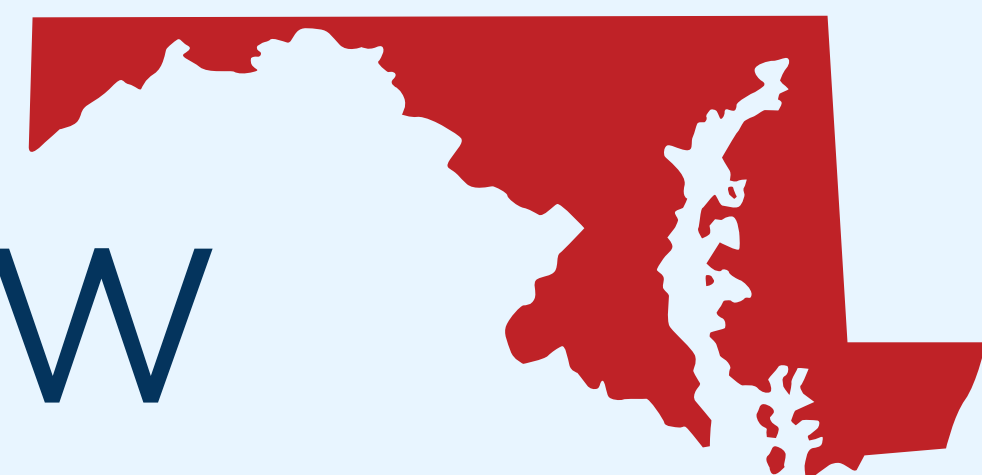


# DATA CENTERS IN MARYLAND: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Data center operations have received a significant amount of attention—often negative—from Maryland policymakers and pundits. According to a January *Maryland Matters* [report](#), “It’s likely that large scale data centers, which have a large presence in neighboring Virginia, will make their way to Maryland in greater numbers in the years ahead.”

## WHICH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE TRYING TO RESTRICT DATA CENTERS?

- \* Baltimore City [approved](#) a one-year moratorium on data center construction. This ban will apply to 10 megawatt installations, notably excluding Johns Hopkins University’s taxpayer-funded \$9 million project.
- \* Leaders in Harford County [introduced legislation](#) for a 90-day moratorium on new data centers after residents learned a golf course property could be converted into a data center campus. County officials emphasized concerns about energy consumption, water usage, and noise impacts, with the county executive noting that data centers were not currently permitted under existing zoning rules.
- \* Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich [publicly floated](#) a six-month moratorium on data center approvals while the county reevaluated regulations and long-term planning. The debate centered on power demand, land use compatibility, and whether the county should emulate or avoid Northern Virginia’s rapid hyperscale growth.



## MARYLAND’S ENERGY RULES ARE THE REAL PROBLEM

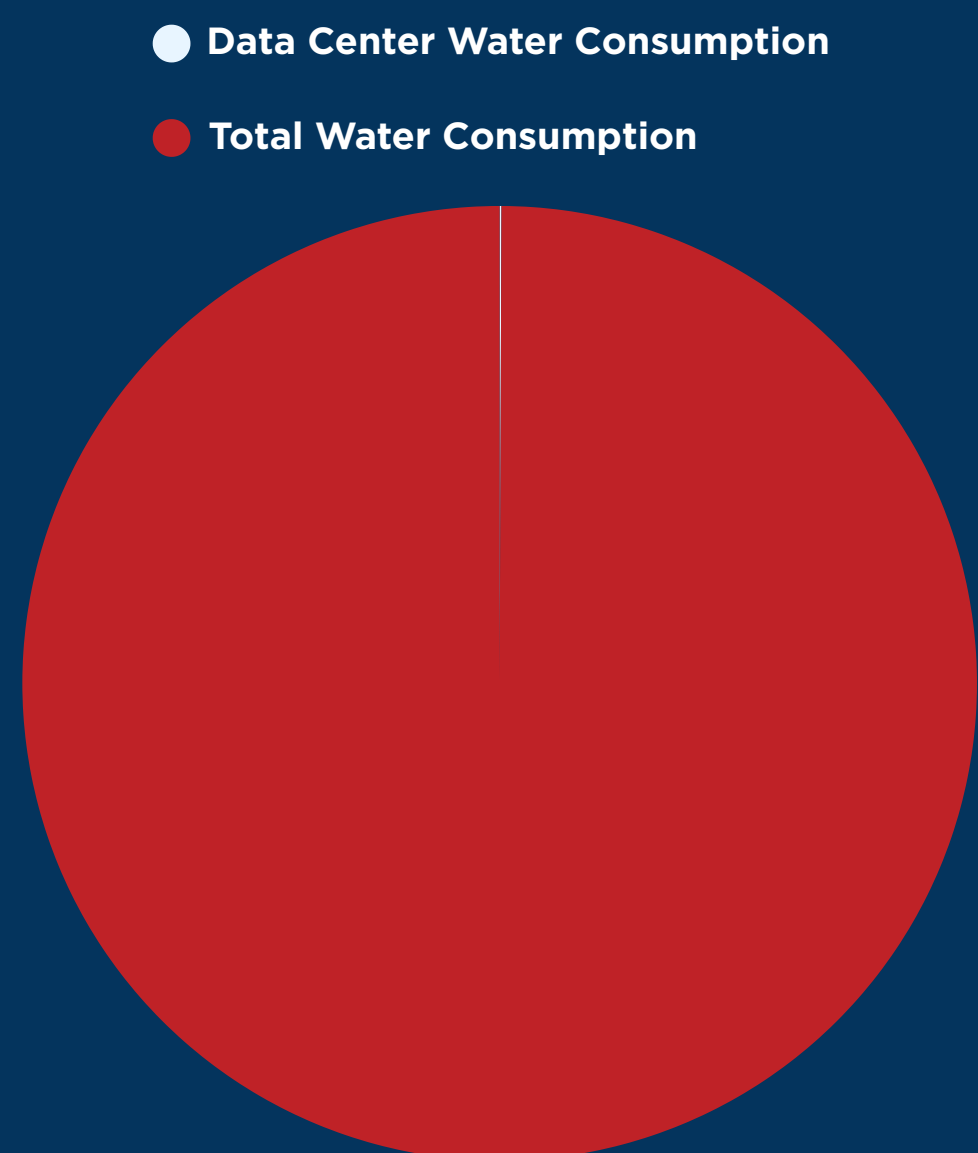
In addition to proposed restrictions on data centers in Maryland, state-wide electricity regulations already make it difficult to accommodate data centers’ electricity needs. Maryland is part of the PJM Interconnection, a wholesale electricity market in which utilities are largely barred from owning power plants or generating their own electricity.

