

Energy Solutions to Meet Growth in South Carolina



147,281 energy workers statewide

Over 6% of state employment



\$19B in capital expenditure invested

in energy and manufacturing projects since Q2 2022



Natural gas + renewables = 30%

of South Carolina's power generation



\$12.7M in rural revenue

from clean power projects

The United States is already experiencing sharp increases in energy demand coupled with concerns about rising energy costs. A recent report by S&P Global Commodity Insights predicts that [U.S. electricity demand will surge by 35 – 50%](#) over the next few decades, driven by AI, data centers, and the onshoring of U.S. manufacturing.¹

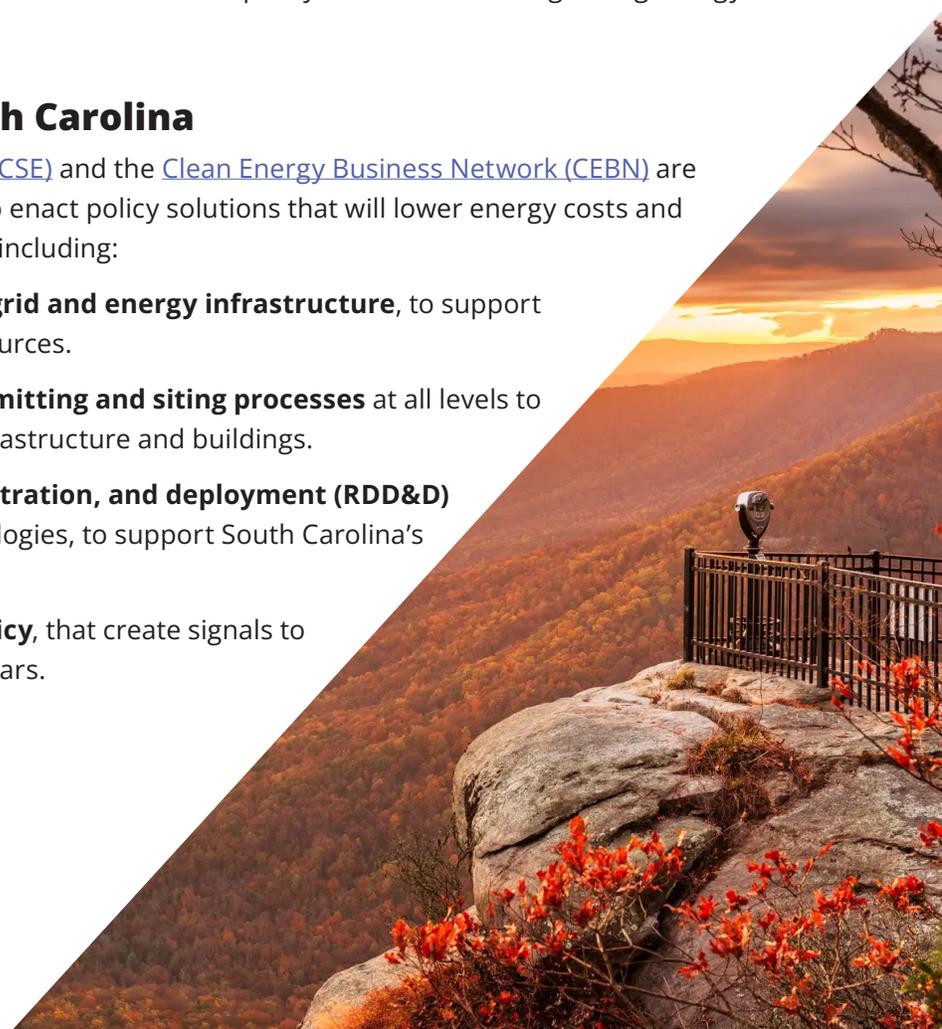
A broad portfolio of energy solutions are ready to meet this demand growth and provide economic benefits for communities across the country. In 2024, the United States deployed [\\$338 billion in financing](#) for energy technologies, including renewable energy, EVs, and power grid investment – up from \$303 billion in 2023, a 0.8% increase year on year. Nevertheless, China continued to lead the global market, with \$818 billion of investment in 2024, a 20% increase year on year.²

We need more energy now from a broad portfolio of all-of-the-above energy solutions. **This fact sheet highlights energy projects** driving economic growth in South Carolina – and policy solutions to meet growing energy demand.

Energy Policy Solutions in South Carolina

The [Business Council for Sustainable Energy \(BCSE\)](#) and the [Clean Energy Business Network \(CEBN\)](#) are working with Congressional and state offices to enact policy solutions that will lower energy costs and ensure competitive South Carolina leadership, including:

- Expanding and **modernizing the electric grid and energy infrastructure**, to support integration of new and flexible energy resources.
- Reforming and expanding capacity for **permitting and siting processes** at all levels to enable the build-out of efficient energy infrastructure and buildings.
- Funding **research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D)** of energy and carbon management technologies, to support South Carolina's innovation in these expanding markets.
- Employing market-based tools, like **tax policy**, that create signals to invest and that leverage private sector dollars.



