MINNESOTA | star of the north

Minnesota is a strong performer in renewable energy and smart mobility. The state generates a significant share of its electricity from renewable sources and operates one of the nation's largest community solar programs. It also has a growing number of electric vehicles and continues to expand its statewide charging network, supported by long-term clean energy and transportation goals.

Minnesota's economy is anchored by a strong corporate presence, a culture of innovation, and a high quality of life, supported by numerous major companies, a robust research and development ecosystem, and a long record of technological advancement. These strengths, paired with a consistently high standard of living, make Minnesota a stable and forward-looking place for people and businesses alike.

Minnesota's Smart Mobility Industry

Minnesota is committed to developing, building and promoting sustainable solutions. The state views electric vehicles and smart mobility as a key solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

INDUSTRY PLAYERS

Renowned transportation companies headquartered or operating in the state include:

- **3M** (sensors, tools, sealants, filters)
- **Polaris** (ATVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles)
- **Arctic Cat** (ATVs, snowmobiles)
- **New Flyer Industries** (low emissions transit buses)
- **Honeywell Aerospace** (aerospace)
- **Collins Aerospace** (aerospace)
- **Cirrus Design Corp** (aerospace)
- **Tesla** (electric vehicles dealership)
- **Perbix** (engineering outpost for Tesla)
- **Skywater** and **Polar** (semiconductor)
- **ZEF Energy** (smart EV chargers)
- **Rosenbauer** (RT Electric Fire Trucks)
- **Stratasys** (3D printed components)
- **Zeus** (electric truck chassis manufacturer)
- **Automotive Enviro Testing** (low temperature test facility year round)

MINNESOTA RANKINGS

#2
FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES PER CAPITA
(AMONG 30 LARGEST METRO AREAS)

#2
COMMUNITY SOLAR SATURATION
(WATTS PER PERSON)
(INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF RELIANCE, 2025)

#4
QUALITY OF LIFE
(CNBC, 2025)

#5
INVENTION PATENTS PER 1 MILLION PEOPLE
(U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, 2025)

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV)

Over 82,000 registered electric vehicles (Feb 2026):

- **Nearly 58,300 battery electric vehicles.**
- **More than 23,700 plug-in vehicles.**
- Nearly 603,300 EV projected by 2030.

GLOBAL IMPACT

- **Exports of $2.8 billion in smart mobility components** (electrical, electronic and vehicle) in 2025, up 42% since 2020 (adjusted for inflation).
- **Ranked 12th among states**, up from 15th in 2020.
- **Top markets: Mexico, Thailand and Canada.**

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

(select examples)

- EV rebate: Consumer **rebates of up to $2,500 for new EVs and $600 for used vehicles** (MN Department of Commerce).
- EV charger grants: **Grants of up to $150,000 for the installation of public direct-current (DC) fast chargers** (MN Pollution Control Agency).
- **Ability to power an EV with 100% wind energy for the lifetime of the vehicle** (Great River Energy's Revolt initiative customers).

EDUCATION

(select examples)

- University of Minnesota: MN Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Program (MnCAV): It uses a **sensor-equipped autonomous vehicle (LiDAR, cameras, GPS)** for advanced research, including **2024-2026 experiments on 5G-enabled remote driving (teleoperation).**
- Community colleges offering autonomous/EV programs include Riverland Community College, Anoka Technical College, MN State College SE and many more.

ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER (OEM) SUPPLIERS

(select examples)

- **Zeus Electric Chassis**
  A leading Minnesota-based EV OEM that **designs and manufactures Class 4–6 electric work truck chassis for commercial fleets.**
- **Niron Magnetics** manufactures **advanced permanent magnets for electric motors**, a critical EV component.
- **EI Microcircuits provides electronics manufacturing, sensors, and control systems** used in autonomous and connected vehicles.

INCUBATORS/ACCELERATORS

(select examples)

- University of Minnesota Technology Commercialization
- Finnovation Lab
- MNSBIR
- Cleantech Open Midwest
- TechStars
- MnCAV (Collaborative effort): University of MN, MNDoT, Minnesota Innovation Alliance Minnesota CAV Challenge
- Grid Catalyst
- Beta.MN
- IgniteMN (Southwest region)

RENEWABLE POWER CAPACITY

- **# 9 in wind energy production.**
- **# 10th for overall energy efficiency.**
- **Clean power share:** 31% vs. 19% nationwide.
- **6,734 MW**, operating wind, solar and energy storage.
- Workforce of **24,700 workers.**
- **52% emission reductions since 2005**, compared to 38% nationwide.

Sources: Cleanpower.org, 2025; The Business Council for Sustainable Energy, 2025 MN Energy Fact Sheet.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES PILOT PROJECTS:

(select examples)

- **GoMARTI self-driving shuttle in rural Minnesota.**
- **Smart snowplow and winter-driving assistance** (University of Minnesota).
- **Rochester "Med City Mover" Autonomous Shuttle.**
- **MnDOT Autonomous Work Zone Truck Pilot:** Explores operational implications of autonomous vehicles in the state.

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