



# Community Outreach

FY 2023 | Impact Report





## NREL Giving

Our employees gave close to \$2 million to nonprofits through annual giving campaigns between 2020 and FY 2023. With support from NREL's management and operating contractor, the Alliance for Sustainable Energy LLC, and partnership with Community Volunteer Connections, NRELians logged 1,100 volunteer hours in FY 2023, unlocking \$11,000 in donations from the Alliance for the dozens of nonprofit organizations they supported with their time. Among many causes NRELians support is Bike MS, which fundraises for multiple sclerosis research. Since the laboratory began participating in the event in 2015, the NREL team has raised almost \$233,000. Partnering with GRID Alternatives provided employees with volunteer opportunities aligning with NREL's mission. This resulted in the installation of a solar power system creating an estimated \$11,594 in lifetime savings for residential buildings and 95.65 tons of carbon emissions prevented.

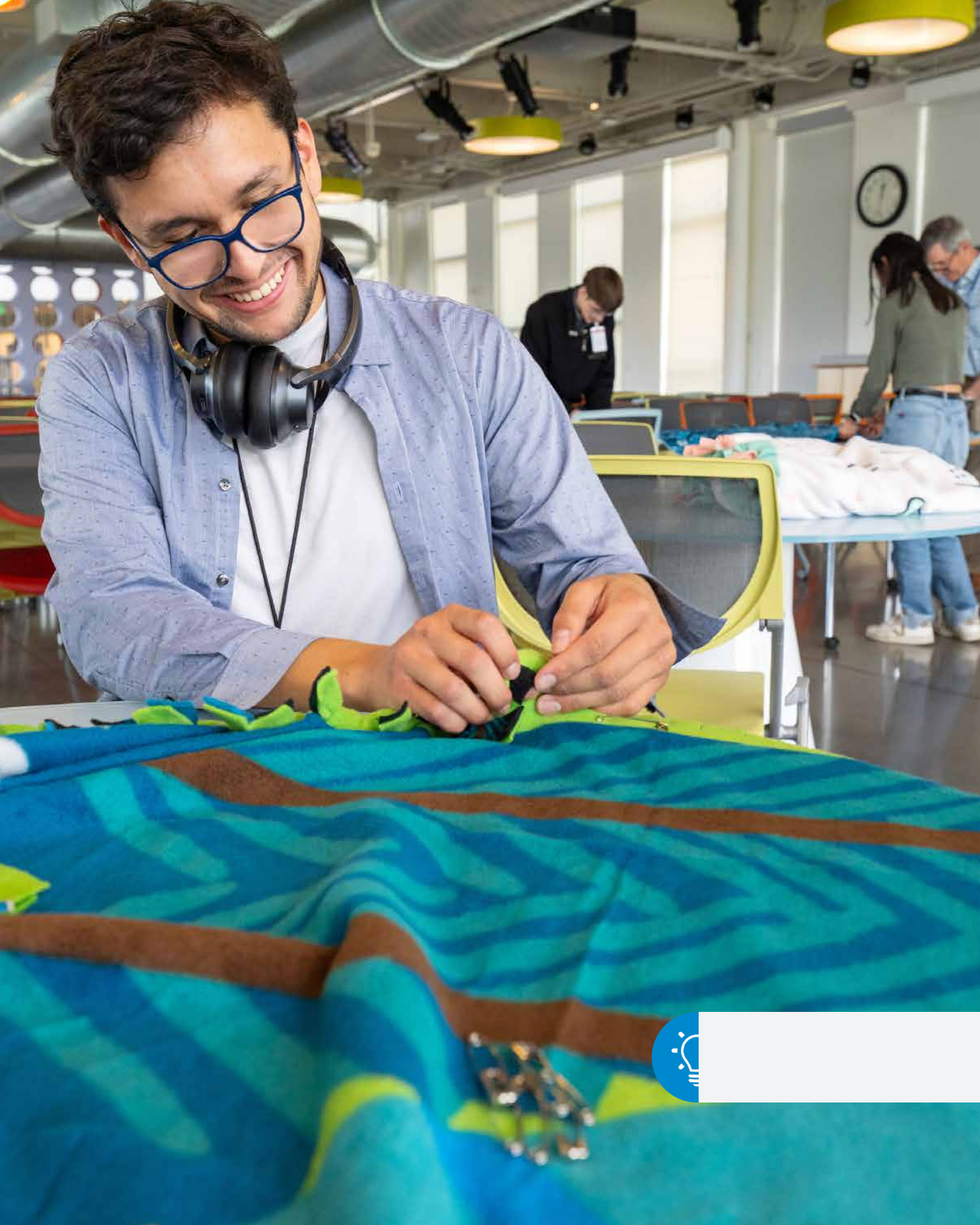


**\$2M**  
Raised



**480**  
Nonprofits



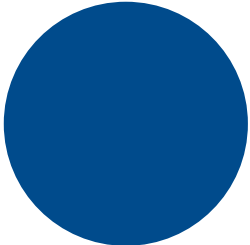


# NREL Outreach

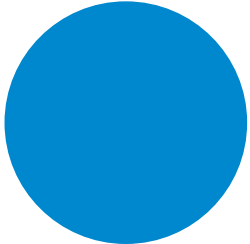
The U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) excels in the science and engineering of renewable energy and energy efficiency breakthroughs; however, NREL has also strived to support our community since its start 45 years ago. Engaging in charitable giving, external outreach, and educational programs is deeply rooted in our culture. NREL Director Martin Keller is passionate about NREL’s community engagement:

