

THE STATE OF CLEAN ENERGY MANUFACTURING IN Q3 2026

Assessing Key Developments in the United States

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Key Takeaways

- The third quarter of 2026 recorded the highest net investment in the U.S. clean energy supply chain since the start of 2024 at $11.6 billion.
- Tesla announced an increase of $6.9 billion in its planned solar plant in Texas—now $10.1 billion in total, the largest announced U.S. investment in clean energy manufacturing since the start of the second Trump administration.
- Cancellations and scale-backs in Q3 totaled $296 million and eliminated 760 expected jobs, with battery manufacturing accounting for all investment cancellations and most of the job losses.
- There is now more operational investment than planned and under construction investment combined.
- Multiple battery projects noted a shift to defense and other non-automotive applications for their facilities.

Manufacturing Stabilizes from Policy and Market Disruptions

From 2021 to 2024, the United States experienced a rapid increase in announced[1] clean energy manufacturing investment. Federal incentives from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act,[2] strong private-sector demand projections, and state and local economic development efforts drove investment growth. In 2025, growth turned negative amid policy changes under the second Trump administration, heightened market uncertainty, project-specific challenges, and congressional reductions to clean energy tax credits.[3] E2, a nonpartisan economic policy research group, found that U.S. clean energy employment fell by nearly 37,000 jobs to 3.52 million jobs in 2025. Although relatively small, the drop marks the first annual decline since 2020. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Energy reported that employment across the clean energy sector, beyond manufacturing, remained relatively stable in 2025 at approximately 4.1 million jobs, declining by less than one percent from 2024 levels.

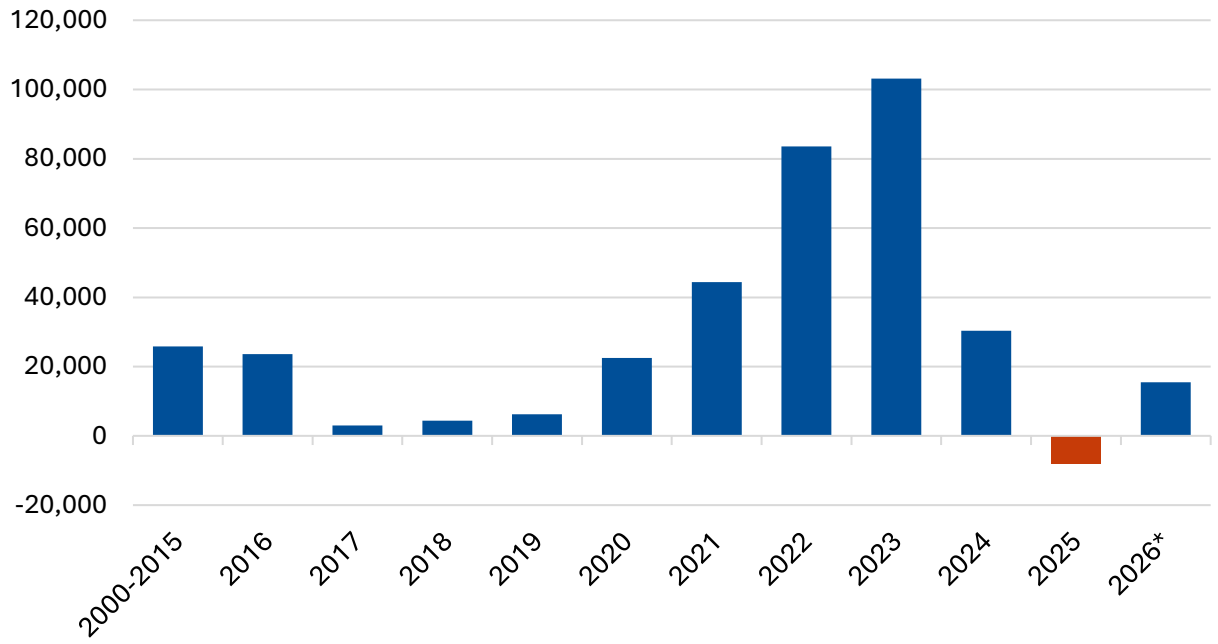
Investment activity has shown some signs of stabilization in 2026, including in Q3 2026, as companies announced $11.6 billion in net clean energy manufacturing investment and approximately 19,220 net clean energy manufacturing jobs. Most of this uptick is attributable to a single Tesla solar plant. Through Q3, 2026 has been a net-positive year for clean energy manufacturing investment and job announcements, as shown in Figure 1.

