ISSUE BRIEF: ADVANCING THE FUTURE OF ENERGY IN UTAH

Tracking Growth in Energy Manufacturing and Power Deployments in Utah

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ATLAS PUBLIC POLICY

Contents

Introduction

Utah has a long history in energy extraction and production of coal, oil, and gas. The state has leveraged that energy know-how to quickly grow the clean energy sector including solar, batteries, hydropower, wind, and geothermal. The near-term pipeline for power generation facilities in the state is overwhelmingly driven by clean power, led by solar. The state is also well positioned to be a leader on nuclear generation with the nation's only operating conventional uranium production mill and plans for several nuclear power plants in the works.[1] Utah is advancing innovations in resource extraction and electricity generation through direct lithium extraction (DLE),[2] Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS),[3] and small modular reactors (SMRs).[4]

Utah's growing and diversifying energy profile matches its growing population, strong economy, and rapidly expanding power demand. Between 2020 and 2025, Utah was the fifth fastest growing state, adding more than 44,000 residents from July 2024 to July 2025. Utah's broader economic performance is strong, with real Gross Domestic Product growing at an average annual rate of about 3.4 percent from 2022 to 2025, roughly 30 percent faster than the national economy over the same period (see Box 1). Clean energy manufacturing in particular is expected to employ nearly 3,600 workers as more solar and battery manufacturing facilities become operational.

Box 1. About the Data in this Issue Brief

Data in this brief is sourced from the Clean Economy Tracker unless otherwise noted. The Tracker hosts data on clean energy manufacturing announcements and clean power deployments. All Clean Economy Tracker data is through March 2026. See the: Methodology for more information.

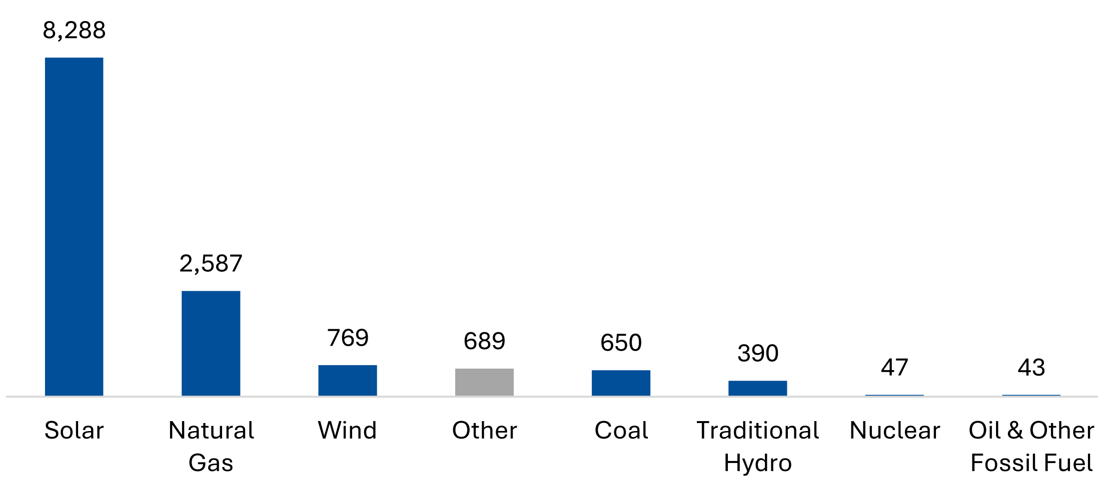
[1] Uranium extraction relies on either conventional uranium mining and milling or in-situ recovery. While just one conventional uranium mill is operational in the United States in Utah, there are approximately 14 licensed in-situ recovery facilities, primarily in Wyoming, Texas, Nebraska, and New Mexico, none of which are in Utah.
[2] DLE includes methods such as adsorption, ion exchange, solvent extraction, membrane separation, and electrochemical processes that can improve sustainability and economics over conventional methods.
[3] EGS is a next-generation technology that applies horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracking techniques from the oil-and-gas industry to unlock zero-carbon energy from the earth's heat.
[4] SMRs are advanced nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 megawatts per unit, which is about one-third of the generating capacity of nuclear power reactors.

Utah is Home to a Growing Clean Energy Economy

Utah has geographic and resource availability advantages—a climate prime for solar generation, land availability (including federal land to lease for energy projects and transmission projects), and rich mineral deposits. Building on these geographic and resource advantages, Utah also has made significant investments in its workforce, offers multiple tax incentives, and benefits from a growing state economy.

Energy represents an important part of Utah's economy, accounting for 5.4 percent of total employment in the state. By the end of 2024, over 93,000 Utahns worked in energy, including an estimated 55,000 positions in clean energy and transmission and grid. About 26 percent of energy jobs, representing more than 24,000 positions, are tied to electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and storage. Solar accounts for most electric power generation employment with almost 8,290 jobs, followed by natural gas with nearly 2,590 jobs (Figure 1).[5]

Figure 1. Employment by Electric Power Generation Sector in Utah in 2024



'Other' includes generation from geothermal, incineration of other fuels (e.g., waste fuels), and employment that cannot solely be classified into other electric power generation categories.

