

Microsoft datacenters in Georgia

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

Hyperscale brings hyper efficiency. Microsoft cloud services offer customers an energy efficient and carbon neutral alternative to running their own private datacenters. [Research](#) shows that Microsoft cloud services are up to 93 percent more energy efficient than traditional enterprise datacenters.

Microsoft strives to empower 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 approach for responsible operations, and the benefits of hosting a datacenter in your community.

[Why datacenters >](#)

[Microsoft commitments >](#)

[Community benefits >](#)

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The cloud powers our digital world

Cloud computing is the delivery of computing services over the internet. Common daily activities are made possible through cloud computing, such as:



Email



Online banking



File storage



Streaming videos



Collaboration



Online shopping



Mobile apps

Cloud computing can provide consumers and businesses with the benefits of enhanced security, privacy, compliance protection, lower costs, easier access, higher reliability, and a lower carbon footprint.

The Microsoft Cloud is for everyone

The Microsoft Cloud serves over 1 billion customers and 20 million companies worldwide.

Organizations in Georgia relying on the Microsoft Cloud are made up of a variety of sectors, such as large enterprises, startups, governments, hospitals, banks, schools, or other organizations that contribute to a modern society.



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



Support inclusive economic opportunity



Commit to a sustainable future



Earn trust



Microsoft datacenters are key to our sustainability goals

Carbon negative by 2030

[Power usage effectiveness \(PUE\)](#) measures cloud energy efficiency. The calculation is total power consumption divided by IT power consumption. A lower PUE score indicates more energy efficient datacenters, with a PUE of 1.0 being the best score. The datacenter facilities in Georgia will have a **design average PUE of 1.12**.

Globally, Microsoft datacenters use fossil fuel generators for backup power and account for **less than 1 percent of our overall emissions**. In specific regions, Microsoft is **piloting running backup generators with renewable blend, cleaner-burning fuels**, and is also **piloting the replacement of datacenter generators with long-duration batteries**.

[Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#) is the world's largest green building certification program. LEED provides the framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings with lower carbon emissions. LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement and leadership. **New Microsoft datacenters being built are designed to earn LEED Gold certification, including the new datacenters in the Georgia region.**

Microsoft operations in Georgia comply with applicable air quality requirements.

Water positive by 2030

[Water usage effectiveness \(WUE\)](#) is another key metric relating to the efficient and sustainable operations of our datacenters and is a crucial aspect as we work towards our commitment to be water positive by 2030. WUE is calculated by dividing the number of liters of water used for humidification and cooling by the total annual amount of power (measured in kWh) needed to operate our datacenter IT equipment.

Microsoft uses outdoor air with direct evaporative cooling in the Atlanta region. This method of cooling **uses outside air and zero water** for cooling when temperatures are below 29.4 degrees Celsius, reducing water for cooling to less than 15 percent of the year. This system is highly efficient, using less electricity and a fraction of water used by other water-based cooling systems, such as cooling towers.

The new datacenter facilities in Georgia are designed for an **average WUE of 0.060 L/kWh**.

Zero waste by 2030

Microsoft has a goal to achieve 90 percent diversion of datacenter operational waste by 2030. To reach this goal, we're working closely with our waste haulers to optimize waste

diversion programs across our global datacenter portfolio. We have achieved Zero Waste certifications for our San Antonio, Texas; Quincy, Washington; Boydton, Virginia; and Dublin, Ireland datacenter locations.

In 2020, we opened our **first Microsoft Circular Center in our North Holland datacenters**, which is designed to extend the life cycle of servers through reuse and to support a circular economy for the Microsoft Cloud. Because it takes five to six years from when a datacenter is operational to generate reusable assets, we are planning a Georgia Circular Center to open once the new datacenters are in use and servers are ready to be decommissioned. Microsoft Circular Centers are able to process 3,000 servers and more per month for reuse.

Globally, Microsoft datacenters reuse **78 percent of our end-of-life assets and components; the remaining 22 percent of materials are recycled**. Additionally, Microsoft is conducting research and development to improve waste diversion by determining new recycling solutions for used air filters and fiber optic cables.

Since 2020, Microsoft has invested in over 13 projects across the communities of East Point, Douglasville, and Palmetto

Finding the Flint

Finding the Flint River: Microsoft is partnering with the Conservation Fund to support the Finding the Flint River project. Finding the Flint is a restoration and conservation project for Georgia's historic Flint River. This project will restore the natural state of the river's headwaters, enable access to the river, and create a nature park to connect the datacenter community to this greenspace.



Student-led clean energy initiative: Microsoft's University Relations team and Clark Atlanta University (CAU) partnered to develop a student-led community clean energy project. CAU students will experiment with building a solar-powered generator serving as a backup energy source for communities suffering from climate and non-climate related power outages.



Fighting food insecurity: In collaboration with Atlanta Community Food Bank to fight food insecurity in Georgia, Microsoft is helping to fund eight Mobile Pantry food distributions near our datacenter locations. The Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program works with nonprofit partner agencies to distribute food directly into local, underserved communities. This project provided over 70,000 pounds of food to 1,500 families in East Point this year.

Microsoft datacenters create family-wage operations and construction jobs as well as positive impacts to the local economy

Microsoft datacenters represent a capital-intensive investment and long-term commitment to the community.

We estimate it will require **417 construction roles** and approximately **1.7 million work hours** to build the new datacenters in Georgia. Once the first facility is operational, we plan to hire **100 full-time employees**.



Construction jobs

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



Datacenter operations

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