

**CHAMBERS FOR INNOVATION  
& CLEAN ENERGY**

**2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

---

Clean Energy Powers Up

# CONTENTS

01.

Message from our Executive Director

02.

Reach

03.

What Business Leaders are Saying

04.

Event Highlights

05.

Policy & Research

06.

Publications

07.

Chambers in Action

08.

Business Leaders Weigh In

09.

Partners

10.

Leadership

11.

Future Focus

12.

Contact



# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

## *The clean energy economy powers up*

One year ago, I wrote in our annual report that 2022 was a “banner year” for the clean energy economy. Now, twelve months later, the best single word to describe clean energy’s leap forward is “unprecedented.”



With more than \$1.8 trillion invested in clean energy globally, clean energy is now recognized as a major economic driver.

In 2023, following the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. saw a whopping 22% increase in clean energy transition financing, totaling over \$303.3 billion invested in hundreds of projects nationwide. From electric vehicle factories and battery recycling plants to wind farms and energy efficiency and power grid improvements, clean energy is no longer a fringe sector; it’s part of the foundation of our economy, bringing capital investment, job creation, and energy security to states and communities across the country.

As the clean energy economy powers up, so does CICE. 2023 was a pivotal year for our organization, with transformative new investments allowing us to build our capacity, enhance our programs, broaden our reach, and amplify our impact on the clean energy landscape.

This year, we:

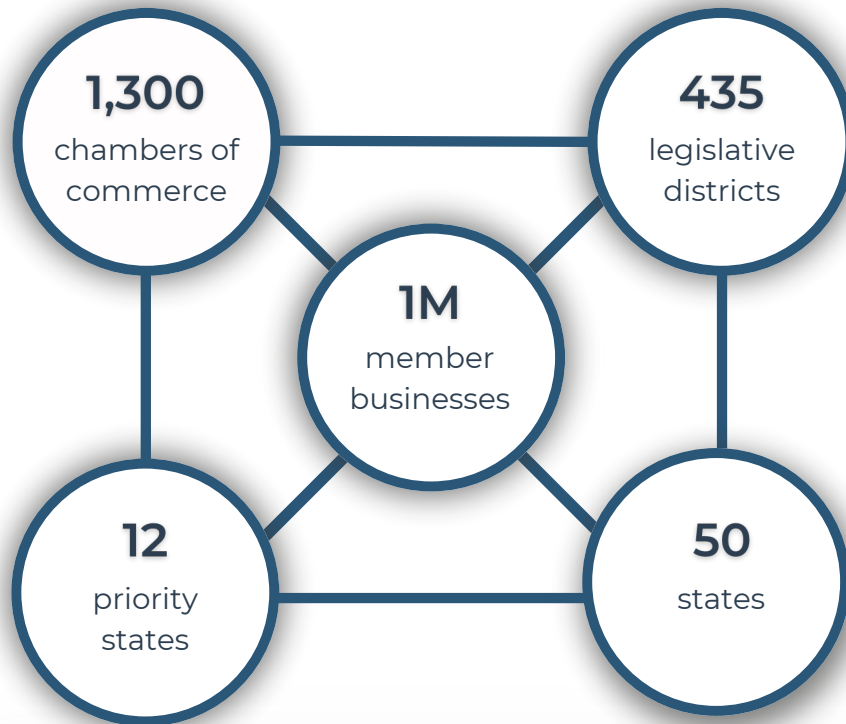
- Hired five new full-time roles, growing our team to a total of 11 staff
- Expanded our number of priority states, putting us at the forefront of regional clean energy advancement in a dozen states
- Created a library of policy and subject-matter reports, briefs, and one-pagers, providing actionable resources for clean energy expansion
- Readied the launch of our Corporate Advisory Council, National Leadership Council, Corporate Partnership Program, and Clean Energy Cohorts to provide chambers and businesses a platform for leadership, impact, and peer-to-peer learning

Our mission is clear: empower chamber, economic, and business leaders by providing them with the tools, resources, and strategic guidance needed to harness the benefits of a clean energy economy. Thank you to all of our partners, our chamber and economic development colleagues, our board of directors, and our talented team for working to actively shape and accelerate our nation’s transition to clean energy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Evans  
Executive Director

## CICE's Nationwide Network



## Our Social Connection



# WHAT BUSINESS LEADERS ARE SAYING

CICE's network of chambers, economic development groups, and businesses are lauding the local and regional benefits of the country's growing clean energy economy.



