

Data Center Information and Potential Next Steps

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What questions do Councilmembers have on any information provided?

02

What feedback do Councilmembers have on proposed next steps?



Data Centers & Large Power Use

Data Centers

- Have existed and currently operate within the City.
- Typically house servers, networking, and storage apparatus.
- A full facility includes power infrastructure, backup power systems, cooling equipment and structures, stormwater facilities, offices, and security buildings.
- Include varying types and scale:
 - Edge to AI Factories: 1-1000 megawatts
- Can have significant impacts on local infrastructure and resources.



- Developed and adopted by the Board
- Large Load defined as 10 megawatts and greater
- Policy intended to support responsible energy growth and equity among the partner communities.
- Minimize risk

	NORMAL LOAD	LARGE LOAD < 10MW
Growth Rate	Gradual	All at Once
Location	Decentralized	Single Location
Planning Time	Years	Months
Exit Risk	Very Low	Moderate

Existing Large Use Customers (average)

- 12-25 megawatts
- 5-10 million gallons/year

Fort Collins Peak Load

- 325 megawatts





Regional Activity

Larimer County

- Policy work and public feedback underway
- Currently proposing definitions and thresholds
- Looking at continuum



Proposed Definition & Thresholds

“A facility consisting of one or more buildings (whether constructed simultaneously or in separate phases) used primarily for the storage, management, processing, and transmission of digital data, which houses computer or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances, and other associated components related to digital data storage and operations. A data center may include associated ancillary structures, including, but not limited to, offices, security buildings, cooling water structures, and/or backup power systems. Data center includes commercial cryptocurrency mining operations and processing.”

Possible Thresholds (by Power Demand in MW)

- Small <5MW
- Large ≥ 5 MW to <25 MW
- Very Large ≥ 25 MW

Longmont

- Banned Hyperscale facilities (100MW)
- Defined Smaller, Light Industrial Data Center Facilities (less than 100MW)
- In process of developing use specific standards:
 - Power usage
 - Water consumption
 - Noise
 - Lighting
 - Cooling systems

Loveland

- Study session September 1, 2026

Estes Park

- In the process of a Development Code Update with planned adoption in late 2026.

Varying interests for statewide legislation

- Incentivizing to Banning
- Likely to see new bills in 2027

Other Colorado Communities

- Seeing developments in the 65-75 MW range
- Aurora Water implementing ban on most high-water use
- One “hyper-scale” facility larger than 100 MW



Fort Collins

- Be proactive in developing the necessary framework to respond to development proposals and legislation.
- Continue to work to with Larimer County to achieve consistency where possible.
- Ensure definitions and regulations reflect stewardship of City resources.



- Not a defined “use.”
- Application would go through Approved Permitted Use process.
- Fort Collins not a strong candidate for large scale facility (land cost & availability.)
- Light & Power could serve in the 15-60 megawatt range under the right siting and circumstances.
- Water supply requirements would be triggered (\$63,800 per acre-feet of estimated annual water demand.)

- Continue to partner and participate in regional conversations.
- Create definitions and thresholds for acceptable uses.
- Consider additional regulatory requirements.
- May want to consider additional policy work regarding water apportion between different development types.

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