

CityLab | Environment

Power-Hungry Data Centers Are Warming Homes in the Nordics

By pairing computer processing facilities with district heating systems, countries like Finland and Sweden are trying to limit their environmental downsides.



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No data center is good for the environment, but projects like this can help alleviate their negative effects as the demand for computing power surges globally. The largest commercial data centers – so-called hyperscale facilities – can consume a city’s worth of electricity, the vast majority produced from polluting fossil fuels. And with the growing uptake of artificial intelligence, they’ll need even more. Electricity consumption from the industry globally is set to increase by 50% by 2027 from 2023, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc., and a report published by the International Energy Agency in April projects power demand from data centers to double by 2030.