

Microsoft datacenters in your community

As more people and businesses rely upon technology to stay connected, informed, and productive, digital needs in the Netherlands and around the globe are growing. And that means the need for datacenters are growing too.

Microsoft strives to support the communities where our employees live, work, and operate our datacenters. With that, it's important we share information to ensure you understand why datacenters are needed, Microsoft's commitments to responsible operations, and the benefits of hosting a datacenter in your community.

[Why datacenters>](#)

[Microsoft commitments>](#)

[Community benefits>](#)

The cloud powers our digital world

Cloud computing is the delivery of computing services over the Internet. Common daily activities are made possible through the cloud:



Email



Online banking



File storage



Collaboration



Online shopping



Mobile apps

Cloud computing can provide consumers and businesses with the benefits of data sovereignty and privacy, lower costs, easier access, higher reliability, and lower carbon footprint.

The Microsoft cloud is for everyone

Microsoft's cloud serves over 1 billion customers and 20 million+ companies worldwide

Dutch organizations rely on the Microsoft Cloud including large enterprises, startups, governments, hospitals, banks, schools and other critical infrastructure organizations.



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands



Rabobank



duct+
Uitvoeringsorganisatie van en voor
Ouder-Amstel, Diemen en Uithoorn

 Noordwest
Ziekenhuisgroep


TRADE MARK
Heineken®

When Microsoft joins a community, we bring our commitments for a better world



Support
inclusive economic
opportunity



Protect
fundamental rights



Commit to a
sustainable future



Earn trust

Microsoft datacenters are key to our sustainability goals

Carbon negative
by 2030



Microsoft has purchased **270 MW of renewable energy in the Netherlands** to support our facilities—180MW from the Vattenfall Wieringermeer wind farm and 90MW from the Eneco wind farm that will come online in 2022. Power usage effectiveness (PUE) measures **cloud energy efficiency**. PUE. Lower PUE indicates more energy efficient datacenters, with PUE of 1.0 being the most efficient. Microsoft's North Holland datacenters had a **12-month weighted average PUE of 1.14** through July 2021.

Water positive
by 2030



Microsoft uses adiabatic cooling at our Netherlands datacenters. This method of cooling **uses outside air instead of water** for cooling when temperatures are below 25 degrees Celsius, reducing water use to less than five percent of the year.

Microsoft's water storage facility use recycled water from the cooling system.

Zero waste
by 2030



In 2020, we successfully opened our **first Microsoft Circular Center in our North Holland datacenters**, which is designed to extend the lifecycle of servers through reuse and support a circular economy for the Microsoft cloud.

By March 2021, nearly **82% of waste from our Netherlands datacenters was diverted from landfills**. By 2025, 90 percent of servers and components within our regional datacenter network will be reused.

Since 2018, Microsoft has donated more than €1.49 million to projects supporting community-identified priorities



Collaborating with ROC Horizon College and ROC Kop van Noord-Holland, Microsoft is facilitating workforce training to prepare students for careers in IT, including work in datacenters. Servers and other IT equipment were donated to build labs that emulate a working datacenter.



Microsoft partnered with the RSG Wiringherlant secondary school and the Dutch Ministry of Education to pilot new curricula on digital transformation and sustainability, providing new learning environments, and labs. The partnership created robotics and programming initiatives and provided laptops to students for under resourced families.



climate cleanup

Microsoft is collaborating with Climate CleanUp to facilitate workshops for community organisations, stakeholders and citizens to develop and refine projects that develop and execute nature-based solutions to the climate crisis. Selected projects will benefit from expertise from Climate CleanUp to understand carbon reduction impact of projects and can apply for Community Sustainability grants.

Microsoft datacenters create family-wage operations jobs and various construction jobs

Microsoft datacenters represent a capital-intensive investment and long-term commitment to the community. More than 375 full-time employees and contractors work across Microsoft's Netherlands datacenter campuses. And since construction started in 2013, more than 11 million hours have been worked on construction projects, with an average of 687 construction jobs per year.



Datacenter construction

- Electricians
- Plumbers and pipefitters
- Carpenters
- Structural iron and steel workers
- Concrete workers
- Earth movers



Datacenter operations

- Campus management
- People management
- Learning and development
- IT operations
- Mechanical engineers
- Electrical engineers
- Security contractors
- Building maintenance

Microsoft datacenters are best in class in performance, reliability, safety, and sustainability



Datacenters use fossil fuel generators for backup power during the rare grid emergency and accounts for **less than 1 percent of our overall emissions.**



Microsoft is **piloting running backup generators with renewable, cleaner-burning fuels**, and also piloting the replacement of datacenter generators with long-duration batteries.



Microsoft construction and operations in the Netherlands comply with applicable air quality requirements to support healthy regional air quality.