

This Louisiana State Summary educates policymakers and the public about EERE investments and their positive impacts in Louisiana.

# Louisiana

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is pursuing an all-of-the-above approach to developing every source of American energy. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) leads DOE efforts to build a strong clean energy economy, a strategy that is aimed at reducing our reliance on foreign oil, saving families and businesses money, creating middle-class jobs, and reducing pollution.

This strategy will position the United States as the global leader in clean energy, increasing our nation's competitiveness. In 2012, \$268 billion was invested globally in clean energy, a 500% increase since 2004.<sup>11</sup> Trillions of dollars will be invested in the coming decades. Clean energy represents one of the most important economic development races of the 21st century. We face a stark choice—the clean energy technologies of tomorrow can be invented and manufactured in Louisiana and the rest of the United States for domestic use and export around the world, or we can cede global leadership and import those technologies from China, India, Germany, and elsewhere.



## Louisiana's Clean Energy Resources and Economy

- Clean Economy Jobs (2010): 28,600+
- Average Annual Growth Rate of Clean Economy Jobs (2003–2010): 0.1%
- Average Annual Wage of Clean Economy Jobs (\$2009): \$36,493<sup>1</sup>

Thanks to its large agricultural and forestry industries, Louisiana has the potential to generate significant energy from renewable biomass.<sup>2</sup> Wind can also provide 1,100 gigawatt hours of electricity to Louisiana each year, adding more diversity to the state's energy portfolio.<sup>3</sup> The state has significant geothermal energy potential as well.<sup>4</sup> Currently, 1.8% of Louisiana's electricity is generated from renewable resources.<sup>5</sup>

Louisiana's Renewable Energy Pilot Program, designed to investigate the feasibility of a renewable portfolio standard, encourages utilities to begin producing or acquiring power from renewable resources.<sup>6</sup> Louisiana provides a corporate tax credit for the installation of wind and solar technologies.<sup>7</sup> The state energy standard for public buildings requires state-funded building projects to be 30% more energy efficient than required under the regular state building code,<sup>8</sup> and a rebate program provides up to \$2,000 for families to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes.<sup>9</sup>

Louisiana places further emphasis on the importance of clean energy through its green jobs; clean economy jobs pay 12.6% more than the average of all jobs in the state.<sup>10</sup>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



## EERE and Louisiana

EERE helps create Louisiana’s clean energy economy today, developing and delivering innovative, market-driven solutions for the following:

- **Sustainable transportation** – making transportation cleaner and more efficient through solutions that put electric drive vehicles on the road and replace oil with clean domestic fuels
- **Renewable electricity generation** – reducing the cost of renewable energy through solutions that squeeze more usable power from sustainable resources and improve the economics of manufacturing and installation
- **Energy-saving homes, buildings, and manufacturing** – developing cost-effective energy-saving solutions that help make our country run better through increased efficiency—promoting better plants, manufacturing processes, and products; more efficient new homes and improved older homes; and other solutions to enhance the buildings in which we work, shop, and lead our everyday lives.

## EERE Investments in Louisiana

EERE invests in Louisiana through a broad range of clean energy projects, from energy efficiency to vehicles, biofuels, and other technologies. EERE supports cities, communities, and families to develop innovative, cost-effective energy solutions through the research, demonstration, and deployment activities we conduct with Louisiana and its businesses, universities, nonprofits, and local governments.

### Sustainable Transportation



#### Myriant Biorefinery: Substituting Louisiana Sorghum for Imported Oil



Lake Providence, Louisiana  
EERE investment: \$50M

Partnering with EERE, **Myriant** is constructing a demonstration biorefinery that uses the company’s proprietary processes to produce bio-succinic acid, an organic compound, from biomass feedstocks such as sorghum grits. Myriant’s biomass-derived bio-succinic acid will displace petroleum-based succinic acid, which is used in a wide range of commercial products, such as solvents, fuel additives, and commercial fibers. Simultaneously, the company will evaluate production of bio-succinic acid using sugars derived from wood chips and corn fiber, a waste product from processing corn.

