

Data Centers in Ohio: Fact vs. Fiction

Addressing the stigmas and misinformation about data centers and its impact on Ohio communities

WATER

<0.1%

of U.S. freshwater withdrawals go to all data centers combined — about 5% goes to industrial users.

Source: USGS Circular 1441

ENERGY

85%

of contracted capacity that 25 MW+ data centers pay for, for 12 years, used or not.

Source: PUCO order, July 2025

LOCAL REVENUE

\$10.3M

collected by the New Albany Community Authority in 2024 — no abatement applies.

Source: New Albany Community Authority, 2024

WATER

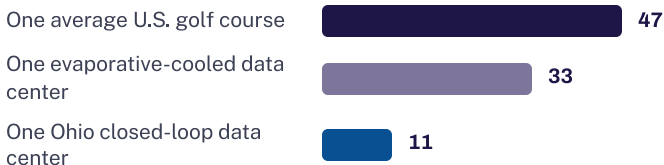
Closed-loop cooling changes the water math

THE CLAIM

"Data centers consume millions of gallons of water a day."

Ohio's new facilities are closed-loop. The cooling water is sealed and recirculated, so after a one-time fill there is effectively no cooling draw — what remains is restrooms and kitchens.

ANNUAL WATER USE, ONE FACILITY, MILLION GALLONS



A 400,000 SF closed-loop facility in New Albany takes about 1.0 million gallons to fill, then 30,000 gallons a day for domestic use — under a quarter of one golf course.

Sources: Microsoft Cloud Blog 2024; USGA 2012 national survey; New Albany closed-loop design filings

0

gallons used for cooling in a closed-loop design after the one-time fill — the approach behind every new hyperscale design since August 2024.

Source: Microsoft, December 2024

3%

of the year the AWS Marysville campus uses water cooling at all. The city caps volume and charges large-user fees.

Source: City of Marysville, 2025

34x

more water is contracted by one EV assembly plant — about 370 million gallons a year — than a closed-loop data center draws.

Source: Bloomberg, 2022 (Tesla Berlin contract)

ENERGY

Ratepayer protections are in place

THE CLAIM

"Data centers are driving up electricity bills and putting the cost of new generation onto ratepayers."

12 yr

minimum-charge term under the AEP Ohio tariff

3 yr

of minimum charges owed as an exit penalty

2 GW+

behind-the-meter power approved, off the shared grid

DATA CENTERS AS A SHARE OF OHIO ELECTRICITY DEMAND



Demand roughly doubles — bills do not follow automatically.

Ohio's tariff keeps stranded-cost risk off residential bills, and every major hyperscaler has signed the federal Ratepayer Protection Pledge.

Source: PUCO 2025; OPSB 2025-26; White House 2026

LOCAL REVENUE

Abated does not mean untaxed

THE CLAIM "Data centers get 100% abatements, pay nothing, and shift the burden onto residents and school districts."

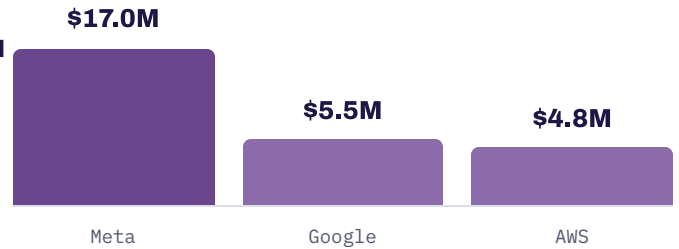
2024 SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUE FROM DATA CENTER LAND ALONE — UNABATABLE UNDER OHIO LAW



Johnstown-Monroe's share equals **9.2% of the district's operating budget** — collected while most facilities in the cluster were still inside an active abatement, and with no new students generated.

Source: New Albany Company, March 2026

ANNUAL REAL ESTATE TAXES AT FULL BUILDOUT, LICKING COUNTY



Per facility, once abatements expire — revenue levels unattainable from farm or industrial use of the same parcels.

APPRAISED VALUE PER SQUARE FOOT



Data center buildings are appraised 2-4x typical industrial buildings, so the post-abatement base is multiples larger.

7th

largest corporate property taxpayer in Union County in 2025 — AWS, at \$485,352, ahead of Nestlé and Kroger, with an abatement in place.

Source: Union County, 2025

~75%

is the effective abatement in Union County once payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) are counted, even where the paper abatement reads 100%.

Source: New Albany Company, 2026

JOBS AND INVESTMENT

A layered job mix, not a one-time build

37,200

Ohio jobs projected by 2030, including 4,500 long-term operations roles

\$4.7B

added to Ohio GDP by 2030

3,500

construction jobs a year in New Albany over the past decade, expected to continue 10-15 years

\$39.9B

invested in Ohio by AWS since 2015, past the \$23B it committed for the decade

Sources: U.Va. Weldon Cooper Center, 2026; Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services, 2025; New Albany Company, 2026. Construction wages average ~\$58/hour; operations salaries ~\$85,000/year.

THREE MORE CLAIMS, BRIEFLY

Noise

The claim: loud industrial sites disturbing neighborhoods at all hours.

The cited 60-90 decibel range is measured at the equipment, not at a property line, and spans household conversation to a lawnmower. Marysville's South PUD requires 200-foot building setbacks and a 12-foot landscaped mound.

Sales tax exemption

The claim: an unjustified \$1.6B-a-year giveaway Ohio no longer needs to provide.

Of 36 states with the exemption, Ohio's is discretionary, not automatic, and can be granted in part or not at all. Repeal moves projects to the 30+ states where the exemption is automatic — and takes the property tax, PILOT and payroll revenue with them.

School districts

The claim: abatements starve districts while growth adds students.

Data centers add few students. Ohio law requires district consent above 75% abatement, which districts use to negotiate PILOTs — the AWS Marysville agreement sends about 80% of a \$1.0M annual PILOT to the district.



SCAN FOR THE FULL WHITE PAPER

Every figure here is sourced in *Data Centers in Ohio: Fact vs. Fiction* (Ohio Business Roundtable, June 2026).

FUTURE
READY OHIO