



# Georgia Clean Energy Plan Benefits

Georgia faces dire consequences from climate change, including extreme heat, wildfires, hurricanes, and flooding. Federal climate action, including funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), is helping Georgia minimize these impacts and prepare for a clean energy future. The majority (54%) of Georgia voters [support](#) the Clean Energy Plan after learning more about its policies, and as of December 2023, Georgia has [received](#) over \$3.3 billion in funding from the Clean Energy Plan. Clean energy investments have already [created](#) 19,122 good-paying clean energy jobs and expanded opportunities for households to save money in the Peach State. Funding is currently going to local communities across the state to promote climate resiliency, reduce pollution, and advance climate-smart agriculture.

## [Key Talking Points](#)

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#### **Key Talking Points:**

- New clean energy projects announced since the Inflation Reduction Act passed have spurred [\\$21.9 billion](#) in new investment and helped create or move forward 19,122 good-paying clean energy jobs in Georgia.
  - Rep. Earl “Buddy” Carter’s (GA-1), Rep. A. Drew Ferguson’s (GA-3), Rep. Andrew Clyde’s (GA-9), Rep. Barry Loudermilk’s (GA-11), Rep. Rick Allen’s (GA-12), and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene’s (GA-14) districts each [benefited](#) from new clean energy projects in their district, yet they [voted against](#) the Inflation Reduction Act in August 2022.
  - Rep. Richard McCormick’s district (GA-6) [benefited](#) from new clean energy projects in his district, yet he [criticized the IRA](#) and wrongly claimed it would increase taxes and energy prices before assuming office in the 118th Congress.

- As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Clean School Bus Rebate Program, 16 Georgia school districts [received](#) over \$50 million in federal funds to purchase low- and zero-emission school buses in 2022.
  - In Georgia's 1st Congressional District, Savannah-Chatham County received 25 electric school buses, Long County received 10, and Charlton County received four. This district is represented by Rep. Earl "Buddy" Carter, who [voted against](#) the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
  - In Georgia's 3rd Congressional School District, Meriwether County received eight electric school buses. This district is represented by Rep. A. Drew Ferguson IV, who [voted against](#) the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
  - In Georgia's 12th Congressional District, Wilkes County received five electric school buses. This district is represented by Rep. Rick W. Allen, who [voted against](#) the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
  - In Georgia's 8th Congressional District, Tift County received five electric school buses, Jeff Davis County received three, and Cook County received two. The district is represented by Rep. Austin Scott, who [voted against](#) the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
  - In Georgia's 9th Congressional District, Union County received four electric school buses. This district is represented by Rep. Andrew S. Clyde, who [voted against](#) the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

**Georgians Are Benefitting From The Clean Energy Plan's Expanded Funding For Energy Efficiency:**

- [New rebates](#) of 50 to 100% on new energy-efficient electric appliances will help Georgia families save on their energy bills.
- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families who install an efficient electric heat pump for heating and cooling can [receive a tax credit](#) of up to \$2,000 and save [an average of over \\$500](#) per year on energy bills. Families who make other energy efficiency improvements can [receive tax credits](#) worth up to \$500 for doors, \$600 for windows, \$150 for a [home energy audit](#), and up to 30% off the cost of new insulation—a total of up to \$1,200 per year in tax credits.
- In November 2022, the Biden administration [announced](#) Georgia would receive over \$219 million for consumer home energy rebate programs under the Inflation Reduction Act. This funding will [help](#) low-income households in Georgia save an average of 41% on their home energy bills when they upgrade their appliances and improve energy efficiency.

- Families who install [rooftop solar or battery storage](#) in their homes can save up to 30% of the cost of installation via a [tax credit](#) and save nearly [\\$400](#) per year on their energy bills.
- The Inflation Reduction Act includes grants for state and local governments to adopt the latest building energy codes, [saving](#) the average new homeowner in Georgia 15.1% on their utility bills, or \$327 annually.
- Through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program, the U.S. Department of Energy selected the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to [receive](#) \$249 million to improve resilience and clean energy development. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds the GRIP program Law.
- Drivers who buy qualifying clean vehicles can [receive](#) a tax credit of up to \$7,500 for a new vehicle and up to \$4,000 for a used vehicle.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes \$623 million in grants to help build out an electric vehicle (EV) charging network across the U.S. In January 2024, the Federal Highway Administration [announced](#) Atlanta received over \$6.1 million to expand its electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

#### **The Clean Energy Plan Is Spearheading New Clean Energy Investments In Georgia:**

- The Inflation Reduction Act will bring a further [\\$180 million](#) in investment in large-scale clean power generation and storage to Georgia by 2030.
- New clean energy projects announced since the Inflation Reduction Act passed have spurred [\\$21.9 billion](#) in new investment and helped create or move forward 19,122 good-paying clean energy jobs.
- The Inflation Reduction Act will bring a further [1.3 GW](#) of large-scale clean power generation and storage to Georgia by 2030.
- New solar and wind energy investments will help reduce energy costs in Georgia, as the costs of solar and wind power in the state are projected to drop by [22% and 34%](#), respectively, over the next 30 years.

