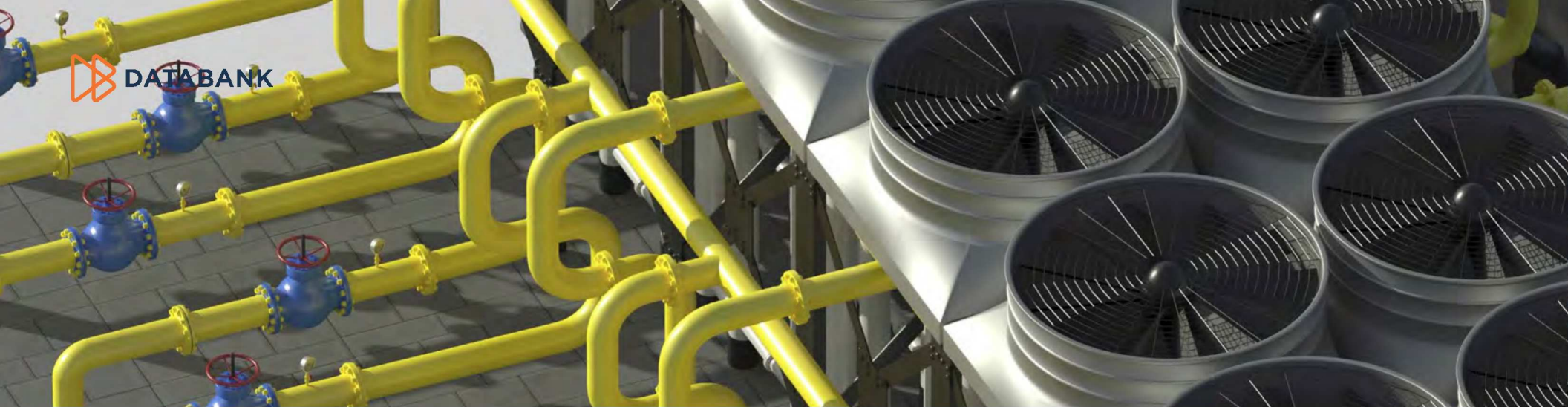




The Industry Is Moving in the Right Direction

Cooling technology is changing fast.
The water story is changing with it.

The move away from evaporative cooling toward closed-loop and liquid cooling systems is underway, and it's accelerating faster than most people outside the industry realize.

About 22% of data centers worldwide currently use liquid cooling technologies.²⁰ That figure is expected to approach 50% of new hyperscale builds within two to three years, driven largely by the demands of high-density AI workloads, which generate more heat and require more precise thermal management than traditional computing infrastructure.²¹

Major operators have made firm commitments in this direction. Microsoft has announced zero-water closed-loop cooling for all future builds.²² DataBank's standard facility design uses closed-loop cooling systems, meaning new builds enter service with a near-zero ongoing water footprint for cooling from day one.

There's another dimension to the water conversation that rarely makes headlines. Fossil fuel power generation is highly water-intensive, while wind and solar consume virtually none. As data centers drive the adoption of more renewable energy sources, their indirect water footprint shrinks alongside their carbon footprint — a benefit that is real but rarely reflected in the figures critics cite.

