



# **From innovation to overshoot**

How data centre expansion risks derailing climate goals – and how to fix it

[www.ecostandard.org](http://www.ecostandard.org)

# Report available on the ECOS website

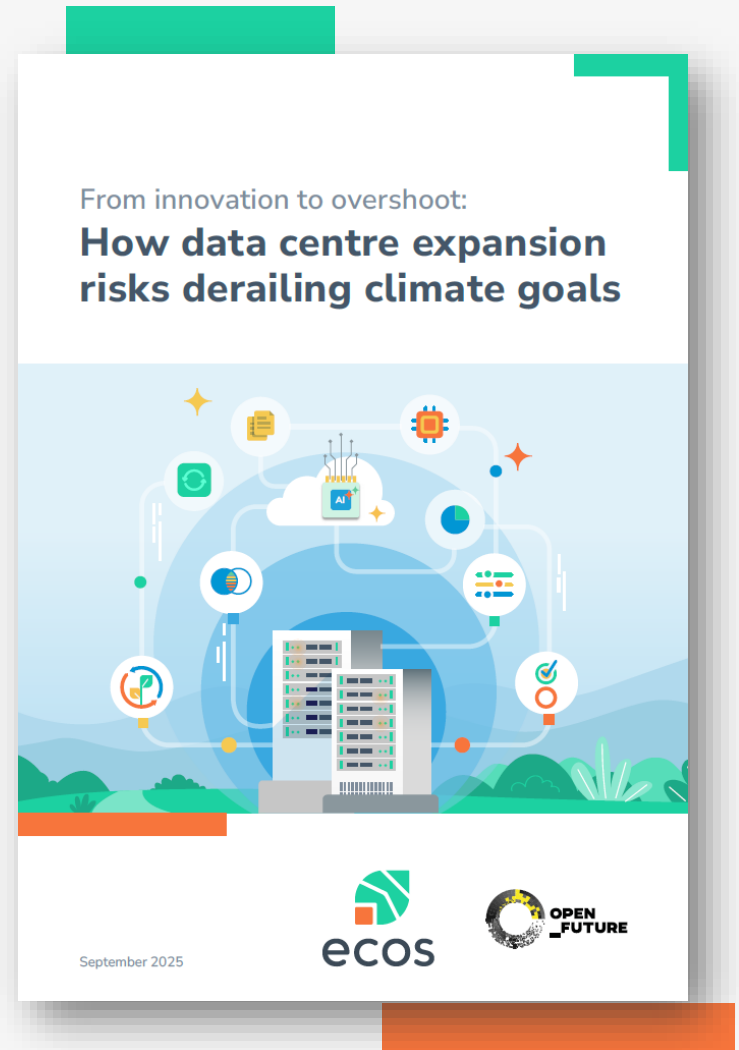
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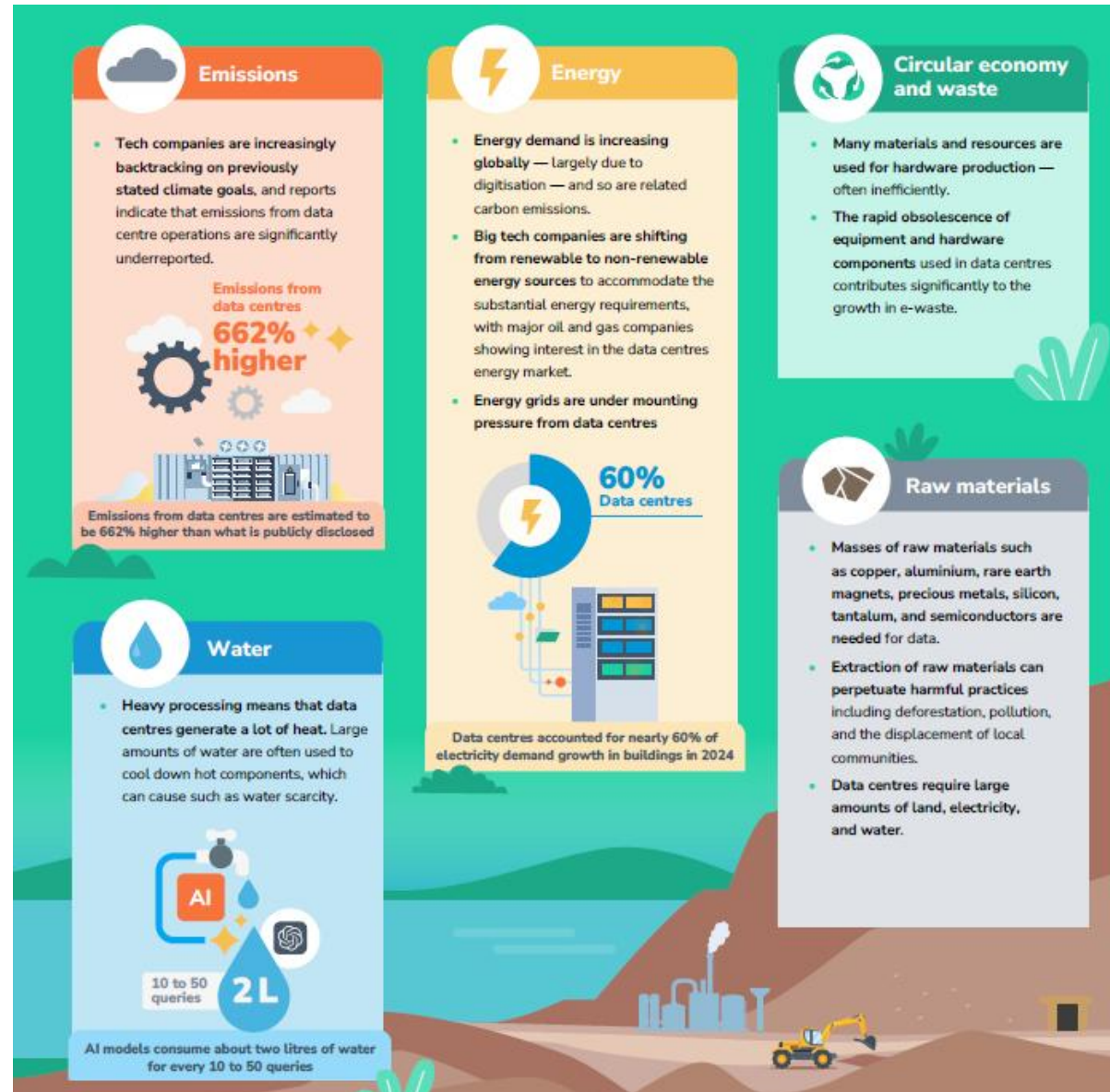


