Microsoft

Microsoft datacenters in
Illinois

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 datacenters in Illinois currently employ **119 people**.

We estimate it will require **417 construction roles annually** and more than **1.7 million work hours** to complete construction of the new datacenters.

By the end of 2026, we project **232 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.

Microsoft is investing in local priorities in Chicagoland

Microsoft community investments support community-identified priorities across **44 projects since 2020** in the Chicagoland area.

## Supporting neurodivergent students and job seekers

Building careers in IT with Gener8tor Skills

Microsoft is collaborating with Gener8tor's Skills Accelerator to support neurodivergent learners to help them obtain high-quality employment in diverse, professional workplaces where the skills they gain from the accelerator can be applied. Gener8tor Skills focuses on building technical skills to help under and unemployed individuals who fall under the category of hidden talent such as people of color, women, veterans and others to help them secure meaningful employment across a variety of sectors The accelerator increases access to technology and supports local employers in their hiring needs as well as their ability to adapt to digital transformation as learners are prepared for digitally-enabled jobs at these companies.

Providing mentorship and tech skilling with real-world scenarios

Skill building through the STEM Challenges program

In partnership with the Illinois Science and Technology Institute, Microsoft provided funding to help support the STEM Challenges program. Projects are made up of scenarios that create opportunities for high school students to work alongside STEM professionals as mentors over the course of six months to explore, create, and build innovative solutions.
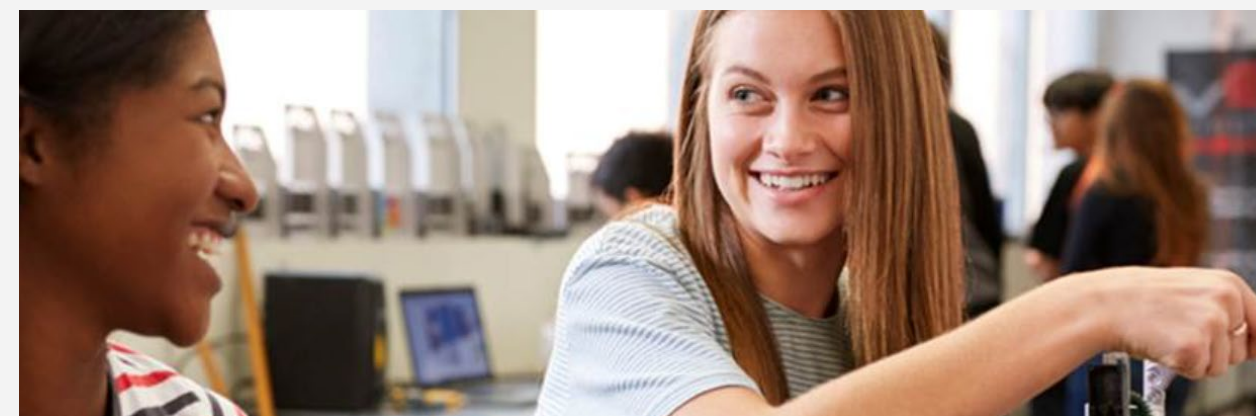
Learn more about the STEM Challenges ❯

Microsoft global commitments

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.

Illinois
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 Illinois we have included local sustainability investments and datapoints in support of meeting and exceeding our commitments around carbon, water, waste, and ecosystems.

CARBON

1.346

Power usage effectiveness (PUE)

January 2022–December 2022
Design PUE for new datacenters: 1.12

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

Agreements for renewable energy were made with AES, EDF, EDPR, and Volt.

In Chicago, we're transitioning from petroleum-based diesel to power our backup generators to a **renewable biofuel blend that reduces net carbon emissions**.

New Microsoft datacenters are designed to earn **LEED Gold certification**.

Learn about PUE >

WATER

0.79 L/kWh

Water usage effectiveness (WUE)

January 2022–December 2022

Microsoft uses **adiabatic cooling** at our newer designed Chicago datacenter.

These datacenters use **outside air and less water** when temperatures are below 29.4 degrees Celsius, **reducing cooling water use to less than 10 percent of the year**.

Learn about WUE >

WASTE

Microsoft Circular Centers can process up to

12,000

servers per month for reuse.

In October 2022, we **opened a Microsoft Circular Center** at the **Chicago datacenter facilities.**

Globally, Microsoft datacenters **reuse 78 percent** of our end-of-life assets and components. **The remaining 22 percent of materials are recycled**.