



Spring 2026

Volume 48, Issue 1

The future of the Earth is in our Hands.

CACC NEWS

JOHN AND CARRIE WALES

Center for Environmental and Social Justice

www.caccmi.org

What is a Data Center and Why are we fighting them?

Thank you to Tony Castillo and the Weeds & Seeds Guy on Facebook for contributing.

Data centers are massive facilities that power cloud computing and our digital infrastructure, which are rapidly expanding across the United States. Once concentrated in a few regions, data center development has surged nationwide in recent years. The increasing demand for computing power, fueled by artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency, is placing unprecedented strain on the energy grid, land, water resources, and health of local communities. A typical, medium-sized data center uses roughly 300,000 to 700,000 gallons of water per day, while large hyperscale facilities can consume up to 5 million gallons daily, equivalent to the needs of a town with 10,000 to 50,000 residents like Kalamazoo, Midland, Flint, Saginaw or Bay City.

Massive amounts of drinking water are being used to cool AI data centers. Not recycled water. Not gray water. **Drinking-grade freshwater.** Now in Ohio, some of those same facilities are seeking permission to discharge that chemically altered water back into local lakes and rivers. And this isn't happening in isolation. Across the United States, waterways are already stressed. Agricultural runoff. Industrial discharge. Plastic particles. Heavy metals. Nutrient overload. Algal blooms choke lakes. Warning advisories line shorelines. Communities question what flows from their taps.

Now layer this on top of that. Fresh municipal water — the same water families drink — is being pulled in massive volumes to cool server farms. That water also: Irrigates our fields. Grows our fruits and vegetables. Sustains livestock. Feeds the entire food supply chain.

Freshwater is not just hydration. It is agriculture. It is soil. It is harvest. It is food security. And when that water cycles through industrial cooling systems, **it does not return unchanged.** It returns warmer. Minerals are more concentrated. Corrosion inhibitors added. Biocides introduced. Trace metals accumulated from equipment. Then it is discharged back into the watershed. The same watershed downstream communities rely on for reclaimed drinking water. The same watershed farmers draw from. The same watershed ecosystems depend on. **This is not a closed loop. It is extraction. Alteration. Return.** Into water systems already carrying modern industry on their backs. The real question isn't simply whether it's permitted.

The question is:

How much cumulative pressure can our freshwater systems endure? Aquifers recharge slowly. Drought cycles intensify. Population demand grows. You can reboot a server. You cannot reboot a river. You can scale artificial intelligence. You cannot manufacture freshwater. This isn't anti-technology. It's pro-survival. And Ohio may simply be the first state standing at a line every state will eventually face

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The CACC NEWS is published by Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination (CACC)

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CACC is a proud member of Michigan Environmental Council, Earth Justice and Beyond Nuclear.

Annual Earth Day Event

CACC will be participating in the 2026 Earth Action Expo at H.H. Dow High School in Midland, MI scheduled for Saturday April 26th, from 11am to 3pm. A free event featuring more than 50 exhibitors with hands-on science, eco-activities, and e-waste recycling. This community event includes electric vehicle displays and sustainable workshops organized by the high school's Go Green Club.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their e-waste to the expo to be recycled by Resourceful Recycling. Items recycled for free include keyboards and computer mice, printers, mobile phones, lamp fixtures, toner and ink cartridges, batteries, computers and other consumer electronics. Televisions (\$10-20), CRT monitors (\$10), alkaline batteries (\$0.70 per pound) will also be accepted for recycling with a small fee.

If you are in attendance please stop by the CACC table and show your support!

World Environmental Day **Jun 5, 2026**

We will also be tabling an event held in Manistee, MI on June 6 at the Manistee Middle/High School. Watch our Facebook page for more information.

Annual General Membership Meeting

Because we have two events already scheduled in June, the board made the decision to hold our General Membership meeting on Sunday the 17th of May. We will be meeting at Krzysiak's at 1605 Michigan Ave Bay City, MI at 12 noon. We are happy to have Terry Miller from The Lone Tree Council as our speaker.

Seeking Volunteers!

We are tentatively serving food again this year (on a much smaller scale than Wheatland) at the Nor'easter Music Festival in Mio, MI held on June 12-14. Six to ten volunteers would help ease the burden. Last year we served a soup & sandwich supper on Friday, Breakfast Lunch & Dinner on Saturday and Sunday Breakfast. If you're interested in helping out please contact Laura.

If you are planning on volunteering to work in the kitchen at Wheatland later this year, I am hoping to have the list made by the beginning of June and all payments received by the end of June so we can send the wristbands out in the mail this year. So be watching your emails in May for confirmation of attendance.

Thank you, Laura Sanderson Volunteer Coordinator (volunteer@caccmi.org)

A short note from the Chair

Thank you to those of you who continue to support CACC by renewing your membership annually.

With that support, we are able to continue to help Earth Justice in their fight for a better environmental future, The Natural Resources Defense Council as they bring together science, policy, law, and people power to tackle the climate crisis, defend public lands and wildlife, and protect the health of our communities. Also the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education whose mission is to support, inspire, and empower a diverse network of individuals with a passion for environmental and outdoor learning.

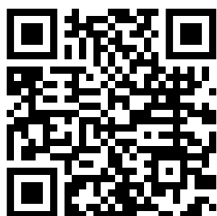
Thank you,

John Witucki Chairman CACC Board

If you are interested in becoming more involved with CACC and participating in events held throughout the year, please feel free to reach out to any board member.

See our Facebook page for more.

Or check out our website.



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