

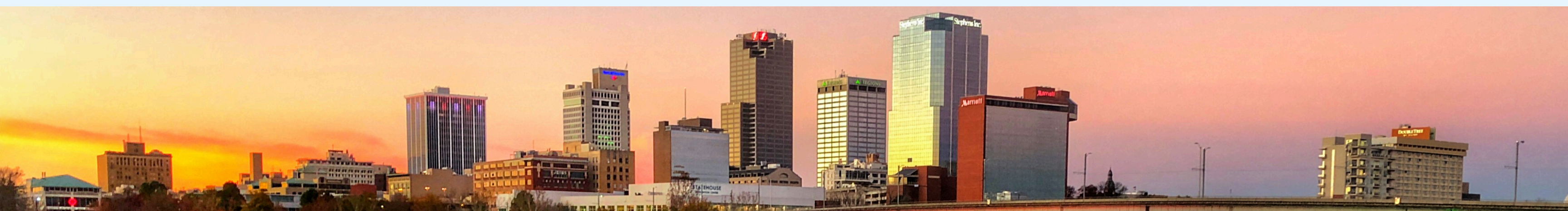
DATA CENTERS IN ARKANSAS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Arkansas policymakers and pundits. According to a [recent report](#) by the Arkansas Advocate, “Since an overhaul of energy permitting laws credited with luring more data centers was enacted last year, companies have announced plans for five such projects statewide. Two of them are already under construction.” There are currently planned data center projects in Clarksville, Conway, Little Rock, and West Memphis.

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * In May, members of the Pulaski County Quorum Court approved a yearlong temporary moratorium on new data center infrastructure. Pulaski County Justice of the Peace Julie Blackwood stated her concerns about water pollution caused by data centers, [claiming](#), “When you’re dealing with big business, when you’re dealing with corporate power, when you’re dealing with huge billion-dollar companies, things happen, and they happen all the time, and they seem to happen not in the benefit of the public.”
- * In June, the Little Rock Board of Directors unanimously approved [changes to the city’s industrial zoning ordinances](#). The new regulations stipulate, “All cooling systems shall be either fully air-cooled or high-efficiency liquid cooled systems, or equivalent technologies designed to minimize water consumption and wastewater discharge.” Major or hyperscale data center applications must now include a “Water Utilization Report” and a “Will Serve Letter from the applicable public utility informing whether there is available capacity to serve the proposed load.”
- * In response to proposed data center projects—most notably led by the Austin, Texas-based company Clean Cloud Energy—Grant County policymakers have been mulling conditions to place on operations. Justice of the Peace Mike Nevens stated, “We don’t want to see it, hear it or smell it. We don’t want it to ruin our water table, we don’t want it to raise electric rates for our citizens, and we don’t want it to ruin our internet.” It remains to be seen whether the County will ultimately allow these projects and on which terms.



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

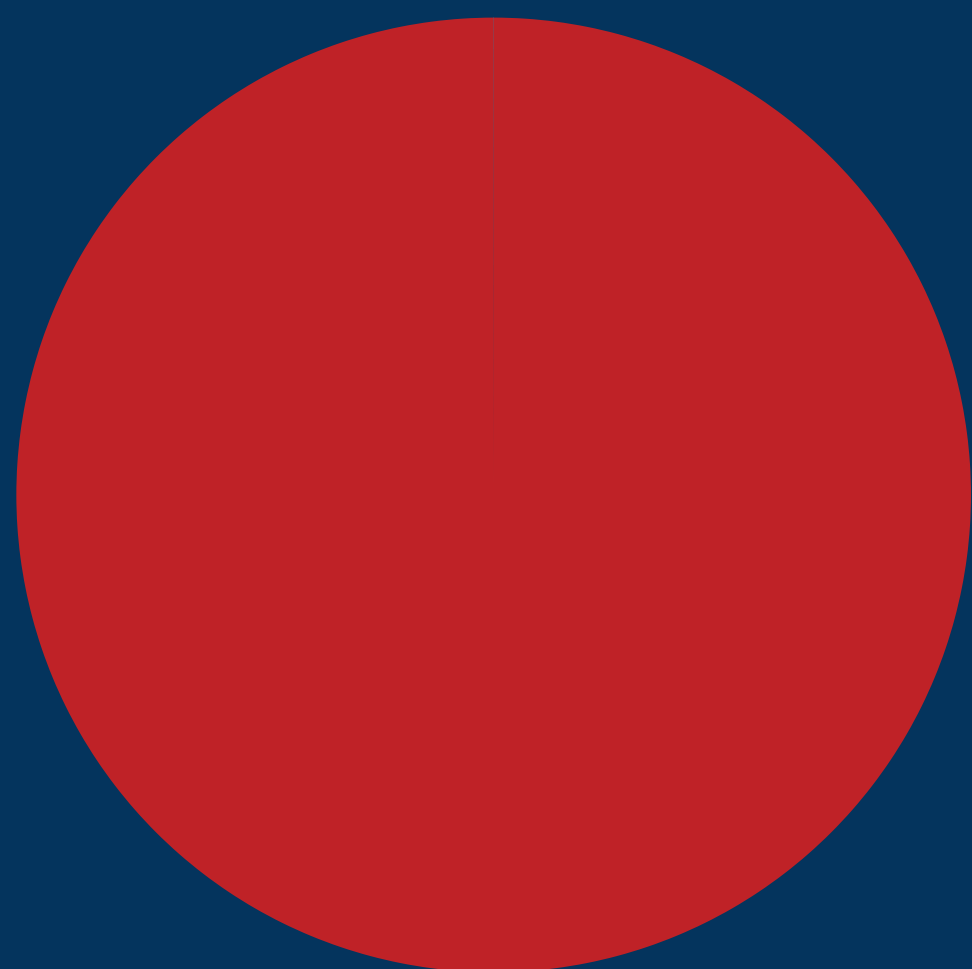
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. Local policymakers such as Pulaski County Justice of the Peace Blackwood have [raised concerns](#) that data centers will undermine natural resources. This is simply not supported by the evidence.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



