

A man with short brown hair and sunglasses is making a peace sign with his right hand. He is wearing a grey t-shirt and is sitting in a white plastic chair. In the background, there is a white brick wall and a blue structure. The image has a dark overlay.

THE MOLOTOV PROBLEM

TURNING AI HATRED INTO
ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

1 IN 6 HUMANS USE AI

From search and homework to work and companionship – in just 3 years, AI became ubiquitous.

43% of US workers report using generative AI for work in early 2026; European rates range from 26% to 36% ([CEPR](#)).

31% of Americans interact with AI at least several times a day, up from 22% in February 2024 ([Pew](#)).

Roughly two-thirds of US teens (64%) say they use an AI chatbot ([Pew](#)).

Generative AI reached 53% population adoption within three years, faster than the PC or the internet ([Stanford HAI](#)).

88% of organisations using AI regularly in at least one business function by 2025 ([McKinsey](#)).

Global AI adoption in 2025: One in six people worldwide now using generative AI tools ([Microsoft AI Economy Institute](#)).

58% of employees globally use AI at work on a semi-regular or regular basis; in India, China, and Nigeria the share exceeds 80% ([Stanford HAI / Ipsos](#)).

AI adoption is substantially higher in the US than in Europe, though there is wide variation across European countries ([Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis](#)).

More than one-third of individuals across the OECD used generative AI tools in 2025; 20.2% of firms now use AI, more than doubling in two years ([OECD](#)).

EU enterprise AI use reached 19.95% in 2025; OECD firms reporting AI use reached 20.2% – a 132% increase in two years ([Eurostat / OECD](#)).

Three-quarters of students aged 16+ report using generative AI; adoption widespread among employed adults at 41.1% ([OECD](#)).

US adoption rose from 44.6% to 54.6% in 12 months; non-work adoption surged from 36% to 48.7% ([Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis](#)).

The estimated consumer value of generative AI tools reached \$172 billion annually in the US by early 2026 ([Stanford HAI](#)).

60% of Americans used an AI chatbot in the past month – more than read a newspaper (30%) ([Verasight](#)).

AI adoption by firms reached a tipping point: 13.5% of EU enterprises used AI in 2024, a 60% jump from the year before ([OECD / Eurostat](#)).

BIG AI IS LESS POPULAR THAN ICE

Consumers don't trust AI tools with answers and don't trust the companies behind them to act in anyone's interest but their own.

US public opinion is shifting hard against AI; comprehensive analysis of 13 major polls from 2025–2026 ([Newcomer](#)).

57% of registered voters say the risks of AI outweigh its benefits. Just 26% view AI positively — 46% hold negative views ([NBC News](#)).

55% of Americans say AI will do more harm than good in their daily lives — an 11-point increase since last April ([Bloomberg](#)).

Only 10% of US adults say they are more excited than concerned about AI in daily life. Half are more concerned than excited — up from 37% in 2021 ([Pew](#)).

Only 5% of Americans trust AI 'a lot.' 41% express outright distrust ([YouGov](#)).

AI's net favourability is lower than ICE, Donald Trump, or Kamala Harris. Only Iran and the Democratic Party score worse ([NBC News](#)).

Stanford report highlights growing disconnect between AI insiders and everyone else ([TechCrunch](#)).

OpenAI CEO targeted with Molotov cocktail at San Francisco home — crime motivated by hatred of AI technology ([CNBC](#)).

75% of Americans and 79% of Canadians favour strong AI regulation frameworks over prioritising rapid innovation ([Carleton-CIGI-Ipsos](#)).

64% of Americans are made nervous by AI; the US ranks among the least excited countries globally ([Ipsos](#)).

Republicans and Democrats now equally concerned about AI, though views on regulation differ ([Pew](#)).

56% of Americans report anxiety about AI's rise; 37% of non-users cite distrust as their reason for avoiding it ([Verasight](#)).

Net trust in AI is negative for every application category except leisure and entertainment ([YouGov](#)).

Only 39% of Americans see AI as offering more benefits than drawbacks, among the lowest rates globally ([Stanford HAI](#)).

