

Data Center Infrastructure is Already Making **Utility Rates Unaffordable in Minnesota**



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What is Demand?

Utility companies are required by law to have enough energy on hand to support the maximum amount of load used the previous month.

Anytime a business goes above this peak, the utility must have this same amount of power available every day, regardless if the customer uses it.

*The result is significant waste and high costs, all of which are **passed on to the customer**.*

US Energy Production

32.
1

The US delivers to all energy customers 32.1 quadrillion British Thermal Units (BTUs) every year. This includes residential, commercial, industrial and transportation.

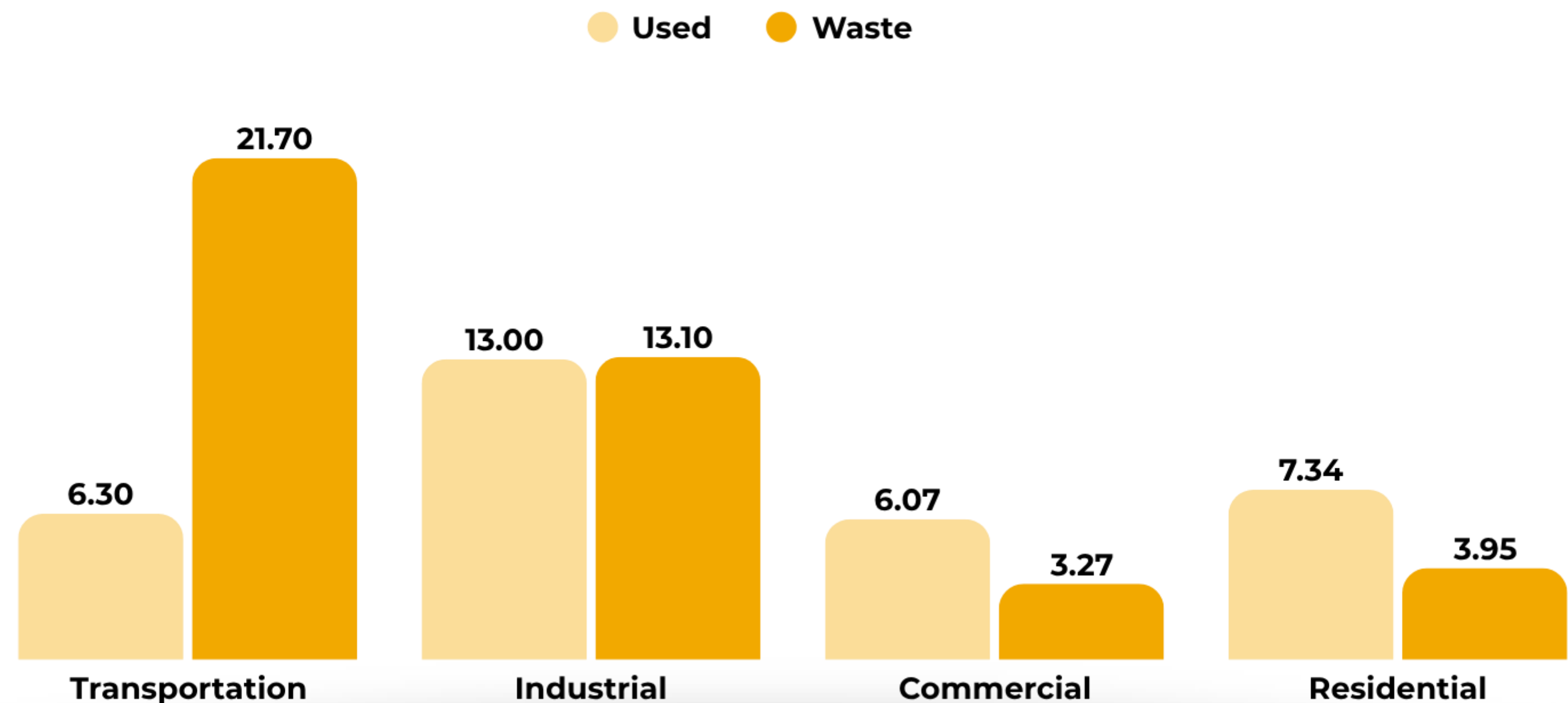
Source:
EIA

61.
5

But in comparison, the US wastes 61.5 quadrillion BTUs every year. This waste is the primary driver of all energy costs.

Source:
EIA

Industry Energy Usage Trends



Source:
EIA

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10-20-30 Principle



The driving force behind conservation efforts is the **10-20-30 principle**.
That energy reduction savings is compounded by the waste savings.

