Data centre energy efficiency package

European Commission – DG ENER

22 October 2026

European Commission

Why?

- Digital technology and infrastructure have a critical role in our private lives and business environments.
- **It's not only AI, practically all digital services need data centres to be delivered in** a secure and efficient way.
- Digital growth and high sustainability standards must go together, but we need to act now.
- Most of the data centre capacity that will be on the ground in the next 20 years will be designed and be constructed in the next few years.
- The Commission is committed to ensuring that data centres in the EU are sustainable by promoting transparency, best available technologies and facilitating the better integration of the digital and energy systems.

How?

- EED, Article 12(5)

  [*...**the Commission shall assess the available data on the energy efficiency of data centres ...** and shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council, accompanied, where appropriate, by legislative proposals containing further measures to improve energy efficiency, including establishing minimum performance standards **... in close consultation with the** relevant stakeholders.*]

- EED, Article 33(3)

  [*The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 34 to supplement this Directive by establishing, after having consulted the relevant stakeholders, a common Union scheme for rating the sustainability of data centres located in its territory. The Commission shall adopt the first such delegated act by 31 December 2023. The common Union scheme shall establish the definition of data centre sustainability indicators and shall set out the key performance indicators and the methodology to measure them.*]

Data centre energy efficiency package (21/09/2026)

1. Report to the European Parliament and Council, assessing the data reported in 2024 – *COM(2026) 500 final*
2. Delegated Regulation establishing a common Union rating scheme for data centres (label) – *C(2026) 3472 final*
3. Opening of call for evidence and of open public consultation on minimum performance standards for data centres in the EU

Report on the energy efficiency of data centres in the EU

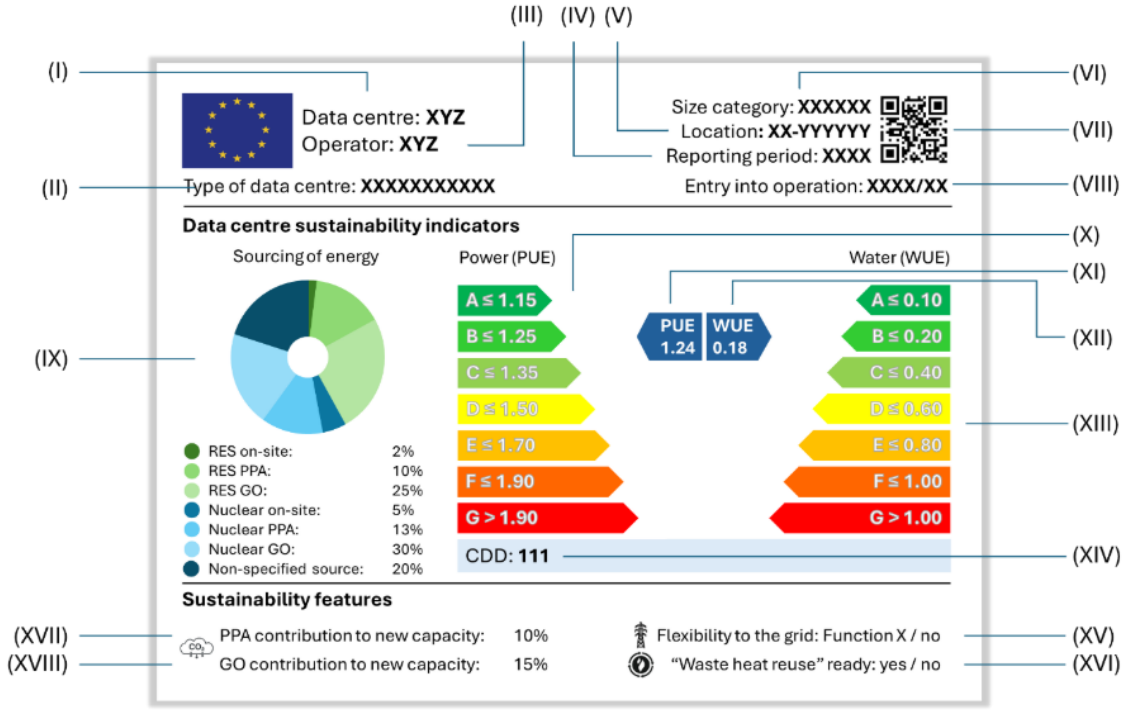
Evaluates the data reported in 2024 as part of the reporting scheme set by Delegated Regulation 2024/1364