ARKANSAS WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

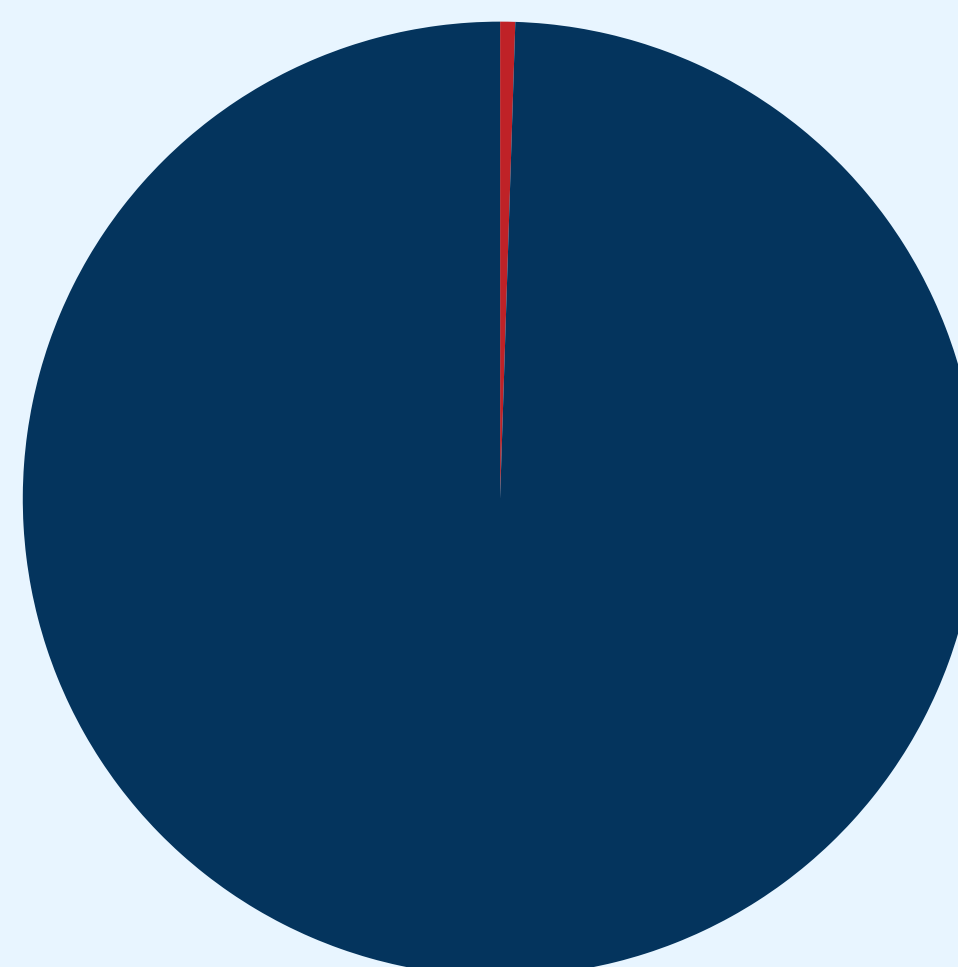
REALITY:

In Arkansas, data centers accounted for **0.01 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.

ARKANSAS ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Arkansas, data centers accounted for **0.5 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

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

To learn more about the long-term projected water and electricity demands of data centers, visit the Q&A section at protectingtaxpayers.org/datacenters

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