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HOT NEW RECRUITS

2 Houston startups selected by US military for geothermal projects

John Egan Apr 24, 2024, 11:21 am



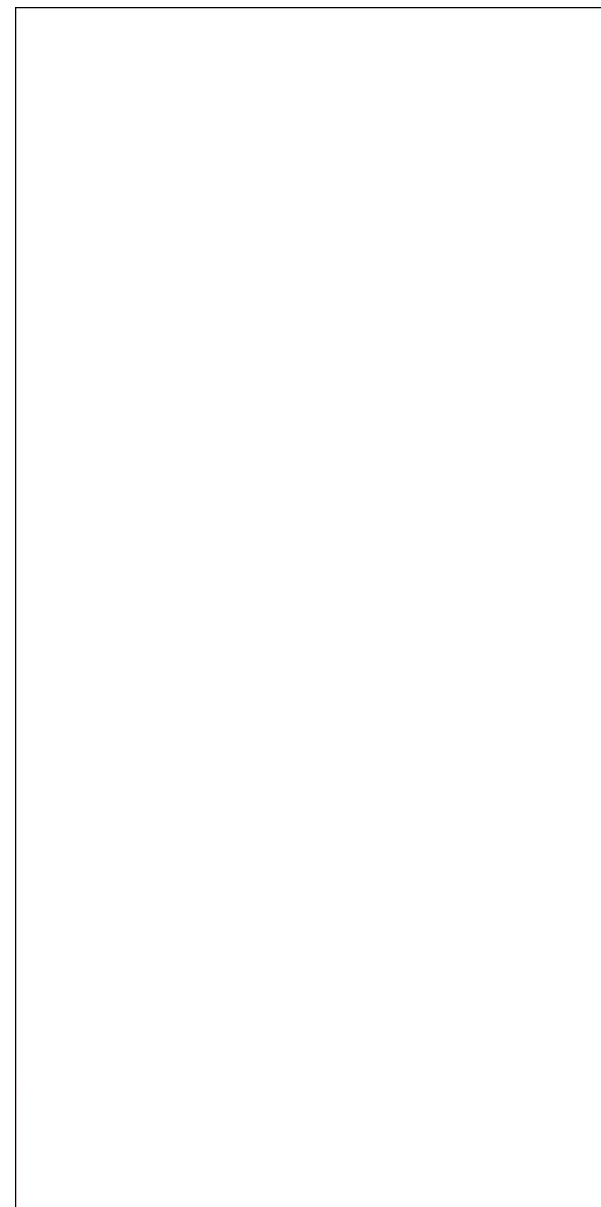
Houston-based companies, Fervo Energy and Sage Geosystems, have been tapped for a new geothermal exploration efforts. *Photo via Getty Images*

Two clean energy companies in Houston have been recruited for geothermal projects at U.S. military installations.

Fervo Energy is exploring the potential for a geothermal energy system at Naval Air Station Fallon in Nevada.

Meanwhile, Sage Geosystems is working on an exploratory geothermal project for the Army's Fort Bliss post in Texas. The Bliss project is the third U.S. Department of Defense geothermal initiative in the Lone Star State.

"Energy resilience for the U.S. military is essential in an increasingly digital and electric world, and we are pleased to help the U.S. Army and [the Defense



TRENDING NEWS

Innovation Unit] to support energy resilience at Fort Bliss,” Cindy Taff, CEO of Sage, says in a [news release](#).

A spokeswoman for Fervo declined to comment.

Andy Sabin, director of the Navy’s Geothermal Program Office, says in a [military news release](#) that previous geothermal exploration efforts indicate the Fallon facility “is ideally suited for enhanced geothermal systems to be deployed onsite.”

As for the Fort Bliss project, Michael Jones, a project director in the Army Office of Energy Initiatives, says it’ll combine geothermal technology with innovations from the oil and gas sector.

“This initiative adds to the momentum of Texas as a leader in the ‘geothermal anywhere’ revolution, leveraging the robust oil and gas industry profile in the state,” says Ken Wisian, associate director of the Environmental Division at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Geology.

The Department of Defense kicked off its geothermal initiative in September 2023. Specifically, the Army, Navy, and Defense Innovation Unit launched four exploratory geothermal projects at three U.S. military installations.

One of the three installations is the Air Force’s Joint Base San Antonio. Canada-based geothermal company Eavor is leading the San Antonio project.

Another geothermal company, Atlanta-based Teverra, was tapped for an exploratory geothermal project at the Army’s Fort Wainwright in Alaska. Teverra maintains an office in Houston.