[1] As this brief relies on public announcements, investment and employment figures reflect expected, rather than confirmed, spending or realized jobs. Announced projects can be delayed, resized, relocated, or canceled, and companies vary in how much detail they provide about these updates. The analysis is therefore most useful for tracking direction, geography, and sectoral activity over time, not for measuring realized economic output. See Methodology for more information.

[2] The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funded transportation, energy, water, and other infrastructure investments. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act provided tax incentives and funding to support clean energy, domestic manufacturing, and emissions reductions projects and programs.

[3] The 2025 One Big Beautiful Bill Act accelerated the phaseouts for the production and investment tax credits for wind and solar power technologies. It also repealed three clean vehicle tax credits, three clean energy residential and building credits, one alternative fuel credit, and one energy-efficient commercial building deduction. The Act also narrowed eligibility for some credits.

Figure 1: U.S. Net Clean Energy Manufacturing Jobs Announced, Q1 2000 to Q3 2026



The first bar in the chart represents net jobs from 2000 through 2015. The asterisk denotes that data from 2026 is not complete. Announced jobs refer only to manufacturing jobs and do not include construction or temporary jobs.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

This brief examines the clean energy manufacturing landscape through the end of Q3 2026, including announced investments, project cancellations, announced jobs and job losses, and other developments shaping—or reshaping—underlying industries and buildout. The data in this brief include announcements starting in 2000, though the bulk of clean energy manufacturing announcements have occurred after 2021 (Figure 1). This brief complements previous analyses on the state of clean power and clean energy manufacturing. Clean Economy Tracker data are updated weekly and include backfilled entries, meaning totals may differ from prior briefs. Where changes are material to the interpretation of trends, we note them directly.

In the November midterm elections, Democrats regained control of both the House and the Senate. Democratic leaders in both chambers have signaled plans to expand oversight of the Trump administration's energy policies and advance an agenda centered on energy affordability. The specific policies that will shape that agenda—and their potential effects on clean energy manufacturing—remain unclear. All references to congressional districts in this brief reflect the district boundaries and party representation of the 119th Congress, which ends in January 2027.

Global energy market disruptions also shaped conditions for domestic manufacturers during Q3 2026. Middle Eastern oil markets experienced renewed volatility as Iran resumed its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz in July and Yemen's Houthi rebels attacked Saudi energy infrastructure in September. Despite these disruptions, Middle Eastern crude oil flows recovered as Gulf producers increased output, drew down inventories, and expanded the use of alternative export routes and ship-to-ship transfers.

Against this backdrop, China's clean technology exports grew substantially. According to Chinese customs data compiled by Ember from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, China exported $184 billion in clean technologies—including batteries, electric vehicles (EVs), electrical grid components, solar equipment, and wind equipment—from January through August 2026, a 44 percent increase over the same period in 2025.

New Developments in Q3 2026

In Q3 2026, companies announced $11.9 billion in new domestic clean energy manufacturing investments, including $7.5 billion—nearly 60 percent—allocated to solar energy manufacturing (Table 1), while announced new clean energy manufacturing jobs totaled 19,980, half of which are destined for solar. This was alongside a loss of $296 million from announced facility cancellations and downsizings.

Table 1: Summary Table of Investment Changes in Q3 2026

Technology	New Investment Announced in Q3 2026 ($ Billions)	Investments Canceled in Q3 2026 ($ Billions)	Investment Net Change ($ Billions)
Batteries	$2.9	-$0.3	+$2.6
Solar	$7.5	-	+$7.5
Transmission & Grid	$1.5	-	+$1.5
Total	$11.9	-$0.3	+$11.6

Discrepancies are attributable to rounding. There were no investments or cancellations during Q3 in EVs, wind, or other technologies not listed.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

Companies Announced $11.9 Billion in New Investments in Q3 2026

Net clean energy manufacturing investment remained strong for a second consecutive quarter in Q3 2026, with announced investment rising by $3.6 billion from Q2 and remaining well above the subdued levels recorded in 2025. Tesla accounted for nearly all of the quarter's $7.5 billion in new solar manufacturing investment, raising its planned investment in a vertically integrated silicon-to-module manufacturing facility near Houston, Texas from $3.2 billion in May to $10.1 billion in August—an increase of nearly $7 billion. Tesla's planned solar facility represents the largest clean energy manufacturing investment announced since the second Trump administration began in January 2025, and is one of only eight announcements exceeding $1 billion during that period. In comparison, companies announced 24 projects of at least $1 billion between July 2023 and December 2024.

