



North Carolina Clean Energy Plan

Benefits

North Carolina faces dire consequences from climate change, including extreme heat, drought, extreme rainfall, and flooding. Federal climate action, including funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), is helping North Carolina minimize these impacts and prepare for a clean energy future. As of December 2023, North Carolina has [received](#) over \$3.4 billion in funding from the Clean Energy Plan. Clean energy investments have already [created](#) 4,768 good-paying clean energy jobs and expanded opportunities for households to save money in the Tarheel State. Funding is going to local communities across the state to promote climate resiliency, reduce pollution, and advance climate-smart agriculture.

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Key Talking Points:

- New clean energy projects announced since the Inflation Reduction Act passed have spurred [\\$9.78 billion](#) in new investment and helped create or move forward over 4,768 good-paying clean energy jobs.
 - Rep. Richard Hudson's (NC-9) and Rep. Patrick McHenry's (NC-10) districts each [benefited](#) from new clean energy projects in their district, yet they [voted against](#) the Inflation Reduction Act in August 2022.
 - Rep. Chuck Edwards' district (NC-11) [benefited](#) from new clean energy projects in his district, yet he [opposed the IRA](#).

- As part of the Clean School Bus Rebate Program that was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, five North Carolina school districts [received](#) over \$12.2 million in federal funds to purchase low- and zero-emission school buses.
 - In North Carolina’s 7th Congressional District, Columbus County Schools [received](#) nine electric school buses, and Bladen County Schools received five. This district is represented by Rep. David Rouzer, who [voted against](#) the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
 - In North Carolina’s 9th Congressional District, Mina Charter School of Lee County [received](#) seven electric school buses. This district is represented by Rep. Richard Hudson, who [voted against](#) the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- In November 2023, eight farms and businesses in North Carolina were [awarded](#) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants. REAP received a \$2 billion boost through the Inflation Reduction Act.
 - Farms and agricultural businesses in North Carolina’s 3rd Congressional District benefited from the REAP grants, yet Rep. Greg Murphy [voted against](#) the Inflation Reduction Act.
 - Farms and agricultural businesses in North Carolina’s 5th Congressional District benefited from the REAP grants, yet Rep. Virginia Foxx [voted against](#) the Inflation Reduction Act.
 - Farms and agricultural businesses in North Carolina’s 8th Congressional District benefited from the REAP grants, yet Rep. Dan Bishop [voted against](#) the Inflation Reduction Act.
 - Farms and agricultural businesses in North Carolina’s 10th Congressional District benefited from the REAP grants, yet Rep. Patrick McHenry [voted against](#) the Inflation Reduction Act.

North Carolinians 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 North Carolina 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](#) North Carolina would receive over \$209 million for consumer home energy rebate programs under the Inflation Reduction Act. This funding will [help](#) low-income households in North Carolina save an average of 52% on their home energy bills when they upgrade their appliances and improve energy efficiency.
- The Inflation Reduction Act [includes](#) tax credits covering 30% of the costs to install solar panels and battery storage systems, make home improvements that reduce energy leakage, or upgrade heating and cooling equipment. An estimated additional 170,000 North Carolina households will install rooftop panels due to the package's tax credits.
- The Inflation Reduction Act includes grants for state and local governments to adopt the latest building energy codes, [saving](#) the average new homeowner in North Carolina 16.3% on their utility bills, or \$345 annually.
- As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs has up to \$225 million to grant to Tribal governments and Alaska Native entities for Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates. Through the Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program, one tribe in North Carolina [received](#) \$751,431 in funding for energy efficiency and electrification home upgrades, which will help households reduce energy bills, increase home comfort, and improve indoor air quality.
- 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.
- As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program [received](#) a total of \$5 billion to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure. Under the NEVI Program, North Carolina will have an [estimated](#) \$109 million in total funding over five years.

The Clean Energy Plan Is Spearheading New Clean Energy Investments In North Carolina:

- The Inflation Reduction Act will bring a further [\\$2.7 billion](#) in investment in large-scale clean power generation and storage to North Carolina by 2030.
- New clean energy projects announced since the Inflation Reduction Act passed have spurred [\\$9.78 billion](#) in new investment and helped create or move forward over 4,768 good-paying clean energy jobs.
- The Inflation Reduction Act is spurring a further [1.4 GW](#) of clean energy capacity in North Carolina, enough to power 233,500 homes.

- New solar and wind energy investments will help reduce energy costs in North Carolina, as the costs of solar and wind power in the state are projected to drop by [24% and 34%](#), respectively, over the next 30 years.

