

Louisiana is undergoing an energy transition, and it can be overwhelming to sift through all the available information to understand what it means for our communities.

The Ascension Chamber of Commerce has developed a resource to be used by local community leaders to raise awareness and increase understanding of clean energy concepts which includes fact-based information and basic talking points about complex topics.

*For more information, check out the **Energy Made Easy** comprehensive resource which includes FAQs, graphics, talking points, links to fact sheets and videos, along with parish profiles.*

Executive Summary

LOUISIANA IS LEADING THE WAY IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Companies in Louisiana, and worldwide, are adapting to consumer needs and the global shift toward more sustainable manufacturing practices. These industrial companies are exploring innovative practices and emerging technologies like carbon capture and storage, which allow us to produce more energy, support energy independence, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions, all at the same time.

With the world's largest hydrogen pipeline network, an integrated multi-modal system, geologic storage capabilities, and a strong presence of refineries – Louisiana is uniquely positioned to be a global leader in the energy transition which will, in turn, lead to billions in economic investments into our state.

Clean energy technologies that result in green or blue hydrogen are meeting the market demand to decarbonize, and they are directly reducing emissions and improving our environment. Furthermore, our state's climate and landscape make it an ideal location to generate solar power while our location on the Gulf of Mexico offers a great place for offshore wind power generation.

By embracing these new technologies and alternatives for energy production, we can lead the way to a cleaner future with more opportunities for our children and generations to come.

JOBS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

According to Louisiana Economic Development (LED), Louisiana experienced a surge of economic activity in 2023 with over \$14.3 billion in capital investment, resulting in 11,517 anticipated new jobs from emission reduction investments.

With each new investment, we are providing our graduates and skilled workers with ample opportunities join a growing workforce that is aiming to create a cleaner, more profitable future for generations to come.

We want our kids, graduates, and local workforce to have job opportunities that keep them close to home.

ECONOMIC AND TAX BASE IMPACTS

The industrial tax base plays a critical role in Louisiana's economy, especially for the local economy in parishes whose tax revenues are generated by industry. These tax revenues largely fund government services, law enforcement, parks, and public schools.

We must ensure that these projects stay in Louisiana to help retain high-paying jobs for both skilled laborers and college graduates, along with critical tax dollars that fund our school systems, local government services, and community services.

LOUISIANA'S UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Louisiana's unique geology makes our state ideal for storing captured carbon dioxide safely and securely deep below the earth's surface. Carbon capture technologies have been in place for decades across the United States and are among some of the most proven and safest technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach emissions goals.

Louisiana is now one of only three states – and the only state in the Gulf South - to be granted primacy for Class VI wells, which are held to extremely high standards, allowing the state of Louisiana to inject carbon dioxide underground for permanent storage as a way to reduce carbon emissions. By having these standards in place, Louisiana can ensure a responsible path forward for growth.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

When a new project is proposed, local communities can facilitate and establish community benefit agreements that detail the types of investments the company agrees to provide to benefit the members of the community, especially those who are directly impacted by the project.

Companies should do extensive research and outreach to ensure local community members are involved in shaping their investment plans, which in turn can help ensure a higher level of certainty that the investment will result in tangible economic and social benefits to affected disadvantaged communities.

By embracing advancements in cleaner manufacturing technologies, educating the public on science-based facts and impacts, and supporting new projects, we can position Louisiana as a global leader in energy and create a brighter, cleaner, and safer future for all.