CS PowerTech and Suniva also announced updates in Q3 2026 to existing investments aimed at increasing solar energy manufacturing. In July, CS PowerTech announced the opening of the first phase of its flagship solar cell manufacturing facility in Jeffersonville, Indiana, which will be the first domestic photovoltaic solar cell facility to produce heterojunction bifacial N-type solar cells—advanced photovoltaic cells that capture more sunlight and have longer lifespans. At full capacity, CS PowerTech expects the facility to represent $1 billion in investment, an increase of approximately $200 million from its October 2023 projection, and support more than 1,200 jobs.

In September, Suniva announced it would increase funding by $250 million to finance the active construction of its second U.S. solar cell manufacturing facility in Laurens County, South Carolina. Suniva expects to complete the $600 million facility in 2027, more than quadrupling the company's production capacity and creating an anticipated 564 new manufacturing jobs.

Alongside these solar investments, companies announced $2.9 billion in battery projects. The largest of these came from Sila Technologies, which secured a conditional federal loan commitment of up to $1.4 billion from the U.S. Department of Defense to expand silicon-carbon anode production at its Moses Lake, Washington facility and support the construction of a future lithium-ion battery cell manufacturing facility. Sila emphasized the projects' potential to strengthen domestic supply chains for defense and other strategic industries, including the production of high-performance batteries for military drones. The financing remains subject to financial, legal, technical, and other conditions.

In August, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded $500 million to seven selected projects in the third round of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)-funded Battery Materials Processing and Battery Manufacturing and Recycling program, which notably includes $100 million to Nth Cycle to refine recycled battery black mass into high-purity metals and battery-grade materials. The

remaining $400 million went to upstream battery minerals facilities (outside the scope of this report) to build, for example, a commercial lithium extraction and refining facility, a commercial cobalt refinery, and other projects spanning cathode recycling, electrolyte chemicals, and silicon-anode batteries.

In September, Ultium Cells, General Motors and LG Energy Solution's joint venture, announced a $1 billion expansion of its Spring Hill, Tennessee, battery facility to produce lithium manganese-rich battery cells for future EVs, an expansion that is projected to create 500 new jobs. These batteries can support longer driving range in smaller, lighter battery packs, at a price comparable to lithium iron phosphate batteries. Separately, net investment in transmission and grid projects reached $1.5 billion in Q3 2026. Companies announced more than half of that investment in late August, after President Trump issued an executive order restricting the purchase and installation of certain foreign-produced bulk-power system equipment, including associated software and digital technologies that the order asserts may pose cybersecurity or operational risks.

Companies Canceled $296 Million in Investments in Q3 2026

In Q3 2026, the cancellation of a planned battery materials facility along with significant operational scale-backs eliminated $296 million in announced investment and 760 expected manufacturing jobs. In August, Cabot Corporation canceled plans for a $181 million battery materials plant in Wayne County, Michigan that would have supported around 85 manufacturing jobs. Cabot had previously secured a $50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy through IIJA to build the canceled facility, which would have been the nation's first commercial-scale facility producing battery-grade carbon nanotubes.

Prior to Cabot's cancellation, EnerSys announced it would refine its production strategy after it secured a revised U.S. Department of Energy grant of approximately $150 million to support its scaled-back manufacturing facility in Greenville, South Carolina. In scaling back, EnerSys now expects to start production in 2031 instead of 2028, focusing on lithium cell production for aerospace, defense, and other specialized industries. The company plans to invest about $500 million in the facility, down from $615 million.

In August, Heliene USA laid off 93 workers at its Mountain Iron solar panel plant in Minnesota, just three years after announcing a $10 million expansion that has since doubled the facility's capacity and made it the nation's second-largest crystalline silicon solar panel factory. In the same month, Samsung SDI acquired General Motors' stake in the battery plant under construction in New Carlisle, Indiana, making it Samsung SDI's first wholly owned battery production facility in North America. After acquiring the facility, Samsung SDI announced the company is expected to staff