Confidence that AI companies protect personal data fell from 50% to 47% globally in one year ([Stanford HAI](#)).

AI INFRASTRUCTURE RUNS ON PUBLIC RESOURCES

Data centres require land, power and water in specific locations – which are rare and not accessible without community consent.

AI power: Expanding data center capacity to meet growing demand – the power problem is now the primary constraint ([McKinsey](#)).

Europe's data centre power demand reached 96 TWh in 2024, projected to hit 168 TWh by 2030 ([SentiSight / Cloudscene](#)).

Data centre project cancellations jumped from 6 in 2024 to 25 in 2025 ([Construction Dive](#)).

A single hyperscale AI data centre requires 100–300 MW of continuous power – equivalent to a mid-sized city ([Enki AI Market Intelligence](#)).

Approximately half of all planned US data centre builds in 2026 are projected to be delayed or cancelled – not because of capital or demand, but because the grid cannot support them ([European Business Magazine](#)).

EU preparing Data Centre Energy Efficiency Package with rating scheme and minimum performance standards, planned Q2 2026 ([European Commission](#)).

Ireland and the Netherlands have implemented moratoriums on new data centre capacity; connecting in congested markets can take up to 10 years ([Rabobank Research](#)).

Grid connection delays now stretch to five years for new data centre projects in many markets ([Hanwha Data Centers](#)).

Site selection has transformed from a function of latency and fibre access to a search for available megawatts ([Enki](#)).

EU aims to triple data centre processing capacity in 5–7 years while requiring compliance on energy efficiency and water ([White & Case](#)).

Texas data centres projected to consume 49 billion gallons of water by end of 2025, potentially 399 billion gallons annually by 2030 ([Nixon Peabody](#)).

Alphabet, Amazon, Meta and Microsoft are expected to spend more than \$650 billion in 2026 to expand AI capacity ([European Business Magazine](#)).

No clear set of best practices for regulating data centres exists; local governments experimenting in real time ([Smart Growth America](#)).

Data centres must report annually on energy performance, water footprint, and renewable energy share under the EU Energy Efficiency Directive ([EU Data Centre Association](#)).

Montgomery County proposes strictest data centre zoning in the DC Metro region: 100 MW caps, closed-loop cooling, 500-foot setbacks ([Montgomery County Council](#)).

DATA CENTRES ARE LESS WELCOME THAN NUCLEAR PLANTS

Projects are blocked or delayed, politicians backing them are voted out, data centre moratoriums are voted in.

Microsoft warns investors about local opposition to data centres, disclosing community opposition and moratoriums as operational risks in SEC filing ([Bloomberg](#)).

\$156 billion in projects blocked or stalled by local opposition in 2025 (The New York Times, via [Yahoo Finance](#)).

Data centres spreading across the country – and bans are too; more than 140 groups have blocked or delayed \$60 billion in projects ([CNN](#)).

The data centre rebellion is reshaping the political landscape ([The Washington Post](#)).

Data centres have forced recalls, resignations, and primary defeats of elected officials in Prince William County – opposition is now a prerequisite for running ([Fortune](#)).

Maine legislature passes first statewide data centre moratorium – moratorium bills introduced in more than a dozen states ([CNN](#)).

In Virginia, electricity prices have increased by up to 267% over the last five years in areas near data centres ([EESI](#)).

Indiana households paid 17.5% more in utility bills in 2025 – residents fear they will ultimately finance the transmission lines needed to serve hyperscale facilities ([Fortune](#)).

Data centre project cancellations quadrupled from 6 in 2024 to 25 in 2025; at least 188 opposition groups across 40 states (Baird Research, via [Construction Dive](#)).

Voters in Festus, Missouri replaced half the city council over a data centre; moratorium bills filed in at least 12 states ([Associated Press](#)).

Data centres drove half of US electricity demand growth in 2025; opposition blocked or delayed at least 16 projects worth \$64 billion ([Fortune / IEA](#)).

The public sours on AI and data centres as Anthropic and OpenAI look to IPO – \$156 billion in projects cancelled or delayed ([CNBC](#)).

\$64 billion in US data centre projects blocked or delayed; opposition is bipartisan – 55% of opposing politicians are Republican ([Data Center Watch](#)).

