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NO DISCOUNTS FOR DATA CENTERS: CLEAN ECONOMY COALITION RELEASES STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR DATA CENTERS

MILWAUKEE — The following statements were issued today regarding the release of the Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin's [Data Center Accountability Framework](#), a statewide roadmap for policymakers to manage the rapid expansion of large-scale data centers in the state.

Bryan Rogers, Environmental Justice Director, Walnut Way Conservation Corp.

"Development is only legitimate when communities have real power – not just promises – at the table. We've seen too many communities blindsided by projects that extract wealth while leaving residents with the costs. CECW's Framework increases transparency and accountability for local officials, protects workers and requires enforceable agreements that deliver concrete, community-defined benefits."

- *For an interview with Bryan, contact:*
Bryan Rogers, brogers@walnutway.org

Cassie Steiner, Senior Campaign Coordinator, Sierra Club, Wisconsin Chapter

"Residents across the state are demanding protection from the impacts of hyperscale data centers. The DNR, PSC, state legislature and local governments across Wisconsin need to take strong action to mitigate the worst harms from these hyperscale projects."

- *For an interview with Cassie, contact:*
Cassie Steiner, cassie.steiner@sierraclub.org

Chelsea Chandler, Climate, Energy and Air Program Director, Clean Wisconsin

"Wisconsin is at a critical crossroads regarding data center expansion. Without a strategic framework in place, the unprecedented speed and scale of these projects will continue raising energy costs for families and small businesses, and prolonging our state's reliance on fossil fuels. We have a narrow window to act to make sure data center development costs don't fall on Wisconsin families and small businesses and impact our state's environmental and clean energy goals."

- *For an interview with Chelsea, contact:*
Chelsea Chandler, cchandler@cleanwisconsin.org

Jayne Black, Wisconsin Field Organizer, Moms Clean Air Force

"Moms across Wisconsin want our families protected from the air pollution caused by fossil fuel-powered electricity for data centers. These facilities degrade air quality, threaten our health, drive up electric bills and worsen climate change. We urge the DNR, the Public Service Commission, the state legislature, and local leaders to put Wisconsinites' health and well-being first—because every family deserves clean air, not more pollution."

- *For an interview with Jayne Black, contact:*
Jayne Black, jblack@momscleanairforce.org

Jennifer Giegrich, Government Affairs Director, Wisconsin Conservation Voters

"This is an 'all hands on deck' moment for state policymakers. The approach we've outlined is a starting point and provides the opportunity for Wisconsin to get ahead of data center development – rather than just reacting to it. We developed a strategy that balances policies to address energy affordability and protect the environment, while supporting the state's economic development and job creation efforts."

- *For an interview with Jennifer, contact:*
Jennifer Giegrich, jennifer@conservationvoters.org

Laura Lane, Wisconsin Director of Outreach, Faith in Place

"Hyperscale data centers are being proposed and built across Wisconsin at an unprecedented pace. They affect everything from energy consumption and water resources to local infrastructure, environmental health, and economic priorities. Yet most Wisconsinites have had little chance to learn what these developments mean for their towns, their utility bills, or their future. Before we commit our state's resources and reshape our communities to accommodate these industrial-scale projects, people need time to understand what's at stake, and our state leaders need to pause and use a strategic framework to guide their decision-making processes going forth."

- *For an interview with Laura, contact:*
Laura Lane, laura@faithinplace.org

Maria Chavez, Energy Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists

"[Union of Concerned Scientists' research](#) shows that meeting Wisconsin's data center electricity demand with clean energy could help avoid millions of cumulative tons of carbon emissions over the next 25 years – enough to rival Wisconsin's residential sector emissions over the last 15 years. Data centers could be responsible for billions of dollars in electricity system costs, so we need comprehensive protections to prevent these costs from being passed down to ratepayers. Adopting clean energy policies can reduce the state's overreliance on dirty fossil fuels and help avoid billions of dollars in health harms and climate damages over the next several years."

- *For an interview with Maria, contact:*
Maria Chavez, MChavez@ucs.org

Stephanie Robinson, Co-Executive Director, 350 Wisconsin

“CECW’s Framework prioritizes clean energy solutions – the lowest cost, fastest way to meet growing data center demand – as a way to solve affordability concerns while reducing our state’s reliance on fossil fuels. By requiring transparency and accountability around the full cost of new infrastructure and ensuring large energy users pay their fair share, we can protect families and small businesses from subsidizing projects that primarily benefit private corporations.”

- *For an interview with Stephanie, contact:*
Stephanie Robinson, stephanie.robinson@350madison.org

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ABOUT THE CLEAN ECONOMY COALITION OF WISCONSIN

The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin is a group of climate, energy, environmental justice and conservation organizations, businesses and allies. The Coalition leverages the combined strength of its members to enhance the quality of life for all Wisconsinites by accelerating the state’s transformation to a clean energy economy. We believe that an economy-wide approach to decarbonization will take our state further, faster – with better outcomes for us all. We champion equity-first policies that create jobs for Wisconsin workers, build healthier communities and protect our natural resources. By working together, we advocate for clean energy-solutions that work for all of Wisconsin’s diverse cultures, communities and geographies. Learn more at www.cleaneconomywi.com.