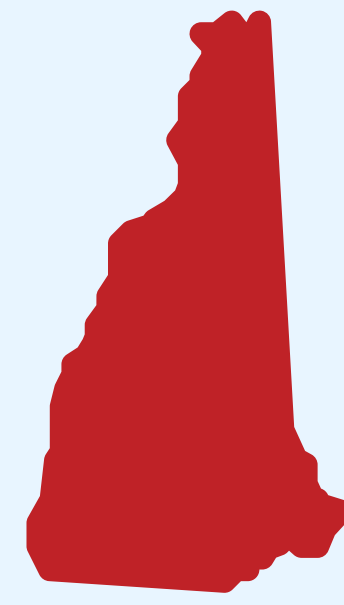


DATA CENTERS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from New Hampshire policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. As strategic energy advisory firm GRID, LLC noted in a [June report](#), “New Hampshire has several advantages [for data center deployment] that should not be dismissed. It has no sales tax. It has a sophisticated workforce. It has proximity to Boston, defense, biotech, advanced manufacturing, higher education, and the broader New England innovation economy. It also has comparatively lower water stress than many Sun Belt markets now attracting data center load.” Moreover, “New Hampshire has also moved to make behind-the-meter and off-grid power models more workable. That is directly relevant to data centers, because the next generation of compute development is not just about real estate. It is about firm power, speed to service, regulatory certainty, and public acceptance.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

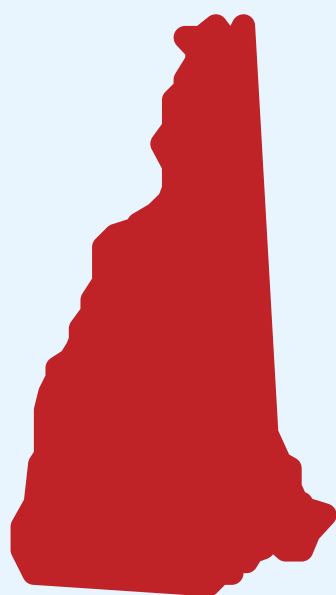
- * Gov. Kelly Ayotte (R) [supports](#) a statewide moratorium on data centers. In August 20th remarks to the Rotary Club of Portsmouth, she stated, “It does not make sense at all to site a data center in New Hampshire. We don’t have the energy for it. It is not the appropriate location. I would support a moratorium on them because right now they do not make sense at all in terms of energy, environment or location.”
- * Introduced in March by state Rep. Peter Schmidt (D), [House Bill 1265](#) would have temporarily prohibited the construction of data centers for one year and established a committee to study the environmental impact of data center projects. While it was quickly voted down on the consent calendar, Gov. Ayotte’s newly voiced support for a statewide moratorium may increase the prospects of future passage of similar legislation.
- * In July, a local National Public Radio affiliate [reported](#), “The Nottingham planning board voted to advance a measure that will prevent data centers from being built in town, at least temporarily. ... the board voted unanimously in favor of a 12-month moratorium on constructing these facilities within town limits.” The ban is ostensibly being put in place to “protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Nottingham and the surrounding communities, along with the regional watershed” while “[allowing] the town adequate time to study the potential land use, environmental infrastructure and fiscal impacts associated with data centers.”



