

DATA CENTERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations have received a significant amount of attention from South Carolina policymakers and pundits. As Danny Black, President and CEO of the economic development group SouthernCarolina Alliance, [notes](#), “In South Carolina and across the country, data centers are increasingly dotting the landscape, delivering the internet services, applications and on-line experiences we rely on every day. ... From the metro areas of Charleston, Columbia and Greenville-Spartanburg to smaller municipalities like Aiken, Seneca and York, data centers have found a welcoming home in the state.”

PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

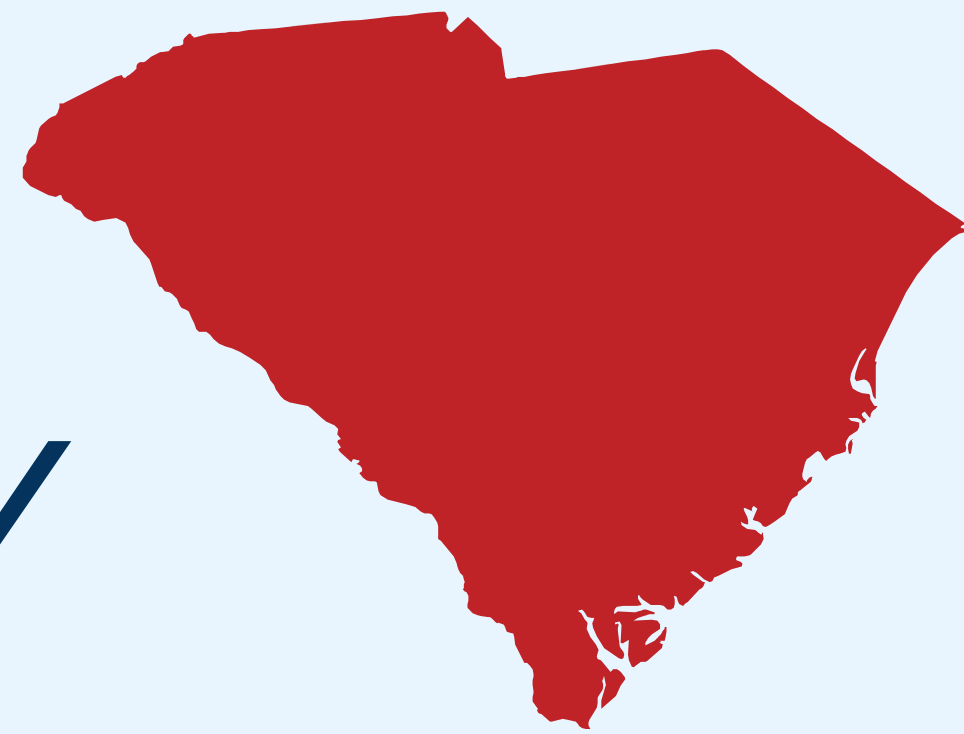
- * On May 19, [Politico reported](#) that Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) “called for a one-year moratorium on new data center construction in South Carolina.” Mace claimed in a statement, “These companies are planting massive data centers across our state, driving up energy demand, and leaving families and small businesses to pick up the tab.”
- * The South Carolina Legislature is actively considering onerous regulations on data center development. For example, the “Data Center Development Act” would establish a dedicated office in the state Department of Environmental Services, introduce a permitting process, and mandate that data centers submit an annual report of water and energy usage. [According to Sen. Wes Climer](#), chairman of the state senate’s Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, “This is an issue the legislature simply must address. The consequences are too great to leave it unaddressed.”
- * Colleton County Council is actively considering a six-month moratorium on data center development. According to a [recent report from Bluffton Today](#), “Plans for a [proposed 800-plus-acre data center](#) to be located in a rural portion of Colleton County, as well as any future plans for other data centers there, were put on hold ... by the Colleton County Council.”



