



# NABERS

## NABERS FOR DATA CENTRES

Supporting sustainable futures  
for Australian data centres



### WHAT IS NABERS?

NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) is a government initiative providing certified sustainability ratings to support the efficiency of buildings across Australia.

NABERS ratings are simple, reliable and trusted, ranging from one to six stars for a building's efficiency. Ratings measure performance of energy, water, waste and indoor environment across building sectors including data centres, apartments, hotels, offices, shopping centres and more.

A NABERS rating helps owners and managers accurately measure, understand and communicate the environmental performance of their facility versus comparable buildings in the same sector, identifying areas for cost savings and future improvements.

Over the last 25 years, the NABERS rating system has driven significant financial growth and returns in portfolios across building sectors by clearly demonstrating operational performance and sustainability achievements. That's how we know environmentally friendly buildings are not only better for people and the planet; they're also better for the bottom lines of Australian businesses.

### ABOUT NABERS FOR DATA CENTRES

Apply for your  
**\$8,000 Data  
Centre Starters**  
grant today

IT and Data Centres in Australia are exposed to increasing environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks. A NABERS rating for data centres can be used to identify areas for operational improvements and cost savings, as well as promote your environmental credentials to help you stand out, win business and future-proof investment from blue chip clients.

A NABERS rating for data centres provides an indication of the operational energy efficiency and environmental impact of your facility, based on its Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE), a globally accepted metric. Ratings are based on a facility's actual operational data, not design. Your energy data and NABERS rating remain confidential unless you choose to share them.

- ✓ TRANSPARENT & STANDARDISED PUE CALCULATION
- ✓ LOWER ENERGY BILLS & OPERATIONAL COSTS
- ✓ CERTIFIED & IMPARTIAL RATINGS
- ✓ ATTRACT AND RETAIN PREMIUM TENANTS
- ✓ SIMPLIFIED DATA TRACKING
- ✓ ACTIONABLE SUSTAINABILITY ADVICE



## HOW DO NABERS RATINGS BENEFIT DATA CENTRES?

### MEASURE & IMPROVE PUE

A NABERS rating provides a certified and transparent PUE measurement of your data centre's performance, providing the entire industry with a comparable PUE for assessing energy efficiency.

### GAIN THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

A certified NABERS rating benchmarks your data centre in the sector, helping reduce your ESG risk, meet sustainability targets and attract investment from high-value clients.

### REDUCE ENERGY AND OPERATIONAL COSTS

Your NABERS assessor can provide cost-effective sustainability advice for your facility to help you significantly reduce costs and improve future ratings.

### TRUSTED THIRD PARTY RATINGS

NABERS provides accredited and independent validation of your sustainability data, trusted by national and international reporting and sustainable finance schemes.

### SIMPLIFIED DATA TRACKING AND REPORTING

NABERS ratings provide a simple and communicable framework for energy performance tracking, reporting and cost management plans.

### CERTIFIED, COMPARABLE & CONFIDENTIAL

NABERS ratings make it easy to compare your data centre's performance with others, while still allowing you to keep your rating private to share only with customers and prospects.



when a data centre improves its NABERS Energy rating from 3 to 5 stars by implementing practices such as adequate metering, onsite monitoring and optimised HVAC systems and controls.\*



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## TYPES OF DATA CENTRE RATINGS

### NABERS ENERGY FOR DATA CENTRES (INFRASTRUCTURE)

The NABERS Energy rating for data centres (Infrastructure) is designed for data centre owners and managers. It allows you to determine your facility's energy efficiency in supplying the infrastructure services for IT equipment housed in a data centre. This rating is suitable for data centres where the operators do not own or control the tenant IT equipment, but provide support services such as air conditioning, cooling, lighting and other power delivery systems.

A NABERS Accredited Assessor will provide a rating from one to six stars, indicating the energy efficiency and environmental impact of your facility's operations, based on its PUE. Your assessor can also provide tailored sustainability advice to help you cut costs and improve your future ratings.

### NABERS PATHWAY FOR CLIMATE ACTIVE NEUTRAL CERTIFICATION

NABERS offers data centres a pathway to achieve Climate Active Carbon Neutral certification, a world-leading, government-backed certification that is aligned to national and international greenhouse gas accounting protocols. If your data centre has a NABERS Energy rating of 4 stars or above and uses carbon offsets to cancel the building's emissions, you can achieve a Climate Active certification.

