

# JUST THE **FACTS**

## **BHE RENEWABLES – LITHIUM**

### MEETING WORLD DEMAND

Lithium is the key component in lithium-ion batteries that power virtually every cell phone, laptop computer, tablet and electric vehicle. Almost all the global supply is mined in Argentina, Chile, Australia and China. Except for one small site in Nevada, virtually no lithium is produced in the United States.

BHE Renewables is advancing lithium production research, which has potential to provide a major domestic source of lithium, revive the local geothermal power industry and bring new economic opportunities to Imperial Valley communities.



### TIMELINE TO ADVANCING CLEAN ENERGY THROUGH CRITICAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

BHE Renewables won a \$6 million matching grant award from the California Energy Commission in May 2020 to design and build a demonstration project to recover lithium chloride from geothermal brine. The demonstration project is expected to be online in spring 2022.

In January 2021, BHE Renewables won a \$14.9 million matching grant award from the U.S. Department of Energy for a demonstration project to convert lithium chloride into battery-grade lithium hydroxide. This demonstration project is expected to be online in fall 2022. The grant also funds engineering for a full-scale commercial lithium recovery process.

Upon successfully completing the two demonstration projects, the first commercial plant’s construction could begin as soon as 2024, leading to an environmentally-responsible domestic source of lithium. The energy used for lithium production would be 100% renewable.

### ABOUT BHE RENEWABLES

- BHE Renewables encompasses development, operation and commercial management of renewable projects, including solar, wind, geothermal and hydro.
- BHE Renewables has 10 geothermal plants by the Salton Sea, whose wells produce more than 50,000 gallons per minute of geothermal brine.