Source: 2025 U.S. Energy & Employment Jobs Report

[5] These clean jobs are defined by the U.S. Energy & Employment Jobs Report, which has a year-long lag.

Beyond direct employment, clean energy investments provide construction and indirect job opportunities, generate revenue from property taxes and land lease revenue for local landowners, and provide funding for local infrastructure. In an economic impact study released by Weber State University in February 2026, researchers looked at the impact of 41 utility-scale solar, wind, and geothermal projects representing 4.1 gigawatts (GW) across Utah. Outside of direct jobs and investment, these projects are supporting communities through $244.6 million in economic output and $33 million in annual property taxes.

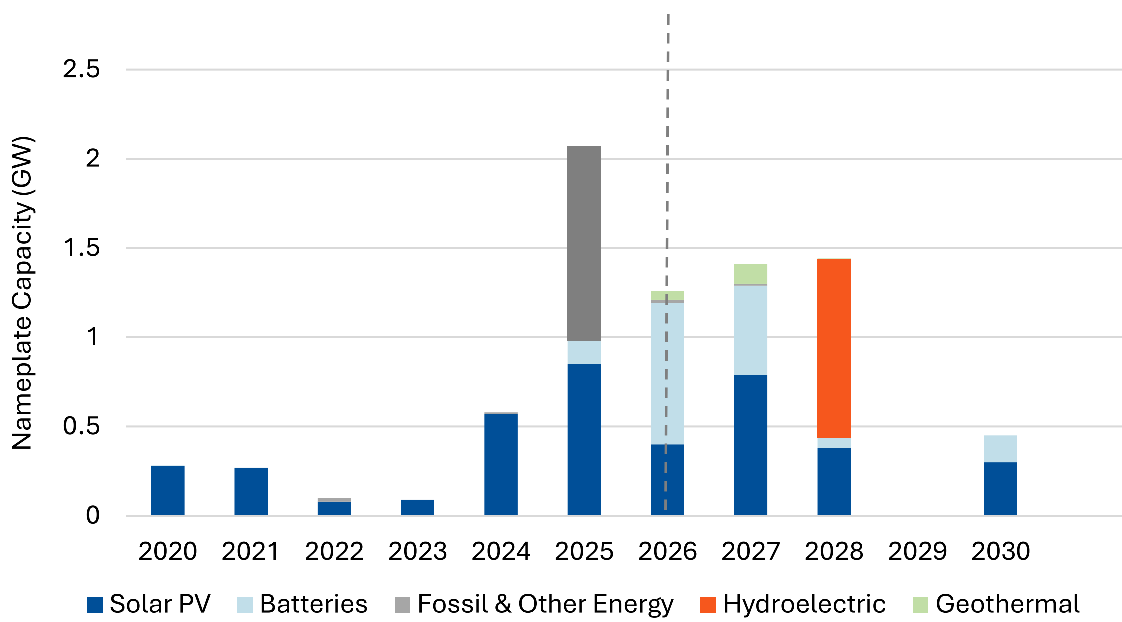
Utah's electricity consumption reached a new record in 2025, rising to approximately 35,000 gigawatt-hours, driven in part by Utah's population growth, and more recently, rapid data center expansion. By 2030, Utah is on track to nearly quadruple its data center capacity, with roughly 2.6 gigawatts under construction compared to about 0.9 gigawatts currently in operation. This surge in demand, combined with the retirement of older power plants, is increasing the need for additional generation and grid capacity. Operation Gigawatt, launched by Governor Cox in October 2024, aims to double power production over the next ten years and adopts an "all-of-the-above" energy approach with four key goals: expanding transmission capacity, developing new energy production, investing in energy innovation and research, and enhancing state energy policies, with a growing emphasis on nuclear and geothermal. By diversifying Utah's energy mix and capitalizing on the state's geothermal capabilities and nuclear energy resources and know-how, Operation Gigawatt aims to align long-term energy planning with population and power demand growth. Expanding energy production provides opportunities for additional economic growth, while reducing national security risks from dependency on volatile or otherwise unreliable foreign sources, ensuring the state has affordable, reliable home-grown energy.

Clean Power Deployment

Utah's electricity generation mix has shifted over the past decade driven by declining coal and growing natural gas and solar generation. Coal fell from 75 percent of generation in 2015 to 48 percent in 2025 as aging coal plants were retired or produced less electricity. By contrast, as shown in Figure 2, energy developers have increasingly favored solar and battery resources. Lazard's analysis, released in June 2025, found that onshore wind and utility-scale solar were the cheapest new forms of electricity to bring online. These technologies were notably cheaper than combined cycle natural gas and substantially cheaper than coal. Unlike some of its neighbors, wind power represents a limited share of Utah's electricity mix primarily because strong wind sites are remote from load centers and transmission-constrained.

