



“What really puts Wyoming out front is the fact that we all have jobs, we all represent people and we can talk to those people not from the position of being a professional politician but from being a member of the community, a member of the school board, somebody who has children in schools, somebody who has a grandparent or a parent that may be in care.”

— Gov. Mark Gordon, April 2021, on the what he called “one of the most cherished traditions of Wyoming’s legislature.”

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Wyoming

Pop. (2021): 596,471
Median household income (2021): \$64,546
Credit Rating: AA / Stable

Pop. growth 2021–2026: 0.4%
Median age (2021): 38.6
Right-to-work state: Yes

Legislative Update

The general session ended in April with a supplemental budget bill that included \$430 million in cuts. The budget restores \$8 million in funding to the University of Wyoming and the state’s community colleges to support the Governor’s Wyoming Innovation Network initiative. ARPA funding of \$27 million will help cover the first year of the newly launched Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP), which supports the economic vision set forth by the Wyoming Business Council and supports education attainment goals developed by the state.

Gov. Mark Gordon signed a bill that prohibits financial institutions from discriminating against firearms manufacturers. In June, he and Secretary of State Ed Buchanan sent a letter to the National Rifle Association (NRA) inviting the NRA to explore relocation of its Virginia operation to Wyoming.

An effort to eliminate tax exemptions for new wind energy projects did not move forward. Neither did efforts to create an I-80 tolling program, a half-penny for education sales tax or a higher fuel tax. One new law gives municipalities more flexibility in seeking voter approval of municipal sales taxes.



Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2021–2022: 0



49th

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure in \$000s: 112,857



32nd

Number of NCRs: 10,400 | Percent Improvement 2020–2021: 3.24%



26th

2021 Workers’ Comp Index Rate: 1.44



11th

Industrial power cost per kWh: \$6.47



3rd

Total Revenue as Share of Total Expenses, FY 2004–2019: 122.8%

PROJECT WATCH

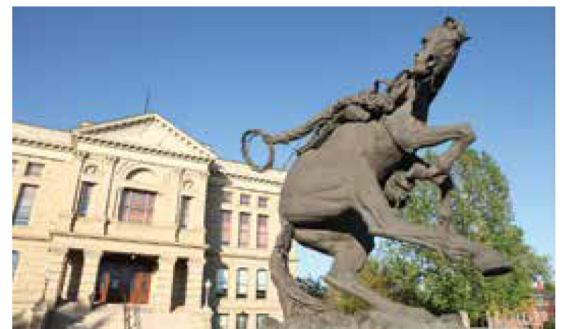
It’s only right that a state known for powering the nation with its coal, oil and gas production — and with the fiscal surplus to prove it — would be pushing the envelope when it comes to energy innovation. Two projects from 2021 encapsulate that work.

In April, Wyoming’s Integrated Test Center in Gillette was picked to host one of two projects selected by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for Phase III funding of a large-scale pilot carbon capture project. Membrane Technology and Research (MTR) was awarded \$51.7 million from DOE, and with additional non-federal funding, the project will bring over \$64 million in research dollars into Wyoming.

“This is exactly the type of research that was envisioned when the ITC was developed,” said Gov. Mark Gordon, “and Wyoming will continue to support these efforts. This is also an example of technology that, if commercially successful, can be exported for carbon capture projects at home or abroad. The more carbon capture technologies that are available, the more likely it is that Wyoming coal will be an important part of our future electricity supply.”

New-generation nuclear could be part of that new era of power generation too. In June, TerraPower and PacifiCorp announced efforts to advance a Sodium reactor demonstration project at a retiring coal plant in Wyoming. The companies are evaluating several potential locations in the state, with an announcement expected by year’s end.

“Siting a Sodium advanced reactor at a retiring Wyoming coal plant could ensure that a formerly



Cheyenne, Wyoming

Photo: Getty Images

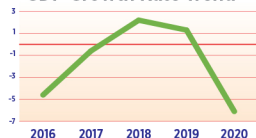
productive coal generation site continues to produce reliable power for our customers,” said Gary Hoozeven, president and CEO of Rocky Mountain Power, a business unit of PacifiCorp.

“The Sodium technology was designed to solve a challenge utilities face as they work to enhance grid reliability and stability while meeting decarbonization and emissions-reduction goals,” said Chris Levesque, president and CEO of TerraPower. The company in 2020 was awarded \$80 million in DOE funding to demonstrate the Sodium technology.

“I have always supported an all-of-the-above energy portfolio for our electric utilities,” said Gov. Gordon. “Our state continues to pave the way for the future of energy, and Wyoming should be the place where innovative energy technologies are taken to commercialization.”

GDP
49th

GDP Growth Rate Trend



2020 GDP
(in millions of current US\$)
\$36,257

CASPER, WY IS FOR INNOVATORS

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thriving BioMed & BioTech entrepreneurial industry,
and progressive industry diversification
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PERSONAL INCOME TAXES**

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READY SITES**

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DEVELOPMENT**

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