



Fact sheet: Port Washington data center project December 2, 2025

The following fact sheet is intended to help members of the community better understand the data center project and clarify some lingering misconceptions. Please visit the City's website to learn more: portwashingtonwi.gov

Q: What actions are the Common Council taking related to the data center today?

A: There are no items on tonight's agenda related to the data center.

The City already has approved the data center project, including a development agreement with Vantage Data Centers that includes significant sustainability commitments and comprehensive data center-specific zoning codes that were drafted after listening to input from residents and community members since January.

The Council has discussed or voted on aspects of the data center project in nearly all of its meetings throughout 2025. The City has communicated frequently between meetings, both in conversations with residents and through its website and social media.

The Council and Joint Review Board voted last month to create the TID. The [TID is designed to shield the city and taxpayers](#) from absorbing any costs or risk associated with the project, while receiving significant economic and infrastructure benefits. The Council held a work session in June to present information about TIDs to the community.

Q: When will construction start?

A: Construction on sewer and water infrastructure is underway. The City and Vantage will provide additional information in the coming weeks. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2028.

Q: Will Vantage's construction crews be allowed to work beyond traditional construction hours?

A: Yes. The City has granted permission for some construction work to be done beyond normal hours. By allowing an accelerated construction timeline, the overall tax valuation for the site will increase more quickly, making it more likely for Vantage to pay off the TID sooner and moving up the timeline for increased property tax revenue.

Q: Where can I find information about environmental aspects of this project?

A: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has set up a website at: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EIA/Portwashington.html

Q: Why does this project make sense for Port Washington?

A: This project will add new economic activity, infrastructure improvements, tax revenue and employment opportunities to our community without disrupting all the things we love about living here. The City's budget is stretched thin. Without significant economic growth, the City will have to cut services, and an even greater burden will fall on residential taxpayers who already bear 80% of the City's budget. This project is expected to be the largest employer in Port Washington. The project expects to create more than 4,000 skilled construction jobs, most of which will be union jobs. Once complete, Vantage and Oracle will create more than 1,000 long-term jobs and thousands more indirect jobs.

Q: What impact will a petition about TIDs have on the data center project?

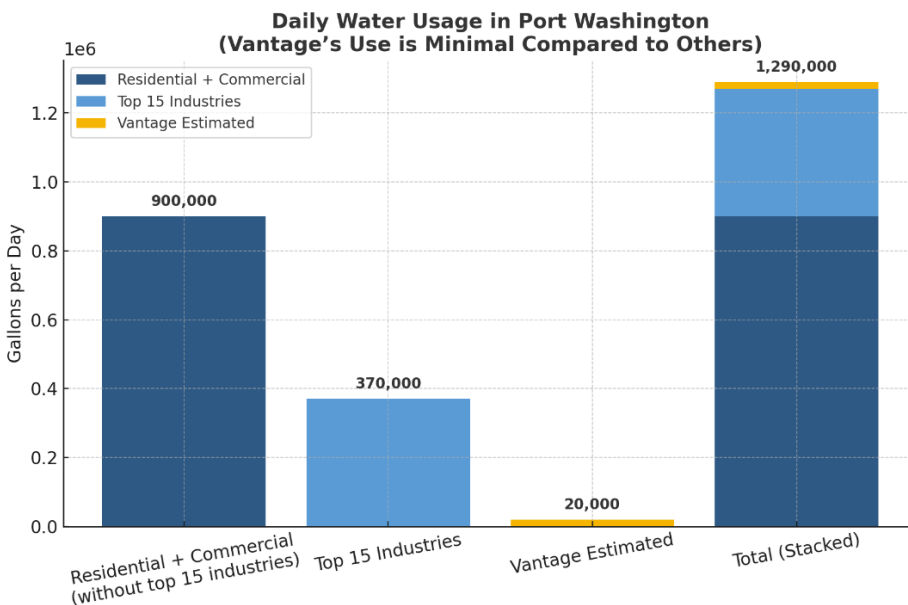
A: None. In the event a proposed ordinance requiring a referendum to approve TIDs of a certain value is eventually adopted, it would apply only to future projects. The City is following a standard process established by statutes to evaluate a petition it received late last week.

Q: What role does the City of Port Washington play in determining where new power lines might go?

A: The City of Port Washington has no role in that process. To provide input, visit the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin’s website at psc.wi.gov. At the October 21 Council meeting, Mayor Neitzke shared a proclamation in [support of an alternative routing plan](#) and a letter to PSC.

Q: Will the data center drain Lake Michigan or cause water pollution?

A: No. Vantage’s design uses a closed-loop cooling system that saves billions of gallons per year. Vantage will use up to 22,000 gallons of water on a peak usage day. Here’s how that stacks up against other Port Washington water customers:



Q: Where is power for the project coming from?

A: Vantage and We Energies are partnering to bring additional clean energy online and strengthen local energy infrastructure, with all these costs being paid for by Vantage. Vantage will fund the buildout of 1,949 MW of new renewable energy resources; The 16 new clean energy projects are a mix of solar, wind, and battery storage projects located across six Wisconsin counties. Seventy percent of that capacity will serve the data center campus, and the remaining 30% will be used to provide clean energy to all consumers in Wisconsin.

Any non-renewable energy usage will be matched with renewable energy, prioritizing local sourcing, to achieve 100% every year.

Vantage is working with We Energies and will pay for all infrastructure without any cost to other consumers. WEC and the WI Public Utilities Commission created a special new rate to ensure that Vantage pays for 100% of the power infrastructure costs associated with the data center campus. Vantage is contractually obligated to pay these costs.

Key milestones

- 1/7:** Work session to discuss data center opportunity
- 1/21:** Annexation agreement with Town of Port Washington
- 4/15:** Creation of a zoning district for data centers
- 5/20:** Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the site approved.
- 6/10:** Work session on TIDs
- 6/11:** Vantage announcement
- 6/17:** Presentation on data center visits
- 8/6:** Development agreement presented to Common Council
- 8/19:** Common Council approves development agreement
- 8/28:** Vantage presentation; Plan Commission approves data center building, site and operations plan
- 9/4:** Council approves TID
- 9/18:** Joint Review Board approves TID

Scan for more information:

