

# THE CLEAN ECONOMY IN IOWA

By Matthew Vining and Rachel Reolfi

May 2026



<b>1K</b> Announced Clean Manufacturing Jobs	<b>\$36M</b> Announced Clean Manufacturing Investment	<b>14.9 GW</b> Clean Power Capacity	<b>59%</b> Power Capacity That's Clean
---	--	---	--

- Wind power has long been a strong contributor to Iowa's power sector, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the state's electricity production. Overall, the state has 14.9 gigawatts (GW) of clean power and storage capacity, most already operational, representing an estimated \$18 billion in investment and enough to power more than five million homes.
- Clean energy manufacturing is emerging and concentrated in wind. Iowa has \$36 million in announced clean manufacturing investment, expected to create 1,000 manufacturing jobs, with projects including Nordex's wind turbine manufacturing facility and REGEN Fiber's wind blade recycling facility.
- Iowa's electricity demand is rising as major companies have invested more than \$15 billion in data centers, in addition to industrial and agricultural growth. Continued energy innovation is essential to scale reliable and affordable power.

## Iowa at a Glance

Iowa's rich landscape and climate, availability of energy resources, [robust transportation network](#), [low cost of doing business](#), and workforce resources make it a national leader in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

Investments in wind power generation and several major wind energy manufacturing facilities have catapulted the state into the spotlight in the wind energy business. With the amount of [days with sunshine](#) in the state, it also has [solar generation potential](#). In contrast, the state has [few economically recoverable fossil fuel reserves](#). As of the end of 2024, Iowa supported more than [45,400 realized clean energy jobs](#)<sup>1</sup> across manufacturing, power generation, the grid, and energy efficiency—ranked 31<sup>st</sup> among all states—and it continues to grow with new investments.

---

<sup>1</sup> Clean jobs are defined by the [U.S. Energy & Employment Report](#), which has a year-long lag.

Data is from the [Clean Economy Tracker](#) unless otherwise noted. Data as of April 2026. Questions? Reach out: [info@cleaneconomytracker.org](mailto:info@cleaneconomytracker.org). See the full methodology [here](#).

## The Clean Economy in Iowa

To support industrial growth, Iowa has a [business-friendly tax climate](#) and several incentives for manufacturing and other industries. Examples include the [Manufacturing 4.0](#) program, which provides grants for advanced manufacturing technologies; the [Business Incentives for Growth](#) and [Major Economic Growth Attraction](#) programs, which provide several tax incentives; a [Research and Development Tax Credit](#); and [innovation grants](#) for entrepreneurs and emerging technologies.

Iowa's abundant wind resources have [supported](#) the state's industrial growth, including manufacturing. In addition to industrial and [agricultural growth](#), Iowa has [over two GW](#) of planned data center projects. Because of its [high industrial energy use](#) relative to its small population, Iowa is one of the top [10 states for total energy consumption per capita](#). Despite this high use, [electricity prices](#) in Iowa are some of the lowest in the country, lower than at least 44 other states. Maintaining its ability to deliver abundant and affordable energy is critical to the state's competitive edge.

## Wind Towers Generation in the State

Wind energy has dominated Iowa's energy portfolio [since 2019](#), generating the largest share of electricity for the state. Wind turbines supplied nearly [59 percent of electricity production](#) in Iowa in 2025, the highest wind power share of any state. Generating 44 terawatt hours (TWh), the state is second to Texas in electricity produced from wind. Iowa is also a top state for highest share of electricity generated from clean energy sources.

Iowa has 14.9 GW of operational, under construction, and planned clean power and storage capacity,<sup>2</sup> nearly all of which comes from onshore wind. Solar, batteries, and hydroelectric power also provide greater than 100 megawatts (MW) each. Most of this capacity is already operational, with just 530 MW of additional solar and onshore wind capacity in the pipeline for deployment through 2028 (see Figure 1). Clean power capacity in the state represents nearly \$18 billion in estimated investment, enough to power more than five million homes.<sup>3</sup>

Together, the 14.9 GW of clean power capacity across 246 generators in the state represents an estimated 550 operational jobs, and 7,500 construction jobs through 2028.<sup>4</sup> The American Clean Power Association estimates that clean power projects in the state generate about [\\$80 million](#)

---

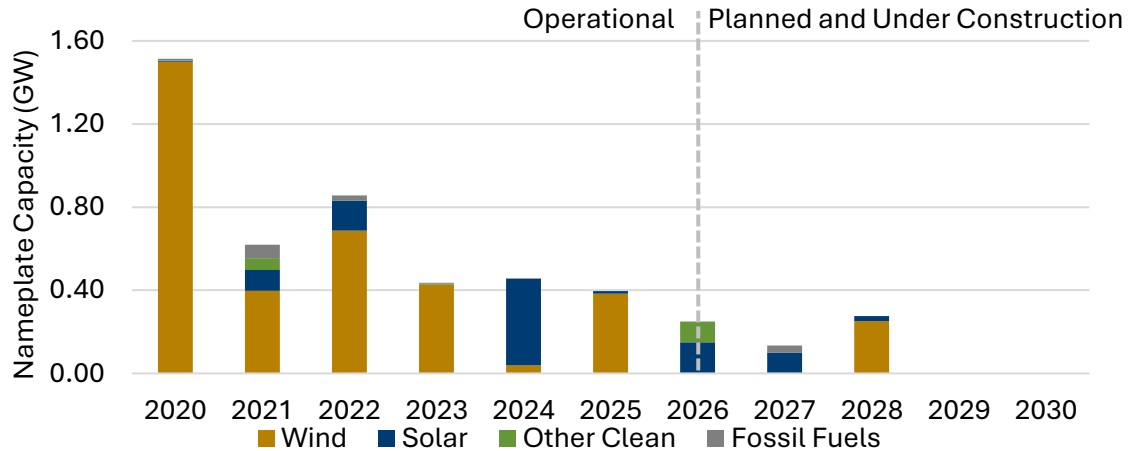
<sup>2</sup> Operational facilities include projects operating, temporarily out of service, or on standby/backup. Power capacity refers to operational, under construction, and planned facilities. Retired and canceled facilities are not included.

