



Sustainable Data Centers Working Group

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus:
Environment Committee

September 16, 2025

City ordinance

Residency requirement

Small incentive for data contracts

Established a working group



Working group membership

- Environment
- Law
- Planning and Development
- Public Health
- Technology and Innovation
- Outside experts, as appropriate

Working group goals

- Reduce the noise and air pollution impacts of data centers on residents.
- Mitigate increases in electricity prices due to data center growth.
- Ensure continued progress towards clean energy goals.
- Support innovative projects that bring environmental, economic, and/or social benefits to Chicago.

Process update

March

June

September

December

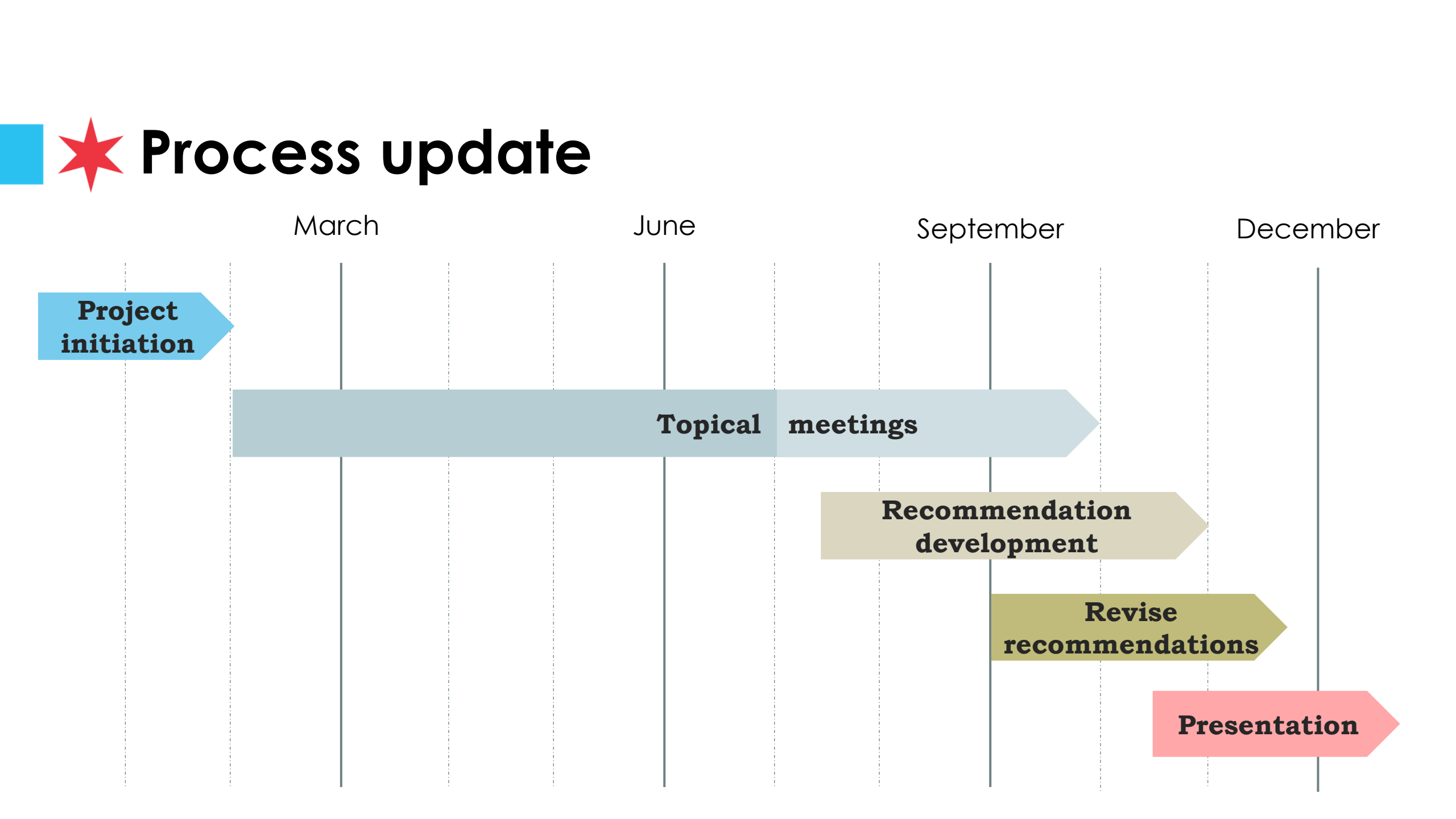
**Project
initiation**

**Topical
meetings**

**Recommendation
development**

**Revise
recommendations**

Presentation



Local impacts



Local impacts



Local impacts



Local impacts



Local impacts



Local impacts



Local impacts



Local impacts





Why urban data centers?

- Data centers have four primary needs



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1. Land





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 1. Land
 2. Fiber



Photo: ecmag.com



Why urban data centers?

- Data centers have four primary needs
 1. Land
 2. Fiber
 3. Water





Why urban data centers?

- Data centers have four primary needs
 1. Land
 2. Fiber
 3. Water
 4. Electricity



Preliminary findings

- Few existing regulations
- Impacts to the energy sector are significant and go beyond the City
- Urban data centers are different
- Major local impacts from generators and cooling
 - Air pollution from diesel generators
 - Noise pollution from generators and cooling systems
- Some data centers are doing great things

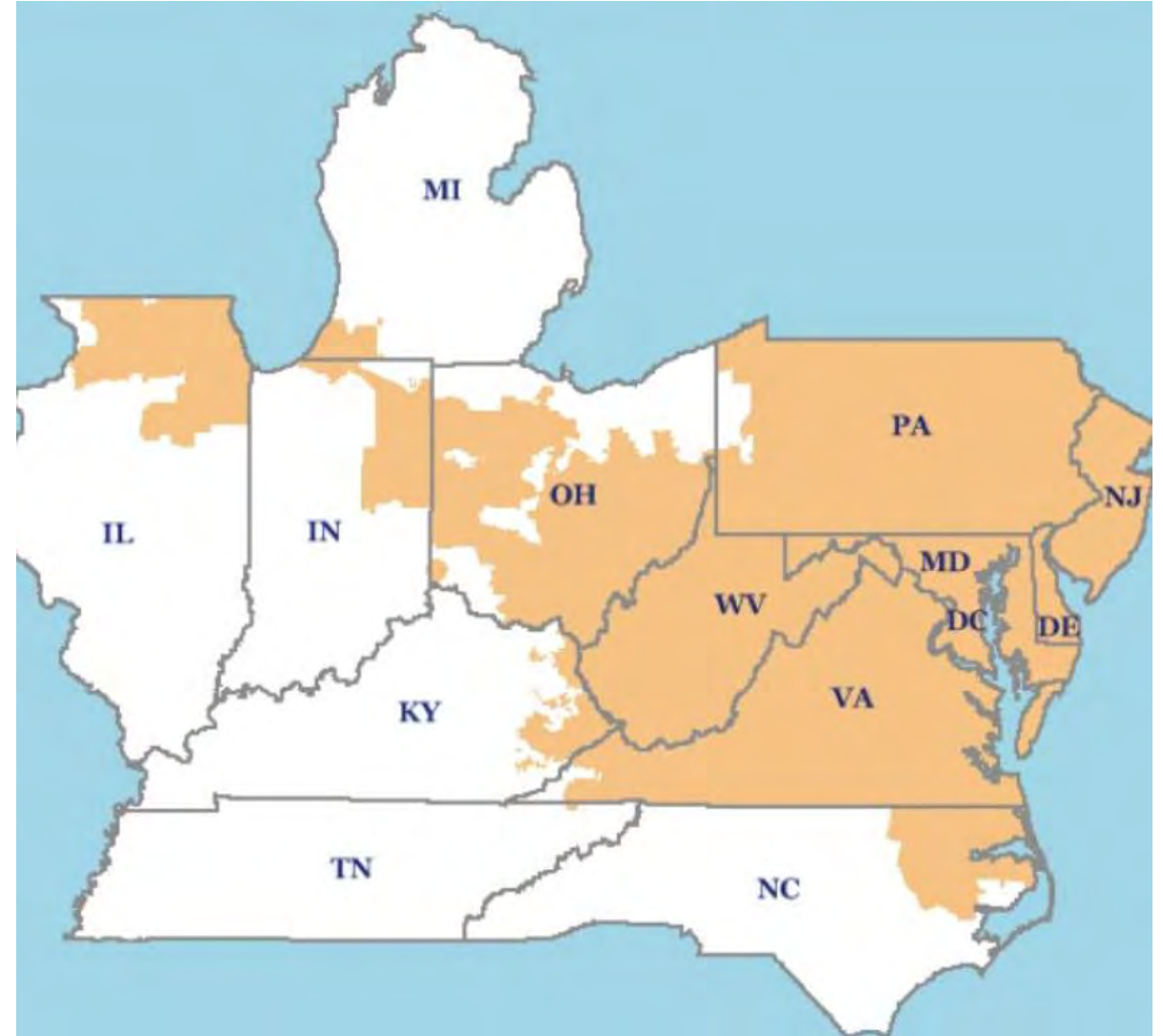


Coordination and collaboration

PJM Cities and Communities Coalition

Proposed state legislation

Regional coordination?





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