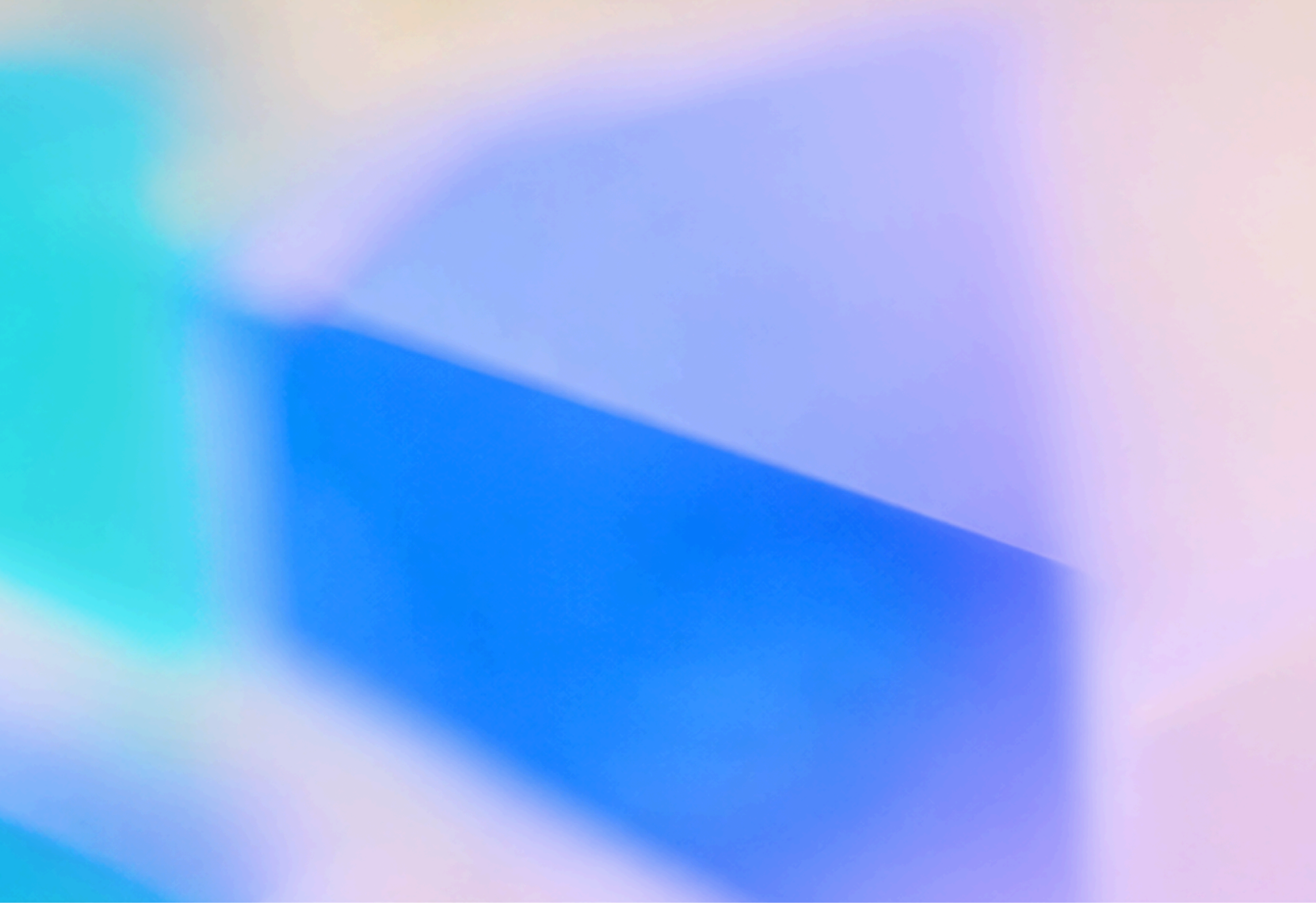


AI Infrastructure That Works for America: Our Compute Campus Policy Blueprint

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OpenAI

At its core, the promise of AI is about expanding human agency. AI can put powerful new capabilities into people's hands, giving them more control over their lives and greater ability to learn, create, build businesses, and pursue opportunities previously out of reach. If AI is available, affordable and accessible, and we apply intentional policies to democratize its benefits, it can help level the playing field between everyday people and the large institutions and systems that have long held disproportionate economic power.

The benefits are already reaching people at scale. ChatGPT is used by 1.2 billion people each week, and OpenAI served 2.5 million businesses in September 2026. People use AI to learn, write, analyze information, and solve problems; enterprises use it to innovate and support more productive work; and developers build applications that bring these capabilities to new customers and communities. Expanding efficient compute capacity can help lower the cost of delivering AI and make these tools accessible to more people, so everyone has an opportunity to participate.

