

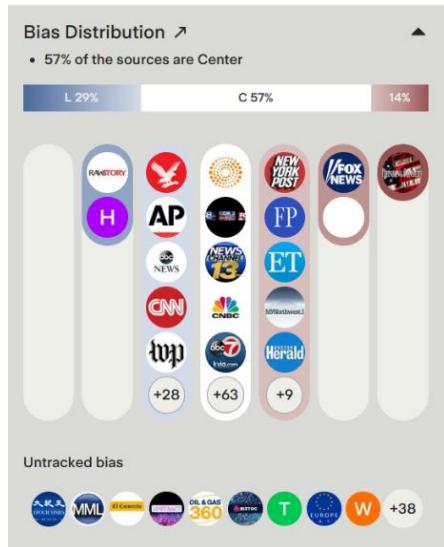


The Environment – January 21, 2026

National News

Tech Firms Pledge \$15B for Grid as Data Center Power Costs Surge

Ground News – Wed., Jan. 21, 2026 • Published 3 days ago • United States • Updated 2 days ago



Note - PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM) is a regional transmission organization (RTO) in the United States. It is part of the Eastern Interconnection grid operating an electric transmission system serving all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. PJM is the largest power grid operator in the United States, serving 67 million customers from Chicago to New Jersey.

- On Friday, PJM Interconnection issued its own plan after months of work, calling for emergency power cuts to large users and suggesting utilities remove data centers from the grid.
- The White House and 13 governors urged a one-time auction for tech companies to bid on 15-year contracts and pushed PJM Interconnection to extend a capacity price cap to contain consumer costs.

- Data show the PJM region has seen prices affected by rising demand from data centers, and consumers already pay billions to underwrite supplies, with the existing cap covering payments through mid-2028.
- The Edison Electric Institute said it supports tech companies bidding to build new power plants, the Information Technology Industry Council welcomed the announcement to 'craft solutions', and PJM Interconnection said it will review the governors' principles amid FERC pressure.
- Administration officials said powering AI is vital to compete with China, while analysts warned that permitting and transmission delays in mid-Atlantic PJM states increase blackout risks.

Local News

With Musk's Mississippi turbines, controversy meets innovation

By Samuel Hardiman, *Daily Memphian*

Updated: January 18, 2026 11:42 AM CT | Published: January 18, 2026 4:00 AM CT

Click [here](#) to go to the article.

This is an interesting article about the new xAI site in Mississippi. Apparently, xAI is doing something much different from other data centers. An excerpt –

“But while people in Memphis grapple with the real-world effects of xAI’s “rapid execution” in Mississippi, many others see a company that is innovating its way to become a major player in the worldwide AI race. Musk, in an X post Friday, highlighted xAI’s ability to generate almost as much power as Memphis consumes in a day. Much of that power comes from the turbine installation on Stanton Road. Some of it is then stored in the hundreds Tesla Megapack batteries arrayed in neat rows next to xAI’s Colossus 2 in Memphis. Almost none of the power that powers the semiconductors and servers that are the technological backbone of Grok, xAI’s controversial chatbot, is coming from the larger electric grid. That level of off-the-grid or behind-the-meter power — built in less than a year — is almost unprecedented in the U.S. and started a trend of innovation in the AI data center race, one analyst told The Daily Memphian.”