Operating at full capacity, the facility is expected to produce 30 million pounds of bio-succinic acid per year at a price that is competitive with petroleum-based succinic acid. By displacing imported oil with domestically produced biomass feedstocks, this project will help move the United States closer to petroleum independence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Myriant expects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from succinic acid production by at least 60% compared to conventional petroleum-based production. This project is expected to create 50 permanent jobs at the facility and more than 250 temporary jobs during peak construction.<sup>12</sup>

#### Verenium Cellulosic Ethanol Demonstration Facility



Jennings, Louisiana  
EERE investment: \$14.9M

In 2010, **Verenium Corporation** received EERE funds to operate a 1.4 million gallon per year demonstration plant in Jennings, Louisiana, to convert agricultural residues and energy crops to cellulosic ethanol. The project’s goal was to implement a technology that had been demonstrated in a laboratory at commercial scale. The plant produced ethanol from energy cane (a type of sugar cane used mainly as an energy crop) and bagasse (agricultural residue from sugar cane). The demonstration plant operated for 12 months and demonstrated considerable success in pretreatment processes and the use of enzymes. The project was successfully completed in September 2010. BP then acquired Verenium and continues to use the Jennings facility as a testing ground to improve the design of larger-scale biorefineries that BP may build in the near future.



Sorghum grits are a type of feedstock Myriant will use in its demonstration biorefinery to produce bio-succinic acid, which will displace petroleum-based succinic acid. *Photo from iStock 6944651*



## Clean Cities Coalitions Help Stakeholders Choose Smart Transportation Solutions



New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
EERE investment: \$30K annually to each coalition

EERE coordinates a network of nearly 100 Clean Cities coalitions—self-organized groups of local community, government, and business stakeholders whose efforts to adopt smart transportation solutions have displaced more than 4.5 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel since 1993. EERE provides these groups with information resources, professional development opportunities, non-financial project support, and other forms of technical assistance. Louisiana has two coalitions. In 2011, the **Greater Baton Rouge** and **Southeast Louisiana coalitions** avoided the equivalent of more than 678,000 U.S. gallons of gasoline and reduced nearly 3,500 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Together, the coalitions support more than 580 businesses, local governments, and other organizations and work to promote the use of more than 100 alternative fuel and charging stations in the state.

## Renewable Electricity Generation



### Free-Flow Power Corporation: The Water-To-Wire Project



Plaquemine, Louisiana  
EERE investment: \$1.3M

During 2011, EERE worked with **Free-Flow Power** to evaluate and optimize the technical and environmental performance and cost factors of its hydrokinetic SmarTurbines™—turbines that generate energy from free-flowing rivers. Free Flow Power deployed one of its turbines in the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge. Results were encouraging, as the device performed as expected, with no discernible harm to river-dwelling fish. Free Flow has also completed preliminary designs of utility-scale installations at a variety of sites along the Mississippi River. Data gathered during this deployment will aid hydrokinetic technology developers in addressing the design and cost challenges associated with turbine siting, installation, and maintenance in American rivers, enabling American utilities to generate clean, cost-effective energy from river sites not suited to conventional hydropower generation. Free-Flow Power and other project participants contributed \$2.3 million to this project.



Hydrokinetic turbine generator deployed on a floating mount in the Mississippi River. *Photo from Free Flow Power Corp*

## Energy-Saving Homes, Buildings, and Manufacturing



### NOLA WISE Program Leads to More Efficient Homes and Businesses in New Orleans



New Orleans, Louisiana  
ERE investment: \$2.4M

EERE has teamed up with the **City of New Orleans** to improve the energy efficiency of New Orleans homes and businesses through the NOLA WISE program. NOLA WISE connects clients with accredited contractors who perform comprehensive evaluations—recommending upgrades such as insulation, duct sealing, and repairing or replacing heating and air conditioning systems. Through this program, clients receive rebates and low-interest loans to fund these improvements to their homes and buildings. The NOLA Wise program aims to achieve an average annual energy savings of 15% for its clients. In its first 10 months, more than 40 buildings were retrofitted through the program, with some households achieving up to 30% monthly energy cost savings.

### Louisiana State Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program Saves Energy and Educates Consumers



Statewide  
EERE investment: \$4.2M

With American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding from EERE, the **State of Louisiana** implemented a state rebate program as part of the EmPower Louisiana program. Rebates ranged from \$75 to \$500 for ENERGY STAR® qualified furnaces, heat pumps, and air conditioners,



as well as refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, dishwashers and water heaters. Louisiana residents have received nearly 19,000 rebates. Efficiency gains from replacing old appliances are resulting in estimated energy savings of more than 12 billion British thermal units per year—equivalent to the annual energy consumption of more than 130 households. An EmPower official indicated that the rebate program was successful in helping some residents buy energy-efficient appliances that they could not have otherwise afforded, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when many residents people had to rebuild and replace appliances. In order to receive rebates, consumers were required to recycle old appliances. Louisiana offered matching funds of \$2.2 million.

