



## Data Centers and Water Use

The data center industry is committed to responsible water use, and it prioritizes efficient water practices and responsible management across operations and development. Collectively, the data center industry used significantly less water than other essential industries in 2025, including the agriculture, power, food and beverage, and semiconductor sectors.

The data center industry continues to invest in water management and deploy water efficiency practices through air-cooled systems, closed-loop water recycling, and dry cooling technologies. DCC member companies are also piloting advanced solutions, including AI-driven cooling optimization and on-site water recycling systems, to further reduce consumption and maximize water efficiency.

### The Facts on Data Center Water Use

- According to the [Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission](#) (JLARC) in Virginia, the world's largest data center market, 83% of data centers use as much, if not less, water than a large commercial office building. The report also found data center water use in the state is sustainable.
- A [Bluefield Research report](#) found that data centers are estimated to use approximately 39 billion gallons per year (BGY) of water in 2025. That is compared to:
  - Utility water leakage: 2,500 BGY—18% of municipal treated water is lost to leakage
  - Food and beverage industry: 533 BGY
  - Semiconductor industry: 59 BGY
- A recently released report from [Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University](#) showed that data centers in Arizona are estimated to use less acre-feet of water than:
  - Power generation
  - Semiconductor manufacturing (which has a significant presence in the state)
  - Sand & gravel mining
  - Golf courses
  - Beverage facilities
- [Research finds](#) that data centers in the U.S. consumed approximately 0.2% of the nation's freshwater in 2023.
- The [Houston Advanced Research Center \(HARC\) report](#) estimates that between direct (on-site cooling) and indirect (electricity generation) water consumption, existing data centers in Texas consume approximately 25 billion gallons (or 77,000 acre-feet) of water—**the equivalent of 0.4% of total water use in Texas in 2025.**