- Data quality and completeness
- Energy and sustainability performance

Discusses ways forward to improve the existing framework and push for a sustainable digital sector

Rating scheme and label

- Increase transparency, inform better policy making, support more sustainable procurement of digital assets and services
- Ability to compare or benchmark data centres in a region



Label automatically generated by the database, based on the data reported by data centre operators

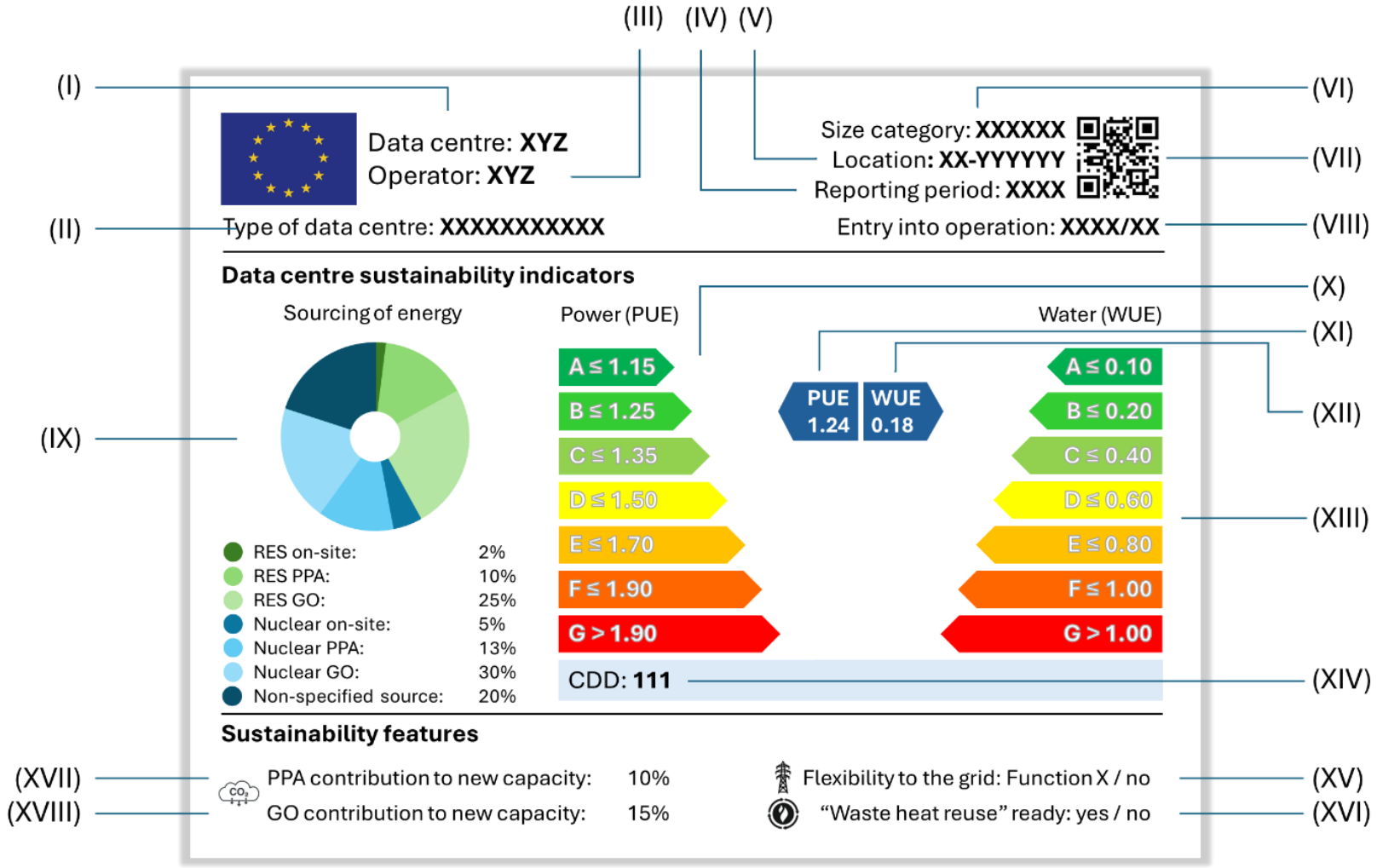
Minimum performance standards

- Improve energy efficiency and reduce the footprint of data centres
- Ensure that all new or retrofitted data centres meet a minimum performance level for some criteria such as energy efficiency, water use or waste-heat reuse

