

Organizations from Five Counties Announce Creation of the Maryland Data Centers Analysis Group

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FREDERICK, Maryland – Today, six organizations from across Maryland have joined together to form the Maryland Data Centers Analysis Group. The joint effort of these six organizations represents the start of a cross counties initiative to distribute substantiated data to local jurisdictions to inform better policy making. The Analysis Group will assist local groups statewide with their focus on local data center policies, provide information from verified sources on data center impacts, and offer balanced policy analysis.

Hyperscale data center projects are already in planning or are underway in Frederick, Prince George's, and Montgomery Counties. There is an urgent need to bring together and amplify voices across the state to measure, learn and understand the impact of the industry, how local governments are coping and ensure that community's benefit. To this end, Envision Frederick County, the Sugarloaf Alliance, the Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Sustainable Hyattsville, and the Tri-County Coalition have joined together to form the Maryland Data Center Analysis Group.

"It is imperative at this critical point in the process, that Maryland counties have a complete, factual understanding of the impacts of data centers. Both the benefits and costs of this new industry need to be understood," said Steve Black, President of the Sugarloaf Alliance.

The Analysis Group will leverage the expertise of groups already tracking data center development in Maryland and across the country. Existing research and analysis on the effects of data center development in other jurisdictions will give the Analysis Group a quick start.

"We have been following the development and expansion of data centers across the country and the impact they have," said Elizabeth Bauer, Chair, Envision Frederick County. "There is an overabundance of verifiable information available so there is no need for any county in Maryland to formulate policy in a vacuum. Tested policies are out there."

The data center industry is evolving quickly. The Analysis Group will monitor industry technical and policy developments to keep communities and policy makers aware of new problems and solutions.

"If Maryland wants to be home to best-in-class industries, we need to know and understand just what 'best' means and that requires going to reliable sources such as universities, laboratories, and research institutes," said Faith Klareich, former member of the Frederick County Data Centers Workgroup. "A successfully implemented policy in one jurisdiction is probably going to be valuable to others."

To learn more, interested organizations should contact Faith Klareich at 240-558-8899 or email MDAnalysisGroup@gmail.com

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Maryland Data Centers Analysis Group - Founding Members

Envision Frederick County, Inc.

Sugarloaf Alliance, Inc.

Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Sustainable Hyattsville

The Tri-County Coalition