#### **Georgians Are Benefiting From The Clean Energy Plan's Funding In Sustainable And Resilient Infrastructure:**

- Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, six projects in Georgia [received](#) over \$100 million from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.
  - In 2023, four projects in Georgia [received](#) over \$50 million in funding from the RAISE program.

- Atlanta [received](#) \$25 million to expand and increase accessibility of the Atlanta BeltLine Northeast Trail with approximately 2.7 miles of 14-foot wide mainline trail and 2.1 miles of 12-foot wide spur trails.
  - Gwinnett County [received](#) \$20 million to replace the Gwinnett Place Transit Center with a modern 2-story building, accommodating new transit service expansions. The new transit center will allow Ride Gwinnett to expand its service network and improve access for transit riders.
  - The Oconee Heights Streetscape and Safety Improvements project [received](#) \$4.9 million to add Shared-use paths throughout the neighborhood. Implementing Complete Streets approaches and widening vehicle lanes will increase safety and improve public health.
  - Thomasville [received](#) \$175,000 to develop a transportation plan to provide Complete Streets, improve connectivity, and address economic development needs.
- In 2022, two projects in Georgia [received](#) \$50 million in funding from the RAISE program.
  - The Reimagine North Avenue Project in Athens-Clarke County [received](#) \$25 million to improve street conditions, accessibility, and safety along North Avenue from Downtown Athens to north of SR-10.
  - The Five Points Transformation Phase 2 Project [received](#) \$25 million to rehabilitate the above-ground proportions of the Five Points MARTA station. This project will improve the traveler experience and make transfers easier.

### **The Clean Energy Plan Is Helping Reduce Pollution In Communities Across Georgia:**

- In March 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) a \$3 million grant for Georgia to develop innovative strategies to cut climate pollution and build clean energy economies. The funding – which comes from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program created by the Inflation Reduction Act – was [allocated](#) to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
  - In March 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) the Atlanta- Sandy Springs- Alpharetta Metro Area would receive a \$1 million grant to tackle climate pollution. The funding, which comes from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program created by the Inflation Reduction Act, was [allocated](#) to the Atlanta Regional Commission.

- Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, four projects in Georgia [received](#) over \$53 million from the Federal Transit Administration’s Low- and No-Emission Vehicle Program.
  - In 2023, Georgia State University [received](#) over \$22 million to buy electric buses to replace older diesel buses and charging equipment.
  - In 2022, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) [received](#) over \$19 million to purchase new battery electric buses and charging equipment to replace older CNG buses.
  - In 2022, Augusta Richmond County [received](#) over \$6 million to buy and deploy battery electric buses and charging equipment to replace aging diesel buses.
  - In 2022, the Chatham Area Transit Authority [received](#) over \$5 million to buy and deploy battery electric buses as well as depot and on-route fast chargers.
- As part of the Clean School Bus Rebate Program that was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 16 Georgia school districts [received](#) over \$50 million in federal funds to purchase low- and zero-emission school buses.
  - Atlanta Public Schools, Clayton County, and Savannah-Chatham County each [received](#) 25 electric school buses; Long County received 10; Meriwether County received eight; Wilkes County, Macon County, and Tift County each received five; Union County, Charlton County, and Chattahoochee County each received four; Jeff Davis County received three; and Cook County and State Charter Schools Ii- Pataula Charter Academy received two.
- In January 2023, the EPA [announced](#) the selection of 280 school districts nationwide to receive nearly \$1 billion through the first Clean School Bus Program Grants Competition. Seven Georgia school districts [received](#) over \$118 million in funding.

**The Clean Energy Plan Is Advancing Climate Resilience, Conservation, And Equity In Georgia:**

- In September 2023, Georgia [received](#) a total of \$17.5 million from the Urban and Community Forestry Grants to support five projects to combat climate change, expand access to green spaces, and create healthier communities. The Inflation Reduction Act funds the Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program Act.

