

DATA CENTERS IN GEORGIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Recently, data center operations have received a significant amount of attention from Georgia policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. As Blackridge Research & Consulting [notes](#), “Data centers in Georgia are rapidly expanding with major projects such as T5 Atlanta IV, Project Bunkhouse, and the Microsoft Palmetto Data Center. Georgia is emerging fast as a major hub for data centers fueled by connectivity, infrastructure, and expanding technological ecosystems.”

PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * According to [Georgia Tech’s Data Center Ordinance Hub](#), Georgia counties including Clayton, DeKalb and Athens-Clarke and cities such Roswell, Hampton and LaGrange have adopted moratoria on data centers. Decatur County Commissioners [approved](#) an indefinite moratorium, chilling investment into potential new projects.
- * State Reps. Ruwa Romman (D-Duluth) and Derrick Jackson (D-Tyrone) spearheaded separate data center moratorium proposals, which [failed to pass](#) during the most recent session of the General Assembly. Additionally, state Sen. RaShaun Kemp (D-Atlanta) introduced Senate Bill 421, which would have required local governments, authorities, and political subdivisions to publicly disclose their water and electricity usage relating to data center projects.
- * At the federal level, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) [held up two jars](#) of murky, sediment-laden water from Morgan County residences during a May 20 House Committee on Energy and Commerce hearing. She claims—without evidence—that local data center construction is causing a water crisis. In reality, long-standing water issues in Morgan County have been tied to other projects, most notably the [construction of a taxpayer-funded electric vehicle \(EV\) plant](#).



