

Microsoft datacenters in Australia

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 Sydney and Melbourne currently employ **135 people**.

We estimate it will take approximately **14.6 million work hours** and more than **3,578 jobs** during peak construction to complete construction of the new datacenters.

By the end of 2026, we project **326 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.

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.

Microsoft is investing in local priorities in Australia

Microsoft community investments support community-identified priorities across **28 projects** in Australia.

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

Bringing cultural knowledge and digital tools together

The Indigital for Schools Program is an inclusive digital skills program for kids in Western Sydney and Melbourne to connect with and learn from Indigenous Elders about cultural knowledge, history, and language, all while learning digital skills in cutting-edge technologies like augmented reality, coding, and *Minecraft: Education Edition*. Students then bring what they've learned to life in a 3D virtual design project using technologies such as AR and Minecraft. Through curriculum-linked workshops, Elders, local educators, and Microsoft are merging cultural knowledge and digital tools for today's youth.

[Learn about the Indigital for Schools Program](#)

Partnering with environmental sustainability programs for local impact

Addressing critical sustainability challenges

The Dharug Strategic Management Group (DSMG) is leading a cultural and ecological restoration initiative at the Blacktown Native Institute Site in Western Sydney. The site holds profound historical significance as the first land to be returned to Dharug care since the colonial era. Restoration of Cumberland Plain riparian, woodland, and grassland ecological communities is currently facing practical and technical challenges. To address these challenges, this ground-breaking restoration project is bringing together Dharug cultural knowledge and leadership, through DSMG and the Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) Standards-based Restoration in Action program, with the technical expertise of the project partners Muru Mittigar, Greening Australia, and TAFE NSW Conservation and Ecosystem Management students to foster a collaborative, holistic approach to restoration design to care for Dharug Nura (Country).

[Learn more about this initiative](#)

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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.

Australia

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

The datacenters in Australia are **LEED Gold certified**.

WATER

Our facilities use **direct evaporative cooling (DEC)**. DEC uses **water for cooling** approximately 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

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

Microsoft is conducting research and development to **improve waste diversion** and **increased recycling efficiency** by identifying **new recycling solutions** for used air filters and fiber optic cables.

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

