

COLORADO

CLEAN ENERGY BOOM IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT IS TURBOCHARGING COLORADO'S ECONOMY, POSITIONING IT AS A SOLAR AND WIND MANUFACTURING HUB AND CREATING THOUSANDS OF GOOD-PAYING CLEAN ENERGY JOBS IN COLORADO'S COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Passing the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has kicked America's clean energy economy into high gear, providing thousands of new clean energy jobs and reducing climate pollution across Colorado. Climate and clean energy investments in 7 projects in Colorado's communities of color have already spurred \$1.76 billion in investment and created or advanced 3,482 good-paying clean energy jobs.¹

CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IN COLORADO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE IRA				
\$1.76 B		3,482		86%
INVESTMENTS IN NEW CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR		JOBS IN COLORADO'S COMMUNITIES OF COLOR		OF NEW CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IN COLORADO'S COMMUNITIES OF COLOR
PROJECT	LOCATION	COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS	\$ INVESTED	JOBS CREATED
AMPRIUS GIGAFACTORY	BRIGHTON, ADAMS COUNTY	BRIGHTON: 42.5% HISPANIC/LATINO, 0.2% NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER ADAMS COUNTY: 41.7% HISPANIC/LATINO	\$190 MILLION	332 JOBS
CS WIND TURBINE MANUFACTURING PLANT EXPANSION	PUEBLO, PUEBLO COUNTY	PUEBLO: 49.3% HISPANIC/LATINO, 0.8% NATIVE AMERICAN PUEBLO COUNTY: 41.6% HISPANIC/LATINO 0.7% NATIVE AMERICAN	-	680 JOBS
ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY AT COMANCHE 3	PUEBLO, PUEBLO COUNTY	PUEBLO: 49.3% HISPANIC/LATINO, 0.8% NATIVE AMERICAN PUEBLO COUNTY: 41.6% HISPANIC/LATINO 0.7% NATIVE AMERICAN	-	20 JOBS
MEYER BURGER COLORADO SPRINGS SOLAR CELLS MANUFACTURING	COLORADO SPRINGS, EL PASO COUNTY	COLORADO SPRINGS: 0.3% NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	\$400 MILLION	350 JOBS

¹ For this analysis, we use U.S. census data to define communities of color as counties, cities, or towns with populations of residents who are either Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Asian American, Native American, or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander at or above the national average. Per the 2020 U.S. Census the national average stands at 12.1% Black/African American, 18.7% Hispanic/Latino, 5.9% Asian/Asian American, 0.7% Native American, and 0.2% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

		EL PASO COUNTY: 0.4% NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER		
MICROCHIP SILICON MANUFACTURING FACILITY EXPANSION	COLORADO SPRINGS, EL PASO COUNTY	COLORADO SPRINGS: 0.3% NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER EL PASO COUNTY: 0.4% NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	\$880 MILLION	400 JOBS
VESTAS NACELLES AND BLADES FACTORY EXPANSIONS	BRIGHTON AND WINDSOR, WELD COUNTY	BRIGHTON: 42.5% HISPANIC/LATINO, 0.2% NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER WELD COUNTY: 29.9% HISPANIC/LATINO	\$40 MILLION	800 JOBS
VSK ENERGY BRIGHTON SOLAR MANUFACTURING	BRIGHTON, WELD COUNTY	BRIGHTON: 42.5% HISPANIC/LATINO, 0.2% NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER WELD COUNTY: 29.9% HISPANIC/LATINO	\$250 MILLION	900 JOBS

SOURCE: [Climate Power Clean Energy Boom Anniversary Report, July 2023](#)

SPOTLIGHT: COLORADO CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Since the passage of the IRA, clean energy projects in Colorado have been able to move forward, creating jobs and investing in the state's clean energy economy:

- Seven of Colorado's eight projects are in communities of color, representing 86% of all new clean energy projects in the state.
- Five of Colorado's clean energy projects in communities of color have above-average populations of Hispanics/Latinos. Nationwide, Colorado ties at 4th for the number of projects (5), ranks 6th for investments (\$480 million), and 5th for jobs (2,732) in Hispanic/Latino communities.
- Five of Colorado's clean energy projects in communities of color have above-average populations of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Nationwide, Colorado ties at 4th for the number of projects (5), ranks 10th for investments (\$1.76 billion), and 5th for jobs (2,782) in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.
- Vestas is investing \$40 million to expand its blades manufacturing facility in Windsor and its nacelles manufacturing facility in Brighton, which is **42.5% Hispanic/Latino** and **0.2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander**. The company plans to hire 800 new local employees and offers an internship program through local high schools, from which it **expects to hire 150 new graduates** in the coming years.

- In July 2023, Meyer Burger announced a \$400 million investment in a solar cell manufacturing facility in Colorado Springs, which is 0.3% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. The project will create more than 350 jobs with an average annual salary of \$77,000 per year. Meyer Burger cited the IRA's tax credits as driving its decision to move solar module production to the U.S.
- Micron is investing \$880 million to expand its Colorado Springs silicon factory to increase manufacturing for grid infrastructure and green energy use. The population of Colorado Springs is 0.3% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. The expansion will create at least 400 new, high-paying jobs and contribute an estimated \$1.4 billion to the local economy in the next ten years.