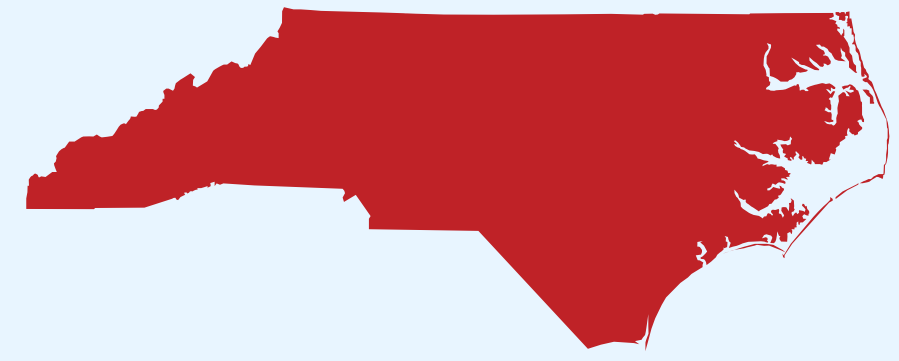


DATA CENTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from North Carolina policymakers, pundits, and businesses. According to the trade association Associated Builders and Contractors of the Carolinas, “North Carolina has positioned itself as one of the nation’s premier destinations for data center development, with multi-billion-dollar investments from Apple, Microsoft, Meta, Google, Amazon, and other technology giants reshaping the state’s construction market. ... This surge in digital infrastructure is creating unprecedented opportunities ... for contractors, builders, trade workers, and project planners across the region.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

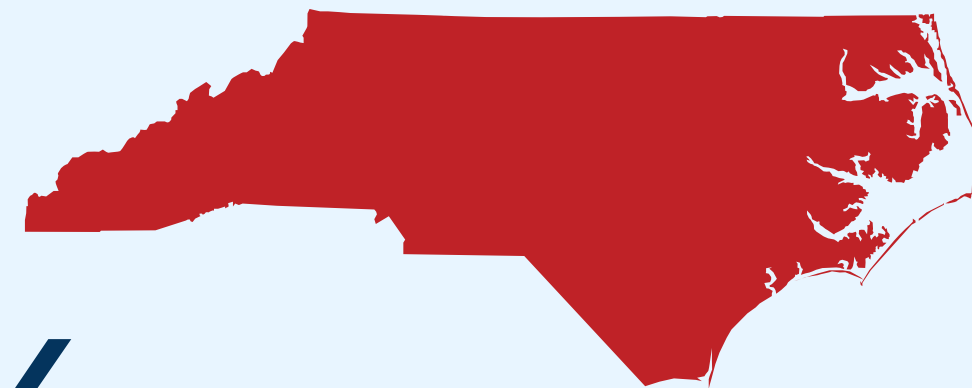
- * Charlotte City Council recently approved a 150-day moratorium on the development of new data centers, ostensibly to give lawmakers more time to study the issue. At-large Council member Dimple Ajmera (D) claimed, “This is not a partisan issue when it comes to protecting our neighborhoods across the city. ... This is the issue about quality of life. This is about clean air, clean water.”
- * Apex, Canton, Chatham County and Gates County recently enacted one-year moratoriums, while Durham passed a 60-day ban on data center development in May. Durham had originally considered a two-year moratorium, which would have been among the longest passed in the entire country to date. Moreover, the Stop Data Centers in Durham Coalition advocated for a 32-month moratorium. However, any moratorium exceeding 60 days would have required joint city/county planning commission coordination and would likely conflict with county efforts.
- * The North Carolina House passed Senate Bill 730, the Ratepayer Protection Act, which mandates that data centers pay for any additional costs stemming from new energy infrastructure. Additionally, localities would be forced to examine data centers’ impacts on ground and surface water, air quality, noise, thermal plumes, agricultural resources, parks, historic sites, and forestland.



