Who We Are

The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County is the official public/private economic development organization for Palm Beach County and Enterprise Florida. Created in 1982 as a non-profit corporation, our primary purpose is to attract and retain new industry, business relocation, high-quality jobs, and workforce development through corporate relocations, expansions, and international trade, stimulating economic growth, promoting business diversity, and enriching the County’s vitality. The Business Development Board is essentially your one-stop resource for information on relocating your business to or expanding in Palm Beach County.

The BDB offers free and confidential services, including:
• Site inventory on available industrial buildings, land, and office space.
• Site tours conducted by our relocation and expansion staff.
• Information on grants, financial assistance, and incentives available through the State of Florida, Palm Beach County, and local municipalities.
• Government zoning and permitting information.
• Introductions to elected officials and local business leaders.
• Local buyer and supplier information and resources.
• Available services and rates for utilities, communications, and transportation.
• Government zoning and permitting information.
• Introductions to the workforce development training programs.
• Review of available housing and cost-of-living data.
• Demographics and labor market information.
• Introductions to public and private educational institutions.
• Overview of Palm Beach County’s lifestyle, including recreational and cultural amenities.

During the past five years, the BDB has assisted companies that have created more than 10,000 direct jobs with average salaries greater than $58,000, resulting in more than $595 million in capital investment to Palm Beach County and an economic impact that exceeds $4.1 billion. Our economic development work in the county is enhanced through our partnerships with the County Commissioners, Palm Beach County’s Department of Economic Sustainability, Workforce Alliance, Chambers of Commerce, educational institutions, and our 38 municipalities. The BDB’s ongoing commitment to the pursuit of economic prosperity is one reason why Palm Beach County is THE place to live, work, learn, and play.

Sitting within eight miles of our shores, the Gulf Stream is the strongest current in the world with the potential to generate power equivalent to a 55-mph wind by using submerged turbines.

CleanTech businesses find tremendous advantages in Palm Beach County... OUR confluence of geography and climate provides significant solar, biomass, and ocean energy sources.

The Florida Numbers:

7th in cleantech employment with nearly 103,000 jobs /1
No. 1 in annual biomass production /2
1,200 miles of coastline and proximity to the Gulf Stream are well suited for all types of ocean energy R+D and deployment.
9th among states with 2,000+ wind energy manufacturing jobs and 15 wind-related manufacturing facilities – including a GE turbine plant /3

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Clean. Tech. An energy efficient environment in the perfect business climate.
Through a solid commitment of our state government and incentive tools, Florida promotes the use of renewable energy sources and stimulates innovation in the clean energy industry while becoming a national model for such initiatives. The resulting surge of innovation is evident throughout the state. In addition, there are county and municipal incentive and assistance programs, as well as financing and access to capital.

The Office of Energy is housed within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and is the primary organization for state energy and climate change programs and policies. It administers financial incentive programs and the provisions of the Florida Energy and Climate Protection Act, providing recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, among many other responsibilities. The office works cooperatively with other state entities, including the Florida Public Service Commission and the Florida Energy Systems Consortium, to develop state energy and climate change policies and programs.

There are approximately 54 grants currently underway promoting renewable energy, bioenergy, and renewable fuel, and most importantly, promoting economic development through energy. The Florida Opportunity Fund-Clean Energy Investment Program was created by state legislation as a non-profit organization and is administered by Enterprise Florida. It is a direct-investment program designed to promote the adoption of commercially available energy efficient and renewable energy products and technologies in Florida, increasing the availability of capital through both loan and equity investment instruments.

Florida ranked third in 2012 in clean energy jobs, with more than 8,600 jobs created through more than 500 projects, according to a report released in March 2013 by Environmental Entrepreneurs. Agbioscience boomed in Florida between 2000 and 2010, with related research and development expenditures growing 134% during that time, according to another March 2013 report by Battelle, a global research and development organization.

Florida’s leaders made a strong commitment to the Cleantech industry through the development of policies and incentives that accelerate the growth of clean energy and technologies, including the Renewable Energy Property Tax Exemption, the Solar Energy Systems Equipment Sales Tax Exemption, and Qualified Target Industry Tax Refunds, among others.

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Florida really is the Sunshine State — home to one of the nation’s largest solar photovoltaic plants

CLEANTECH TRENDS
ENERGY: Solar/Biofuels/Ocean/Storage/Smart Grid EFFICIENCY: Advanced Materials/GreenBuilding ENVIRONMENT: Water/Air & Environment

Palm Beach County...our confluence of geography and climate provides significant solar, biomass, and ocean energy sources.

Florida’s Cleantech
Palm Beach County’s Cleantech industry mirrors the state’s Cleantech cluster and includes Energy (solar, biofuels, ocean, storage, smart grid), Efficiency (advanced materials, green design and construction, automation), and Environment (air, water/wastewater, land/agricultural, bioremediation, environmental modeling).