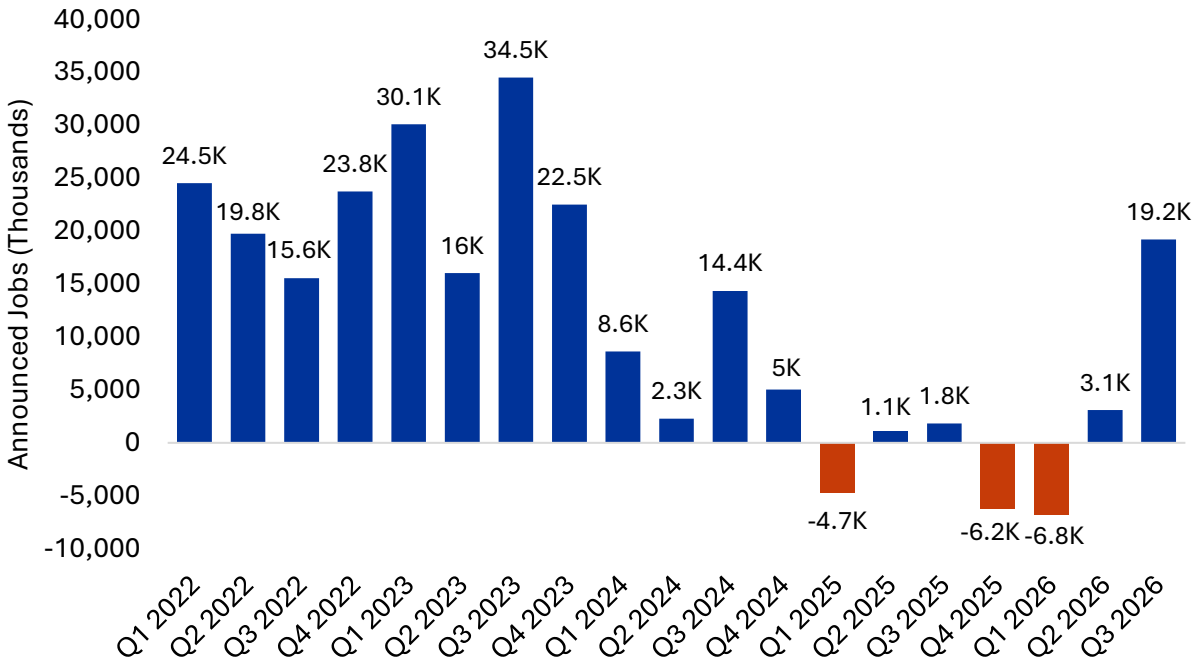
approximately 1,600 positions, down from the 1,700 jobs projected when the project was announced in 2023.

In September, Our Next Energy revised its production plans for its Van Buren Township, Michigan facility to focus on other industry areas, including defense, grid-storage, and rail applications. The consolidation increased the project's planned capital investment by nearly $48 million to about $1.67 billion while reducing expected job creation from 2,112 to 1,606 positions.

Net 19,220 Manufacturing Jobs in Q3 2026

After accounting for both new capital investments and project cancellations, clean energy manufacturers reported a net gain of 19,220 announced jobs in Q3 2026 (Figure 2). The net gain represents a significant increase over the announced jobs reported in the previous two quarters, which together resulted in a job loss of nearly 3,600 existing and planned jobs. Nevertheless, net announced job gains in Q3 remain well below many of the peaks recorded in earlier years (Figure 2). In Q1 and Q3 of 2023, for example, manufacturers reported net announced job gains of nearly 30,000 and 35,000, respectively (Figure 2). Although the trend from Q1 2025 and onwards reports a mix of gains and losses, the uptick carried since Q2 2026 may signal renewed momentum.

Figure 2: Net Clean Energy Manufacturing Jobs Announced by Quarter



Negative net job values appear in red. Data are from Q1 2022 through Q3 2026.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

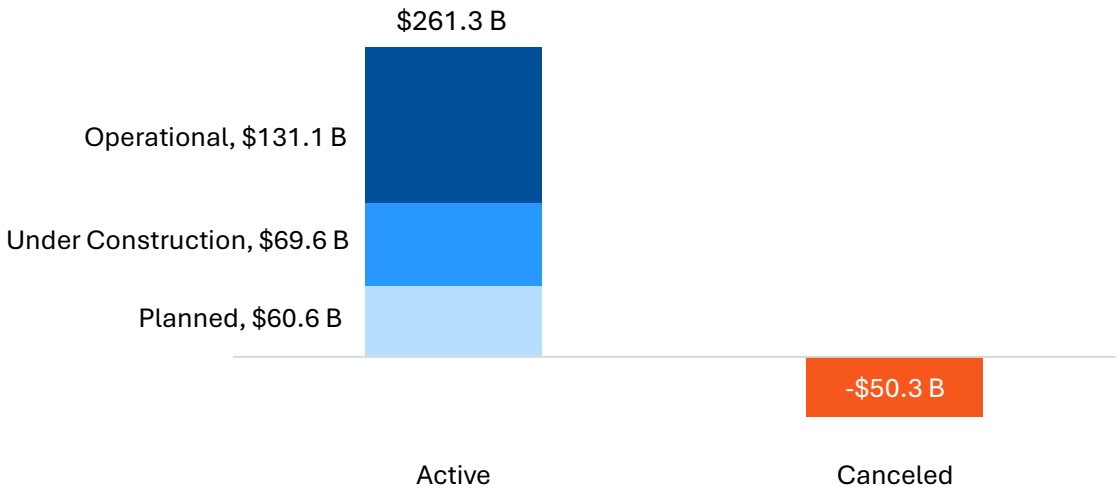
Q3 2026 Trends: Investment and Industry Impacts