Next steps:

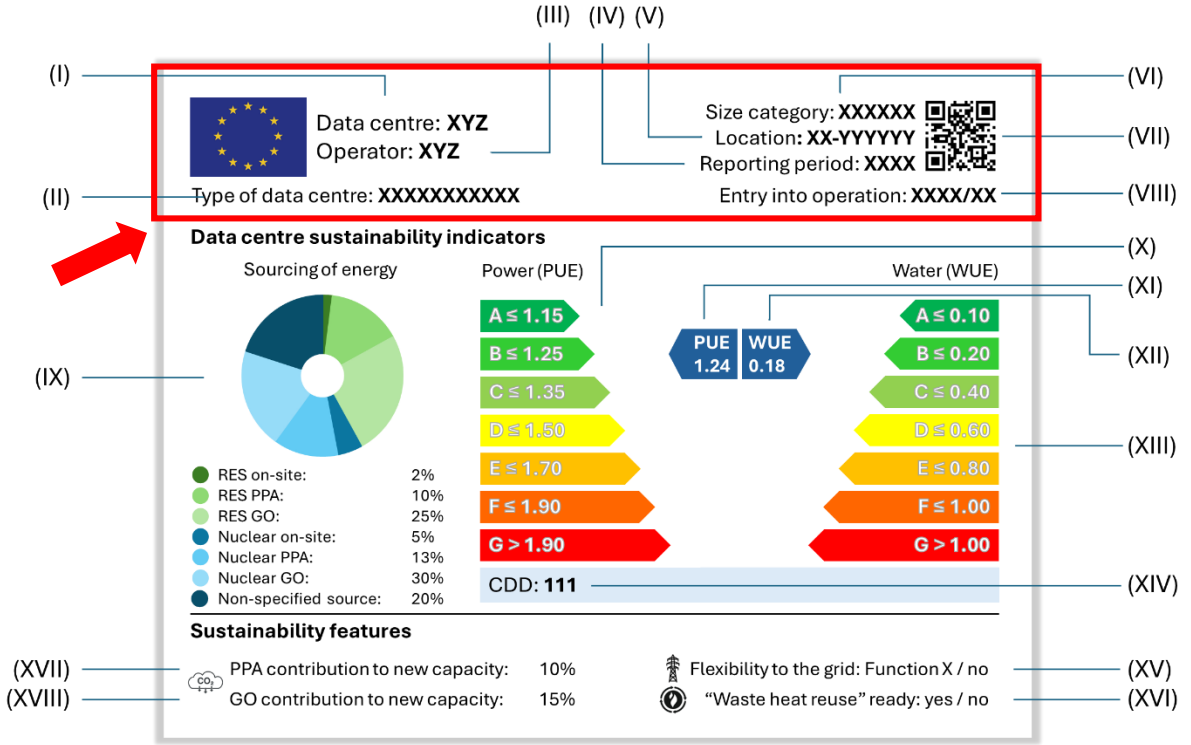
- Ongoing 12-week public consultation (open to everyone!)
- Consultation with stakeholders taking place in parallel (2nd expert workshop took place on 15/10)
- Proposal for a Regulation in Q2 2027

