

Press Release:**Running Defense on Data Center Misinformation**

As data center boosters hit the political scene, scholars and climate advocates team up to provide tools for people to make informed decisions.

For immediate release:

Montreal, August 26th, 2026

What: The Aula Fellowship's AI Sustainability Council has released an infographic and annotated bibliography that reports on 12 common climate-related claims about data centers. They cover claims about water use, energy demand, pollution, and community impacts. The authors have found that claims made in policy debates lack nuance that, when considered, materially changes local and national decisions about data centers.

Where: These resources offer nuance and evidence to the global public for local and national use.

Who: for city leaders, community organizers, journalists, educators, and investors to evaluate claims made by data center developers and AI companies.

Why: Sometimes political claims can seem reasonable but are not in fact accurate. These can lead to making poor decisions on what policies to support. People can make better decisions about these technologies when they have the context, detailed information, nuance, and rationales behind commonly used political claims.

How: Researchers examined common claims using scientific literature, news coverage and company reports. They found that many were accurate but incomplete.

Quotes

Mackenzie, lead author:

"The water used in data centers gets damaged and lost, including in so-called closed-loop systems."

"Big tech companies are polluting and they're changing their climate targets. AI can't save us from ourselves."

"The tech isn't inevitable. We all need to get involved in how our communities do tech."

Braakman, co-author:

"Evaporated water often leaves the local watershed, so it may not return to the community it came from."

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The document's co-authors are available for interviews in multiple regions and languages. Full details appear in the Notes to Editors below.

Resources:[Website / resource hub](https://theaulafellowship.org/climate-claims-in-data-center-politics/)

<https://theaulafellowship.org/climate-claims-in-data-center-politics/>

[Infographic \(PDF, 4 mb\)](https://theaulafellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/The-Aula-Fellowship-PDF-Climate-Claims-in-Data-Center-Politics.pdf)

<https://theaulafellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/The-Aula-Fellowship-PDF-Climate-Claims-in-Data-Center-Politics.pdf>

[Infographic \(Mobile, 2.7 mb\)](https://theaulafellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/The-Aula-Fellowship-Socials-Climate-Claims-in-Data-Center-Politics.pdf)

<https://theaulafellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/The-Aula-Fellowship-Socials-Climate-Claims-in-Data-Center-Politics.pdf>

[Annotated bibliography](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=7267179) (On the Social Science Research Network / SSRN)

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=7267179

Boilerplate

The Aula Fellowship is an international think tank and NGO, based in Canada and working in more than 20 countries. The 130+ Fellows are specialists on AI science, tech, and policy, who work together on the mission to ensure that everyone can access the conversation on AI. The AI Sustainability Council (AISC) of the Aula Fellowship convenes conversations and takes action to ensure that the public are adequately informed, so that they can engage in decisions about AI and our climate.

ENDS

Notes for the editor:

A media kit for this release is available here:

[AISC Media Kit – Notes to the Editor](https://theaulafellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/AISC-Media-Kit-Notes-to-the-editor.pdf)

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