MYTHS VS. FACTS
DATA CENTER LIGHTING

MYTH:
Data centers are as bright as a sports stadium, lighting up the entire night sky.

FACT:
Data centers do not require stadium-style lighting to operate safely. Modern facilities can be designed with targeted, controlled, and shielded lighting that supports security while minimizing impacts on neighbors, wildlife, and the night sky. Responsible lighting design helps ensure the facility is a good neighbor while maintaining safe operations around the clock.

HOW DATA CENTERS REDUCE LIGHTING IMPACTS

Modern facilities often incorporate:

- Shielded fixtures that direct light downward
- Site-specific lighting studies during design
- Lighting controls, timers, and sensors
- Reduced light trespass at property boundaries
- Energy-efficient LED systems
- Compliance with local lighting ordinances
- Security lighting focused only where needed



These practices align with recommendations from DarkSky International, the National Park Service, and responsible outdoor lighting standards used throughout North America.
[darksky.org], [nps.gov]

LIGHTING FAQ

Will the data center light up the entire night sky?
No. Modern data centers are designed with shielded, downward-facing fixtures that illuminate only the areas where visibility and security are needed. Light is prevented from shining upward into the night sky or spilling outward, a standard followed by DarkSky International and the National Park Service.

Are modern data centers as bright as a sports stadium?
No. Data centers are not operated like stadiums, malls, or entertainment venues. Most exterior lighting serves a limited purpose - safety, security, and operational access. Modern LED systems target only the light needed, paired with motion controls, scheduled dimming, and zoned lighting to minimize nighttime brightness.

Does security require bright floodlights everywhere?
No. Excessive glare can actually reduce visibility and create safety concerns. Modern security relies on cameras, access controls, perimeter monitoring, and targeted lighting rather than flooding a site with light.

Do the lights have to stay on all night?
No. Motion sensors, occupancy controls, and automated dimming systems allow lighting to be managed precisely. Lighting is only used when and where it is needed.