

# AzCaNE | CENTER FOR AN ARIZONA CARBON-NEUTRAL ECONOMY

## Clean Fuels Development in the Southwest and Related Topics

# ROUNDTABLE AGENDA 27 MAY 2025

## Short Round the Room Introductions

Name, Company, Where you sit in the value chain

## Discussion Topic:

**Reading the Signals: What's Happening and What's Next?**

Recent Headlines in Clean Energy, Clean Hydrogen, and Innovation Across Arizona and Beyond

## Roundtable Prompts

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In the spirit of **co-opetition**, the Industry Roundtable aims to build community and establish a shared understanding of challenges, opportunities, gaps, and needs for a **commercially viable clean hydrogen economy in the Southwest** and related means to achieve deep decarbonization

# ROUNDTABLE 27 MAY 2025

## Roundtable Prompts

- What signals in the headlines stand out to you—and why?
- What nuances might you add to any of the headlines?
- Do you see trends emerging?
- Where do you see opportunities to align efforts or fill gaps across public, private, and community actors?
- What signals or data points are you watching to anticipate where momentum is building—or faltering?"
- How do we move from reacting to headlines to shaping them?



## DISCUSSION TOPIC

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# La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act – Summary

- Federal legislation introduced in both House (H.R. 1043) and Senate (S. 909) in early 2025.
- Aims to transfer ~3,400 acres of federal land to La Paz County to support utility-scale solar development.
- Sponsored by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) – reflects bipartisan support.
- House version passed committee markup in April 2025; Senate version still in committee.
- No full chamber vote yet, but potential exists for passage, especially as part of a larger public lands package.

## ENVIRONMENT

# **Solar energy bills target Arizona's La Paz County, with bipartisan support in Congress**

**Austin Corona** Arizona Republic

March 13, 2025, 5:00 a.m. MT

# Arizona's Clean Energy Surge



- Strata Clean Energy broke ground on the 150 MW / 600 MWh Justice Energy Storage project
- Project located in Maricopa County with a planned operational date in 2026.
- Battery system will deliver 4 hours of capacity and help stabilize the regional grid.
- Expected to support reliability as more solar is added to the system.
- Part of Strata's broader portfolio of 8.4 GWh of storage under development across the U.S.

Strata Clean Energy Starts Building  
600 MWh Justice Energy Storage  
Project Near Phoenix

By S.S. Dev - 21st April 2025

# Copia Power Secures \$1.71B for Arizona Energy Center



- Copia Power, a Carlyle portfolio company, closed a US\$1.71 billion debt facility in March 2025.
- Funding will support construction of the Maricopa Energy Centre Projects in Maricopa County, Arizona.
- The energy center includes 550 MW of solar generation and 2,200 MWh of battery energy storage capacity.
- One of the largest clean energy financings in the U.S. to date, supporting Arizona's growing clean energy infrastructure.



# EPA Proposes CO<sub>2</sub> Well Permitting Authority for Arizona

- In March 2025, the EPA proposed granting Arizona 'primacy' to oversee carbon dioxide injection wells.
- Primacy would allow the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to issue permits for Class VI wells used in carbon capture and storage (CCS).
- Supporters say it could streamline the permitting process and encourage CCS development across the state.

ENERGY WIRE

## EPA proposes granting Arizona permitting power for CO<sub>2</sub> wells

By Ian M. Stevenson | 05/16/2025 06:38 AM EDT

Arizona would be the fifth state to gain "primacy" over the permitting of wells used to inject carbon dioxide underground.



EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has directed his agency to "fast-track" states' requests for authority over injection wells. Francis Chung/POLITICO



**California Launches Nation's First Public Hydrogen Utility**

May 6, 2025



By JAKE BANKS

# California Launches First Public Hydrogen Utility

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- On May 5, 2025, California launched the nation's first public hydrogen utility: First Public Hydrogen (FPH2).
- Rowland Water District in Los Angeles County is the founding member of this Joint Powers Authority.
- FPH2 unites public agencies and hydrogen producers to accelerate clean hydrogen deployment.
- The initiative aims to develop, purchase, and distribute hydrogen fuel—particularly for transportation and municipal uses.

# Cobalt Processing Facility to Launch in Arizona

- EVelution Energy plans to begin construction of a cobalt processing facility in Yuma County in late 2025
- Once completed, it will be the only cobalt processing plant in the U.S., strengthening domestic supply chains
- Cobalt is a critical mineral used in EV batteries, aerospace components, and defense technologies
- The project supports efforts to reduce dependence on foreign critical mineral supply, particularly from China and the DRC



*Arizona facility to process cobalt, a critical mineral for tech, is about to launch*



**Sarah Lapidus**  
Arizona Republic  
April 11, 2025, 5:02 a.m. MT

# South32 Breaks Ground on Centro in Nogales

- On April 30, 2025, South32 broke ground on Centro, a remote operations center in Nogales, Arizona.
- Centro will support advanced automation and safety systems for the Hermosa Project, enhancing sustainable mining practices.
- The facility is designed to bring high-skilled, well-paying jobs to Santa Cruz County, while fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce.
- Centro demonstrates South32's commitment to local economic development, innovation, and community engagement in mining.



# Thank you for Listening



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Tucson Electric Power



SOUTHWEST GAS



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Thank you for your participation

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