Through March 2026, the state's net clean power capacity[6] has grown to 8.5 GW across 161 generators, representing an estimated $17 billion in investment. Capacity in the pipeline (planned or under construction) from 2026 to 2030 is dominated by clean power, with 4.5 GW of clean power generation expected to be added to the grid. The power mix in Utah is continuing to shift towards more clean energy sources as power demand in the state continues to rise. Clean power is expected to account for over 90 percent of new power capacity announced from 2015 through 2030, and more clean power capacity is expected to come online annually between 2026 and 2028 than in any previous year in the state.

Figure 2. Power Capacity Additions by Operational Year



Year refers to actual or expected operational year. As of March 2026, no new power capacity is projected to come online in 2029.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

Only four percent (0.3 GW) of proposed new clean power capacity has been canceled statewide, compared to eight percent (65.8 GW) nationally since 2015. In parallel, roughly 2.4 GW of fossil fuel generation capacity in Utah has been canceled, retired, or moved out of service, at a time of rising coal prices in Utah after the large Lila Canyon coal mine caught fire and closed—previously responsible for about 28 percent of Utah's coal production.

[6] Clean power capacity herein refers to planned, under construction, and operational projects, unless otherwise noted.

A technology's capacity factor must be considered to fairly compare power sources.[7] In Table 1, leading technologies in the state are multiplied by capacity factors to estimate average output expected from capacity.[8] In Utah, announced clean power has the capacity to power an increasing number of homes, compared to those powered by fossil fuels.

Table 1. Power Capacity by Technology through Q1 2026

Technology	Nameplate Capacity (GW)	Average Capacity Factor	Average Output (GW)	Estimated Homes Powered per Year
Solar Photovoltaic	4.93	27%	1.33	1,102,000
Conventional Hydroelectric	0.26	33%	0.09	72,000
Geothermal	0.24	90%	0.22	180,000
Onshore Wind	0.39	46%	0.18	149,000
Natural Gas – Combined Cycle	3.05	61%	1.86	1,539,000
Natural Gas – Other	1.05	14-20%	0.17	140,000
Conventional Coal	4.69	43%	2.02	1,667,000

"Natural gas – Other" refers to gas-fired combustion turbine, steam turbine, and internal combustion engine generation; average capacity factors represent the range for the three natural gas types classified as other. Nameplate capacity refers to generation capacity planned, under construction, and operational. Capacity factors are from the 2024 Annual Technology Baseline from the National Laboratory of the Rockies (formerly the National Renewable Energy Laboratory). Natural gas estimates and homes powered estimates are taken from EIA's 2024 annual estimate. Capacity factors reflect generation output only; battery storage, including pumped-storage hydropower, have capacity factors of zero.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

[7] Capacity factors bridge the gap between theoretical capability and actual system value, making it a foundational metric for analyzing, planning, and comparing energy resources.

[8] National Laboratory of the Rockies (formerly the National Renewable Energy Laboratory) estimates that for 2025, capacity factors for utility-scale technologies (not including residential solar) range from 27 percent for utility-scale solar to 93 percent for nuclear generation.

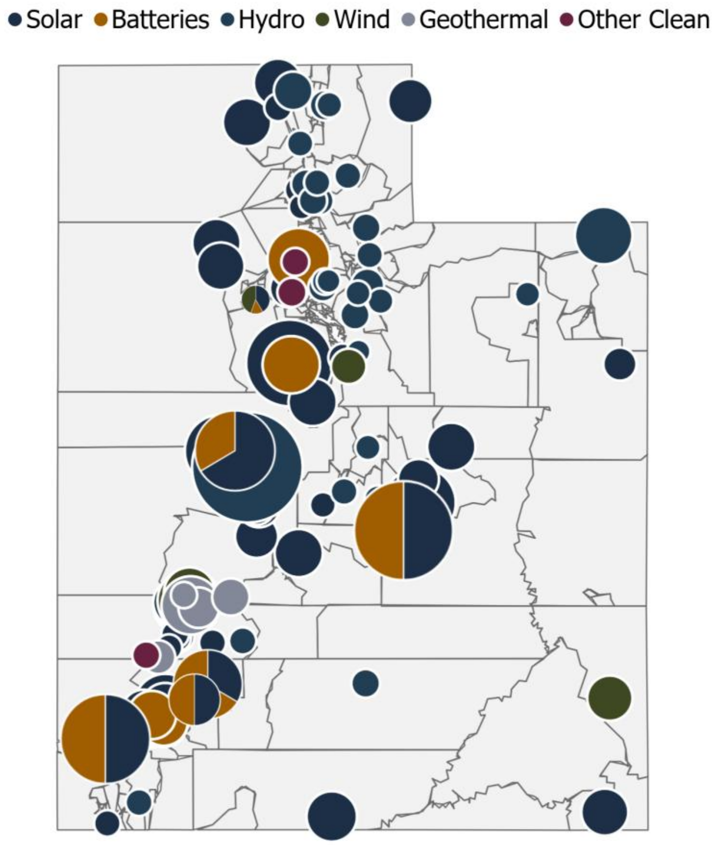
Solar and Batteries Lead Clean Power Growth