From 2000 through Q3 2026, the clean energy manufacturing sector reported a net total of $261.3 billion in announced investment along with 348,500 announced manufacturing jobs in the United States.[4] As of October 2026, clean energy manufacturing facilities—both under construction and operational—accounted for more than $200 billion in investment (Figure 3). Since January 2025, however, clean energy manufacturers have canceled nearly $40 billion in announced clean energy manufacturing investment, roughly four times the amount canceled over the previous 25 years combined. From Q1 2025 through Q3 2026, several factors contributed to the cancellation of $39.9 billion in announced clean energy manufacturing investment and 54,300 anticipated manufacturing jobs. These include the Trump administration's policies adverse to clean energy; heightened market uncertainty stemming from federal policy and foreign trade disruptions; project-

[4] Job totals do not include construction jobs or indirect and induced employment.

specific challenges, including construction delays and delayed funding; and statutory reductions to federal clean energy tax credits.

Figure 3: Announced Clean Energy Manufacturing Investment by Operating Status from 2000 to October 2026



The investment projects shown were announced from 2000 through Q3 2026, but their statuses are as of early October 2026. The Canceled total counts the cuts to projects, not the original announcements. The total active investment is the sum of Planned, Under Construction and Operational investment.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

As the U.S. clean energy manufacturing pipeline slows, there is now more operational investment than planned and under construction investment combined. Two additional key developments in operational facilities in Q3 2026 include:

- LG Energy Solution, the largest battery manufacturer in North America, began production at its $2 billion Lansing, Michigan battery facility, marking a major milestone for the battery manufacturer. The plant is producing lithium iron phosphate cells for energy storage and LG Energy Solution also plans to produce nickel-manganese-cobalt cells for Toyota EVs, with more than 35 gigawatt-hours of annual capacity planned at full scale and providing up to 1,700 jobs.
- Minnesota-based Heliene USA introduced a new solar module manufactured with U.S.-made polysilicon, ingots, wafers, and solar cells. The company described the product as a step toward reshoring U.S. solar manufacturing by returning more of the upstream silicon supply chain to America. Heliene's announcement came amid changes to federal trade policy affecting the domestic solar supply chain, including new tariffs and minimum import

prices on polysilicon and downstream solar products scheduled to take effect on December 4, 2026, and additional restrictions to prevent stockpiling before that date.