Label on data centres



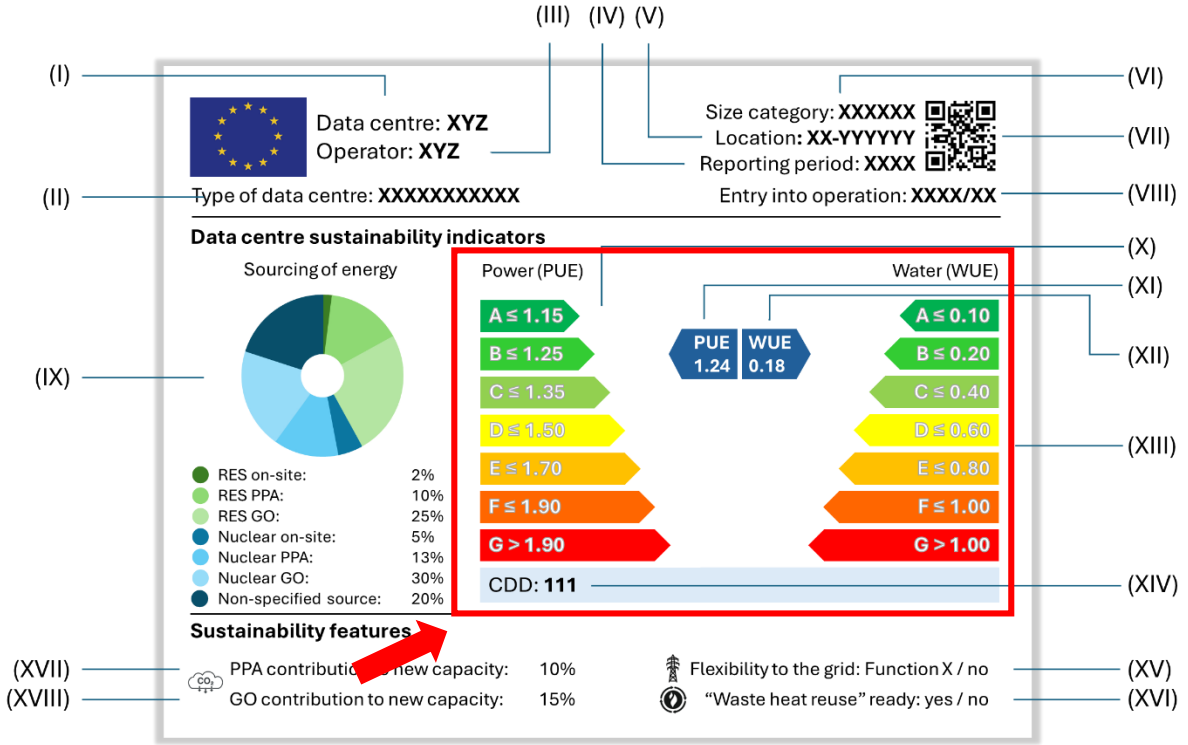
Information

- Necessary information to identify the data centre
- QR code leading to the repository of labels



