



## How going bold on clean energy will create good jobs in Arizona

Congress has a unique opportunity to create good-paying jobs and build a more just clean energy future through big, bold investments in our infrastructure.

Before the COVID recession, Arizona [was home](#) to 62,106 clean energy jobs, including 11,629 jobs generating renewable electricity, 2,273 jobs in energy storage, 44,782 jobs in energy efficiency, and 3,077 jobs in clean vehicles. Thousands of these jobs have not returned, but the bold investments in clean energy and transportation could mean tens of thousands more in these and related sectors.

Here are just a few examples of specifically what investments in clean energy and transportation could mean for the state:

**Winning the electric vehicle market:** A bold clean energy and climate bill would put electricians and other contractors to work building a national network of 500,000 public and accessible EV chargers by 2030.

It will also help automakers develop domestic supply chains to create manufacturing jobs right here at home building electric cars, trucks and buses to compete with the overseas companies currently dominating this market.

- **Additional investments could cement Arizona's status as a hub for EV manufacturing:**
  - For example, in December 2020 Lucid Motors [completed](#) construction on its Casa Grande, AZ, facility, which is expected to manufacture some 30,000 EVs annually. The facility is set for four expansion phases through 2028, reaching more than 5 million square feet and a production capacity of 400,000 EVs annually.
  - Atlis Motor Vehicles, an Arizona startup in Mesa, is currently developing battery cells and packs to power their [EV pickup trucks with driving ranges of 300-500 miles that take only 15 minutes to charge fully](#).
  - In May 2021, [ElectraMeccanica Vehicles Corp, a Canadian EV manufacturer/designer](#), started construction on its first U.S.-based assembly facility and state-of-the-art engineering technical center in Mesa, AZ.
- **Electric vehicle charging stations On I-10:** In December 2020, the Arizona Department of Transportation [announced](#) plans to build four charging stations along Interstate 10, closing existing gaps between Phoenix and the Arizona-California border and between Tucson and the Arizona-New Mexico border. Bold climate investments could help speed up these plans and create additional accessible charging corridors in the state

**Building and installing clean power and a stronger electric grid:** Going bold on clean energy and climate would put people to work manufacturing solar panels, installing wind turbines, updating power lines, and much more to build the capacity to deliver clean, renewable electricity. This includes tax credits for clean energy, energy storage and energy efficiency, and block grants to state, local, and tribal governments to accelerate this modernization.



- **Arizona has a huge potential for more clean energy.** While Arizona is already ranked 5th in the nation for solar energy installed with [over 176,544 solar installations and 7,346 solar jobs](#), it's one of the sunniest states in the country, and has significant additional potential, along with accompanying jobs. For example, a new project underway, the [Babbitt Ranch Energy Center](#) will bring over 400 acres of solar panels, as well as around 60 wind turbines and a battery storage facility to an area east of Valle in Coconino County. Construction would likely provide about 250 temporary jobs.
- **Power grid and microgrid investments can support resilience in the state:** Arizona survived a record number of scorching hot days in summer 2020 without any widespread power outages. The state has further upgraded for summer 2021 with the help of [small self-contained microgrids](#). Microgrids draw energy from rooftop solar panels, nearby wind turbines, and other sources, creating new energy sources for the state, and funding more of these can further build resilience in the state. Investments in transmission projects [such as](#) the Southline Transmission Project and the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project can also help increase the amount of clean energy on the grid and create jobs.
- **Clean energy can bring big benefits for Arizona tribes:** [75% of U.S. homes without electricity are located in the Navajo Nation](#). In March 2021, the Navajo Nation solidified [leases](#) for two new solar plants on the reservation, which can start to help power some of these homes. The plants are expected to bring in \$90 million in energy transmission payments, \$13 million in land lease payments, and \$6 million in tax revenue for the tribe, as well as power. Some of the income will go toward connecting more Navajo homes to the power grid and keeping rates down for tribal customers, according to the tribal utility.

**Bold clean energy and climate investments could benefit communities that have long shouldered the burden of our nation's pollution legacy.**

- Decades of underinvestment and racism mean many Latinos, tribes, and other communities of color in Arizona face disproportionately high costs for energy, transportation and basic necessities, limited access to public services, high levels of poverty, and outdated and weak critical infrastructure. They are also hit first and worst by the climate crisis and suffer disproportionately from extreme weather events and air and water pollution. President Biden

has made a commitment to allocate 40% of the investments in climate and clean infrastructure in this bill to these and other disadvantaged communities.

**Providing tools and support to help coal and other fossil fuel communities transition.** Bold clean energy and climate investments should include funds for workforce and economic development, including in communities whose economies have been dependent on fossil fuels.

- **Bold clean energy and climate legislation would build on and complement [other programs](#) to revitalize and diversify Arizona’s economy**, including \$27 billion for a Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator to mobilize private investment into clean energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation, which will especially focus on communities that have not yet benefited from recent growth in these industries. It also provides \$40 billion for a new Dislocated Workers Program and sector-based training; funds innovative pilot projects for clean steel, cement, and hydrogen in distressed communities; and invests \$20 billion in regional innovation hubs and a Community Revitalization Fund. These programs can drive the growth of the clean economy in a way that benefits workers and communities that have historically relied on fossil fuels, including those affected by the closure of the Navajo Generating Station.

**Building and retrofitting buildings to save money and energy:** Bold clean energy and climate investments will employ people across the construction trades to build, preserve, and retrofit more than two million homes and commercial buildings. It also includes investments specifically for affordable housing units, including in rural and tribal areas.

- **Focusing energy efficiency updates can bring health benefits to Maricopa County.** According to a [report](#) from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, up to 40% of heat-related deaths in Maricopa County occur indoors, and a recent survey of homebound individuals found that one-third faced limitations on home cooling system use, with the overwhelming majority (81%) citing the “cost of bills” as a contributing factor. Making sure homes in the county are not wasting air conditioning can create jobs as well as save money and lives.

**Restoring our public lands:** Bold clean energy climate investments mean we could mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers through a new Civilian Climate Corps to work on protecting our public lands and waters.



- **Arizona has 28 shovel-ready trail improvement projects.** Together, these would need [\\$13,397,659](#) worth of funding and would provide 2,595 months of work. Other Civilian Climate Corps jobs in the state could include clearing brush, felling dead trees, and otherwise removing fuel for wildfires, which are increasingly present in the state, and replanting burned forests.