

1 Economic Benefits

Q: Do data centers provide real economic value to our community?

A: Yes. Data centers represent multi-billion-dollar private investments that expand the tax base with minimal demand on public services. They generate significant property tax revenue for schools, cities, and counties, while fueling job creation and local economic activity. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, during construction, a typical data center employs approximately 1,700 workers, generates \$77 million in wages, and drives over \$240 million in local economic activity. Once operational, it continues to support 150+ local jobs, contributing \$32 million to the economy each year. Beyond the numbers, data centers also strengthen infrastructure, grow the skilled workforce, and attract additional business investment to the region.

Key Points:

- › Increases funding for schools, public safety, and local government
- › Job opportunities in construction, electrical, mechanical, IT, and security
- › Low impact on local services compared to other industrial uses
- › Long-term revenue stability

2 Water Usage

Q: Do data centers use enormous amounts of water and threaten local supplies?

A: No. Water usage depends on the cooling system, and modern data centers are increasingly utilizing water-efficient technologies. Many rely on closed-loop or hybrid cooling, which uses a one-time fill and recirculates the same fluid repeatedly. In downstate Illinois, water is provided through municipal systems, not groundwater wells, and residential needs always come first.

Key Points:

- › Closed-loop systems significantly reduce ongoing water use
- › No wells are drilled; water comes from public systems
- › Illinois benefits from strong regional water availability
- › Utilities evaluate capacity to protect the community's water pressure and supply

This document provides factual, transparent information for community leaders and residents in downstate and Southwestern Illinois. It answers common questions about data centers, including water use, electric grid impact, noise, traffic, and economic benefits, while highlighting the value these facilities can bring when responsibly planned.

3 Energy Use and Electric Grid Impact

Q: Will a data center overload our electric grid or cause higher utility rates?

A: No. Industrial developments (such as data centers) are responsible for funding the electrical infrastructure upgrades required to serve their facilities, and residential and small business customers do not bear those costs. While Illinois' deregulated energy market may experience upward pressure on capacity prices until new generation is built, these impacts are regional and would occur even if data centers locate outside the state, without delivering the economic benefits that come with local development.

Key Points:

- › Industrial developments fund energy infrastructure upgrades required to serve them
- › Projects advance only after MISO verifies grid capacity
- › Grid upgrades often improve reliability for the wider community
- › Data centers may help put downward pressure on retail and transmission rates by contributing to overall system efficiency and investment

