

# VIEWES & VISIONS

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# Country Roads Lead to Energy Innovations



**Alicia Knapp**  
BHE Renewables

Alicia Knapp serves as President and CEO of BHE Renewables. BHE Renewables owns solar, wind, geothermal, natural gas, and hydro projects that produce energy for both the wholesale market and for customers under long-term power purchase agreements. She has been with the Berkshire Hathaway Energy family of businesses since 2001 and has held roles in risk management, energy trading, renewable energy project development, and gas delivery. Knapp currently serves on the board of directors for The Kraft Heinz Company. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics and master's degree in business administration from the University of Iowa.

Beyond its country roads and natural beauty, West Virginia has always been known for being a leading energy producer for our nation.



State Senator Glenn Jeffries initially highlighted the Mountain State's rich history in a letter he penned to Berkshire Hathaway Chairman, Warren Buffett. This letter immediately prompted our interest and initiated our evaluation of areas of the state in which Berkshire Hathaway Energy could make a significant impact. Ultimately, all roads led to Jackson County, where BHE Renewables, a Berkshire Hathaway Energy business, is working to build a first-of-its-kind microgrid powered by renewable energy resources. Affectionately referred to within BHE Renewables as Ravenswood, this project will soon return major manufacturers to the former site of the Century Aluminum plant.

At BHE Renewables, we couldn't be more excited to be part of the revitalization of the Mid-Ohio Valley, as well as the powering of West Virginia's energy future.

Governor Jim Justice and the West Virginia Legislature, we hope to have this first-of-its-kind energy project – on more than 2,000 acres of industrial land – up and operational in Jackson County by the end of 2024.

Many doubters and naysayers have said that renewable energy projects such as this can't and won't be done in rural locations. In our minds, Appalachia is an amazing place to invest in these types of facilities. There are numerous opportunities like this one in West Virginia to repurpose former manufacturing lines and warehouses to build the next generation of clean, renewable energy-producing sites in America.

Projects such as this truly demonstrate how new energy technology and ideas can reinvigorate and retool former manufacturing

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**“We are proud to be a part of the latest energy innovations and investments in West Virginia that will attract the next generation of jobs for Mountain State residents.”**

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The political and business leaders in West Virginia were welcoming and enthusiastic as we explored available business opportunities in West Virginia, and our project wouldn't have been possible without their support. Thanks to the quick and decisive actions of

and energy-producing areas. This site provides an amazing opportunity for us to produce renewable energy and provide it to businesses seeking renewable power generation on site. All told, the dedicated microgrid will be approximately 140 megawatts of solar and 30



megawatts of battery power, and this opportunity has allowed us and the state to attract two other businesses to locate with us in Jackson County, with more to come.

Included on this site will be Precision Castparts Corp. (PCC), a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. business, who will develop a state-of-the-art titanium melt facility. The new plant, which will operate under the PCC subsidiary, Titanium Metals Corporation, Inc., (TIMET), will employ approximately 200 people and expects to use 100% renewable energy to manufacture titanium products for the aerospace and other industries.

To ensure access to solar energy even when the sun doesn't shine, BHE Renewables has selected ONE – Our Next Energy, Inc. – as its partner for large-scale battery storage. ONE isn't just providing the battery storage for the Ravenswood site – they will be joining us at Ravenswood to manufacture batteries

right here in West Virginia. ONE has announced it will build a new Aries Grid factory on the site, bringing an additional \$22 million in investment to the project and generating 105 more jobs. Scheduled to open in 2025, the factory will build Aries Grid utility-scale battery storage systems, using Michigan-made lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery cells.

While we are excited about the hundreds of announced new jobs for the Mid-Ohio Valley and more than \$500 million in investment on the Ravenswood site alone, we are hardly satisfied. BHE Renewables is working with the state to attract additional businesses to the site to benefit from the prime manufacturing location and renewable energy infrastructure. While developing this new site, we will continue to work to attract new business, as well as develop job opportunities to attract West Virginia workers.

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**Alicia Knapp**

## **Country Roads Lead to Energy Innovation**

It's no secret that businesses looking to make significant investments are constantly evaluating what states are doing in terms of their regulations, investments, tax structure and business climate. Access to a wide range of energy resources is also a top priority of companies in the United States and around the world. We are proud to be a part of the latest energy innovations and investments in West Virginia that will attract the next generation of jobs for Mountain State residents.

We are also thrilled with the opportunity to work with the highly skilled and trained workers in West Virginia who want to be a part of this industry. As we build our operations, we will work to recruit and retain workers who might want to move home to West Virginia, as well as those who recently graduated and want to remain in their community. We will partner with local education institutions to market our positions and in some cases, train and re-train the workers we will need moving forward.

We are so proud to be a part of moving this state forward and providing new resources, jobs, and energy in the Mountain State. Country roads will certainly lead to new and innovative energy businesses for the next generation of West Virginians. **W**