



Sustainability Fact Sheet

South Africa

AWS is building a more sustainable business in South Africa, collaborating with local communities, and investing in the region's future

Our sustainability work includes enhancing energy efficiency, transitioning to carbon-free energy, reducing embodied carbon, using water responsibly, driving a circular economy, and enabling sustainability for customers.

At AWS, we focus on efficiency across all aspects of our infrastructure. We use industry-standard metrics to measure efficiency and seek the optimal balance of energy and water use.

For more information, visit the [AWS Cloud Sustainability webpage](#).

Efficiencies of Scale

Our scale allows us to achieve higher resource utilisation and energy efficiency than the typical on-premises data centre. A study released by Accenture and AWS estimates running optimised workloads on AWS's infrastructure is up to **4.1 times more efficient than on-premises**.

For more information, visit the full report, "[How moving to the AWS cloud reduces carbon emissions](#)."

Key Sustainability Metrics

AWS Africa (Cape Town)	2023	2024	2025
Average PUE	1.24	1.24	1.19
Average WUE (L/kWh)	--	--	--

Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) and Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE), in liters per kilowatt-hour) for data centre operated by AWS between January 1 and December 31 of each year

Water in South Africa

Our Water Positive Commitment

In 2025, AWS withdrew 9,506,756 litres of water in Cape Town.

AWS is committed to being water positive by 2030, meaning we will return more water to communities than we use in our direct operations. As of the end of 2025, we are 75% of the way towards this goal.

To learn more, see the [Amazon Water spotlight page](#).



South Africa

Removal of invasive pines across 130,000 acres of critical watersheds helped more water flow downstream to Cape Town, South Africa.





Scale of Carbon-Free Energy

In 2025, BloombergNEF again recognised Amazon as one of the world's leading corporate purchasers of carbon-free energy, in addition to building the largest carbon-free energy portfolio of any corporation globally.

We have invested in over 700 carbon-free energy projects in 28 countries, with the capacity to generate 40+ gigawatts of electricity.

South Africa's First Amazon Solar Plant

Amazon's first solar plant in South Africa uses bifacial panels that track the sun and absorb reflected ground light, avoiding an estimated 25,000 tons of carbon emissions annually (equivalent to removing 5,400 cars from the road)

Renewable Energy in South Africa

Amazon has invested in utility-scale solar and wind projects in South Africa as part of 40+ projects across countries with high fossil fuel use, contributing to Amazon's position as the world's largest corporate purchaser of renewable energy for five consecutive years



Community Impact

AWS supported more than 16,000 children and families across underserved communities in Cape Town through initiatives that improved access to essential resources and strengthened community support services. This included the distribution of food and infant care supplies, the provision of essential items for children, and donations of equipment to nonprofit organizations to help expand their impact and better serve local communities.

Developing Cloud Skills

To help meet the demand for cloud talent, AWS has trained more than 350,000 people in South Africa on cloud skills since 2017. This figure includes free and paid training.

One example of our skills initiatives is the **AWS Skills Centre Cape Town**. This is the first international AWS Skills Centre opened in Cape Town: free, hands-on cloud skills training removing barriers to access for South African learners and career changers.



Investing in South Africa

AWS launched the Africa (Cape Town) Region in 2020, making it the first major cloud provider to launch a full infrastructure region on the African continent. Since announcing the AWS Cape Town Region in 2018, AWS has invested over ZAR15.6 billion (\$819 million) in the region, to meet customer demand for cloud computing services across the continent, with a further ZAR30.4 billion (\$1.5bn) committed investment by the end of 2029.

The region enables South African and African businesses, government agencies, startups, and organizations to run workloads locally with low latency while meeting data residency requirements. The Cape Town Region supports digital transformation across Africa.