

# Data Centers in Texas

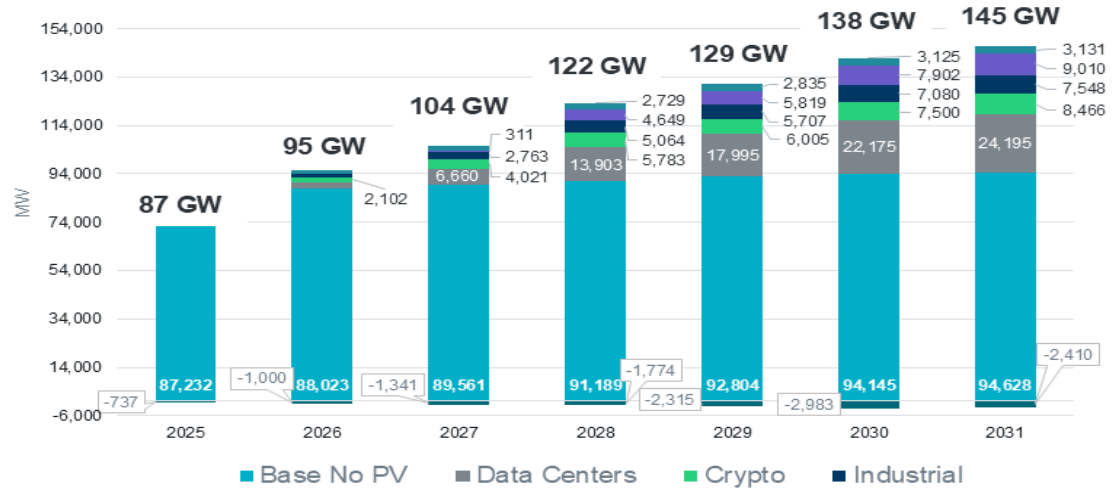
Environmental Defense Fund

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# Load Growth Projection

ERCOT forecasts record-breaking load growth through 2030.

Data centers make up about 77% of interconnection requests.



	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Data Centers	0	2,433	6,660	13903.35	17,995	22,175	24,195
Crypto	0	2,102	4,021	5782.964	6,005	7,500	8,466
Industrial	0	1,387	2,763	5064.178	5,707	7,080	7,548
Hydrogen	0	5	311	4649.1	5,819	7,902	9,010
Oil and Gas	0	1,699	2,320	2728.529	2,835	3,125	3,131
PV	-737	-1,000	-1,341	-1773.73	-2,315	-2,983	-2,410



## RISK

**Increased pressure on local water supply:** 32% of U.S. data centers are already located in high water stress areas.

**Increased energy demand:** increases carbon and other emissions and potentially raises electricity prices.

**Local community impacts:** heavy truck traffic, noise pollution, increased air pollution, land use conflicts.

## OPPORTUNITY

**Incentivize better water management:** can help drive improvements in water reporting systems and regional water planning.

**Opportunity to accelerate emission reduction:** ambitious clean energy goals (renewables, batteries, clean firm) can lead to MORE carbon free generation, demand side strategies can reduce peak load (flexibility, VPP's, etc.)

**Economic development:** data centers can bring local tax revenue and create jobs.

## **Additional Thoughts**

- **Firms should prioritize/maximize zero-carbon energy and demonstrate that they will shoulder incremental power-grid costs.**
- **If gas necessary (onsite/utility provided) assess/account for all emissions and seek to mitigate upstream methane emissions**
- **Accelerate demand side strategies – site flexibility but also invest in peak demand reductions such as VPP's, DER deployment, EE programs.**
- **Water – need more transparency. Need to account for direct use and increase usage from power plants. Become a local and regional asset instead of just liability.**