

See how we're building a sustainable campus

Protecting and conserving local habitats, reducing carbon, and eliminating waste in Microsoft's Redmond campus modernization project

When it comes to sustainability, Microsoft has always used our campuses as a living lab of innovation, to ensure we're building in a way that benefits our community and the environment.

Since we announced the Redmond campus modernization project in 2017, Microsoft has expanded its commitments to sustainability across the company and reinforced our dedication to leading this issue within our operations and outside our walls.

Check out some of the many ways our efforts are contributing to this goal:

Carbon negative 2030

Embodied carbon

- Microsoft is committed to being carbon negative by 2030, and we're pioneering new ways to reduce our carbon footprint in our supply chain, particularly in the area of embodied carbon in building materials. We're the first large corporate user of a carbon calculator that will help us find, choose, and use lower-carbon building materials. We are committed to reducing our embodied carbon on the campus by at least 30 percent utilizing this tool.

Clean power

- We're powering our campus with 100 percent local carbon-free hydropower and have committed to building a new wind or solar project in the state. Photovoltaic panels atop the new, efficient central utility plant will generate clean electricity on-site.
- We're building an all-electric campus, eliminating the use of fossil fuels within our buildings for daily operations including powering and heating.
- The new campus will pursue Zero Carbon certification through the International Living Future Institute, as a recognition of Microsoft's commitment to zero carbon.

Energy smart, efficient central utility plant

- A state-of-the-art, all-electric central utility plant will generate heating and cooling for the campus by utilizing geowells, which access and use the deep earth's constant temperature (ground-source heat loops) instead of natural gas to save energy year-round. It is expected to reduce energy consumption by over 50 percent compared to a typical utility plant and greatly reduces our overall energy use and carbon imprint.
- Beyond the benefits of this type of energy production over a typical plant, the central utility plant is a great alternative to having these components individually spread out across multiple buildings—by centralizing we're reducing potential energy usage by 30 percent.
- We continue to expand our energy smart building work, which has already contributed to an almost 25 percent energy usage reduction across our offices since 2012.

Clean transportation

- All Microsoft fleet vehicles and shuttles will be electric vehicles by 2030.
- The new campus includes 700 long-term bike parking spaces and 80 on-site showers for commuters.

Protecting and preserving local habitats

Preserving and replanting trees, reusing trees

- The buildings on the new campus have been positioned and designed to maximize tree preservation.
- For each tree that has been removed, we will plant a new one. For any landmark trees removed, we will plant three new trees.
- Trees requiring removal have been salvaged, dried, and will be milled for reuse in the project (chairs, tables, and wood paneling).

Habitat protection and Salmon-Safe

- We're committed to protecting local wildlife during clearing and construction activities and are consulting with outside wildlife management organizations to develop best practices that will ensure we respect the space and the local ecologies.
- We're pursuing Salmon-Safe certification, ensuring our building designs and construction practices protect Pacific Northwest salmon watersheds.
- The new campus includes nearly 68,000 square feet of green roof area.

Water reduction

Reusing water

- The campus will reduce water consumption by collecting rainwater from the roofs of 13 buildings and storing it in rainwater cisterns totaling over 200,000 gallons throughout the campus. All office buildings will reuse harvested rainwater in flush fixtures, in addition to low-flow systems—projected to save over 5.8 million gallons annually, the equivalent to nearly 9 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Eliminating waste

Zero waste and recycle/reuse

- We first earned our Zero Waste certification status in 2016, which requires we divert at least 90 percent of our waste from landfills. We are supporting that certification throughout the campus modernization project, with a goal of diverting 95 percent of our waste from landfills, and determining what can be reused, donated, or recycled.
- Materials from decommissioned existing buildings were harvested for reuse. PCs and electronics were distributed to other Puget Sound campus buildings or became part of a PC recycling program. Loose assets such as desks, chairs, and whiteboards were donated, mostly to local charities and nonprofit startups.
- We've recycled 2,500 tons of carpet, 140 tons of ceiling tiles, and 3,240 tons of steel (nearly as much steel as the Space Needle is built with) and other metals, as well as specialty items like outdoor lights and sports field turf.
- Over 48,000 tons of concrete from the old campus was either reused on the new campus for sitework or sent to local nonprofit organizations for use in things like community food gardens as retaining walls and ADA-accessible walkways.

LEED Platinum

- The campus modernization project is pursuing LEED Platinum v4.0 certification as a signal of Microsoft's commitment to sustainability in the built environment.