Our Affiliate & Research Partners

Ohio's hydrogen and fuel cell ecosystem is strengthened not only by commercial companies but also by a powerful network of universities, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, research laboratories, and industry support groups.
These Affiliate & Research Partners contribute critical expertise in:

- scientific research and testing
- workforce development
- advanced manufacturing
- policy and infrastructure planning
- industry education and outreach
- commercialization and startup support

Together, they help build the foundation that allows hydrogen and fuel cell technologies to grow across Ohio. Each partner listed below plays a distinct role in expanding innovation, talent, and adoption of clean-energy solutions throughout the state and beyond.

Research & Innovation Organizations

BRITE Energy Innovators

BRITE Energy Innovators is a nonprofit accelerator based in Warren, Ohio, supporting early-stage companies developing solutions in hydrogen, fuel cells, energy storage, and other advanced energy technologies. BRITE provides startups with access to laboratory space, testing equipment, expert mentorship, and connections to investors and industry partners. Since its founding, BRITE has helped cultivate a clean energy innovation ecosystem in Ohio by guiding entrepreneurs from concept to commercialization and enabling the growth of new energy technology businesses.

CALSTART

CALSTART is a national nonprofit advancing clean transportation through programs focused on zero-emission vehicles, hydrogen mobility, freight decarbonization, and infrastructure development. They support partners across industry and government in adopting clean mobility solutions and play an important role in shaping policy and strategic planning related to hydrogen readiness nationwide.

NACFE (North American Council for Freight Efficiency)

NACFE evaluates emerging freight-transport technologies and provides independent research to help fleets adopt cleaner, more efficient solutions. Their work includes analysis of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty vehicles, fuel-cell trucks, and low-carbon freight corridors. NACFE's research helps guide companies in making decisions about future hydrogen-powered transportation.

NASA Glenn Research Center

NASA Glenn conducts advanced research in propulsion, materials science, and energy systems, including electrochemical technologies relevant to fuel cells and hydrogen production. Their scientific expertise supports innovation in high-temperature materials, catalysts, and energy-conversion systems. NASA's research contributes significantly to advancements in hydrogen and related clean-energy technologies.

Universities & Academic Partners

Kent State University

Kent State supports hydrogen and fuel-cell education through engineering, materials science, and environmental research programs. Their faculty and students contribute to workforce development aligned with Ohio's growing clean-energy sector. KSU's research capabilities help expand regional innovation and academic engagement in advanced energy technologies.

Case Western Reserve University

Case Western Reserve University is a nationally recognized research institution with strengths in materials science, electrochemistry, and engineering—areas central to fuel-cell and hydrogen development. Their laboratories and faculty researchers contribute foundational discoveries and collaborate with industry on next-generation energy systems.

Cleveland State University

Cleveland State contributes to hydrogen and fuel-cell progress through engineering, applied research, and workforce-training programs. CSU engages students and faculty in projects that support advanced manufacturing and clean-energy innovation across Northeast Ohio.

Ohio State University – IMMR (Institute for Materials & Manufacturing Research)

Ohio State's IMMR and the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) are deeply involved in energy systems, electrification, and hydrogen-related mobility research. Their work spans materials development, system modeling, fuel-cell integration, and zero-emission vehicle technologies. OSU's facilities and expertise significantly advance hydrogen research and workforce development.

Stark State College

Stark State provides a strong technical workforce pipeline for Ohio's energy and manufacturing industries. Their programs in engineering technology, advanced manufacturing, and alternative energy

support the skill sets required for hydrogen system deployment, fuel-cell assembly, and related industrial applications.

University of Toledo

The University of Toledo is known for its research in renewable energy, advanced materials, and clean-technology development. Their work in materials engineering and applied science contributes to innovations relevant to hydrogen production, storage, and fuel-cell technology.

Government & State Partners

Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)

ODOD supports hydrogen innovation through grants, strategic investments, and economic development programs that strengthen Ohio's advanced-energy industries. Their efforts help attract new businesses, grow the supply chain, and build statewide momentum for hydrogen and fuel-cell deployment.