MYTHS VS. FACTS

DATA CENTER WATER USE

MYTH:
Data centers will drain our water supply.

FACT:
Modern data centers must remove heat generated by computing equipment to operate safely and reliably. While cooling is essential, water use varies significantly based on system design. Modern data centers use a closed-loop system that is filled once and continuously recirculates that water.

HOW MODERN DATA CENTERS COMPARE

Average daily water consumption - modern data center vs. common local operations

FACILITY / INDUSTRY	AVERAGE DAILY WATER USE	COMPARED TO A MODERN DATA CENTER
Pulp & Paper Mill	15,346 acre-feet per year	10,538x more than a modern data center
Average Golf Course	350 acre-feet per year	240x more than a modern data center
Commercial Brick / Concrete Plant	92 acre-feet per year	63x more than a modern data center
Modern Data Center	**1.5 acre-feet per year***	—

*The 1.5 acre-feet includes office use, restroom facilities, and general maintenance. Not included are one-time system fills of approximately 1.75 acre-feet for the closed-loop cooling system and 0.24 acre-feet for the fire protection system; neither requires refilling on an ongoing basis.

Cooling water is filled once during commissioning and reused

Ongoing water use is primarily domestic

High daily water consumption from evaporative systems does not apply

THIS IS NOT THE KIND OF DATA CENTER YOU'VE READ ABOUT IN THE HEADLINES

Most public concern about data center water use comes from older evaporative cooling systems, which can consume up to approximately 15 acre-feet per day. Modern data centers use a closed-loop design. It does not evaporate or consume water daily for cooling. Ongoing water use is minimal, limited to restroom facilities, and routine maintenance.

WATER USAGE FAQ

Will this data center use water every day for cooling?

No. The facility will use a modern closed-loop system, filled once and continuously recirculates.

Why do some data centers use so much water?

High use is tied to evaporative cooling, which intentionally consumes water. Closed-loop systems avoid daily water consumption.