quiet communities

DATA CENTER NOISE

If nothing has been proposed yet — the greatest opportunity

https://datacenternoise.org/if-nothing-has-been-proposed-yet/

PATHWAY FROM PROBLEM TO SOLUTION:

This is the point at which the greatest opportunity exists to establish technical and/or zoning regulations to protect your community. Loudoun County, Virginia, now home to the largest concentration of data centers in the country, offers a documented example of what can happen otherwise: a zoning classification written decades ago for office buildings was used to allow development of data centers for years without any public hearing until the county closed that loophole in 2025.

What you can do

The specific provisions an ordinance like this can include, along with the reasoning behind each one, are laid out in full on the page for government officials entitled What Local Officials Can Do About Data Center Noise. If you're raising this topic with your own officials, sharing that page directly with them is likely to prove more useful than a secondhand summary.

- Henry County, Virginia (for data centers) and New York (for wind and solar facilities) already use these tools — a real precedent you can mention to local officials.
- A meeting with the planning commission or county board, framed as a general ordinance-update conversation (rather than a response to a specific concern), is one approach that has been used elsewhere.
- Quiet Communities provides input on ordinances but does not have its own model ordinance to offer. Publicly adopted ordinances — Henry County's, for instance — are public record and can serve as a reference point for what specific language looks like in practice.