the country, the average is about 95% capacity, meaning there's

just no space anywhere for these. So the backlog is huge. And through our strategic partner, 2CRSI, the idea of why we work so well with them is because they can sell these servers and give their customers an option of a potential place to put the servers.

Ledger: The earliest Buena Vista data center everything would be rolling would be 2027 or 2028?

Dr. Church:

The earliest is 2027. There are a few different ways to go about this. It's best to explain this in the three phases to say, one is repower the existing biomass plant. The second is upgrade the existing biomass plant. And the third, which can be done in parallel, is doing the data center. So in order to get everything set and permits as well for a data center, yeah, we anticipate 2027.

Ledger:
Around what time, like summer?

Dr. Church:

It depends on permits, really. The build of the data center is about a two month build. So these are modular units that create a larger building. This is the company that we'll be working with. It's kind of tried and true in how they build these units. On-site construction is minimal. They're not modules like, like standalone pieces that are just, you know, spaced out over a piece of real estate. These are put together in a building to create one solid building.

Ledger:
And what's the ETA for each bit that needs to be done at the biomass plant?

Dr. Church:

So the phase one, which is repower, the ETA, the start time is mid-July of this year. And then we have about, we can say, we'll say late 2027 for the pyrolysis, which is the phase two of that. Pyrolysis is a rather major upgrade and requires new technology, validation of that technology, and then bringing parts on site. So it's a pretty major rebuild of that.
It will also take the biomass plant, which is currently at about, will produce about 18 megawatts of power, and it will bring that to about 41 megawatts of power. Right.

Ledger:

I was relayed that the design preliminary discussions with the local authority in Ione would take place once you found a customer, because the data center is custom built. Do you already have a customer that's interested?

Dr. Church:

We have lots of potential customers and finding the customer is not the problem. There are many in our pipeline, but it's more coordinating with our timeline. For example, as we go through this process, we have to, we want to validate this and make sure that the biomass plant

is running as is.And then as we feel comfortable with that, and we see that this phase of the refurbished or the upgrade is in place, then we can target our time, which is also dependent upon the permits. We can't lock in a customer right now because there are still those variables that exist, and we can't move to full permit process until we validate our pyrolysis process. That being said, if we anticipate, for example, a six month period for permits, we can't commit to a client right now and tell them it's going to be six months, but it could be a year or something. They need to know. The clients we are confident in, and it's just we need to deliver an accurate time for them. And then that depends on, as technology changes, are we going to use the type of server that's presently available? Or are we going to use, is there a new type of server, for example, that's going to come out in six months or a year? And we use that. Those will bring in slight changes to the data center.Not major, but slight ones. That's where it comes, why we can't sign clients until we know for sure.

Ledger: So the power plant site alone is going to be between $150 to $170 million. Is that correct?

Dr. Church:
That's for the second phase of that one, to bring the pyrolysis in.

Ledger:
And the company so far is $20 to $25 million into getting it back into newer condition?

Dr. Church:
Yes, that's the price it takes to repower the existing site. So $20 to $25 million to repower the existing biomass plant. That's about where it is.

Ledger:
And how much are we talking about for the full project, including data center?

Dr. Church:
The power side, you can roughly say are those two prices, although there are some added costs in there as well. The data center side is, frankly, the more expensive part of it. The servers alone are extremely expensive. If we're looking at developing a 20 megawatt data center, then that's about a billion dollars in today's server pricing.

Ledger:
And do you already have funding?

Dr. Church:
Yes, we do have a pathway which is dependent upon clients, which is we have to wait for clients to sign. So yes, we're confident with our funding, I should say.

Ledger:
What environmental drawbacks might occur when the plant is brought to a newer condition?

Dr. Church:

It doesn't really have an environmental impact. Not a negative one, I should say. It's all positive. One of the key parts as well is producing this byproduct called biochar. Biochar is used in carbon capture and it's used in agricultural uses. You mix it with soil as well. It's a fascinating product by itself to be able to create that and to create it in a way that is a very measurable way to provide carbon capture. So we know exactly how much biochar we're going to produce, for example, per day, per month, per year. And to have that availability allows us to set up with customers' clients for purchase of this biochar. It is truly very carbon negative in the end and there isn't an environmental impact that we worry about. I know there's always concern about water usage or waste, but they're not founded.

