



**The Climate  
Reality Project**  
PITTSBURGH & SWPA CHAPTER



**Protect PA**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH PROJECT**  
DEFENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 2012

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 27, 2026

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### **Environmental Advocates, Residents Rally, Ask for a Seat at the Table at the 2026 PA Data Center & Energy Innovation Summit in Pittsburgh Friday**

**Pittsburgh, Pa.**, – Environmental organizations and residents in SWPA will hold a press conference and rally outside of the Three Rivers Casino tomorrow, March 27 asking local leadership and tech leaders at the conference inside to stop rolling the dice with community health as they embrace fossil fuel data center projects.

Currently, 22 data center projects are underway in Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties, according to [FracTracker Alliance](#). The result is residents find themselves on the frontlines of an energy-hungry industry that operates with limited regulatory oversight while driving up electricity costs, worsening fossil fuel pollution and health harms and deepening environmental injustices.

Fossil fuel-powered projects will require thousands of miles of pipelines that run near communities, churches and schools as well as miles of high voltage transmission lines that will cross over homes and farmland, often requiring eminent domain rulings that would force landowners to provide access to their properties.

And all for very few jobs once the construction workers leave.

**Who: SWPA Data Centers Coalition**

**When: March 27, 8:00 a.m.**

**Where: Casino Drive and Sproat Way**

“The construction of eight gas-fired, hyperscale data centers represents a massive capital input with very few long-term jobs,” said Alison Steele, executive director of Environmental Health Project. “In return for hosting these facilities, communities can expect to see a drain on local water sources and noise, light and air pollution that pose health risks for those living nearby. Any community with a proposed data center needs to have a meaningful role in determining whether that data center gets built, how it will be powered and what measures will be taken to reduce adverse health and environmental risks.”

"This summit is the latest in a long line of industry conferences promoting AI data center expansion in our communities," said Lauren Posey of ProtectPT. "Despite the event's title touting 'energy innovation,' many of these conferences only end up bolstering the status quo by promoting data center projects that will be powered by old, dirty fossil fuels like fracked gas and diesel. If these facilities are going to be built, true innovation means powering them with revolutionary clean energy technologies. The health of our people and our planet depend on it."

**The rally will assemble starting at 7:30 a.m. on Casino Drive and Sproat Way and the presser will begin sharply at 8 a.m. The following people will speak:**

Phoebe Shackeroff Reese, Breathe Project, Moderator  
Alison Steele, Environmental Health Project  
Jason Capello, Center for Coalfield Justice  
NaTisha Washington, Black Appalachia Coalition  
Katie Jones, Fracktracker Alliance  
Larissa.Mednis, Clean Air Council

Following the press conference, the rally will walk to Three Rivers Heritage Trail.

**SWPA Data Centers Alliance** is a group of 60+ advocates and residents opposed to fossil-fuel powered data centers and the pollution, rising utility rates, noise and health harms that they bring to communities.

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