

## Fact Sheet: Why PWC Needs a Framework for Data Center Proffers

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1. PWC adopted climate mitigation and climate resilience goals, including a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and attaining 100% use of renewable energy by 2035.
2. Data centers are, by far, the biggest source of new carbon emissions and electricity demand in PWC. Rapid growth in this sector is putting us on a track to badly miss our county goals, and could play a significant role in the MWCOG region missing its regional goals.
3. The county has maximum leverage to mitigate data center impacts while applications are in the permitting process, when the applicants can propose proffers. Once projects are approved, the county has little control over energy and environmental performance other than enforcing regulations.
4. To date, PWC has been unsuccessful in negotiating meaningful mitigation measures. For example,
  - a. In the PW Digital Gateway, the applicants proffered a commitment that 10 percent of their energy use would be clean energy, which the BOCS accepted, even though about 40 percent of Virginia's grid is clean energy.
  - b. In the list of sustainability measures that several applicants have submitted as proffers (which tend to build on precedent from previous applications), many applicants have proposed to use LED light bulbs as if it's a concession, when in fact it is a universal industry practice anyway.
5. There are over a dozen new data center projects in the pipeline, so there is an immediate need for an effective policy on proffers.
6. Currently, the Sustainability Commission perceives that there is a significant gap in which neither the BOCS, the Planning Office, nor applicants have a clear understanding of what mitigation measures would contribute in a meaningful way to accomplishing PWC's climate goals.
7. To fill this gap, in June 2025 the Sustainability Commission published an initial list of [recommended proffers for data center applications](#). Unfortunately, so far there's little evidence that this list has penetrated into the decisionmaking process with Supervisors, staff, and applicants.
8. The Commission is updating the list to reflect recent state legislation and new technical developments. Meanwhile, we urge PWC decisionmakers to address this critical need by taking a systematic and effective approach to mitigating impacts from data centers as part of the application and permitting process.