

Dear editors

I read the article about [AEP Ohio's panic over surging demand for electricity](#), which paints a picture that no one could have foreseen the increased demand for electricity or done anything more than what has already been done to respond to it.

I wish to remind everyone that Central Ohio has no shortage of sun facing roofs and parking lots. AEP Ohio could have spent the last 5-10 years figuring out how to put solar panels on a small fraction of it out of a desire to reduce pollution or reduce greenhouse gases or to anticipate the growth of electric vehicles. Instead, nothing like this happened and now AEP isn't sure how it's going to keep the lights on for us and for data centers owned by some of the most valuable companies in the world.

The people who build solar farms understand that these data centers need the most electricity during weeks like the one we are experiencing when the sun is beating down and there isn't a cloud in the sky. AEP has the funds and the economies of scale to accomplish the same thing with rooftop solar but they choose not to. Republicans in the statehouse likewise could have done more to make rooftop solar more attainable but they didn't and now the economic future of our state is at stake and we risk blackouts during the hottest times of the year.

Regards,  
Chris Orban  
Associate Professor of Physics  
Ohio State University