

# THE CLEAN ECONOMY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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<b>23K</b> Announced Clean Manufacturing Jobs	<b>\$18B</b> Announced Clean Manufacturing Investment	<b>15.7 GW</b> Clean Power Capacity	<b>54%</b> Power Capacity That's Clean
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- South Carolina has 15.7 gigawatts (GW) of clean power capacity, ranking 15<sup>th</sup> among all states. This is anchored by 6.9 GW from nuclear power plants, which produce over half of the state's electricity.
- The state is among the top 10 states for clean manufacturing, with significant investments in battery, mineral, electric vehicle (EV), and solar manufacturing. There has been a total of \$17.7 billion and 22,700 jobs announced.
- South Carolina's role in the clean economy is bolstered by targeted incentives, workforce training, and reliable, affordable electricity.

## South Carolina at a Glance

South Carolina has a long history as a leader in [textile manufacturing](#), but has since become a hub for [automotive, aerospace, and other advanced manufacturing products](#). The state's economy [continues to grow rapidly](#) thanks to a favorable business climate, low cost of living, and strategic access to transportation networks.

Investments in the clean economy are marking the next chapter of growth for South Carolina. The state sits among the top 10 for clean energy manufacturing, with significant investments in battery, mineral, EV, and solar manufacturing. It is also ranked in the top 10 for clean power generation with its large fleet of nuclear power plants. South Carolina currently has lower-than-average [electricity prices](#), and must continue to deliver abundant, affordable energy to these industrial loads to maintain the state's competitive edge.

As of the end of 2024, the state supported more than [71,700 realized clean energy jobs](#)<sup>1</sup> across manufacturing, power generation, the grid, and energy efficiency—ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> among all states—and it continues to grow with new investments.

State programs supporting this growth include a number of [tax incentives](#), such as the Jobs Tax Credit, Investment Tax Credit, Research and Development Tax Credit, Recycling Facility Tax Credit, and property and sales tax exemptions. Additionally, the [readySC](#) program (part of the South Carolina Technical College System) provides tailored workforce training and other services for South Carolina companies. [Redwood Materials](#), [Scout Motors](#), and other leading clean energy manufacturers have already taken advantage of the readySC program. A set of [regional workforce advisors](#) further support workforce education and partnership. The [SC NEXUS for Advanced Resilient Energy](#) was also designated as one of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Regional Technology and Innovation hubs. The 50-member consortium is supporting next-generation electricity technologies from lab to full-scale deployment via funding, matchmaking, and programs for entrepreneurs.

## A Nuclear Pioneer and Emerging Solar Leader

South Carolina’s total operational,<sup>2</sup> under construction, and planned clean power and storage capacity amounts to 15.7 GW through 2031, representing an estimated \$6.3 billion in investment.<sup>3</sup> This is enough capacity to power nearly seven million homes.<sup>4</sup> The state ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the country for most clean power capacity;<sup>5</sup> Congressional Districts SC-03 and SC-05 lead with about 5.5 GW and 4.4 GW, respectively. Most of this clean power capacity is from the state’s 6.9 GW of operational legacy nuclear plants, including the large Oconee, Catawba, and VC Summer plants (the last of which [canceled planned expansions](#) nearly a decade ago). In fact, nuclear power supplies [54 percent of electricity production in South Carolina](#), ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among all states for total nuclear output behind only Illinois and Pennsylvania. The state also has 4.4 GW capacity of operational

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<sup>1</sup> These clean jobs are defined by the [U.S. Energy & Employment Report](#), which has a year-long lag between the data and reporting time.

<sup>2</sup> Operational facilities include projects operating, temporarily out of service, or on standby/backup.

<sup>3</sup> Note that investment is only estimated for power projects operating since 2013, the first year for which CAPEX multipliers are available. This investment value therefore does not include any of the state’s existing nuclear plants which became operational between 1971 and 1986.

