

54.2% Growth in Utility Contractors — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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Wilmington, NC leads U.S. in utility system construction expansion since 2019

THE DATA

54.2%

Change in Utility System Contractors Since 2019

Wilmington, NC recorded the highest growth in utility system contractors among all U.S. metros between 2019 and 2022.

This surge reflects a deep structural shift: utility system construction is no longer just about grid maintenance. It's about building the physical backbone for AI-driven energy systems—microgrids, data-center power delivery, and renewable integration. The 54.2% growth in Wilmington signals that AI infrastructure is being physically deployed, not just modeled.

01

AI Infrastructure Is Being Built, Not Just Modeled

The fact that this growth is concentrated in smaller metros like Wilmington—rather than in traditional tech hubs—suggests that AI’s energy impact is not limited to urban centers. It’s being built where power demand is rising fastest and where grid resilience is most vulnerable.

02

The Grid Is the AI's First Interface

This creates a feedback loop: more physical infrastructure enables more AI applications, which in turn justifies further infrastructure investment. The data shows that the AI energy revolution is not starting in Silicon Valley—it's starting where the grid is being rebuilt.

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