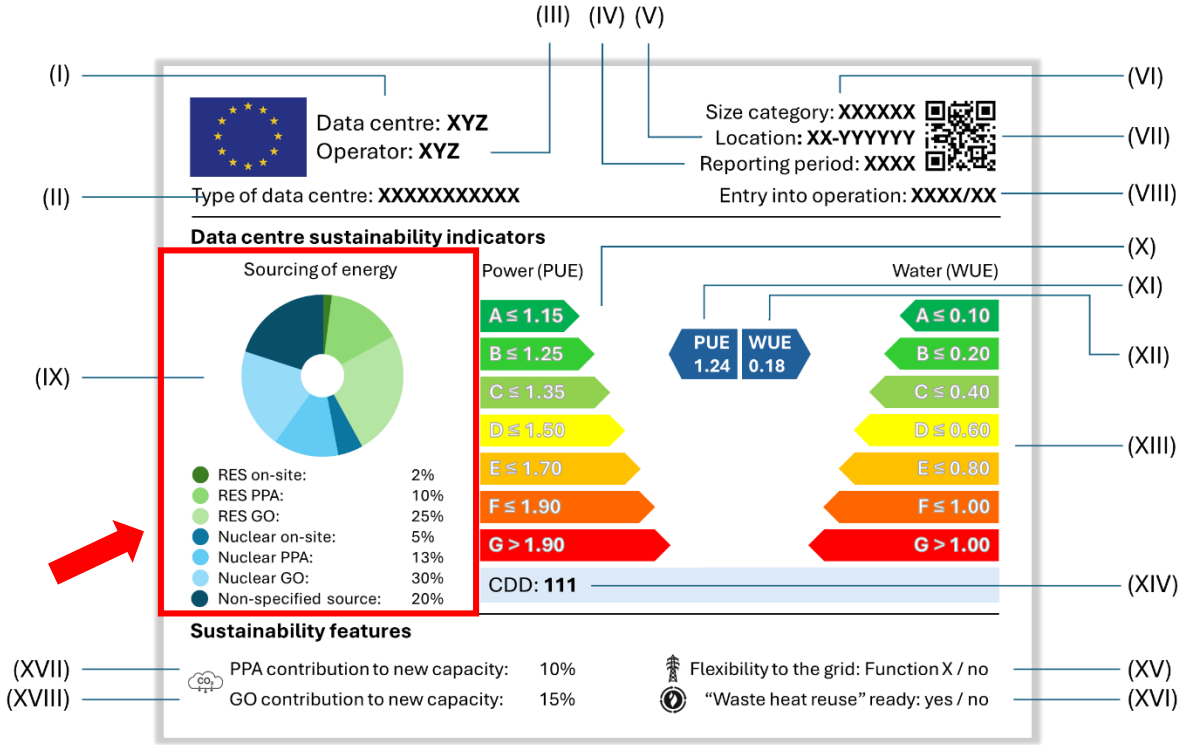
PUE & WUE

- Uniform scales
- Mention of CDD
- Commission will deliver an additional explanatory document for users that want to compare data centres across different climate zones, or sizes, types, etc.



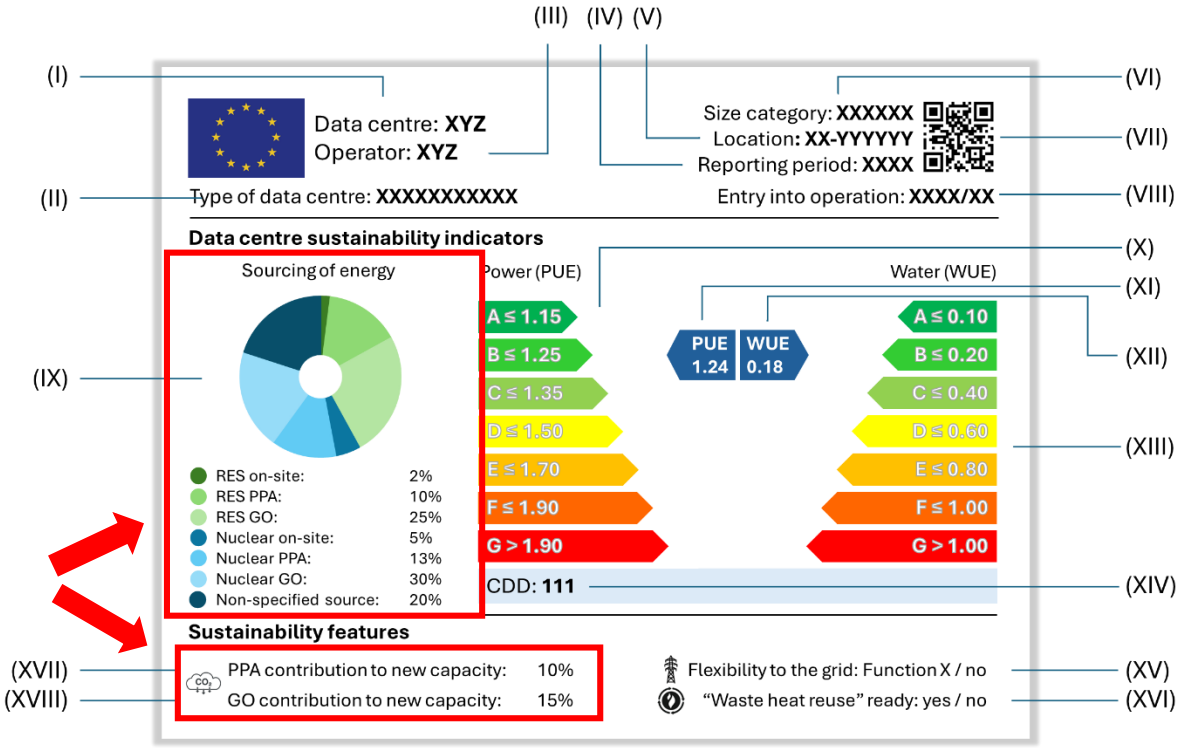
Sourcing of energy

- Breakdown of energy sourcing between renewables (onsite, PPA, GO), nuclear (onsite, PPA, GO) and non-specified sources
- Reflects technological neutrality of low-carbon energy sources



