Agenda

Data Center Advisory Committee
Meeting 2 – Friday March 27, 2026
9 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85351220712?pwd=4xSbzAU9lphQxCaEe19G5MyhviaD4q.1
(Please see note at the end of this agenda re: public comments for this webinar meeting)

Topic: Data Centers and Water Issues

Purpose of Meeting: In her charge to the Committee, Governor Kotek said:

The goal of the advisory committee is to develop policy recommendations that will help Oregon to take strategic advantage of the economic development opportunity created by new data centers and other large-load industrial consumers of electricity, while striving to keep utility costs, infrastructure upgrades, and environmental impacts sustainable for all Oregonians, particularly low-income and working households and ratepayers.

Today's session will focus on issues and ideas to:

- Understand how the development of data centers affects and can help Oregon meet its climate, clean energy, and natural resource management goals;
- Protect Oregon's limited water resources in the face of growing demand from data centers while recognizing available clean water is imperative to both existing economic sectors such as agriculture and the growth of new and more diversified local economies; and,
- Identify key issue areas needing to be addressed in order to develop a policy framework that will help guide the state in the responsible siting of data centers moving forward.

AGENDA

9:00 - Welcome and Introduction to the Process and the People: Co-Chairs Margaret Hoffmann and Michael Jung, Committee members: Dan Dorran, Greg Dotson, Bill Edmonds, Tim Miller, Jean Wilson, and Facilitator Donna Silverberg
- Committee Introductions - All
- What is this committee? What is it NOT? - Co-Chairs
- Agenda review, protocols, and ways for the public to engage - Facilitator

9:20 - Data Centers and Water – What is the Connection?
This agenda item will provide an overview of how and why data centers use water.
- Contextualizing Water Use: How and why do data centers use water? Josh Hatch (Brightworks Sustainability); Aja DeCoteau and Julie Carter (Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission)

- State and regional context for Data Centers' water usage and water quality – Ivan Gall (Oregon Water Resources Department) and Riann Hooff (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)
    - What is the State's interest in water?
    - How do data centers get their water? How does it differ east and west of the Cascades? Permits and Oversight
- Case Studies: How do municipal water rights work in Oregon? How do municipalities consider/share water to help meet population growth *and* Data Centers? What is the role of municipal governments regarding water? - Niki Iverson and Dan Dias (City of Hillsboro); Matt Klebes and Dave Anderson (The Dalles)

10:30-11:45 - What Demands are Data Centers Placing on Water in Oregon? Panelists will provide the Committee with insights into the following and then engage in discussion with the Committee members. Speakers: Eric Quaempts (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation); Kelly Campbell (Columbia Riverkeepers); Eric Means and Peter Gray (Trout Unlimited); and Rose Poton (Verde).

- How are the data centers' water usage affecting current communities, natural resources, and the environment?
    - How much water do they use in Oregon (as compared to other uses)?
- What are the concerns about water quality and quantity that the committee needs to understand?
- What ideas do you have for overcoming these concerns?
- Discussion with DCAC members

11:45-12:45 p.m. Lunch/Break

12:45 - 2 p.m. - What Are the Technical & Policy Innovations Data Centers Are or Can Support Regarding Oregon's Waters?
Panelists Beau Schilz (AWS) and Suzie Shin (Google), Mark Morgan (City of Hermiston), Derek Smith (RII), Rachel O'Connor (Environmental Defense Fund), and Bobby Cochran (Oregon Water Policy and Innovation Service) will focus on:

- What *could* a future look like? What would be helpful for rural and other affected communities? How can we maximize sustainable water usage?
- What new technological innovations have date centers and others developed to use water in a way that positively affects water quantity and quality?
- What are the gaps and policies that would help Oregon move from where we are to where we could be? How could the state assist with that?
- Discussion with DCAC members

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2:00 - Public Comment/Committee Listening (2-3 minute limit per speaker, please see note below).

2:30 - Reminder of April 24 Session 3 on Land Use and when/where public can engage

2:35 - Adjourn Public Meeting

Public Comments:

- The Committee will continue to dedicate 30 minutes at the end of each meeting for public comment.
- The Committee co-chairs also plan to hold listening sessions dedicated entirely to public comments (dates TBD).
- Comments for this and future meetings should be **specific to the topic area** and on the State's interests relative to that topic for each meeting. Non- or multi-topical comments will be welcomed at the general listening sessions.
- Individuals wishing to participate in topical public comments must request a 2 minute time slot via email to datacenter.ac@oregon.gov.
    - Please include:
        - Name
        - Meeting Date and Topic
        - A Brief Summary of Comments (that focus on the STATE interests in the topic)
- 15 Slots will be booked on a first-come-first-served basis and a balancing of comments received that the facilitator will announce at the start of the meeting and again at 2 p.m. Priority may be given to those who have not spoken at prior meetings to assure the committee hears many voices.