The same principle of agency must apply to the physical infrastructure that makes AI possible. If AI is going to give people greater ability to shape their own futures, then the communities hosting the data centers that power AI must have the same. The AI infrastructure buildout is the first major test of whether the benefits of AI will be broadly shared, and whether industry and government can work together to give American communities a meaningful voice in shaping their economic futures.

Some of this comes down to familiar questions about land use and development, ideas for which we outline below. Americans want a say in what happens in their backyards and to know how a project will affect their electricity bills, water supply, roads, and quality of life. Developers and policymakers have an obligation to answer these questions openly and address these concerns responsibly. Public officials shouldn't be required to sign nondisclosure agreements that keep them from sharing essential information with their constituents. Households shouldn't be asked to subsidize the needed energy infrastructure. Developers should be transparent about energy consumption, water efficiency, and noise impacts.

We are releasing this document to share a blueprint for how an AI data center – which in fact isn't big box in a pasture to store data with few economic benefits for the community, but a materially different facility that powers people's ability to scale their own ingenuity – can be a campus that will generate long-term, transformative economic benefits, from construction jobs to high-paying operational careers, to small business ecosystems, to being a magnet to supply chain hubs.

The AI buildout isn't just about the infrastructure to power AI – it's an investment in rebuilding America's industrial base, strengthening local economies, and creating new centers of opportunity across the country. A data center should power an industrial renaissance through both immediate and long-term economic development.

Unlike previous waves of software-driven innovation, AI requires enormous physical investment in American communities – in data centers, energy infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and the skilled workforce needed to build and operate them. AI training data centers – more accurately described as compute campuses – are unlike most data centers that power internet searches, email

or phone calls. The scale of operations creates massive demand for skilled construction and operations jobs. In Pike County, Ohio, for example, our compute campus is expected to create 2,500 long-term operating jobs with average annual salaries of $80,000, and 26,000 construction jobs. These dense computing systems, specialized power and cooling equipment, and recurring technology upgrades create demand for technical expertise to build, operate, maintain, and modernize them.

Over a compute campus's 30-year lifespan, hardware must be upgraded every three to five years, fueling long-term demand for jobs, creating recurring demand for equipment and services that can be built all across America, and providing the foundation for a broader local industrial economy. The supply chain potential includes component manufacturing and equipment as well as cleaning, security, maintenance, and other local services. With deliberate local planning, this work can build practical expertise that helps a region attract a wider industrial ecosystem.

The talent, innovation and investment across American communities is also what fuels America's ability to compete with China for leadership in AI.

To help ensure the world builds on democratic AI – by which we mean AI that provides widely distributed economic opportunity, supports people's individual agency, and prevents a concentration of benefits and power – it's important that the US continues to be the innovation leader. The country that builds the infrastructure, develops the technology, and brings it to market at scale will have enormous advantages in the global economy and in national security.

Maintaining America's lead requires both advancing and protecting American technology. As we have made clear, OpenAI continues to support the strengthening of export controls on chips and semiconductor manufacturing equipment. As we continue to design and develop our own silicon, our focus is on securely deploying our own chips in the US and in high-trust environments with strong security measures – consistent with the approach of our OpenAI for Countries initiative to promote adoption of democratic AI by US allies and partner countries around the world.

We also believe that maintaining US leadership in advanced compute is not only an economic and national security priority – it's also a frontier safety strategy. Recent advances in AI capabilities make it all the more important to maintain America's technological lead while ensuring that safety measures keep pace with increasingly powerful systems. That chip advantage gives US AI developers greater ability to responsibly pace frontier development, while giving the US and its allies more time to strengthen safety standards, oversight, and international coordination mechanisms.

But America's ability to compete will depend not only on protecting our technological advantages, but on our ability to build. China is investing heavily across the AI technology stack, including expanding its power generation capacity. America's innovation ecosystem retains extraordinary advantages, but we must reclaim our ability to build at the scale this moment demands. And that buildout must deliver more than technological leadership. It must create lasting economic opportunity for the American communities making it possible.

