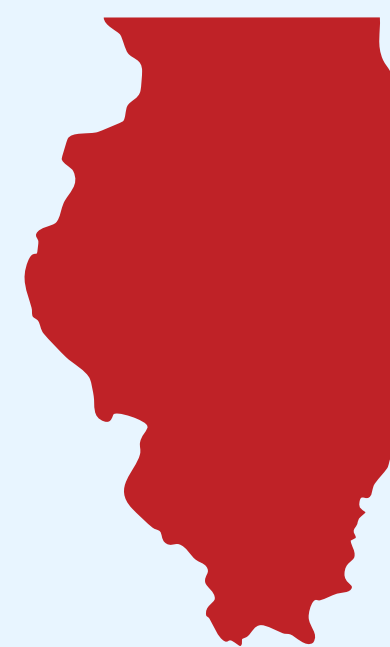


# DATA CENTERS IN ILLINOIS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS  
PROTECTION  
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Illinois policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. As a May report from Capitol News Illinois [notes](#), “A memo from the director of community development in Joliet projected the Joliet Technology Center, a planned 795-acre data center project that was approved in March, would generate approximately \$310 million in property taxes over 30 years, plus \$40 million in utility taxes ... DeKalb Mayor Cohen Barnes said the Meta data center that has been operational since 2023 has contributed significantly to the city with community investments and around \$250,000-300,000 in utility taxes.”

## PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- \* In September 2025, the City of Aurora [enacted](#) a 180-day temporary moratorium on new data center and warehouse development. This was replaced in March by a slew of onerous regulations on data centers, including water and energy plan disclosures, renewable requirements (25 percent of peak load) and on-site battery storage (50 percent of peak load for 15 minutes). City officials [claimed](#)—without evidence—that data center “facilities have unique neighborhood and environmental impacts—including noise, emissions, high energy and water use, storm water management challenges, utility demand, infrastructure strain, and long-term fiscal considerations.”
- \* In May, Logan County officials [approved](#) a one-year moratorium on data center projects. This ban on new data centers effectively halted AI infrastructure company Hut 8 Corp.’s [plans](#) to construct a \$5 billion, 500-megawatt facility in the locality. According to Hut 8, the project would create about 200 permanent jobs, support more than 1,500 temporary construction jobs, and bolster property tax revenue by \$65 million annually. Additionally, the project would have guaranteed revenue payments to local schools and governments.
- \* State lawmakers considered [HB5513](#)—the POWER Act—which would have implemented an array of state requirements on “hyperscale data centers,” [defined](#) as having annual peak energy demand of more than 50,000 kilowatts. The bill [would mandate](#) cumulative impact assessments, water resource planning, quarterly water usage reporting, water scarcity plans, stringent energy codes, and would establish a Data Center Community Intervenor Compensation Fund and Hyperscale Data Center Public Benefits and Affordability Fund funded by annual fees based on peak demand. However, Rep. Carol Ammons (D-Urbana), the chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee and a bill sponsor, [stated](#) that more time is needed for lawmakers to consider the bill.

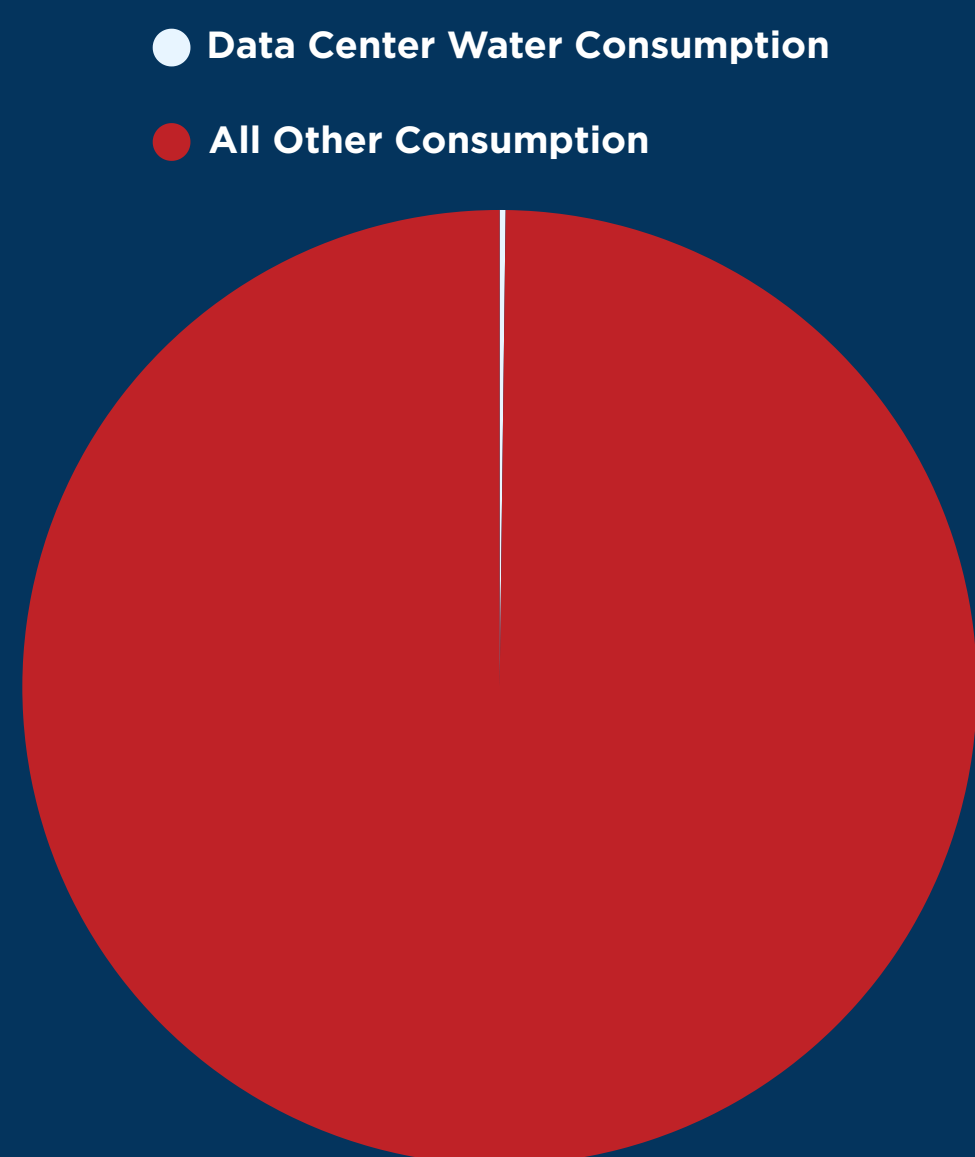
## DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, the Illinois Environmental Council [claims](#), “Skyrocketing energy prices are almost entirely driven by unprecedented demand from energy-intensive data center development. ... A large data center can use millions of gallons of water per day, enough to strain local supplies and undermine long-term water planning and management.” However, the evidence does not support the idea that data centers are burdening Illinois residents’ water or electricity.

# DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



## ILLINOIS WATER USAGE, 2025



### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

### REALITY:

In Illinois, data centers accounted for **0.2 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.

## ILLINOIS ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

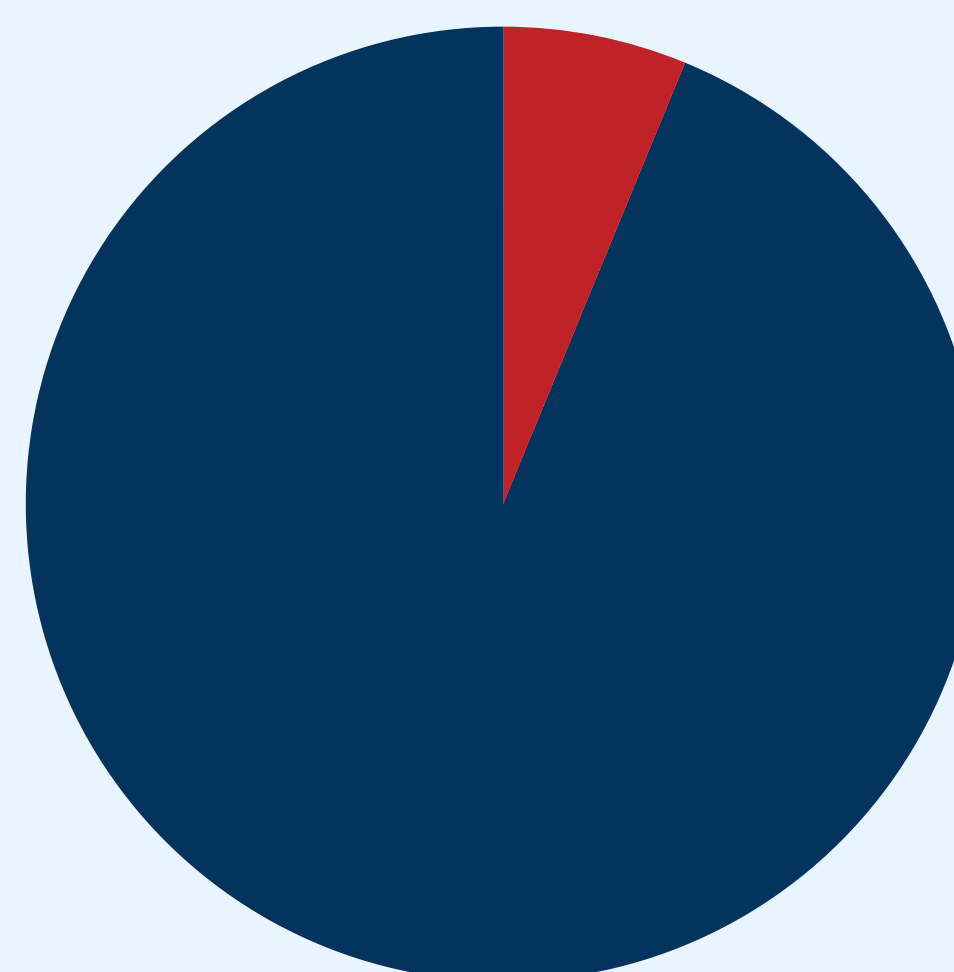
### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

### REALITY:

In Illinois, data centers accounted for **6.5 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.

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

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