## Deploying Clean Energy Solutions in Louisiana Communities

EERE invests in the deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in communities across Louisiana. These investments catalyze economic development, create jobs, generate clean energy, and reduce utility bills. Many of these investments have been through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds. Of the more than \$156 million in ARRA funds allocated to the State of Louisiana from EERE specifically for deployment projects, more than 95% has been spent as of January 2013 through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, State Energy Program, and Weatherization Assistance Program.

### Building Clean Energy Infrastructure

With financial and technical support from EERE, energy officials at the state level and in 25 communities have selected and overseen the completion of hundreds of projects that are delivering the benefits of clean energy to citizens throughout Louisiana. EERE allocated nearly \$106 million in ARRA funds to support activities that

- Contributed to increased energy efficiency and cost savings for more than 1,200 buildings (approximately 20 million square feet) through building retrofits
- Installed more than 14,000 kilowatts of renewable energy capacity, including wind, solar, and geothermal energy systems
- Funded approximately 40 workshops, teaching nearly 800 people to perform energy audits and install renewable energy systems
- Installed nearly 2,000 energy-efficient streetlights and nearly 3,000 energy-efficient traffic signals.



The Southeast Louisiana Clean Cities coalition provides technical support to the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA), which is planning an expansion of its electric streetcar network.

*Photo from John Smatlak*

### Weatherizing Homes for Lower Income Families

Louisiana has spent more than 97% of the nearly \$51 million in ARRA funds it received to weatherize 7,700 homes, surpassing its goal. Statewide, this has resulted in annual energy savings of more than 223 billion British thermal units and has averted nearly 20,000 metric tons of carbon pollution to date—the equivalent of taking more than 4,100 passenger vehicles off the road for a year. These projects have enabled income-eligible families to save hundreds of dollars per year on heating and cooling bills by improving their homes’ energy efficiency, as well as the health and safety of home environments.<sup>13</sup>

## Deployment Project Examples

### Louisiana Workers Train for the Clean Economy



Baton Rouge  
EERE investment: \$800K

The **Louisiana Association of Community Action Partnerships (LACAP)**, supported by the Louisiana Housing Corporation in addition to EERE, has been working to expand its state-of-the-art Weatherization Training Center in Baton Rouge since 2009 when it began operations. The LACAP Weatherization Training Center was the first new Weatherization Training Center to be opened in the country in more than 10 years. The LACAP training facility provides hands-on technical training, classroom and computer lab instruction, and a variety of full-scale equipment for



interactive experience in a variety of weatherization services. Instructors teach about insulation installation, furnace repair and maintenance, air sealing techniques, mobile home weatherization techniques, as well as other health and safety practices. In addition to providing instruction at the training center, LACAP uses two mobile training units to conduct on-site training for local weatherization workers at homes undergoing weatherization throughout the state. As Louisiana's weatherization program expanded and brought on new workers, LACAP provided them with extensive training and developed their skillsets, which vastly improved the quality of home weatherization work. Louisiana agencies used EERE funds to install the most cost-effective, energy-saving weatherization measures.<sup>14</sup>

### Paperless Permitting System to Save Time and Money for St. Tammany Parish Residents



St. Tammany Parish  
EERE investment: \$400K

The **St. Tammany Parish Department of Permits** is phasing in a new system for paperless permit processing of all commercial and residential building and construction permits. The new system will eventually result in a completely paperless process for permit application, inspection, and certificate issuing. Citizens will be able to track their permit status more efficiently because permit documents, inspection schedules, and results can be reviewed in the electronic system. This new system will enable St. Tammany Parish to reduce paper consumption and save time and money for the public and parish.

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### Energy-Efficient Street Lights Illuminate New Orleans



City of New Orleans  
EERE Investment: \$710K

The **City of New Orleans** installed induction streetlights throughout the city. The project is increasing safety by improving the quality of lighting for drivers and pedestrians, reducing maintenance costs, and extending the life cycle of street lights—saving both money and energy.

### St. Landry Parish Landfill to Power Washington's Vehicles



Washington, Louisiana  
EERE Investment: \$551K

**St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal Landfill** in the City of Washington is installing a turnkey BioCNG™ vehicle fuel system—the state's first compressed landfill gas fueling station. The system is supplying the equivalent of up to 250 U.S. gallons of gasoline of biomethane per day. This gas is used to fuel the parish's vehicle fleet.

### French Settlement Will Beat the Heat (and the Cold) with a Geothermal Heating and Cooling System



French Settlement, Louisiana  
EERE investment: \$65K

**Livingston Parish** has installed a geothermal heating and cooling system at the Town Hall in the Village of French Settlement. The system is expected to reduce village heating and air conditioning costs by two-thirds, saving an average of \$250 per month during the unit's 30-year lifespan.