Getting this right requires a new approach to infrastructure development, grounded in five fundamental commitments:

- **Listening and learning:** Communities must have a meaningful voice in development decisions, providing input through construction, operations and future upgrades.
- **Clear accountability:** Communities must have access to essential information about energy use, water resources, noise, and other local impacts, along with public reporting on progress on commitments.
- **Ratepayer protection and energy modernization:** Households shouldn't bear the costs of powering data centers. Instead, compute campus investment should help expand and modernize America's energy grid, strengthen reliability, and deliver broader benefits to consumers.
- **Long-term local economic growth and innovation**: Compute campus investment should support community-led reindustrialization, help local businesses grow, attract complementary industries, and build a diversified economy that can thrive for generations.
- **Good jobs for local residents:** The buildout should create pathways to high-quality, skilled jobs in construction, operations, energy, manufacturing, and related industries, with opportunities for local workers to gain the training and skills needed to participate.

These commitments are essential not only to responsible development but to earning the public's trust. Americans are understandably highly skeptical that big investments by Silicon Valley-based companies will deliver tangible benefits to their hometowns. They're also skeptical that their local governments will ensure they get a fair deal. But beyond skepticism about AI data centers, there is broader skepticism about AI itself, stemming from Americans' experiences with previous waves of economic transformation.

Much of AI's promise still lies in the future. Americans hear about a world in which AI helps cure cancer, develops new sources of abundant energy, increases productivity, and creates unprecedented wealth and well-being. But many fairly wonder whether those gains will translate into real improvements in their own lives. They've heard it all before.

While policymakers and industry promised the gains from increased trade and the internet boom would be broadly shared, in reality, too many communities were left behind. While trade created enormous wealth and improved millions of lives, it also hollowed out industries and devastated communities that, decades later, are still struggling to recover. The internet created extraordinary opportunities and helped secure another generation of American technological leadership, but much of the resulting wealth and economic growth was concentrated in a handful of coastal cities.

In many ways, the conversations and legislation around AI data centers are where the rubber hits the road, a chance for communities to leverage the democratic process (whether they approve these projects or not) to get real, meaningful, sustained benefits.

The competition with China makes the stakes even higher. America can't afford to fall behind in a technology that will shape economic growth, national security, and global influence for generations. But nor can we ask Americans to accept another technological transformation on the promise that the benefits will eventually trickle down.

Our goal is to build from the community up: connect investment to local priorities, local businesses, and local workers from the outset, so communities help shape and share in the growth it creates.

That investment creates an opportunity to connect America's leadership in AI with a broader American industrial renaissance, and to strengthen the industrial capacity America needs to compete with China. We can:

- Use the demand for AI infrastructure to expand domestic energy production, strengthen American manufacturing and supply chains, and create thousands of good-paying jobs in construction, skilled trades, and related industries.
- Modernize our electric grid, making it more reliable and resilient for households and businesses.
- Generate new economic opportunities in communities that have too often been left behind by previous waves of technological change.

The investments that help America compete globally can also help communities prosper locally. The opportunity is not simply to build more compute campuses in America – it's to use the AI infrastructure buildout to help America build more of everything else.

Many companies, like OpenAI, have already made voluntary commitments on issues like ratepayer protection, community engagement, and economic development. Those commitments are an important starting point, but voluntary measures alone don't meet the scale of this moment or provide durable confidence to communities. Policymakers should establish clear rules that advance responsible investment, protect residents, and ensure that the benefits of AI infrastructure are broadly shared.

The policy proposals outlined here reflect new commitments we will apply to OpenAI-owned and operated compute campuses moving forward. We encourage policymakers to enact them as laws to ensure communities have a voice over the development of AI infrastructure. Among them, we propose barring developers from requiring public officials to sign non-disclosure agreements, mandating publication of noise, water, energy and economic impacts, and protecting ratepayers. But our commitments and policies can't simply mitigate risk. We must also ensure that compute campuses provide communities with concrete benefits and create lasting opportunities for local workers and local suppliers, increased local tax revenue and community-led investments.

We'll develop these opportunities further in a future reindustrialization blueprint focused on how AI infrastructure can help expand American manufacturing, strengthen supply chains, and support lasting local economic growth.

1. Listening and learning: Put community priorities first.

A new neighbor should start by listening. Data center developers should engage communities early enough for local priorities to inform project plans and community investment. Engagement should continue through construction, operations and future upgrades, giving communities an ongoing role in shaping their economic futures. Policies should not prescribe a one-size-fits-all approach to engagement among communities with vastly different histories and priorities. Policy can require developers to:

- **Solicit community priorities.** This can include a range of tools suitable to the community, such as community surveys, listening sessions, and outreach to nearby residents, local businesses, schools, workers, and civic organizations to understand their goals and concerns, including voices who may not attend formal hearings.
- **Maintain open channels for community feedback.** Developers should give residents clear, accessible ways to raise concerns and ensure timely responses throughout the life of the campus.

