

# ARIZONA

## CLEAN ENERGY BOOM IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT IS TURBOCHARGING ARIZONA'S ECONOMY AND CREATING THOUSANDS OF GOOD-PAYING CLEAN ENERGY JOBS IN ARIZONA'S COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Passing the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has kicked America's clean energy sector into high gear, providing thousands of new clean energy jobs and reducing climate pollution across Arizona. Climate and clean energy investments in ten projects in Arizona's communities of color have already spurred \$8.25 billion in investment, and created or advanced 12,120 good-paying clean energy jobs.<sup>1</sup>

CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IN ARIZONA COMMUNITIES OF COLOR SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE IRA				
<b>\$8.25 B</b> INVESTMENTS IN NEW CLEAN ENERGY MANUFACTURING		<b>12,120</b> JOBS IN ARIZONA		<b>91%</b> OF PROJECTS IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR
PROJECT	LOCATION	COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS	\$ INVESTED	JOBS CREATED
KORE POWER	BUCKEYE	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	\$1.25 BILLION	6,400 JOBS
LG ENERGY SOLUTIONS	QUEEN CREEK	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	\$5.6 BILLION	2,800 JOBS
AMERICAN BATTERY GIGAFACTORY	TUCSON	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN	\$1.2 BILLION	1,000 JOBS
MEYER BURGER SOLAR EXPANSION	GOODYEAR	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	-	500 JOBS
TEN WEST LINK TRANSMISSION LINE	MARICOPA & LA PAZ	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	-	365 JOBS
EVELUTION ENERGY COBALT SULFATE PROCESSING FACILITY	YUMA	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	-	360 JOBS
SUN STREAMS SOLAR AND STORAGE	ARLINGTON	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	-	300 JOBS
HERITAGE BATTERY RECYCLING	ELOY	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, NATIVE	-	185 JOBS

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this analysis, we define communities of color as counties, cities, or towns with “significant populations” of residents who are either Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, or Native American. We define “significant populations” as those at or above the national average as per the 2020 U.S. Census – which stands at 13.6% or more Black/African American, 18.9% or more Hispanic/Latino, 6.1% or more Asian, 1.3% or more Native American, and 0.3% or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

		HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER		
SION POWER BATTERY MANUFACTURING	TUCSON	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN	-	150 JOBS
ECOBAT BATTERY RECYCLING FACILITY	CASA GRANDE	HISPANIC/LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	-	60 JOBS

SOURCE: CLIMATE POWER, CLEAN ENERGY BOOM REPORT, APRIL 2023

## SPOTLIGHT: ARIZONA CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

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

- All ten of Arizona's clean energy projects in communities of color have significant Native American populations. Nationwide, Arizona ranks 1st for the number of projects, 1st for investments and 1st for jobs in Native American communities.
- All ten of Arizona's clean energy projects in communities of color have significant Hispanic/Latino populations. Nationwide, Arizona ranks 1st for the number of projects, 1st for investments and 1st for jobs in Hispanic/Latino communities.
- Arizona's 7th and 9th Congressional Districts each have 3 projects in communities of color – tying for 2nd as the districts with the highest number of projects in communities of color nationwide.
- KORE Power is building a gigafactory in Buckeye, AZ that will provide 6,400 jobs. The company's CEO [applauded the IRA's passage](#), saying it provides an “incredible lift” to the gigafactory's development, which hopes to claim the law's tax credits. Additionally, the company has said that it expects [demand for their batteries to increase](#) because of the IRA's passage. Buckeye's population is [46.6% Hispanic/Latino](#).
- LG Energy Solutions (LGES) [first announced](#) a \$1.4 billion investment to build a Queen Creek, AZ, battery factory in March 2022 but was [put on hold](#) in June 2022. Following the IRA's passage, LGES announced it would invest [\\$5.6 billion](#) in the previously paused Arizona gigafactory. An LGES Executive said the company was adjusting plans for the project to meet [increasing demand driven by the IRA](#). Maricopa County, where Queen Creek is located, is [32% Hispanic/Latino](#).
- In October 2022, [Evelution Energy](#) announced it would develop a battery-grade cobalt sulfate processing facility in Yuma County, Arizona, which is [0.3% Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander](#). The facility will create [360 jobs](#) while providing [40%](#) of the expected 2027 U.S. cobalt demand, which will be driven by EVs. Evelution Energy said it would provide [free training programs](#) for its new workers at the Arizona Western College campus.

- In September 2022, [Cirba Solutions announced](#) it would build a new lithium-ion battery recycling facility in Eloy, AZ, citing new incentives from the IRA. The population of Pinal County, where Eloy is located, is [6.5% Native American](#).
- After acquiring Sun Streams 3 from First Solar in February 2021, Longroad Energy completed financing for a Arlington, AZ, project in January 2023. [Longroad's CEO said](#) he believes the IRA will enable future developments and provide benefits to both utilities and ratepayers. Maricopa County, where Arlington is located, is [2.9% Native American](#).