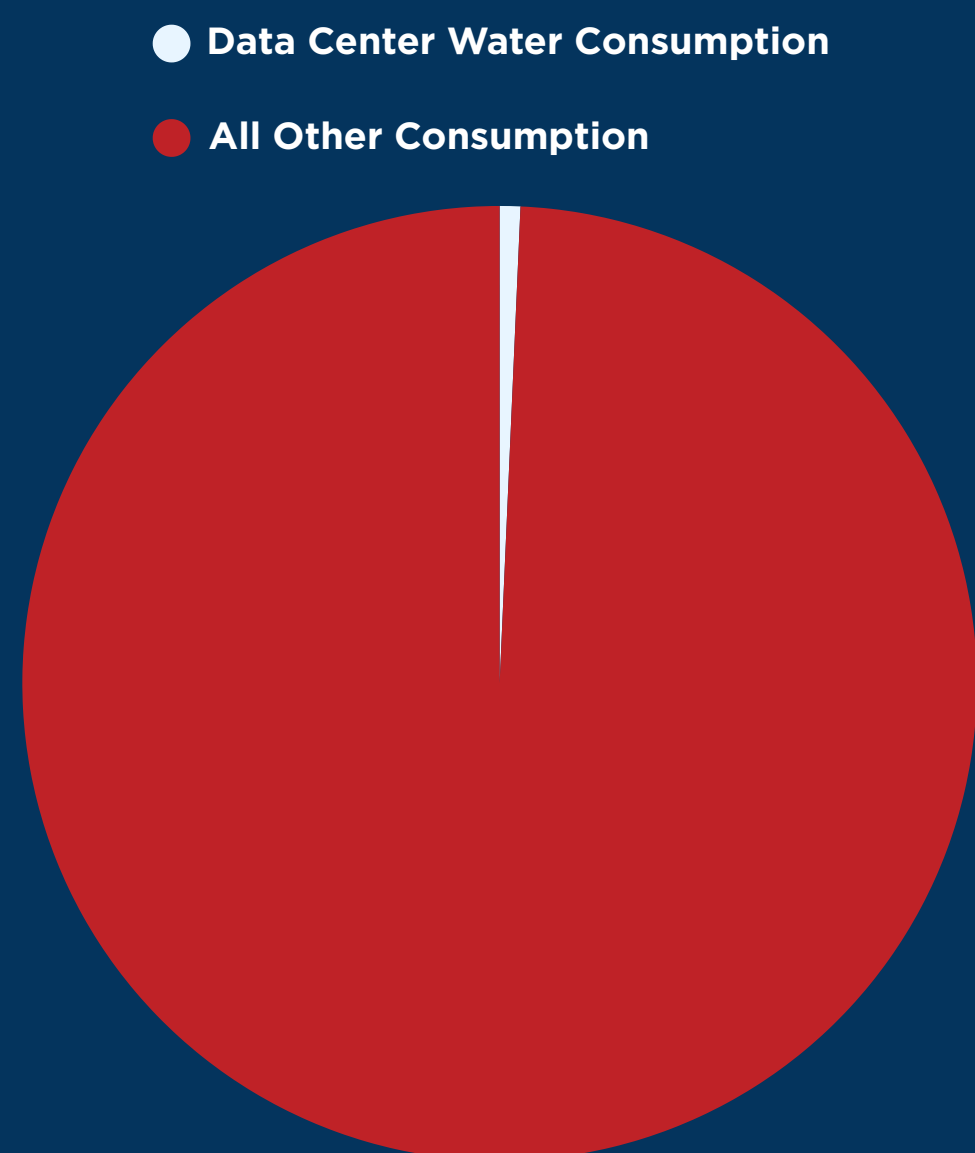
DATA CENTERS AREN’T BURDENING GEORGIANS’ WATER OR ELECTRICITY

Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, state Sen. Kemp [claims](#), “Data centers absorb untenable amounts of water, take up hundreds of acres of arable land and drive electricity rates through the roof; in some cases, these facilities use more water than entire towns.” Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) has [blasted](#) “massive, power-hungry data centers” that supposedly cause “skyrocketing residential electric bills.” However, the evidence does not support the idea that data centers are burdening Georgians’ water or electricity.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



GEORGIA WATER USAGE, 2025



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Georgia, data centers accounted for **0.7 percent** of all water consumption in 2025.

Brookings Institution data center water use estimates; Baxtel data center count; U.S. Geological Survey state-level aggregate water consumption figures.

GEORGIA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

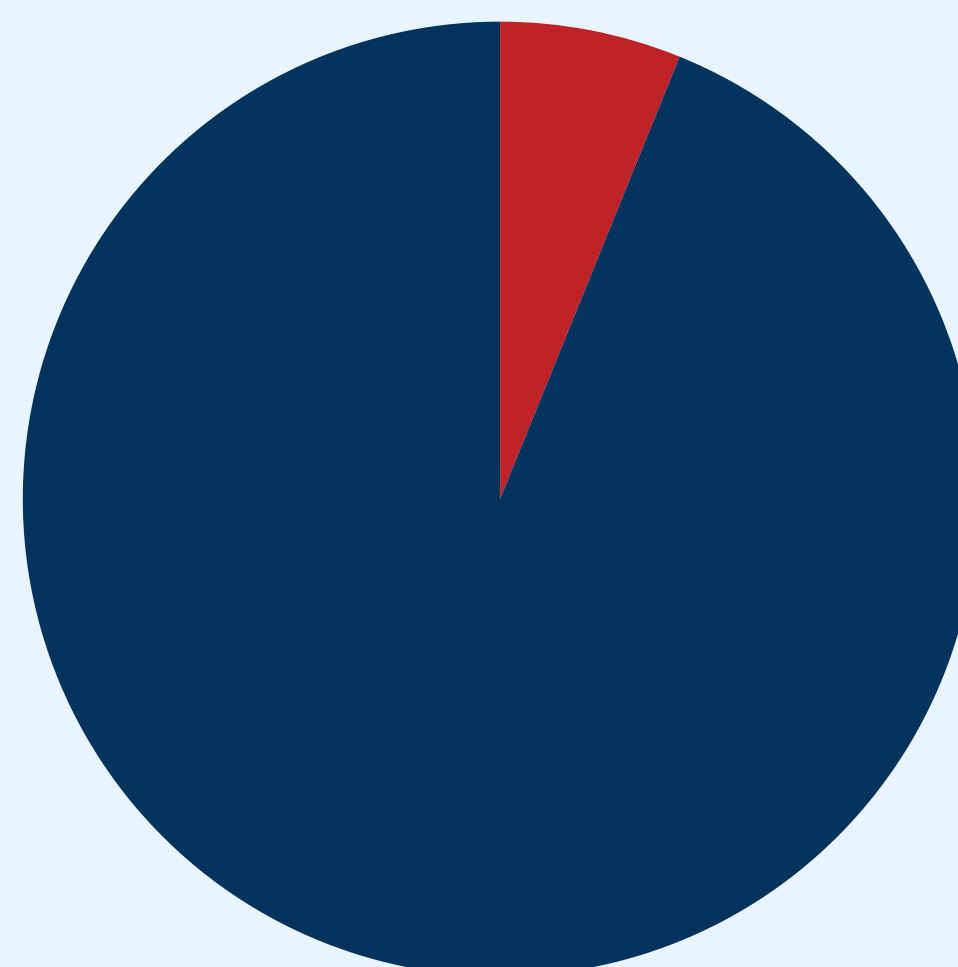
MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Georgia, data centers accounted for **6.4 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
● All Other Consumption



Electric Choice data center power consumption figures; U.S. Energy Information Administration state-level net generation figures.

Residential power bills will actually **decrease by about \$4 per month** effective in June, owing to an historic expansion of Georgia Power's generation fleet to meet demand.

Taxpayers Protection Alliance
1101 14th St NW, Ste 500,
Washington, DC 20005
protectingtaxpayers.org

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