South Carolina's Expansive Energy Industry

ENERGY PRICES: From May 2024 to May 2025, [average residential energy prices](#) in South Carolina increased by 11.8%.³ As of June 2025, average residential electrical rates in South Carolina are [14.71 cents per kWh](#), which are the 15th lowest in the country.⁴

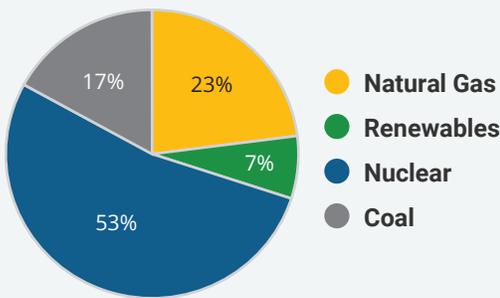
UTILITY EFFICIENCY SPENDING: In 2023, South Carolina utilities invested \$64 million in [electric efficiency](#).⁵

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVANCEMENT: The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy ranked South Carolina [number 40 in the nation](#) for policies and programs to advance energy efficiency in 2025.⁵

INVESTMENT: [\\$19 billion](#) in capital expenditure has been invested in 170 South Carolina energy and manufacturing projects since Q2 2022.⁶



RURAL BENEFIT: Clean power projects provide extra income to farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners. Annually, these drought-proof land lease payments total [\\$12.7 million](#).⁷

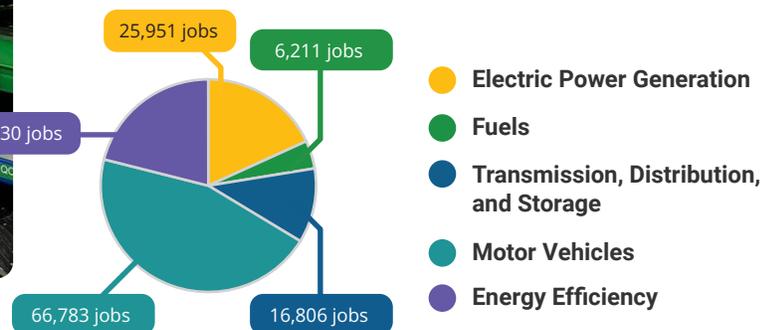


GENERATION MIX: Natural gas and renewables provided [30% of South Carolina's power generation](#) in 2024, up from 16.3% a decade ago.²

- South Carolina's [four nuclear power plants](#) supplied 53% of the state's total electricity generation.⁸
- Renewable energy, including hydropower, provides 7% of South Carolina's electricity generation. Solar, wind, biomass, waste-to-energy, geothermal, and hydropower have cumulatively installed more than 3,502 MW of power generation to date.²



JOBS: South Carolina had [147,281 energy workers](#) statewide in 2024, representing 1.7% of all U.S. energy jobs. From 2023 to 2024, energy jobs in the state increased by 3,370 jobs, or 2.3%. The energy sector in South Carolina represents 6.4% of total state employment.⁹

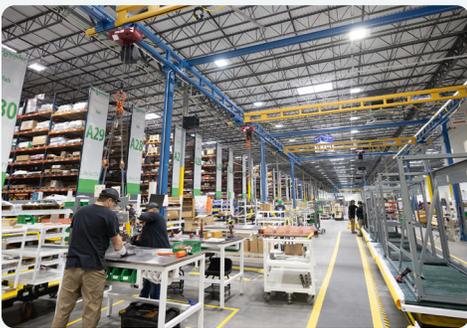


Energy at Work



DUKE ENERGY: [Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Plant](#) With Hydrogen Capability in Anderson County

- 1.4-GW gas-hydrogen power plant
- Construction aimed to begin mid-2027 and operation by January 2031
- Duke Energy's first new generation project request in South Carolina in over a decade
- The proposed unit will create an estimated 600 construction jobs at peak construction and up to 30 full-time, well-paying jobs to operate the plant



SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC: [Manufacturing Facilities](#) in Columbia and Seneca

- Facilities manufacture low-voltage motor control centers, panelboard box and trim, lighting and PowerLink panelboards, NW breakers, and low-voltage switchgear and switchboards
- Columbia manufacturing facility employs 570 South Carolinians
- \$23.8 million investment announced in 2024 will create 280 new jobs for expanded facilities in Columbia and Seneca



ATLANTIC POWER: [Allendale and Dorchester](#) Biomass Facilities

- Two 20 MW biomass-fueled power plants in Allendale and Harleyville, respectively
- 42 direct employees, 110 indirect jobs created
- Power output is sold to South Carolina Public Service Authority under a 30-year PPA
- Invests \$11 million into the local economy for fuel and \$3 million into SC for businesses and services

 **The Business Council**
for Sustainable Energy®

 **CLEAN ENERGY**
BUSINESS NETWORK

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is a coalition of companies and trade associations that deploy clean energy and decarbonization solutions, with a sector focus on energy efficiency, natural gas, and renewable energy. Members include investor-owned utilities, public power, independent power producers, project developers, technology providers, equipment manufacturers, environmental and energy market service companies, and more.

BCSE collaborates frequently with its small business division, the Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN), which encompasses a network of more than 8,000 cleantech business and community leaders across all 50 states. Collectively, BCSE and CEBN mobilize the full breadth of the clean energy economy, from innovators and small businesses to industry leaders and the trade associations that represent them.

Citations

- 1** 2025 US National Power Demand Study. Conducted by S&P Global Commodity Insights and commissioned by the American Clean Power Association.
- 2** 2025 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook. Conducted by BloombergNEF and commissioned by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy.
- 3** U.S. Energy Information Administration Electricity Data Browser.
- 4** Electricity Rates by State. Conducted by Choose Energy (2025).
- 5** 2025 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. Conducted by the American Council for an Energy-Efficiency Economy.
- 6** Clean Investment Monitor. Conducted by MIT and Rhodium Group.
- 7** Clean Power State by State. Conducted by the American Clean Power Association.
- 8** U.S. Energy Information Administration. South Carolina State Profile and Energy Estimates.
- 9** United States Energy & Employment Report 2025. Conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy.