In early 2009, the National Hydropower Association commissioned Navigant Consulting, Inc., to conduct a study examining the hydropower industry’s job-creation and capacity-growth potential.

Navigant's assessment confirmed what Energy Secretary Stephen Chu recently described as an “incredible opportunity” to develop America’s “lowest-cost energy option.”

The results demonstrate the industry’s extraordinary potential to expand its contribution to the country’s energy, environmental, and economic goals: Hydropower can create 1.4 million cumulative jobs and add 60,000 megawatts of affordable, domestic, renewable energy by 2025.

The study examined the industry’s potential under two different scenarios:

- “Business as usual” where national policies mandate 10% renewable generation
- “Accelerated case” with a 25% renewable generation requirement

Both scenarios also assume existing federal and state incentives for renewable energy development, such as tax incentives and state RES programs, remain in place.

Under both scenarios, the U.S. hydropower industry has the potential for developing significant new clean energy resources and creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying, family-supporting new jobs:
Technologies

America’s largest renewable resource, hydropower is a proven technology. Leading the growth in the industry are new innovations at existing hydro sites, new applications at non-powered dams and pumped storage—often without large new dams.

Capacity Growth by Technology

- Efficiency improvement: 8,900 MW
- Non-powered dams: 10,000 MW
- Tidal: 4,000 MW
- Wave: 9,000 MW
- Pumped storage: 24,000 MW
- Hydrokinetics: 2,000 MW
- Ocean current: 750 MW

Growth by 2025 under accelerated scenario, all technologies

Capacity Growth by Region

Every state has potential sites that will create new capacity

All Regions Benefit

New technologies are unlocking the waterpower potential of every region of the country.

As new technologies become available, the U.S. hydropower industry will consider development at additional environmentally and economically feasible sites.

Every state has potential sites that will create new capacity
Nationwide job growth

The U.S. hydropower industry will create new, family-supporting jobs in every region of the country.

More than 1.4 million domestic jobs will be created by 2025.

Job Growth by Region

The U.S. hydropower industry can create 1.4 million jobs (cumulative) by 2025.