SOUTH CAROLINA’S DATA CENTER DEBATE IS BEING DRIVEN BY FEAR

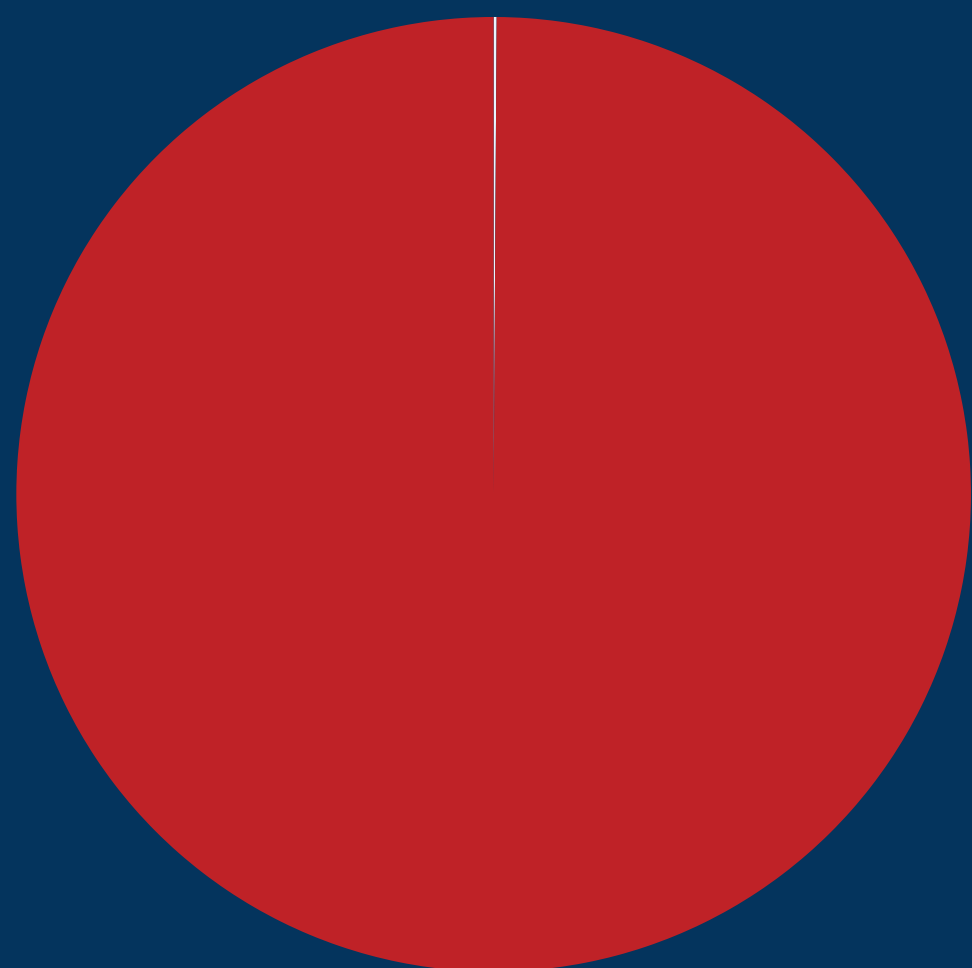
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, [Rep. Mace claims](#) that data centers are “driving up energy demand ... The last thing [families] need is a higher electricity bill subsidizing Big Tech’s bottom line.” This is simply not supported by the evidence.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



SC WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- Total Water Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

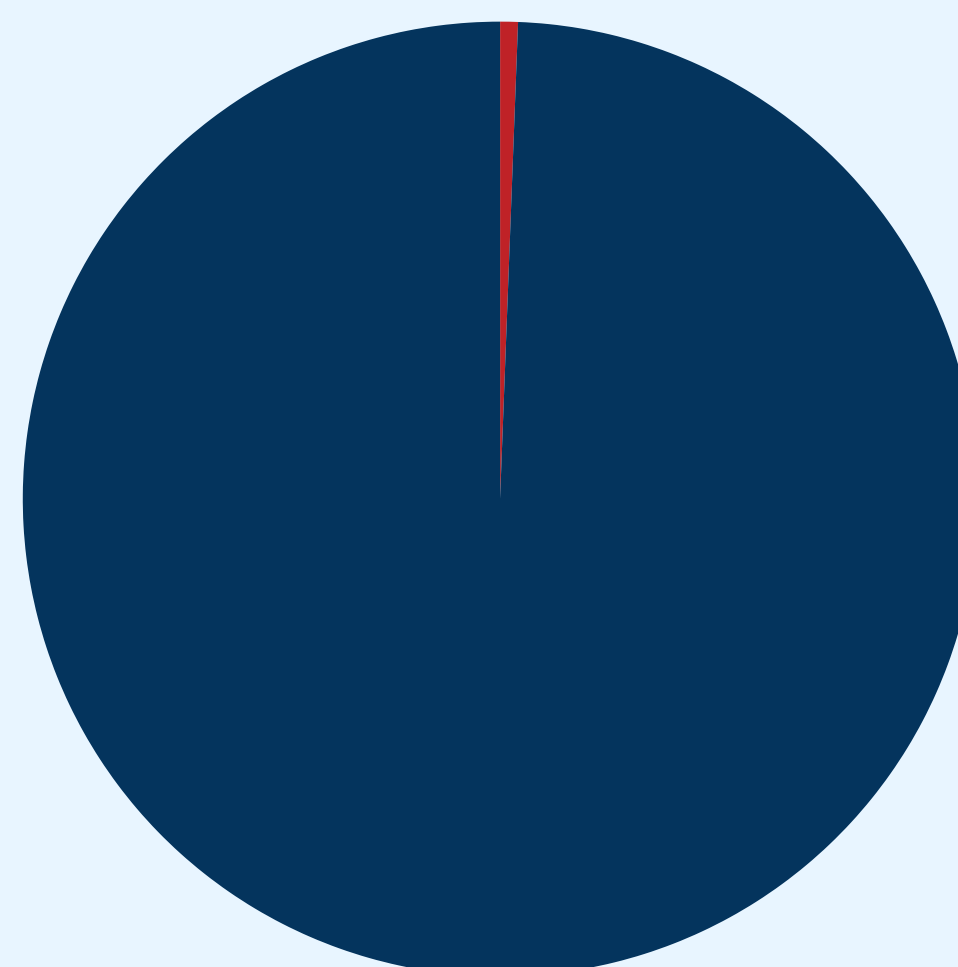
REALITY:

In South Carolina, data centers accounted for **0.1 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.

SC ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
- Total Electricity Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In South Carolina, data centers accounted for **0.6 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

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

Policymakers should welcome data centers and steer clear of these myths.

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