**Brian Moynihan**  
CEO, Bank of America  
Speaking at the Detroit Regional Chamber's 2023 Mackinac Policy Conference

“  
*If you take the talent innovation [sic] the private sector can bring, you back in with a profit-making, sustainable business model that represents a lot of money, which eclipses \$6T a year easily. But capitalism isn't the only system that can do this; it's really the only hope to accomplish these things.*  
”

“



**Betsy Gardner Eckbert, IOM**  
President & CEO, Winter Park Chamber of Commerce

*We see people who want to embrace sustainability, so we are trying to provide more of a carrot than a stick through positive reinforcement. We knew if we took leadership on this, we could make changes in our community.*

”

“

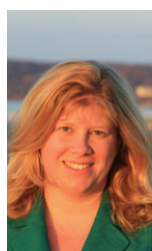


**Brian Dicken, IOM, MOD**  
VP, Advocacy & Strategic Initiatives,  
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

*As the largest manufacturer of solar modules in the Western Hemisphere, Northwest Ohio is building the energy solutions companies want and the workforce expects, and enhancing the path to domestic energy independence.*

”

“



**Olivia Campbell Andersen**  
Policy & Market Development, ABB  
Speaking at North Carolina Clean Energy Champions Awards hosted by CICE and Conservatives for Clean Energy

*It's not really a question of if it's going to occur in terms of transportation electrification, it's when and how fast. And so we really need to think about what can we all do to enable that private investment to happen in an orderly and timely fashion because the private sector and businesses already know that it's cost effective.*

”

“



**Jonathan Blitz**  
Co-founder, Mystic Farm  
Speaking at North Carolina Clean Energy Champions Awards hosted by CICE and Conservatives for Clean Energy

*We didn't install solar because it felt good, and we didn't do it as a marketing tool, although we use it that way now. We did it because it made a lot of business sense because without the solar, we have about a \$3,000-a-month electric bill, and that cuts it down to around \$1,000 a month.*

”

“



**Walt Bussells**  
Co-Founder, WayBright, LLC and former CEO, Jacksonville Electric Authority  
Speaking on CICE webinar "Clean Energy Provisions of the IRA"

*The faster we transition from getting rid of the 100-year-old legacy grid to where we need to be with distributed power that is so much more efficient, the better our economy will be.*

”

“



**Henry Brown**  
CEO, Miller Electric Company and former Board Chair, JAX Chamber

*At Miller Electric, we believe that sustainability and economic progress go hand in hand. We really see [the Jacksonville Jaguars' new solar-powered training facility, the Miller Electric Center] as an opportunity to grow jobs and invest in our community.*

”

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## The economic & community benefits of utility-scale solar in Knox County

The Knox County Chamber of Commerce (OH) partnered with CICE to host a lunch-and-learn on local solar development. The session featured a panel who shared the economic and community benefits of utility-scale solar, as well as the regulatory process for development.

[Read more](#)



## Reducing economic disruption by increasing resilience in your community: lessons from the development & construction sectors

CICE alongside the Charlotte County and Sanibel Island & Captiva Islands Chambers of Commerce co-hosted a discussion of how chamber leaders, developers, and the business community can employ smart solutions for more resilient and sustainable developments across Florida.

[Watch the webinar](#)



## The increasing corporate demand for clean energy: What it Means for Arizona Business & Utilities

This discussion of corporate goals for Arizona clean energy also covered strategies to meet these goals and the financial opportunities provided by the Inflation Reduction Act.

