

# Data Center FAQ

Data centers have been the subject of growing conversation in San Angelo, and thoughtful public discussion is an important part of any major community opportunity.

Questions about water usage, noise, energy demand, infrastructure, and long-term impact are reasonable and deserve clear, factual answers. Every project is different, and it is important for our community to evaluate opportunities with accurate information, respectful dialogue, and a shared focus on San Angelo's future.

The following FAQ addresses some of the most common questions being asked about data centers and their potential role in supporting economic growth, strengthening the local tax base, and positioning San Angelo for continued investment.

## What is a Data Center?

A data center is simply a building full of computers that store and deliver the information we use every day, think: Netflix, Instagram, YouTube, Xbox, Apple Music, PayPal, Slack, Wayfair, and hundreds of other services.

## Why is San Angelo a Strong Fit?

San Angelo offers available land, reliable power infrastructure, low natural disaster risk, and a pro-business environment, key factors for long-term investment.

## How do Data Centers Benefit the Local Economy?

They bring significant private investment, **expand the tax base**, and generate long-term, stable revenue for the community.

## Will a Data Center Create Jobs?

**Yes.** Each building typically creates **12-15 high-quality permanent jobs** that pay between **\$60,000 to \$100,000**, along with hundreds of construction jobs and ongoing opportunities for local service providers.

## Do Data Centers Support Local Businesses?

**Yes.** They contract with local vendors for construction, maintenance, security, landscaping, electrical work, and professional services, creating a ripple effect throughout the local economy.

## Are there any Health Risks?

**No.** Data centers produce no harmful emissions and are not associated with health risks.

## How Much Water Does a Data Center Use?

**Very little.** Modern data centers are built for efficiency and typically operate on closed-loop cooling systems. To initially charge the system, it takes approximately 15,000 to 20,000 gallons of water, which is then reused within the system. On an ongoing basis, a full campus (6–8 buildings, approximately 250,000 square feet per building) averages about 15,000 gallons per day, roughly equivalent to the daily use of about seven homes, depending on landscaping requirements and the specific cooling technology in place.

## Are Data Centers Safe?

**Yes.** These are among the most secure and tightly controlled facilities in operation today. They follow strict protocols for safety, security, and environmental compliance, with very low day-to-day impact on surrounding areas.

## How do Data Centers Strengthen San Angelo's Future?

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## What does this Mean for Long-Term Growth?

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## Do Data Centers Strain Local Infrastructure?

**No.** In fact, the opposite is often true. Data centers invest heavily in infrastructure, power, fiber connectivity, and site improvements, which can create long-term benefits for the broader community and support future growth.

## Do Data Centers Cause Cancer?

**No.** There is no scientific evidence linking data center operations to cancer. These facilities do not emit harmful pollutants and operate under strict safety and environmental standards. Simply put, they are clean, controlled environments designed to safely store and process digital information.

## How do they Impact Property Taxes?

San Angelo's current tax mix is approximately **62% residential** and **38% commercial**, meaning homeowners carry the largest share of the tax burden. By increasing total commercial taxable value, data centers help rebalance that equation, easing pressure on residents while still funding essential services like police, fire, and infrastructure.

## Do Data Centers Create Noise from the Computer Racks?

**No.** Inside the building, server racks produce a steady hum from cooling fans. But that noise is fully contained. Modern data centers are designed with sound insulation, so outside the facility, noise levels are typically at or below normal conversation levels and not noticeable to the surrounding property.

## Will a Data Center Strain the Power Grid?

**No.** With the passage of SB 6 by the Texas Legislature, high-energy users like data centers are required to fund any necessary infrastructure build-out for their operations. That means existing residents and businesses are protected, and grid reliability is strengthened, not weakened.

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