

NYPIRG, FOOD & WATER WATCH, PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Contact: Eric Wood, 845-214-7497, ewood@nypirg.org

NEWS RELEASE

STATEWIDE ‘ENERGY HOG’ BUS TOUR TARGETING POWER-HUNGRY DATA CENTERS CONTINUES TREK WITH A STOP IN KINGSTON

PIG-STYLED BUS CONTINUES TROT ACROSS STATE WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS, ADVOCATES, AND STUDENTS URGING LAWMAKERS TO CURB ENERGY-INTENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE, UPHOLD STATE CLIMATE LAW

NEW YORKERS SQUEAL AT RISING UTILITY BILLS WHILE BIG TECH GORGES GRID

Kingston, NY – Environmental advocates, students, and community groups gathered today to host the fourth stop of a statewide “Energy Hog” bus tour calling on New York to crack down on AI data centers and other energy-intensive infrastructure. Participants urged Governor Hochul and state leaders to uphold New York’s landmark Climate Law, rein in extractive AI data centers and cryptomining facilities, and protect New Yorkers from rising utility costs.

The rally featured a bus with a pig-themed exterior flanked by students and environmentalists demanding that the state protect New Yorkers’ wallets and backyards from AI data centers and other energy-intensive infrastructure.

“We cannot allow AI data centers to drive up energy costs, pollute our communities, and intensify the climate crisis,” said **Eric Wood, NYPIRG’s Senior Environmental Program Coordinator**. “Everywhere we see these facilities pop up, we see energy grids strained and utility prices increase. At a time when we are already facing sky-high energy costs, Governor Hochul is siding with polluters over people — backtracking on New York’s Climate Law and handing corporate ‘energy hogs’ a free pass.”

Backed by major corporate interests, AI data centers are rapidly expanding across the country—often targeting rural communities and communities of color—increasing energy demand, driving up prices, and generating noise and local pollution.

The statewide ‘Energy Hog’ bus tour will travel to five cities—Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, Kingston, and New York City—over the next week to call attention to how energy-intensive infrastructure, including AI data centers and cryptomining facilities, drive up energy costs and contribute to the climate crisis.

The action comes as Governor Hochul proposes to roll back New York’s nation-leading Climate Law through the secretive budget process, closed off from public input. Advocates blasted the

Governor's plan, which she announced in an opinion piece last month, saying it will exacerbate climate catastrophe and deepen New York's affordability crisis.

"If Governor Hochul is serious about addressing the state's affordability and climate crises, she must halt the reckless proliferation of energy hog data centers, reduce the state's reliance on polluting fossil fuels, and uphold the Climate Law," **NYPIRG's Wood** added.

"AI data centers create few jobs, consume unsustainable amounts of energy, and threaten to drive up electricity costs for everyone," **said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger**. "I urge our leaders in Albany to pass and sign into law Bill S9144/A10141, introduced by Senator Liz Krueger and Assembly Member Anna Kelles, to pause new data center permits until the necessary regulatory guardrails are in place to protect our communities from the harmful impacts of these energy-guzzling facilities. In Ulster County, we want to see the kind of economic development that delivers meaningful economic benefits to our communities and will support, rather than undermine, affordability and climate protection."

"As the federal government puts up For Sale signs on precious wild places like the Boundary Waters, here in New York, we are grateful to the many environmental organizations, Allies of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation and the NAACP for standing up for environmental justice. The Town of Dryden is the first town in New York to ban data centers and cryptocurrency mines. But maybe not the last," **said Kitty Brown, New Paltz Town Council Member**.

"With climate chaos already causing orange skies from Canadian wildfires, extreme rainfall, and unprecedented heat waves, we cannot simply move forward with energy intensive projects that make our transition to cleaner energy sources more difficult," **said Dr. Kathleen Nolan, President of New York State's chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility**. "Until we get off oil and gas as our primary sources of energy, we are going to pay dearly for any new large intensive energy uses," Dr. Nolan continued. "Our health and safety are at stake, and we should only approve what we actually want and need — clean, renewable, affordable energy sources — protecting ourselves from anything that would hold us back from creating that necessary and achievable future."

"Environmentally destructive and energy hogging data centers are popping up across the Hudson Valley, such as in Orangeburg and in Poughkeepsie. At the same time, laws like the CLCPA that would protect communities already facing environmental injustice from air and water pollution and the effects of the climate crisis are at risk of being rolled back — all for the sake of fossil fuel industry profits. We need leaders across the state to stand up to Big Tech and the fossil fuel industry and say no more data centers, and no more fossil fuel infrastructure!" **said Melissa Hoffmann, Hudson Valley Organizer, Food & Water Watch**.

"Governor Hochul must abandon her efforts to weaken our climate law, oppose the data center at STAMP, and commit to a moratorium on data centers so that we can put necessary policies in place to stop the harms from their unfettered growth," **said Ryan Madden, Indigenous Solidarity Director, NY Renews**.