[Read more](#)

[Watch the webinar](#)

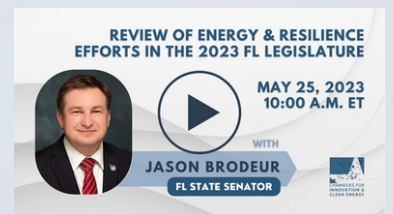


## Review of energy & resilience efforts in the 2023 Legislature with Sen. Brodeur

CICE held a debrief of Florida's state legislative session with a focus on clean energy, sustainability, and resilience-related bills. The session also provided an update on the economic opportunities presented by successfully passed legislation.

[Read more](#)

[Watch the webinar](#)



## Arizona's explosive growth in clean energy jobs & manufacturing: The Impact of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act

The Tucson Hispanic Chamber and Arizona Forward joined CICE to present a webinar discussion of how Arizona is leveraging clean energy opportunities to attract new businesses, create job opportunities, and mitigate climate change.

[Watch the webinar](#)



10  
events

1,330  
attendees

50+  
in-person  
events attended

[CHECK OUT THE FULL EVENT ARCHIVE](#)

# POLICY & RESEARCH

In 2023, CICE expanded our library of policy resources, providing analysis of federal and state policies through a series of formal issue briefs and more informal primers.

---

## Inflation Reduction Act Series

To better equip chambers and their small and medium-sized business members, CICE released an eight-part series of policy briefs explaining the clean energy provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).



This series explains key provisions in the IRA that pertain specifically to the clean energy economy and how chamber and economic development leaders can help their members make use of these opportunities.

**[Read the series](#)**

## Additional policy briefs released this year include:

- Building Integrated Grids With Inter-Regional Energy Supply (BIG WIRES) Act - Transmission
- National Coordination on Adaptation and Resilience for Security Act (NCARS) - Resilience
- EPA Methane Rule: Standards of Performance and Guidelines for Existing Sources
- EV Registration Fees: Evaluating Effectiveness, Defensibility, and Alternatives
- The Farm Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act
- Right of First Refusal (ROFR) - Transmission
- Anti-ESG Legislation Primer

**CHECK OUT THE FULL CATALOG OF POLICY BRIEFS**



# PUBLICATIONS

## 2023 Clean Energy Jobs and Economic Impact Reports

In 2023, CICE released our largest batch of Clean Energy Jobs & Economic Impact Reports yet, highlighting the significant impact of clean energy industries on state economies and workforce.

**TEXAS CLEAN ENERGY JOBS & ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT 2023**

While Houston holds the title of “the Energy Capital of the World”, Texas overall should be recognized as the clean energy capital of the United States. Boasting the top spot in the nation for wind energy generation and the second position for solar, Texas produces more clean energy than any other state—and has since 2006. The Lone Star State brings these economic benefits home, ranking second among states for clean energy-related jobs.

**TEXAS CLEAN ENERGY JOBS = 251,744**

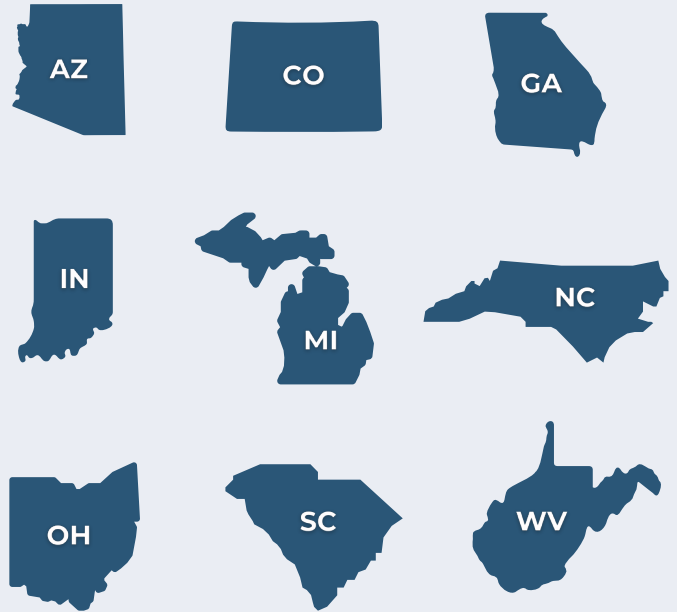
- Renewable Energy: 44,355
- Clean Vehicles: 26,636
- Energy Efficiency: 164,470
- Storage & Grid: 13,963

