

The Facts about Data Centers

What data centers really mean for your community's energy, water, and economy.

MYTHS

VS

FACTS

Data centers consume unlimited power and will collapse the local grid.

All U.S. data centers combined use about **4.4% of the nation's electricity**. Rather than draining the grid, developers routinely fund grid modernization and infrastructure upgrades that benefit the whole community.^[1,2,3,4]

Data centers cause consumer electricity bills to spike.

Average electricity rates are nearly the same in states with many data centers and states with few. Large, steady demand often justifies new power generation, from solar and wind to natural gas, which can stabilize or lower rates over time.^[4]

Data centers drain local water supplies dry.

Data centers account for **less than 0.5% of U.S. freshwater** withdrawals. Modern facilities increasingly use closed-loop, air-based, or zero-water cooling systems.^[2,4,6,7,8]

Data centers create no jobs and give nothing back to the community.

Data centers generate some of the highest tax revenue per acre of any land use. Construction employs thousands of local tradespeople over several years, and permanent roles like engineers and technicians pay well above the national median.^[9,10]

Data centers constantly run diesel generators, polluting the air and creating heavy noise.

Facilities run on grid power more than 99% of the time. Backup generators are for emergencies only, and EPA rules cap testing at roughly 100 hours per year.^[1,2]

Data centers are loud neighbors.

Modern facilities are built to strict noise standards, using sound-dampened structures and specialized enclosures to meet local zoning requirements.^[9,11]

The “cloud” is virtual, so data centers aren't really necessary.

The cloud is physical. Every video call, map search, and saved photo is processed in a real building full of servers.^[9,12]

Data centers only power AI and offer nothing to everyday people.

Data centers are the backbone of daily life. They store the medical records a doctor pulls up in the ER, run the weather models that give coastal towns days of hurricane warning instead of hours, process the card payments small businesses rely on, and host the online classrooms, remote jobs, and family photo backups millions of people depend on.

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Sources: ¹Coreweave.com/blog/the-data-center-questions-everyone-is-asking-answered, ²Datacenterfacts.org, ³Interglobixmagazine.com/myth-data-centers-are-using-all-of-our-electricity, ⁴Ntu.org/publications/detail/15-myths-about-data-centersand-the-taxpayer-perspective, ⁵Goldwaterinstitute.org/the-data-center-debate-fact-vs-fiction, ⁶LinkedIn.com/posts/kirkoffel_one-of-the-biggest-misconceptions-about-data-ugcPost-7427120632716488704-2A0T/, ⁷Environmentalhealthproject.org/post/the-dangers-of-data-centers, ⁸Americafirstpolicy.com/issues/the-data-center-water-use-hoax, ⁹Heartlandenergy.com/data-centers-fact-vs-fiction, ¹⁰Red-eng.com/insights/knowledge-base/the-truth-and-myths-about-data-centres-and-demand, ¹¹Abilene-rc.com/news/facts-myths-about-data-centers/article_fe9cb4fe-8a07-4bba-bd9a-dbc238392641.html ¹²Climate.mit.edu/ask-mit/ais-energy-use-big-problem-climate-change