Instead of recognizing the role that PJM rules and other regulations play in increasing electricity costs, politicians and activists have blamed data centers for rising utility bills. In describing why he supports federal legislation to curb data centers, Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-Md.) [stated](#), “People are paying too much money for heating costs, electricity ... and I would say what everybody behind me would also say, that is just not acceptable.” In reality, data centers account for a small share of water and electricity consumption and are not to blame for price hikes.

# DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



## MARYLAND WATER USAGE, 2025



### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

### REALITY:

In Maryland, data centers accounted for **0.06 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.

## MARYLAND ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

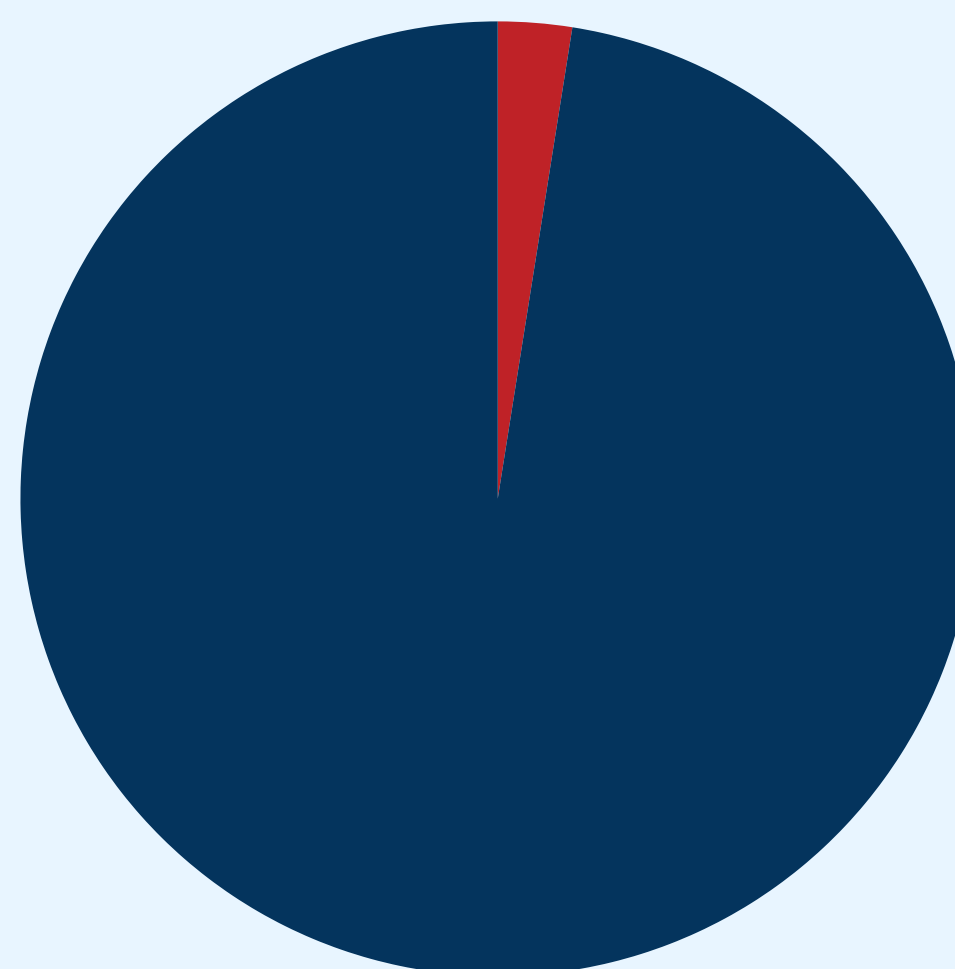
### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

### REALITY:

In Maryland, data centers accounted for **2.5 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

- Data Center Electricity Consumption  
● Total Electricity Consumption



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

Maryland's rising energy costs and water concerns are driven far more by flawed energy policy than by data centers.

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