

Microsoft datacentres in Canada

As we build and operate datacentres, we aim to address local challenges and create benefits for communities.

Our commitment is reflected in three key areas: advancing community prosperity, contributing to a sustainable future, and being a good neighbour through responsible operations.

Published October 2025. 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.

About

We currently are building new datacentres in the greater Québec area.



Jobs

We expect construction of the new datacentres to require approximately 5.1 million work hours and more than 1,250 jobs at peak activity.



Investments

Last year, Microsoft community investments supported 11 community identified projects in Québec.



Water

Rainwater harvesting is part of the design for new datacentres in Canada.



Living near a datacenter

Our practices include noise and light reduction, ecological restoration, and ensuring suppliers comply with local laws and environmental regulations.



Learn more



Learn more about our datacenters by visiting aka.ms/insideadatacenter

Advancing community prosperity and well-being

Our datacentres increase local economic activity, create jobs, and boost tax revenue, benefiting residents and the community.

Watch our video to learn more about [Microsoft jobs in your community](#)



Jobs

We partner with local suppliers and create well-paid construction and datacentre operations jobs.

Microsoft is currently building new datacentres in the greater Québec City area.

- We expect construction of the new datacentres to require approximately 5.1 million work hours and more than 1,250 jobs at peak activity.
- When these new facilities are operational, they will employ approximately 150 people.

Datacentre operations jobs

- 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



Advancing community prosperity and well-being

Our datacentres increase local economic activity, create jobs, and boost tax revenue, benefiting residents and the community.

Taxes and economic impact

Microsoft datacentres represent a capital-intensive investment and long-term commitment to the community.

Communities around the world can typically anticipate significant economic benefits in combined local output, employment income, and public revenue contributions—from a single large-scale datacentre.

- Local economies benefit through significant investments in land, construction, and infrastructure.
- Local businesses are supported through sourcing materials and services from nearby vendors and contractors.
- Operational activities—such as purchases from local businesses and utility usage—generate economic output and tax revenue.
- A datacentre presence can serve as a catalyst for technology sector growth, attracting startups, spurring innovation, and creating new job opportunities.

Community investments

Working with local partners, we invest in programs that reflect community priorities—from environmental sustainability to energy—and use our strengths as a technology company.

Last year, Microsoft’s community investments supported 11 locally identified projects and this year will support another 13 projects in Québec, including:

- [Planting trees and shrubs in collaboration with Ducks Unlimited Canada \(DUC\)](#) as part of a large-scale project to restore wetlands and waterways in the Lorette River
- Collaborative initiative with DUC and the Corporation du bassin de la Jacques-Cartier (CBJC) to restore and enhance a municipal water retention basin in Donnacona
- Ecological rehabilitation project of a wetland in Lévis with DUC, formalising a trail network to protect sensitive habitats
- NPower Canada Tech Skilling to expand its [Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator in Quebec](#)

- Supporting the work of Moisson Québec food bank
- Supporting Numérique au Féminin’s annual conference connecting women in tech with opportunities and allies

[Restoring the natural ecology in a Québec City landfill](#)

Microsoft collaborated with the Society for Ecological Restoration and Agiro to restore the resilience and biodiversity of a 1.8-hectare portion of the Mont-Brillant nature reserve.

- Through a “bioblitz” event, wildlife experts and volunteers documented over 240 plant and animal species in the area.
- Volunteers including Microsoft employees planted nearly 100 native trees and shrubs in the area in one day, out of more than 500 planted to date.

Learn more about [Microsoft investments in Canada](#).



Contributing to a sustainable future

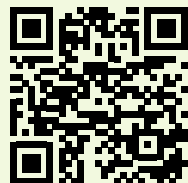
Our datacenters are designed for high efficiency, using less energy and water than traditional enterprise facilities.

Resources

[Learn more about datacenter sustainability](#)

[PUE & WUE for operational datacenters](#)

[Watch this video to understand water use at Microsoft datacenters](#)



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Energy

- We've committed to achieving 100% renewable energy coverage globally by 2025.
- Our datacenters in Canada will be designed to run backup generators on renewable biofuel, helping to reduce net carbon emissions.

Water

- Our facilities in Canada will be built with direct evaporative cooling.
- These datacenters will use water for cooling less than 5% of the year.
- Rainwater harvesting is part of the design for new datacenters in Canada. In addition, Microsoft purchases water from Ville de Québec. On warm days when the temperature exceeds 85°F (29.4°C), water flows into the facility and cycles through the cooling system between 2–5 times. A portion of the water evaporates, while the remainder is typically discharged back to the local wastewater treatment plant in compliance with local regulations.
- We work with local utilities to ensure the community has ample water resources. We have made financial investments in water infrastructure across the globe, replacing and extending decades-old facilities that benefit local residents. These investments also pave the way for community growth.
- To learn more, visit the [datacenter water consumption fact sheet](#).

Waste

- By considering responsible design and circular economy principles, Microsoft helps optimise the useful life of cloud hardware and its components through reuse and recycling.
- In addition to reducing electronic waste, we help strengthen the supply chain and create a smarter, more responsible approach to cloud hardware.

Operating responsibly as a good neighbour

Each datacentre has a unique design, where the environment, community, and safety are prioritized.

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Living near a datacentre



Vegetative screening and building setbacks will be included where possible and in accordance with local ordinances.



Unlike distribution warehouses, datacentres do not generate constant truck traffic. Deliveries are infrequent. Each building typically supports around 50 employees working in shifts across 24 hours, resulting in minimal parking lot traffic.



The main sources of sound at datacentres include employee vehicles, occasional truck deliveries, backup generators, and HVAC equipment. Building setbacks help minimize the noise from backup generators and HVAC equipment.



Exterior lighting will be strategically placed around buildings, parking lots, roadways, sidewalks, and perimeter fencing. Fixtures are designed to direct light downward, ensuring security while minimizing light pollution.



During construction Microsoft's general contractors will comply with local noise ordinances and specifications outlined in the permitting process.



The community will be informed of permitted work hours and other updates through the [Microsoft in your community](#) blog.

Staying connected



Visit the local.microsoft.com/canada page



Frequently Asked Questions



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