And then when you look at the data center side of it, again, back to this liquid cooled, that's where the discrepancy comes. People think data centers are going to use a lot of water in their cooling and they think that it's going to create massive amounts of heat and noise. But this is a closed system, meaning the liquid in there is closed, much like running a car.

Ledger:
Have you ever had to abandon a project due to community opposition?

Dr. Church: No.

Ledger: What's the current status of the Chateaugay Project?

Dr. Church:

Chateaugay was a site that I purchased probably about four years ago. And I purchased it because it's near where I live. I live in upstate New York. That's where Chateaugay is. That's how I found it. And we used that as an idea. That was where we started with this. The problem with Chateaugay is not abandoned due to any issues. The site is not in the condition that Buena Vista was in. The cost of repowering Chateaugay, because you'd have to replace so many things, is just not possible. But the cost of upgrading it directly to pyrolysis is. So we can do that, but we need to, or really would like to, validate this process with a properly running plant. So that's where Buena Vista gives us this ability. We're looking at redeveloping Buena Vista into a pyrolysis plant. And then using that technology because there's a lot of testing and analysis of gas and heat creation, power creation.All these things that go into it because this is a new technology.

As we validate it at one site, we can then replicate that at other sites. So Chateaugay remains a possibility, but we have to wait until we've created the Buena Vista model in order to seek funding for pyrolysis there.

Ledger:
That makes sense. What's the scale of Chateaugay?

Dr. Church:
Roughly the same size.

Ledger:
In the megawatts?

Dr. Church:
Yes.

Ledger:
Same?

Dr. Church:
Yeah, same as Buena Vista. So they're both right around that 20 megawatts.

Ledger:
Did the Chateaugay community have any issues with your endeavor?

Dr. Church:
No. There's two sides to these things. So like you said, there could always be this underlying fear of change or fear of something happening. Or there's the other side that says we lost a very viable business and people were out of work and now it's gone. Chateaugay welcomes the restart of that place. It brings jobs. It brings viability. A lot of these companies for timber were dependent on this and it closed really overnight one time, which is what a lot of these places do. So it was a big hit to the community. Chateaugay is a small community like Ione. And to have that sudden loss of good jobs, both in the operators of the plant but also in the trucking industry and the timber industry was a big hit. So now they would love to see a comeback.

Dr. Church:
First point, like you mentioned, you read these things and they'll talk about like a 300 or 400 megawatt project going up. Keep in mind those are like potentials that will come. To realize what it actually takes to get 400 megawatts of power is quite amazing. And it's very hard to do. And there are all these other parts to this process. Like if you're drawing power from this grid, that continuous draw of power is fine. But if you had some sort of critical problem at your data center, for example, and you had to shut down immediately, well then where does that power go? For example, if it was 20 times what a community used, you can't just release that much power. So that infrastructure on the grid or that strain on the grid is real.

And these projects, that's why it takes so long to develop them. But also the scale of that and the enormity is way beyond. So it takes years and years. And there are articles out there as well that says, okay, so everyone's saying they're going to do a gigawatt of power here or 30 gigawatts of power. It's unbelievable. And if they were to do this, more power then could be produced in these areas, period. It's questionable how many of those projects will actually come around and be real.

Ours is finding solutions to it and delivering quickly, I think is the best way to put it. So yes, it might be smaller than say a 300 megawatt, but this is smaller than it's one plant. And we

take it from roughly 20 megawatts to 40 megawatts. And if we can do that at 10 plants, then that's 400 megawatts. So that's how we can achieve it. But we can achieve it faster and we can achieve it in a green way. And the green is not just sustainable for the environment. We also believe it's sustainable for the tech side or the data center world as well. On the other side of it, you can't have an energy source.

You can't be powering or think you're going to power a data center with coal, for example. There's no way that you could destroy the earth to create enough power and think that that's going to be a good model for 20 years. So there will be regulations in place.
And those models just won't be applicable, which is where we feel even more comfortable with ours. Yes, it is good for the environment and it's a sustainable way to go there. But we also feel that we're going to be ahead or secure in case any other regulations come around.