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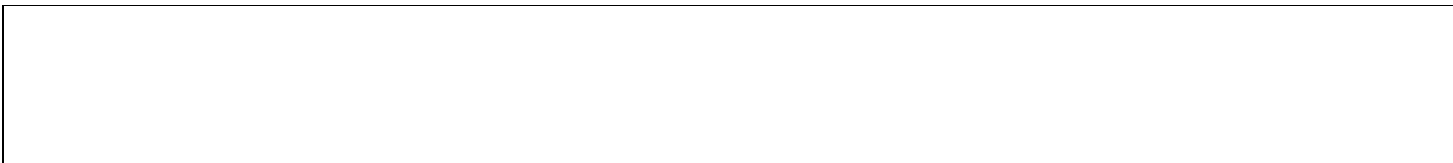
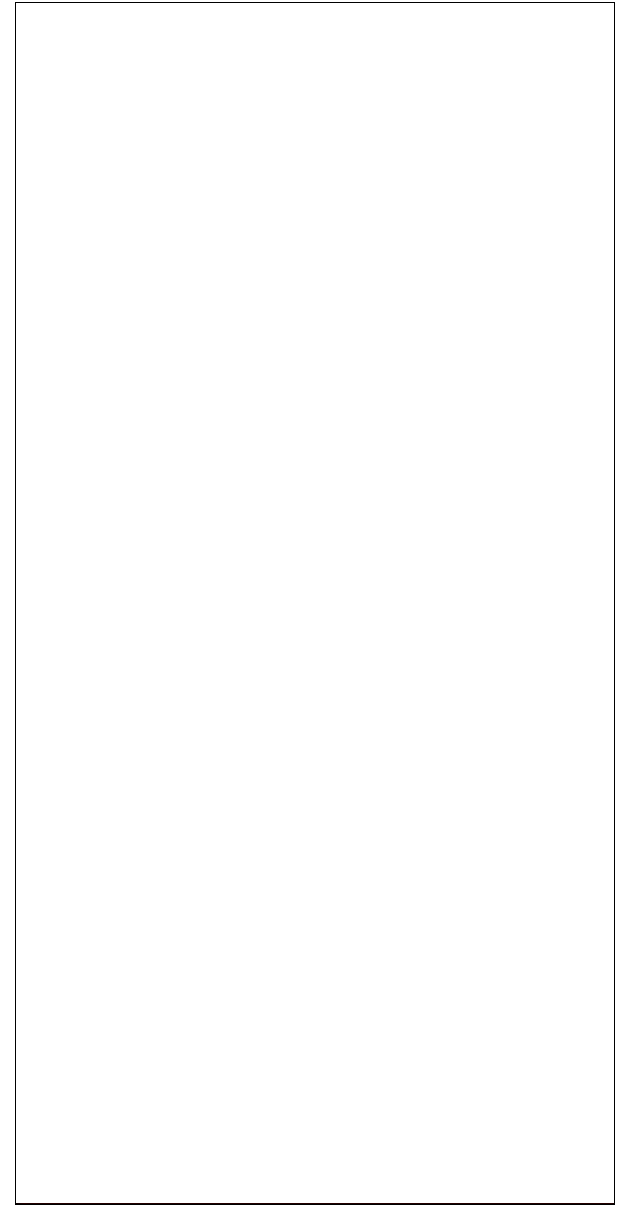
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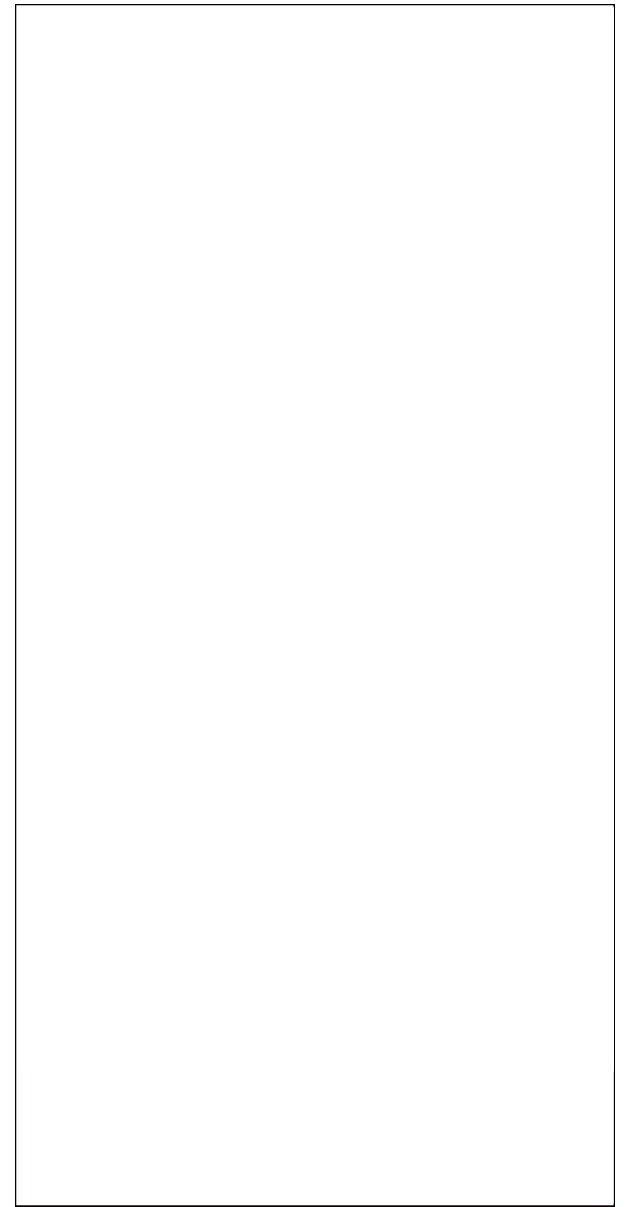