Anger over data centre electricity costs already having electoral consequences: Democrats ousted two Republicans from Georgia's utility regulatory commission (Associated Press, via [Washington Times](#)).

Data centre power demands are contributing to higher energy bills: residential prices rose 11.5% in 2025 ([EESI](#)).

The current model is broken in both directions:

Communities negotiate from fear, and every AI project is a one-off political fight with unpredictable outcomes.

A transparent, standardised framework – defining what Big AI needs to deliver in exchange for access to public infrastructure – would benefit everyone.

NEW ZERO-EMISSION ENERGY EQUIVALENT TO CONSUMPTION

Every new data centre funds verifiable new zero-emission generation – solar, wind, storage, nuclear, geothermal – matching its own demand.

Supply and demand grow together: new generation matches the new load, keeping wholesale prices stable for existing ratepayers.

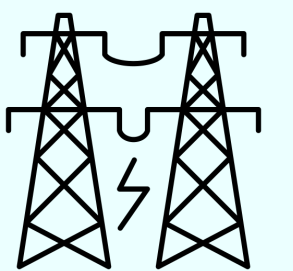
Georgia's BYONCE programme already requires this, and Google's co-located energy parks with Intersect Power prove it works at scale.



GRID UPGRADES THAT SERVE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Infrastructure built to connect the data centre is designed to benefit the wider neighbourhood, not just the facility.

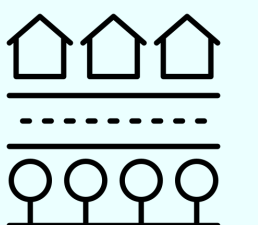
Developers already fund substations and transmission lines to get connected. A framework could ensure those upgrades are designed to serve the whole neighbourhood – expanded capacity, local storage, and grid resilience that outlasts the data centre itself.



ENFORCEABLE COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS WITH MEASURABLE TERMS

Binding, published commitments on energy costs, water use, noise, and local investment – with steep penalties for non-compliance.

Today, community benefit agreements for data centres are rare, ad hoc, and inconsistent – where they exist at all, they vary wildly in scope and are often shielded by non-disclosure agreements. A standard framework would set published minimum terms on energy costs, water use, noise, setbacks, and local investment – enforceable and attached to every project by default.



WASTE HEAT RECOVERY

Where district heating networks exist or can be built, the data centre's cooling waste becomes the neighbourhood's heat supply.

Already proven at scale: Helsinki recovers waste heat from data centres to supply 14,000 apartments; Microsoft's Espoo project will serve 250,000 residents; Google's Hamina facility will cover 80% of local district heating. The EU's Energy Efficiency Directive mandates waste heat reuse for new facilities above 1 MW, and Germany requires 10% reuse from July 2026, rising to 20% by 2028.



FULL TRANSPARENCY ON RESOURCE CONSUMPTION

If you use public resources, the public sees the numbers – published data on power, water, waste heat, and grid impact.

The EU already requires annual reporting on energy performance, water footprint, and renewable energy share for all data centres above 500 kW, with a rating scheme planned for 2026.

Extending this principle removes the information asymmetry that fuels opposition and gives communities facts rather than fears.



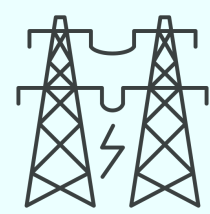
A STANDARDISED FRAMEWORK WOULD MAKE THE RULES CLEAR AND PREDICTABLE.

AI companies would know the price of admission before selecting a site.

Governments would approve or reject against a standard rather than improvising under political pressure.

Communities would hold operators to published terms rather than fighting each proposal from scratch.

**AI INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD EXPAND AS FAST AS COMMUNITIES CAN ABSORB IT,
NOT AS SLOWLY AS POLITICAL RESISTANCE CAN BLOCK IT.**



A framework that delivers cheaper, smarter energy to communities may also shift how the public feels about Big AI.

Lower bills every month may be more persuasive than vague promises of abundance from an industry that casually discusses industrial revolution-level disruption to the job market in exchange for a toy.

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