



CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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onMain *underway with Chapel and CRT*

The old Montgomery County Ohio Fairgrounds, 38 acres located in the heart of downtown, was a vibrant and bustling hub of activity at certain times of the year. As one of the premier event venues in the region, it offered a diverse range of experiences for both locals and visitors. From thrilling amusement rides to agricultural displays, there was something for everyone at the fairgrounds.

The spacious outdoor grounds provided the perfect setting for concerts, festivals, and large-scale events, while the indoor facilities offered a versatile but antiquated space for trade shows, exhibits, and

community gatherings. With its central location, the fairgrounds were easily accessible and contributed to



Rendition of pedestrian walkway onMain.

the vibrant energy of downtown and Montgomery County.

Demolition of the Fairground took place in 2017 and the University of Dayton and Premiere Health now own this property as partners in

onMain, Inc. Key partners and supporters include the State of Ohio, JobsOhio, Montgomery County, the City of Dayton, Dayton Public Schools, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and the Dayton Development Coalition.

Dayton's onMain will be a place that fosters imagination, innovation and inclusivity. The long-term vision for the property allows for flexibility but reflects the input of more than 850 members of the community through the broad-based Fairgrounds to

Future planning process. Key elements of the vision include:

- A walkable urban neighborhood with places to work, live, learn and gather.
- A focus on creative, innovation and entrepreneurial activities and jobs.
- Mixed-income housing that offers opportunities for residents to live close to where they work.
- Buildings and site improvements that integrate environmental sustainability and wellness.
- Employers, entertainment venues and housing will draw a diverse mix of people who are representative of the broader

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ESI *takes on MVH projects*

ESI Electrical Contractors has undertaken a multi-phase Operating Room renovation project for Miami Valley Hospital's main campus. They are in the fifth phase of renovating the entire OR department with one or two additional OR upgrades scheduled for later this year.

Over twenty operating rooms along with the Perioperative prep and

recovery areas and the waiting and intake areas have been upgraded in the last five



Miami Valley Hospital

years. This increases surgical capacity and efficiency as integrated digital analytics

and performance tracking tools in surgery are installed.

The work includes

upgrading all associated LIM and Isolation panels and circuitry for updated safety and control of the lasers; all new lighting, lighting controls and devices;

updated grounding for patient safety; and upgrade of electrical infrastructure and

replacement of older distribution equipment.

One of the most impressive upgrades is in robotic surgery. The installation of the da Vinci 5 surgical system at the main hospital includes 3D visualization, force feedback (surgeons can "feel" tissue) and advance precision controls.

It is designed to improve minimally invasive surgery outcomes and will be used for training more surgeons both at the Miami Valley campus downtown and Premier South.

onMain cont'd

Dayton community and its vibrant neighborhoods.

- Urban agriculture would be located on land at the western end of the site and on building rooftops.

- The property's historic Roundhouse, built in 1874, is intended to be a focal point of the development and would be connected to Main Street through green space and an event plaza.

- A "catalytic"

building would be built at the northwest corner of Stewart and Main streets to spur development.

- Advanced and integrated technology. The site and its structures will reflect creative thinking for building materials, energy use, data analytics and sensor technology.

Chapel and Electric and Chapel-Romanoff Technologies (CRT) will be building the electrical and technological backbone of



The Roundhouse, circa 1874.

the entire project. CRT will be providing and installing the following systems in the OnMain project:

- Leviton/Berk Tek Structured Cabling solutions-Copper and Fiber Optic end-to-end system
- 225,000' of Cat 6A data cabling,

- 65,000' of fiber optic cable Genetec Unified Security Platform-Incorporating building Access Control, Intrusion protection, and IP cameras.

- Area of Rescue System for emergency communications throughout the building and IP door intercom system for visitor entrances.

- Audio-video systems in 68 conference rooms, training rooms, and huddle spaces will be

included. Incorporating technologies for video conferencing, meetings, and training with some of the following items: projector screens, displays, and an event space for large groups featuring a 219" video wall and line array column speakers and Sound Masking

System throughout the occupied office areas.

The updated Master Plan reflects significant progress. It captures key milestones, including onMain's designation as an Ohio Department of Development Innovation Hub, a sharpened focus on digital transformation, and the active construction of the Think Dayton building. The plan aligns today's momentum with a long-term vision for growth, investment, and innovation.

The Design Guidelines set clear expectations for building design, streetscapes, public spaces, sustainability, and overall district character. As onMain continues to grow, these guidelines ensure that development remains cohesive, high-quality, and intentional, reinforcing a strong sense of place while supporting flexibility for future innovation.

Game Day takes a lot of power

It takes a lot of power to create an immersive, impressive experience on game day. Fans, the team, advertisers, and alumni expect a game will come off seamlessly. That's why a blackout simply cannot happen, which places extra pressure on electrical contractors to make sure everything is in place and operational.

