

Microsoft datacenters in North Carolina

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 are currently planning to build a datacenter in North Carolina.



Jobs

Typically, when we build new facilities, we estimate it will require 350 construction roles and approximately 2.2 million work hours to complete construction of the new datacenters.



Investments

Last year, Microsoft's community investments supported five locally identified projects in Catawba County



Water

The cooling system for the new facilities in North Carolina is currently under planning and design.



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](#)



Jobs

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

- Typically, when we build new facilities, we estimate it will require 350 construction roles and approximately 2.2 million work hours to complete construction of the new datacenters.
- Once operational, each datacenter facility employs approximately 50 employees per building annually.
- Datacenter and critical environment technician roles usually require only 6 to 12 months of secondary education. Learn more through the [Microsoft Datacenter Academy](#).

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 five locally identified projects in Catawba County, including:

- AI STEM exhibit supporting the Catawba Science Center
- River restoration debris blockage with Carolina Land and Lakes
- Food distribution supporting ECCCM Food Bank/Ashure Ministry

Microsoft Datacenter Academy

Microsoft collaborated with Catawba Valley Community College to open the region's first Datacenter Academy, helping job seekers and local students gain in-demand technology skills.

- In 2024–2025, the program had 16 students.
- Read more about [empowering students with IT skills through the Valley Datacenter Academy](#).

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



Contributing to a sustainable future

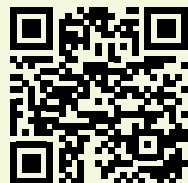
Our datacenters are designed for high efficiency, using less energy and water than traditional enterprise facilities.

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

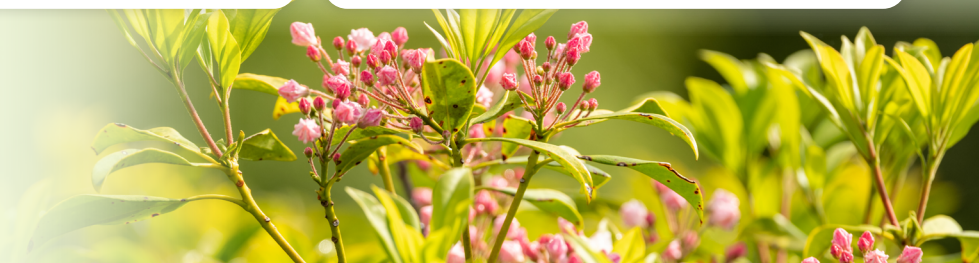
- We've committed to achieving 100% renewable energy coverage globally by 2025.
- Our datacenters in North Carolina will be designed for our backup generators to use a renewable biofuel that reduces net carbon emissions.

Water

- The cooling system for the new facilities in North Carolina is currently under planning and design.
- During the planning phase, 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—once operational—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 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.



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