

Data Centers Update

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2026

Data Centers Update

Council Priority Alignment

- ◀ Well-Managed Government, Unified Development Ordinance

Purpose

- ◀ Provide updates on good-faith efforts toward the goals of the original moratorium and new facts and conditions warranting an extension; and outline new timeline if an extension is granted

Key Takeaways

- ◀ Impacts of data centers are complex and unique and require the city to employ tools we don't currently have
- ◀ Staff need additional expertise and capacity to develop the tools needed to ensure responsible data center development
- ◀ An extension of the moratorium would allow us to develop needed tools

Data Centers

Previous Council Communication

- ◀ June 8, 2026: City Council adopted Data Centers 150-day Moratorium
- ◀ August 3, 2026: TPD Committee presentation on timeline and approach, including current legislative context
- ◀ September 1, 2026: Executive Summary and Final Report from World Resources Institute shared with City Council
- ◀ September 8, 2026: TPD Committee recommends consideration of an extension to full Council
- ◀ September 14, 2026: Brief Council presentation and notification of next steps for an extension
- ◀ September 28, 2026: Council vote to set a public hearing on extension of the moratorium

Good Faith Efforts and New Facts

- ◀ **Per state law, an extension requires a showing of good-faith efforts toward the goals of the original moratorium and new facts and conditions warranting the extension**
- ◀ **Good faith efforts in achieving the goals of the moratorium:**
 - Engaged with World Resources Institute who produced a Data Centers Impacts Report compiling national research and cross-jurisdictional examples to help Charlotte evaluate how best to manage these impacts within North Carolina's statutory environment
 - Convened a 19-member Data Center Community Task Force including technical experts and community leaders who gave preliminary recommendations to Council
 - Launched a comprehensive community engagement plan including an education campaign, community survey, and both in-person and virtual community meetings
- ◀ **New facts and conditions warrant an extension of the moratorium including:**
 - Recent research conducted by World Resources Institute which shows that data center impacts are not uniform and quite complex
 - Staff and task force members acknowledged that Charlotte lacks specific regulatory tools—like capacity verification, monitoring protocols, and cooling standards—and needs technical research to support them

Recommendation

◀ **Extend the Moratorium until 10-18-2027**

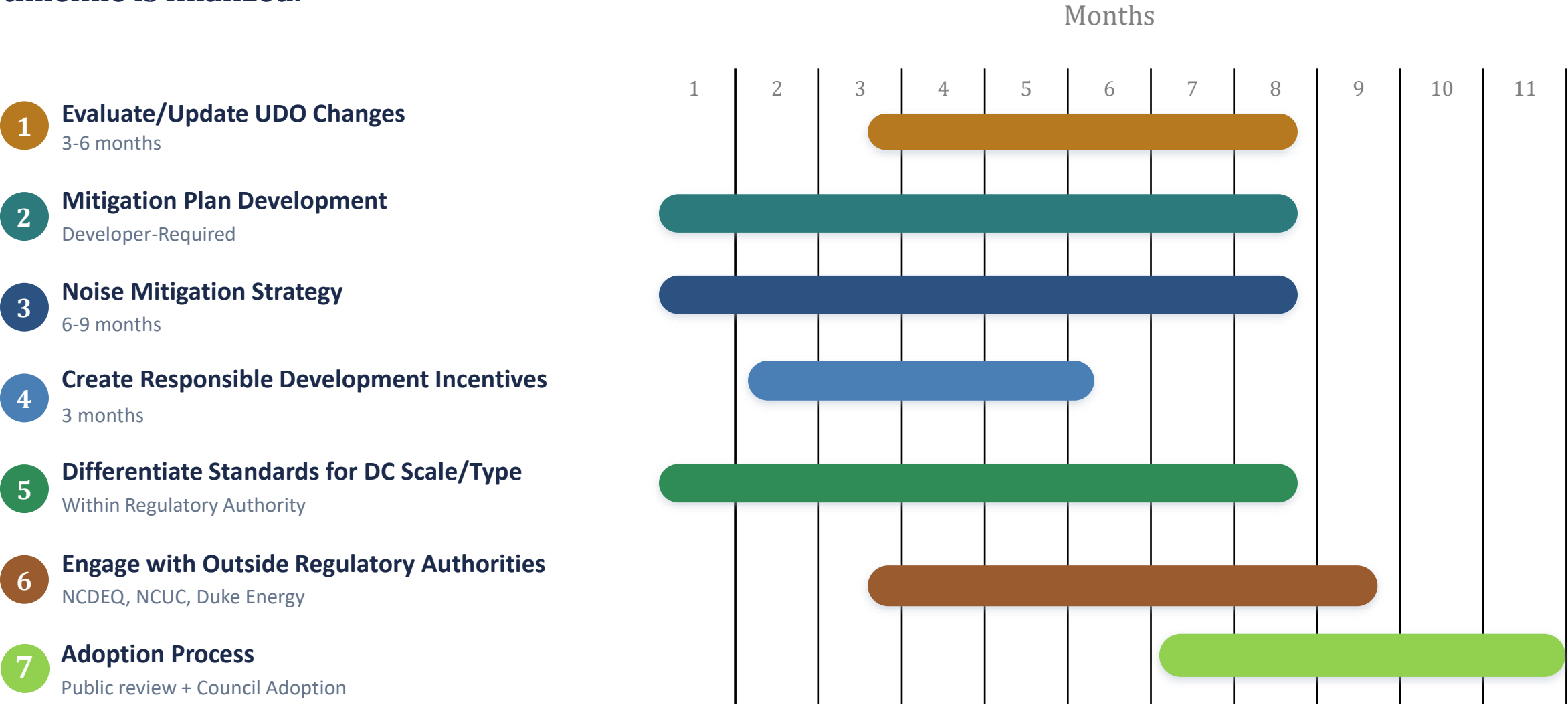
- Impacts of data centers are complex and unique and require the city to employ tools we don't currently have
- Staff need additional expertise and capacity to develop the tools needed to ensure responsible data center development
- Majority of task force members recommend extending the moratorium for a full year to have sufficient time to review research, meet with policy experts, and learn more about peer cities

◀ **Engage a Consultant for detailed mitigation requirements and policy language**

◀ **Coordinate with Entities with Regulatory Control outside of the city's (NCDEQ, NCUC, Duke Energy)**

Additional Work Needed – Timeline*

*Community engagement will occur throughout. The engagement plan will be updated once a timeline is finalized.



Discussion and Questions