AI in the US and Washington — Fact Sheet

$400B
Spent by 4 Big Tech firms on datacenter infrastructure in 2025

$600B
Projected annual Big Tech datacenter spend by 2027

5,000+
Data centers in the US — 10× more than Germany

70%
Of total datacenter capacity demand by 2030 will be AI workloads

BIG PICTURE

→ Big tech corporations, investors, and the state are working in partnership to manufacture an AI boom, resulting in the rapid expansion of hyperscale data centers, the facilities needed to power AI.

→ Four Big Tech corporations — Microsoft, Alphabet (Google), Amazon, and Meta — spent nearly $400 billion on data center infrastructure in 2025, with the figure projected to jump to $600 billion/year by 2027. (Data Center Dynamics)

→ An estimated 70% of total data center capacity demand by 2030 will be for AI workloads, with generative AI the fastest-growing use case (GM Insights). Generative AI produces "new" content by analyzing and mimicking patterns in vast amounts of existing data. These models require much more compute, power, and cooling than traditional IT workloads.

→ As of March 2025, the US has over 5,000 data centers and is the largest single country for data center presence; Germany ranks second with 529. (Brookings)

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

The Trump administration is working in lockstep with Big Tech to accelerate AI and data center expansion, including:

→ Creating his AI Action Plan and accompanying executive orders that facilitate the rapid deployment of AI-related infrastructure, reduce AI regulations, and increase AI exports. (EBG)

→ Creating the "AI and Crypto Czar" position for venture capitalist David Sacks, who advocates against regulating emerging technologies. (Mintz; Time)

→ Giving tech corporations like Palantir and Anduril billions of dollars worth of government contracts for AI-powered surveillance technology, while simultaneously gutting healthcare and food assistance programs for millions of Americans through his Big Beautiful Bill. (CNBC; AI Business; Healthline)

→ Issuing executive orders aimed at boosting nuclear power while eroding the autonomy of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), an independent agency tasked with regulating nuclear reactors and protecting Americans from exposure to radiation. (AP News; Washington Post; Common Dreams)

→ Gutting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through mass firings and elimination of research, as well as pushing to rescind the 2009 endangerment finding on greenhouse gases, downplaying climate science and undermining scientific capacity. (Bloomberg; LSE)

AI & ETHICAL CONCERNS

→ Generative AI models have been trained on unauthorized copyrighted material without the consent or licensing of authors and publishers, including under Anthropic's Project Panama, which has led to major lawsuits. (Reuters; Washington Post)

→ Pro-AI propaganda is a massive cover-up for the ways in which AI systems amplify bias, producing unequal

healthcare, workplace, and policing outcomes for marginalized groups, while undermining democracy and raising documented risks to privacy, due process, and equality. (Human Rights Watch)

→ AI is also turbocharging climate disinformation. (Standard; DISA)

WASHINGTON STATE & AI

→ Washington is not only a data center investment hub but also a center for AI policy, research, use, and innovation, ranking among top US states for per-capita AI use, with Greater Seattle one of the top AI job markets in the US. (Greater Seattle)

→ Governor Ferguson, together with Microsoft and Amazon, have promoted the Cascadia Innovation Corridor as a strategy to grow the regional AI economy, embedding AI into regional economic development strategies. When the AI bubble bursts, this exposure becomes a fiscal crisis. (The Olympian; Office of the Governor)

→ Washington state's AI policy task force noted concern around the lack of meaningful AI regulation around transparency, accountability, and protections in healthcare and workplaces — but the Task Force recommendations do not address the monopolistic concentration of AI infrastructure, collective data sovereignty, or worker or community governance. (Global Policy Watch)

AI & NUCLEAR

→ Amazon's expansion of hyperscale data centers near the Columbia River in eastern Oregon has intersected with a broader push to develop new nuclear power infrastructure near the Tri-City area, specifically small modular nuclear reactors under a contract with Energy Northwest. (OPB)

→ In Pennsylvania, Microsoft purchased Three Mile Island to power its data centers. (CRN)

→ Tribes including the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have publicly opposed any expansion of nuclear energy in the region, citing threats to water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, cultural sites, and treaty rights. (OPB)

→ The Hanford Nuclear Reservation in southeastern Washington continues to be one of the most contaminated sites in the Western Hemisphere, with over 56 million gallons of radioactive waste still to be treated or stabilized. (American Nuclear Society)

→ Federal funding falls short of what is legally required, and taxpayers spend $3 billion annually on cleanup. (Tri-City Herald)