Utah's 8.5 GW of total clean power capacity includes 4.9 GW of solar photovoltaic (PV) and 1.7 GW of battery storage—the equivalent of more than three Hoover Dams.[9] These solar PV and battery projects have attracted an estimated $11 billion in investment across operational, under construction, and planned clean power assets.[10] Figure 3 highlights the geographic span of clean power projects planned, under construction, and operational in the state. Of these, solar PV and battery storage power capacity capture the largest share of clean power capacity (78 percent). Projects are more densely clustered along the Wasatch Front and the I-15 corridor near major load centers, which helps lower transmission costs and speed up interconnection timelines. As additional infrastructure is built out in the more rural parts of Utah, clean power developments can improve local economies through property tax revenue and land lease payments to landowners and counties.

Only looking at planned and under construction capacity, solar PV and battery storage account for nearly three quarters of clean power capacity between 2026 and 2030, totaling over $5 billion in estimated investment and expected to support nearly 15,000 construction jobs and 350 operations jobs.[11] Remaining clean power capacity in Utah's pipeline (planned or under construction) includes a large one GW pumped storage hydropower project and two smaller geothermal projects. Utah expects to see 1.5 GW of battery capacity come online between 2026 and 2030 compared to just 0.2 GW of operating capacity in place as of March 2026. Meanwhile, there is 1.9 GW of planned solar PV capacity that will come online over the same period, the equivalent of powering nearly 420,000 homes annually.

[9] According to the Bureau of Reclamation, the Hoover Dam has a maximum installed capacity of 2.08 GW.
[10] Investment is estimated by multiplying the nameplate capacity of each project by CAPEX multipliers from the National Laboratory of the Rockies (formerly the National Renewable Energy Laboratory) 2024 Annual Technology Baseline, taking into consideration the technology type and operating year. For more information, see : Methodology.
[11] Operations and construction jobs are estimated using multipliers derived from the National Laboratory of the Rockies (formerly the National Renewable Energy Laboratory) Jobs and Economic Development Impacts models, Decarbonization Employment and Energy Systems model, and additional studies. For more information, see : Methodology.

Figure 3. Solar and Batteries Dominate Clean Power Capacity in Utah



The size of the bubble is proportionate to the project's nameplate capacity. Bubbles that are split between multiple technologies represent power plants using more than one clean power technology (e.g. solar-plus-storage projects). Capacity refers to planned, under construction, and operational.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

The increasing cost competitiveness of clean energy has been a key driver to its continued dominance in the power capacity pipeline in Utah and elsewhere. The levelized cost of energy (LCOE)[12] for utility-scale solar is as low as $38 per megawatt-hour, compared with roughly $71 per megawatt-hour at the lower end of cost for coal. As Logan Mitchell PhD, Climate Scientist and Energy Analyst at Clean Energy Utah, put it, "taking a step back to look at the global energy system, wind and solar costs have fallen, leading to accelerated

[12] LCOE represents the average revenue per unit of electricity generated that would be required to recover the costs of building and operating a generation plant during an assumed cost recovery period and for a specific duty cycle.

deployment, and right now we're in the middle of the falling cost of batteries and seeing grids transform."

Many of the solar projects in the pipeline in Utah are solar-plus-storage projects, driven in part by declining LCOE rates for the technologies and the added grid value of dispatchable electricity from batteries. Representative Ray Ward, a state representative for District 19, similarly noted that as battery costs decline, solar-plus-storage becomes a more rational investment option for the state. Notable projects include Clearway's 0.32 GW Honeycomb portfolio comprising four battery energy storage system projects co-located with an existing solar installation. Another major development is rPlus Energies Green River project—one of the nation's largest solar-plus-storage developments—which is expected to come online later in 2026 with 0.4 GW of solar capacity paired with a 0.4 GW battery system. The solar project is spurring investment in a rural community that has historically depended on the coal sector and supporting the tax base as the coal mines have since closed in the area, according to Executive Director at the Economic Development Corporation of Utah (EDCUtah), Ryan Starks.

Utah is Among Geothermal Leaders

Utah is one of seven states with conventional utility-scale geothermal generation. Production is currently concentrated entirely in the western half of the country, with California, Nevada, and Utah leading by total capacity. In 2025, three geothermal facilities in southwestern Utah provided five percent of the state's clean power generation. Geothermal power capacity is projected to triple in the state as two new generators come online in 2026 and 2027, which will bring geothermal capacity to approximately 0.24 GW in total.

Utah has prioritized enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) over conventional geothermal. While conventional geothermal requires naturally permeable reservoirs only found in limited locations, EGS can provide energy through extraction processes adapted from drilling and engineering techniques from the oil and gas industry where natural thermal reservoirs do not currently exist. The first large-scale commercial EGS site in the United States is currently under construction by Fervo Energy in Utah and is expected to start delivering power in 2026.

