Microsoft

Microsoft datacenters in

North Carolina

Published April 2024. 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

Datacenter planning is currently underway in North Carolina.

When construction begins for the new facilities, we estimate it will require **350 construction roles** and approximately **2.2 million work hours** to complete construction of the new datacenters.

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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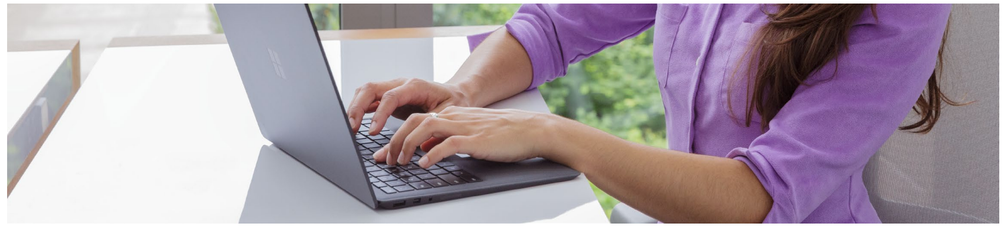
Microsoft is investing in local priorities in North Carolina

Microsoft community investments support community-identified priorities across **6 projects** in North Carolina.

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

Providing pathways for datacenter careers

The Catawba Valley Community College has a capital campaign for two projects: the Cybersecurity Program (with an emphasis on healthcare), and the IT infrastructure project. The Cybersecurity Program focuses on meeting critical talent needs in the industry with a focus on cyber resiliency training for frontline healthcare workers across the state in how to continue operating a hospital when a cyberattack shuts down the facility. The IT infrastructure is needed to replace outdated equipment at the college to support the faculty and students.



Learn more about Microsoft investments in North Carolina

Partnering with environmental sustainability programs for local impact

Investing in native planting and conservation

With funding from Microsoft, the Catawba Lands Conservancy will implement a program of native planting and invasive removal within an 80-acre conserved area of Mountain Creek Park in North Carolina.

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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.

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.

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North Carolina

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 North Carolina 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 North Carolina, our datacenters will be designed for our backup generators to be powered by a **renewable biofuel that reduces net carbon emissions**.

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

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 use the closest available **Circular Center**.

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

Learn more about datacenter efficiency metrics including PUE and WUE