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Contact: Cecilia Ellis, 216-570-1009, cellis@nypirg.org

NEWS RELEASE

STATEWIDE 'ENERGY HOG' BUS TOUR TARGETING POWER-HUNGRY DATA CENTERS MAKES FINAL STOP IN NEW YORK CITY

**PIG-STYLED BUS TROTS ACROSS STATE WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS, ADVOCATES,
AND STUDENTS URGING HOCHUL TO CURB ENERGY-INTENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE,
UPHOLD STATE CLIMATE LAW**

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

NY, NY – Environmental advocates, students, and community groups gathered today to host the fifth and final 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.



Rally videos here: [▶ NYC 4/23 Energy Hog videos](#)

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 **Cecilia Ellis, NYPIRG’s Policy and Communications manager**. “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 has traveled to five cities this week—Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, Kingston, and finally concluded today in New York City—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 Ellis** added.

Assemblymember Emily Gallagher said, “New Yorkers are already suffering from the ever-rising cost of utility bills. The construction of AI data centers and cryptomining facilities—which use an astronomical amount of energy—are only going to exacerbate this crisis. Instead of further driving up costs and environmental impacts by allowing these energy-guzzling facilities to run amok, we must move away from volatile fossil fuels and towards green energy independence. We must implement our climate law, invest in public renewables, and move forward with cap and invest to prioritize the safety and well being of New Yorkers over tech billionaires and oil tycoons.”

“New York’s old and fossil-fuel-intensive energy grid already cannot keep up with current demand. With the potential expansion of data centers into the state, we’re reaching a tipping point that will directly impact our communities the most,” **said Shiv Soin, Co-Executive Director of TREEage**. “What we need is real grid modernization and deep investment into renewable energy, not data centers prioritizing the needs of the richest companies in the world.”

“We know that the solutions to the energy affordability crisis are right in front of us. They include rapidly and justly implementing our landmark Climate Law, not undermining it as Governor Hochul is attempting to. They include a moratorium on data centers which are threatening not only our wallets but the land, the water, and the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations, as with the proposed project at STAMP next to the Tonawanda Seneca Nation. 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.**

“The current rate of data center development in New York is completely unsustainable and will make ratepayers’ utility bills go up,” said **Audie Soucy, Environmental Justice Staff Attorney at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.** “Data center developers have proposed plans to build facilities that would use 9.5 gigawatts of electric load, which is enough to power 8 million homes. That massive demand in electricity usage comes with huge environmental and economic costs: the increased demand on the grid and cost of new transmission infrastructure mean more air pollution and higher electricity rates for New York’s ratepayers. We must put guardrails in place to protect New Yorkers’ health and wallets against unchecked data center development.”

“The explosion of data centers is one of the biggest affordability and environmental threats of our generation,” said **Eric Weltman, Brooklyn-based senior organizer with Food & Water Watch.** “This expansion is rapidly increasing demand for energy, driving more fossil fuel pollution, straining water resources, devouring land, and raising energy bills. That’s why Governor Hochul and the Legislature need to press the pause button on data centers. The Legislature must pass, and Governor Hochul must sign into law, legislation establishing a moratorium on data centers while requiring the state to fully assess their risks and institute regulations to protect our health, communities, and environment from their harms.”