

COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM

Understanding Data Centers and Rural Communities



TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026



1:30–3:30 P.M.



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES VISITOR CENTER

29270 County Highway G
Ashland, WI 54806

**FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

As demand for digital infrastructure grows across the country, communities are increasingly being asked to consider the opportunities, challenges, and planning implications associated with data center development.

Join **Karl Green**, Community Planning Specialist with UW–Madison Extension, for a neutral, research-based discussion of this emerging issue and its relevance to rural communities.



DISCUSSION TOPICS

- ✓ What data centers are and why they are expanding
- ✓ Current trends in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest
- ✓ Infrastructure considerations, including energy, water, housing, and roads
- ✓ Potential opportunities and challenges for rural communities
- ✓ Planning and zoning tools available to local governments
- ✓ Lessons from communities that have considered or hosted data center development



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?



County and municipal elected officials



Planning commissioners and zoning committee members



Local government staff



Community leaders and interested residents



For more information or accommodation requests:

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