

Microsoft datacenters in Australia

Published April 2023. This document shares information we have as of the publication date, and it includes estimated information and projections. The information is provided as is and may change without notice.

Datacenters provide the physical infrastructure for the technology we depend on at work and in our personal lives

A datacenter building houses thousands of computer servers and data storage devices connected to the internet



These buildings are similar in size and appearance to a distribution warehouse.



Microsoft aims to build datacenters that are best in class in performance, reliability, safety, aesthetics, and sustainability.



Compared to many other industrial facilities, datacenters do not create significant noise pollution or have a significant impact on traffic flow or congestion.



Microsoft operates more than 300 datacenters in over 34 countries.

Datacenters are part of everyday life

Whenever you open an app on your phone, join a virtual classroom or meeting, snap and save photos, or play a game with your friends online, you are using a datacenter.



Email



Online shopping



Mobile apps



Online banking



File storage



Streaming videos

[Take a virtual tour of a datacenter](#)



Microsoft datacenters create local operations and construction jobs

Microsoft is currently building datacenter facilities in the Sydney and Melbourne regions.

We estimate it will require **1,400 construction roles and 8.8 million work hours** to build the new datacenters in Australia.

By the end of 2026, we project **286 full-time employees and contractors** will work across all operational facilities.

Datacenter operations

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

Construction jobs

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

[Find Microsoft jobs in your community](#) >

Taxes from Microsoft datacenter operations represent important revenue for national, regional, and local governments

Microsoft datacenters represent a capital-intensive investment and long-term commitment to the community. This investment grows the commercial property tax base, increasing revenue for municipal services that benefit local citizens.

Examples of country, provincial, and local taxes that support cities, municipal services, schools, and colleges include:



Property taxes

Collected annually once land is purchased.



Indirect taxes

From construction and operation expenses. Examples include VAT, GST, and sales tax.



Income taxes

From construction and operations workers.

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Microsoft is investing in local priorities in Australia

Planting trees in Hebersham, Australia for urban climate resilience

Coming together as a community

The [Habersham](#) initiative brings trees to sun-exposed city streets in greater Sydney and Melbourne. Microsoft partnered with the Blacktown City Council to plant trees in Hebersham, with Microsoft donating the trees and a team of volunteers to plant them. In total, the team planted 211 new street trees throughout the Hebersham community.



[Learn about the Hebersham planting event](#) >

Partnering with environmental sustainability programs for local impact

Addressing critical sustainability challenges

Digital Agriculture will be critical to meet the needs of a global population estimated to top 9 billion people by 2050. With funding from Microsoft, CSIRO piloted Australia's first Microsoft FarmBeats for Students initiative. This initiative allowed young students the opportunity to participate in a hands-on AI sustainable learning experience applying smart farming techniques to food production, which delivered important learning outcomes and digital skills.



[Learn more about FarmBeats](#) >

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Microsoft global commitments

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CARBON

Microsoft pledged to become carbon negative by 2030 and to remove historical carbon since its 1975 founding by 2050.

Microsoft will reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions to near zero through energy efficiency work and by reaching **100 percent renewable energy coverage by 2025.**

Microsoft has also committed by 2030 to:

- Be free of diesel.
- Match 100 percent of electricity consumption, 100 percent of the time, with zero-carbon energy purchases.
- Reduce our Scope 3 emissions by more than half.

WATER

In 2020, Microsoft pledged to be water positive for our direct operations by 2030.

Through this commitment, we will replenish the water consumed by datacenter operations in water-stressed regions. We have also committed to **reduce water waste by 95 percent in our datacenter operations by 2024.**

WASTE

In 2020, Microsoft announced enhanced goals for waste reduction, circular supply chains, and zero-waste certification. We are working towards our goal of **90 percent reuse and recycle of servers and components by 2025** through our first-of-a-kind Microsoft Circular Centers.

Microsoft is using **circular economy** principles in our datacenters by implementing reuse and comprehensive recycling programs.

By 2030, Microsoft datacenters will be zero waste



ECOSYSTEMS

Microsoft has committed to **protecting more land than we use for direct operations by 2025.**

Microsoft is committed to community investment, pollution remediation, and fair economic inclusion initiatives, as well as investment in clean energy, broadband access, and water replenishment initiatives.

Australia

Datacenter operations sustainability investments

We're committed to providing a sustainable Microsoft Cloud, so we wanted to share information about how we take responsibility for our datacenter operations.

For Microsoft datacenters located in Australia, we have included local sustainability investments and datapoints in support of meeting and exceeding our commitments around carbon, water, waste, and ecosystems.

CARBON

1.12

Design power usage effectiveness (PUE)

Not yet in operation

We've committed to have **100% renewable energy coverage globally by 2025**

In Australia, we are transitioning from non-renewable petroleum-based fuel to power our backup generators to an **eco-friendly renewable fuel type that reduces net carbon emissions**.

The datacenters in Melbourne will be **LEED Gold certified**.

[Learn about PUE](#) >

WATER

0.012 $\frac{\text{L}}{\text{kWh}}$

Design water usage effectiveness (WUE)

Not yet in operation

Microsoft will use **adiabatic cooling** at our Melbourne datacenters.

These datacenters use **outside air and zero water** when temperatures are below 29.4 degrees Celsius, **reducing cooling water use to less than 2 percent of the year**.

[Learn about WUE](#) >

WASTE

Globally, Microsoft datacenters reuse

78%

of our end-of-life assets and components; the remaining 22 percent of materials are recycled.

Microsoft is planning a Circular Center for use in Australia in 2027.

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