



Industrial Demonstrations Program – Advanced Copper Recycling Facility

The Industrial Demonstrations Program, managed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), aims to accelerate decarbonization projects in energy-intensive industries and provide American manufacturers a competitive advantage in the race to lead the world in low- and net-zero carbon emissions manufacturing. To advance industrial decarbonization, OCED sought applications for up to \$6 billion in funding to support the demonstration of transformational technologies necessary to reduce emissions in the U.S. industrial sector. Following negotiations, in January 2025, OCED awarded the Advanced Copper Recycling Facility project with more than \$800,000 to begin Phase 1 of the project, located in Shelbyville, KY.



Awardee Fact Sheet

Industrial Demonstrations Program:

Advanced Copper Recycling Facility

Project at a Glance — Phase 1

- » **Total OCED Cost Share:** Up to \$270 million
- » **Phase 1 Total Project Amount:** \$1,754,500*
- » **Phase 1 OCED Award Amount:** \$874,500**
- » **Phase 1 Scope of Work:** Planning, permitting, design, community engagement, and other development activities
- » **Phase 1 Timeline:** 10 months
- » **Recipient:** Wieland North America Recycling LLC is a company that offers recycling related services to industrial clients throughout North America
- » **Project Locations:** Shelbyville, KY
- » **Start Date:** January 2025

*Represents the total project cost for Phase 1.

**Represents OCED's cost share for Phase 1. Additional funding for this project is subject to future award negotiations at the end of each project phase.

About This Project

The Advanced Copper Recycling Facility project, led by Wieland North America Recycling LLC (Wieland), plans to expand its U.S. recycling capacity and capabilities through significant investments into advanced state-of-the-art copper scrap metal processing technology in Shelbyville, KY. This project would enable the recycling of a diverse mix of copper scrap and other metals, turning it into high-purity copper-derived products suitable to support multiple applications, including electric vehicles and semiconductors. This endeavor aims to significantly reduce carbon emissions, potentially establishing the lowest carbon footprint globally for high-end copper applications. Beyond facilitating the recycling of a broad variety of copper scrap, the project intends to increase the resilience of the U.S. copper supply chain as global copper demand is expected to almost double

by 2035, driven by trends including electric vehicle adoption, connected smart electronic devices, and the broader automation, electrification, and digitization of industry.

During Phase 1 of the project, Wieland plans to conduct planning, design, and benefits analysis, provide documentation and reports necessary for OCED to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, and conduct initial engagements with community and labor stakeholders.

OCED will provide oversight of the Advanced Copper Recycling Facility project by evaluating the status and quality of implementation at each phase of the project. Through its phased approach to project management oversight, OCED will review and evaluate the project's progress, including community benefits, which impact OCED's decision to continue to provide federal funding and allow a project to progress to the following phase.

Advanced Copper Recycling Facility

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Project Site

The Advanced Copper Recycling Facility project would be located at a recycling facility in Shelbyville, KY.

Community Benefits Commitments

Community benefits commitments are a key component of the Advanced Copper Recycling Facility project. The commitments are informed and developed—in consultation with local communities—to maximize local community benefits and mitigate potential negative impacts. Wieland plans to implement these commitments through:

- **Creating approximately 130 permanent jobs** through the phases of its development, fostering sustainable economic growth within the community, and prioritizing local hires.
- **Developing an internship program for students** to provide a pathway to advanced manufacturing jobs and improve workforce development in disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.
- **Utilizing an existing Community Advisory Board** to promote a two-way dialogue with the local community to foster collaboration, understanding, and mutual benefit.
- **Pursuing a Community Benefits Agreement** to ensure accountability in terms of community benefits and a sufficiently skilled and trained workforce.
- **Engaging with labor and community groups** (e.g., building trades, local universities and community colleges) to explore the potential use of negotiated agreements for construction.
- Supporting the Justice40 initiative by **completing a Justice40 assessment and implementation strategy** during each phase and fostering equitable pathways for employment and opportunities for underrepresented businesses.
- **Quantifying air quality impacts** for any relevant air pollutants emitted, or expected to be emitted, from the project.
- **Sharing project information publicly** to support engagement, accountability, and transparency.

More details on the Advanced Copper Recycling Facility project's community benefits commitments can be found in the [Community Benefits Commitments Summary](#).



Aerial view of a Wieland facility

Advanced Copper Recycling Facility

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Industrial Demonstrations Program Goals

U.S. industry is a backbone of the nation's economy, producing the goods critical to everyday life, employing millions of Americans in high-quality jobs, and providing an economic anchor for thousands of communities. Yet the sector's energy- and carbon-intensity contributes to nearly one third of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions, representing a unique and complex challenge to achieving a carbon-free economy. Decarbonizing the U.S. industrial sector will require equally unique and innovative technological solutions that leverage multiple pathways, including energy efficiency, electrification, and alternative fuels and feedstocks such as clean hydrogen. The Industrial Demonstrations Program includes new, emerging technologies that aim to help produce clean steel, cement, chemicals, and other materials used in our nation's roads, bridges, transmission lines, electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbines, and everyday lives, which in turn, benefit every American.



Scraps of copper are organized together

Contact

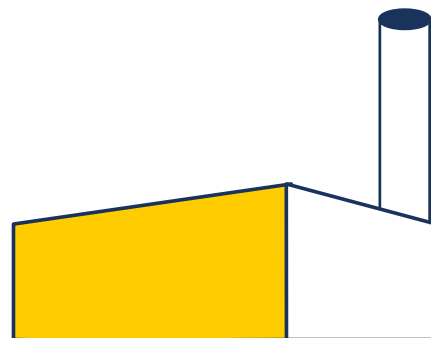
Program Email: engage_industrialdemos@hq.doe.gov

OCED Media Email: OCEDNewsroom@hq.doe.gov

More Resources

Website: energy.gov/oced/IDP

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations: energy.gov/oced



The U.S. Department of Energy established OCED to help scale the emerging technologies needed to tackle our most pressing climate challenges and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. OCED's mission is to deliver clean energy demonstration projects at scale in partnership with the private sector to accelerate deployment, market adoption, and the equitable transition to a decarbonized energy system.