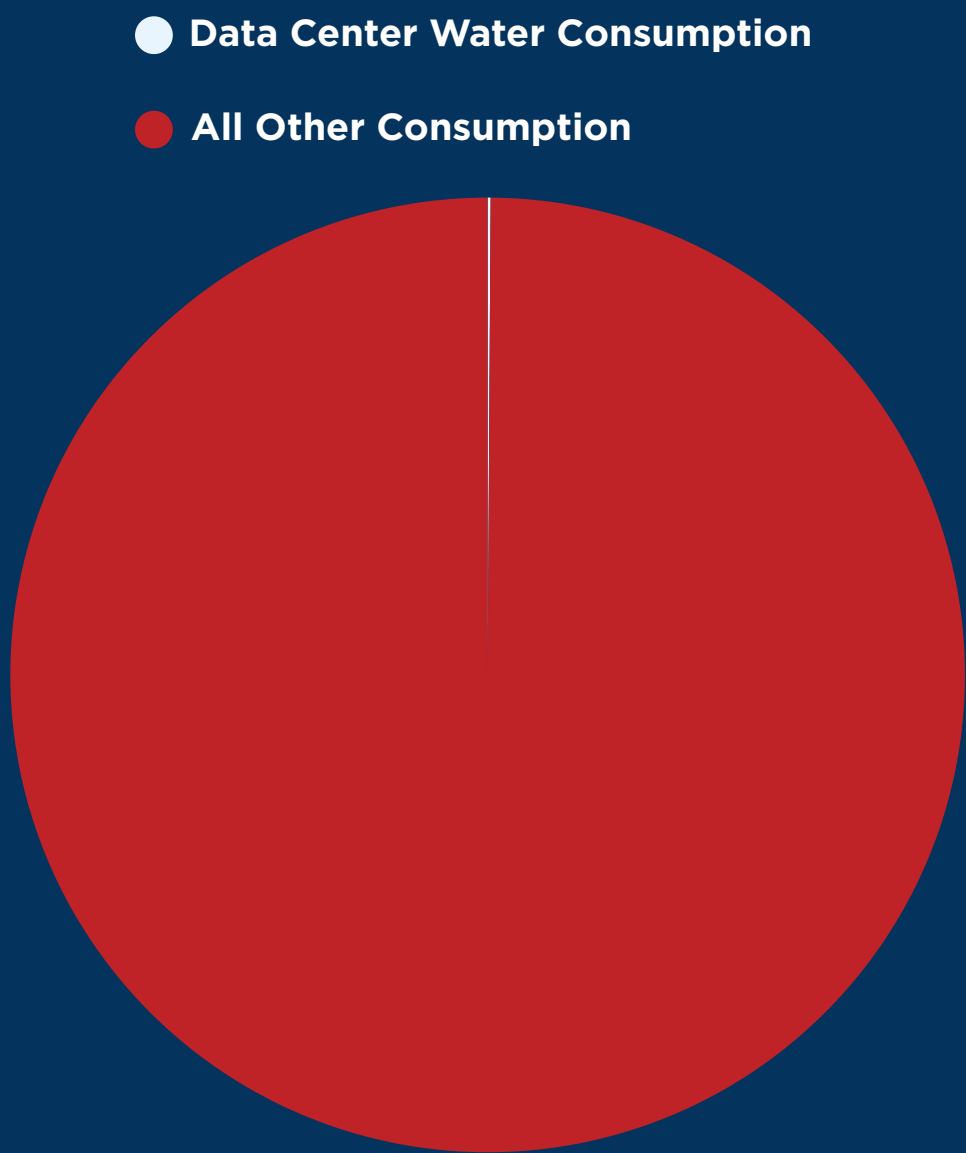
DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. Gov. Ayotte [claims](#), “We cannot have a data center here in New Hampshire ... without jacking up energy prices on people.” The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in New Hampshire.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



NH WATER USAGE, 2025



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In New Hampshire, 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.

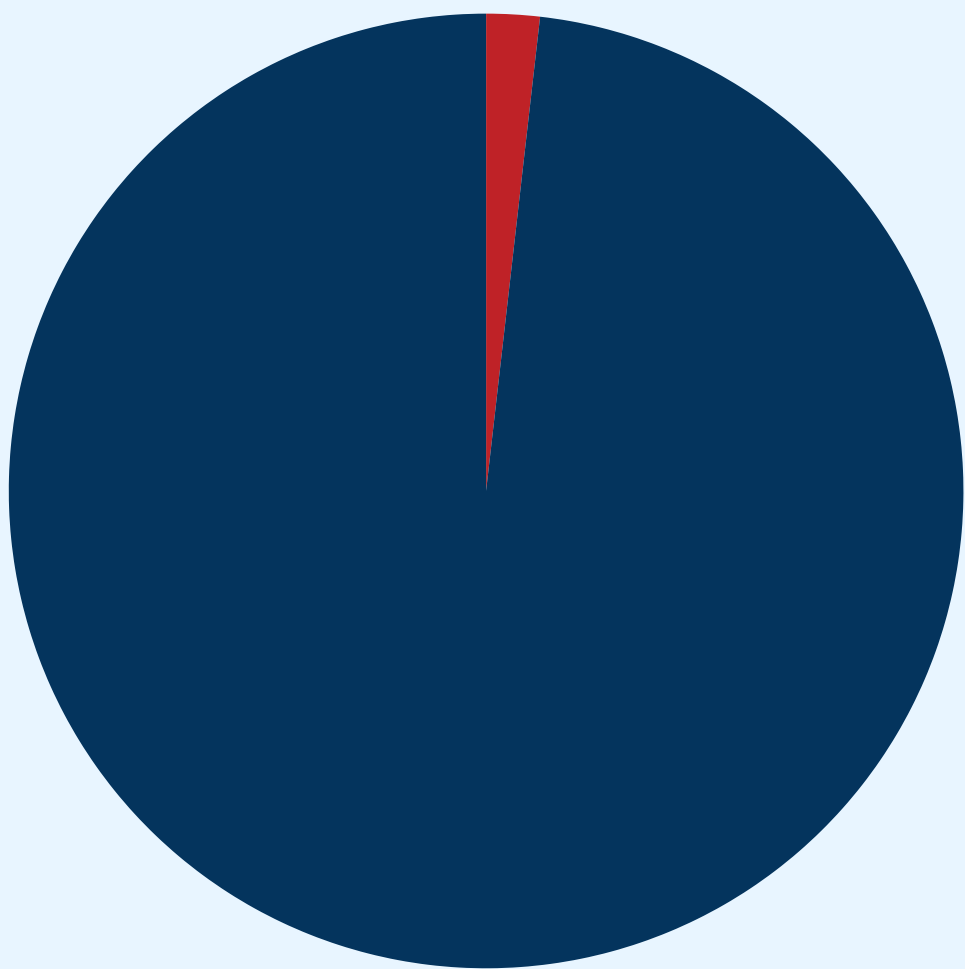
NH ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In New Hampshire, data centers accounted for **1.8 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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