

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

DATA CENTER IMPACTS and RURAL COMMUNITIES

2 PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monday, July 27, 2026

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
29270 County Highway G, Ashland, WI

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- What data centers are and why they're expanding
- Current trends in Wisconsin and the region
- Lessons learned from other communities
- Potential impacts on infrastructure, including energy, water, housing, and roads
- Environmental impacts and land use implications
- Planning, zoning and administrative tools available to local governments to address data center development

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: As demand for digital infrastructure grows across the country, there is increasing pressure on rural communities to navigate the impacts and planning implications associated with data center development. These community information sessions will highlight this emerging issue and help local elected officials and residents better understand the tools available to proactively address the issue.

PLEASE NOTE: No proposals for data center development have been submitted in Ashland or Bayfield Counties. These conversations are proactive and intended to increase community preparedness.

GUEST SPEAKER

Karl Green, Community Planning Specialist
UW-Madison Extension

Karl is the Former Director of UW-Madison Extension Local Government Education Program and now leads educational efforts related to emerging community planning issues, including data centers.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Ashland County Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2026 | 9:00 a.m.

Bayfield County Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.

PRESENTED
BY:



ASHLAND COUNTY
Wisconsin



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

QUESTIONS OR ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS?

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