

Pittsburgh's Clean Energy Economy

On Wednesday, March 31, President Biden is set to announce his Build Back Better plan, including a [reported \\$2+ trillion investment](#) in clean energy and climate-related projects and infrastructure, in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh is the perfect place for the President's speech, as it is a leading example of the power that investments in clean energy and infrastructure can have to revitalize even the most fossil fuel-dependent communities to transition to a new era of jobs, prosperity, and clean air and water.

How Clean Energy Has Helped Revitalize Pittsburgh

- In the late 20th century, Pittsburgh saw [manufacturing and steel industries collapse](#), leading to a peak unemployment rate of 18 percent, the dissolution of 75 percent of its steel corporations and a 30 percent decrease in its population.
- Pittsburgh is at the [forefront](#) of the [clean energy revolution](#) - the city is [pioneering](#) a renewable energy system of decentralized district-scale [microgrids](#) that will be greener and more resilient.
- Pittsburgh's economic revitalization has been called a "[model for clean energy innovation](#)."
- In 2019, Pittsburgh [announced](#) it would be transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2035, marking the first post-industrial American city to make such a commitment.
- In May 2020, the city [announced](#) its major facilities would source their electricity from renewables.
- Pittsburgh International Airport will be the first major U.S. airport [powered](#) by a microgrid, with energy sourced from nearly 7,800 solar panels.

- At the end of 2019, Pittsburgh was [home](#) to 18,116 clean energy jobs, 2,051 renewable energy generation jobs, and 13,552 energy efficiency jobs.
- In late 2020, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto called for a "[Marshall Plan for Middle America](#)" to catalyze economic recovery through infrastructure and clean energy and ensure a just transition for fossil fuel dependent communities.
- Pittsburgh is home to the [nation's largest](#) sloped roof solar project. Installed by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 441, Pittsburgh Mill 19 solar project sits along the Monongahela River on a former steelworks site. The project is seen as a model for the redevelopment of an urban brownfield into a center of innovation.