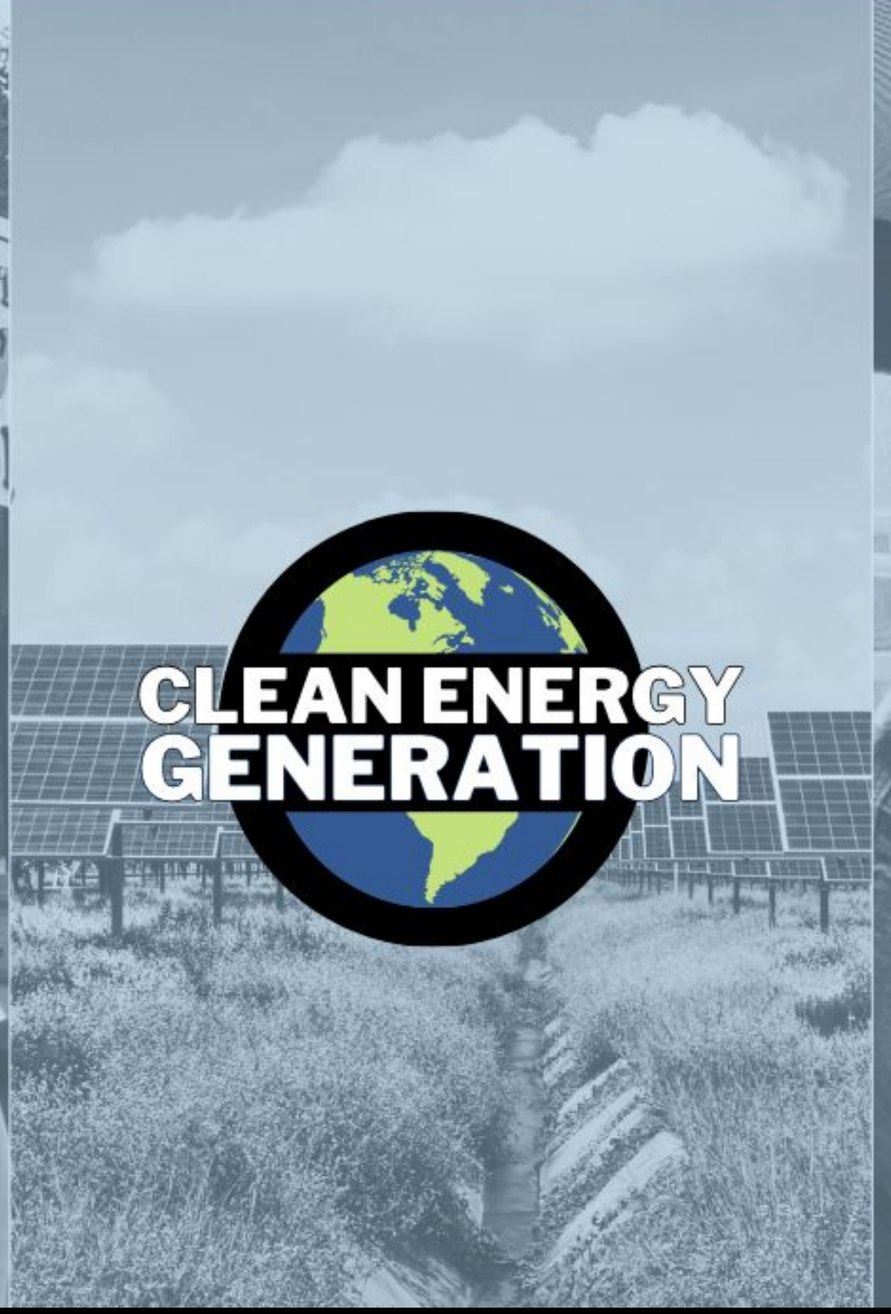


CLEAN ENERGY GENERATION

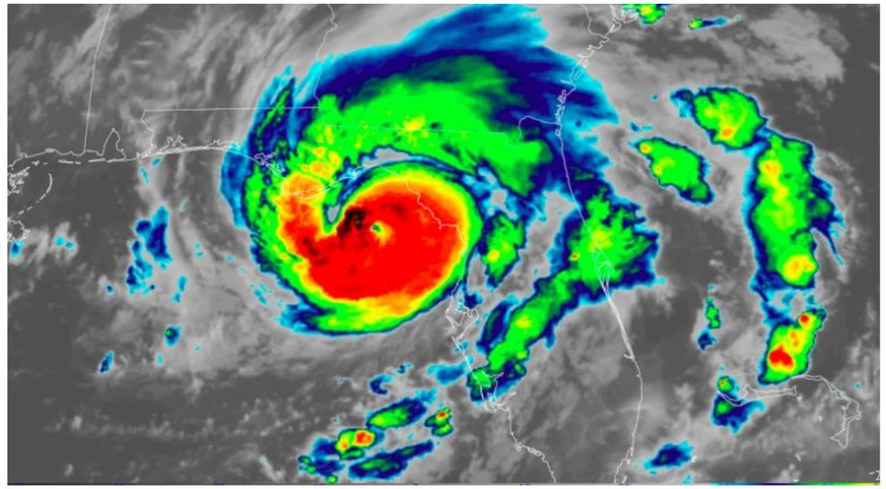
cleanenergy.org
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

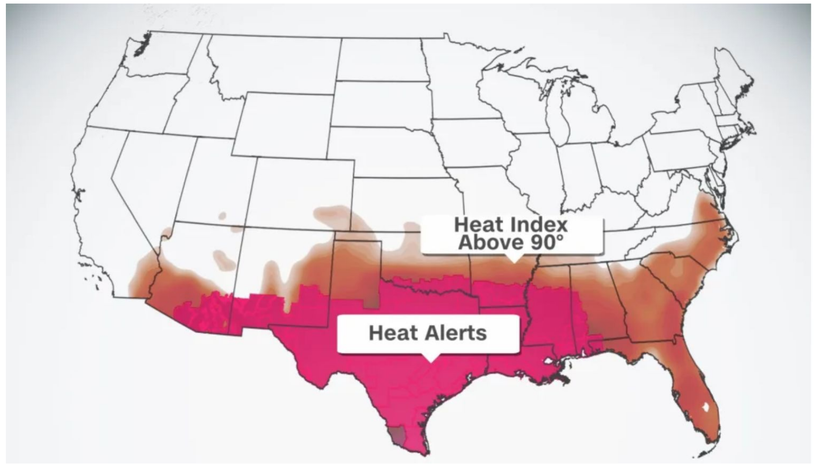
The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) is a nonprofit organization that promotes responsible and equitable energy choices to ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. As a leading voice for energy policy in our region for over 30 years, SACE has focused on transforming the way we produce and consume energy in the Southeast.

Worst of Times

- Fossil fuels like oil, gasoline, and ‘natural’ gas are harming our climate
- Dangerous heat waves
- Wildfires devastate towns and impact air quality
- Heated oceans fuel strong storms



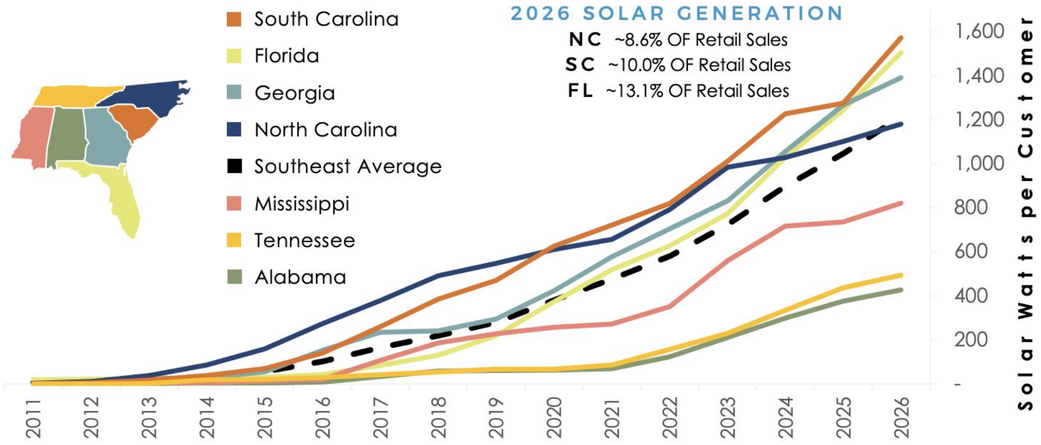
https://www.axios.com/2023/08/28/hurricane-idalia-2023-florida-updates



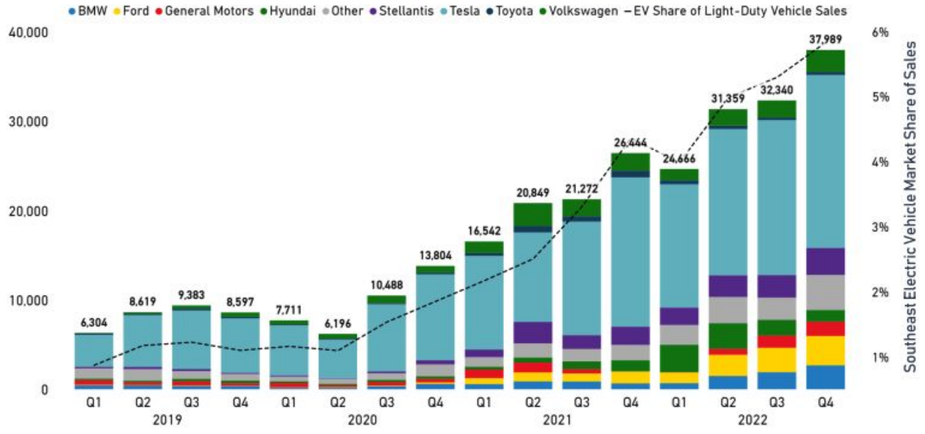
-leat could break more than 90 record high temperatures this week as it spreads into the South.