Policy in Practice*: OpenAI believes communities should have a real say in how development happens in the places they call home while ensuring they share in the benefits that AI creates.*

For our planned compute campus in Effingham County, Georgia, we will use resident input to shape a Community Compact that outlines commitments to local priorities. Our approach starts with listening, learning, and meeting communities where they are. Our outreach includes engagement with state and local officials, schools and technical colleges, small businesses, neighborhood associations, nonprofits and other community organizations. We're also going door-to-door in neighborhoods closest to the proposed campus to speak directly with residents, answer questions and gather feedback.

Local residents have already shaped our Community Compact grants to schools, nonprofits, and community organizations in Effingham. We've committed to $80 million in community investments, beyond our local tax payments. Resident input informed one of our first commitments, a $4.8 million grant to the local school system to provide free meals for all 14,000 county students.

2. Clear accountability: Report publicly on local impacts and progress.

The AI industry and elected officials should build trust with local communities by providing clear information and opportunities for input on decisions that impact their daily lives, including about local water, noise, and energy. Public information helps communities, policymakers, and companies build a shared understanding of how projects affect local resources, identify where additional investments may be needed, and work together to address emerging challenges. It also creates accountability, not only for how project impacts are managed today, but for how companies can reduce their environmental footprint over time. Policymakers should ensure that as new compute campuses are developed, they meet transparency and reporting requirements. They should define standardized methods for reporting and require disclosure of information companies can control, reasonably verify, and legally disclose with appropriate protections for security and proprietary information. Lawmakers should:

- **Bar developers from requiring public officials to sign NDAs.** Policymakers should prohibit data center developers from requiring public officials to sign non-disclosure agreements. Any exception should be narrow and limited to information that requires confidentiality to protect legitimate security, trade secrets, or proprietary or competitively sensitive information.
- **Publish construction plans:** Policymakers should require compute campus developers to publish site-specific plans for the temporary effect of construction on traffic, noise and lighting. Communities should know what to expect during construction and have a platform to ask questions and raise concerns.
- **Publish water use and management practices.** Policymakers should require compute campuses to report on water use by location, including descriptions of their cooling and water-management practices. Reported data should distinguish initial cooling-system fill from ongoing use, water supplied or withdrawn from water consumed, and estimates from measured data. Operators should describe conservation measures, including reclaimed water, recycling, and closed-loop or other low-water cooling approaches, explaining how these reflect local water availability, environmental conditions, and community needs. Water utilities and suppliers should report the volumes delivered to high-quantity users, the sources of that water, and relevant local supply conditions.
- **Publish noise studies and mitigation results.** Policymakers should require compute campuses to commission independent noise studies before operations begin and regularly

afterward, measuring sound at property boundaries and in immediately neighboring areas. Measurement should cover normal operations, nighttime conditions, and the testing or use of backup generators and cooling equipment. The results of these studies should be made public.

- **Publish energy use and efficiency measures.** Policymakers should require large electricity consumers to report total facility electricity use, including electricity generated and consumed on site, and annual power usage effectiveness (PUE) using consistent measurement methods. Public information should distinguish estimates from measured performance and provide context for facilities still ramping up. Operators should also describe measures they use to improve efficiency and manage grid demand, including battery storage, demand response, and investments in new energy supply. Large-load tariffs should include clear and transparent rules about metering, cost allocation and reporting. Policymakers should establish standardized metrics that draw on existing regulatory disclosures while protecting security-sensitive and proprietary information.
- **Publish environmental and economic impact reports:** Policymakers should require compute campuses to publish accessible, site-specific reports on environmental performance and local economic impacts. Reports should cover water and energy use, noise, and technologies employed to reduce impacts, including low-emission backup generation, closed-loop or low-water cooling, and alternative energy sources. They should also report construction and operating jobs, local hiring and procurement, tax payments, community investments, and progress against stated commitments. Reports should distinguish projections from measured results and direct impacts from modeled indirect benefits, explain their methods, and avoid double counting.

Policy in Practice: *OpenAI believes communities need transparent and accessible information about local impacts and progress on commitments to preserving local resources.*

OpenAI is committed to accountability at the compute campuses we own and operate. In July, we voided NDAs in Effingham, and we will not require any public official to sign one moving forward, except for very narrow cases covering legitimate security information, trade secrets, or proprietary or competitively sensitive information. We will provide site-specific information on our website, including noise measurements, energy use and water use.