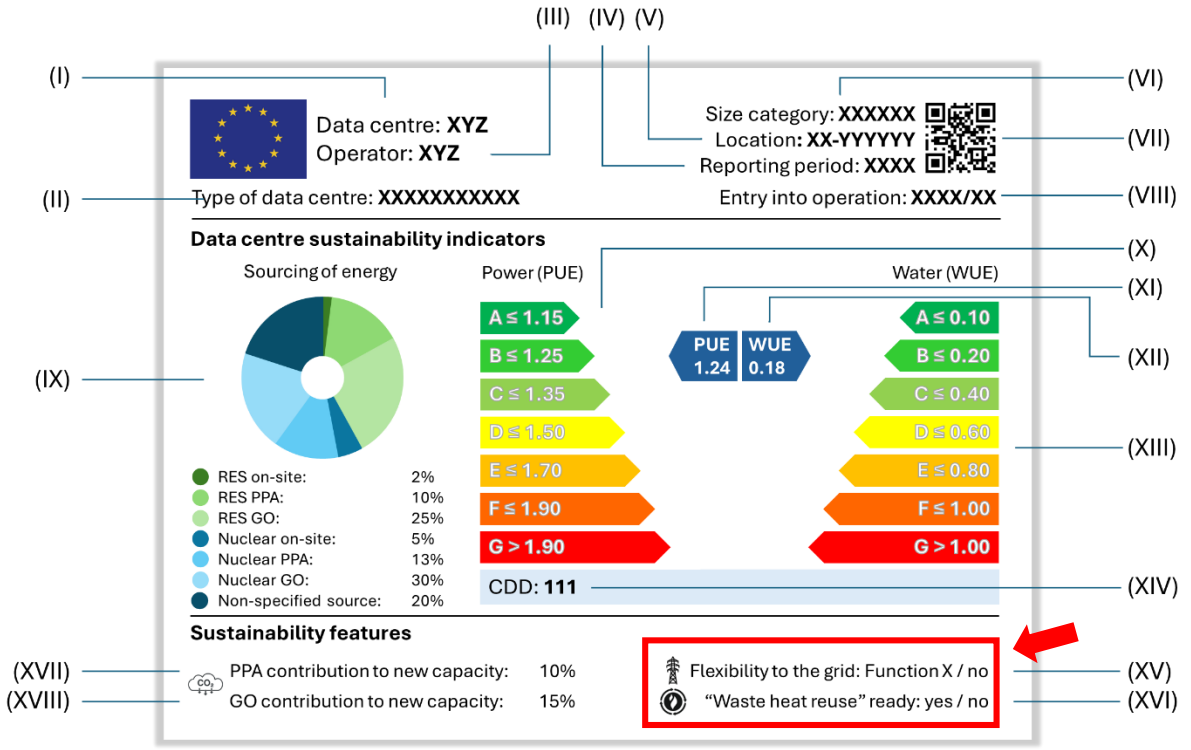
Two-tier system for PPA and GO

- No criteria for PPA and GO in the pie chart
- A new category for PPA and GO fulfilling stricter requirements (time granularity, location, asset age) is added
- These would be showcased on the **label as "PPA contribution to new capacity" (sum of $E_{RES\text{-}PPA\text{-}NC}$ and $E_{NUC\text{-}PPA\text{-}NC}$) and "GO contribution to new** capacity" (sum of $E_{RES\text{-}GOO\text{-}NC}$ and $E_{NUC\text{-}GOO\text{-}NC}$)



Flexibility & waste heat

- **Introduction of “signal” indicators** showing whether a data centre
  - Participates in any scheme the offers flexibility or other services to the grid
  - **Is “ready” to (or already participates** in) a scheme of waste heat reuse