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## HOW WE RATE YOUR DATA CENTRE

NABERS ratings for data centres take into consideration factors that are unique to these facilities to ensure fair, consistent and transparent comparison.

Depending on your rating type, a NABERS Accredited Assessor will look at:

- Location
- Heat rejection percentage
- Energy for IT equipment
- Lighting
- Air conditioning, ventilation and process cooling
- In-rack fans
- Energy for power conditioning, distribution and back-up
- Fuel for back-up generators

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## DATA CENTRE STARTERS GRANT PROGRAM

With support from the Commonwealth Government, NABERS is offering a temporary grant designed to support data centres anywhere in Australia to measure and improve their environmental performance.

Under the grant program, eligible applicants will receive **\$8,000 (excluding GST) per building** towards associated NABERS Energy rating fees for their first baseline rating, an energy action plan, and a second rating to validate any improvements. The grant is targeted to data centre buildings that have not held a NABERS Energy rating within the five years prior to February 2024.

For more information and eligibility criteria, please [visit the NABERS website](#).

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## JOIN THE INDUSTRY LEADERS

Fujitsu is using NABERS across its data centre portfolio to set clear sustainability targets, measure progress towards its goals and maintain trust and authority in the sector.

“Fujitsu’s portfolio rating is important to us both from the perspectives of environmental leadership and transparency. With the continuing increase in data centre energy use Australia wide, NABERS gives our customers credible assurance of our energy efficiency and environmental commitments”.

— BLAISE PORTER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS, FUJITSU OCEANIA

## HOW TO GET A RATING

Utilise the **\$8,000 Data Centre Starters** grant by applying for your first NABERS Energy rating for data centres today. Simply [check your eligibility](#) and tell your NABERS Accredited Assessor you would like to use the grant.



### 1. GET A QUOTE

Visit the NABERS website to search for a NABERS Accredited Assessor and obtain quotes for a NABERS Energy rating for data centres. Your quotes will include site hours and consulting hours.

**Tip:** To ensure stakeholder buy-in, calculate the energy cost savings from increasing your star rating using the NABERS reverse calculator tool.



### 2. GATHER YOUR DATA

You'll need 12 months of historical energy consumption data and some information about the size and features of your building. Your assessor will advise you on what you need to provide.



### 3. ACHIEVE NABERS CERTIFICATION

Your assessor will conduct a site visit to validate your rating. Your rating will be based on factors that are unique to data centres, ensuring a fair, transparent and comparable outcome.



### 4. CUT COSTS & IMPROVE YOUR RATING

Each NABERS rating lasts for 12 months. Your assessor can provide advice on how to reduce your energy and operational costs and improve any future ratings.



NABERS CUSTOMERS REPORTED A TOTAL

**\$1.7 billion in energy savings**

OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES.

Source: NABERS Annual Report 2022-2023

## OUR PROMISE



### CONFIDENTIALITY

Your energy data and site details are only shared with your assessor and NABERS, and are stored in compliance with NSW Government data management policies.



### IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY

By specifying NABERS ratings and improvements in your contracts and performance indicators, you can increase accountability and delivery from your service contractors and technical services.



### TRANSPARENCY

We can arrange a meeting with one of our qualified assessors or a member of the NABERS team and your chief engineer or facilities management team to explain exactly how the program works and why it is the most robust system available.

## GET YOUR RATING

Visit our website

[www.nabers.gov.au/ratings/spaces-we-rate/datacentres](http://www.nabers.gov.au/ratings/spaces-we-rate/datacentres)

Contact the NABERS team

[nabers@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nabers@environment.nsw.gov.au)

(02) 9995 5000

NABERS is a national initiative managed by the NSW Government on behalf of the Federal, State and Territory governments of Australia.

\*Calculated averages from the NABERS dataset as at Jan 2020. Based on a data centre in Sydney CBD with 19,947,837 kWh assessable IT energy and 9,182,651 kWh total energy. Metered heat rejection equals 100% and electricity percentage is 100%.