



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET

Renewable energy

Where a data centre's power comes from — and why “additional” matters

The key idea: additionality

Because data centres use so much electricity, the most important question is whether their demand is matched by **new, additional** clean energy — generation built to cover the new load — rather than simply drawing on the existing supply, which can put pressure on prices for everyone.

Tasmania's advantage

Tasmania's electricity is predominantly hydro and wind — among the lowest-carbon grids in the country. That makes it well suited to powering data infrastructure sustainably, provided new demand brings new generation with it.

How it is done

Operators commonly secure renewable supply through a power purchase agreement (a long-term contract to buy clean energy). Good practice is to make sure this is genuine and additional — not just a paper claim on existing renewables — and, increasingly, to match clean supply to demand around the clock.

What good practice looks like

- New, additional renewable generation (or storage) secured to cover the facility's demand.
- A credible power purchase agreement, not a claim on existing supply.
- A clear path toward 24/7 clean energy matching over time.
- Transparent reporting of energy use and renewable share.

Want to know more? Your local council, the EPA Tasmania and ARPANSA publish further information. This sheet is general information, not medical, legal or planning advice; figures are indicative and a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.