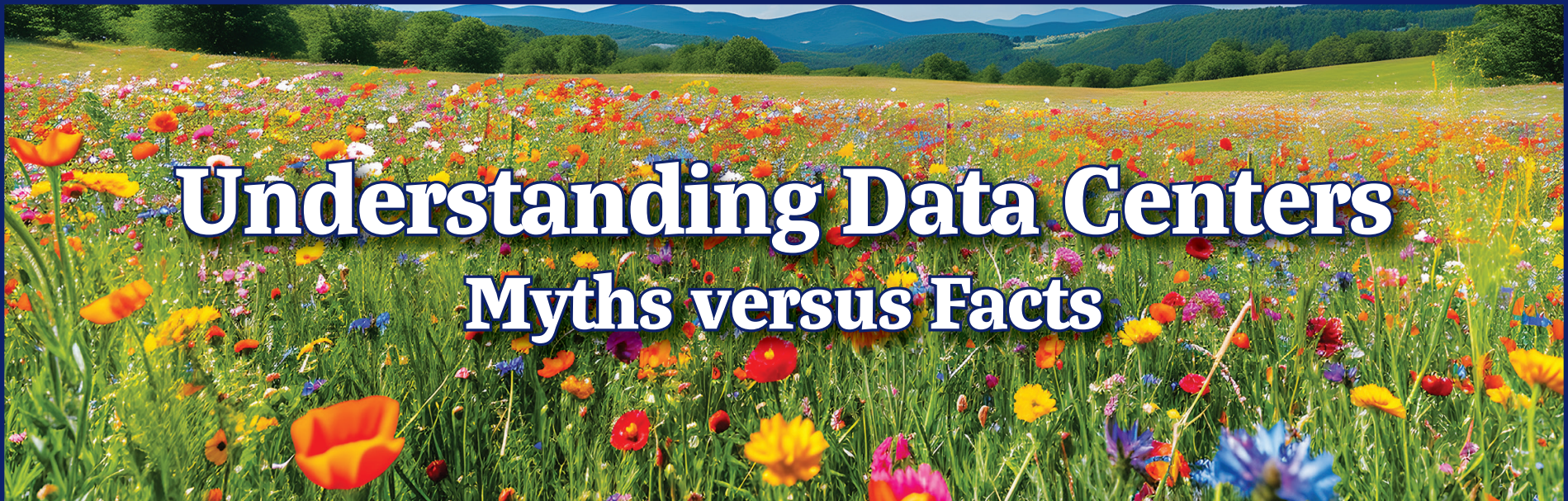




Understanding Data Centers

Myths versus Facts

What is a Data Center?

A data center is a secure facility that houses the servers and networking equipment that store, process, and distribute the world's digital information. Every time you use Google, Netflix, your banking app, GPS, or social media, your data flows through a data center. They are the invisible engine of modern life.

Why Are They Important?

Data centers power the entire digital economy, cloud storage, artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, online education, telemedicine, emergency response systems, and virtually every business transaction. Without them, the internet as we know it stops.

Why Northwest Indiana?

Our region offers large, workable sites near Chicago's fiber optic backbone, abundant high-voltage transmission lines, a cooler climate ideal for efficient cooling, and a pro-growth regulatory environment.

It also provides economic benefits to our communities such as:

- Multi-billion-dollar private investment with virtually no added burden on schools, fire, or police
- Millions in new tax revenue to fund roads, schools, and public safety
- High-paying tech and trade jobs plus workforce training programs
- Every direct data center job creates six additional jobs in construction, maintenance, and local services
- Major utility infrastructure upgrades that strengthen the grid for everyone
- Stimulus for supporting businesses and long-term economic diversification

Water Use & Conservation

Myth: Data centers will deplete our land of natural water resources.

Fact: Thanks to Northwest Indiana's cooler climate, modern facilities here can use free air cooling (zero water) nearly 80% of the year. Most use closed-loop systems that recycle water. Nationwide, all data centers combined use less water annually than America's golf courses use for irrigation. All large-scale water users in Indiana comply with the strict Great Lakes Compact conservation and reporting standards.

Power Supply & Renewable Energy

Myth: Our energy bills will increase.

Fact: Data centers receive power from the regional grid, with the same generation mix as homes and businesses. Residential customers have separate rate classes; your bill is not affected.

Sound Levels

Myth: We will be able to hear the data centers 24/7.

Fact: Modern data centers are remarkably quiet, outdoor equipment typically operates around 55 dBA at the property line (comparable to a refrigerator). Sound walls, berms, careful equipment placement, and advanced silencing technology keep neighboring areas peaceful. Noise is strictly regulated by local ordinances and state agencies.

Backup Generators

Myth: Backup Generators will run 24/7 and will cause carbon monoxide pollution.

Fact: Diesel or alternative-fuel backup generators run only during rare power outages or brief monthly testing (typically 15 total hours per year) to protect critical data and keep hospitals, 911 systems, and businesses online. All emissions meet rigorous state and federal standards.

Health & Safety

Myth: EMF will have a negative impact on society and nature.

Fact: Electromagnetic fields (EMF) from data centers are low-frequency, non-ionizing, and far below federal safety limits, lower than a household microwave and contained within the facility walls. These buildings are among the most secure and heavily regulated industrial facilities in existence.

The Bottom Line

Data centers are critical infrastructure, just like power plants or water treatment facilities that keep our hospitals, schools, small businesses, and emergency services connected 24/7. Northwest Indiana has a rare opportunity to host these facilities responsibly, create jobs, upgrade infrastructure, and secure our region's economic future for decades to come.