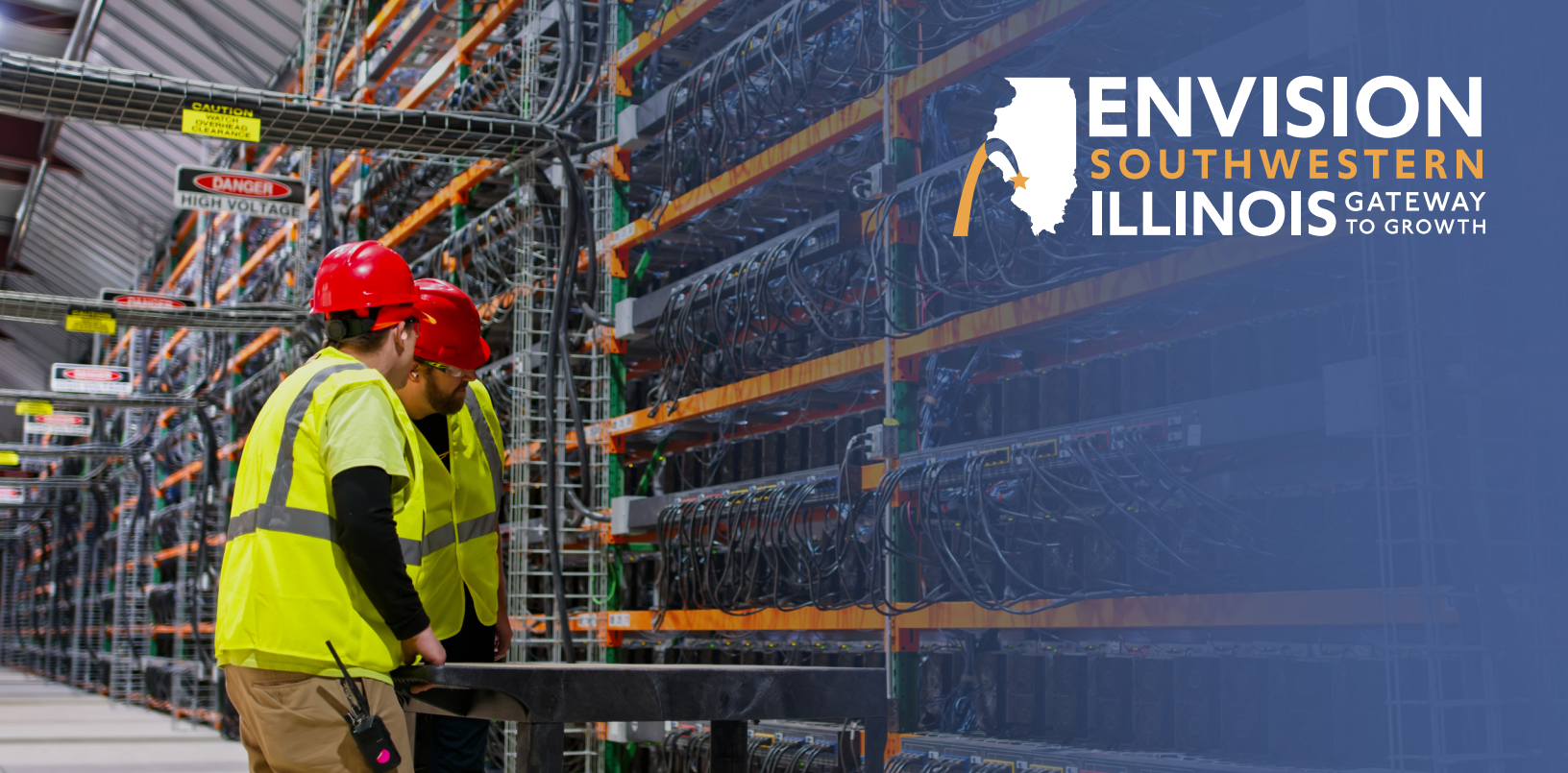
4 Water Source and Local Priority

Q: Will a data center compete with residents for water?

A: No. Water for these projects comes through public water utilities, and engineers conduct modeling to ensure residential demand is fully protected. Downstate Illinois benefits from stable water resources compared to those in the western states.

Key Points:

- › Residential needs remain the top priority
- › Reclaimed or non-potable water may be used when available
- › Utilities verify long-term capacity before approval



5 Noise and Community Impact

Q: Are data centers loud? Will nearby residents hear them?

A: Data centers must comply with local noise ordinances, typically limiting noise to around 70 decibels at the property line. Noise is further reduced through acoustic walls, landscaping, berms, and careful building placement. Backup generators are tested only at scheduled times, typically during daytime hours.

Key Points:

- › Noise mitigation is built into design requirements
- › Nearby highways often mask operational sound
- › Testing schedules avoid nighttime or early-morning disturbance

6 Traffic and Road Impact

Q: Will a project like this overwhelm local roads?

A: No. Data centers generate minimal daily traffic. They have a small on-site workforce and do not attract customer or retail activity. Their traffic footprint is far smaller than warehouses, distribution centers, or manufacturing facilities.

Key Points:

- › Limited daily trips
- › Very few trucks
- › No consumer traffic or visitor volume

7 Environmental and Land Use Considerations

Q: Are data centers harmful to the environment or community character?

A: No. Data centers are considered low-impact industrial uses. They produce no emissions, have minimal noise, and require little traffic. Sites in downstate Illinois are chosen based on zoning, proximity to utilities, and compatibility with nearby land uses.

Key Points:

- › No smokestacks or emissions
- › Stormwater systems must meet or exceed requirements
- › Landscape buffers improve visual impact
- › One of the least disruptive industrial options available

8 What Happens Next?

Q: What steps happen before a project is approved?

A: Developers continue working with:

- › Local utilities
- › Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)
- › Local municipal planning staff
- › County permitting offices
- › Regional water providers