

# Microsoft datacenters in the Netherlands

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 the Netherlands currently employ **313 people**.

We estimate it will take approximately **3.1 million work hours** and more than **760 jobs** during peak construction to complete construction of the new datacenters.

By the end of 2026, we project **377 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 the Netherlands

Microsoft community investments support community-identified priorities across **121 projects** in the Netherlands.

## Investing in people of all ages through local skill-building programs

### Celebrating STEM with Dream Space

Dream Space is a free educational program by Microsoft Netherlands that offers coding-for-good workshops for students aged 8 and up. The workshops link technology to real-world challenges and encourage participants to use technology creatively to make a positive impact. The workshops aim to improve students' STEM skills as well as their social-emotional skills, such as empathy, creativity, ethical decision-making, and collaboration.



[Learn more about Microsoft Dream Space](#) >

## Partnering with environmental sustainability programs for local impact

### How businesses, educators, and communities found common ground in a tiny forest

Collaborating with local landscape architects, Microsoft is introducing native trees and shrubs, grasses, and groundcovers to the outskirts of its datacenter campus near Middenmeer, North Holland. This first phase of its multi-year biodiversity initiative is about learning from nature to make the datacenters blend into the landscape. Microsoft expects the native plants will mirror a healthy, resilient ecosystem and support biodiversity, improve storm water control, and prevent erosion while reflecting the natural beauty of North Holland.

[Learn more about our biomimicry project](#) >



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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.

## 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.



# Netherlands

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

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### CARBON

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

In the Netherlands, our datacenters use a renewable biofuel that **reduces net carbon emissions** compared to traditional petroleum-based diesel.

The datacenter in the Netherlands is **LEED Gold certified**.

### WATER

Our facilities use **direct evaporative cooling (DEC)**. DEC uses water for cooling less than 5% of the year.

Datacenter cooling water is typically **not treated with any chemicals or additives**.

When quality of the available water is not adequate for use in cooling systems, water treatment is pursued in the same way municipal drinking water is treated to remove excessive hardness or to prevent harmful bacterial growth.

Water from our cooling systems is discharged back to the local wastewater utility treatment plant, following local regulations.

This system is highly efficient, using **less electricity and a fraction of water used** by other water-based cooling systems, such as cooling towers.

### WASTE

In 2020, we opened the first **Microsoft Circular Center** at the Netherlands datacenter facilities to process up to **3,000 servers per month**, with the goal of actively managing end-of-life IT equipment.

Globally, Microsoft **reuses or recycles 90%+** of end-of-life assets.

[Learn more about datacenter efficiency metrics including PUE and WUE](#)

