

Data Centers and Montana's Energy Future

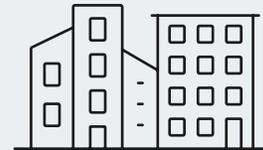


Montana should not be left behind as the data center industry rapidly expands across the country. NorthWestern Energy is ensuring Montana is positioned to capture the benefits—new jobs, increased tax revenue, and long-term investment. Forty years ago, industries like renewable energy, biotechnology, and e-commerce logistics were either in their infancy or virtually nonexistent. Today companies such as NextEra Energy Resources, Invenergy, and GlaxoSmithKline are established—employing Montanans, generating tax revenue, and supporting critical infrastructure and services across the state. Data centers are following a similar trajectory.

Emerging industries become foundational.

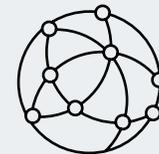
Our commitment is to ensure that new power generation assets and infrastructure developments are aligned with long-term Montana customer needs. We do not make investments for speculation—we invest for a future that includes data centers as reliable, long-term partners in Montana.

Opportunities for Montana



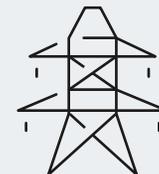
Economic Growth for Communities

Data centers bring new jobs, tax revenue, and long-term investment to towns and cities.



Modern Infrastructure

These facilities are essential for the digital economy, much like high-speed, high-quality, seamless internet access and the evolution of telecommunications were for previous generations.



Montana's Advantage

Montana offers reliable, affordable power—strengthened by NorthWestern Energy's expanded ownership of the Colstrip Power Plant and a clean energy portfolio anchored by hydroelectricity—making our state an ideal location for data center development.



Infrastructure & Investment that Benefit All

- Data centers require significant upfront investment and long-term planning, like improved roads, electric grids, and new schools.
- These facilities are essential infrastructure for the digital economy.
- Data center developers will cover their fair share of costs to connect to Montana's power grid and other necessary services.
- Rising energy demand creates an opportunity to make Montana's energy system more efficient.
- Using infrastructure more effectively could help lower costs per unit of energy.

Addressing Common Concerns

Q. Will data centers raise my energy costs?

A. No. NorthWestern Energy's approach ensures that existing customers are protected.

Q. Are data centers a good investment for Montana?

A. Yes. Data centers are a proven source of jobs, tax revenue, and long-term economic strength—helping diversify and grow Montana's economy.

Q. Can Montana's energy system handle data centers?

A. Yes. With careful planning, transmission studies, and a balanced mix of renewable and on-demand generation, we can support new industries while maintaining reliable service for all.

NorthWestern Energy will always put Montana customers first. We are committed to protecting your rates and reliability while responsibly supporting new opportunities—like data centers—that can help Montana thrive for generations to come.