

Industries of the Future: Clean Energy / Cleantech Fact Sheet

Florida powers all aspects of clean energy and cleantech industries, with particular strengths in energy, efficiency, and environmental technologies. Florida's location, natural resources, transportation infrastructure, and skilled labor force, has attracted industry leaders such as GE Energy, JinkoSolar, and Siemens Energy, among others. By harnessing innovation and the state's strong entrepreneurial spirit, Florida is building one of the nation's leading clean technology hubs (Enterprise Florida).

What is clean energy and cleantech? Clean energy comes from resources whose byproducts have minimal effect on the environment and do not produce the carbon dioxide and air pollution that come from fossil fuel consumption. Some examples of clean energy include solar, bioenergy, nuclear, and hydrogen and fuel cells. Cleantech is any process, product, or service that reduces negative environmental impacts through increased energy efficiency, the sustainable use of resources, or environmental protection activities. Cleantech includes technology related to renewable energy, green transportation, electric motors, and more.

Industry at a Glance in Florida: According to Localintel's 2023 data, the cleantech sector in Florida employs 112,092 people and has total sector wages of \$11.2B. According to Enterprise Florida, there are over 11,750 cleantech companies in the state. As of 2021, Florida ranks:

- #2 in the highest solar jobs in the U.S. (Solar Energy Industries Association)
- #1 New Tech Business Establishments in the U.S. (Comptia, Cyberstates)
- #4 Clean Energy Employment (Clean Jobs America Report)

Key Assets in Florida: Florida offers a rich network of over 550 companies specializing in renewable energy like wind, solar technologies, electronics, hydrogen technologies, and batteries, including Siemens Energy, Ocean Renewable Power Company, and GE Energy (Enterprise Florida). Florida has the connectivity and transportation networks to deliver products and ideas to market, generate renewable energy, and build a resilient energy infrastructure. Florida's utility leaders – including Florida Power & Light and Duke Energy – are also advancing initiatives to provide more clean energy across the state.

Key Challenges: The U.S. Department of Energy lists the following as some of the challenges the clean energy and cleantech industry will face in the coming years:

- Acceleration of electrification and increased efficiency in demand.
- Rapid installation of new energy infrastructure.
- Expanded clean energy manufacturing, supply chains, and workforce.
- Continued research, development, demonstration, and deployment support to bring emerging technologies to the market.

About the Industries of the Future Initiative: The Industries of the Future initiative is led by the DR-4673-FL and DR-4680-FL Economic Recovery Support Function (RSF) that is mission assigned to serve Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole. It is the result of close partnerships between federal, state, local and non-profit organizations that have missions to see Florida expand and diversify its industries to become more economically resilient. This initiative includes a series of virtual sessions held during the Summer 2023 that will culminate into an in-person, day-long summit in October 2023.

The purpose of this event series is to help Florida stakeholders better understand some of the promising industries of the future and what they could mean for Florida's future economic base. The series also provides an opportunity to learn how other states and communities are nurturing and growing these industries, as well as an opportunity to highlight some of the great work already happening in the state. In the face of future weather events, this initiative will help state and community leaders envision the potential for achieving greater economic diversification and resiliency through supporting industries of the future.