Beyond the label: amendment of reporting scheme

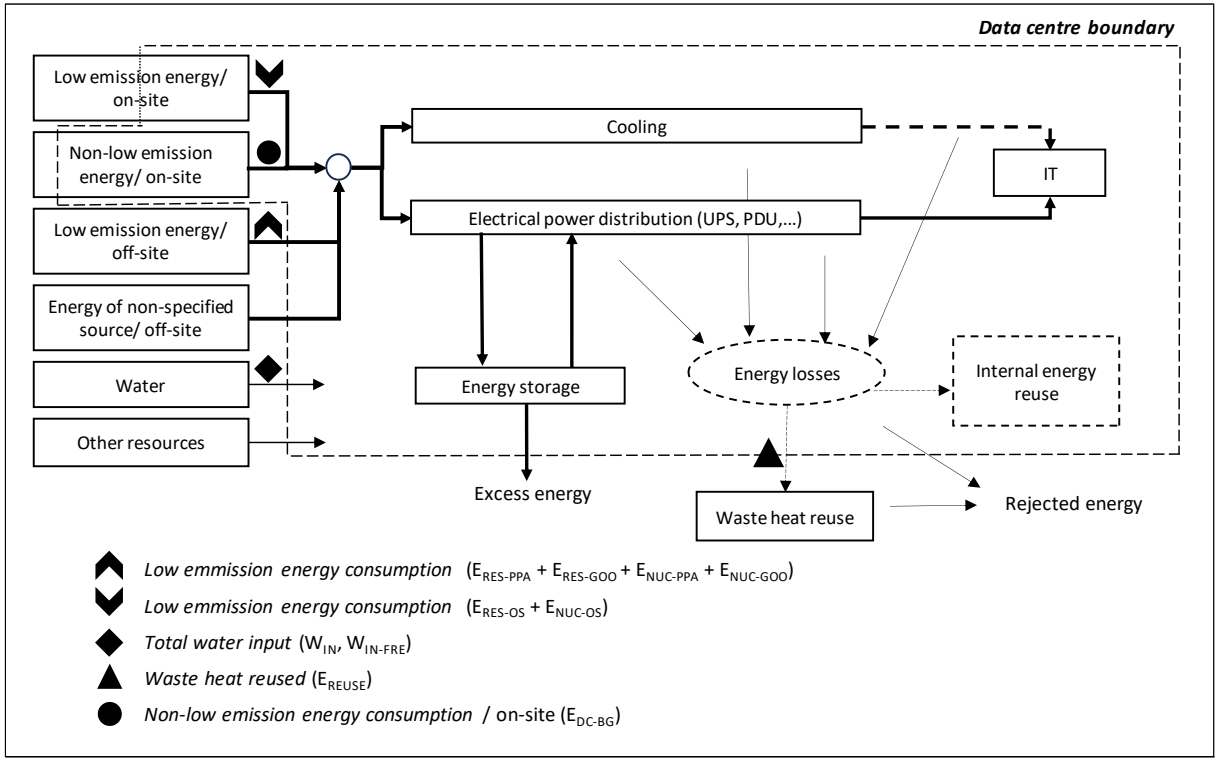
- Several definitions were amended to reflect issues identified in the two first reporting periods, ensure alignment with the label, and reduce burden to reporting data centres. Examples include:
  - **Improved the definition of** "Total energy consumption of information technology equipment" **to capture more inefficiencies in a data centre**
  - **Improved the definition of** "Data centre total floor area" **to explicitly include** the occupied roof areas
  - **Included a fifth key sustainability indicator in Annex IV,** "Low-Emission Energy Factor (LEEF)" **that captures the total low-**carbon energy reported by the data centre

Beyond the label: working on the quality of the reporting scheme

- Introduction of logical checks and warnings to drastically reduce inconsistencies or blank values in the reports
- **Introduction of a "certified data" field** → to allow Member States and the Commission understand how many of the reports are certified, audited, etc. through a reliable system

Beyond the label: On-site renewables and nuclear

- **Adapted the definition of "on-site" to** account energy generated from renewable or nuclear sources **"connected directly to the data** centre under a self-consumption **scheme"** in addition to **"within the data centre boundary"**



Thank you



European Commission – DG ENER – Unit B2 (Energy efficiency: policy and financing)

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