

FACT SHEET

CLEAN ELECTRICITY OPPORTUNITIES FROM BUILD BACK BETTER: ARIZONA

The electric power system is undergoing a transformation that is driving large new investments in renewables and other non-emitting generation in all states across the country. The Build Back Better bill has the potential to significantly accelerate this investment, economic activity, and job growth in Arizona.

Clean energy remains the biggest job creator across America's energy sector, employing nearly three times as many workers as the fossil fuel extraction and generation industries. There are more American clean energy workers (3.0 million) than there are middle and elementary school teachers (2.0 million), bankers (2.1 million), commercial truck drivers (1.8 million), or engineers (1.7 million).¹ Median hourly wages for clean energy jobs (\$24 per hour) also are about 25 percent higher than the national median wage. And many renewables jobs, like those in solar and wind (combined \$24.87 median hourly wage), also pay better than most fossil fuel extraction jobs such as in coal, natural gas, and petroleum fuels (combined \$24.37 median hourly wage).²

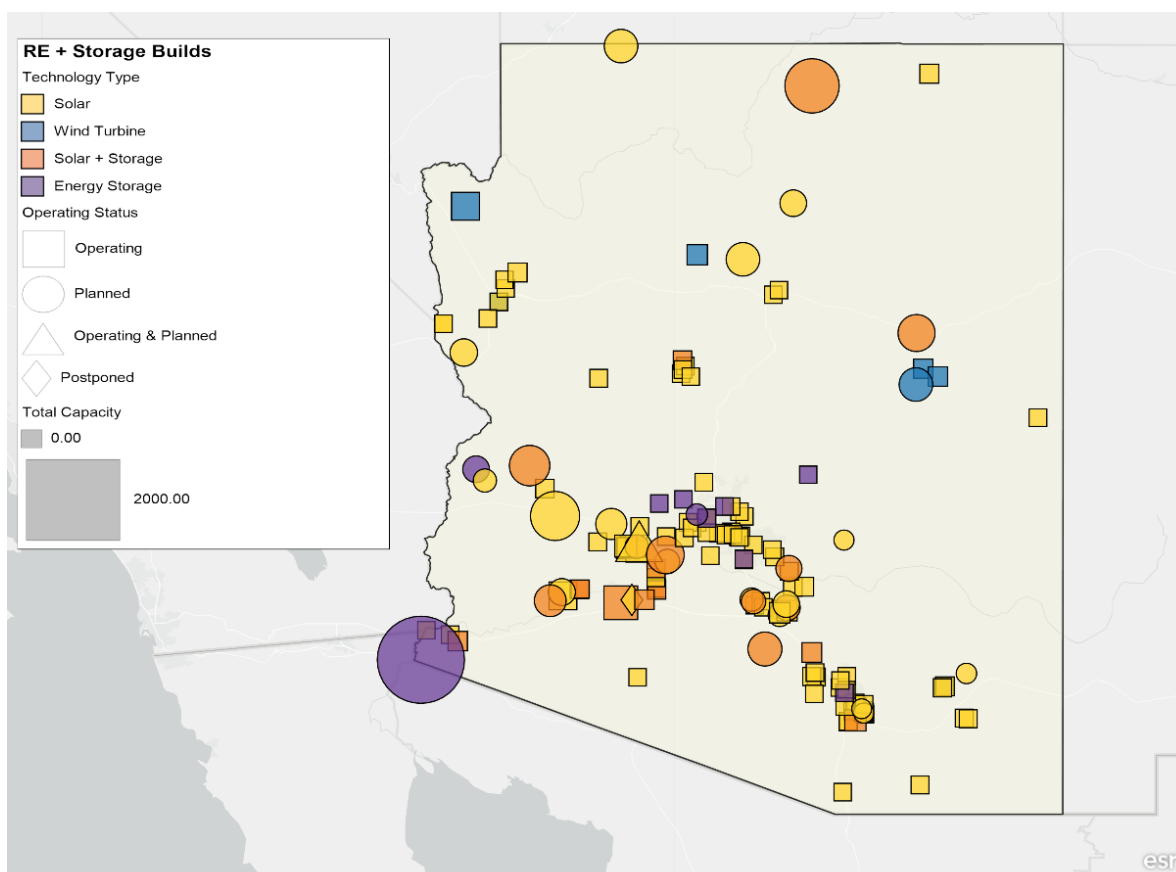
2020 ARIZONA CLEAN ENERGY JOBS, ACCORDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURS.³

- Total Clean Energy Employment: 56,504
- Share of Statewide Workforce: 2.0%
- Renewable Energy: 10,934
 - Solar + Wind: 10,104
- Storage & Grid: 2,176
- Energy Efficiency: 39,880
- Clean Fuels: 325
- Clean Vehicles: 3,188
- Job Growth 2018- 2020: 7.4%
- Job Growth June-Dec. 2020: 7.0%



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Figure I: Operating and proposed wind, solar, and storage capacity in Arizona as of November 2021



Source: Plant data from S&P Global Market Intelligence. Capacity is in MW.

CURRENT AND PROPOSED CLEAN ELECTRICITY PROJECTS IN ARIZONA

Arizona already has seen a build-out of clean energy resources in recent years, with many more projects in development. The map above shows wind, solar, and storage projects that are already operating or in development in the state. The clean energy incentives in BBB will support and further grow clean energy opportunities.