North Carolinians Are Benefiting From The Clean Energy Plan's Funding in Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure:

- As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grant [awarded](#) \$12.6 million to the Blue Ridge Line Safety and Capacity Expansion Project and \$96,000 to the Railroad Trespass Initiative Overtime Response Project in North Carolina in 2022.
- Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, twelve projects in North Carolina [received](#) over \$125 million from the Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.
 - In 2023, six projects in North Carolina [received](#) over \$65 million in funding from the RAISE program.
 - Brevard [received](#) \$24.6 million to construct, repair, and replace approximately 18.9 miles of shared-use paths for bicycle and pedestrian use.
 - Charlotte [received](#) \$12 million to fund the engineering and construction of three mobility hubs and new sidewalks along approximately 3.5 miles of West Sugar Creek Road.
 - Raleigh [received](#) \$9.97 million to support growing paratransit and coordinated human services transportation through the construction of a new joint operations and maintenance facility.
 - The North Carolina Department of Transportation [received](#) \$9 million to create safer pedestrian crossings in 15 communities across North Carolina.
 - Lumberton [received](#) \$8.6 million to fund complete street improvements along approximately 2.1 miles of 2nd Street.
 - Chapel Hill [received](#) \$1 million to complete a feasibility study for approximately 25 miles of proposed greenways, off-road bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.
 - In 2022, six projects in North Carolina [received](#) over \$60 million in funding from the RAISE program.
 - The Port of Wilmington [received](#) \$18 million to construct a state-of-the-art safe area for loading and discharging containers on

and off the rail to reduce vehicle miles traveled and support efficient transportation design.

- The Flow Better Project [received](#) \$10.7 million to reconstruct approximately eight bridges across six rural, western North Carolina counties.
 - The Weeksville Road Accessibility and Connectivity Plan [received](#) \$2 million to fund the engineering and design of an approximately 3.6-mile multi-use path on Weeksville Road and add sidewalks/paths on key local connectors to the NC 344 corridor.
 - The Town of Wake Forest [received](#) \$3.4 million to fund the planning of mobility hubs in seven communities along the passenger rail S-Line.
 - Winston-Salem [received](#) \$6 million to construct an approximately 1.2-mile extension on the Long Branch Rail to reduce pedestrian and bicycle-related crashes.
 - The North Carolina Department of Transportation [received](#) \$20 million to transform the Charlotte Road and Main Street Corridor into a Complete Street from Maple Street in Rutherfordton to Oakland Road in Spindale. The project is approximately 2.5 miles long and includes road improvements and various bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements.
- In 2022, the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects program (INFRA) [awarded](#) \$100 million to the North Carolina Department of Transportation to increase safety by widening a segment of I-85 and adding approximately nine miles of sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use paths.

The Clean Energy Plan Is Helping Reduce Pollution In Communities Across North Carolina:

- In March 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) a \$3 million grant for North Carolina 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 North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.
 - In March 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) the Charlotte- Concord- Gastonia 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 Centralina Regional Council.

- In March 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) the Raleigh-Cary 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 Triangle J Council of Governments.
- The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians tribal government in North Carolina was [awarded](#) funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program.
- Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, seven projects in North Carolina [received](#) over \$15.5 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Low- and No-Emission Vehicle Program.
 - In 2023, the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority [received](#) over \$2.8 million to replace old diesel vehicles with low-emission buses.
 - In 2023, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, on behalf of ICPTA, [received](#) \$3.3 million to build an operations and maintenance facility.
 - In 2023, the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority [received](#) \$1.6 million to buy charging equipment and modernize two bus facilities to support the agency's zero-emission fleet.
 - In 2022, Durham [received](#) \$5.7 million to buy battery electric buses to replace older diesel vehicles.
 - In 2022, Asheville [received](#) \$4.2 million to buy hybrid electric buses and replacement battery packs for existing hybrid buses.
 - In 2022, Concord [received](#) \$713,813 to buy a hybrid electric bus to replace an older vehicle.
 - In 2022, Fayetteville [received](#) \$280,500 to replace diesel vehicles with low-emissions vehicles.
- As part of the Clean School Bus Rebate Program that was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, five North Carolina school districts [received](#) over \$12.2 million in federal funds to purchase low- and zero-emission school buses.
 - Columbus County Schools [received](#) nine electric school buses; Mina Charter School of Lee County received seven; Discovery Charter School received six; Bladen County Schools received five; and Halifax County Schools received four.
- 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. 15 North Carolina school districts [received](#) over \$57.3 million in funding.

The Clean Energy Plan Is Advancing Climate Resilience, Conservation, And Equity In North Carolina:

- In September 2023, North Carolina [received](#) a total of \$9.1 million from the Urban and Community Forestry Grants to support six 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.
 - Charlotte [received](#) \$600,000 to plant new trees, prune existing trees, and remove hazardous trees to enhance the overall health of tree canopy on private property in disadvantaged communities.
 - Charlotte [received](#) another \$500,000 for its Tree Maintenance Program.
 - Durham [received](#) \$5.2 million to increase access to urban tree canopy through the planting of trees on public property in historically disadvantaged areas of the city.
 - Greensboro [received](#) \$825,000 to conduct a tree canopy assessment, develop an equity prioritization tool, and create a website for community engagement, data, mapping, and resources for visualizing and providing feedback to inform the assessment and actions.
 - Raleigh [received](#) \$1 million to conduct tree maintenance and planting in disadvantaged areas of the city.
 - Cary [received](#) \$1 million to create a comprehensive reforestation program across the city.
- The Inflation Reduction Act [awarded](#) \$30 million to the EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) Program. In 2023, North Carolina received a total of \$1 million to fund two projects.
 - In 2023, CleanAIRE North Carolina in Huntersville and Pottstown [received](#) \$500,000 to establish an Air Monitoring Cluster Network in four impacted communities to address health impacts associated with air pollution.
 - In 2023, the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities in North Charleston [received](#) \$500,000 for its Resilience In The SouthEast (RISE) Program.
- 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, North Carolina received \$1 million from this program to fund one project.