# Rising environmental and social concerns

Data centres are essential infrastructure for the digital economy.

But their expansion is driven by an increasing demand for power – often dedicated to tasks of questionable necessity or low societal value.

AI exacerbates this.



# EU policies to build on as part of a coherent vision on data centres



**Energy Efficiency  
Directive (EED)**



**Renewable Energy  
Directive  
(RED II and RED III)**



**Ecodesign regulation  
for servers and data  
storage products**



**Sustainability  
reporting frameworks**

e.g., the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), and the EU Taxonomy Regulation

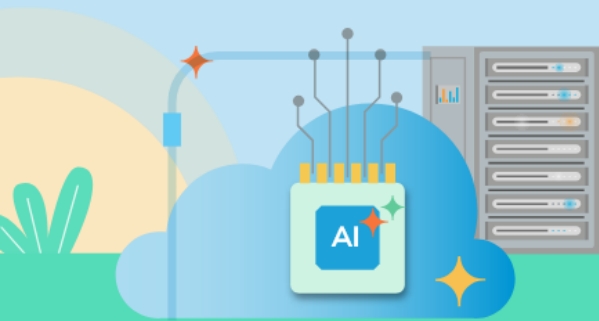


**Green Public  
Procurement Criteria  
for Data Centres,  
Server Rooms and  
Cloud Services**



**The Cloud and AI  
Development Act and  
the AI Continent Plan**

# How to drive a sustainable digital transition



A coherent EU vision addressing the innovation and societal changes driving demand for data centres is vital — and lacking. We recommend that the EU develops a holistic approach to the drivers and impact of data centre uses, including ambitious environmental targets, as well as geostrategic, competitiveness, and societal objectives. Including:

✓ **Focus on more than just efficiency**

✓ **Adopt sufficiency principles**

✓ **Prioritise transparency**

✓ **Give society a choice**



# **From innovation to overshoot**

How data centre expansion risks derailing climate goals – and how to fix it

# Panel

Anna Gumbau  
Moderator



Pauline Denis  
Project Manager –  
Digitalisation at  
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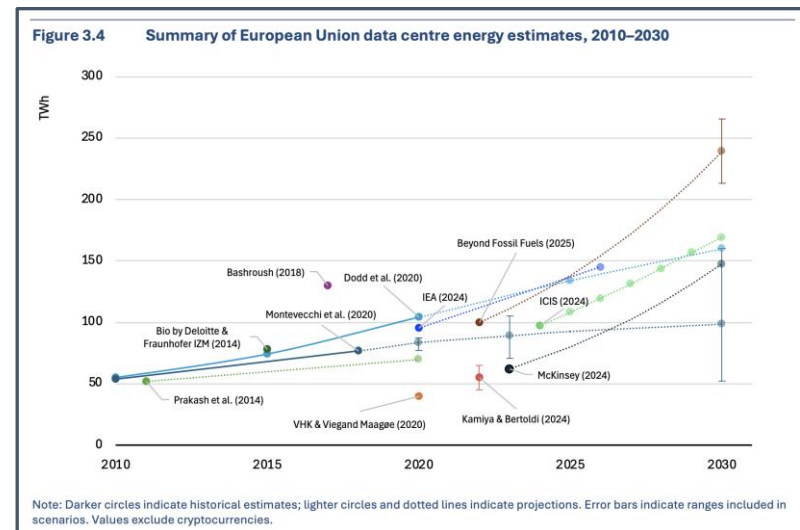
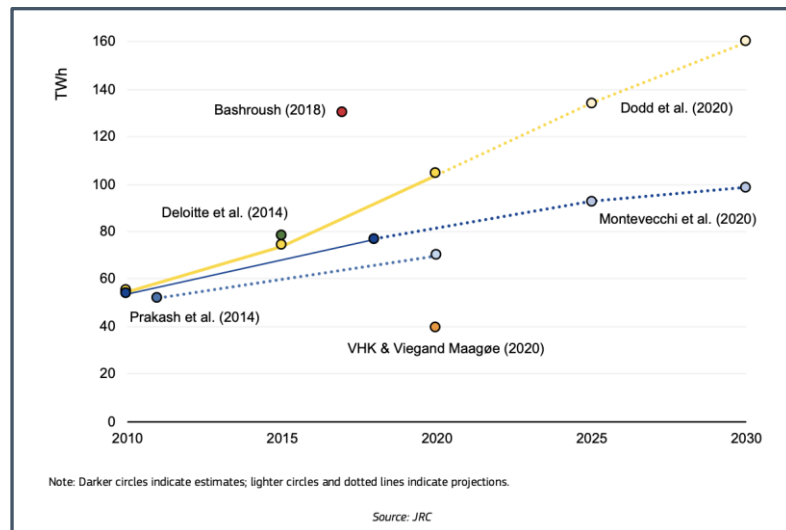