In addition to reporting water usage, we are minimizing water impacts. The Effingham project will use a closed-loop water system, which recirculates water rather than continuously withdrawing and discharging it. It works like a car radiator and is intended to keep ongoing water use low. The water used will not divert water from local communities and the ongoing water needs will be for people to use in an ordinary workplace setting such as restrooms, kitchens, sanitation, and maintenance and will be similar to those of an office building with the same number of employees.

3. Ratepayer protection and energy modernization: Protect households from bearing project costs, and use the buildout to update energy infrastructure.

Policymakers and data center developers should be unequivocal: American households will not foot the bill for the buildout. Large electricity customers, like data centers, must pay their own way.

At the same time, our vision for energy policy should be more ambitious than mitigating risks. Policymakers should harness the compute campus buildout to drive a long-needed transformation to America's energy infrastructure. Our current electric grid is inefficient and old. Energy losses and transmission bottlenecks increase the cost of delivering electricity to households. Deferred maintenance has left needed resilience and other upgrades on the back burner. Neither the grid nor the installed generation capacity is sufficient to meet demand from electrification, reindustrialization and reshoring, or the compute campus buildout. Local, state and national reforms can protect customers, promote grid resilience, protect households against unnecessary power outages, and advance deployment and development of cutting-edge technologies.

Lawmakers should consider approaches that:

- **Protect ratepayers.** Policymakers should ensure that compute campuses pay the full costs attributable to serving them, without shifting those costs to other consumers. Policymakers should direct state public utility commissions to create large-load tariffs that require large electricity consumers to pay the incremental costs they create. This should codify the national Ratepayer Protection Pledge. Utilities should explain how costs are divided clearly to customers, regulators, and the public. Before major spending begins, utilities should secure financial assurances to protect other customers from being left with costs if a project is delayed, reduced, or canceled.
- **Encourage grid-support programs to promote resilience at reduced cost.** Policymakers should direct utilities and regulators to adopt voluntary demand-flexibility programs where feasible. These programs allow compute campuses and other large electricity customers to help keep the lights on during periods of grid stress, including natural disasters, extreme weather and other emergencies. This can reduce the need for costly, seldom used

infrastructure, and lower costs for other customers. Through load-curtailment programs, data centers can reduce their electricity demand when needed, preserving power for critical uses. Utilities could also work with large-load customers to export power from on-site generation and storage back to the grid to meet community needs when necessary. Participation in these programs should be voluntary, with clear operating rules.

- **Choose the most appropriate way to meet new electricity demand.** Utilities and regulators should not pursue one-size-fits-all power solutions, but keep reliability and ratepayer protection as primary objectives. Blanket requirements that a large customer build its own power supply can undermine the ability of large customers to subsidize ratepayers, improve reliability and advance sustainability. Alternatives to bring-your-own generation can include using spare grid capacity, upgrading existing equipment, adding generation and power lines to the grid, investing in storage, or shifting electricity use away from busy periods. Large-load customers should provide realistic information about how much power they need and when they will need it, and work with utilities to identify opportunities to use spare capacity or free up capacity through targeted investments and flexible electricity use.

- **Get more from the grid we already have.** Policymakers and utilities should prioritize projects and technologies that improve the efficiency of existing grid infrastructure. Grid-enhancing technologies, like advanced conductoring and dynamic line ratings, have the potential to substantially increase the electricity that existing infrastructure can deliver. US Department of Energy reports studies where dynamic line rating increased grid capacity by up to 70 percent relative to static ratings. Reconductoring with advanced conductors can approximately double transfer capacity. Federal and state policymakers should expedite permitting for grid upgrades and targeted projects that safely increase transmission capacity. Federal funding and state incentives should reward improvements based on how much usable capacity they add, how quickly they become available and their effect on customer costs.

- **Modernize interconnection and create flexible pathways for large loads.** Federal and state policymakers should direct utilities, regional grid operators and regulators to modernize interconnection processes and create pathways that reward flexibility while protecting consumers. Projects may be able to connect sooner if they agree to reduce grid demand at certain times, use on-site power, or fund needed upgrades. Congress should also give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) clear authority to establish a faster connection process for ready-to-build projects that advance national economic, security, or critical-infrastructure priorities, subject to reliability and ratepayer protections. Potential reforms include standardizing and digitizing utility procedures, improving transparency around queue performance, establishing clear timelines and greater cost certainty, integrating interconnection with proactive grid planning, and aligning utility incentives with timely and reliable project completion.

