

# BUILT FOR DATA CENTERS



WYOMINGBUSINESS.ORG

Big data centers. Really big. Okay, maybe not yottabytes of data big but then who is? The who's who of large scale data centers and supercomputing operations who call Wyoming home really drive home the point: Wyoming is an optimal location.

## KEY DATA FOR YOUR DATA CENTER

Wyoming has a strong, low-cost-of-doing-business story. Because on top of very low electricity costs – 28% below the national average (across all sectors) – and no-to-low taxes, Wyoming's ambient air has sufficient cooling capabilities to reduce power consumption and related cooling costs even more. In other words, the cooler climate is tantamount to free cooling.



## WYOMING IS AN IDEAL STATE FOR:

- Unique Purpose Data Centers
- Corporate Data Centers
- Colocation/Managed Services Sites
- Large Back-up or Recovery Sites
- Mass Data Storage Sites  
*(Google, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon)*
- Public & Private Cloud Sites
- Federal Government Data Centers

## WHY WYOMING?

Cool ambient air = Free cooling  
Access to multiple long haul fiber routes  
Low cost, abundant, redundant, reliable power sources

## WIND AND AMBIENT AIR

Wyoming's wind resource can offer great renewable energy opportunities for data centers. With areas of the state ranking as Superb Resource Potential by the National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL), Wyoming is one of the most favorable locations for wind power development in the country.

## WYOMING WIND RANKINGS

**7<sup>th</sup>** – Wind Potential

**10<sup>th</sup>** – Current Wind Energy  
Production (1400 MW)

## Comfort Index

Wyoming U.S.  
**73 44**

## CLIMATE PROFILE: CLOSER TO THE CLOUDS IS COOLER FOR BUSINESS.

Wyoming's climate, characteristically cool and dry, is much more comfortable than the national average. On average, Wyoming claims the lowest number of cooling days (more days below 85 degrees) in the region, and at an average altitude of 6,000 feet, the temperature in Wyoming rarely exceeds 100 degrees F. For most of the state mean maximum temperatures in July range between 85 and 95 degrees F.

# UTILITIES

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

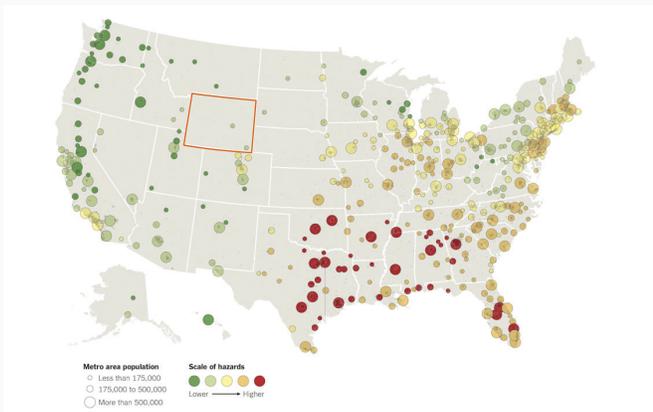
There are nine telecommunication providers near I-80 and throughout the rest of the state. Nearly 80% of the housing units in the state of Wyoming have broadband access through telco, cable, or wireless providers; nearly 100% of homes have broadband access via satellite.

- Numerous long haul fiber routes
- Most major communications carriers pass through Wyoming today
- According to Federal Communication Commission data, Wyoming residents and businesses have adopted broadband services at a faster rate than other states over the last five years

# NATURAL DISASTER RISK

## LOW DISASTER RISK

While natural disasters can happen anywhere, Wyoming is relatively bullet-proof when it comes to usual threats such as earthquakes and tornadoes. Our central location keeps the state safe and your business up and running.



By Matthew Ericson, Joe Burgess and Bill Marsh/The New York Times

Sources: Sperling's Best Places; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (tornado map); University of Miami (hurricane map); U.S. Geological Survey (earthquake map)

## DATA CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDS

The Wyoming Legislature approved a \$15,000,000 appropriation to assist Wyoming cities, towns and counties to build necessary public infrastructure for the recruitment and operation of data centers.

# DATA CENTER INCENTIVES

## MANAGED DATA CENTER COST REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

Is a \$2.25 Million maximum grant that can be used to reimburse accrued utility expenses for power or broadband over 3 years. In exchange for providing these reductions in costs, the applicant (a Wyoming city, county, joint powers board) shall contract with the business to receive direct benefits and indirect economic development benefits including a specific amount of capital investment from business, specific minimum payroll created by the business, the provision of discounted IT services.

The grant amount is based on how much capital investment and payroll the business will realize over five years. For each grant amount, the business must create a match of at least 125% of the grant amount in payroll and capital expenditure with the caveat that 50% of the match will be in payroll creation. Payroll must be greater than 150% of the county's median wage.

## DATA CENTER PERMIT EXEMPTION

A mega-data center project, which exceeds \$178.3 Million in capital investment, would be exempt from the requirement of applying for an Industrial Siting Permit through the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. This presents a cost savings of approximately \$500,000 associated with permit application preparation, wildlife studies, economic analyses, public meetings, permit hearings, attorney fees, etc.

## DATA CENTER SALES TAX EXEMPTION

This requires a \$5 Million investment in capital infrastructure (building, walls, engineering, dirt work, etc) in a Wyoming location in addition to a \$2 Million or larger investment in data center equipment (servers, peripheral equipment and data center containers) and software purchases. If these thresholds are met the sales tax burden on the qualifying computer equipment is exempt. This exemption can be applied if the data center invests \$2M in equipment a calendar year in the future.

In 2011, the Wyoming State Legislature added another tier requiring a \$50 Million capital infrastructure level. This tier also requires the \$2 Million in data center equipment purchases. At this tier the qualifying exempt equipment also includes uninterruptable power supplies (UPS), back-up power generation, specialized heating and air conditioning equipment and air quality control equipment.

**Brandon Marshall**

Business Development Manager | 214 West 15th St., Cheyenne, WY 82002 | 307.777.2820 | brandon.marshall@wyo.gov