

The National Institutes of Clean Energy Act of 2021

The United States has the [highest GDP in the world](#), yet it [ranks 10th in the world](#) for how much of that capital gets invested in research and development (R&D). Because these funds directly contribute to the generation of knowledge and advanced technologies, how much we spend on R&D provides a snapshot of how innovative our economy truly is.

Currently, the United States is [lagging behind](#) our foreign competitors in this innovation, especially when it comes to public spending for R&D. We need to be ramping up these investments to develop new technologies that can help us mitigate climate change, which is a major threat to our nation's health, economy, and security.

The *National Institutes of Clean Energy Act* invests \$400 billion over the next ten years to establish and operate a new Institute housed in the Department of Energy that focuses on R&D of advanced clean energy technologies. Similar to the National Institutes of Health, these Clean Energy Institutes would invest in clean energy science, innovation, and R&D to support projects that help reduce carbon emissions and build climate resilience.

A recent [poll](#) shows that 60% of voters support the *National Institutes of Clean Energy Act*. The funding established in the bill would support:

- Developing advanced energy technologies in hard-to-decarbonize sectors, like aviation and shipping;
- Focusing on clean energy research areas that are underrepresented in existing federal R&D funding, such as long-duration grid storage;
- Developing projects on the impacts of energy production in frontline communities, including communities of color and low-income communities, that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental injustices;
- Supporting R&D projects focused on the impacts of clean energy and energy production on job loss, job creation, and workforce development.

Moreover, the *National Institutes of Clean Energy Act* prioritizes R&D of technologies that:

- Minimize environmental harms and negative public health impacts on frontline and disadvantaged communities and create high-quality jobs in these communities;
- Are conducted at public universities, consortiums of land grant colleges and universities or minority-serving institutions, including historically Black colleges and universities;
- Are developed in areas that have seen the worse job losses over the past five years – including rural areas and areas impacted by deindustrialization.

Congress needs to make smart investments in our nation's future, and the *National Institute of Clean Energy Act* does just that. By directing public funds toward research and innovation of clean energy science and technologies, this bill is a big down payment toward building our economy back while also tackling the climate crisis head on.