- **Make it easier to build generation and the transmission needed to deliver it.** Federal policymakers should pass permitting reforms that enable the significant buildout of energy infrastructure required to meet national energy goals. This should include making it easier to

build transmission through better inter-regional planning and permitting reform that expedites critical projects. Congress should expand federal backstop authority, allowing critical transmission projects to proceed if permitting decisions are substantially delayed. Federal and state policymakers should reduce barriers to siting, building, and operating new generation by reviewing permits concurrently, setting clear decision timelines, and resolving legal challenges promptly, while preserving substantive environmental and community protections. This sector-wide approach would address the underlying infrastructure challenges that fuel rising electricity bills for households and small businesses.

- **Build clean power:** Meeting growing energy demand from compute campuses, reshoring, and electrification will require deploying and scaling a broad set of technologies, including clean energy. Policymakers should restore and expand technology-neutral clean electricity tax incentives to accelerate deployment of technologies from solar and wind to nuclear, carbon capture, geothermal and grid-scale batteries. Additional support should address technology-specific barriers, including research and demonstration for emerging technologies, financing for first-of-a-kind projects, and infrastructure and market reforms that enable wider deployment. States, utilities, developers, and communities should plan renewable generation and transmission together, engaging potential partner communities early. By identifying communities open to hosting renewable projects at the outset, planners can help projects move more quickly. Examples can include New York State's proposed Clean Energy Zones and Texas' Competitive Renewable Energy Zones. Large-load customers can then procure and connect to clean electricity that is physically available on the grid; promises to buy clean energy will require the generation and power lines needed to deliver electricity.
- **Expand energy supply to lower costs for all customers.** Congress should create a national initiative to expand the supply of new reliable, affordable generation, energy storage, and transmission, and the domestic manufacturing of essential grid equipment, including transformers, switchgear, and advanced conductors. This should include efforts to scale deployment of existing technologies, create a market for emerging technologies, and expand domestic supply chains. Policies should include competitive grants, tax incentives, low-cost financing, and loan guarantees conditioned on projects meeting clear milestones and delivering public benefits like lower costs and improved reliability.

Policy in Practice: *OpenAI launched its "Grid Protectors" program to reduce electricity consumption during periods of high demand, helping keep the lights on during periods of grid stress, including natural disasters, extreme weather and other emergencies. This can reduce the need for costly, seldom used infrastructure and lower costs for other customers.*

The model builds on OpenAI's agreement with Georgia Power to pay the full cost of the infrastructure needed to serve its Effingham compute campus. In addition, OpenAI committed up to 1,000 MW of flexible demand response, so Georgia Power can reduce energy delivered to the compute campus during periods of high demand. OpenAI's agreement supports grid reliability and contributes to Georgia Power's plan to cut consumer costs. According to Georgia Power, "Customers are expected to see savings of at least $15 per month beginning in 2029 for the typical

residential customer... compute campuses are paying more so families and small businesses can pay less."

OpenAI will work with policymakers, utilities and regulators to develop similar programs across our sites. Programs will require clear operating rules to work for utilities and large load customers. And through this Grid Protectors program, OpenAI will work with utilities to explore creative arrangements like:

- Load curtailment: *Compute campuses can reduce electricity demand when the grid is under pressure, freeing capacity for other customers, just like OpenAI is doing in Georgia. Data center developers and utilities must establish agreements that outline the notice periods and the scale, duration, compensation, and frequency of demand reductions.*
- Supply power back to the grid: *Where compute campus development includes onsite power generation and storage, data centers could reduce demand and supply their power to the grid to serve consumers during times of crisis. This requires approved grid connections, appropriate equipment and agreements with utilities that protect essential operations and backup reserves.*
- Help keep the grid steady: *At some compute campuses, batteries and power controls can limit sudden changes in electricity (load smoothing) drawn from the grid. Where workloads allow, operators can also shift or temporarily reduce demand during periods of grid stress. Coordination among compute campus operators, utilities, and grid operators can make these capabilities useful for grid reliability.*

4. Long-term local economic growth and innovation: Build lasting prosperity from the community up.

Compute campuses should be anchors for community-led, long-term economic growth. Their scale can create a once-in-a-generation opportunity for a community to expand its economic base. Unlike traditional data centers, consistent equipment upgrades and a recurring demand for services create long-lasting opportunities for workers, suppliers and communities.

