

Data Center Myth Busters

As Georgia grows, customers may turn to you with questions about data centers. Here are the facts you can share with confidence.

Will data centers make my power bill go up?

Not in Georgia. Large energy users like data centers are paying more, which helps keep rates lower for families and small businesses.

- ▶ Large energy users pay upfront for local infrastructure and commit to long-term contracts.
- ▶ We require minimum bills, financial security provisions, and termination payments for large load customers, so costs are not passed on to other customers.
- ▶ This growth is helping keep base rates stable for the next three years.
- ▶ Large energy users are paying their fair share—so other customers aren't footing the bill.

Will data centers increase the risk of blackouts?

Not in Georgia. They are helping improve reliability for everyone.

- ▶ Data centers often fund their own substations and power upgrades, which strengthen the entire grid.
- ▶ Long-term planning ensures new growth does not affect existing customers.
- ▶ These upgrades help the grid perform better during storms and extreme weather.

Are data centers straining local water resources?

Not in Georgia. Modern data centers are water efficient.

- ▶ Water use depends on design, but many data centers in Georgia use reclaimed or recycled water and closed-loop systems.
- ▶ Closed-loop systems are filled once and reused.
- ▶ Ongoing water use is similar to a small or mid-size office building.
- ▶ All U.S. data centers combined use about 0.01% of total freshwater.

Are data centers noisy?

Not in Georgia. They are among the quietest industrial neighbors, but back-up generators can be loud if the data center chooses to use them.

- ▶ Noise is regulated by local ordinances.
- ▶ Facilities use sound-dampening designs and quiet equipment.
- ▶ Noise levels are often lower than nearby traffic.

Do data centers bring benefits to communities?

- ▶ Yes. Data centers generate millions in tax revenue that often funds local schools, fire departments and parks—lowering the tax burden on residential customers.
- ▶ Hundreds of high-paying construction jobs over multiple years.
- ▶ Ongoing jobs in security, maintenance, and local services.
- ▶ Significant long-term tax revenue with minimal strain on schools or roads.
- ▶ For every dollar of local public services they consume, data centers contribute about \$26 in tax revenue back to the county.

Why do data centers use so much electricity?

Data centers power the digital world that we all use every day—including streaming, banking, healthcare, and government services.

- ▶ The majority of a data center's energy use goes toward keeping servers running 24/7 and powering the cooling systems needed to prevent overheating.
- ▶ They use significant energy, but also bring jobs, investment, and innovation.
- ▶ AI demand is growing quickly, but it represents just one part of overall data center electricity use today.

To learn more about data centers visit georgiapower.com/datacenters or scan the QR code.