“At NREL, we believe supporting charitable organizations, mentoring, and volunteering is a gratifying and fulfilling experience. Being involved and participating in community activities is a big part of the laboratory’s mission to **build and nurture a healthy environment.**”

The Alliance for Sustainable Energy partners with the laboratory to ensure the success of these activities. In FY 2023, NREL connected with 18,181 individuals through educational activities, visits to the laboratory, and tours of NREL’s facilities. In addition to community giving, volunteering, and education programs, NREL engaged with its neighbors and visitors from around the globe eager to learn about the laboratory’s science and technology advancements.



**426**  
NREL  
activities



**18,818**  
Participants

### Nonprofit connections:

- American Kidney Fund
- Brain and Behavior Research Foundation
- Children’s Hospital Colorado
- Clear Direction Mentoring
- Colorado Pet Pantry
- Community Shares of Colorado
- Food Bank of the Rockies
- Foothills Animal Shelter
- GRID Alternatives
- Habitat for Humanity
- Habitat for Humanity Women Build
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Knights of Heroes
- Junior Achievement USA
- Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Mile High United Way
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- National Park Foundation
- Salute Inc.
- Stigma
- The Action Center
- Treeline Pass
- Volunteers of America.



# Executive Energy Leadership Academy

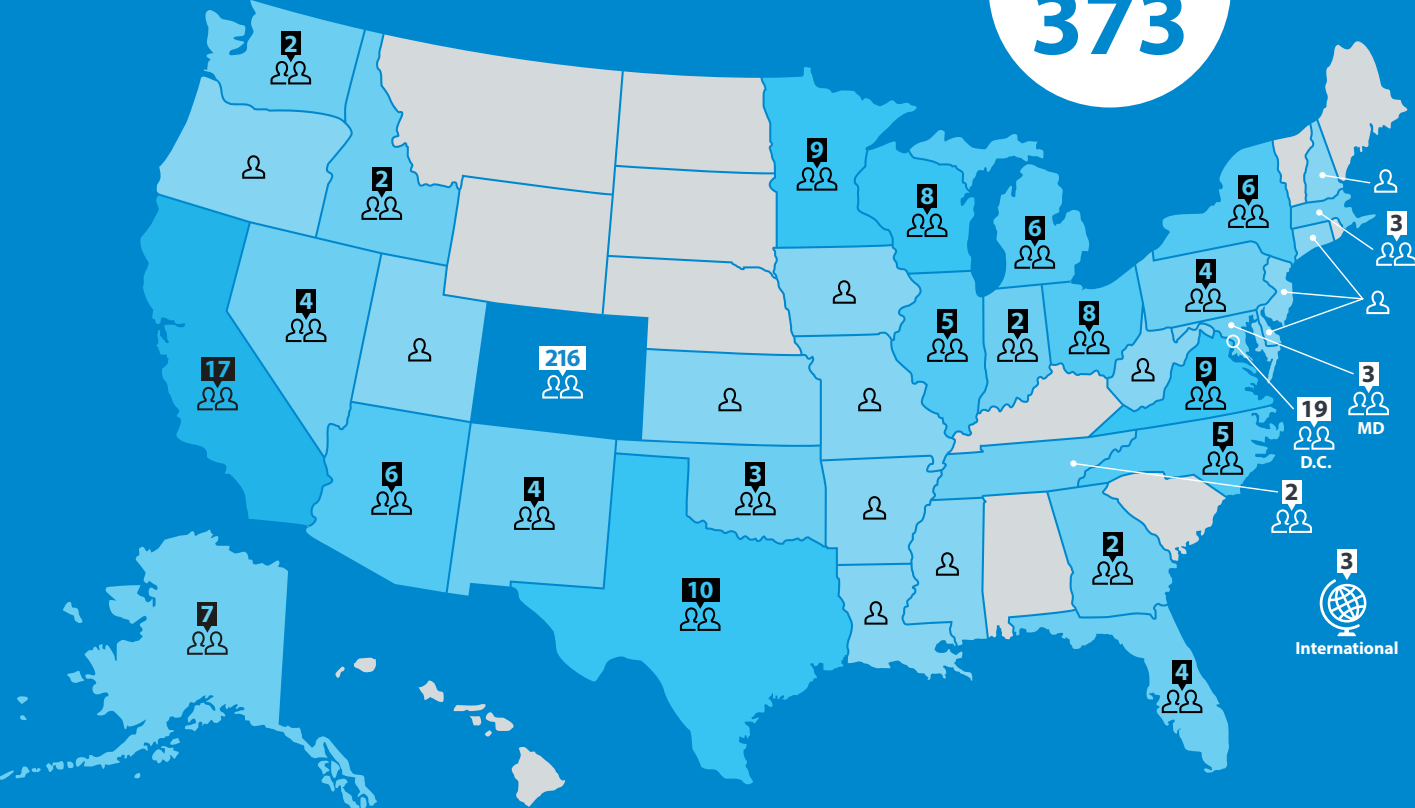
**This leadership program** (Energy Execs) is designed for nonprofit, corporate, and government professionals who are interested in exploring the latest in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and applications.

Each year, 20 participants are selected via a competitive process from more than 100 applicants. They travel to NREL's main campus in Golden, Colorado, for four multiday sessions held from June through September. The curriculum provides an in-depth look at solar and wind power, bioenergy, hydrogen and transportation, energy-efficient building technologies, and energy systems integration while also including the latest performance characteristics of the technologies, economics, and analytical tools. Attendees also tour each laboratory and receive the opportunity to visit other businesses and facilities within the region.

2022 attendee Claire Behar said, "This summit was nothing short of an exceptional opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge on advanced renewable energy technologies like wind power, bioenergy, and energy systems integration and learn how to apply these innovations in the field at scale showing how we turn our commitments into tangible and impactful action."

Three hundred seventy-three representatives of industry, government, and nonprofit organizations have completed the Energy Execs program since its inception in 2007.

Total Alumni:  
**373**



## Reaching Out

NREL actively engages with the local and scientific communities. The monthly NREL public campus tour provides information on how the laboratory is transforming energy through research, development, commercialization, and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. A global leader in advancing the future of energy science and technologies, NREL hosts tens of thousands of visitors, researchers, and industry leaders annually. Representatives from diverse industries visit NREL to learn about advancing energy systems, building sustainable communities, and tapping the benefits of new energy technologies.

A selection of those representatives include:

- Boulder Chamber of Commerce
- Boulder Economic Development Commission
- CO-LABS
- Colorado Asian Chamber
- Denver Chamber of Commerce
- Evergreen Chamber of Commerce
- Golden Chamber of Commerce
- Jeffco Economic Development Commission
- West Metro Chamber of Commerce.