Ledger: This morning I read news about Musk saying the Grok data center is going to be like one gigawatt or something like that. I don't know. It's just something kind of obscene.

Dr. Church:
Yes.

Ledger:
For Rouse's Point, when was it built? Are you the owner-operator?

Dr. Church:
Rouse's Point is not my location. It's associated with 2CRSI.

Ledger:

Through the Impact Capital Partners slideshow, I saw that NYGC is offering cloud services. Which facility or infrastructure is currently supporting that?

Dr. Church:

I would say it's difficult to discuss because some of those places, we haven't come out with them yet.

Ledger:

The Atlas Cloud Partnership, can you clarify the scope of that partnership?
What exactly are they funding? Are they a customer, partner, co-owner?

Dr. Church:

Not a co-owner. They would be a customer, or a strategic partner in a way.
But no, there's no link other than they need a reliable source for power and data center.
And that's what we can deliver. We can deliver it faster than others. They've sent an ROI commitment with us. They have a pretty large pipeline of customers. So, as everything gets set, yes, they would move ahead.

Ledger:

How much water will the facility use daily at full capacity? Where would it come from? Because, you know, California is a drought state.

Dr. Church:

The water usage is really negligible. It's very hard to describe numbers right now, because we have to wait for the validation through the company that builds the modular units. So, as we get that, we'll deliver that. But really, the water usage is more linked with the existing biomass plant. And it's below what we've already been allotted. So, we don't see an increase above.

We don't see a need to go towards the water board and require more water. There's none of that. We have existing usage that was permitted through the previous owner. Currently, we're using no water. And as we repower, we'll still be way below what we've been allowed.

Ledger:

What I'm hearing is that there is not going to be an issue with higher electric bills. There's not going to be an issue with the water. There's not really going to be too much of an issue with any kind of extra environmental impact.

Of course, there's going to be some kind of issue with trucks coming in and out?

Dr. Church:

Yeah, the trucks coming in and out are because the biomass plant is working again. Of course. You can say I don't want to see trucks on the road, but it is jobs.

Of course. You can say the absence of it. There are other plants and factories in the Ione area and across California that have closed down. It's very, I don't know, it depends what side you're on. If you're local and you're associated with that trucking industry or the secondary and tertiary jobs that come with that, then you want to see that activity. No activity is not good for the town.

Ledger:

One last question. What independent third party audits or publicly available data can residents rely on to verify any kind of environmental or economic claims that NYGC makes over time?

Dr. Church:

Yeah, that's a great question. This is all validated by an independent third party. For example, when we create data centers, when data centers are created, there is a system to measure power usage or efficiency of power usage. It's called PUE. And this is by an independent company. It's power usage effectiveness. Those ratings are what, how much energy is actually used to power the servers versus how much is used in cooling and heat loss. So, for example, an air cooled system will have a PUE of 1.4. 1, 1.0 meaning that's like your perfect number. 1.4 means 40% goes to waste, goes to heating and goes to cooling. Liquid cooled of this technology will bring it down to 1.02 to 1.04. These ratings and also with water usage are tested and verified by an outside company. And this is a standard in the data center world.

Ledger:
Which company is it?

Dr. Church:
It's a national, it's a worldwide regulatory company. So, I can't remember the name of it right now.

Ledger:
Is there anything you'd like to share more of?

Dr. Church:
I think the key parts in this are understanding that there are three different phases that we're going in our development. Like I said, so first is repowering the biomass plant. This is straight repowering. There is no change in water usage or fuel or anything else because it's really just using the same model that was there already. We're just starting the business back up again.

The next two will be validated, proposed, and we work through any of the governmental organizations and permit process and boards to verify. So, it's not that we're building regardless.These are things that will be considered.

Although we are confident that the numbers will come out as we want. The same with the data center. So, it's not that we're building a data center without considering something. We can't divulge the information, the specifics of like the exact numbers of power and water usage because it's directly linked to the server usage. Although we're extremely confident, one, that these numbers are valid, and two, they will take everyone's fears out of the equation. And if they didn't, then they didn't. We can repower the biomass plant as is and produce power. The company could stand alone as just a biomass plant. However, we believe this area would be especially good for a data center.