

Article: [Data center would dwarf country's power use]

Classroom Discussion Questions College Level

How should communities evaluate the economic benefits of data center development against its demands on local infrastructure and natural resources? The proposed facility could eventually require 225 megawatts of electricity, compared with about 30 megawatts currently used by the county's residential and small-business customers. What economic, environmental, and social factors should be considered when evaluating a project of this scale?

What obligations do private developers and public agencies have to involve affected communities in major infrastructure decisions? The article reports that discussions about the proposed data center occurred before formal presentations were made to county commissioners or the neighboring Kalispel Tribe. At what point should public consultation occur, and what information should communities be entitled to receive?

Who should bear the costs and risks when a private development requires major upgrades to public infrastructure? The article describes concerns about protecting utility ratepayers while meeting rapidly increasing demand for a limited electricity supply. How should policymakers determine who pays for infrastructure upgrades, who receives access to available power, and how financial and environmental risks are distributed?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12

What should a community consider before approving a large data center? The proposed facility could eventually use more than seven times the electricity currently used by the county's homes and small businesses. What potential benefits and drawbacks should local leaders and residents consider when deciding whether a project like this is right for their community?

How much input should local communities have when large companies propose projects that could affect them? The article describes concerns that local officials and the Kalispel Tribe had received little information about the proposed data center. Why is public involvement important when decisions could affect resources, infrastructure, and the environment?

How should limited resources like electricity be shared between residents and large businesses? Data centers can require enormous amounts of power, while utilities also need to serve homes and other businesses. What factors should determine who gets access to limited energy supplies, and who should pay for infrastructure needed to provide additional power?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8

What are some good and bad things a large data center could bring to a community? The proposed data center could use much more electricity than the homes and small businesses in the county currently use. What questions should people ask before a project like this is built?

Why should people who live in a community have a say in big projects happening nearby? Some local leaders and members of the Kalispel Tribe said they had received little information about the proposed data center. Why is it important to hear from people who could be affected by a project?

How should a community decide how to share resources like electricity? Data centers can use large amounts of power. How should communities balance the needs of large businesses with the needs of families and smaller businesses?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 1-5

What should a town think about before a very big business moves in? The data center in the article could use a lot of electricity. What are some questions people should ask before it is built?

Why is it important to listen to people who live in a community? Some people near the proposed data center said they had not been told much about the plans. Why should people get a chance to ask questions and share their ideas about big changes in their community?

How can we make sure resources are shared fairly? Homes, schools and businesses all need electricity. If one business needs a very large amount of power, how could a community make sure there is enough for everyone?