## Our Bright Future

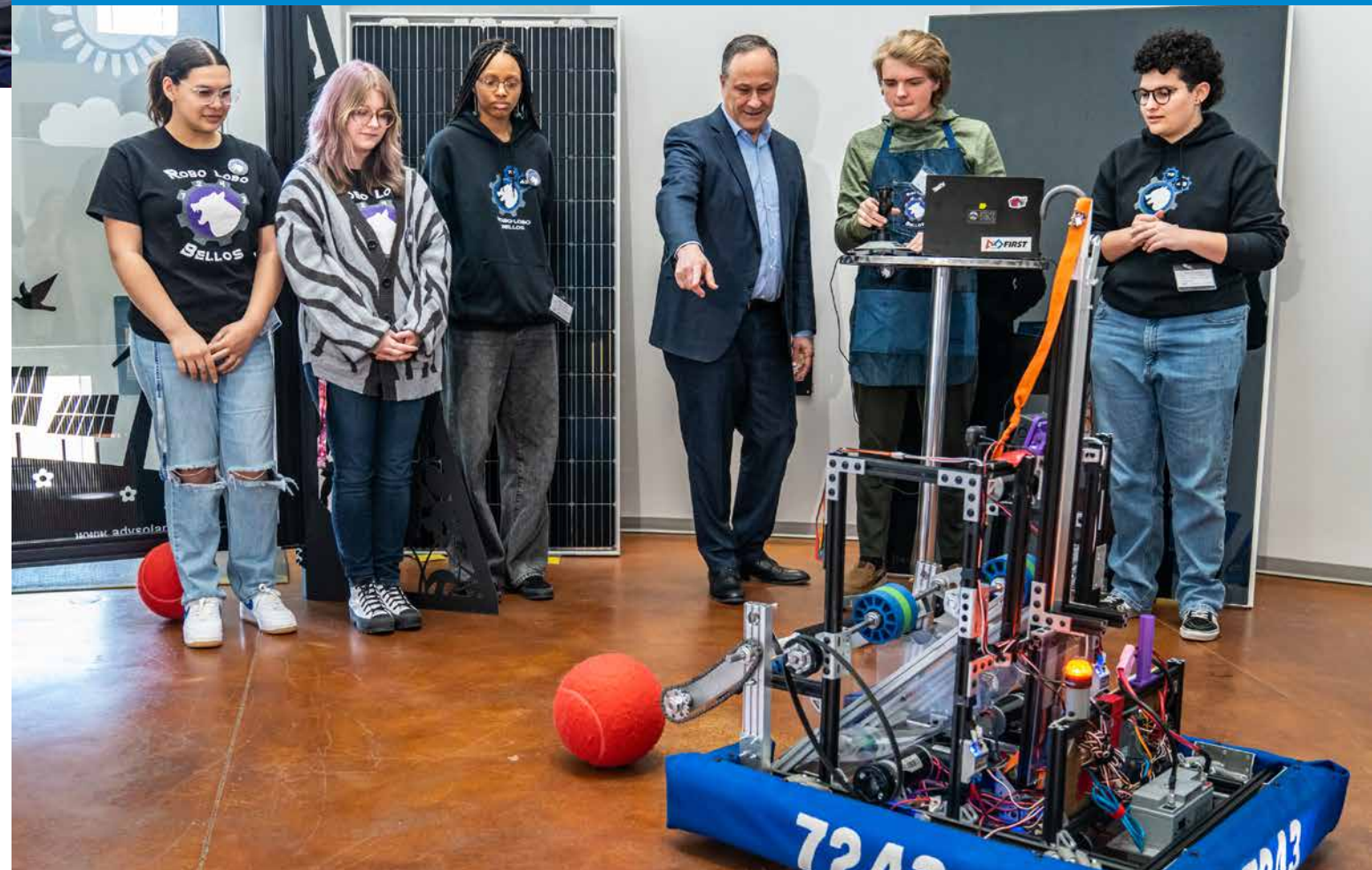
**Inspiring the future workforce** to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)-related careers is essential to furthering NREL's mission. Students learn about the value of energy innovation and environmental responsibility through NREL's engaging education activities, virtual programs, and externally hosted public events. The annual Colorado Regional High School Science Bowl provides an opportunity for students to develop STEM skills outside of a classroom setting. The winning team receives an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Science Bowl sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science. The National Science Bowl takes place in Washington, D.C. NREL also hosts car competitions for student-built solar- and battery-powered model vehicles. Middle school teams across Colorado are invited to participate. Teams work together to build cars with guidance from a parent, teacher, or coach to compete in race and design categories. A Spirit Award is also presented to one team to recognize good sportsmanship.



