

# Ohio lands projects as part of new Appalachian federal ‘clean hydrogen hub’

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WASHINGTON, D. C. - President Joe Biden on Friday will announce selection of seven regional “clean hydrogen hubs” across the United States, including an Appalachian regional hub that will include projects in Ohio, West Virginia and southwest Pennsylvania, White House officials said Thursday.

Biden and Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm will visit Philadelphia to announce \$7 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for the hubs. The Energy Department said each hub will create “networks of hydrogen producers, consumers, and local connective infrastructure to accelerate the use of hydrogen as a clean energy carrier that can deliver or store tremendous amounts of energy.”

White House officials estimated the hubs together will produce 3 million tons of hydrogen per year, and reduce the nation’s yearly carbon emissions by an amount equivalent to the combined annual emissions of 5.5 million gasoline powered cars. The hydrogen is expected to replace fossil fuels as a way to power factories.

The seven selected regional clean hydrogen hubs will catalyze more than \$40 billion in private investment and create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs throughout the country, bringing the total public and private investment in hydrogen hubs to nearly \$50 billion, the White House said.

The Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen (ARCH2) hub centered around the Ohio River Valley will create 18,000 construction jobs and 3,000 permanent jobs , White House officials predicted. They said it would take advantage of the region’s bountiful natural gas, and provide hydrogen to the nation’s industrial heartland. It will get up to \$925 million in federal money.

Its strategic location and the development of hydrogen pipelines, multiple hydrogen fueling stations, and permanent CO2 storage also have the potential to drive down the cost of hydrogen distribution and storage, a White House announcement said.

It will include projects in Ohio’s Ashtabula, Canton and Hopedale, Pennsylvania’s La Belle and West Keating Township, and West Virginia’s Belle, Follansbee, Washington, North Point Pleasant and Fairmont, White House officials said.

There will also be hubs in the Mid-Atlantic region, California, the Pacific northwest, along the Gulf coast, in the Dakotas and Minnesota, and in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.