

Technology Expert Tamar Toledano Says Smarter Infrastructure Planning Can Ease Growing Data Center Pressures

Silicon Valley consultant says responsible growth, workforce development, and stronger community engagement will shape the future of U.S. data centers



Tamar Toledano

Silicon Valley, California Jul 22, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Community opposition and workforce shortages are becoming two of the biggest obstacles to the expansion of data centers in the United States. Industry reports estimate that concerns over rising electricity prices, water scarcity, and environmental impacts have delayed or blocked roughly \$64 billion in planned projects. At the same time, industry surveys show that 46% of data center operators struggle to hire qualified professionals for critical technical roles.

Technology consultant Tamar Toledano believes these issues present an opportunity for the industry to rethink how digital infrastructure is planned, built, and operated. She says long-term success will depend on improving efficiency, investing in skilled workers, and building stronger relationships with the communities that host these facilities.

"Data centers have become essential infrastructure for the modern economy," said Toledano. "They support cloud services, financial systems, healthcare networks, and the advanced computing platforms businesses increasingly depend on. But communities also expect responsible growth. The industry has to demonstrate that expansion can happen without placing unnecessary strain on local resources."

Across the country, state and local governments are taking a closer look at large-scale data center developments. Residents have raised concerns about electricity demand, water consumption, land use, and environmental impacts. Some projects have been delayed, while others have faced stricter permitting requirements. New York's recent statewide moratorium on certain data center developments reflects the growing debate over how this critical infrastructure should expand.

Toledano believes the solution is not to slow technological progress but to make facilities more efficient from the start.

"Technology itself can help solve many of these challenges," she said. "Artificial intelligence can optimize cooling systems, forecast energy demand more accurately, and improve resource allocation. Better operational intelligence reduces waste while improving performance. That creates benefits for operators, customers, and surrounding communities."

Modern monitoring platforms can analyze thousands of operating conditions in real time. They help operators identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption while maintaining reliability. Predictive maintenance systems can detect equipment issues before failures occur. This reduces downtime, extends hardware life, and lowers operating costs.

Toledano also believes developers should engage local communities much earlier in the planning process.

"People are more likely to support projects when they understand the long-term benefits and when developers address legitimate concerns from the beginning," she said. "Transparency builds trust, and trust makes better projects possible."

She says successful projects require collaboration from every stakeholder. Technology companies, utilities, local governments, educators, and community leaders all have important roles to play. Early collaboration can identify practical solutions that support economic growth while protecting local resources. Investments in renewable energy, upgraded electrical infrastructure, water conservation technologies, and workforce training programs can also create lasting value for surrounding communities.

"The conversation shouldn't be about slowing innovation," Toledano added. "It should be about deploying technology in ways that make communities partners in long-term growth."

Workforce development remains another urgent priority. As demand for digital infrastructure grows, companies need professionals with expertise in networking, cloud infrastructure, cybersecurity, electrical systems, and facility operations. Many organizations, however, continue to struggle to recruit experienced talent.

"The workforce challenge is just as important as the infrastructure challenge," Toledano said. "Building advanced facilities is only part of the equation. Organizations also need skilled professionals who can operate increasingly sophisticated systems safely and efficiently."

She believes stronger partnerships between industry, universities, technical schools, and workforce development organizations can help close the talent gap. Expanding education in cloud technologies, digital infrastructure, and data center operations would prepare more professionals for high-demand careers while supporting the industry's long-term growth.

Drawing on years of experience leading digital transformation initiatives, Toledano has helped organizations modernize complex technology environments, improve operational performance, and eliminate costly inefficiencies. She believes the same strategic approach can strengthen the next generation of digital infrastructure projects.

"Technology investments create the greatest value when they are guided by long-term strategy," she said. "Whether an organization is modernizing its operations or building digital infrastructure, thoughtful planning leads to stronger, more resilient, and more sustainable outcomes."

Demand for digital infrastructure is expected to remain strong as businesses continue investing in cloud services and advanced computing. Toledano believes organizations that prioritize efficiency, workforce development, and community engagement today will be better positioned to meet tomorrow's needs.

"The future isn't about choosing between innovation and sustainability," Toledano concluded. "The goal is to build infrastructure that supports both. With thoughtful planning and responsible use of technology, we can strengthen the digital economy while creating lasting value for the communities these facilities serve."

About Tamar Toledano

Tamar Toledano is a Silicon Valley-based technology consultant specializing in artificial intelligence, blockchain, and digital transformation. She advises organizations on modernizing technology infrastructure, improving operational performance, and applying emerging technologies to solve complex business challenges. Her work focuses on helping organizations build scalable, efficient, and sustainable technology strategies that support long-term growth.

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