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REPORT: Southern States Lead Surge in Clean Energy Jobs, Propelled by Inflation Reduction Act

- *Nearly 3.5 million Americans now work in renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean vehicles and other clean economy occupations*
- *Southern states added 54,000 clean energy jobs; first region to surpass 1 million clean energy jobs*
- *1 in 16 new US jobs were in clean energy in 2023*
- *Top 10 States: CA, TX, FL, NY, IL, MI, MA, OH, NC, PA*
- *Fastest-Growing States: AL, KY, TX, OK, WV, NM, FL, NJ, NV, UT*

WASHINGTON (Sept. 17, 2024) – Clean energy and clean vehicle companies added nearly 150,000 jobs in the first full year of the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), boosting the total number of clean energy workers in United States to nearly 3.5 million, according to the ninth annual *Clean Jobs America* report released today by the national, nonpartisan business group E2.

No region added more jobs and at a faster rate than the South. From Texas to Virginia, Southern states added more than 54,000 clean energy jobs—36 percent of all new jobs—while states in the Midwest, Northeast, and West combined to add 95,000 jobs. Overall, the South now accounts for more than 1 million jobs across the clean vehicle, renewables energy, energy efficiency, battery storage, grid modernization, and biofuel sectors—more than any other region.

E2's annual *Clean Jobs America* reports have tracked U.S. clean energy job growth since 2015. BW Research Partnership conducted the latest data analysis, based on the U.S. Department of Energy's U.S. Energy Employment Report (USEER), which E2 helped create and which tracks employment across all energy related occupations. BW Research also collected and analyzed the data used in the USEER.

Boosted by [the more than 340 major clean energy projects announced since the passage of the IRA](#), clean energy jobs grew by nearly 4.5 percent last year, accounting for about one in every 16 jobs added across the U.S. economy. By comparison, the overall economy added jobs at a 1.5 percent clip last year, according data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). New clean energy jobs accounted for almost 60 percent of all energy-related jobs added in 2023, bringing clean energy's share of the overall energy industry workforce to more than four out of every 10 workers.

“Thanks to the game-changing policies and incentives created by the IRA, clean energy companies are leading an American economic revolution the likes of which we haven't seen in generations,” said Bob Keefe, executive director of E2 and author of the recently released book about the IRA

and its impacts: “*Clean Economy NOW: Stories from the Frontlines of an American Business Revolution.*”

“But we’re just getting started,” Keefe said, “The biggest threats to this unprecedented progress are misguided efforts to repeal or rollback parts of the IRA, despite the law’s clear benefits both to American workers and the communities where they live.”

California, Texas and Florida continue to lead the country in total clean energy jobs. But with the South leading the way in new clean energy projects announced since the IRA, Alabama, Kentucky, Texas, Oklahoma were the fastest-growing states for clean energy jobs, based on percentage increases.

Top 10 States (fastest-growing)	Top 10 States (total jobs)	Top 10 Counties (total jobs)	Top 10 Metros (total jobs)
AL +6.6%	CA 544,604	Los Angeles (CA) 101,437	New York 164,676
KY +6.5%	TX 268,035	Harris (TX) 65,535	Los Angeles 159,957
TX +6.5%	FL 175,572	Orange (CA) 58,520	SF-Oakland 106,509
OK +6.1%	NY 173,731	Cook (IL) 55,815	Boston 98,546
WV +6.1%	IL 128,871	San Diego (CA) 53,965	Chicago 96,164
NM +6.1%	MI 127,690	Maricopa (AZ) 49,919	Washington, D.C. 90,393
FL +5.9%	MA 123,403	New York (NY) 49,103	Houston 77,434
NJ +5.8%	OH 119,241	Santa Clara (CA) 49,069	Dallas-Fort Worth 71,365
NV +5.6%	NC 109,723	Alameda (CA) 37,777	Detroit 68,555
UT +5.5%	PA 100,704	Middlesex (MA) 37,337	San Diego 53,965

Region	Growth	Clean Energy Jobs	Jobs Added
South	5.4%	1,052,978	54,237
West	4.2%	962,029	38,708
Midwest	3.9%	763,074	28,672
Northeast	4.2%	686,371	27,555
Total	4.5%	3,460,406	149,170

For a copy of the *Clean Jobs America 2024* report or to dive deeper into the data including down to the state, county, and metro levels through E2’s interactive map, visit cleanjobsamerica.e2.org.

The spike in clean energy jobs included 42,000 new manufacturing jobs and nearly 41,000 jobs in clean vehicles. Since the IRA was signed into law in August 2022, more than 200 new large-scale manufacturing projects — primarily in the electric vehicle and battery sectors — have been announced nationwide. Energy efficiency, which employs more clean energy workers than any other sector of the energy economy – including fossil fuels - added the most overall jobs (75,000).

Energy efficiency remains the top sector for U.S. clean energy jobs, with about 2.3 million workers. That’s followed by renewable generation (560,000) and clean vehicles (410,000).

When broken down by industry, construction accounted for the most total jobs with more than 1.6 million, followed by professional services (740,000) and manufacturing (534,000).

Methodology

This analysis of U.S. clean energy employment is based on employment data collected and analyzed by the BW Research Partnership for the 2024 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER). The USEER analyzes data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) to track employment across many energy production, transmission and distribution subsectors. In addition, the 2023 USEER relies on a unique supplemental survey of 42,000 business representatives across the United States. Created and conducted by BW Research, the methodology has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This survey is used to identify energy-related employment within key subsectors of the broader industries as classified by the BLS and to assign them into their component energy and energy efficiency sectors.

A full methodology on the sectors and types of jobs this analysis includes and does not include is available in the report, available [here](#).

Other Resources

- ***Clean Jobs America 2024 State & County Maps***: cleanjobsamerica.e2.org/
- ***Inflation Reduction Act Year-Two Review***: In the IRA's first two years, E2 tracked 334 major clean energy projects encompassing nearly \$126 billion in private sector development. Notably, the vast majority of this investment capital – some 85 percent – went to congressional districts represented by Republicans, despite the fact not a single Republican member of congress voted for the law.
- ***Clean Economy Works***: More details plus an interactive map of each of these projects shows what's trending in America's booming clean economy.
- ***Clean Economy NOW: Stories from the Frontlines of an American Business Revolution***: Author, former journalist and E2 Executive Director Bob Keefe's recently released book includes fresh insider information about the passage of the landmark IRA legislation two years ago; stories of communities and people being impacted by the legislation today and what it all means for politics, the planet and our future.

Previous Clean Jobs America Reports:

- [Clean Jobs America 2023](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2022](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2021](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2020](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2019](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2018](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2017](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2016](#)

To connect with E2 members who are clean energy business leaders and come from every corner of the country, please contact E2 communications director Michael Timberlake at mtimberlake@e2.org.

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