BUILD BACK BETTER CLEAN ELECTRICITY INVESTMENTS

The bill contains more than \$150 billion in clean electricity tax incentives as well as more than \$25 billion for clean energy loans, grants, research, procurement, and other essential programs. Tax incentives are critical to driving clean energy deployment and reducing the cost of renewables and other clean energy resources. The tax incentives included in the legislation are both more flexible and accessible to support all types of developers (small and large, for-profit and not-for-profit) who will usher in the fastest—and most sustained—build-out of renewables in the country’s history. The 10-year time frame creates market stability to grow U.S. manufacturing and investments in retooled and new factories. New bonus credits for projects built that meet strong labor

standards, using domestically produced components or in low-income and energy transition communities, will create well-paying jobs and drive equitable access to clean energy resources.

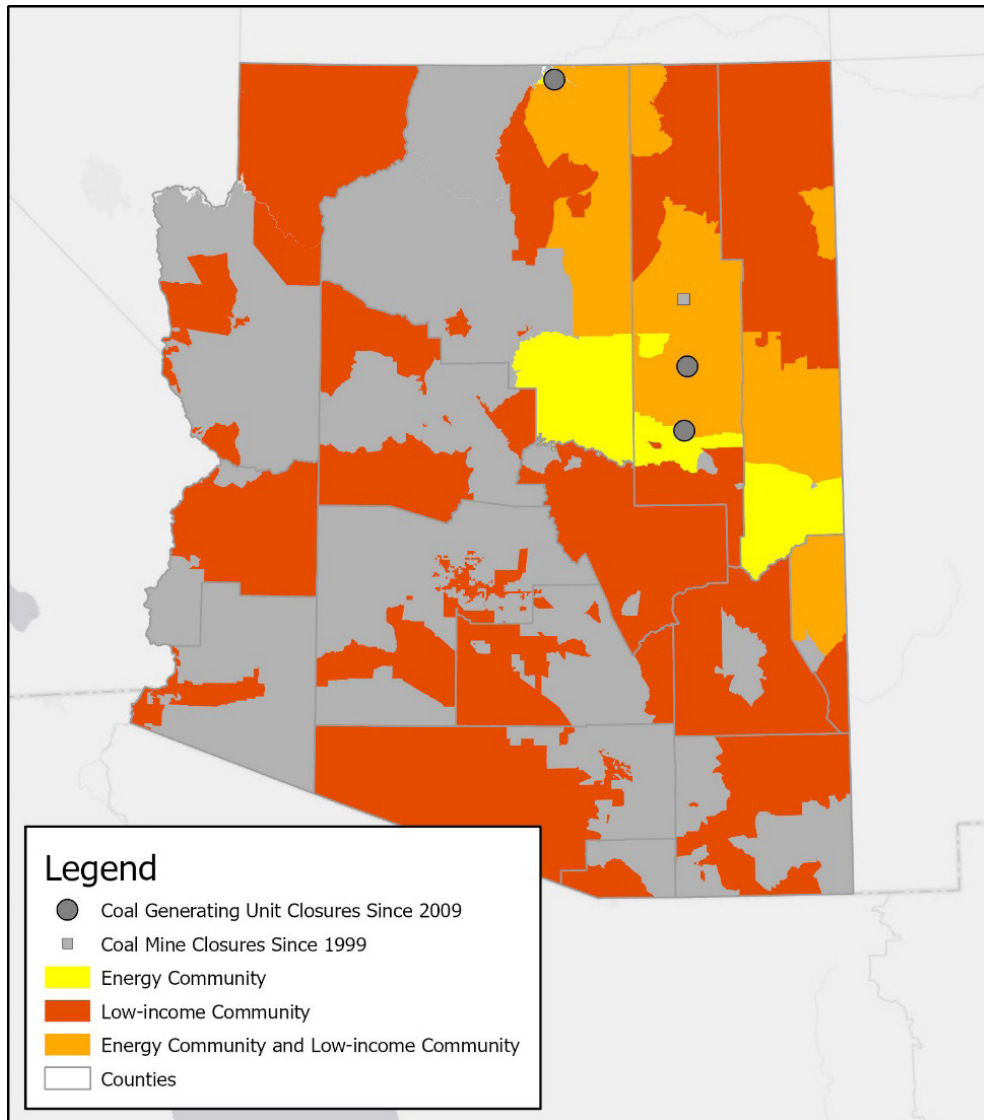
The incentives in this legislation also go well beyond the core clean energy tax credits and agency funding to include:

- A multi-sector Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Clean Accelerator), with \$7 billion designated for state, local, and nonprofit programs to install zero-emission distributed technologies in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and \$20 billion in nonprofit financing for projects that reduce or avoid emissions by leveraging private sector investment.
- Incentives for solar and wind projects built in low-income communities and on tribal land.
- \$5 billion to invest in low-carbon projects in communities impacted by closures of fossil infrastructure like refineries or coal plants.
- \$9.7 billion for loans and grants to transition rural electric cooperatives away from fossil fuels.
- Grants and loans of more than \$2 billion and \$11 billion in tax credits to build electricity transmission lines to enhance reliability and enable renewable projects.

BONUS INCENTIVES FOR LOW-INCOME AND COAL COMMUNITIES

The BBB includes bonus tax incentives to invest in low-income communities and areas impacted by closures of fossil infrastructure, making these communities very attractive for clean energy investment. The map below shows the location of these areas.

Figure 2: Energy Communities and Low-Income Communities in Arizona as Defined in Build Back Better



Source: NRDC analysis. Coal plant closures and coal mine closures are taken from S&P Global Market Intelligence Asset Data.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), *Clean Jobs America 2021*, April 2021, <https://e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/E2-2021-Clean-Jobs-America-Report-04-19-2021.pdf>.
- 2 BW Research Partnership, *Clean Jobs, Better Jobs*, prepared for E2, the American Council on Renewable Energy, and the Clean Energy Leadership Institute, October 2020, <https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-better-jobs/>.
- 3 E2, *Clean Jobs America 2021*.