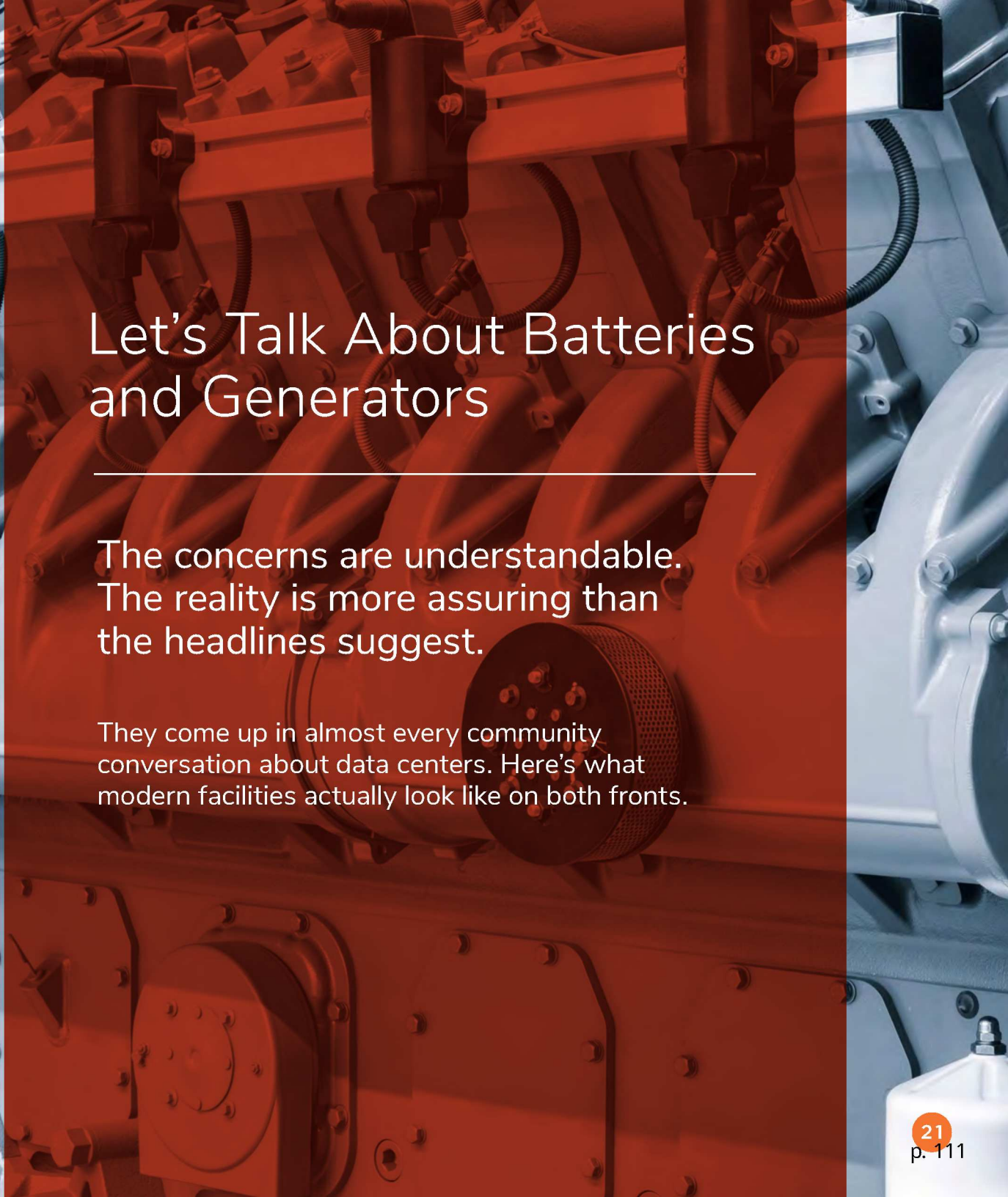
Communities in drought-prone regions have legitimate concerns, and those concerns extend beyond cooling water to the water used in electricity generation. Not all data centers are moving at the same pace on these issues, which is exactly why DataBank's commitment to closed-loop cooling and renewable energy matters. The honest answer is that progress is real, and we want to be specific about what that looks like in our facilities.



Let's Talk About Batteries and Generators

The concerns are understandable.
The reality is more assuring than
the headlines suggest.

They come up in almost every community
conversation about data centers. Here's what
modern facilities actually look like on both fronts.



20. IDC as cited in [Data Center Cooling Solutions in 2025: Challenges, Trends, and Innovations](#).

21. DataCenters.com, [Why Liquid Cooling Is the New Standard for Data Centers in 2025](#), August 2025.

22. GeekWire, [Microsoft Shares New Data Center Design Featuring a Closed-Loop Water System for Cooling](#), December 9, 2024.