10 units saved = 20 units of waste eliminated = 30 units reduced from the grid

Commercial Buildings with High Demand

Hospitals /
Medical Buildings

Supermarkets

Schools
*Increasing with
each grade level*

Hotels / Resorts

Convenience Stores

Data Centers

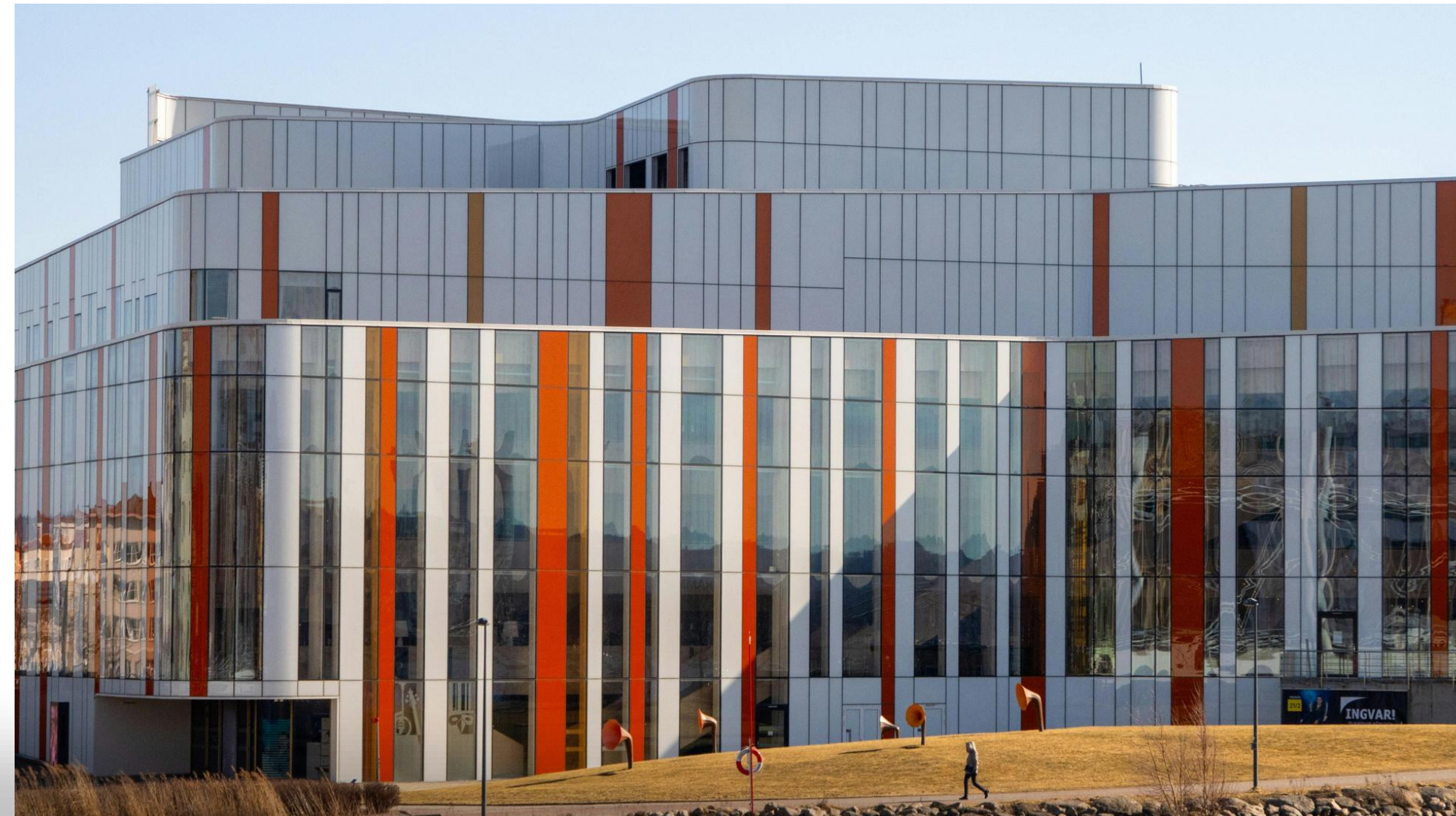
Data Centers are Coming

- There are currently **14 hyperscale Data Centers** being publicly considered in Minnesota.

Source: MN Dept of Commerce

- These 14 data centers would increase data center power requirements **over 2300%** and increase the size of the grid by **nearly 10%**.

Source: CEEM



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The Rise of Infrastructure Fees



- In 1994, the split between the cost of natural gas vs. the cost of pipes/delivery fees was split **70/30** in Minnesota. In 2024, it shifted to **42/58**.

Source: CUB

- This shift occurred because the utility companies can raise these fees without having to submit the request for approval by the Public Utilities Commission.



The Rich Get Richer

Annual infrastructure investments made by Minnesota's three largest utility companies (Xcel, CenterPoint, MERC) have more than tripled from \$218 million in 2013 to \$700 million in 2022.

Source:
CUB



Everyone Else Gets Poorer

In 2024, the typical MN resident had used 23% less gas than 5 years earlier, but their bills went up more than 32% in the same time frame.

Source:
CUB

Currently, over 10% of all counties in MN have an average annual home energy expense that is considered unaffordable.

Source: US Census
Bureau

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What Does This Mean?

Demand rates and Infrastructure fees directly lead to a loss of goods and services, as well as higher costs overall for businesses and households.

At the current pace it is inevitable that we will see hospitals, nursing homes, and grocery store closures, and the rising costs for schools could directly lead to property tax increases or other levies to fill in budget gaps.

This will in turn lead to more families being unable to pay for basic goods and services.

It's Not Too Late

Time is on Your Side

These effects are not immediate, and the Minnesota legislature has already taken preventative steps to provide some safety guardrails for consumers.

There is Help Available

There are great organizations like Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) that advocate and provide resources for small businesses and families to help them know their rights and to become more energy independent.

Preparation is Key

If you continue to educate yourself and press your legislators (local, municipal, and statewide), you can ensure commonsense safety measures continue to be enacted and enforced

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