

Sacred Seeds Foundation Policy Statement on AI Data Centers in Alaska

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Our Position: Yes to AI Data Centers—With Strong Environmental Safeguards

Sacred Seeds Foundation recognizes that AI and data center infrastructure can serve important functions for Alaska's healthcare systems, educational institutions, emergency services, and economic development[1][2]. We are not opposed to technological advancement or the responsible development of digital infrastructure in our state.

However, we believe that any AI data center development in Alaska must be conditioned on rigorous, enforceable environmental protections that safeguard our lands, waters, and communities for future generations.

Core Principles

1. We Support Thoughtful Adoption of AI Infrastructure

Sacred Seeds Foundation does not take a narrow-minded or anti-technology stance. We recognize that modern healthcare, education, and commerce increasingly depend on advanced computing infrastructure[1][2]. Alaska deserves access to reliable, locally-controlled digital services that reduce latency, improve resilience, and keep sensitive data under state jurisdiction.

Our concern is not whether AI data centers should exist in Alaska, but **under what conditions** they should be permitted and **who benefits** from their presence.

2. Hemp Buffers Are Science-Based Environmental Protection, Not Self-Interest

Our advocacy for industrial hemp phytoremediation buffer zones around AI data centers is grounded in peer-reviewed research, not financial self-interest. Multiple independent studies confirm that industrial hemp:

- Effectively captures and stabilizes heavy metals and soil contaminants through phytoremediation[3][4][5][6]
- Sequesters significant quantities of carbon (8-22 tons of CO₂ per hectare per growing season)[7][8][9]
- Provides biomass for low-carbon building materials, bioenergy, and advanced carbon materials for energy storage[10][11][12][13]
- Creates vegetated buffers that reduce heat, control erosion, and improve local air and water quality[14][15][16]

We propose hemp buffers because the science shows they work—not because Sacred Seeds Foundation will profit. Any hemp cultivation, processing, or value-chain development should prioritize local farmers, Indigenous communities, and Alaska-based enterprises, with transparent governance and community benefit agreements.

3. Mandatory Environmental Safeguards Are Non-Negotiable

Sacred Seeds Foundation supports AI data center development in Alaska **only if** the following conditions are met:

Siting Requirements:

- Data centers must be located on industrial or borough-owned land, far from residential neighborhoods, schools, and sensitive salmon streams
- Facilities must not be sited over critical aquifer recharge zones or in areas with existing water stress

Water Protection:

- Mandatory use of closed-loop or air-based cooling systems with minimal freshwater withdrawal[17][18]
- Reliance on reclaimed wastewater instead of groundwater or drinking water supplies where feasible[18][19]
- Full public disclosure of water use with independent hydrological review, real-time monitoring, and enforceable withdrawal caps[17][20]

Environmental Mitigation:

- Required industrial hemp phytoremediation buffer zones around all facilities to protect soil and shallow groundwater from construction-related contamination[3][4][5][6]
- Ongoing soil and water quality monitoring with transparent, publicly accessible reporting
- Community benefit agreements ensuring local hiring, workforce training, and equitable revenue sharing

Governance and Accountability:

- Transparency about data center tenants and compliance with privacy and security standards (HIPAA, CJIS, etc.)^{[1][2]}
- Priority for public-value workloads serving Alaska healthcare, education, government, and emergency services
- Community advisory mechanisms allowing Tribal, municipal, and resident input on project governance and acceptable use

The Cost of Weak Safeguards Is Too High

Without enforceable protections, AI data centers pose serious risks to Alaska:

- Aquifer depletion and reduced stream flows threatening drinking water and salmon habitat^{[17][20]}
- Soil and groundwater contamination from industrial activity, fuel storage, and transformer leaks
- Massive energy demands that strain the grid and shift costs onto residential ratepayers^{[21][22]}
- Minimal long-term employment while extracting public resources and land^{[21][23]}

The people and lands of Alaska should not bear these costs so out-of-state corporations can profit without accountability.

Our Call to Action

Sacred Seeds Foundation calls on the Mat-Su Borough Assembly, Alaska state legislators, and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to:

1. Adopt mandatory hemp phytoremediation buffer zones and comprehensive water protections as conditions for any data center permits or public support
2. Require community benefit agreements with enforceable local hiring, training, and revenue-sharing provisions
3. Prioritize data center tenants that serve clear public value for Alaskans
4. Establish transparent governance mechanisms with community and Tribal representation

Yes to AI data centers in Alaska—but only with strong environmental safeguards, community accountability, and lasting benefits for the people of this great state.

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