Microsoft

Microsoft datacenters in
Iowa

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 Iowa currently employ **377 people**.

We estimate it will require **1,050 construction roles annually** and approximately **6.6 million work hours** to complete construction of the new datacenters in Iowa.

By the end of 2026, we project **614 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 has invested in greater Des Moines local priorities since 2017

Microsoft community investments support community-identified priorities across **73 partners** in the greater Des Moines area.

Investing in local skill-building programs

Providing pathways for datacenter careers

Microsoft collaborated with local education partner Des Moines Area Community College to help job seekers and students pursue in-demand technology skills. The Datacenter Academy program helps build digital skills and provide career pathways in the growing information technology sector for residents of communities where Microsoft operates.
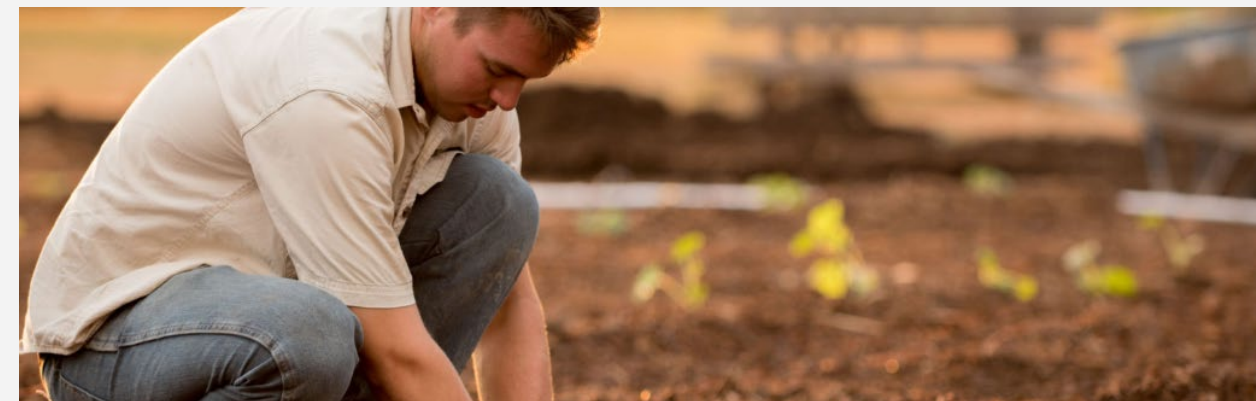
Learn more about the Microsoft Datacenter Academy ❯

Partnering with environmental sustainability programs for local impact

Investing in tree equity

Trees Forever is a nonprofit organization with a mission of planting and caring for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community, and promoting stewardship. Microsoft awarded Trees Forever funding in support of their Growing Futures program. The program will fund a teen workforce development program to plant 112 trees in underserved communities in Des Moines.

Learn more about Trees Forever ❯

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.

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.

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

CARBON

1.16
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 Des Moines, we are transitioning from petroleum-based diesel to power our backup generators to a **renewable biofuel blend that reduces net carbon emissions**.

Microsoft datacenters in Iowa have renewed **LEED Gold certification**.

WATER

0.19 $\frac{L}{kWh}$
Water usage effectiveness (WUE)

January 2022–December 2022

Microsoft will use **adiabatic cooling** at our Des Moines datacenter.

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

Learn about WUE >

Learn about PUE >

WASTE

Microsoft Circular Centers can process up to

12,000
servers per month for reuse.

It takes five to six years from when a datacenter is operational to generate reusable assets.

Once servers are ready to be decommissioned in this region, Microsoft is planning to open a **Des Moines Circular Center**.