Cornell Brooks Public Policy
Tech Policy Institute

Cornell Tech Policy Institute + TeraWulf: Partnership for Innovation at Cayuga

Shared Vision
TeraWulf's plan to transform the Cayuga Power Station into a high-performance data center comes at a pivotal moment for upstate New York. This project is about more than infrastructure: it represents a chance to anchor the region's future in innovation, resilience, and national leadership. At Cornell's Tech Policy Institute, we share that urgency and see a clear role for the university in helping to ensure this investment succeeds — not just as a facility, but as a hub for ideas, talent, and trust.

Who We Are
The Tech Policy Institute brings together expertise in computer science, engineering, policy, law, and sustainable energy. Our faculty and students span the full spectrum of challenges facing modern data centers — from AI workloads, chip design, and cybersecurity, to grid resilience, regulatory compliance, and community engagement. This breadth allows us to work across disciplines and connect technical advances with policy analysis.

Sarah Kreps — Director of TPI; Professor of Government, Law, and Policy; local Ithaca resident with two children at Ithaca High School; former U.S. Air Force officer with expertise in emerging tech.

James Rogers — Executive Director, specializing in policy analysis and bridging research with decision-making for public and private partners.

Jillian Goldfarb — Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, focused on sustainable energy systems and advanced materials for energy transition.

Jon McCandless — Breakthrough Energy Fellow and engineer working on carbon-free energy solutions and next-generation infrastructure design.

Christopher Earls — Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Applied Mathematics, specializing in large-scale computational modeling and resilient infrastructure.

What We Can Do Together

- **Innovation Hub**: Launch joint research linking engineering and computer science to next-generation data center design, energy optimization, and cybersecurity.
- **Applied Policy Research**: Produce independent analysis of grid impacts, sustainability pathways, and responsible AI infrastructure — providing evidence that can guide regulators, community stakeholders, and national policymakers.
- **Talent Pipeline**: Create student internships and practicums that put Cornell students inside Cayuga projects, while also making Cayuga a proving ground for innovative practices.

Why Now
Upstate New York needs credible innovation stories that cut through misinformation with clear analysis and visible results. By combining TeraWulf's operational leadership with Cornell's interdisciplinary research and engagement capacity, this project can serve as a national model for responsible data center development.