The investment benefits also can extend beyond the compute campus footprint and help generate a thriving local economy in the short term and the resources to catalyze long-term growth. Tax payments can fuel public investment in schools, public services, and long-term economic planning. Compute campuses can generate opportunities from local businesses, from construction firms and equipment suppliers to restaurants, service providers, entrepreneurs, and emerging technology companies. But those benefits don't materialize automatically. Communities need policies that ensure compute campus revenue benefits local households, supports business growth, and connects local businesses to the opportunities these investments create. Policymakers should:

- **Support community-led economic development.** AI compute campuses can unleash substantial direct and indirect local tax revenue, community-benefit commitments, and supplier investment. Policymakers should ensure decisions about allocating public revenue remain with the appropriate local authorities. For example, local governments could require compute campus developers to fund local intermediaries to convene residents to build a plan for increased public funds based on local priorities, local assets and local talent. Stakeholders could identify long-term goals and strategies to achieve them. Increased capital then can be invested in shared infrastructure, research and development, and site development, start-up incubators, sectoral training partnerships, support services for job-seekers, and more.
- **Strengthen local supplier ecosystems and connect businesses to new opportunities.** Policymakers should help local businesses participate in opportunities in component and equipment supply, construction, cleaning, maintenance, logistics, security, food services, and recurring technology upgrades. Government financial support for independent local suppliers—not for data center developers or the compute campus project – could include bonding or insurance support, competitive grants, subsidies, or low-interest loans. Technical

assistance can include procurement-readiness assistance, supplier matchmaking programs, vendor town halls, and communities of practice. Developers should share anticipated purchasing needs early, meet with local suppliers, and connect qualified local firms to prime contractors where feasible. Policymakers should align these efforts with local workforce initiatives so growing businesses can hire and train local workers.

- **Attract suppliers and complementary businesses.** Where community members seek additional investment, policymakers can help attract suppliers, advanced manufacturers, AI-enabled firms, and other businesses that complement local strengths and create lasting opportunities for workers. Policymakers should use compute campus demand as an opportunity to reshore and expand domestic manufacturing of energy and semiconductor supply chains. These efforts should help communities build a diversified economic base that can thrive beyond any single project. State and federal grants, tax credits, loans, procurement tools, and other economic development programs should support the surrounding local business ecosystem, with clear local benefits, rather than subsidizing data center developers or the compute campus project. Local governments can facilitate site development, and can work with employers to develop appropriate workforce training programs.

- **Help local businesses use AI as a catalyst for growth.** Early evidence shows that adopting AI can help small businesses improve productivity, sales and earnings. Policymakers should work with developers, AI providers, local governments, educational institutions, and community organizations to make practical AI training and technical assistance available to local businesses and entrepreneurs. Support could include AI starter kits and support in applying AI to lower costs, reach new customers, and develop new products and services. They should also encourage developers and AI providers to offer shared community access to compute capacity, API credits, or comparable in-kind resources for local researchers, universities, schools, nonprofit organizations, startups, and small businesses.

- **Establish predictable, transparent, and efficient permitting processes.** Federal policymakers should continue working to enact federal permitting reforms. Federally delegated, state, and local permitting are often the bottlenecks to timely construction. Policymakers should address capacity constraints and inconsistent regulatory review timelines. At the federal level, policymakers should provide technical expertise to help state and local agencies conduct timely, thorough regulatory reviews. They should develop expert teams to support state and local regulators in their permit review and establish funding to appropriately staff state and local regulatory agencies. States should establish a single point of coordination for major projects, supported by staff familiar with compute campuses and related infrastructure. Retaining a specialized group of experts will speed permit review and increase consistency in reviews. Communities and developers should be able to understand how projects will be reviewed, who is responsible, and when decisions are expected.

- **Provide transparent, accountable, and predictable tax treatment on the large-scale investments required in compute campuses.** Public incentives for AI infrastructure should be public and tied to concrete benefits. States and local governments should publicly disclose discretionary incentive agreements, require measurable performance

commitments, and include reporting and clawback provisions if material commitments are not met. Policymakers should also consider pairing tax incentives with transparency requirements related to workforce, environmental performance, or other community priorities.

Policy in Practice: *OpenAI believes that compute campuses can bring new jobs, business opportunities, and a durable source of tax revenue. As a major taxpayer, data centers can help fund schools, emergency services, roads, and other public needs. This gives local governments the opportunity to turn a large infrastructure investment into lasting improvements in residents' lives. For example, under current county projections, tax payments from the Effingham County, Georgia, project will make OpenAI the largest local taxpayer in the County. Once the project reaches full buildout, the County projects approximately $66 million annually in payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for Effingham County and the School District. Separately, proceeds from the project land sale enabled local property-tax cuts. Combined with a separate state grant, those cuts could reduce 2026 property-tax bills by approximately 30% for qualifying homeowners, according to the County Tax Commissioner.*

5. Good jobs for local residents: Build pathways into the jobs of the AI economy.

Residents in compute campus communities must have pathways into the hundreds of thousands of skilled jobs the buildout is creating. Data centers drive demand for construction workers, skilled trades, technicians, operations staff, suppliers, and the broader ecosystem of businesses they support. Recurring equipment upgrades can create additional demand after initial construction. Many of these quality jobs don't require a four-year degree.