- In 2023, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services in Sampson County [received](#) \$1 million for its Partnership to Address Private Well Contamination project.
- As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, six superfund sites in North Carolina were [awarded](#) cleanup funding.
 - The ABC One Hour Cleaners Superfund site in Jacksonville was [selected](#) to receive \$5.2 million in cleanup funding.
 - The Cristex Drum Superfund site in Oxford was [selected](#) to receive cleanup funding.
 - The GMH Electronics Superfund site in Roxboro was [selected](#) to receive \$1 million in cleanup funding.
 - The Hemphill Road TCE Superfund site in Gastonia was [selected](#) to receive \$6.3 million in cleanup funding.
 - The Holcomb Creosote Co. Superfund site in Yadkinville was [selected](#) to receive \$3.7 million in cleanup funding.
 - The Ram Leather Care Superfund site in Charlotte was [selected](#) to receive \$751,100 in cleanup funding.

The Clean Energy Plan Is Investing In Climate-Smart Agriculture – Benefiting North Carolina 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 \$5 million in grant funding was [awarded](#) to eight North Carolina farmers, ranchers, and businesses to invest in renewable energy, upgrade to energy-efficient equipment, and cut their energy costs.
- Three projects located in North Carolina 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.
 - The 2020 Farmers Cooperative will [utilize](#) this grant opportunity to support historically underserved farmers in overcoming core barriers to attaining access to land, capital, market opportunities, and technical resources.
 - The American Indian Mothers (AIM), Inc. [seeks](#) to form Indigenous Farming Cooperatives (IFC) with similar cooperative entities that create solidarity

through which farmland and wraparound technical assistance services can be provided to Indigenous farmers, facilitate educational mentorship programs, and build collective resources.

- The Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA will [improve](#) land access and land security for underserved farmers of color in four areas: North Carolina, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Stories To Uplift

Clean Energy Investments Are A Boon To Communities Across North Carolina:

- The Triangle and Triad regions of North Carolina are positioning the state to become a leader in the EV supply chain. Central North Carolina has attracted investments across the EV supply chain, from semiconductors to lithium processing and charger manufacturing.
 - Kempower announced a \$41 million investment to manufacture EV chargers in Durham, creating 600 jobs. The average salary for 300 of the new positions will be [over](#) \$88,000 within three years, while the other half will have wages averaging [above](#) \$71,000 within five years. Kempower decided to invest in U.S. manufacturing to [benefit](#) from Inflation Reduction Act tax credits.
 - Sunlight Batteries announced a [\\$40 million investment](#) to open a battery manufacturing plant in Mebane. The facility will create [133 jobs](#) with an average salary of over \$67,000 per year, \$20,000 higher than the county average.
 - Wolfspeed will [invest](#) \$5 billion in a facility to supply raw materials for EV chips. The facility will [create](#) 1,800 new jobs that pay an average salary of over \$77,000 per year.
 - Albemarle will [invest](#) over \$200 million to process lithium materials in Kings Mountain, creating over 200 highly skilled jobs. Albemarle's hiring is [supported](#) by a training program at a local community college.
 - Toyota first [announced](#) plans to invest \$1.29 billion to build an EV manufacturing facility in Liberty in 2021. After the Inflation Reduction Act was passed, Toyota [tripled](#) its investment and now plans to invest \$3.4 billion in the facility, which will create 1,750 new jobs.

The Clean Energy Plan Is Helping North Carolina Farmers, Ranchers, and Agricultural Businesses:

- In November 2023, eight farms and businesses in North Carolina were [awarded](#) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants. REAP received a \$2 billion boost through the Inflation Reduction Act. Some projects include:
 - The Rancho Kolibri LLC [received](#) \$9,207 to purchase and install a solar array, which is projected to save the business \$2,747 annually.
 - The 10 Federal Storage 2 LLC [received](#) \$20,396 to purchase and install a solar array.
 - The 3H Equine Hospital and Mobile Veterinary [received](#) \$22,580 to purchase and install a solar array.
 - The Carolina Poultry Power RG 3 [received](#) \$1 million to provide additional financing to purchase and install a poultry litter waste-to-energy biomass facility.
 - Jonathan Golding's farming operation [received](#) \$32,732 to purchase and install a solar array.
 - The North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation [received](#) \$101,514 to purchase and install a community solar array.