

Data Centers and Water Usage

Data center water use has become a growing topic of concern in Nevada. Much of the discussion paints data centers as a threat to the state's water supply, with claims that the industry could consume vast amounts of Nevada's limited water resources. **But when the actual numbers of direct use are examined, the picture is considerably different.**

How Data Centers Cool with Water

Closed Loop Water Cooling



USES MINIMAL WATER

Water circulates through pipes and isn't exposed to air, which leads to less evaporation. Closed loop cooling reduces freshwater consumption by up to 70%.

Air Cooling



WATER FREE

It utilizes outdoor temperatures or air conditioning to remove heat from the data centers.

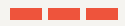
Direct Liquid Cooling



USES MINIMAL WATER

Servers in the data center are put direct into a cooling liquid (water or another coolant) to cool down the servers.

Evaporative Cooling



HIGHER WATER CONSUMPTION

This works like a swamp cooler. Hot air from the servers is pulled through pads or towers soaked with water. As the water evaporates, it pulls heat out of the air.

Water Usage Innovators

Nevada data centers are constantly finding ways to innovate and use less water.

No evaporative cooling

Evaporative cooling is banned in southern Nevada leading to more water efficiency by companies.

Air, fans & refrigeration

Las Vegas based Novva uses a combination of air, fans, and refrigeration.

100% recycled water

Switch uses 100% recycled water on its campuses.

Non-potable water pipeline

In 2021, a pipeline bringing non-potable water to the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center broke ground.

0.2%

Data centers nationwide are responsible for just .2% of total water consumption.

In Nevada, casinos on the strip and golf courses greatly surpass the water usage of a data center.

Water Usage By Industry

● = 25 million gallons ● Data centers ● Other users

Google Storey County 1.5 million

Bellagio Fountain 12 million

Flexential Data Center 20 million

Google Facility LV 352 million

Revere Golf Club 394 million

Angel Park Golf Club 452 million

Caesars Palace 494 million

Venetian 498 million

Mandalay Bay 530 million

Lake Las Vegas 936 million

NV Alfalfa Farms ...continues for 5,400 droplets 135 billion

Equal to 384 years of Google Facility LV's water use.

BEYOND NEVADA

EVERY

2
hours

California's almond industry uses a full year of Google Facility LV's water.

4.2 billion a day

EVERY

6
hours

U.S. golf courses use a full year of Google Facility LV's water.

1.4 billion a day

The Bottom Line

Data centers do use water, but their direct consumption is relatively small compared with other major water users in the state. As the industry adopts more innovative practices, companies can meet the growing technological demands without placing a significant burden on Nevada's water supply.

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