As regions attract new investment and businesses grow, policymakers should ensure investment goes into the skilled workforce we have, along with building talent pipelines that allow local workers to participate in that growth. This should include partnerships between employers and technical schools, community colleges, unions and registered apprenticeship programs that connect residents to jobs. Training should build transferable technical expertise so residents can progress from campus work into the wider manufacturing and service economy. Policymakers should:

- **Require public workforce strategies and annual progress reports.** Policymakers should require major compute campus projects to develop and publish a workforce strategy explaining the jobs they expect to create and the ways they will support local residents in preparing and applying for them. Where appropriate, plans should include construction and operations workforce demand forecasts, local hiring strategies, registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship plans, workforce programs and demonstrated partnerships with community colleges, skilled building trades unions, workforce boards, and technical training providers. They should also explain expectations for contractors, worker safety, and approaches, such as project labor agreements, to maintain a stable workforce and prevent labor disruptions. Annual progress reports should track hiring and training goals using data that firms can reasonably collect, such as worker numbers, work hours, types of jobs, apprenticeship participation, training partnerships, and investments in workers.
- **Require compute campus developers to set local-hiring goals where local labor market conditions allow.** Local-hiring prioritization, paired with training and support, meaningfully increases local resident participation in project jobs. Where there are sufficiently large populations of workers, local policymakers should encourage local hiring for compute campuses and should partner with workers, training organizations and employers to ensure onramps to those jobs exist.

- **Build training programs that lead to jobs.** State and local policymakers should support lasting partnerships among employers and local workforce training providers, including community colleges, trade schools, unions, and apprenticeship sponsors. Companies should share anticipated workforce needs and skills requirements, shape program design, support instructor capacity and training equipment, and offer work-based learning opportunities such as paid internships, apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeships. Workforce agencies should coordinate these partnerships so local residents are ready for jobs in data center construction and operations, as well as associated industries. Workforce agencies should also build privacy-protective data systems and reporting processes to measure program success. These partnerships should prepare residents for careers that extend beyond any single project.
- **Help residents navigate careers and overcome barriers to work.** Policymakers should support workforce intermediaries that help local residents access new career pathways. Services should include career navigation, mentoring, site visits, and hands-on learning opportunities. They should provide needed support, including transportation, childcare, broadband or device access, and assistance with training or certification costs. Support should cover workers pursuing roles with compute campuses as well as opportunities with the businesses growing alongside development.

Policy in Practice*: Construction and ongoing operations around AI infrastructure create work for electricians, technicians, skilled tradespeople, and local suppliers, including careers accessible through registered apprenticeships and technical training rather than a university degree. Our Effingham site is expected to support 400 ongoing operating jobs with annual average salaries of $80,000 and, separately, more than 1,000 construction jobs. Our Pike County, Ohio, project will create 2,500 long-term operating jobs and 26,000 construction jobs. In Abilene, Texas, the compute campus will support 300 long-term jobs and 5,000 construction jobs. OpenAI has committed to prioritizing local hiring for contractors, suppliers, trades, and service providers where we can. For residents, that can mean the opportunity to build a career close to home.*

Our $80 million community investment in Effingham includes workforce training among the priorities to be shaped with residents. We are partnering with local schools, colleges, workforce organizations, and technical training providers to create internship, apprenticeship, and skills-development programs that help residents prepare for careers in data center operations, electrical and mechanical systems, networking, safety, and facility management. Together these commitments aim to help more people participate in the opportunities the project creates.

Building the future together

OpenAI looks forward to continuing to build compute campuses across the country. As we do, we want to work in partnership with communities and policymakers to ensure these investments are developed responsibly and benefit local residents. We hope this Blueprint provides a practical framework for translating those goals into law and policy, and we look forward to working with policymakers and other stakeholders to put these ideas into practice. Building the future together means not only creating the infrastructure that powers the AI economy, but also ensuring that the communities helping make it possible share in the prosperity it brings.

About OpenAI

OpenAI's mission is to ensure that artificial general intelligence benefits all of humanity. We're building AI to help people solve hard problems because by helping with the hard problems, AI can benefit the most people possible – through more scientific discoveries, better healthcare and education, and improved productivity. We're off to a strong start, creating freely available intelligence used by 1.2 billion people around the world each week. We believe AI will scale human ingenuity and drive unprecedented economic growth and new freedoms that help people accomplish what we can't even imagine today.