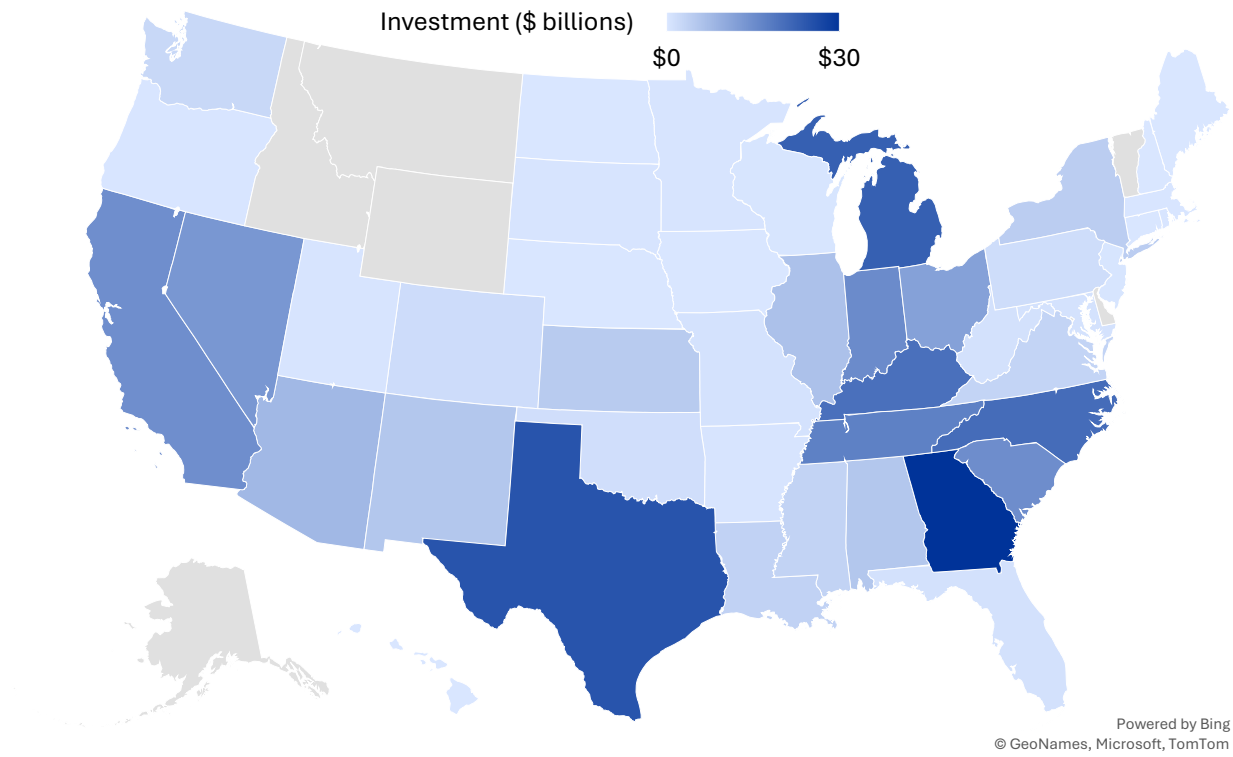
Georgia Benefits the Most from Clean Energy Manufacturing Investment

From Q1 2000 through Q3 2026, announced net clean energy manufacturing investment was highest in the following states:

1. Georgia ($30.3 billion, 35,810 jobs)
2. Texas ($24.7 billion, 59,380 jobs)
3. Michigan ($22.8 billion, 23,020 jobs)
4. North Carolina ($20.7 billion, 14,050 jobs)
5. Kentucky ($20.0 billion, 16,360 jobs)

Together, these states received more than 45 percent of net domestic clean energy manufacturing investment announced over this period (Figure 4). Upon reaching full capacity, announced facilities in these states could create approximately 148,620 clean energy manufacturing jobs, representing 43 percent of net announced clean energy manufacturing jobs nationwide. Texas rose from fifth to second place among states receiving clean energy manufacturing investment after Tesla's August announcement of a $10.1 billion solar plant. Tesla's investment accounted for approximately 40 percent of net announced clean energy manufacturing investment in Texas.

Figure 4: Net Clean Energy Manufacturing Investment by State through Q3 2026



This map shows total net investment announced by state. The darker the shade of blue, the larger the total investment amount. States with gray fill do not have any publicly announced investments. Data are from 2000 through Q3 2026.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

More than 70 percent of net clean energy manufacturing investment announced from Q1 2000 through Q3 2026, totaling $187.8 billion and 218,900 manufacturing jobs, was concentrated in congressional districts currently represented by Republicans. In comparison, districts represented by Democrats accounted for $71.7 billion in announced investments and 124,000 announced manufacturing jobs.[5] Most of the investment referenced above, and illustrated in Figure 4, occurred between 2022 and 2025, following the enactment of supportive federal legislation.[6]

[5] Approximately $1.8 billion in announced investments are in unknown, vacant, or unassigned Congressional districts, based on the 119th Congress.

[6] The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-169) both allocated funding to promote economic development, including federal tax incentives, grants, and loan programs to support clean energy development and manufacturing.

Batteries and EVs Continued to Face Challenges While Solar and Grid Investments Rose

From Q1 2025 through Q3 2026, companies canceled $39.9 billion in previously announced clean energy manufacturing investment, accounting for 80 percent of the total value of cancellations announced between Q1 2000 and Q3 2026. Among major technologies, EV manufacturing recorded the highest investment cancellation share: 17 percent of cumulative EV manufacturing investment announced through Q3 2026 had been canceled since the beginning of 2025 (Table 2). Hydrogen electrolyzer projects accounted for most canceled investment in the 'other' category.