<sup>3</sup> Investment (capital expenditure) is estimated by multiplying the nameplate capacity of each project by CAPEX multipliers. Estimated homes powered is calculated using the national average capacity factor for each technology and national average energy use per home. These multipliers are sourced from the National Laboratory of the Rockies' [2024 Annual Technology Baseline](#) and the [U.S. Energy Information Administration \(EIA\)](#).

<sup>4</sup> Estimated clean power jobs may not correspond to actual past or future jobs at each site but are an approximation. Jobs are estimated using multipliers derived from the National Laboratory of the Rockies' [Jobs and Economic Development Impacts](#) models and the [Decarbonization Employment and Energy Systems](#) model.

annually for the local tax base and nearly \$100 million in annual lease payments. Iowa’s 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District leads the way with about half of the state’s total clean power capacity.

Figure 1. Power Capacity Additions Over Time



Year represents the year a generator became operational or is expected to become operational.

The Pioneer Prairie Wind Farm is one of the largest projects in the state, with 300 MW of installed capacity. [According to the developer](#), the project takes advantage of existing farmland to create a new revenue stream for the community, with a total impact of over \$90 million as of 2024 through spending on local vendors, property taxes, and landowner payments.

Compared to clean power capacity, fossil fuel sources represent about 10.5 GW in total power capacity in Iowa. Less than 100 MW of this capacity is in the pipeline for future development.

## Building out a Wind Energy Supply Chain

Wind dominates Iowa’s clean energy manufacturing sector, with \$36 million in announced investment expected to support at least 1,000 manufacturing jobs. Most facilities, nine in total, are located in the eastern part of the state, east of interstate 35 (see Figure 2).

## Wind Energy Manufacturing Shows Continued Growth

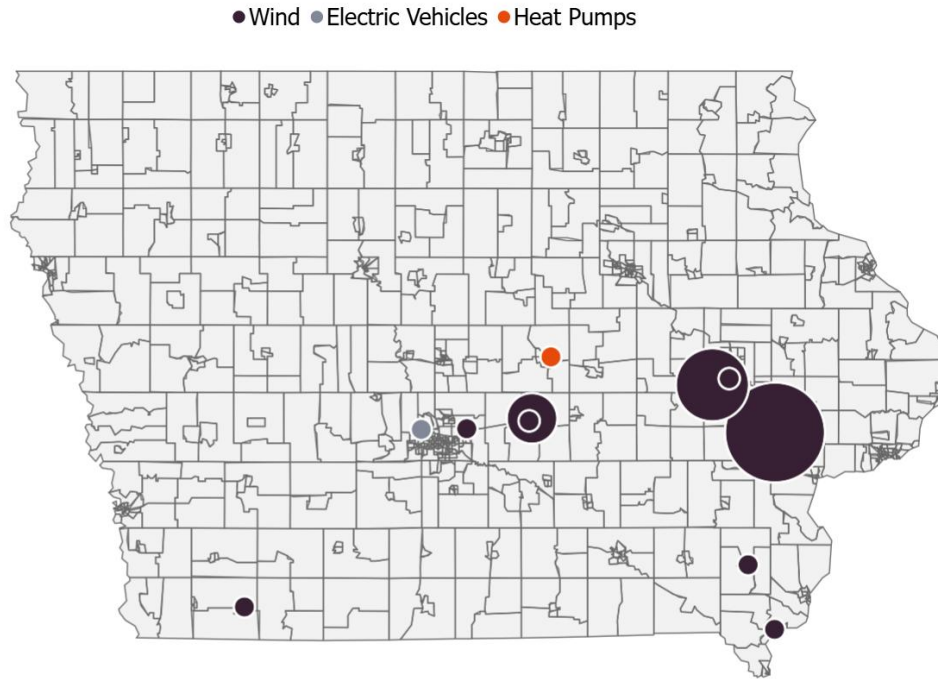
The two projects which account for most of the investment are the REGEN Fiber and Nordex Group wind manufacturing facilities, which together represent \$33 million and are both located in rural communities (see Figure 3). In 2025, Nordex Group reopened<sup>5</sup> its wind turbine plant in West Branch and [secured contracts with Alliant Energy](#) to supply 190 turbines for a number of projects across

<sup>5</sup> After acquiring the idle facility from Acciona in 2016, Nordex Group announced they would [reopen the plant](#) in 2024 for American and Canadian markets following increased demand for wind power.

## The Clean Economy in Iowa

the Midwest, including Iowa. When operational in 2028 and 2029, they will provide nearly one GW of capacity and spur additional job opportunities and economic development across the region.

Figure 2. Clean Energy Manufacturing Sites in Iowa

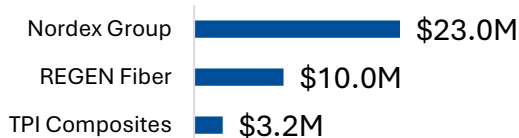


The size of a facility's bubble is proportional to its announced investment.

The [REGEN Fiber facility](#) uses an innovative process to recycle wind turbine blades into useful products such as fiberglass and resins used by concrete and other manufacturers. This helps close the loop on Iowa's wind industry by keeping end-of-life blades out of landfills and creating products with lower environmental impacts than conventional alternatives.

Figure 3. Leading Manufacturing Companies in Iowa

### Top Companies by Announced Investment in Iowa



### Top Companies by Announced Jobs in Iowa