- Atlanta was [granted](#) \$5 million to create the city's first comprehensive Urban Forest Master Plan, establishing a strategy and standards for systematic, equitable, and effective management of the urban forest.
- Decatur was [granted](#) \$100,000 to develop a canopy management and resiliency plan to protect, enhance, and expand its downtown urban tree canopy.
- The Atlanta Watershed Learning Network project was [granted](#) \$439,100 to engage communities to protect stream and forest resources, address stormwater issues, and promote green infrastructure and other forms of equitable development.
- The Canopy for Just Communities project was [granted](#) \$2 million to support disadvantaged communities in southern cities through a tree planting program that includes training local urban forest stewards, strengthening grassroots organizational capacity, and funding for operations, canopy expansion, and maintenance.
- The Promoting Tree Equity and Urban Forestry Workforce Diversity in Atlanta project was [granted](#) \$10 million to increase equitable access to the urban tree canopy and develop a sustainable, diverse nature-based workforce development program.
- In September 2023, the National Parks Service [announced](#) that Georgia would receive over \$5 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to address critical ecosystem resilience, restoration, and environmental planning needs. Some projects include:
  - Georgia and two other states [received](#) a total of \$345,000 for the Controlling Feral Swine to Promote Forest Resiliency and Protect Natural and Cultural Resources project.
  - The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area and other national parks across the country [received](#) a total of \$300,000 as part of the YMCA Partnership Program to engage diverse youth in climate change education and outdoor recreation.
  - Georgia and eight other states [received](#) a total of \$25,000 to develop Climate Change Adaptation Plans for high-risk coastal parks on the east coast.
- The Inflation Reduction Act [awarded](#) \$30 million to the EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) Program. In 2023, the Glynn Environmental Coalition in Brunswick [received](#) \$500,000 in funding from the EJCPS Program to identify the air pollutants in the city, collect samples for air

toxics and sulfur compounds, and use sample results to advocate for further investigations or other permit or policy changes.

- The Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) program [received](#) a total of \$84.1 million in the Inflation Reduction Act and annual appropriations funding. In 2023, Savannah [received](#) funding from this program for the 100% Savannah: Energy Efficiency and Workforce Training Program project.
- The Westside Lead Superfund site in Atlanta was selected to [receive](#) cleanup funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- The Peach Orchard Road PCE Groundwater Plume Superfund site in Augusta was selected to [receive](#) \$534,900 in cleanup funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

### **The Clean Energy Plan Is Investing In Climate-Smart Agriculture – Benefiting Georgia Farmers, Ranchers, And Agricultural Businesses:**

- The Inflation Reduction Act included an additional \$2 billion for the USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). In November 2023, over \$3 million in grant funding was [awarded](#) to four Georgia farmers, ranchers, and businesses to invest in renewable energy, upgrade to energy-efficient equipment, and cut their energy costs.
- Three projects located in Georgia were [selected](#) to receive funding from the Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access (Increasing Land Access) Program, which is funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.

## Stories To Uplift

### **Clean Energy Investments From The Clean Energy Plan Are A Boon To Communities Across Georgia:**

- West Point was on a [downward economic slide](#) in the 2000s, driven by losses in the textile industry before Kia announced it would open an auto manufacturing plant in the city in 2006. Today, Kia is continuing to drive investment in West Point with its new investment to assemble EVs in Georgia.
  - In July 2023, Kia [announced a \\$200 million investment](#) at its existing West Point plant to manufacture its first EV assembled in the U.S. The facility expansion will qualify Kia for [tax credits](#) under the IRA, create 200 new jobs, with training provided through [the new Kia Georgia Training Center](#).
- Dalton produces 75% of the world's carpets. However, the region and the carpeting industry took a [huge hit](#) in the 2009 recession, and the industry never

fully bounced back. The city is now attracting billions in new solar manufacturing investments, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act.

- Since the Inflation Reduction Act was signed, QCells has announced multiple major investments to expand solar manufacturing in northwest Georgia. In January 2023, QCells announced it would invest more than [\\$2.5 billion](#) to expand solar cell manufacturing, including building a new facility in Cartersville and adding a third facility to its Dalton location. QCells estimated the expansions would create more than [2,500 jobs](#) in the region.
- Hanwha Advanced Materials, QCells' parent company, announced a [\\$147 million](#) investment to establish a solar encapsulate materials manufacturing facility in Cartersville. The facility will create 160 new jobs.
- Just south of Dalton, Freyer is investing [\\$2.6 billion](#) to build a gigafactory in Coweta County. The company expects the factory will create 723 new jobs.

### **The Clean Energy Plan Is Helping Georgia Farmers, Ranchers, and Agricultural Businesses:**

- In November 2023, four farms and businesses in Georgia were [awarded](#) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants. REAP received a \$2 billion boost through the Inflation Reduction Act.
  - Hardy Farms, a small family-owned peanut farm, [received](#) \$24,930 to convert an irrigation pump motor from diesel to electric for an energy-efficiency improvement.