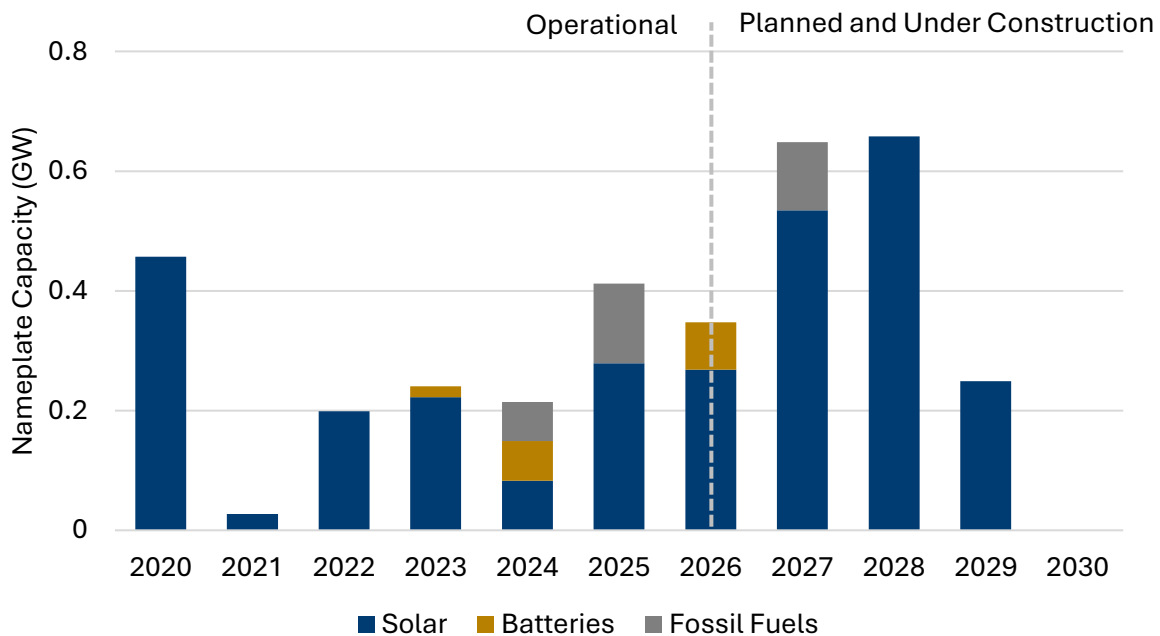
<sup>4</sup> Investment (capital expenditure) is estimated by multiplying the nameplate capacity of each project by CAPEX multipliers. Estimated homes powered is calculated using the national average capacity factor for each technology and national average energy use per home. These multipliers are sourced from the National Laboratory of the Rockies (formerly the National Renewable Energy Laboratory) [2024 Annual Technology Baseline](#) and the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#).

<sup>5</sup> Power capacity refers to operational, under construction, and planned facilities. Retired and canceled facilities are not included.

hydropower plants. Altogether, the state gets [61 percent](#) of its electricity from clean sources, ranked 8<sup>th</sup> among all states for total clean electricity output.

Solar has made up most of the new power capacity from all sources in recent years and accounts for nearly the entire pipeline through 2030 (Figure 1). Facilities planned and under construction are estimated to support about 6,300 construction jobs and 320 operations jobs.<sup>6</sup>

Figure 1. Power Capacity Additions Over Time



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

The [250 megawatt Silicon Ranch Lambert Solar Farm](#) will be one of the largest solar plants in the state. The first two phases (200 megawatts combined) were completed in 2025, and the final phase is under construction. The project is helping to revitalize the community by making use of former timberland and providing job opportunities for displaced local workers. The developer [estimates](#) that the project will deliver tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue to the region over 40 years. Silicon Ranch has also [invested directly](#) in the community via support for local organizations in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

<sup>6</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 (formerly the National Renewable Energy Laboratory) [Jobs and Economic Development Impacts](#) models and the [Decarbonization Employment and Energy Systems](#) model.

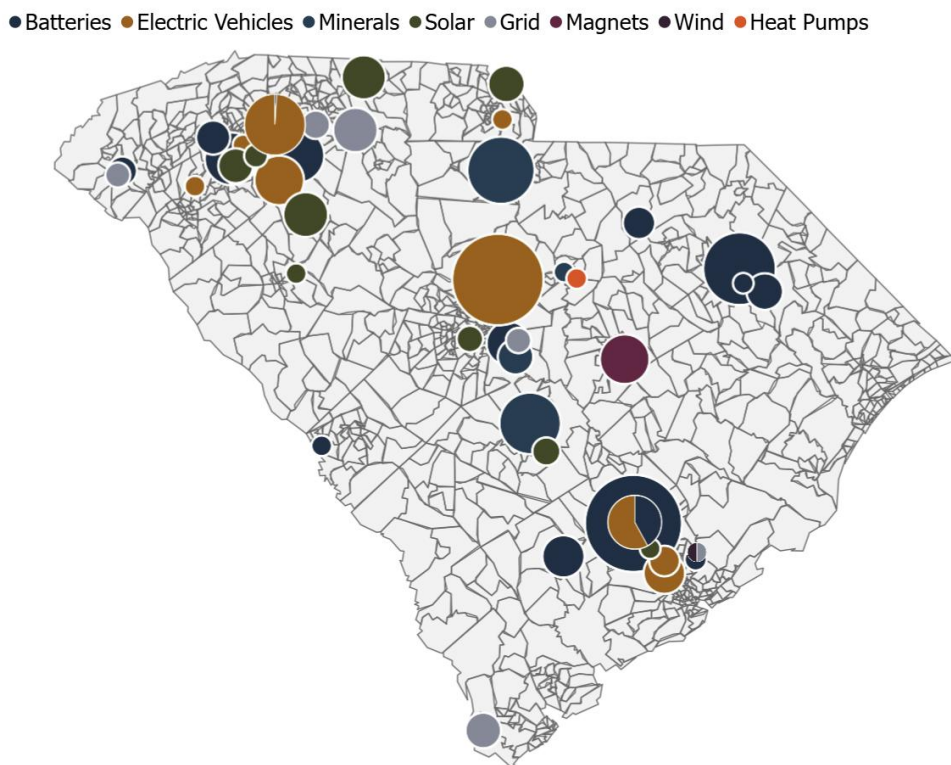
## EV and Battery Manufacturing Industrial Hub

