



FACT SHEET



DC BLOX
HEAT ISLANDS

Heat Islands & Our Data Centers

A DC BLOX Community Resource for Indianapolis

DC BLOX is planning a data center in Indianapolis. You might have questions about whether the new development will affect the climate of the surrounding community. Like most buildings, data centers do release some heat. But the idea that data centers create massive heat islands (a developed area that experiences significantly warmer temperatures than its surrounding rural landscapes) is not based on facts. This overview explains more.

What is DC BLOX building in Indianapolis and how will it affect local climate?

DC BLOX is proposing to build up to three data center buildings as part of the Thunderbird Commerce Center. A data center is a building that holds computer servers, which do generate heat, but the building uses specialized cooling systems, so the heat doesn't go directly outside. Our backup diesel generators produce heat, but they only run 30 minutes a month for testing or during power outages. All other building systems are typical to the medium industrial use category.

The Indianapolis site is a medium industrial brownfield redevelopment, not farmland or undeveloped greenfield land. The site previously housed a Ford factory and has been vacant for years. Due to residuals from its years as a factory, the property won't be redeveloped into homes or schools, nor return to greenfield. Use as a data center is one of the most heat-neutral possibilities for this property.

Do data centers create heat islands?

Heat islands in general are usually driven by land use, impervious surfaces like concrete, and reduced vegetation, not by one building type. Data centers are not dramatically different from a general-purpose industrial building and may have less impact than some types of buildings.

Will the DC BLOX campus in Indianapolis make my neighborhood hotter?

No. The proposed DC BLOX data center is designed to fit the surrounding community. In fact, while Thunderbird Commerce Center zoning allows 420 parking spaces, DC BLOX needs only 100, reducing asphalt coverage and heat retention.



Have questions about data center heat islands?

Visit dcbloxindy.com to review project commitments, see updated project information, and submit questions to the DC BLOX team.



Heat release is a normal byproduct of many everyday buildings and industrial facilities, not something unique to data centers.

	Hospital	→ 24/7 HVAC, boilers, chillers, sterilization, medical equipment, backup power
	School / University	→ HVAC, kitchens, lighting, IT rooms, buses, paved parking lots
	Office Building	→ HVAC, elevators, lighting, computers, rooftop mechanical units
	Retail Center / Grocery Store	→ HVAC, lighting, refrigeration, freezers, delivery trucks, paved parking lots
	Restaurant	→ Cooking equipment, exhaust hoods, refrigeration, HVAC
	Cold Storage / Refrigerated Warehouse	→ Refrigeration systems and outdoor condensers
	Manufacturing Facility	→ Process heat, motors, compressors, boilers, ovens, exhaust, hot equipment surfaces
	Truck Terminal / Warehouse	→ Truck traffic, idling, loading activity, large roofs, paved yards
	Power & Utility Facility	→ Roof surfaces, transformers, generation equipment, cooling systems
	Data Center	→ Computers, cooling equipment, roof surfaces



Key Point:

All buildings that use energy release some heat. Data centers are one example, not the only example.

Heat comes from HVAC systems, equipment, lighting, vehicles, refrigeration, rooftops, and paved surfaces.