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Co-Founder &  
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# Energy consumption – current situation

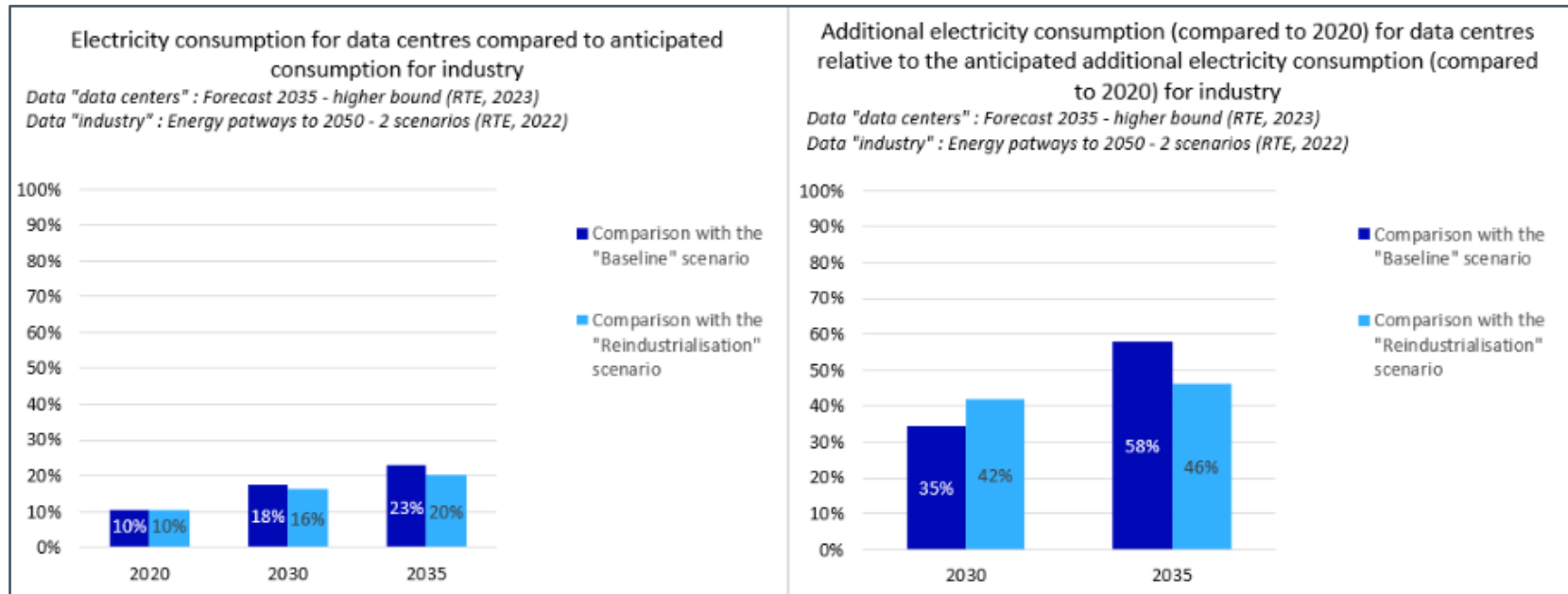


Figures: Overview of various estimates and scenarios for energy consumption in European data centres.

Source: (EDNA, Technology collaboration programme by IEA, 2025; European Commission, 2020).



# Anticipating the energy and climate consequences of our choices



- *Connections approved will have a full capacity ~ 10 years later*
- *Rising power system strains*
- *Conflict of use with regard to the electrification of key sectors (transport, heating, hydrogen, etc.)*

# Q&A



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# Thank you



## Environmental Coalition on Standards

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