



Why Colorado and Why Now?

Clean technology is becoming a large and rapidly growing industry sector worldwide. The industry is being driven by many forces including efforts to mitigate climate change, concerns over dependence on foreign sources of energy and focused government policy. Hundreds of billions of dollars of public and private capital will be invested in the sector over the next decade.

Colorado has all the raw materials to be one of the leading cleantech “clusters” in world. The state is home to a large number of innovative established and emerging companies, world class laboratories and research institutions, abundant sources of renewable energy, a supportive state government and a growing pool of management, technical and entrepreneurial talent. This is demonstrated in the following industry facts and figures:

- There are more than 300 cleantech companies in Colorado. The state is home to many companies in the areas of renewable energy generation products and services (solar, wind, biofuels) and energy efficiency.
- Colorado is among the top three states in cleantech venture capital. In 2008, Colorado cleantech companies received over \$300 million in venture funding, representing 40% of total venture funding in the state.
- Colorado is home to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the nation’s largest lab devoted to renewable energy research and development.
- Colorado’s major universities – The University of Colorado, Colorado State University and the Colorado School of Mines – are national leaders in cleantech and renewable energy research and development.
- The 2009, Pew Charitable Trusts, “The Clean Energy Economy: Repowering Jobs, Businesses and Investments Across America” reports that Colorado’s Cleantech sector employed more than 17,000 between 1998 and 2007 and that the industry grew twice as fast as all jobs.

Cleantech has the potential to capture a large portion of available capital and become a leadership sector in the state for job and economic growth. CCIA was formed to help the Colorado cleantech industry realize this potential. We are not a thematic, consumer or activist driven organization or a branch of a national organization. We are solely focused on providing leadership to improve the cleantech business climate in Colorado, help attract investment capital, talent and focus to the industry and establish partnerships that are essential to sector growth.