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Florida's Cleantech

CLEANTECH TRENDS

ENERGY: Solar/Biofuels/Ocean

Storage/Smart Grid

EFFICIENCY:

Advanced Materials/Smart Building ENVIRONMENT:

Water/Air/Environment

Through a solid commitment of our state government and incentive tools, Florida provides the resources needed to accelerate the clean energy industry. Florida’s leaders made a strong commitment to the Cleantech industry through the development of policies and incentives that accelerate the growth of clean energy technology systems and components of tomorrow. SMERTEC is working on clean energy permitting, development, education and workforce development, public outreach, standard development, and other responsibilities. The office works cooperatively with other state agencies, including the Florida Power & Light, and the Florida Emergency Management Division to develop clean energy and climate policies and programs.

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In 2013 Florida ranked 31st in clean energy jobs, with more than 8,800 jobs created through more than 900 projects, according to a report released in March 2013 by Environmental Entrepreneurs. According to the report, if the current trend continues, by 2020 Florida could add 9,000 clean energy jobs.

Florida is a leader in solar energy and is the leading state in solar photovoltaic installations. However, Florida’s solar industry continues to face many challenges. To address these challenges, the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) has been working to develop solar energy technologies and strategies for Florida's unique weather conditions. FSEC is a world-renowned research and development organization that provides state-of-the-art research facilities and expertise in solar energy technologies. FSEC has been working to develop innovative solar energy technologies and strategies for Florida's unique weather conditions.

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Florida’s Cleantech

CLEANTECH TRENDS
ENERGY: Solar / Biofuels / Ocean / Florida’s Cleantech

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The Office of Energy is housed within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and is the primary organization for state energy and environmental policies. It also administers federal and state fertility regulations and the programs of the Florida Energy and Climate Protection Act, which include commercial and residential energy efficiency, and provides industry-specific incentives to others. The office collaborates with other state-wide, electric, and renewable energy groups and the Florida Office of Economic and High Technology Development to develop and operate energy policies.

Innovation is a priority in Palm Beach County, and our climate of collaboration allows Cleantech innovators to flourish. With companies developing hydrogen fuel cells, solar panel advancements, and waste-to-energy technologies, Cleantech businesses find tremendous advantages in Palm Beach County. Additionally, our county’s geography and climate provides significant solar, biomass, and ocean energy opportunities. Sitting within eight miles of our shore, the Gulf Stream is the strongest current in the world with the potential to generate power equivalent to a 55-mph wind turbine. This natural resource allows Cleantech innovators to flourish.

Energy Innovation is a key component in Palm Beach County, and our climate of collaboration allows Cleantech innovators to flourish. With companies developing hydrogen fuel cells, solar panel advancements, and waste-to-energy technologies, Cleantech businesses find tremendous advantages in Palm Beach County. Additionally, our county’s geography and climate provides significant solar, biomass, and ocean energy opportunities. Sitting within eight miles of our shore, the Gulf Stream is the strongest current in the world with the potential to generate power equivalent to a 55-mph wind turbine. This natural resource allows Cleantech innovators to flourish.

Throughout Palm Beach County, buildings, architects, developers, and allied industries are enhancing sustainability programs at all types and employing green building practices that reduce environmental and health challenges. Palm Beach State College (PBSC) and Florida Atlantic University (FAU) have LEED-certified buildings. PBSC was the first Florida college to achieve LEED Platinum certification for a campus building, its Technical Education Center on the Boca Raton campus.

Plant-based hydroelectric power facilities are developing the next generation of chemistry as they uncover alternative fuel. The scientists at The Scripps Research Institute’s Florida campus are developing the first liquefied hydrogen fuel “Lilo” to be the largest freshwater lake in the southeastern U.S. and the second-largest in the continental U.S. Able to feed a vital fresh- water ecosystem, Lake Okeechobee is crucial to the region—providing fresh water and vegetation. Palm Beach County’s access to national and global markets, via every major mode of transport (air, water, rail, and roadway), offers the perfect corporate environment for the Cleantech industry.

The Florida Office for Commercial and Industrial Real Estate fosters the development of new commercial and industrial real estate for the Cleantech industry. It administers financial incentive programs and is a direct-investment program created by state legislation as a non-profit organization administered by Enterprise Florida. It is a direct-investment program established to provide the advantages of commercial available energy, renewable energy programs and policies.

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Resource Organizations

The Florida Department of Energy’s Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center (SNMREC) is taking the lead in cutting-edge research and innovation. SBIRs, SMEDG are important programs that support small and medium-sized businesses. The Office of Energy is housed within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and is the primary organization for state energy and environmental policies. It also administers federal and state fertility regulations and the programs of the Florida Energy and Climate Protection Act, which include commercial and residential energy efficiency, and provides industry-specific incentives to others. The office collaborates with other state-wide, electric, and renewable energy groups and the Florida Office of Economic and High Technology Development to develop and operate energy policies.

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Launch
Relocate
Expand
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Palm Beach County’s Economic Development Resource

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