Table 2: Active Investments and Investment Cancellations from Q1 2025 through Q3 2026

Technology	All Investments ($ Billions)	Cancellations since January 2025 ($ Billions)	Percent of All Investment Canceled
EVs	$73.4	-$12.6	17%
Batteries	$167.2	-$23.0	14%
Solar	$43.4	-$2.7	6%
Wind	$14.5	-$0.9	6%
Other	$2.2	-$0.5	23%
Transmission & Grid	$11.0	-$0.2	2%
Total	$311.7	-$39.9	13%

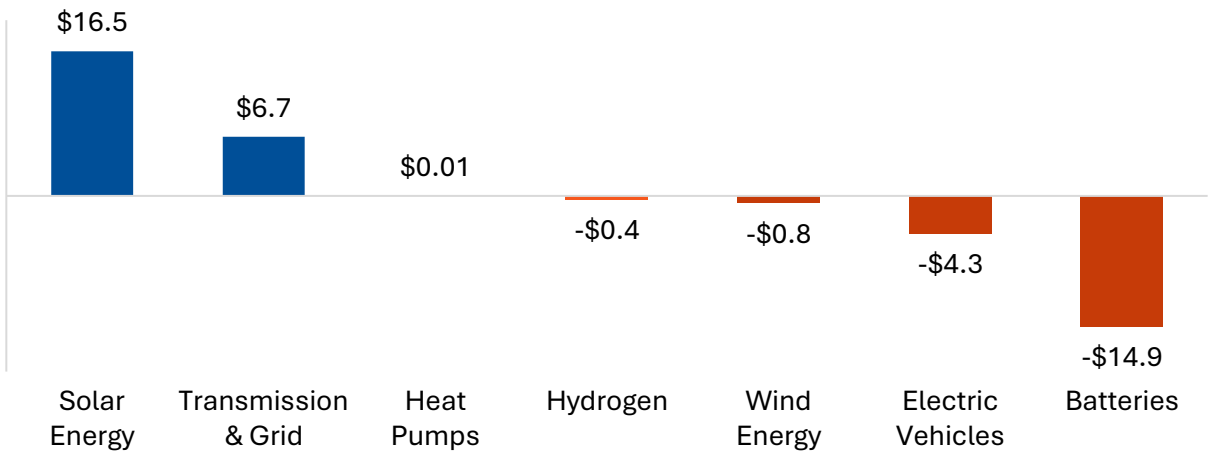
"All Investments" refer to all investments greater than $0 announced since 2000 (i.e., does not include cancellations). "Other" includes hydrogen electrolyzers and heat pumps. Investment and cancellation figures are rounded to one decimal place.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

Technologies tracked in this report exhibited markedly different performances from Q1 2025 through Q3 2026, as reflected in the net investment figures in Figure 5. The rising share of electricity generated by solar and ongoing efforts to expand and upgrade the grid to accommodate expected load growth continued to support positive net investment in solar component and transmission and grid equipment manufacturing.

By contrast, hydrogen electrolyzers, wind, EVs, and batteries recorded net negative investment from Q1 2025 through Q3 2026 due to project cancellations. The net investment loss in battery manufacturing narrowed by approximately $2.6 billion in Q3 following recent investments in grid storage batteries for industrial facilities, data centers, power plants, and other applications.

Figure 5: Net Investment by Technology from Q1 2025 through Q3 2026 ($ Billions)



Net investment by technology from January 2025 through the end of September 2026. Heat pumps appear to be zero due to rounding but have seen $11 million in investment.

