



Participants will explore how artificial intelligence can support rural communities and environmental sustainability while examining the opportunities, challenges, and ethical considerations of data center development. The workshop will provide practical insights to help community leaders make informed decisions about emerging technologies, energy, and future planning.

Summary Agenda

Time	Program
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration, Coffee & Networking
Morning Theme - AI & Machine Learning Applications for Sustainable Rural Communities	
9:00 – 9:20 a.m.	Welcome – Dan Fitts , Adirondack Research Consortium Statewide and Regional Perspectives, Senator Dan Stec
9:20 – 10:05 a.m.	Keynote Presentation: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Sustainable Rural Communities, Dr. Jack Watson , Senior Data Analyst, Clean Economy Project • What is AI and machine learning? • How machine learning is being used to improve planning and prepare for climate- and weather-related events
10:05 – 10:20 a.m.	Break
10:20 – 11:20 a.m.	Panel Discussion #1: AI and Rural Community Support Systems – Moderator: Sunita Halasz , Adirondack Council • Dr. Christopher Hoy, MD, Healthcare Coalition for the North Country • Jennifer Russell, Adirondack Community Foundation • Roger Catania - NYS Board of Regents
11:20 – 11:45 a.m.	Facilitated Small-Group Discussion #1 – Moderator: Sunita Halasz , Adirondack Council • What rural community challenges could AI help address? What are your concerns about the use of AI?
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch & Networking

Time	Program
Afternoon Theme - Data Centers and Community Planning, Energy, and Ethics Considerations	
12:45 – 1:00 p.m.	Movement Session
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion #2: Planning for Data Centers in Rural Communities Mark Watson, NYSERDA, retired Kevin Lanahan NYISO - Energy infrastructure and grid considerations
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	Presentation - Emily Fell , ESF MPS Environmental Leadership, Justice and Communications candidate - Ethical considerations surrounding AI and data centers
2:45 – 3:15 p.m.	Facilitated Small-Group Discussion #2 - Moderator: Sunita Halasz , Adirondack Council What information do local officials need before considering data center development? Related to these fast-moving, modern data-related changes, how can communities balance economic development, environmental stewardship, and quality of life?
3:15 – 3:30 p.m.	Facilitated Whole-Group Closing Conversation - Moderator: Sunita Halasz , Adirondack Council Biggest takeaways, areas of consensus, remaining questions, opportunities for future collaboration

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