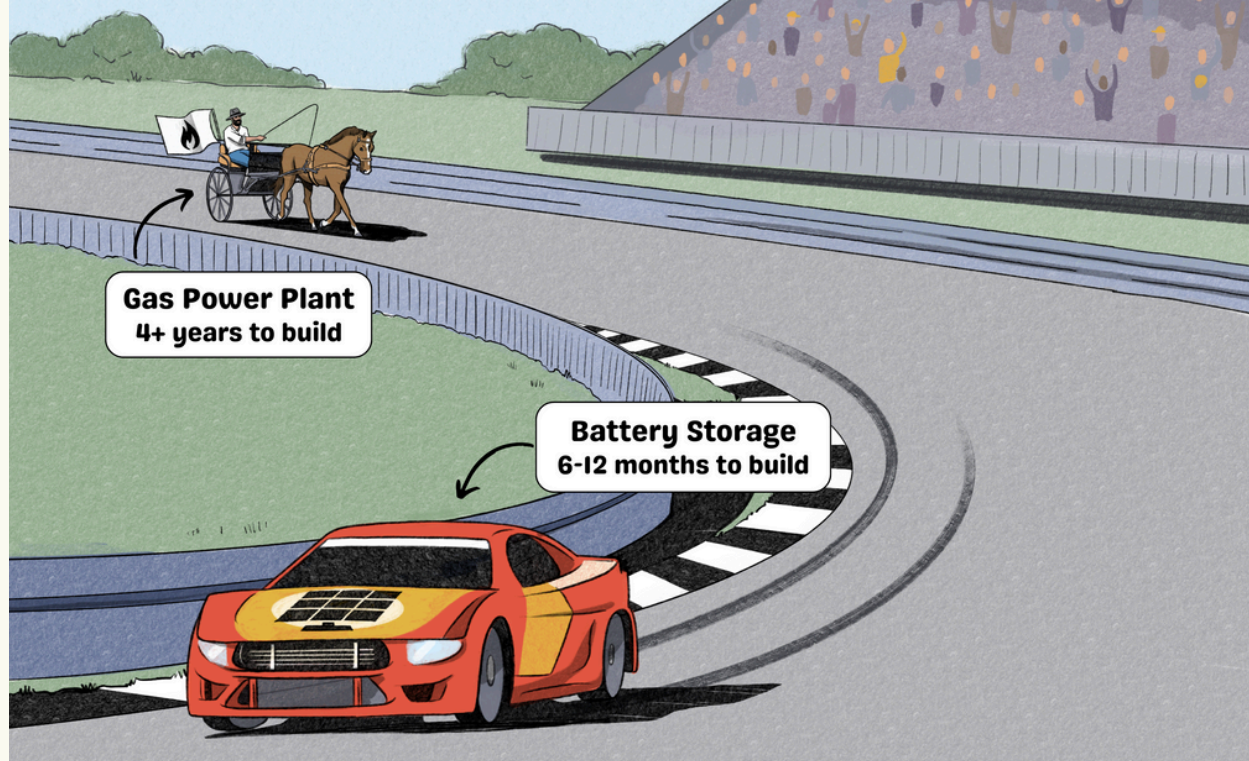




The race to power data centers — and protect residents from the costs

PJM Interconnection has no spare electricity supply to meet surging demand from new data centers. If nothing is done, there could be forced blackouts and \$100 billion in additional electricity capacity costs hitting customer bills from 2028-2032.

Solutions need to be fast and economical

- PJM forecasts that data centers will drive a need for more than 50 gigawatts of peak electricity capacity by 2030 — enough to power more than 20 million households, or approximately all the homes in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, and Maryland.
- Building a gas-fired power plant in PJM takes 44-50 months, according to Brattle Group analysis for PJM, and a September 2025 report now indicates new gas plants won't be online until at least 2030-2031 — too slow to handle data centers coming online every year for the next five years.
- Battery storage can be built in less than half the time as gas — 20 months, according to Brattle — and storage developers say they can be built even more quickly, ranging from a year to just 90 days. These batteries can store power from today's generation to handle peak capacity needs, and solar can also be built quickly to add supply.
- There are a range of options for protecting residential billpayers from unfairly shouldering data center costs, such as by requiring data centers to develop and pay for some of their peak capacity supply themselves — since their needs are so uniquely intensive and immediate. Data centers can also be required to reduce their electricity use during times of peak demand on the system.
- The economics of storage and solar are attractive, coupled with their speed to build. While costs for gas plants are heading higher in the coming years, unsubsidized battery storage prices have been dropping rapidly and will continue to decline. Solar is already cheaper than gas plants now.