

Microsoft datacenters in Washington

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 the greater Quincy and Wenatchee areas.



Jobs

Our operational datacenters employ approximately 400 people. We anticipate it will take approximately 2,470 construction jobs and 10.1 million hours to build the new datacenters.



Investments

To date, Microsoft community investments supported dozens of community identified projects in Quincy, Wenatchee, and Malaga.



Water

In Quincy, we helped the city build a water reuse facility to recycle datacenter cooling water—cutting our potable water use by 97% on average and returning approximately 1.5 million cubic meters annually for community needs.



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.

Microsoft operates datacenters and is building new facilities in the greater Quincy and Wenatchee areas.

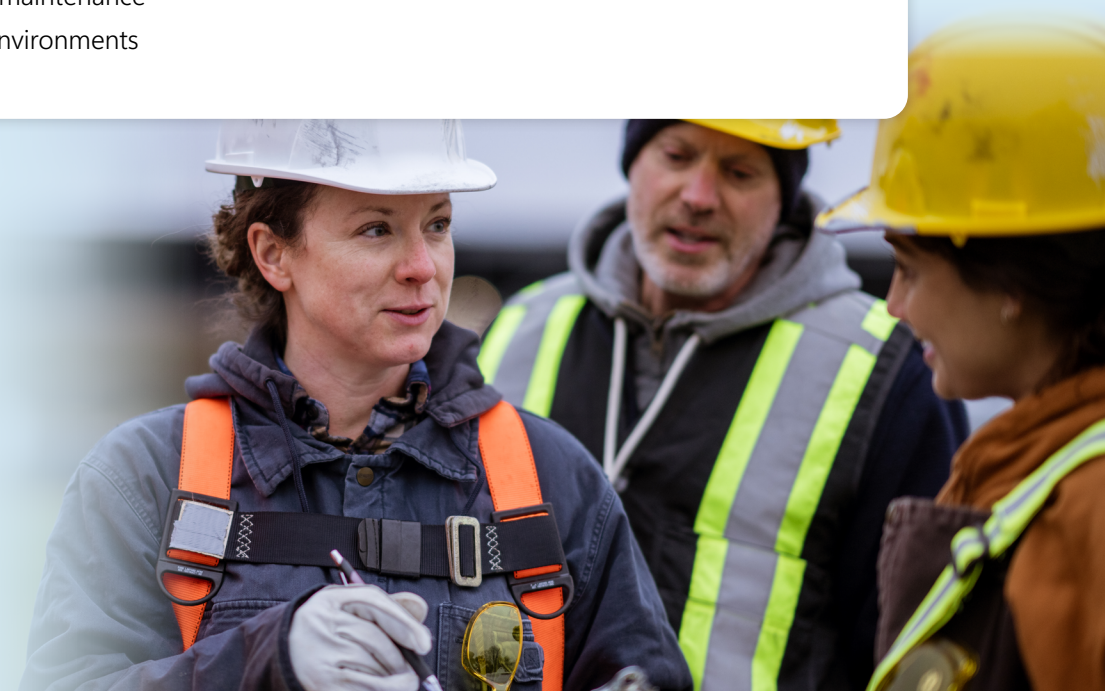
- As of 2025, these facilities currently employ approximately 400 people.
- We expect construction of the new datacenters to require approximately 10.1 million work hours and more than 2,470 jobs at peak activity.

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.

To date, Microsoft community investments supported dozens of community identified projects in Washington, including:

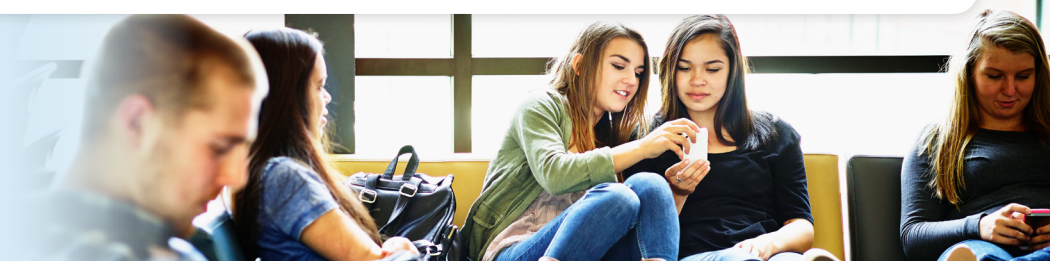
- Digital Literacy and Inclusion project with NCW Tech Alliance
- Wenatchee Valley College Technology Scholarships
- Farm Beats program
- Malaga Community Park support
- Columbia Basin Foundation
- Chelan-Douglas County Community Action Council
- Second Harvest Inland Northwest

Datacenter Academy

Microsoft collaborated with Big Bend Community College to open the Datacenter Academy, helping job seekers and students in Quincy gain in-demand technology skills.

- In 2024–2025, the program had 30 students.
- To date, we have employed 8 Datacenter Academy students as interns.
- Read more about the [Microsoft Datacenter Academy at Big Bend Community College](#).

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



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. In this region, we will fulfill that commitment through a power purchase agreement with Powerex.
- Our datacenters in Washington are transitioning the backup generators to use a renewable biofuel that reduces net carbon emissions.
- Facilities in Washington 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, indirect evaporative with fluid coolers, and water-cooled chillers.
- Direct evaporative cooling uses water for cooling less than 10% of the year. Indirect evaporative fluid coolers use water less than 50% of the year. Water-cooled chillers use water year-round. We are increasingly using reused and recycled water for cooling in Washington.
- In Washington, Microsoft purchases water from the East Wenatchee Water District, the Malaga Water District, and the City of Quincy. 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.
- In Quincy, we helped the city build a water reuse facility to recycle datacenter cooling water—cutting our potable water use by 97% on average and returning approximately 1.5 million cubic meters annually for community needs.
- 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. The Microsoft Circular Center in Quincy—which processes decommissioned servers and cloud hardware—was 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



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