

U.S. Department of Energy FY2026 Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Funding Overview

The **Fuel Cell & Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA)** is the only industry trade association that advocates for annual appropriations and funding for DOE's hydrogen and fuel cell research and development (R&D) programs. After another concerted effort by FCHEA, the **FY2026** DOE Budget reinstated initial proposed cuts and collectively included more than **\$250 million** for hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

DOE's hydrogen and fuel cell work extends across a range of Program Offices and Agencies, National Laboratories, academic institutions, and public-private partnerships, and has been integral in overall industry advancement across multiple sectors. R&D and deployment projects supported by DOE investment, with cost-share from the private sector, have provided a strong return, leading to an expansive portfolio of commercial products and deployments.

The **Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Office (HFTO)** in the newly reorganized **Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI)** was allocated **\$160 million** to support hydrogen R&D for the transportation, industrial, and power sectors. Specific funding directives include:

- **\$20 million** for blended hydrogen-natural gas pilot sites
- **\$15 million** for technology validation in rural areas, small ports, and cold climates
- **\$10 million** for hydrogen production, storage tanks, delivery systems, and pipelines
- **\$8 million** for aviation-grade technology for aircrafts

Other HFTO focus areas outlined: cost and performance of hydrogen production and storage materials, components, and systems, and hydrogen for medium- and heavy-duty transportation.

The **Bioenergy Technologies Office** in CMEI will receive **\$5 million** for R&D for clean hydrogen, syngas, and renewable natural gas conversion and purification, and is also directed to develop sustainable aviation fuel feedstock using hydrogen-based e-fuels.

The **Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO)**, which houses DOE's fossil-based hydrogen and fuel cell activities, is slated to receive **\$92.5 million** for FY2026.

This includes **\$12.5 million** for the **Natural Gas Infrastructure and Hydrogen Technologies Program** for R&D on production, storage, transport, and utilization of hydrogen and carbon capture technologies. Directives include an industry-led collaboration on underground hydrogen storage and a demonstration project using byproduct water from oil and gas extraction to produce hydrogen.

\$80 million is for the **Fossil Energy Based Production, Storage, Transport and Utilization of Hydrogen Program** in the Advanced Energy Systems Program.

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The **Fossil Energy Based Production, Storage, Transport and Utilization of Hydrogen Program** includes activities focusing on:

- Net-Zero or Negative Carbon Hydrogen Production from Modular Gasification and Co-Gasification or Mixed Wastes
- Biomass, and Traditional Feedstocks
- Solid Oxide Electrolysis Cell Technology Development
- Carbon Capture
- Advanced Turbines
- Natural Gas-Based Hydrogen Production
- Hydrogen Pipeline Infrastructure
- Subsurface Hydrogen Storage

Carbon capture and reforming, pyrolysis, and direct hydrogen production with chemical looping are other technologies the program is directed to support.

In addition to the funding and directives for DOE program offices, more than **\$12 million** was allocated in the budget for hydrogen and fuel cell R&D at academic institutions in four states:

- **\$5,000,000** - University of Delaware
- **\$6,560,000** - Kansas University
- **\$400,000** - New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- **\$233,000** - West Virginia University

DOE's funding of hydrogen and fuel cell R&D is vital to assure the advancement of American technology and U.S. competitiveness in the global energy arena. FCHEA will continue to work with Congress, the Administration and relevant agencies, industry, academia, and allied sectors to ensure DOE funding is secure and utilized in the most efficient and cost-effective way to advance hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in the U.S. and around the world.