**110**  
events and  
activities inspired

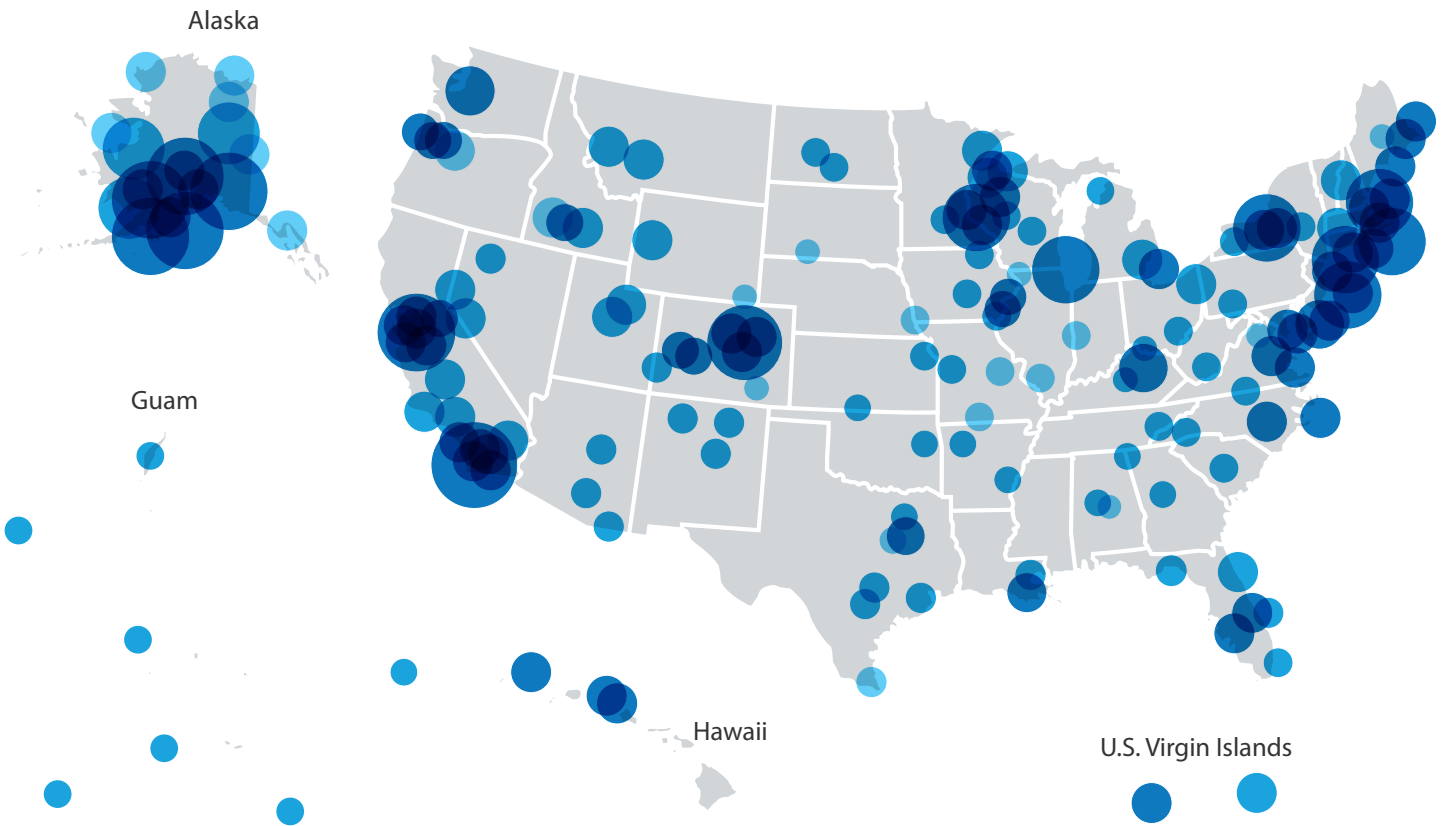


**3,370**  
K-12 students  
and teachers



# Community Assistance

NREL has partnered with and supported **more than 2,500** communities, Tribes, jurisdictions, utilities, and businesses for energy transitions planning, technical assistance, capacity building, workforce development, and more.



This block contains logos for several U.S. Department of Energy programs and agencies:

- Better Buildings** (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)
- Clean Cities** (U.S. Department of Energy)
- COMMUNITIES LEAP** (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)
- FEMA** (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY)
- SOLAR ENERGY INNOVATION NETWORK** (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)
- SOLSMART** (NATIONALLY DISTINGUISHED. LOCALLY POWERED.)
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY** (Main logo)
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY** (Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY)
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY** (Office of Indian Energy)



**LEARN MORE**  
[www.nrel.gov/about/  
community.html](http://www.nrel.gov/about/community.html)

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**National Renewable Energy Laboratory**  
15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80401  
303-275-3000 • [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)

NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
Operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC

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