

# Creating the Clean Energy Jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



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**U.S. Department of Energy**

## **CREATING THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

To support the Obama Administration's effort to win the future with a clean energy economy, the Department of Energy (DOE) has invested in a broad portfolio of projects to spur economic growth, create jobs, and position America to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world.

### **A SNAP SHOT OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEVADA**

In the state of Nevada, DOE has invested more than \$440 million over the past two and a half years to support 80 projects in areas such as solar panel manufacturing, geothermal energy production, energy efficiency community block grants, home weatherization, and smart grid electricity infrastructure development.

Additionally, DOE has offered nearly \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees and conditional commitments for loan guarantees to five projects in Nevada in order to support deployment of clean energy technologies such as solar and geothermal power. These projects include SolarReserve, the first concentrating solar power generating facility of its kind in the United States, and the tallest molten salt tower in the world.

Grant and tax credit programs have also allowed companies, like Amonix and NV Energy Inc. to expand their operations and hire new workers. Companies like Chemetall Foote Corporation and TGP Development Company are also projected to create still more jobs thanks to DOE's support.

**In just the first three months of this year, DOE's investments have helped create or save more than 350 jobs.** This number is expected to grow in coming months as more clean energy projects break ground, begin construction and come on-line.

**Additionally, it is estimated that approximately 2,000 new jobs will be created through projects supported by DOE loan guarantees alone.**

### **SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF NEVADA'S LEADING CLEAN ENERGY COMPANIES**

**SolarReserve (Tonopah):** With the help of a \$737 million conditional loan guarantee from DOE, SolarReserve will develop a 110 megawatt concentrating solar power (CSP) tower generating facility, capturing the sun's thermal energy and transforming it into electricity. The Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project is located 14 miles northwest of Tonopah, Nevada and will be the first of its kind in the United States. The company anticipates the facility will create 600 construction jobs and 45 operations jobs.

The project is expected to produce enough electricity to power more than 43,000 homes and is expected to avoid nearly 290,000 tons of carbon pollution annually, the equivalent of 20 percent of the annual generation of an average coal-fired plant in the U.S. each year.

**Ormat Nevada (Pershing, Lander and Elko counties):** DOE has offered OrmatNevada a conditional commitment to help support a \$350 million loan for a new geothermal power generation project. The project is expected to produce a total of 121 megawatts of clean, baseload power from three geothermal power facilities. This will increase geothermal power production in Nevada by nearly 25 percent. The facilities are Jersey Valley in Pershing County, McGinness Hills in Lander County and Tuscarora in Elko County. The company estimates the project will create approximately 330 construction jobs and nearly 65 permanent jobs.

The project is expected to produce enough electricity to power nearly 88,000 homes and avoid nearly 580,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of over 110,000 vehicles.

**Amonix (North Las Vegas):** The solar power system manufacturing facility in North Las Vegas received a \$5.9 million investment tax credit. The new \$18 million facility, which was finished earlier this year, created 135 construction jobs. Amonix initially expected to hire 278 workers once the plant reached full capacity, but had actually hired more than 300 by the ribbon cutting in May.

**Chemetall Foote Corporation (Silver Peak):** With \$28.4 million from DOE, Chemetall will conduct a project in Silver Peak, Nevada and North Carolina aimed at securing a competitive domestic source of lithium for the U.S. battery industry. During the peak of construction, the operation will employ an additional 50 employees in Silver Peak, which is also the only domestic lithium carbonate operation in the U.S. and the funds will help expand the facility and convert it to geothermal based electrical energy. By 2013, the site will have doubled in size since 2009 with 25 new long-term positions.

**NV Energy (Las Vegas):** DOE supplied the Las Vegas company \$137.9 million to rapidly modernize Nevada's electricity infrastructure. In addition to streamlining operations, and reducing peak demand, the project created over 68 jobs in the state in the last quarter alone. The statewide project links 1.45 million electric and gas meters across 54,600 square miles of service territory, benefitting 2.4 million Nevadans and helping them take ownership of their energy usage. The modernized infrastructure will deliver more than \$65 million in annualized benefits to the entire state.

**Nevada Department of Business and Industry (statewide):** DOE granted \$37.3 million in funding for the state's weatherization assistance program to help lower energy costs for 5,500 low income homes. Funds are also going toward worker training programs with the goal of training more than 300 new weatherization workers in the state.

**TGP Development Company (Reno):** With \$10.4 million from DOE and at least \$5.2 million from TGP, the company will demonstrate the commercial application of Enhanced Geothermal Systems techniques in a way that minimizes cost and maximizes opportunities for repeat applications. TGP reports that 50 jobs will be created, including those in drilling, engineering, construction and operations. Geothermal energy has enormous potential as a source of clean, carbon free energy to heat our homes and power our economy.