

**Recommendations for Terra Innovations' Data Center/Battery Storage Complex
Conditional Use Approval Application July 21, 2023**

Issues:

- Effect on integrity of Agricultural Reserve
- Effect on water resources: River water withdrawal and discharge:
heating/evapotranspiration/imperviousness/stormwater/groundwater recharge
- Energy use: will current grid bear up, will consumption promote more calls to solar AR as the County has set important carbon neutral goals
- Forest loss
- Effect on historic C&O Canal Park users
- Management of construction traffic

Recommendations:

- No incursions into AR parcel to support these uses
- Battery storage project* seems to be value added – no issues if on industrially zoned parcel
- Secure the AR portion in Ag easement
- Make acreage available for regenerative ag and new producers via Land Link Montgomery
Facilitate restoration of farm soils

Data Centers:

- Phase in – a plan to phase in the centers to allow for evaluation of impact on infrastructure and natural resources and to promote technological innovations
- No diesel back up – rely on battery back up
- No underground blasting
- Demo of existing stacks – remove contaminants (asbestos)
- Buildings should be Leed certified with solar encouraged on roofs/parking
- Can they be required to source energy by purchasing RECs
- More details needed on water cooling systems to understand effect on the River above stream from 3 drinking water system intakes and on macro and micro invertebrates. At present, we are not supportive of river water use for cooling.

Respectfully,

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association