South Carolina ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the country for announced clean energy manufacturing investment at \$17.7 billion, with 22,700 announced manufacturing jobs. This has been a recent boom—96 percent of this investment was announced since 2021. While the state has experienced a major economic boost from the clean energy manufacturing sector, South Carolina has also seen \$1.6 billion in canceled investments, representing 1,900 manufacturing jobs, since December 2024. In fact, the state saw a net negative investment of \$392 million in clean energy manufacturing in 2025.

### South Carolina is a Key Player in Battery and EV Supply Chains

South Carolina’s manufacturing facility investments are dispersed across more than 50 facilities. All of the state’s Congressional Districts have at least \$1 billion in investments, but SC-01 and SC-02 are leading with \$4.2 billion and \$3.0 billion, respectively. Almost 90 percent of the total investment in the state is for battery, EV, and mineral supply chains, with smaller contributions from solar, grid, rare-earth magnet, heat pump, and wind technologies.

Figure 2. Clean Energy Manufacturing Sites in South Carolina

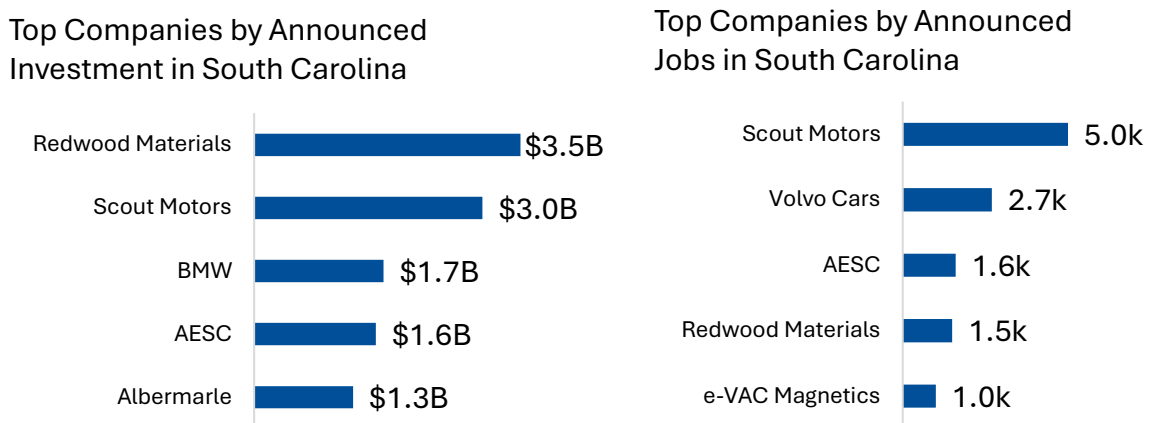


The size of a facility’s bubble is proportional to its announced investment. Bubbles that are split between multiple manufacturing sectors represent facilities producing more than one technology product (e.g. EVs and batteries).

## Redwood Materials and Scout Motors Lead the Way

Over one-third of the total investment (\$6.5 billion) was announced by two companies: Redwood Materials and Scout Motors (see Figure 3). Scout Motors' announcements also contribute the largest portion of announced new manufacturing jobs, and the top five companies account for more than half of the total jobs announced.

Figure 3. Leading Clean Energy Manufacturing Companies in South Carolina



Scout Motor's [new facility](#) under construction in Blythewood, South Carolina, will be its first U.S. facility after leaving the automotive market decades ago. The company will produce electric trucks and sport utility vehicles [inspired by its innovative vehicles](#) produced from 1960 to 1980, providing a fresh take on EV offerings and new job opportunities for thousands of South Carolinians.

Additionally, Redwood Materials is helping to close the loop on battery supply chains with its [newly operational facility](#) in Berkeley County, South Carolina. The facility, once at full capacity, will be able to recycle 20,000 tons of battery materials, easing U.S. dependence on global mineral supply chains. The company expects to employ 1,500 workers in the coming years as they [ramp up](#) to that level.