HIGH PRAISE FOR THE 'BURBS

3 affordable Houston neighbors rank among America's 10 safest cities

Amber Heckler, CultureMap Jun 14, 2024, 10:55 am





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League City, Sugar Land, and Pearland were just crowned among the top 10 safest and most affordable cities to live in the U.S. *Photo via Getty Images*

Crime may be a concern for some Houstonians, but life is a little more relaxed just beyond the city limits.

Three Houston-area suburbs - **League City, Sugar Land, and Pearland** - were just crowned among the top 10 safest and most affordable cities to live in the U.S., as declared in a [new report](#) by GoBankingRates.

The study, "50 Safest and Most Affordable US Cities To Live In," ranked the largest U.S. cities by population based on their cost of living and crime rate averages. Crime rates were determined based on the number of crimes per 1,000 city residents from the FBI's Crime Data Explorer in 2022, the year with the most recent available data.



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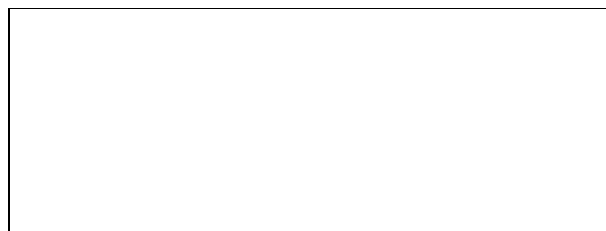
League City proudly landed in the No. 4 spot nationally, thanks to its low property and violent crime rates as well as a high median household income. Sugar Land and Pearland weren't too far behind in the top 10, ranking No. 6 and No. 7, respectively. The report emphasized these suburbs all offer "vibrant cultural scenes" and strong job markets for adults, along with great schools and abundant recreational activities for families to enjoy.

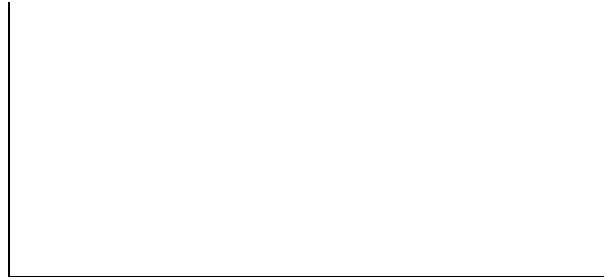
A League City household makes a median income of \$117,316 annually, with an average mortgage cost of \$2,216 per month, the report found. The total monthly cost of living in the family friendly city adds up to \$4,157.

There were a total of 1,497 property crimes reported in the city in 2022, and 126 total violent crimes. For context, the U.S. Census Bureau [estimated](#) the population in League City spans more than 116,000 residents in 2023. That means the city's rate for violent crimes is 1.08 per 1,000 residents, and the property crime rate is 12.85 per 1,000 residents, according to the findings.

Sugar Land's median household income is much higher than League City's, at \$132,247 per year. However, so were the average mortgage costs (\$2,715 per month) and total monthly cost of living (\$4,852).

There were 1,745 property crimes and 97 violent crimes reported in Sugar Land in 2022. That would place Sugar Land's property crime rate at 16.16 per 1,000 city residents, and 0.90 violent crimes per 1,000 residents.





