

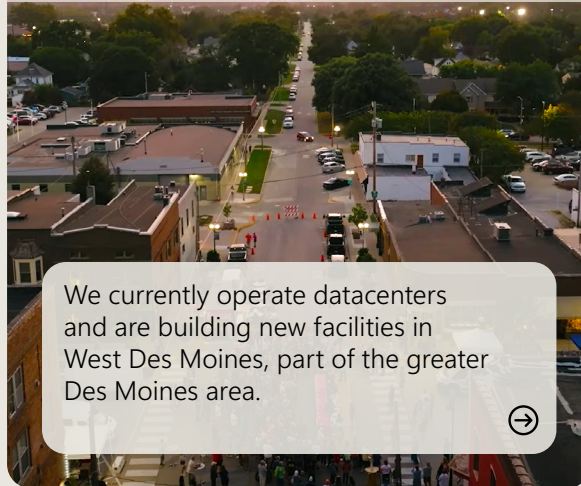
Microsoft datacenters in Iowa

As we build and operate datacenters, 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 neighbor 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 operate datacenters and are building new facilities in West Des Moines, part of the greater Des Moines area.



Jobs



Our operational datacenters employ approximately 540 people. We anticipate it will take approximately 1,660 construction jobs and 6.8 million hours to build the new datacenters.



Investments



Microsoft collaborated with Des Moines Area Community College to open the Datacenter Academy. In 2024–2025, the program had 313 students.



Water



Our facilities in Iowa are cooled using direct evaporative cooling. Direct evaporative cooling uses water less than 15% of the year.



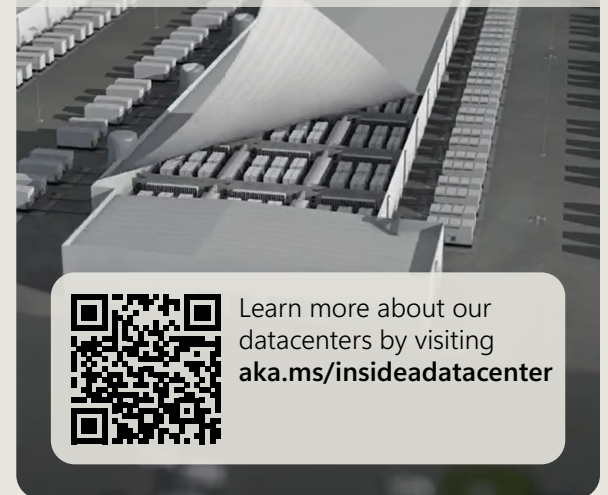
Living near a datacenter



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 datacenters 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](#)



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Jobs

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

Microsoft operates datacenters and is building new facilities in West Des Moines, part of the greater Des Moines area.

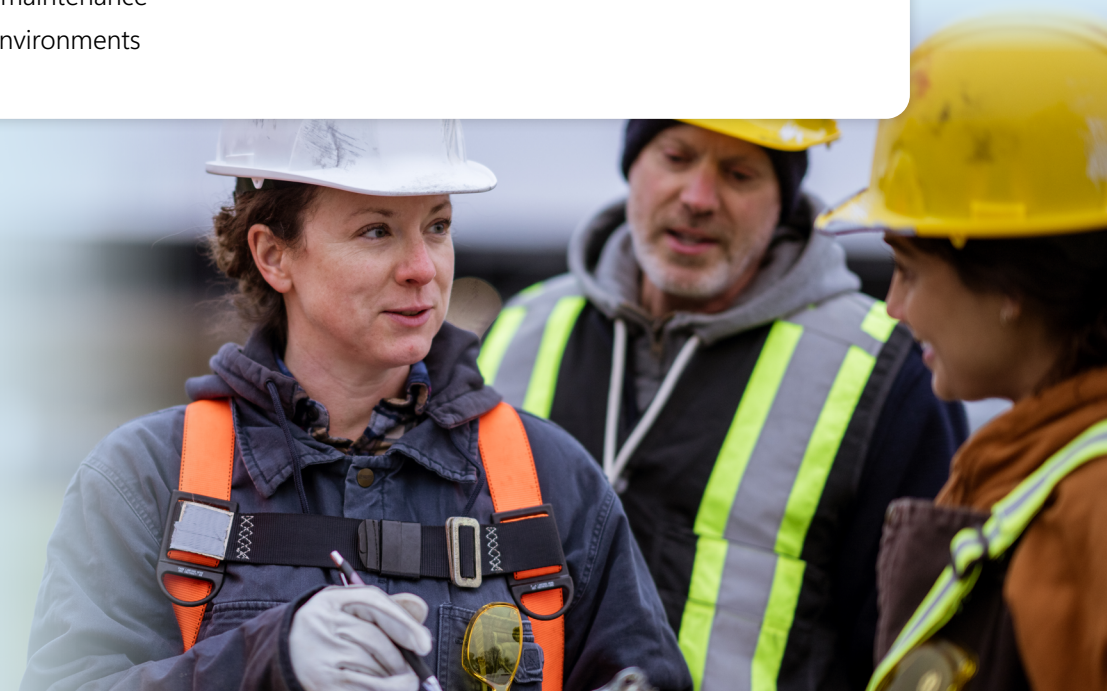
- As of 2025, these facilities currently employ approximately 540 people.
- We expect construction of the new datacenters to require approximately 6.8 million work hours and more than 1,660 jobs at peak activity.

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

Taxes and economic impact

Microsoft datacenters 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 datacenter.

- 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 datacenter 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 and use our strengths as a technology company.

Last year, Microsoft's community investments supported locally identified projects in Iowa, including:

- Digital skilling program with Hip-Hope
- Summer STEM camp with Des Moines Area Community College
- Drake University Restorative Ecological Project, Brown's Woods
- Collaborations with Meals from the Heartland

Datacenter Academy

Microsoft collaborated with Des Moines Area Community College to open the Datacenter Academy, helping job seekers and students in Des Moines gain in-demand technology skills.

- In 2024–2025, the program has enrolled 313 students.
- Read more about the Datacenter Academy program at [DMACC](#).

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



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 Iowa are transitioning the backup generators to use a renewable biofuel that reduces net carbon emissions.
- Facilities in Iowa are built to meet LEED Gold Certification standards, recognizing excellence in environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.

Water

- Our existing facilities are cooled using direct evaporative cooling.
- Direct evaporative cooling uses water less than 15% of the year.
- In Iowa, Microsoft purchases water from West Des Moines Water Works. 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

- In 2020, as part of our goal to become zero waste by 2030, we set a target of reusing or recycling 90% of our end-of-life assets globally.
- We reached a 90.9% reuse and recycling rate in 2024. Microsoft Circular Centers—which process decommissioned servers and cloud hardware—were a key part of that success.
- To learn more, take a [virtual tour](#) of a Microsoft Circular Center.

Operating responsibly as a good neighbor

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

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Living near a datacenter

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

Unlike distribution warehouses, datacenters 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. Employee arrivals and departures are also staggered to avoid large shift changes.

The main sources of sound at datacenters 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 is 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 comply with local noise ordinances and specifications outlined in the permitting process.

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

Staying connected

Visit the local.microsoft.com/iowa page

Frequently Asked Questions

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

Browse our other fact sheets