

DATA CENTERS & OUR WATER

FACTS. CONTEXT. ACCOUNTABILITY.

Arizona's water supply is limited. Data centers use water, but the amount is lower than many people think—yet it is growing and concentrated in specific communities.



GOOD NEWS: Current use is small.
IMPORTANT: Smart planning and transparency are essential as demand grows.

DATA CENTER WATER USE IN ARIZONA: THE FACTS



LESS THAN 0.1% TODAY
According to research highlighted by the Kyl Center for Water Policy, data centers currently use less than 0.1% of Arizona's total annual water use—one-tenth of one percent.



GROWING FAST
Arizona is one of the fastest-growing data center markets in the nation. Water demand could increase significantly as new facilities are built.



LOCATION MATTERS
Even small statewide percentages can create real impacts in water-stressed areas where communities, farms and businesses rely on the same water.



TRANSPARENCY IS LIMITED
Many companies do not publicly disclose detailed facility-level water use. More transparency is needed for communities to plan and hold projects accountable.



TECHNOLOGY MAKES A DIFFERENCE
Water-smart cooling technologies and the use of reclaimed water can dramatically reduce freshwater use.



THE TAKEAWAY

Data centers use a small share of Arizona's water today—less than 0.1%. But growth is rapid, most use is in specific communities, and the long-term impacts depend on the choices we make now.

WHAT WE NEED:

- Smart Growth
- Transparency
- Accountability

WHAT CAN WE DO? ASK FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AT EVERY LEVEL



AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

- Attend public meetings and stay informed.
- Ask where the water will come from and how much will be used.
- Request annual reporting on actual water use.
- Support independent studies and local water monitoring.
- Speak up for the needs of residents, families, farms and local businesses.



AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

- Require water impact assessments for new data center projects.
- Require public disclosure of projected and actual water use.
- Ensure water is legally available and sustainable before approvals.
- Include public input and independent review in the permitting process.
- Monitor compliance with water commitments over time.



AT THE STATE LEVEL

- Require data centers to report detailed water use publicly.
- Encourage the use of reclaimed water and low water cooling technologies.
- Close loopholes and stop water speculation.
- Use science-based planning for groundwater and surface water.
- Invest in water monitoring, data transparency and enforcement.



WATER ALLIANCE OF LA PAZ COUNTY
Get involved. Learn more. Protect our water.
visit walpc.org



ASK QUESTIONS. DEMAND ANSWERS.
WATER IS TOO IMPORTANT TO LEAVE TO CHANCE.



OUR WATER. OUR FUTURE.
Better information. Stronger decisions.
A sustainable Arizona for all.

SOURCES: Kyl Center for Water Policy (as cited in Water Desk, 2025); Orion Property Analytics, 2025; Water Desk, 2025.