



Planning and Community Development

Deb Bell

Council Initiated:

Yes CM Nehring

No

ECAF: 2026-1518

Motion: 26-238

Type:

- Contract
- Board Appt.
- Code Amendment
- Budget Action
- Other Discussion Item

Requested Handling:

- Normal
- Expedite
- Urgent

Fund Source:

- General Fund
- Other Rd Fund
- N/A

Executive Rec:

- Approve
- Did Not Approve
- N/A

Approved as to

Form:

- Yes
- No
- N/A

Subject: Discussion item related to Growth Management.

Scope: A proposed discussion relating to amending Title 30 establishing definitions, permit zoning classifications, development standards, and other regulations applicable to data centers and related facilities.

Authority Granted: The Planning Commission was created pursuant to charter sections 2.20 and 11.30 and serves as an advisory body to council and the executive.

Background: Snohomish County is experiencing increased interest in the development of data centers and related digital infrastructure facilities, such as data mining and cryptocurrency mining.

Data centers have impacts relating to land use compatibility, electrical demand, water usage, transportation, noise, environmental sustainability and economic development. Snohomish County code does not currently contain comprehensive regulations specifically addressing the siting, development or operation of data centers.

Research indicates that Data centers are often grouped into three categories: enterprise, co-location, and hyperscale. An “enterprise data center,” is where one company exclusively uses the data center. (Large tech companies like Meta and Google operate many enterprise data centers and rely on them to power their digital services, including “cloud” file storage and AI agents.) Another type of data centers are “colocation” data centers, where often smaller companies can lease space in the data center for their own purposes. Finally, is the “hyperscale” data centers. These are very large data centers (often several warehouses) that have surged in popularity recently driven by AI and cryptocurrency mining.

Action Requested: A discussion and written feedback by September 1, 2026, on recommended amendments to Title 30 SCC establishing definitions, permit zoning classifications, development standards, and other regulations applicable to data centers and related facilities is requested at the earliest available Planning Commission meeting.