Microsoft

Microsoft datacenters in
Washington

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 Washington currently employ **417 people**.

We estimate it will take approximately **5.4 million work hours** and more than **1,324 jobs** during peak construction to complete construction of the new datacenters.

By the end of 2026, we project **673 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 has invested in local Washington priorities since 2014

Microsoft community investments support community-identified priorities across **65 projects** in Washington.

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

Microsoft Datacenter Academy at Big Bend Community College

In partnership with Big Bend Community College (BBCC), the Microsoft Datacenter Academy program provides hands-on learning opportunities to prepare students for local datacenter and IT employment. Microsoft established scholarship funding to BBCC's Systems Administration – Datacenter Specialization certificate program. The program strengthens relationships between businesses in the community and the community college while building a pipeline of potential employees for IT and other tech jobs.

Learn about the Quincy Datacenter Academy ❯

Partnering with environmental sustainability programs for local impact

Partnering with the City of Quincy to open Washington's first industrial water reuse center

To encourage the most efficient use of industrial water resources in Quincy, Microsoft contributed tens of millions of dollars toward a water reuse facility that celebrated its grand opening on June 30, 2021. This treatment facility, the first of its kind in Washington state and over 10 years in the making, will process cooling water for reuse by local industries, including datacenters, creating a closed loop system so wastewater isn't discharged to the environment and decreasing the need for potable well-water required for datacenter cooling.

Learn more about the water reuse center ❯

Microsoft

Microsoft global commitments

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.

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.

Washington
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 Washington 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 Washington, we are transitioning our datacenters' backup generators to be powered by a **renewable biofuel that reduces net carbon emissions**.

The datacenter in Washington is **LEED Gold certified**.

WATER

Our facilities use **direct evaporative cooling (DEC)**, **indirect evaporative with fluid coolers**, and **water-cooled chillers**. 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 February 2023, we opened a **Microsoft Circular Center** at the Quincy datacenter facilities, that can process up to **12,000 servers per month**.

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

> **Learn more about datacenter efficiency metrics including PUE and WUE** ›