Your Guide to Data Centers

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As demand for digital services grows, data centers remain central to supporting everything we all do online every day. Naturally, communities have questions about these facilities and what to expect when a data center is being developed.

Here are some answers to common data center questions:

What are data centers, and why are they important?

Data centers are specialized facilities containing computers and networking equipment that store, process and distribute the data used by the websites, apps and online resources we all use to stay connected every day.

Without data centers, none of us could send an email, stream a show, tap a credit card at checkout, back up or share photos and documents, or even use online banking, telehealth or emergency services. Data centers are the critical infrastructure powering everything digital.

Water, Power and Other Top Priorities

How much water do data centers use?

Stream's facilities use closed-loop cooling systems, which are filled once and then continuously recycle the same water. This means **we can effectively eliminate routine daily water consumption for our IT.** This also ensures our water usage is minimal — similar to that of a small office building, with most water consumed for domestic purposes like sinks and toilets.

How do data centers affect utility power and costs?

Stream works closely with utility providers to ensure new power requirements can be met safely and reliably, posing no interference with existing residential service delivery. As always, local utility companies prioritize reliable services for ratepayers, and Stream is dedicated to assisting that mission.

Stream also pays for 100% of any new utility resources required for our projects, which helps protect communities from power costs associated with our facilities. Stream has signed the White House's Ratepayer Protection Pledge, and we remain committed to ensuring our data centers do not influence communities' power bills.

Are data centers noisy?

Stream designs its facilities to meet and even exceed strict local noise ordinances. Noise management is an integral part of facility design and operational planning, and **we conduct comprehensive ambient noise studies both before the facility begins operation and after it is fully operational to ensure change is minimal and compliant.** Equipment and cooling systems are integrated into the building design and often shielded to minimize sound, ensuring the facility meets all regulatory requirements and is a good neighbor to the community.

Do data centers create pollution?

Our data centers adhere to strict environmental regulations. Stream's facilities follow sustainable building practices that minimize environmental and social impact, featuring energy-efficient design, responsible water use and low-emission construction materials. **By design, our data center emissions profiles remain minimal even with on-site backup power.** This is due to the limited operational time of the backup systems, which are only used for maintenance and readiness testing or in emergency scenarios.

Data Centers and Their Communities

How do data centers benefit the local economy?

Some of the fastest growing communities in the U.S. welcome data center development because of its positive economic impact and return on taxpayer investment. Stream is committed to being a long-term local partner to communities and their economies, creating jobs, prioritizing local hiring, creating skills development opportunities to increase access to positions within our data centers, supporting businesses and contributing significant tax revenue.

- **During construction, we hire hundreds to thousands of construction workers across a wide range of skilled trades.** This influx of activity not only generates jobs but also stimulates local businesses, increasing demand for construction materials, equipment rentals and other essential services.
- **Once operational, our data centers directly employ hundreds of technical and non-technical roles, offering competitive six-figure salaries across a diverse range of skills.** We prioritize local hiring, and to support local pathways to employment, we offer on-the-job, paid opportunities for skills development and work with local institutions to create educational programs that help communities take advantage of these positions.
- Overall, data centers offer significant tax revenue — **delivering millions or even billions of dollars that can support local community institutions and programs** — while creating little impact on infrastructure compared to other more high-intensity manufacturing or industrial uses.

Economic Impact

The U.S. data center industry total* annual economic ontributions between 2017 and 2023

2.9 to 4.7 million annual jobs
Each direct job in the data center industry supports **more than 6 jobs** elsewhere in the U.S. economy. The total job contribution grew by **60 percent between 2017 and 2023.**

$209 to $404 billion annual labor income
Total national labor income contribution grew by **93 percent between 2017 and 2023**. Labor income earned directly from the **data center industry grew by 144 percent** over the same period.

$355 to $727 billion in annual GDP contribution
Total contribution to **GDP grew by 105 percent between 2017 and 2023**. The growth rate in GDP for the U.S. economy was only **about 41 percent** over the same period.

*Total contribution includes direct, indirect and induced contributions. Direct contributions are those occurring directly within the data center industry. Indirect contributions are those occurring within other businesses as part of the supply chain to the data center industry. Induced contributions are those arising from household spending of income earned from the data center industry or its supply chain. Sourced from Data Center Coalition and its 2025 Economic Contributions of Data Centers in the United States, as prepared by PwC.

Do data centers contribute to traffic?

During construction phases, all activities occur only during daytime hours and follow all best practices for site management to limit noise while ensuring efficient and safe work environments.

In the operational phase, employee shifts are staggered to ensure traffic remains minimal. **Traffic and associated vehicle emissions from data center projects are often minimal compared to other types of development, such as manufacturing.**

Do data centers change the look or feel of an area?

Stream's facilities must meet or exceed the criteria of state environmental standards, including specific requirements for noise, visual impacts, architectural design and light pollution. We also complete viewshed analyses, which help us understand and minimize visual impacts of our developments within local landscapes, and ensures our facilities blend in appropriately.

Our data centers feature clean, modern architecture with minimal signage and landscaping that complements the area. **Because our facilities don't attract public traffic or retail activity, they are quiet and unobtrusive additions to the community.**

Are data centers safe?

Our data centers are built to operate extremely safely for our on-site teams, environmental surroundings and local communities. **We establish multiple security perimeters and comply with rigorous physical and cybersecurity safety standards.** We also mitigate heat through advanced cooling systems, ensuring there is very little to no risk of operations-borne emergency scenarios.

The physical safety of those around and within our facilities is as mission-critical to Stream as the safety of the systems and information within our facilities.

Are you going to build and then leave?

No. Our facilities are built to operate safely and efficiently for decades. Because Stream often operates its facilities in addition to developing them, that means we remain a long-term partner in these communities. Our investments in local programs and institutions are created to benefit communities in the long term, and we are dedicated to continuing to understand what matters to communities, show up thoughtfully and contribute meaningfully even as local goals grow and change.

© 2026 Stream Data Centers, L.P.

STREAM DATA CENTERS