**2nd** In the Nation  
**+13,904** Net New Clean Energy Jobs  
**5.8%** Annual Job Growth

**NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY JOBS = 3.3M**

“Bipartisan support has played a pivotal role in Texas’s ascent to wind energy dominance. While political landscapes continue to evolve, it’s evident that Texas’s commitment to a diverse energy portfolio remains unwavering.”  
 Glenn Hamer, President & CEO  
 Texas Association of Business

chambersforinnovation.com



## 2023 CLEAN ENERGY JOBS & ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORTS

## 2023 Clean Energy Investment Announcements

**Arizona**  
 Powering a Cleaner, Stronger Economy in AZ  
 Clean Energy Investments & Development Announcements

Arizona has truly been a state of clean energy, with many companies producing and installing solar panels, wind turbines, and geothermal powerplants. This state, combined with its location, is the ideal environment for clean energy production. These companies include: **Black Hills, NextEra, Electric Services, Sun Tech, NextEra, and Sun Edge.**

**Recent Clean Energy Announcements**

- Arizona Energy Services to build Tucson-based solar generating capacity totaling 200 MW with the \$2.2B investment.
- Solar Power expands Tucson PV battery plant as the \$342 million project is expected to create 250 jobs.
- Development of a solar manufacturing facility and corporate headquarters in Phoenix, generating 200 jobs.
- As a part of a \$200M investment in a solar manufacturing facility, which is expected to create more than 600 jobs.
- As a part of a \$200M investment in a solar manufacturing facility, which is expected to create more than 600 jobs.
- As a part of a \$200M investment in a solar manufacturing facility, which is expected to create more than 600 jobs.

**Key Announcements**

- The Arizona Electric Energy Center will project designed to generate 1,000 MW of clean energy.
- As a part of a \$200M investment in a solar manufacturing facility, which is expected to create more than 600 jobs.
- As a part of a \$200M investment in a solar manufacturing facility, which is expected to create more than 600 jobs.

**West Virginia**  
 An Emerging Powerhouse for a Clean Energy Economy

West Virginia has become a strong energy state as it leads the nation in coal production. The state's abundant natural resources, including its coal, natural gas, and wind energy, are being harnessed to create a clean energy economy. The state's abundant natural resources, including its coal, natural gas, and wind energy, are being harnessed to create a clean energy economy.

**Diversifying Energy in the Mountain State: Clean Energy Investment Announcements Over the Past Year**

- GreenPower West Virginia announced expansion to 200 additional projects beyond their 2022 announcement of 800 MW solar, 422+ MW solar announced for West Virginia National Energy Technology Laboratory, 422+ MW solar announced for West Virginia National Energy Technology Laboratory, 422+ MW solar announced for West Virginia National Energy Technology Laboratory.
- As a part of a \$200M investment in a solar manufacturing facility, which is expected to create more than 600 jobs.
- As a part of a \$200M investment in a solar manufacturing facility, which is expected to create more than 600 jobs.