Geothermal, including EGS, has faced barriers to commercial deployment driven by high upfront costs from capital-intensive drilling and plant development. These challenges are compounded by long permitting and interconnection timelines anywhere between five and ten years. Despite these issues, a 2025 study from the National Laboratory of the Rockies found that EGS costs are projected to decline approximately 29 percent from 2024 to 2035, improving cost competitiveness with other power sources. More research and development is necessary to improve drilling techniques and reduce costs for next-generation geothermal technologies like EGS.

Utah's next-generation geothermal development is closely tied to the Utah Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (Utah FORGE), a federally funded research laboratory in Beaver County designed to de-risk EGS. Since its selection in 2019, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has committed nearly $300 million across multiple phases to establish FORGE as a permanent, full-scale EGS field laboratory. Access to FORGE's research infrastructure and data has considerably informed commercial drilling and project design decisions for private developers, including Fervo as it advances its Cape Station project. A $25 million grant awarded to Cape Station in 2024 by the DOE's Geothermal Technologies Office was the largest single award from the office in its history. Utah Clean Energy's Josh Craft identified FORGE and Fervo as prime examples of public-private partnerships, illustrating how DOE-enabled research can translate into large-scale commercial deployment for a state like Utah.

According to EDCUtah Executive Director Starks, coordination with federal agencies like the DOE and Department of Interior is also paramount; "Utah has the opportunity to further unlock land for clean energy development, which the governor has made a key pillar of his administration." Building on the momentum of FORGE and Fervo's recent successes, in 2025, DOI's Bureau of Land Management leased 14 geothermal parcels totaling almost 51,000 acres for $5.7 million. This lease sale attracted bidders ranging from legacy energy developers such as Invenergy to new entrants like Buffalo River Minerals. The success of this auction signals increasing confidence in Utah's geothermal potential.

Utah at the Center of a Regional Advanced Nuclear Corridor

The United States is undergoing the first widescale expansion of nuclear energy in decades because nuclear offers a reliable, continuous, and domestic source of power. In Utah, state leaders view nuclear power as a key tool for meeting the state's energy needs, particularly as the state's projected energy supply gap widens and 67 percent of Utah's existing firm generation[13] is expected to retire over the next two decades. Under Operation Gigawatt, state leaders are repurposing retiring coal facilities for nuclear generation instead of decommissioning them. This approach could lower capital costs by an estimated 15 to 35

[13] Firm power generation refers to electricity that is dispatchable 24/7.

percent by using existing infrastructure, while also supporting greater regional economic activity and long-term employment.

Utah is growing its profile as a hub for advanced nuclear siting, research, and fuel-cycle development. The state is actively being considered for nuclear power facility siting, particularly for more flexible SMRs, pursuing DOE reactor programs, and investing in more high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU)-related production and testing activities.

The Utah San Rafael Energy Laboratory positions the state as a potential host for future advanced nuclear development, aligned with federal initiatives, including the DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program and the HALEU Availability Program. The DOE formally recognized the Utah San Rafael Energy Lab as a candidate host site for federally supported advanced reactors, and multiple DOE-backed developers have already evaluated the site. In addition, Nusano's HALEU Program in West Valley City, Utah, is aiming to develop a domestic supply of HALEU for advanced reactor designs. The program is frequently cited by Utah state officials as complementary to federally funded efforts.

Utah's nuclear push is reinforced by the state's uranium endowment. Utah is the third largest uranium-producing state with production concentrated in the Colorado Plateau districts, including the massive White Mesa Mill. The Mill now produces multiple minerals, also processing vanadium and rare earth elements, which ties nuclear fuel production to broader clean energy and defense supply chains. Furthermore, Utah's Military Installation Development Authority has subleased 400 acres at Camp Williams (Utah National Guard) to General Matter, a California-based startup with a DOE contract to support the HALEU fuel supply chain. The company has also proposed developing a nuclear fuel facility that could ultimately include uranium enrichment.

Utah is taking a comprehensive approach to nuclear development, with efforts spanning the full supply chain from research and development to deployment. Communities across Utah are also increasingly interested in understanding the opportunities and potential benefits of nuclear power. Greg Bisping, Vice President of Investor Relations at EDCUtah, expressed how several communities have approached their organization for resources and opportunities on nuclear energy technologies. For example, Brigham City—through a partnership with Hi Tech Solutions and Holtec International—is planned as the site of Utah's first commercial nuclear power reactor power plant with deployment expected in the early 2030s. The initial phase will focus on establishing a workforce training and manufacturing hub to support early development.

Policy Helped Drive the Clean Energy Buildout

Many of the state's large clean energy projects have received or are expected to continue receiving post-performance state tax incentives through either the Economic Development Tax Increment Financing or the Rural Economic Development Tax Increment Financing programs. Under these programs, companies investing in the state may qualify for rebates of up to 50 percent once job creation and investment benchmarks are met. These performance-based rebates continue to play a role in lowering upfront risk for large, capital-intensive projects.

