

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Artificial intelligence (AI) data centers are at the forefront nationally and in communities across the U.S. With more than 150 local news titles across the country, Adams MultiMedia's journalists have been covering these projects extensively at the ground level. Now, we're looking in-depth at how these community impacts connect to the broader, global AI wave. Editors across the U.S. agree: No other issue in recent history has filled so many town halls with heated debate.



An estimated 3,000 new data centers have been proposed around the U.S. They are being met with concerns and opposition in a number of communities.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

AI's power appetite drives data center backlash

'Now, it's pitchforks'

BY MIKE SUNNUCKS • Adams MultiMedia

Jared Navarre and Tracey Hyatt Bosman are no strangers to data centers.

Both have navigated site selection deals involving data centers.

Historically, these projects drew little attention, frequently landing without controversy in anonymous industrial parks and serving as the backbone of digital access.

Times have changed.

"Now, it's pitchforks," said Hyatt Bosman, managing director of Biggins Lacy Shapiro &



**Bandwidth
& Backlash**
DISCORD OVER
AI DATA CENTERS

Co., a national site selection firm. "The data centers have gotten bigger—a lot bigger. They make more of a commotion when they are built."

That commotion is fueling intense scrutiny. As massive capital investments chase AI expansions, an estimated 3,000 new data centers are being proposed across the U.S.

A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

This shift has prompted many jurisdictions to hit the brakes.