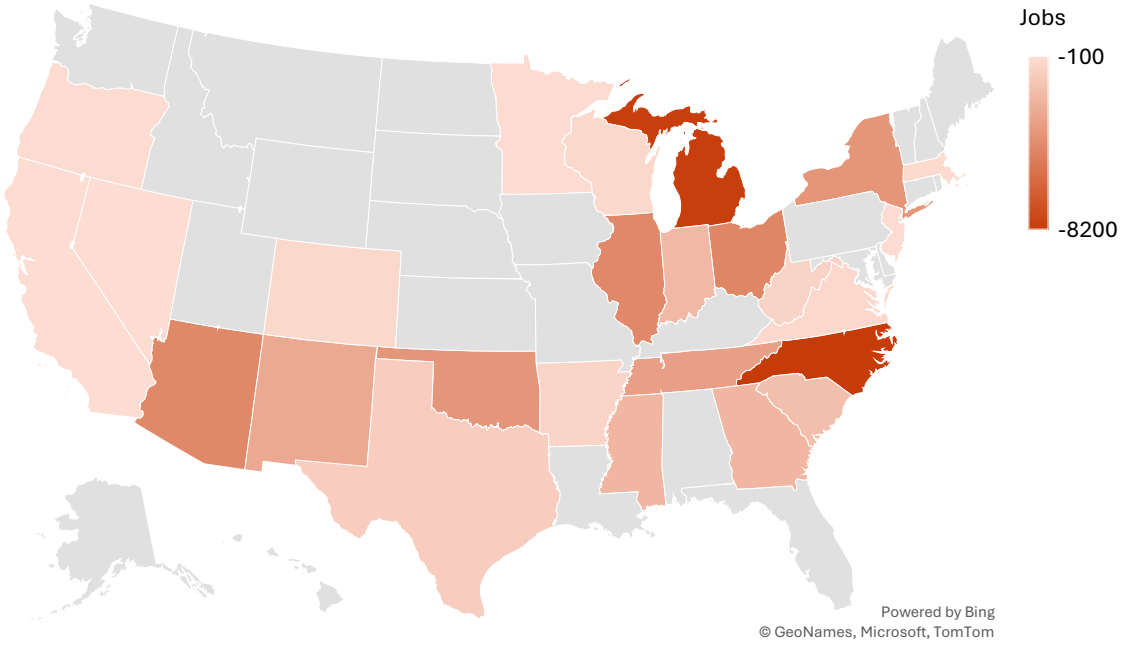
Source: Clean Economy Tracker

54,300 Announced Manufacturing Jobs Canceled

From Q1 2025 through Q3 2026, companies canceled 54,300 announced manufacturing jobs. North Carolina (-8,160 jobs) recorded the largest number of canceled clean energy manufacturing jobs, followed by Michigan (-7,990), Ohio (-4,470), and Illinois (-4,330).[7] Figure 6 provides an overview of announced clean energy manufacturing job cancellations nationwide.

[7] These figures refer to announced permanent manufacturing jobs, not construction jobs or indirect employment, and they do not necessarily indicate how many workers were already employed at the affected facilities.

Figure 6: Clean Energy Manufacturing Job Cancellations by State from Q1 2025 to Q3 2026



The map shows total cancellations of more than 100 manufacturing jobs announced by state. The darker the shade of orange, the larger the total cancellations. States with gray fill do not have any publicly announced cancellations of 100 or more manufacturing jobs.

Source: Clean Economy Tracker

Meanwhile, from Q1 2025 through Q3 2026, investment cancellations have hit Michigan (-$6.5 billion), Georgia (-$5.2 billion), and Illinois (-$4.8 billion) hardest, particularly within their EV and battery manufacturing sectors.

Clean Energy Manufacturing Rebounds but the Road Ahead Remains Unclear

The third quarter of 2026 recorded the highest net investment in the U.S. clean energy supply chain since the start of 2024. Clean energy manufacturing activity remained substantial, although results varied significantly across technologies. New manufacturing capacity for solar, along with transmission and grid equipment, contributed to positive net investment. Federal actions to encourage domestic supply chains, including new trade protections for polysilicon and its derivatives and restrictions targeting certain foreign-produced bulk-power equipment, could

provide additional support for domestic manufacturing in these sectors. Despite these developments, persistent challenges remain elsewhere in the market. EV and battery markets continue to experience uneven growth as automakers scale back certain EV investments and battery manufacturing shifts from strictly EV applications toward broader uses in grid-scale energy storage and data centers. Ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and associated energy price volatility affected energy systems in Q3. At the same time, recent political and legislative developments signal the potential for significant policy changes that could affect clean energy manufacturing investment. Congress is currently deliberating a bipartisan permitting reform package introduced in September 2026, which includes provisions that would significantly affect legal and regulatory frameworks for planning, permitting, and connecting generation and transmission infrastructure. In early November, Democrats won back control of Congress, which will have implications on key energy policies in the new Congress, from permitting reform to tax credits to oversight.

Methodology

Atlas pulled data from the Clean Economy Tracker on October 8, 2026. Clean energy refers to the U.S. manufacturing of batteries, EVs, heat pumps, hydrogen electrolyzers, solar energy, transmission & grid, and wind energy. Data shown does not include critical minerals or magnets. Jobs reflect direct, permanent manufacturing jobs. Cancellations refer to clean energy manufacturing jobs or investments cut or canceled, as announced by companies and/or reported in media. Previous analyses had only included cancellation data from Q3 2023 onwards, but in early 2026, Atlas added cancellation data dating back to 2000. The data from the Clean Economy Tracker are updated on a weekly basis, including backfilled entries, meaning totals may differ from brief to brief. Since cancellations between 2000 and Q3 2023 were small, the addition of this data does not significantly change the results from the previous reports. See the full methodology here.

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