

Data Center Briefing

January 26, 2026

Global

Key themes:

Virginia considering pause on hyperscale approvals tied to interconnection backlogs; Stronger state-level review of grid capacity, ratepayer and environmental impacts; US emissions rose in 2025; data centres and crypto cited as a driver; Power mix shifts: coal up, solar up, zero-carbon share at 42% in US electricity; AI-driven electronics and server supply chain growth signalled by Taiwan output surge

Global data centres & power — daily briefing (UTC 2026-01-26)

Audience: Institutional asset managers and infrastructure fund managers focused on data centres, power, and grid infrastructure.

Top news (3)

- **Virginia push to pause hyperscale approvals until interconnections clear.** The Piedmont Environmental Council is backing two bills that would slow new hyperscale approvals and tighten state review around grid capacity and consumer/environmental impacts. See: [PEC backs Virginia bills pausing hyperscale data center approvals](#).
- **US emissions rose in 2025, with data centres and crypto flagged as a driver.** A Rhodium Group study says US GHG emissions increased **2.4%** to **~5.9bn tons CO₂e**, citing “explosive growth” in data centres/crypto alongside weather and fuel-price effects. See: [U.S. carbon pollution rises 2.4% in 2025, reversing reductions](#).
- **Taiwan industrial production hit a record on AI-driven electronics/servers demand.** Taiwan reported **+16.70%** industrial production in 2025 (index **112.16**), with strong growth in electronics components and computer/optoelectronics tied to AI-linked supply chains (including servers). See: [Taiwan industrial production hits record in 2025 on AI boom](#).

Key deals & projects

No specific new data centre deals/projects, financings, or capex items were disclosed in today's stories.

Power, grid & interconnection highlights

United States (Virginia)

- [PEC backs Virginia bills pausing hyperscale data center approvals:](#)
 - **HB1515 (Del. Irene Shin):** would temporarily pause approvals of local hyperscale data centre projects **until pending grid interconnection requests are fulfilled.**
 - **HB155 (Del. Josh Thomas):** would require the **State Corporation Commission** to evaluate:
 - **Grid capacity**
 - **Customer bill impacts**
 - **Environmental and public health effects**
 - Consistency with **state clean energy policy**
 - before issuing **certificates of operation.**

United States (system-wide)

- [U.S. carbon pollution rises 2.4% in 2025, reversing reductions:](#)
 - Rhodium Group (Jan. 13) estimates **2025 emissions +2.4%** to **~5.9bn tons CO2e (+139m tons vs 2024).**
 - Drivers cited include **cool winter heating demand, data centres/cryptocurrency mining growth,** and **higher natural gas prices.**
 - Power mix signals noted in the study:
 - **Coal-fired power +13%**
 - **Solar +34%**
 - **Zero-carbon sources = 42%** of US electricity

Policy & regulation

United States (Virginia)

- [PEC backs Virginia bills pausing hyperscale data center approvals](#) would, if advanced:
 - Increase **regulatory friction and timeline risk** for hyperscale development in Virginia.
 - Place explicit emphasis on **interconnection queue clearing, ratepayer impacts,** and **environment/health review** as prerequisites

for approvals/operations.

Supply chain / demand indicators

Taiwan

- [Taiwan industrial production hits record in 2025 on AI boom:](#)
 - **2025 industrial production +16.70%** to index **112.16**.
 - **Manufacturing subindex +17.87%** to **113.12**.
 - Sector growth highlights: **electronics components +24.71%**, **computer/optoelectronics +56.43%**.
 - **December +21.57% YoY**; Taiwan forecasts **January manufacturing index 130.69-134.69 (+35.6-39.7% YoY)**.

2-line wrap

Virginia lawmakers are being pressed to link hyperscale approvals to grid interconnection readiness and broader system impacts.

Separately, macro indicators point to accelerating AI-driven compute hardware demand while US emissions data highlights the system-wide power implications of data centre growth.