DATA CENTERS IN DELAWARE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS PROTECTION ALLIANCE



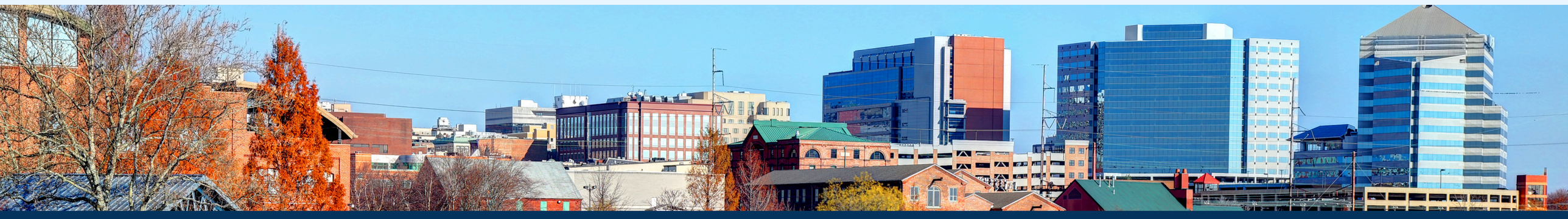
Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Delaware policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. For example, "Project Washington," a six-million-square-foot next-generation data center campus planned for New Castle County in Delaware, is set to generate significant employment opportunities during both construction and full-time operations if allowed to move forward. The project is slated to generate $10 billion in economic activity during its 8-to-10-year construction and will lead to $75 million in added tax revenue per year. Average salaries for permanent positions are projected to exceed $100,000 per year. While the state has moved to block the project in its current form, "the company is continuing to work with regulators, labor and the community toward a path forward."

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- Statewide Restrictions: In August 2026, Delaware Governor Matt Meyer (D) signed House Bill 445 into law, which requires that "large energy use facilities" produce or procure renewable energy to power their operations. During the bill-signing event, the Governor stated, "Delaware is open to innovation, investment and economic growth, but growth must be responsible. It cannot come at the expense of those who live here."

- Dover Moratorium: In October 2026, the Dover City Council voted to approve an 18-month moratorium on all applications for data centers that "use or [are] able to use a monthly maximum demand of 30 megawatts or greater." The pause was ostensibly enacted to allow city leaders time to study potential impacts on municipal infrastructure, power grid demand, environmental impacts, and resident quality of life before allowing any development permits to move forward.

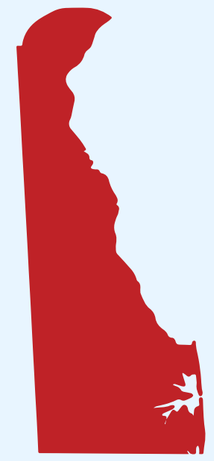
- Kent County Restrictions: In July 2026, Kent County adopted new restrictions limiting data center operations. According to a local CBS affiliate, the ordinance "limits data centers to certain industrially zoned properties in unincorporated Kent County and requires setbacks from homes, noise limits, vegetative buffers and documentation showing adequate water and electric service before a project can move forward."



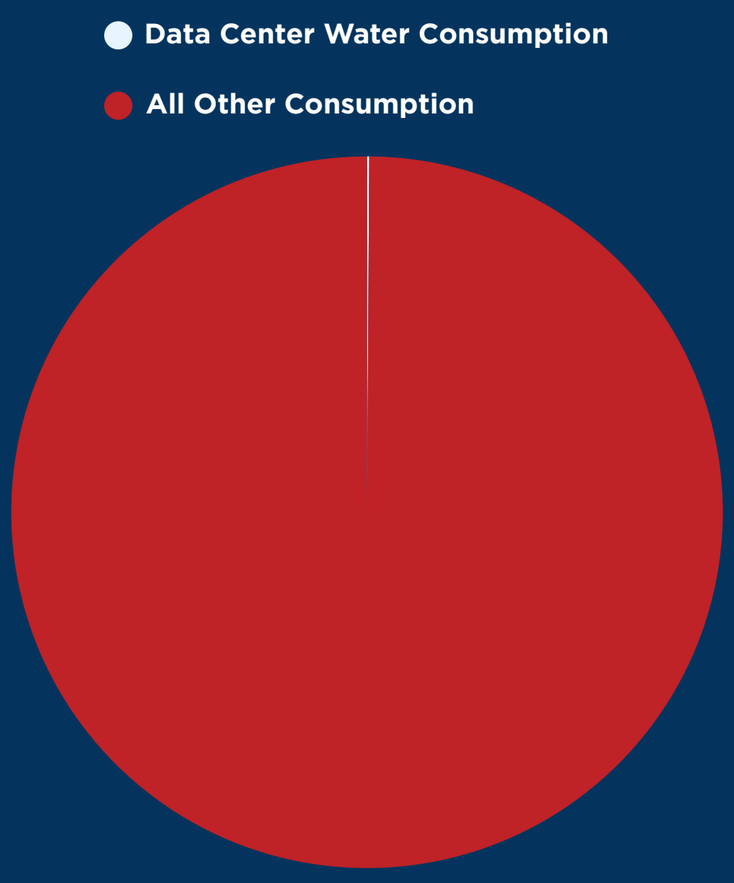
DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.) stated, "If a new data center is going to raise people's electric rates, use up our water, and pollute, we don't want it in Delaware." However, this is simply not supported by the evidence.

DATA CENTER
MYTH V. REALITY



DELAWARE WATER USAGE, 2025



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Delaware, 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.

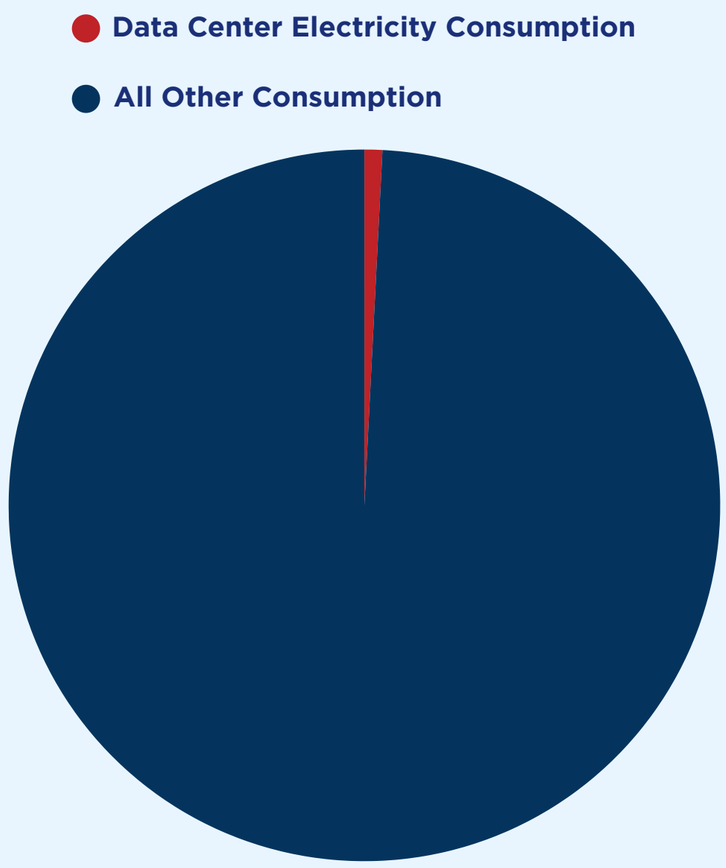
DELAWARE ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Delaware, data centers accounted for **0.8 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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