



**“Washington businesses are known for innovation, which we see in every corner of the state. Whether it’s using recycled steel to make rebar or opening a cross-laminated timber mill, our state is uniquely positioned to show what’s possible, and to reward that ingenuity.”**

— Gov. Jay Inslee, March 8, 2023, following the White House’s announcement of new actions to advance a cleaner industrial sector.

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# Washington

Pop. (2023): 7,962,223  
Median household income (2023): \$89,067  
Credit Rating: AA+ / Stable

Pop. growth 2023–2028: 0.58%  
Median age (2023): 39.3  
Right-to-work state: No

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Gov. Jay Inslee signed a variety of bills to support Washington’s clean energy transition. HB 1216 established the Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council, which is dedicated to consolidating the siting and permitting processes for clean energy projects. It also requires the Department of Commerce to create a new program for the designation of Clean Energy Projects of Statewide Significance (CEPSS) in order to expedite the development of specific projects. HB 1416 ensures that clean electricity is used even when large industrial customers use out-of-state suppliers for their electricity.

In May, state lawmakers passed a bill that provides support and resources for companies seeking to become employee-owned. Senate Bill 5096 created the Washington Employee Ownership program, a revolving loan program to help small businesses transition into co-ops, employee ownership trusts (EOT) and employee stock ownership plans (ESOP). This bill also established a tax credit of up to 50% of the first \$100,000 for ESOPs and \$25,000 for co-ops and EOTs.

To help combat Washington’s housing crisis in major cities like Seattle, the legislature passed two bills to expand housing options: HB 110 legalizes fourplexes or duplexes in most communities. HB 1337 lifts numerous construction restrictions and permits two accessory dwelling units per lot.



**35<sup>th</sup>**  
Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2023–2024: -7



**14<sup>th</sup>**  
Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure in \$000s: 1,975,559



**38<sup>th</sup>**  
Number of NCRCs: 6,218 | Percent Improvement 2022–2023: 5.32%



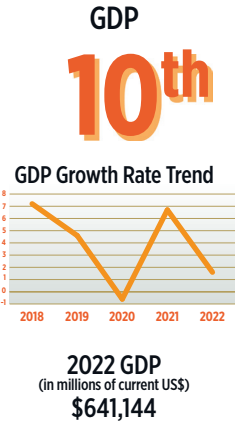
**24<sup>th</sup>**  
2023 Workers’ Comp Index Rate: 1.31



**1<sup>st</sup>**  
Industrial power cost per kWh: \$6.17



**37<sup>th</sup>**  
Total Revenue as Share of Total Expenses, FY 2007–2021: 101.8%



## PROJECT WATCH



Rendering of Sila’s new battery facility in Moses Lake, Washington.  
Rendering courtesy of Sila

**S**ila, a next-generation battery materials company, broke ground on its first auto-scale manufacturing plant in Moses Lake in November. Build-out plans for this project include automotive-scale production lines, high-tech quality systems and enough capacity to serve multiple automotive customers, including Mercedes-Benz.

Following this project’s completion in 2025, Sila will begin to commercially produce its breakthrough Titan Silicon anode for the first time, which delivers a 20% energy density increase over the industry’s best performing graphite cells.

“I’m happy to welcome Sila to Washington and Moses Lake, home to a growing number of clean energy innovators solving some of our biggest challenges in this transition. Producing the best EVs possible is a key piece of that transition and I look forward to seeing Sila’s pioneering work come to fruition,” said Governor Jay Inslee in a press release.

In 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESCC) selected Sila to receive \$100 million grant to accelerate the construction process.

The company has also invested a portion of the funding into partnerships with Big Bend Community College (BBCC) and Columbia Basin Technical Skills Center (CB Tech) to create coursework and dedicated training programs to prepare students for entry-level technical and operations positions. Over the next five years, Sila plans to hire 100-500 full-time employees.



# SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON'S CENTER FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION



## WORKFORCE

An eager and educated workforce with an unemployment rate of 5.4%



## ADVANTAGES

An R&D hub, home to trade schools, apprenticeship programs, college campuses and a national laboratory



## LOGISTICS

Over 3,000 acres of available industrial property, served by two Class 1 railroads



## RESOURCES

97.2% Sustainably sourced affordable nuclear, hydro, and wind energy

▶▶▶ **\$21 less expensive per square foot than Puget Sound**

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