Best of Times

Southeast Solar Growth Projections



Southeast Electric Vehicle Sales



Resources Available for Homes, Communities, and States

Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA or BIL)

+

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

=

Billions in climate spending for homes and communities

Clean Energy in the Southeast

- Riverview Elementary School in Memphis, TN
- Received $9.5 million grant through Renew America's Schools Program
- Update school infrastructure and improve energy efficiency within the building

Outcomes and Savings from IRA

- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** 40% below 2005 levels by 2030
- **Cut household energy costs** by $200-$1000 per year by 2030
- **Provide market stability** for renewable energy industries and spur American manufacturing
- **Millions of good-paying jobs,** including apprenticeships and job training

In one year, Climate Power reports:

- $18.83 Billion invested in Georgia
- Over 16,000 clean energy jobs added

How Money Flows to Communities

Step 1: Budget	Step 2: Plan	Step 3: Award	Step 4: Complete
1. The President proposes funding levels for agencies. Then Congress approves budgets for agencies. 2. The President signs the budgets so they become law.	1. Agencies design programs and plan how the programs work. 2. For competitive programs, agencies decide how they will review applications. Eligible entities apply and compete for funding. 3. For non-competitive programs, agencies use calculations to decide how much money recipients get.	1. For competitive programs, agencies review applications. Then they decide which recipients to award money. 2. For non-competitive programs, recipients (e.g. states) decide on specific programs with communities. 3. For all programs, recipients and agencies agree to the conditions of the awards, Then recipients get their award money.	1. Recipients do the work that they agreed to (e.g. replace lead pipes). Their work improves the lives of Americans. 2. Recipients report on funding and results, as required by their award conditions.

adapted from Green New Deal Network

Clean Energy Sectors Within the IRA

Clean Buildings

- **Tax incentives** for energy efficiency in commercial buildings (Section 179D) and new homes (Section 45L)
- **Tax credits** for energy efficiency and resilience in affordable housing
- **Funding** for federal green buildings
- **Rebates** for high-efficiency electric appliance rebates and energy retrofits, focused on low- and moderate-income households
  - Half for whole-home energy efficiency
  - Half for high efficiency electric homes/electrification

Solar installations in Winterville, Georgia and Athens, Georgia

Tax Credits for Commercial and Multi-family Buildings

New Energy Efficient Home Credit and Zero Energy Homes Credits (IRC Sec. 45L)

- Tax credits per unit for developers new multi-family homes meeting program requirements. Total credits range from $500 to $2500 per dwelling unit, depending on the program and requirements met.

Commercial Clean Energy Investment Tax Credit (IRC Sec. 48)

- 30% tax credit for installing solar systems providing that prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements are met, with 10% adder credit for projects meeting domestic content requirements. Can be applied to solar and battery systems.
- 10% bonus credit for locating in an energy community
- 10-20% bonus credit for locating in or benefitting a low-income community by application

Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Deduction (IRC Sec. 179D)

- Enables building owners to claim a tax deduction up to $5.00 per square foot as long as the project meets prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements and reduces energy by 25% in comparison with a building that meets ASHRAE standards three years prior to the placed in service date of the building.

Rebates for Low and Middle-Income Households

Rebates will help reduce the cost of energy-saving retrofits. The Inflation Reduction Act included two rebate programs for home energy efficiency and home electrification projects:

- **The Home Efficiency Rebates** will range from $2,000 to $4,000 for individual households and up to $400,000 for multifamily buildings for energy efficiency retrofits. The rebate will depend on the amount of energy saved.

- **The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates** will provide point-of-sale rebates to low- to medium-income households for heat pumps; heap pump water heaters; heat pump clothes dryers; electric stoves, cooktops, ranges, or ovens; electric load service center (breaker box/electrical panel); electric wiring; and insulation, air sealing, and ventilation.

- The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority expects the rebates to be available to Georgia residents no later than September 30, 2024.

HUD Green and Resilient Retrofit Program

Fund for energy and water efficiency and climate resilience in HUD assisted housing.