Prior to 2025, Utah offered several energy and infrastructure tax credits, namely the Renewable Energy Systems Tax Credit (RESTC), established in 2007, and High Cost Infrastructure Tax Credit (HCITC), established in 2015. These incentives supported clean energy investment and utility-scale solar development. These policies coincided with a 20 percent increase in Utah's total clean power capacity from 2023 to 2024, rising from 6.4 GW to 7.7 GW.

In 2025 and into 2026, however, Utah phased out or tightened eligibility for state-sponsored credits like RESTC and HCITC, imposed new taxes and requirements for solar and wind projects, and restricted siting for large installations. Similar changes in incentives took place at the federal level in 2025.[14]

Changes in clean energy incentive policy, while not having an immediate negative impact on existing investments for clean power deployments, "send a bad signal and add speed bumps to Utah's pathway to clean power buildout", said Josh Craft, Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs at Utah Clean Energy. For now, Utah's pipeline remains sizeable, though more energy projects will need to be developed as the state's power demand is expected to rise.

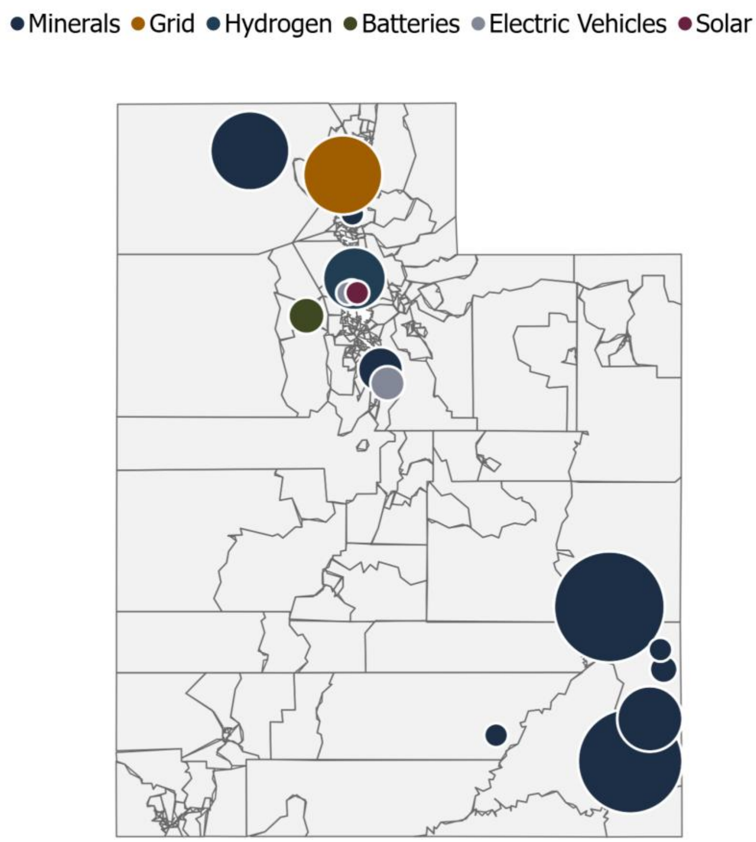
Clean Energy Supply Chain Investment and Jobs

Utah hosts eight operating clean energy manufacturing facilities and has an additional ten under construction or planned across critical minerals, batteries, transmission and grid,

[14] Federal support for new wind and solar projects has narrowed through updated restrictions on technology-neutral clean electricity credits (48E and 45Y) for wind and solar facilities placed in service after December 31, 2027, as well as new foreign-entity of concern and material-assistance restrictions.

solar, and other clean energy industries, see Figure 4. Net total clean energy manufacturing investment announced through March 2026 totals $1.6 billion and nearly 3,600 direct manufacturing jobs. Despite cancellations elsewhere, 2025 saw the largest surge in clean energy manufacturing investment in Utah ($902 million), since at least 2000.

Figure 4. Clean Energy Manufacturing Facilities Span the State



The size of the bubble is proportional to the project's announced investment.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

Even as some federal and state clean manufacturing incentives narrowed eligibility over the past year, approximately 92 percent of active investments in Utah (i.e., not including canceled facilities) announced through March 2026 remain either operational or under construction. These active investments are concentrated along the Wasatch Front, centered around Salt Lake County, and extend south into Utah County, as well as in south-central Utah, spanning Iron County and adjacent rural counties. Only one manufacturing facility investment has been canceled in Utah since 2000—the $77 million Compass

Minerals lithium project near the Great Salt Lake in 2024, which faced regulatory risk due to its proximity to the lake.

Critical Minerals Lead All Technologies

Utah's portfolio of announced clean energy manufacturing investment is primarily concentrated in critical minerals production, with $1.3 billion total announced for the sector. This concentration reflects the state's strong geological resource base: Utah contains over 28 federally designated critical minerals, including lithium and rare earths—many of which are essential to solar, batteries, advanced nuclear systems, and power electronics.

Much of Utah's mineral reserves are in the southern half of the state and around the Great Salt Lake, per Figure 4. Three of the four largest mineral investments are in rural communities, with a significant share concentrated in Southeast Utah. Utah's largest announced critical minerals manufacturing investment to date is A1 Lithium's $495 million Paradox Lithium Project, expected to begin production in 2028. The project has secured an off-take agreement with LG Energy Solution to supply up to 4,000 tons per year of battery-grade lithium carbonate—approximately 40 percent of the project's initial planned annual capacity —supporting lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles, energy storage systems, and other electrification applications.

While the United States currently has only one active lithium mine and commercial refinery in Nevada, Utah stands out as one of few states where lithium carbonate has been produced commercially before, as a byproduct of magnesium production, reinforcing its role in the domestic lithium supply chain.

Federal policy makers are continuing a push to more easily develop domestic sources of critical minerals, including through the issuance of Executive Order 14241 in March 2025: "Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production." This Order directs federal agencies to fast-track domestic mining and processing of critical minerals by streamlining permitting and financing to reduce reliance on foreign supply chains.

Notably, two of the state's three largest mineral investments were made after President Trump's Executive Order. These large investments include the $410 million expansion of the White Mesa Mill for rare earth elements production and the announcement of the planned Waterleaf Resources $200 million Salt Lake Lithium Plant, both of which are expected to start production in 2027. The White Mesa Mill currently has the installed capacity to produce roughly 1,000 tons per year of rare earth materials. The planned expansion of the mill is expected to expand capacity to over 6,000 tons per year, positioning the facility as one of the world's largest and lowest-cost producers of both light and heavy rare earth materials. The planned Salt Lake Lithium Plant is poised to become the country's second direct lithium extraction plant, expanding production of a key battery precursor material, while also minimizing environmental impacts on the state's natural landscape.

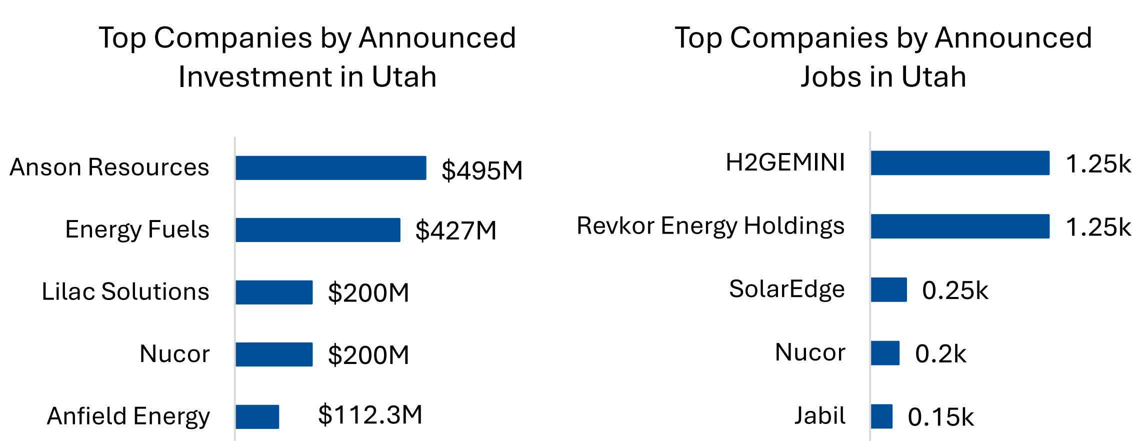
Supported by Utah's geological resource base and expanding federal support, the state is attracting new investment in critical minerals development. With large-scale lithium, uranium, and rare earth projects advancing toward production between 2027 and 2028, Utah is well positioned to contribute to U.S. critical minerals supply chains.

Scaling up Other Clean Energy Manufacturing

After critical minerals, transmission and grid materials and hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing represent the next largest sectors by announced investment. Nucor Corporation's $200 million production facility in Brigham City will manufacture utility structures, or the utility poles and substation structures used to deliver electricity. Nucor expects the facility to facilitate the region's grid expansion goals and increasing power needs from data centers and a growing population.

In January 2025, OxEon Energy announced $99 million for Utah's first solid oxide electrolysis manufacturing facility in North Salt Lake, in part enabled by a $36 million grant from the DOE in 2024. As Utah's first dedicated hydrogen manufacturing facility, the project will diversify the state's clean energy manufacturing portfolio and strengthen its presence in midstream supply chain activity. Leading clean energy manufacturing companies in Utah by announced investment and manufacturing jobs are detailed in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Leading Clean Energy Manufacturing Companies in Utah



Source: Clean Economy Tracker

Across all clean energy manufacturing sectors, companies have announced about 3,600 jobs in Utah as of March 2026 (Figure 5). Solar manufacturing accounts for most announced employment with roughly 2,500 jobs, followed by batteries with about 400 announced jobs. Northwest Utah and around the Great Salt Lake are home to a majority of these announced jobs, driven by H2GEMINI and Revkor Energy Holdings' planned high-efficiency solar cell and module manufacturing facility in Salt Lake City. The 400 jobs in battery production are also in the Northwest region of Utah, at the SolarEdge Salt Lake Facility and Jabil's Power Systems facility, which also manufactures products for Fluence and Powin.

Workforce and Infrastructure Needs for the Clean Economy

As Utah attracts new investments in clean energy, a robust workforce pipeline and attractive business environment will be crucial to meeting industry demands. Utah state government programs like U-REDI and Custom Fit play an increasingly pivotal role in preparing Utah's workforce for the expanding clean energy manufacturing and deployment sectors. These initiatives, alongside partnerships with universities, technical colleges, and trade schools, are essential for developing the skills required for next-generation technologies—like nuclear fuel fabrication, advanced solar manufacturing, and grid modernization.

Beyond current investments, Holtec is working with the DOE and the Utah state government to assess the state's potential as a western manufacturing hub for SMR-300 components, a key part of the nuclear supply chain. While these efforts remain in the proposal stage and no construction timeline or investment decision has been announced, Holtec, in partnership with universities, technical colleges, and trade schools, has begun investing in workforce-focused training facilities in Utah to support both the existing U.S. reactor fleet and next-generation SMR technologies. Such workforce investments by companies like Holtec build a local skilled labor force, positioning Utah to scale clean and advanced manufacturing capacity over time.

Infrastructure readiness is also an essential part of preparing Utah for new investments in clean energy manufacturing and deployment. Ryan Starks and Greg Bisping of EDCUtah expressed the importance of infrastructure like port authorities and regional networks to better support companies looking to do business in the state. Utah's Inland Port Authority program, featuring 13 dry ports spread across the state, serves as a network of logistics hubs that streamline the movement of goods and materials. The Inland Port Authority assists businesses by helping them navigate the permitting and entitlement process, assemble incentive packages, and ensure necessary infrastructure is available for operations. These resources make Utah an attractive destination for companies looking to quickly establish and expand clean energy operations, as well as helping meet the goals set by Operation Gigawatt.

A Bright Future Ahead for Utah's Clean Economy

Utah is poised to be a leader in the adoption of both current technologies and the buildout of next-generation technologies needed to power the future. In the near-term, Utah is bringing online 4.5 GW of clean power in the form of solar, batteries, hydropower, and geothermal. The state is also home to $1.6 billion in clean energy manufacturing investments set to open through 2027, largely for critical minerals and transmission and grid materials. In the longer term, Utah is at the forefront of scaling up of enhanced geothermal systems, as well as the commercialization of direct lithium extraction, and small modular reactors.

Clean energy is increasingly key to Utah's economy and energy security, and importantly, contributes to national security. As power demand expands, population growth accelerates, and aging power plants retire, clean energy will play a critical role in addressing these pressures while maintaining affordable and reliable energy for Utah residents and businesses.

Acknowledgments

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- Josh Craft: Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs at Utah Clean Energy
- Logan Mitchell, PhD: Climate Scientist and Energy Analyst at Utah Clean Energy
- Raymond P. Ward: Utah House of Representatives, District 19
- Ryan Starks: Executive Director at the Economic Development Corporation of Utah
- Greg Bisping: Vice President of Investor Relations at the Economic Development Corporation of Utah

While these interviews were critical to the development of this brief, Atlas alone is responsible for its conclusions, which may not represent the viewpoints of all the interviewees.

Appendix A: Methodology

Data for manufacturing and deployments were pulled from the Clean Economy Tracker on April 28, 2026. Clean energy manufacturing refers to investment announcements to produce batteries, critical minerals, electric vehicles, heat pumps, hydrogen electrolyzers, nuclear fuel, solar energy, transmission & grid materials, and wind energy. Manufacturing jobs reflect direct, permanent manufacturing jobs. Jobs canceled refer to clean energy manufacturing jobs cut or canceled.

Within the scope of this brief, clean power refers to electricity generation from the following technologies: batteries, biomass, geothermal, hydroelectric (including conventional hydropower and hydroelectric pumped storage), nuclear, onshore wind, offshore wind, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, and other clean energy. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), nameplate capacity refers to the maximum rated output of a generator designated by the manufacturer, expressed in gigawatts. Operational includes currently operating, standby/backup, and temporarily out of service facilities. Cancellations do not include retired projects.

The data are from the EIA Annual Electric Generator Report (Form EIA-860), for the years that are available. Where annual data are not yet available, the data are from the EIA Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory (Form EIA-860M), which are considered preliminary estimates and subject to change; a delay of approximately six months exists between the end of the year and when the data becomes available. Note that there could be delays between when a project is planned (or canceled) by a developer and when the change is reflected in the monthly data. The dataset only includes projects one megawatt or larger.

Investment figures refer to the estimated capital expenditure to build each clean generator in 2024 dollars and apply to projects from 2013 onwards. These values may not correspond to actual past or future investment by project developers but are an approximation. Operations and construction jobs refer to the estimated direct jobs that can be supported by each clean generator during the construction phase and operations phase. Data on the estimated number of homes powered by each clean generator is provided where available. These values may not correspond to actual power output by each project and home energy use varies by location.

For more information, contact info@cleaneconomytracker.org. See the full methodology here.

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