

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Artificial intelligence (AI) data centers are at the forefront nationally and in communities across the U.S. With more than 150 local news titles across the country, Adams MultiMedia's journalists have been covering these projects extensively at the ground level. Now, we're looking in-depth at how these community impacts connect to the broader, global AI wave. Editors across the U.S. agree: No other issue in recent history has filled so many town halls with heated debate.



AI data centers' appetites for electricity
are reshaping energy landscapes

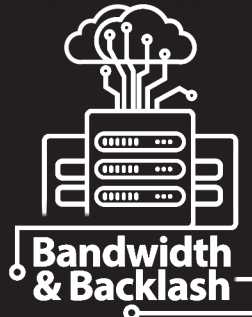
Power hungry

BY MIKE SUNNUCKS • Adams MultiMedia

Artificial intelligence and its machines need electricity—a lot of electricity.

Data centers accounted for 4.4% of American electricity consumption in 2024, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The surge in new, more energy-intensive data centers to power artificial intelligence and its machine learning waves is poised to potentially triple electricity consumption by 2028, according to Penn State University's



DISCORD OVER
AI DATA CENTERS

Institute of Energy and the Environment.

A recent analysis by Bloomberg projects U.S. data centers will consume as much as 20% of total electricity production by 2035.

"The usage is definitely significant and it's growing," said Kim Lundgren, CEO of Kim Lundgren Associates (KLA), a Boston-based sustainability consulting firm that works with local governments on data centers and other development issues.