

# Data Centers and Water Issues

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# The Problem

## **Data centers + water: a governance challenge**

- Rapid growth and development pressure
- Relatively small on-site water footprint, but real local impacts
- Uncertainty, lack of disclosure, reported harm to communities and natural resources
- Risks, impacts, and benefits are unclear
- Community opposition

# The Framework

## Three-pronged approach

- Equip communities  
*Local governments have capacities and tools to set terms*
- Create guardrails  
*Protect water resources and build common foundation and trust*
- Generate public benefit and buy-in  
*Secure community and watershed investments, reduce risk and uncertainty*

# The Oregon Way

## **A proactive framework can**

- Protect water resources
- Reduce delay and litigation
- Improve predictability for developers and communities
- Establish Oregon as a leader in sustainable data center development

## **Success looks like**

- Communities know the terms before proposals arrive
- Developers know the expectations before capital is committed
- Water risks are addressed proactively, not litigated later
- Benefits are real, enforceable, and locally relevant