**What's On the Line: At-Risk Utility-Scale Solar Projects, Jobs & Investments**

State	Project	Capacity (MW)	Investment (\$)	Jobs (FTE)
Arizona	Arizona Energy Services	200	\$2.2B	250
California	California Energy Services	100	\$1.1B	125
Colorado	Colorado Energy Services	50	\$550M	62.5
Georgia	Georgia Energy Services	25	\$275M	31.25
Indiana	Indiana Energy Services	12.5	\$137.5M	15.625
Michigan	Michigan Energy Services	6.25	\$68.75M	7.8125
North Carolina	North Carolina Energy Services	3.125	\$34.375M	3.90625
Ohio	Ohio Energy Services	1.5625	\$17.1875M	1.953125
South Carolina	South Carolina Energy Services	0.78125	\$8.59375M	1.0765625
West Virginia	West Virginia Energy Services	0.390625	\$4.296875M	0.53828125

**Small Modular Nuclear Reactors Beyond Talking Points**

Small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) are nuclear reactors with capacities under 300 megawatts. Unlike large conventional nuclear plants, SMRs are produced with modular technology where components are manufactured in a factory, transported, and then assembled on site. In theory, compared to traditional reactors, SMRs have a number of benefits:

- Can be installed more quickly and efficiently.
- Have smaller footprints.
- Are more flexible in siting options.
- Are better suited to remote locations and are easier to decommission.

**What are the Challenges with new nuclear and SMRs?**

As clean energy projects take shape, the industry and policymakers are placing heavy bets on SMRs as an important piece of a resilient energy system, which they hope will be, but this optimism has not yet been fully realized. After years of delays and \$B billion in sunk costs, the industry is struggling to get SMRs off the ground. Current challenges and hurdles SMRs and future nuclear generation include:

- High nuclear projects, in the industry, have proven hard to secure given conventional nuclear projects have been significant construction delays and increased costs.
- The first SMR power plant in Georgia, the only commercial nuclear plant currently under construction, is set for more than 20 months beyond its original start date, and is still on schedule.
- In some states, such as the V.C. Summer project in South Carolina, nuclear projects are delayed due to the time to construct, has not more than twice the anticipated budget, and is still on schedule.
- Completed SMR technology does not yet exist. Though the concept has existed for years, there are currently no SMRs operating anywhere in the world. It is unclear what a standard SMR will look like. According to the U.S. DOE, the first SMR plant is expected to be constructed by 2029, with the first SMR plant expected to be constructed by 2034. Nuclear is not a guaranteed path to a decarbonized power system, with the first reactor expected by 2034.

What's On the Line: At-Risk Utility-Scale Solar Projects, Jobs & Investments

Small Modular Nuclear Reactors: Beyond Talking Points



# CHAMBERS IN ACTION



[CHAMBERS IN ACTION ARCHIVE](#)



# BUSINESS LEADERS WEIGH IN

## Opinion Editorials

### **Texas Leads on Wind Energy**

*Glenn Hamer, CEO, Texas Association of Business*

### **The IRA: A new dawn for Marion County**

*Tina Shaw, President, Marion County Chamber*

### **Sunbridge project shows importance of thinking solar**

*Candy Cole, Executive Director, Lake Nona Chamber*

### **The Chamber View: Our Climate is Right for Business**

*Scott J. Sternberg, Executive Director, Boulder Economic Council*

### **Biden Administration to support workforce in Phoenix, Tempe as ASU is selected to lead clean energy project**

*Craig Ruiz, Chamber Business News*

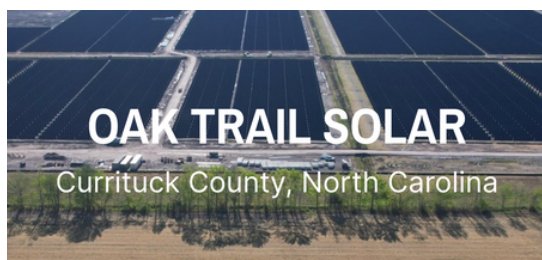
### **Commending the Biden-Harris Administration's \$750M Investment in Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub**

*Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia*

### **West Virginia Chamber Congratulates West Virginia's Selection as Hydrogen Hub Location**

*West Virginia Chamber of Commerce*

## Media Highlights



**Leeward Renewable Energy Completes Construction and Commences Commercial Operations at Oak Trail Solar in North Carolina**



**North Carolina businesses call for a study of adding competition for electricity**

# PARTNERS

## National



## State/Regional



# LEADERSHIP

## Board of Directors



**Aaron Nelson**  
President & CEO  
The Chamber for a  
Greater Chapel Hill  
-Carrboro



**Christy Gillenwater**  
President & CEO  
Greater Oklahoma  
City Chamber



**Ann Silver**  
President & CEO  
Reno + Sparks  
Chamber of  
Commerce



**Rodney Fong**  
President & CEO  
San Francisco  
Chamber of  
Commerce



**Nicole Stika**  
North American  
Head, Sustainability  
Advisory  
World Kinect Energy  
Services

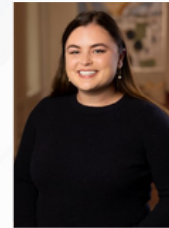
## Staff



**Ryan Evans, IOM**  
Executive Director  
Tennessee



**Emily Burlinghaus**  
Director of Policy &  
Research  
Ohio



**Kelsey Pepitone**  
Clean Energy Outreach  
Manager, Ohio  
Ohio



**Megan Miraglia**  
Chief of Staff  
New York



**Mikayla Rodriguez**  
Communications  
Manager  
Nebraska



**Anne Feldhusen**  
Arizona and Florida  
State Director  
California



**Kate Teel, IOM**  
Director of Business  
Engagement &  
Partnerships  
North Carolina



**Michele Querry**  
Southeast Regional  
Director  
North Carolina



**Alan Byrd**  
Florida Director of  
Outreach  
Florida



**Greg Roth, IOM**  
Communications  
Director  
Virginia



**Logan O'Neill IOM, OCED**  
Midwest Regional Director  
Ohio

[LEARN MORE  
ABOUT OUR TEAM](#)

# FUTURE FOCUS

2024 is a pivotal year for CICE, as we leverage new resources to enhance our organizational capacity, scale our regional investments, and amplify our impact. We are witnessing an unprecedented surge of support from chamber of commerce and economic development leaders recognizing the benefits of clean energy technologies and development. CICE is here to help them navigate these opportunities, emerging as the go-to organization for fostering business community engagement to drive forward the clean energy economy.

## ***In 2024, we will:***

### **Strengthen our nationwide chamber of commerce and economic development network**

CICE will equip chamber and economic development leaders with the expertise, resources, and tools to advocate for the benefits of clean energy investments in their communities. With the launch of our National Chamber Leadership Council and issue-focused clean energy cohorts (one each for solar, wind, offshore wind, EVs, sustainability, and energy storage/grid reliability), we will offer new opportunities for meaningful engagement around clean energy.

### **Support communities considering utility-scale solar, wind, and energy storage projects**

CICE will work with grassroots leaders where they are, demonstrating the significant economic benefits clean energy technologies deliver, equipping them with tools to advance permitting and siting, and pushing back on obstructionist forces blocking local investment.

### **Amplify chamber and economic voices for clean energy**

CICE will elevate chamber and economic development leaders advocating for clean energy investment, policy, and programs via earned media, digital communications, regional events, and marketing strategies.

### **Deepen our relationships with the business community**

CICE will launch our Corporate Advisory Council, facilitating a two-way dialogue to keep up-to-date on private sector clean energy priorities, partner with business leaders supporting clean energy projects and policies, and strategize on how businesses can better engage their chamber and economic development partners.

# CONTACT



*CICE tours Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind turbine installation*

## Want to Learn More?

[chambersforinnovation.com](http://chambersforinnovation.com)

[info@chambersforinnovation.com](mailto:info@chambersforinnovation.com)

A Project of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and  
The Chamber For a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro  
235 Montgomery St #760, San Francisco, CA 94104  
415.352.8845