

POWER PERSPECTIVE

How data centers compare to the industries we welcome.



Data centers get a bad rap, but are good neighbors.

Data centers are often framed as uniquely disruptive. A direct comparison shows they're not — and that the real challenge is building enough power, not choosing who gets to use it.

When compared side by side with other major industries, data centers emerge as one of the most grid-friendly and environmentally light ways to attract long-term investment and tax base.



	STEEL MILL	MANUFACTURING	DATA CENTER
Power Use	100–200MW highly variable	150–300MW shift-based	60–100 MW steady draw
Water Use	3–10M GAL/DAY process cooling, recycled	5–15M GAL/DAY high-purity	1–5M GAL/DAY often closed-loop recycled
Land & Footprint	1,000+ ACRES	500+ ACRES	50–500 ACRES
Environmental Impact	HIGH IMPACT direct industrial emissions	MEDIUM IMPACT chemicals, streams, emissions	LOW IMPACT no on-site emissions
Tax Revenue	\$20–60M highly cyclical & incentivized	\$15–50M highly variable with incentives	\$30–100M stable over 10 years
Job Creation	100'S low-skilled labor	100'S – 1000'S low-skilled & high-skilled	30 – 100 high-skilled jobs
Grid Impact	STRAINS demand swings w/ economy	MIXED-IMPACT useful, but unpredictable load	STRENGTHENS steady demand, easy planning
Economic Risk	MEDIUM commodity-driven demand	HIGH tech-cycle dependent	LOW recession-resistant