Uninterruptible power supplies are often used for loads that can't be lost for even a fraction of a second, including public messaging systems in case there is an evacuation announcement. Secured gates are also crucial, so fans don't go roaming where they shouldn't be.

Stadiums today are smart. The electrical requirements aren't just lighting and backup power, there is an elaborate IT infrastructure that includes communications, security, wireless access points, cameras, and sometimes

a fireworks button (at least at the Penn State stadium, where fireworks are detonated from the scoreboard when they score or win a game)!

And stadiums must be multi-functional. In addition

to game day, there are concerts, professional wrestling, other professional



sporting events like soccer, motorsports, performance arts like high school band competitions, private events (wedding receptions) and corporate business retreats.

It takes an entire team with the owner, engineer,

architect, general contractor, electrical equipment manufacturer and electrical contractor to generate a plan to meet all the necessary requirements to ensure no outages, meet safety requirements, and provide brilliant entertainment. It's not just "football" anymore!



April, 2026

Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome! Contact the Western Ohio Chapter - NECA.

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Data Centers *Pros and Cons*

A data center is basically a specialized facility that stores, processes, and distributes large amounts of digital data. Think of it as the physical backbone of the internet. The facilities have servers that store data and run applications; storage systems to hold information; networking equipment including routers and switches to move data around; power systems like backup generators and batteries; and cooling systems to prevent overheating.

Without data centers, modern digital life wouldn't function – no streaming, no social media, no online banking – all things we have come to rely on in our day to day lives.

PROS

- Faster, more reliable internet. More data centers mean data doesn't have to travel so far so streaming is faster.
- Supports cloud computing and AI. AI needs huge computing power. Companies like Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, and

Google rely on massive data center networks.

- Economic growth and jobs. Several of our NECA member electrical contractors are working on data center



projects. Building and maintaining data centers creates construction jobs, technical and maintenance roles and brings in local tax revenue.

- Redundancy and resilience. More locations create a better backup in case of weather related outages.
- Enables digital services everywhere. They make remote work, streaming, online education and global business possible.

CONS

- Huge energy consumption. Data centers use enormous amounts of electricity,

especially for cooling. This contributes to higher demand on power grids and increased carbon emissions.

- Environmental impact. Beyond electricity, water is

often used for cooling which can strain local supplies. Land use can disrupt ecosystems and construction has a carbon footprint.

- Local community concerns. People living nearby sometimes push back because of the noise from cooling systems and backup generators; the aesthetic impact, and limited permanent job creation.
- Strain on infrastructure. Clusters of data centers can overload power grids, internet backbone capacity and water systems.

- Centralization risks. Even though there are many data centers, control is concentrated among a few companies. This raises concerns regarding market dominance, data privacy and system-wide outages.

The growth of data centers is tied directly to how digital society has become. The challenge now is balancing demand with sustainability – like shifting to renewable energy, improving cooling efficiency, and building in smarter locations.

Data Centers in Ohio

- *Central Ohio is an epicenter of one of the largest US data center hubs.*
- *The projects are driven by AI and Cloud demand.*
- *Typical investments range from \$1B to \$2B per campus.*
- *Major players include Google, Amazon (AWS – Amazon Web Services), Microsoft, Vantage, Cologix and Aligned.*
- *Buildouts are expected to continue at least through 2030.*

Power demand for Data Centers

Power demand for Data Centers could triple by 2028, according to a 2024 report from the U.S. Department of Energy. In 2023, U.S. data centers used about 4.4% of the nation's electricity. By 2028, the usage will be up to 6% - 12%. This will challenge the country's aging electric grid and climate goals,

especially if the centers continue to rely on fossil fuels. 56% of the all electricity consumed by data centers from September 2023 to August 2024 came from fossil fuel power plants, while 22% came from renewable energy and 21% from nuclear energy.

Solar and storage-powered data centers will

reduce reliance on backup carbon-intensive diesel generators. Data centers that rely on clean energy are more insulated from fossil fuel price volatility, especially relevant with rising oil prices due to ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft and Open AI have

multiple multibillion dollar solar and storage projects in the pipeline to address growing energy demand and build the data center capacity they need. In 2021, Amazon and Microsoft were the two largest corporate buyers of renewable energy, buying power from large-scale off-site solar or wind farms.



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NECA EMERGE 2026

In April 2026, the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) held a transformative conference bringing together contractors, industry leaders, and innovators to explore key business trends, emerging technologies and specialized contractor disciplines, like prefabrication. The conference provided practical takeaways, equipping attendees with the tools and knowledge needed to stay competitive in an evolving market.

Attendees gained actionable insight into how Power over Ethernet (PoE), a technology for delivering DC power to devices over copper Ethernet cabling without separate power supplies or outlets, can be used. This will transform lighting, controls, and intelligent building systems and position contractors to confidently design, sell and install these advanced solutions.



The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:

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