Front page photo by Dennis Schroeder, NREL 18344; page 2: iStock 17393871; page 3: Dennis Schroeder, NREL 19156; Jim Tetro, U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon

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# A Proven Track Record

Snapshot of National Outcomes from EERE Investments

## EERE's Return on Investment for Clean Energy Technologies

- EERE's \$931 million investment in vehicles combustion engine R&D from 1986 to 2007 achieved a net benefit of \$69 billion (2008 dollars) in fuel savings for users of heavy-duty diesel trucks.<sup>15</sup>
- EERE's \$3.7 billion investment in solar photovoltaic R&D from 1975 to 2008 resulted in a net economic benefit of \$15 billion (2008 dollars) due to module efficiency and reliability improvements.<sup>16</sup>
- EERE's \$1.7 billion investment in wind energy R&D from 1976 to 2008 resulted in a net economic benefit of \$8.7 billion (2008 dollars) due to wind turbine efficiency, energy capture, and reliability improvements.<sup>17</sup>
- A 2001 National Academy of Sciences analysis found that investments of \$1.6 billion in energy efficiency R&D in the first two decades of DOE's existence from 1978 to 2000 realized a net economic benefit of approximately \$30 billion (1999 dollars).<sup>18</sup>

## Sustainable Transportation

- EERE research has helped reduce production costs of automotive lithium-ion batteries by more than 50% since 2008 and is on track to reach its goal of enabling cost-competitive market entry of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles within the next 10 years.
- EERE's activities to achieve cost-competitiveness for biofuels have resulted in the recent achievement of reaching a modeled cellulosic ethanol production cost of \$2.15 per gallon of ethanol (or \$3.27 per gallon of gasoline equivalent).
- EERE's efforts have reduced the projected costs of automotive fuel cells (assuming high-volume manufacturing) by more than 35% since 2008 and 80% since 2002—doubling the durability of fuel cells from 950 hours of demonstrated operation in 2006 to more than 2,500 hours of operation on the road.<sup>19</sup>

## Renewable Electricity Generation

- Without EERE involvement, the average solar photovoltaic (PV) module production cost per watt would have been \$5.27 in 2008, rather than \$1.92. EERE has accelerated solar industry progress by an estimated 12 years.<sup>20</sup>
- Without EERE involvement, cumulative wind power deployment through 2008 would have been less than a third of actual 2008 levels. EERE has accelerated the overall progress of the wind industry by an estimated 6 years.<sup>21</sup>

## Energy-Saving Homes, Buildings, and Manufacturing

- More than 6,200,000 homes have been weatherized with EERE funding provided to states or leveraged from other sources with EERE support since 1976—creating an average energy savings of \$350 or more per year and avoiding \$1.6 billion in energy costs during winter 2005 alone for all households weatherized.<sup>22</sup>
- Due to EERE appliance standards implemented through 2012, a typical household today already saves about \$180 per year off its utility bills. Households can expect to save more than \$300 per year by 2030, as they replace their existing appliances with newer models that use less energy—a cumulative savings to consumers of more than \$900 billion by 2020, and more than \$1.6 trillion through 2030. The cumulative energy savings of these standards phased in through 2012 will be about 70 quadrillion British thermal units (quads) of energy through 2020, and will amount to 120 quads through 2030. (The United States consumes a total of about 100 quads of energy per year.)<sup>23</sup>
- EERE and its partners in the manufacturing sector have successfully launched 220 new, energy-efficient technologies, received 78 R&D 100 Awards, and delivered technical assistance to more than 33,000 industrial plants.<sup>24</sup>
- Since 2005, EERE has facilitated \$3.1 billion of efficiency investments in federal government facilities from performance-based contracts, which will result in energy cost savings of approximately \$8.5 billion over the life of the energy-saving measures. The savings on utility bills and operation and maintenance created through the facility upgrades will be used to pay for the project over the term of the contract, and the agencies will continue to save money and energy after the contract term has ended.<sup>25</sup>

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is at the center of creating the clean energy economy today. We lead U.S. Department of Energy efforts to develop and deliver market-driven solutions for renewable electricity generation; sustainable transportation; and energy-saving homes, buildings, and manufacturing. To learn more about the activities of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, visit [eere.energy.gov](http://eere.energy.gov). If you have questions or comments about the information in this document, please contact us at [EE.Communications@ee.doe.gov](mailto:EE.Communications@ee.doe.gov).