- Applications open now through May 2024, some applications due sooner
- Three programs:
  - $750,00 to $20 million per property
  - $40,000 to $80,000 per unit
- More information at: hud.gov/grrp

Direct Pay/ Elective Pay

Nonprofit organizations and public, non-taxed entities can receive a payment equal to the full value of tax credits for clean energy projects, including:

- Energy efficiency upgrades (transferrable to system designer)
- Efficient heating and cooling systems
- Solar and battery storage
- Electric vehicles and charging stations

Renew America's Nonprofits

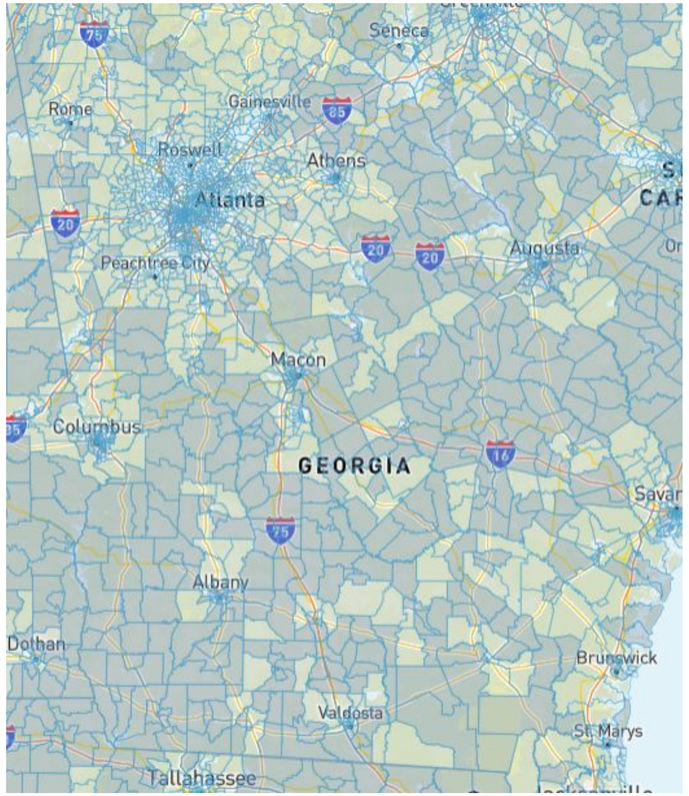
Grants of up to $200,000 for individual projects in nonprofit buildings nationwide for energy efficiency improvements and upgrades.

- Reduce energy cost, reduce carbon emissions, and improve the health and safety of non-profit employees
- DOE will select 5-15 larger organizations to serve as prime recipients, who will serve as program lead to manage a portfolio of subrecipients
- Prime recipients will be announced October 2023.

energy.gov/scep/renew-americas-nonprofits

Justice40 Initiative

- J40 targets disadvantaged communities that face higher levels of pollution, health risks, and social challenges due to environmental injustices
- At least 40% of the benefits from federal climate and clean energy investments will be directed toward low income communities using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool
- The Justice40 Initiative aims to address climate change and environmental inequities simultaneously.
- Shaded areas of the map represent Justice40 Communities



Expert Match Program

Clean Energy to Community's Expert Match Program connects clean energy experts with local governments, electric utilities and community-based organizations to provide technical support for renewable energy projects in low-income communities.

Expert Match offers:

- Access to experts from the U.S. Department of Energy's national lab system.
- 40–60 hours of support over 2–3 months from first kickoff call.
- Focus on community-driven challenges or goals—from clean electricity, buildings, mobility, and grid to financing, environmental justice, and more.

For more information, visit: nrel.gov/c2c/expertmatch

C2C: Clean Energy *to* Communities

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Community submits short application form

2–6 Weeks:
Expert Match team reviews application and identifies technical experts

2–4 Weeks:
Stakeholders scope project

6–8 Weeks:
Community receives Expert Match support

Expert Match Program Case Study

Cohoes, New York, is a small working-class community in upstate New York with limited resources and energy-related expertise. The city wanted to reduce its climate impact, but its municipal buildings were old and many had slate roofs that weren't suitable for solar panels.

Expert Match helped Cohoes, New York reduce its climate impact and increase its renewable energy capacity by providing guidance on:

- **Retrofitting historic buildings for energy efficiency**, including reviewing proposals for reducing emissions and evaluating technology options.
- Developing a **3.2-MW floating solar project on the water reservoir**, which will generate electricity for municipal buildings and share with other organizations.

Get Involved in the Clean Energy Generation

Our ability to address the climate crisis depends on how many of us show up. Learn more about actions you can take at home and in your community.

1. Join the Movement
2. Share Your Why
3. Spread the Word
4. Find a Team
5. Find Resources