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

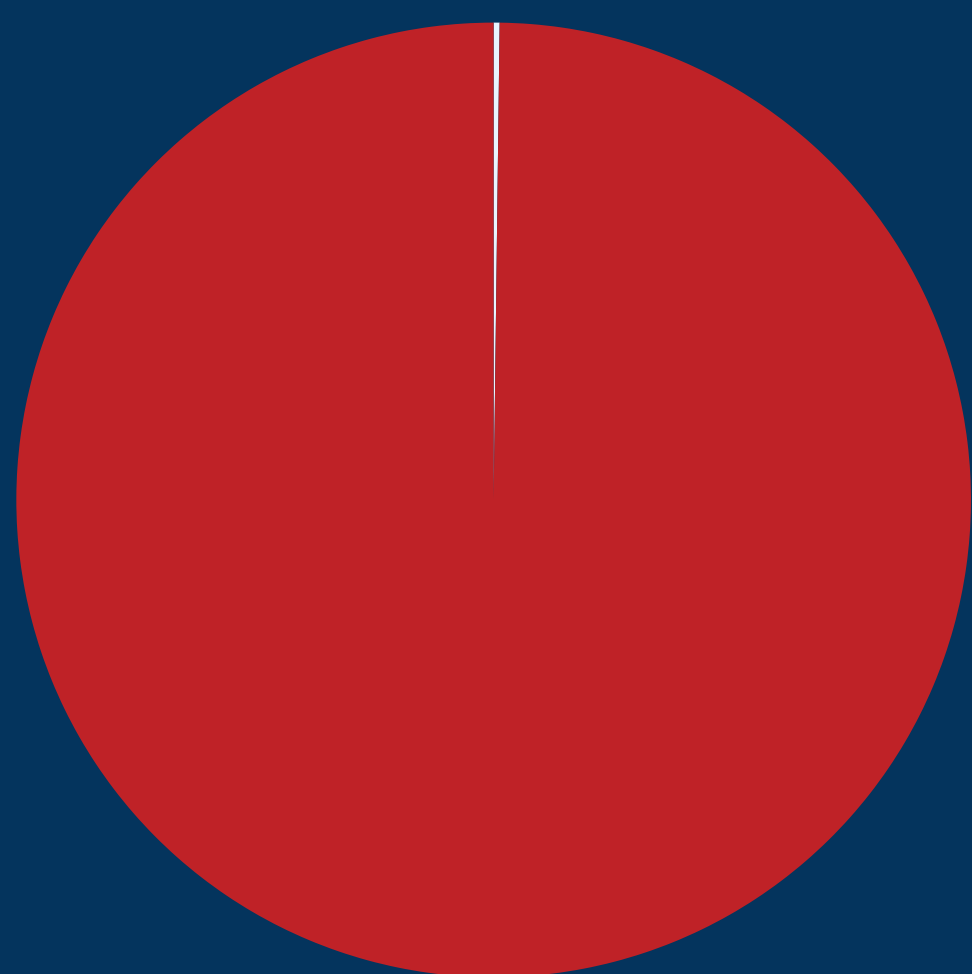
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, State Rep. Lindsey Prather (D-Buncombe) has claimed that “the rapid growth of large-scale data centers imposes unusually large and concentrated demands on electric generation, transmission, distribution, and water infrastructure.” This is simply not supported by the evidence.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



NC WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

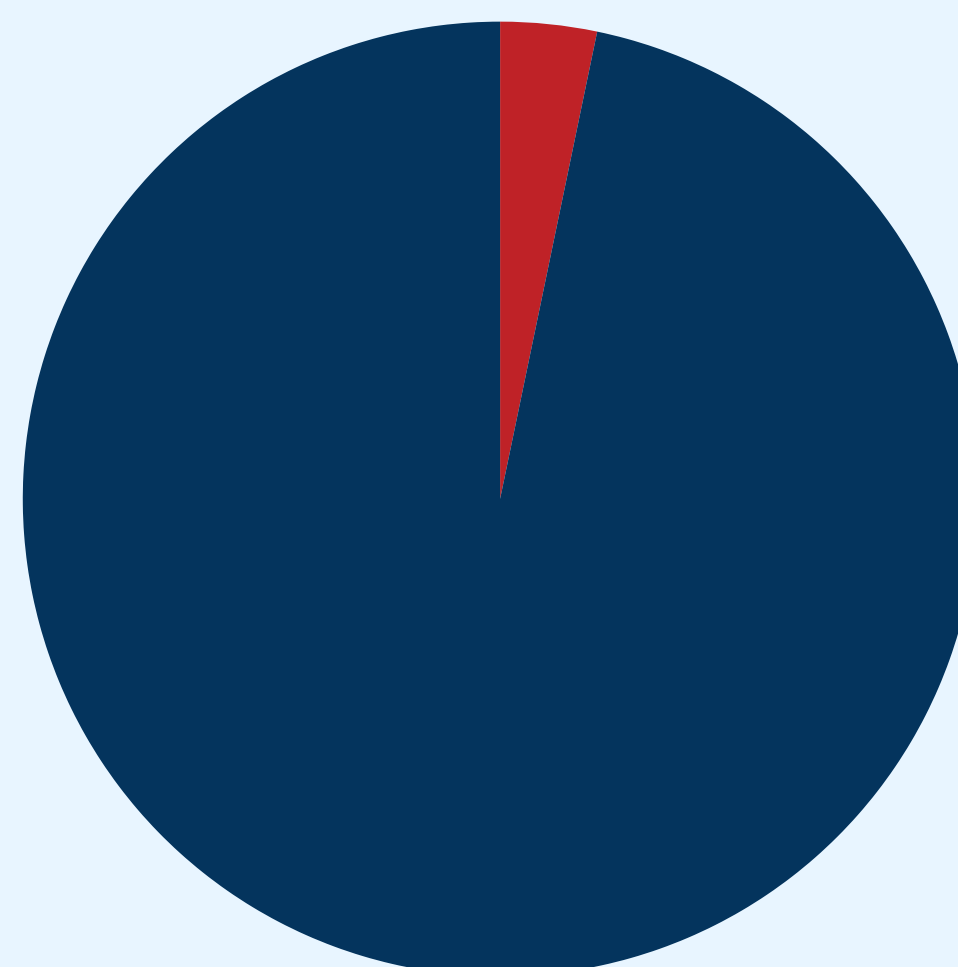
REALITY:

In North Carolina, 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.

NC ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In North Carolina, data centers accounted for **3.3 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

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

TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE