

Corporate Purchasers are Investing in Clean Energy - Big Time!

Delaney Thorud, Communications Associate • Mar. 22, 2023

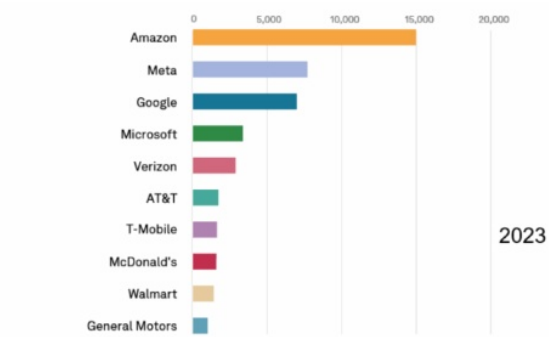


2022 was a year of record installations and investment in clean energy and the U.S. is celebrating clean energy victories that will power the renewable energy transition for years to come. Clean energy investment in the U.S. has reached more than [\\$434 billion](#). That's great because capital investment in new renewable energy projects stimulates the economy, creates jobs, and increases the rate at which the clean energy transition occurs. United States businesses and corporations are playing a huge role in the transition to clean energy.

Corporate Clean Energy Capacity

Renewable energy is being added to the U.S. electric grid at a rapid speed and corporations are joining utilities in advancing this development. In 2022, the U.S. added [32 gigawatts \(GW\)](#) of new renewable energy generating capacity to the grid and renewable energy capacity contracted by U.S. corporations soared by [45%](#). As of February 2023, [10 U.S. corporations](#) contracted more than [52 GW](#) of clean energy capacity. Amazon is the clear leader. In 2022 they secured an additional [8 GW](#) of renewable energy capacity for a total of [20 GW](#). Amazon has signed deals in [16 states](#) and their contracted capacity alone accounts for about [25%](#) of total U.S. corporate capacity.

Contracted corporate renewable capacity - 2023 company leaderboard (MW)



As of Feb. 1, 2023
U.S. corporations only
Cumulative contracted renewable energy capacity. Based on partnering developments: actual or expected online years, not when agreements were made.
Only includes deals for which sufficient details were provided.
Analysis does not include most on-site corporate renewable capacity such as rooftop solar systems.
Sources: Public reports, S&P Global Market Intelligence.
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CGA States Corporate Renewable Capacity

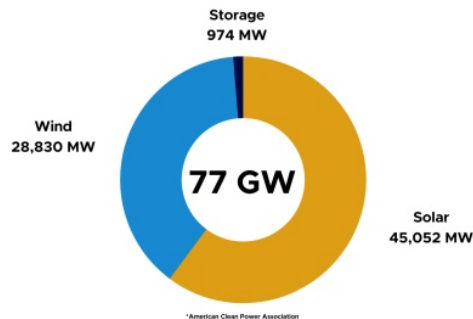
| State | Capacity (MW) |
|--------------|---------------|
| Illinois | 3,643 |
| Iowa | 1,732 |
| Indiana | 1,697 |
| Michigan | 1,614 |
| South Dakota | 545 |
| Missouri | 330 |
| North Dakota | 90 |
| Minnesota | 65 |

S&P Global 2023 U.S. Corporate Renewables Outlook

Corporate purchasers are now involved in [540 renewable energy developments](#) including 303 solar, 224 wind, and 13 battery storage projects across 49 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Texas holds the most corporate capacity by far at more than [20,373 MW](#), with Ohio ([3,997 MW](#)), Illinois ([3,643 MW](#)), Oklahoma ([3,543 MW](#)), and Virginia ([3,330 MW](#)) rounding out the top five states. Currently, eight out of the nine CGA states are home to corporate renewable energy capacity, with Wisconsin being the only exception.

326 Companies Contracted Clean Energy in 2022

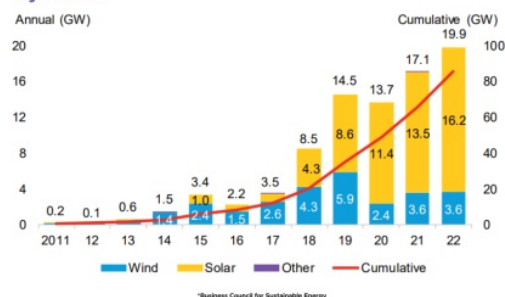


*American Clean Power Association

Corporate Power Procurement

In the past decade, average contracted clean energy capacity has risen by [295%](#). The influx of contracted clean energy capacity comes largely from Corporate Power Purchase Agreements, or PPAs. According to the [Business Council for Sustainable Energy \(BCSE\)](#), companies announced [112 individual PPAs](#) in 2022, averaging [178 MW](#) each.

Renewable capacity contracted by corporations, by sector



Corporate PPAs aren't just about lowering energy costs for the company. In fact, clean energy projects and PPAs can also have positive impacts on communities. For example, [ACP reports](#) that Microsoft's solar PPA with Volt Energy includes investment in environmental justice-focused community impact funding initiatives. We expect to see more PPAs in the coming years as companies work to keep up with their rising electricity consumption, reduce costs, and meet their own sustainability goals.

Investment in Transmission is Needed

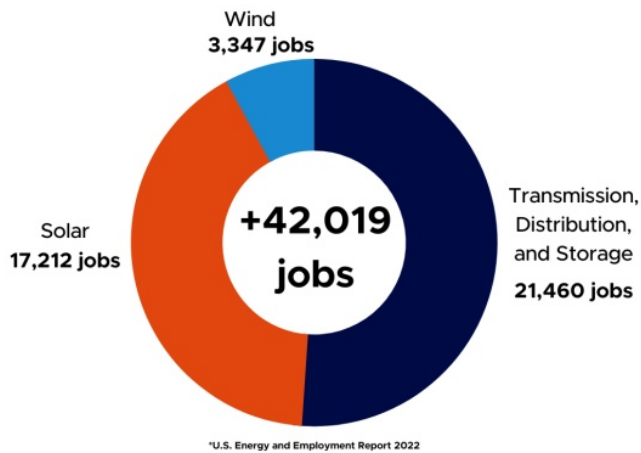
To ensure a smooth transition to a clean energy future, upgrades and replacements of aging power lines, resiliency planning, congestion reduction, and the integration of renewable resources are needed. In 2021, the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) estimated that investor-owned utilities and independent transmission developers invested a record [\\$27.1 billion](#) in transmission. While the 2022 numbers have not yet been published, EEI estimates that transmission investment likely reached [\\$31.7 billion, a 17% increase](#) from 2021. More transmission is needed, and more is coming. Last year, MISO got the ball rolling when it approved the [Tranche 1 Long-Range Transmission plan](#), the largest portfolio of transmission lines ever approved in the nation. These 18 transmission lines will support 53 GW of renewable energy and are expected to deliver \$37 billion in financial benefits over 20 years.

According to [BCSE](#), the U.S. was the second largest energy transition investor in 2022, behind China, with [\\$141 billion](#) in investment, an [11% increase](#) over 2021. Renewables accounted for [35%](#) of that investment and met [22.7%](#) of total U.S. electricity demand in 2022.

According to ACP, more than [\\$40 billion](#) of investments were made in clean energy in the fourth quarter of 2022. This is equal to the total investment for all clean energy projects installed in 2021. Clean energy investment stimulates the economy and these fourth quarter investments contributed to the announcement of [20 new clean energy manufacturing facilities](#) that would create nearly [7,000 new American jobs](#). Three of these manufacturing facilities are in the CGA footprint. Specifically, the expansion of the LG Chem battery storage facility in Michigan, the Heliene solar facility in Minnesota is doubling its capacity, and TPI Composites in Iowa is reopening its wind facility.

A Clean Energy Economy Grows Jobs and Economic Development

2022 Renewable Energy Industry Job Growth



Jobs and taxes are central to the American economy and clean energy projects provide significant benefits in both categories. According to the 2022 U.S. Energy and Employment report, the [two largest employers](#) in renewable energy technologies, solar and wind, both increased the size of their industries and number of Americans employed. The solar industry grew by [5.4%](#) and created [17,212](#) new jobs, reaching a total of [333,887 workers](#). The wind industry grew by [2.9%](#) and added [3,347](#) new jobs, reaching a total of [120,164](#) workers. Additionally, the transmission, distribution, and storage industry grew by [1.6%](#) and added [21,460 jobs](#), reaching a total of [1.3 million](#) workers. In the transmission, distribution, and storage industry, traditional transmission and distribution added the most

jobs at [13,088](#) and grew [1.4%](#).

The benefits from job creation are clear, but what about tax benefits? According to ACP, the clean power projects contracted by corporate buyers provide an estimated [\\$143 million](#) in state and local taxes and [\\$147 million](#) in land lease payments annually. This state and local tax income often funds community centers and services, schools, and city maintenance, and the land lease payments help farmers and landowners secure a stable source of income for years to come.

Annually, clean power projects contracted by corporate buyers provide:



What's Next: The Future of Clean Energy

The future of clean energy looks bright as corporations continue investing in renewable energy. These investments will help drive further jobs and economic development growth in communities that can really use them. Significant progress has been made already, but that does not mean that we can stop here. To ensure that the clean energy transition is successful, we must modernize our transmission system and electric grid to meet not only our current needs, but the needs of the future.

Overall, the clean energy sector is booming. The country is making significant progress toward a clean energy future, and corporate and industrial purchasers are playing a vital role in driving that progress. The future looks promising, and it is exciting to see what new clean energy developments and milestones will be achieved in the years ahead.