



Email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Microsoft's 48 Lowe's Place (in Etobicoke)

ClimateFast comments for 2026.MM43.72 on July 29, 2026 City Council

Please add our comments to the agenda for the July 29, 2026 City Council meeting on item [2026.MM43.72](#), Assessing the Impact of the Data Centre located at 48 Lowe's Place - by Councillor Vincent Crisanti, seconded by Councillor Stephen Holyday

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

We urgently write to Council to pass a moratorium on AI data centres in Toronto before Council closes for the 2026 municipal election. We have seen examples in the U.S where people are getting sick, experiencing higher electricity bills, and having their privacy and personal data being violated by big tech companies. We already have an affordability crisis here in Toronto; we can't afford to have AI data centres. In addition, we would like to remind the City that surveillance pricing is made possible through the existence of large cloud and AI data centres. People's personal data are bought, sold, and scraped by AI to further fast-track surveillance pricing. In the absence of privacy regulations that provide legal recourse, public consultations on data centres, and conducting a complete assessment of the economic and environmental issues they pose locally, we cannot be blindly approving them like we are now. Please put a pause to this development until the full costs are well understood and we have proper municipal mechanisms for assessment, monitoring and accountability. Please show us that you are on the side of everyday Torontonians and not of big tech and corporations.

Here is what we expect from City Council for item 2026.MM43.72:

1. Amend the item to pause all reviews and approvals of data centre applicants in the development application process at the City for at least a year, as regulations on data privacy, transparency, public consultation, and environmental reviews on AI data centres have not caught up.
2. Amend the item to ensure that there is data transparency to residents, including which companies are renting out the servers within the data centre.



3. Amend the item to ensure that members of Council are not signing NDAs with data centre companies and the City is not put at risk of poorly written NDAs that limit dialogue with constituents.
4. Amend the item to have the City track and create a map showing where all existing and new data centres are applying within the City. The map should also indicate the amount of mega-watts (MWs) demanded (and any planned expansion), the # of on-site generators, noise pollution levels, and the amount of annual property taxes paid to the City.
5. Amend the item so that the City applies a property tax rate that is 10 times higher than what it is currently paying and the costs recovered cover the full direct and direct cost of the data centre, including the weight it poses on our electronic waste systems.
6. Amend the item to review how AI data centres enable surveillance pricing through providing the infrastructure to store and process massive amounts of personal data.
7. Amend the item to ensure that all AI use at the City is not contributing to this AI data centre development.
8. Amend the item to call on the Ontario government for a province-wide moratorium on data centre applicants.
9. Amend the item to include the recommendations made in item 2026.MM43.75 for the data centre in Scarborough Southwest.
10. Ensure that regardless of election outcomes and who does or doesn't get re-elected, this item does not die and all policy options are explored to place a pause on data centre development across Toronto.
11. Ensure that the item will be brought back to vote at City Council.
12. Please hold this item and ask for a recorded vote.

Sincerely,

Anna Hardie

On behalf of ClimateFast

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