

Role of Governors in Clean Energy Economy

By Amanda Leland

KORE Power, backed by an \$850 million federal loan, is building a \$1.25 billion battery cell manufacturing plant just outside of Phoenix, adding two thousand jobs and helping the state make the most of its abundant solar energy. It's an investment that couldn't be more urgent. This summer, as much of the United States endured the hottest July in history, the Phoenix region set a record no one wanted to break: an entire month of 110-degree days.

The KORE Power project is one of many generating a cleaner, healthier future. Across the country, companies are making exactly the kinds of investments we need to slash the pollution that's responsible for this summer's heat domes and other extreme, increasingly deadly weather. These investments also stand to maintain energy security and grow the economy.

Much of the new clean energy investment is being driven by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the climate and jobs law that is the United States'

biggest economic and environmental initiative in decades. We're watching the United States transform in real time. This spring, for example, GE Vernova, General Electric's energy business spinoff, invested \$50 million in Schenectady, New York, to add two hundred jobs building onshore wind turbines. Roger Martella, GE's chief sustainability officer, said it wouldn't have happened without the new law. "We were able to announce this project due to the certainty of the IRA," he said.

Governors have the power to drive the economic engine of this landmark law. They are uniquely positioned to act as conveners and bring the public and private sectors together. In Maine, for example, Governor Janet Mills achieved a climate goal of installing 100,000 heat pumps two years early by coordinating ambitious legislation, nonprofit rebate and incentive programs, and workforce training at community colleges. Whether local economies and their residents get the full benefit of the IRA will depend in large part on governors seizing the moment and states taking the lead.

Sparked by the sweeping legislation signed into law one year ago, the private sector has already



committed \$110 billion in investments that, according to the BlueGreen Alliance, will create an estimated 900,000 manufacturing jobs by 2030 and cut climate pollution more than forty percent below 2005 levels. These investments are expected to

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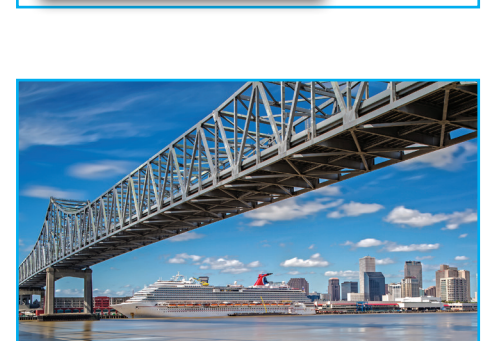
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Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 9:30 am-10:30 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar
Thursday, September 21, 2023, 9:00 am-10:00 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537
Fee: Free; registration required
Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to support at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, September 28, 2023, 12:00 pm-3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
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