Lost Jobs, Higher Bills and Dashed Economic Opportunities

Federal energy funding disruptions hurt Arizona communities, families and businesses.

Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022 and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021 created historic pools of funding to accelerate the transition to a more affordable clean energy economy and modernize the nation's energy and other infrastructure. Combined, the two laws provided more than $2 trillion in funding through grants and low-interest financing, open to families, small businesses, large corporations and individuals. Funding was available across hundreds of programs in a number of federal agencies, including: the EPA; Energy, Commerce and Agriculture Departments; the Small Business Administration; green banks and federal financing institutions.

Every state in the nation took advantage of available funding, Arizona among them. All told, the state was in line for billions of dollars in IRA and BIL funding for hundreds of projects and programs. That all changed with the 2024 election. Once in office, the Trump Administration began a systematic dismantling of any and all programs aimed at further advancing a clean energy economy. Through policy mandates, executive orders and legislation, including H.R. 1, that disfavor renewable energy, these actions are damaging Arizona's growing clean energy economy, resulting in bankruptcies, lost jobs, killed projects and devastated communities. Following are some of the lowlights from this dramatic shift in federal policies.

Killed Projects, Bankruptcies & Lost Jobs

Lost funding forces Kore Power to close Buckeye factory, kills 3,000 quality jobs

In 2023, the town of Buckeye celebrated after Kore Power was selected for an $850 million federal loan to help establish a battery manufacturing plant. Anticipating that the loan would be axed by the Trump administration, Kore Power cut its losses and canceled the project, killing 3,000 local jobs.

Li-Cycle files for bankruptcy, closes Arizona battery recycling facility

Originally awarded a $475 million low-interest loan from DOE's Clean Transportation Manufacturing Loans / Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, Li-cycle instead went belly up, citing financial difficulties related to risk, uncertainty and disruptions in the funding. The Gilbert operation was shuttered in May 2025, eliminating 45 jobs.

Kohler had $51 million to improve grid efficiency: DOE terminated it

Kohler won a $51 million grant to power parts of its manufacturing facility in Casa Grande with a solar electric microgrid, easing grid demand in the area. The grant was targeted for cancellation by DOE in May of 2025.

Swiss solar manufacturer pulls the plug on nearly 800 jobs

Support from the IRA and BIL brought Swiss solar panel manufacturer Meyer Burger to Goodyear to boost domestic capacity for manufacturing solar projects. The company invested $192 million into the Goodyear facility and had plans to expand by 500 employees. But as Congress signaled it would phase out the clean energy incentives, the company scrapped those plans in May 2025 and laid off 282 employees.

Arizona EV manufacturer throws in the towel; 850 jobs lost

Electric vehicle and hydrogen truck maker Nikola had built up its Arizona business, with headquarters in Phoenix and a primary manufacturing facility in Coolidge. It declared bankruptcy in February 2025, which led to the loss of 855 jobs – 540 positions at the company's corporate headquarters and 315 factory jobs. Although the company was experiencing cash flow and other financial issues prior to 2025, the new administration's posture against EVs likely contributed to the bankruptcy.

One Big Beautiful Bust: NC-based developer goes belly up, killing AZ projects

North Carolina-based Pine Gate Renewable had several utility-scale solar projects in various stages of development in Arizona when it filed for bankruptcy in November 2025. H.R. 1 and other executive and agency actions were cited as potential contributors to the bankruptcy.

Axe to hydrogen projects erases nearly 2,500 potential jobs

Australian green hydrogen producer Fortescue canceled plans for a $550 million hydrogen hub in Buckeye in summer of 2025 "citing uncertainty and waning federal commitment to green energy initiatives". The project was expected to create 2,244 direct and indirect jobs.

Hitting Arizonans in the Pocketbook

Program to help low-Income households with utility bills thrown into disarray

In April 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services fired the entire staff responsible for administering its Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides assistance to needy households to pay utility bills. Although Arizona received $30 million in LIHEAP assistance, the Trump Administration favored cutting off all funding.

Cancellation of financing for small businesses to implement clean energy projects in AZ

In March 2025, EPA canceled a $20 billion program to provide financing for clean energy projects such as energy-efficient homes and buildings, solar installations and electric vehicles. Tucson-based Groundswell Capital was set to partner on the program to provide financing for small businesses before the funding was canceled.

EPA terminates solar power grant to lower electricity costs for Arizonans

The Arizona Office of Resiliency was selected to administer a $156 million grant to bring energy savings to low-income communities by helping with the costs to outfit homes with solar power. EPA terminated the grant in the fall of 2025.

As of the end of 2025, there were more than 160,000 households in Arizona behind on their utility bills, with an average of $677 overdue payments. The average monthly utility bill in Arizona ballooned more than 50% from the beginning of 2022 to the second quarter of 2025, to $289 in monthly utility costs.

A rendering of the canceled KORE Power battery plant in Buckeye. *Image: KORE Power*

Waging War on Arizona's Burgeoning Clean Energy Economy

The repeal and accelerated phase-out of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) and Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for wind, solar and other renewable energy projects have cost Arizona tens of thousands of jobs and billions in delayed or canceled private investments.

According to the Arizona Technology Council, Arizona was expected to net 18,700 new jobs from 2022-2025 as a result of federal clean energy policies. Following the passage of H.R. 1, projections now are for a net LOSS of 100,000 jobs or more. Projections also show $58 billion in investment in the state from 2026 and beyond being lost as a result of the federal pullback under H.R. 1.

Eliminating clean energy tax credits and rebates strips Arizona of over $200 million and raises bills for families and businesses. The president's 2027 budget zeroes out funding for DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps low-income households save $372 a year. If finalized, and prior allocations rescinded, that would equate to more than a $48 million loss for Arizona.

Job Losses: Arizona currently ranks as the third state in the country for the most clean energy jobs lost, with over 80,000 jobs impacted nationwide.

Canceled Projects: The loss of the PTC and ITC led to the cancellation of major projects across the state. Notable casualties include the projects in Goodyear and Buckeye noted above, and also the cancellation of a large-scale Casa Grande solar and electric boiler array.

Increased Utility Costs: Clean energy watchdog reports indicate that repealing these credits is raising energy burdens for Arizonans. Estimates suggest this repeal will result in residential electricity prices increasing by over 7% and adding roughly $210 to average annual household energy bills by 2030.

Arizona's economic future is tied to energy.

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