

Microsoft datacentres in the United Kingdom

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 datacentres and planning to build new facilities across the United Kingdom in London, the South East, and Wales.



Jobs

We expect construction of the new datacentres to require approximately 6 million work hours and more than 1,470 jobs at peak activity.



Investments

Last year, Microsoft community investments supported 10 community identified projects in the United Kingdom.



Water

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



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 construction and datacentre operations jobs.

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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

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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 programmes that reflect community priorities and use our strengths as a technology company.

Last year, Microsoft's community investments supported 10 locally identified projects in the United Kingdom, including:

- [West London Digital Skilling Bootcamps](#)
- Digital Edge West London with Catch22
- [London Community Fund](#)
- Bashley Road Youth Activities
- [Tree planting and education in Ealing](#)
- Watling Park Water Replenishment Project

Datacentre Academy

In 2025 Microsoft established a [Datacentre Academy](#), in collaboration with Langley College, Slough. The first apprentices will start their level 3 apprenticeships in July 2025.

Learn more about [Microsoft investments in the United Kingdom](#).



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 datacentres in the United Kingdom will be designed for our backup generators to use a renewable biofuel that reduces net carbon emissions.

Water

- Our facilities being built in England will use indirect evaporative cooling while the Wales datacenter project is still in the planning phase.
- Indirect evaporative cooling is used year-round as part of the specific datacenter design in London.
- Rainwater harvesting is part of the design for new datacentres in England.
- Microsoft purchases water from Thames Water. From there, it flows into the datacentre, where the water cycles through our cooling systems 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 [datacentre 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.

Operating responsibly as a good neighbour

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

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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 HGV 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 datacentres include employee vehicles, occasional vehicle movements for deliveries, backup generators, and HVAC equipment. Building setbacks help minimise the noise from backup generators and HVAC equipment.



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



During construction Microsoft's general contractors will comply with requirements and regulations 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



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