

NREL Benefits to Colorado

NREL is a major contributor to Colorado's local economy and a strong supporter of small and women and minority-owned businesses. A generous portion of the Laboratory's funding — more than half — is dispersed within the state through salaries, research grants and procurement of services.

NREL's 2005 Fiscal Year Contribution to Colorado's Economy

Payroll	\$70 million
Contracts with Colorado businesses and universities	\$16 million
Other expenditures	\$42 million
Total Colorado benefit	\$128 million

The Laboratory's education and community service programs also benefit Colorado's citizens. Education programs reach more than 25,000 teachers, students and consumers annually.

The Renewable Energy and Efficiency Education on Wheels (RnE²EW) program takes energy education to schools and consumers.

This year, NREL and its staff contributed about \$135,000 to charitable organizations in the area. And through NREL's Community Crews program, staff volunteers implement free energy and environment-related improvements for local organizations.

In 2005, NREL helped design and build the first-ever "Net Zero Energy" Habitat for Humanity house in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.



NREL's Visitors Center offers consumer information, exhibits and student tours. It is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For information call 303-384-6565.



Renewable Energy and Efficiency Education on Wheels is a mobile showcase of energy technologies. For information call 303-275-3660.

Location

NREL's 327-acre site is in Golden, Colorado, just west of Denver. The Laboratory also operates the National Wind Technology Center on 307 acres about 20 miles north of Golden.



National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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The U.S. Department of Energy's
primary laboratory for renewable
energy and energy efficiency
research and development



NREL is a U.S. Department of Energy
Laboratory operated by Midwest
Research Institute and Battelle

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

was established by the Solar Energy Research Development and Demonstration Act of 1974. Originally called the Solar Energy Research Institute, NREL began operating in July 1977 and was designated a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in September 1991.

NREL develops renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices, advances related science and engineering, and transfers knowledge and innovations to address the nation's energy and environmental goals.

NREL's vision, in partnership with its stakeholders, is to lead the nation on the path to energy security, reliability, and reduced environmental impact. As such, NREL will set the standard for others and be the preeminent institution for advancing innovative renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies from concept to adoption.

The United States is the world's largest consumer of energy. Its dependence on foreign oil has continued to increase. As the nation seeks new domestic sources of energy, one energy option is development of technologies to harvest our abundant renewable energy resources.

A diverse, indigenous energy resource base that is integrated with a new generation of more efficient energy systems will support strong economic growth, a cleaner environment, and help secure our energy future.

Major Research Areas

NREL's renewable energy and energy efficiency research ranges from fundamental science to technology solutions.

Renewable Energy

- Biomass (biorefineries, biosciences)
- Geothermal
- Solar (photovoltaics, concentrating solar power and solar thermal)
- Wind

Energy Efficiency

- Advanced Vehicle Technologies and Fuels (hybrid vehicles, fuels utilization)
- Basic Energy Science (new materials, chemical and biological sciences)
- Building Technologies (building efficiency, zero energy buildings)
- Energy Analysis

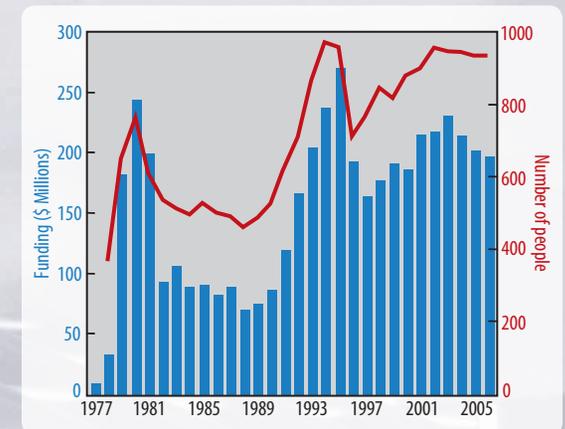
Energy Delivery and Storage

- Distributed Energy (distribution and interconnection, thermal systems, superconductivity)
- Hydrogen and Fuel Cells (production, storage, delivery and end use)

Funding and Staffing

NREL's funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 was \$196 million. The majority of the Laboratory's funding comes from the DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

NREL staff totals approximately 1250 people, including post doctoral researchers, graduate students, and interns. Forty-four percent of the regular staff have advanced degrees, and twenty-four percent have doctoral degrees.



NREL FY 2006 Program Portfolio \$195.9 Million

