AI/Data Center Resources

Provided by the AI panelist: Tish O'Dell, Keith Instone, Lauren Collier, Tom Bush, and Molly Thompson

1. Understanding Data Centers & Their Environmental Impacts

Energy, Electricity & Infrastructure

- AI Data Centers Are Sending Power Bills Soaring – Bloomberg
  An examination of how the growing demand for electricity from AI data centers is affecting energy costs.
- Data Centers, Urban Heat, and AI Growth – Yale School of the Environment
  Explores the relationship between data center expansion, urban heat, and the growth of artificial intelligence.

Water Use & Water Resources

- Understanding How Data Centers Impact Surface and Ground Waters – University of Georgia
  Research examining how data center operations can affect surface water and groundwater resources.
- How Data Centers Are Deepening the Water Crisis – Business Insider
  Examines the growing water demands associated with data centers and the potential consequences for communities facing water stress.
- Are Data Centers a Threat to the Great Lakes? – Great Lakes Now / Bridge Michigan
  Explores concerns surrounding data center development and its potential implications for Great Lakes water resources.

Air Quality & Pollution

- xAI Data Center Emits Plumes of Pollution, New Video Shows – DeSmog
  Investigates pollution concerns surrounding an AI data center and documents visible emissions.
- Exposing the Dark Side of America's AI Data Center Explosion – Business Insider
  A video exploring some of the less visible environmental and community consequences of America's growing data center industry.

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2. Data Centers: Ohio, Michigan & Local Community Impacts

Michigan Resources

- Data Centers in Michigan: Current State of Energy, Water, and Local Considerations – University of Michigan (May 2026)
  A snapshot of Michigan's data center landscape, examining energy, water, policy, and community engagement. Also includes information about the May 2026 workshop, *Charting Michigan's Data Center Future Together*, and the Saline Township project.
- What Michigan Local Governments Should Know About Data Centers – University of Michigan Center for EmPowering Communities (February 2026)
  A practical guide to the environmental and economic impacts of data centers, including zoning considerations and steps local governments can take.

Ohio Resources

- OEDA Data Center Resources for Ohio Communities – Ohio Economic Development Association
  Resources intended primarily for economic developers, offering insight into the data center industry and the economic development considerations behind these projects. Helpful for understanding the industry from a different perspective.
- Future Ready Ohio
  A website developed by a group of business leaders exploring data centers and their role in Ohio's future.

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3. Artificial Intelligence, Technology & Human Well-Being

- Riding the Wave: AI, Inevitability, and Human Sovereignty – Joshua Stylman
  Examines the relationship between artificial intelligence, human agency, and the idea that technological change is inevitable.
- MIT Study Finds Artificial Intelligence Use Reprograms the Brain, Leading to Cognitive Decline – The Focal Points
  Discusses research concerning AI use, cognitive engagement, and potential effects on human thinking. Readers may wish to consult the original research when evaluating the claims.
- Can AI Be Just? – Truthdig
  Explores questions of justice, ethics, and the broader social implications of artificial intelligence.

Recommended Book

- **Primal Intelligence – Angus Fletcher**
  Explore the Book – Penguin Random House
  Written by Angus Fletcher, a professor at Ohio State University's Project Narrative, this

book explores intuition, imagination, emotion, and common sense as uniquely powerful human capabilities that AI does not replicate. It offers an empowering perspective on the human side of the AI conversation and what we should continue cultivating within ourselves.

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4. Community Action, Democracy & Environmental Rights

Community Education & Empowerment – CELDF

- A Democracy Playbook: CELDF's Community Primer
  A community resource focused on democracy, local self-governance, and empowering communities to understand and exercise their rights.
- There Is Much We Can Do: How a Columbus Anti-Preemption City Charter Amendment Would Interfere with the American War Machine
  Explores local self-governance, preemption, and the potential for communities to use local democratic processes to assert their authority.

Additional CELDF Publications

- Can You Handle the Truth? – Essays of Hard Truths Aimed at Right Relationship with Earth and Each Other
  A collection of essays addressing difficult truths about humanity's relationship with the Earth and with one another.

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5. Videos, Conversations & Deeper Discussions

- The Real Truth About Data Centers with Will Falk
  A conversation examining data centers and the broader questions surrounding their expansion and impacts.
- Roundtable Discussion: Right Relationship with Education, Technology and Nature
  A discussion exploring how education and technology intersect with our relationship with the natural world.
- Exposing the Dark Side of America's AI Data Center Explosion – Business Insider
  A video report examining the less visible consequences of the rapid expansion of AI data centers.

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6. Additional Perspectives: Technology, Nature & Right Relationship

- Connecting the Dots: Data Centers, AI, Technology and Nature – CELDF
  Resource provided by Tish O'Dell of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF).
- Unplugged: Shannon Rowan on Technology's Hidden Costs – Truth and Reckoning (September 5, 2025)
  Examines the hidden costs of technology and encourages reflection on the consequences of our increasing dependence on it.