

Attachment A – Work Plan for Data Center Moratorium

The Council directs Seattle City Light (“SCL”), Seattle Public Utilities (“SPU”), the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (“SDCI”), and any other relevant departments to analyze the data center impacts enumerated in this ordinance and transmit reports and necessary legislation to the Council according to the timelines in this work plan. As part of this work plan, departments should coordinate City efforts to analyze economic impacts of data centers as called for in Mayor Wilson’s statement of May 1, 2026.

1. Considering best practices for data center electricity and water usage (including the use of non-potable water for cooling), SCL and SPU should transmit to Council their analyses, proposed policies, relevant rate structures, and necessary legislation to ensure that Seattle residents, businesses, and others SCL and SPU serve will not pay increased utility costs because of data centers. SCL should transmit its analysis and proposal regarding electricity by July 1, 2026. SPU should transmit its analysis and proposal regarding water by October 30, 2026.
2. SDCI should determine appropriate zoning and development standards that avoid, minimize, or mitigate data center impacts, including on land use compatibility and utility infrastructure. SDCI’s analysis and proposal should:
 - a. consider spacing/dispersal requirements,
 - b. include design and environmentally friendly building standards to mitigate aesthetic and environmental impacts;
 - c. differentiate between large-scale data centers and small, medium, or co-located/mixed use data centers, including existing, permitted data centers in Seattle and the surrounding region; and
 - d. align with relevant state and federal laws.

SDCI should transmit its analysis and proposed legislation by January 2027, for anticipated Council action by March 2027.

3. An interdepartmental team should consider a framework for voluntary data center community benefit agreements by February 1, 2027. Executive departments should consult with members of labor unions, building trades, energy policy and environmental organizations, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, consumer protection advocates, neighborhood groups, tribes, and impacted industry stakeholders. The effort should incorporate considerations for, at a minimum:
 - a. noise, heat, air, and water pollution standards, including, but not limited to, pollution and heat monitoring, noise monitoring, maximum noise thresholds, noise mitigation requirements, and limiting fossil fuels for back-up generation;
 - b. strong workforce protections, including labor standards and onsite workforce requirements;

- c. environmental standards, including third-party verified emissions and water and energy use data disclosure requirements, to ensure full transparency to the public; and
- d. potential new community benefit opportunities, such as contributions to district energy, affordable housing, daycare, transportation infrastructure, tree canopy improvements, or creative redevelopment of under-utilized commercial spaces or brownfields.