Here's how the report breaks down Pearland's cost of living and crime rate statistics:

- Median household income: \$111,123
- Household average mortgage cost: \$2,257
- Total monthly cost of living: \$4,352
- Property crimes (reported in 2022): 2,152
- Property crime per 1,000 residents: 17.09
- Violent crimes (reported in 2022): 117
- Violent crime per 1,000 residents: .93

Large Texas cities, such as Houston proper, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and San Antonio, were all noticeably absent in the ranking. This is likely because - as most Texans are aware - bigger cities often have higher crime rates and higher costs of living than their outlying suburbs.

"Choosing a family-friendly place to live is a significant decision that involves a balancing act between safety and affordability in any big city," the report said.

"Whether you're a young professional, a growing family or a retiree, finding real estate where you feel comfortable - both physically and financially - is crucial for a high quality of life."

Other Texas cities that were ranked in the top 25 safest and most affordable places

to live include El Paso (No. 11), McKinney (No. 15), Frisco (No. 16), Laredo (No. 18), Grand Prairie (No. 21), Plano (No. 22), Carrollton (No. 23), and McAllen (No. 24).

The top 10 safest and most affordable U.S. cities to live in are:

- No. 1 – Elgin, Illinois
- No. 2 – Cary, North Carolina
- No. 3 – Gilbert, Arizona
- **No. 4 – League City, Texas**
- No. 5 – Rochester, Minnesota
- **No. 6 – Sugar Land, Texas**
- **No. 7 – Pearland, Texas**
- No. 8 – Meridian, Idaho
- No. 9 – Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
- No. 10 – Olathe, Kansas

The full report and its methodology can be found on gobankingrates.com

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This article originally ran on [CultureMap](https://www.culturemap.com).

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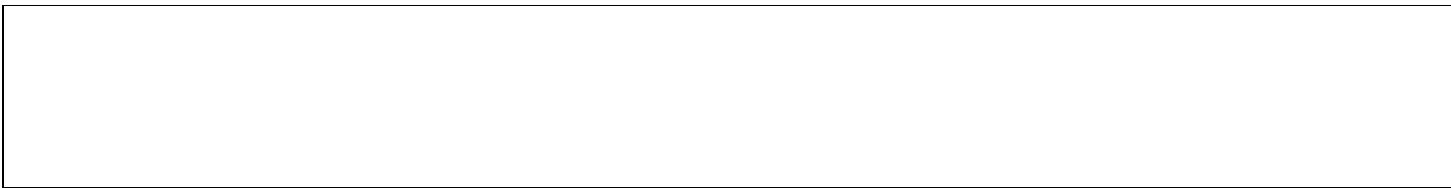
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SCALING UP

Houston-based sustainable chemical manufacturing secures \$213.6M to support new facility

Natalie Harms Jun 13, 2024, 12:24 pm



TRENDING NEWS

GAME ON

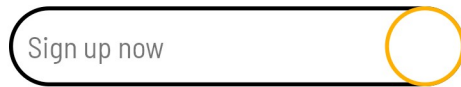
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The new Solugen facility is expected to reduce annual carbon emissions by up to 18 million kilograms. *Photo courtesy of Solugen*

Houston-based [Solugen](#) has secured financing from the U.S. Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office to support its mission of producing clean chemicals.

The LPO's \$213.6 million loan guarantee will go toward the construction of the company's 500,000-square-foot Bioforge Marshall facility in Southwest Minnesota, which broke ground in April and will produce bio-based chemical products to be used in wastewater treatment, construction, agriculture, and the energy sector. According to Solugen, the facility is expected to reduce annual carbon emissions by up to 18 million kilograms.

"American manufacturing is at a turning point, and we are proud to have the opportunity to work with the DOE in bringing critical chemical production

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UH ranked in top 100 U.S. universities for patents by National Academy of Inventors

START ME UP

Innovation and new business incubation at the University of Houston's Technology Bridge is on a roll

capabilities onshore to communities like Marshall," Gaurab Chakrabarti, CEO of Solugen, says in a news release. "By scaling cutting-edge technologies, we are meeting domestic demand for innovative solutions and setting global standards for sustainable biomanufacturing."

The new facility, [originally announced last year](#), is expected to go online in the fall of 2025 and will create up to 100 temporary construction jobs as well as 56 full-time manufacturing jobs once the facility is up and running.

"Today's announcement reflects President Biden's commitment to building a thriving bioeconomy that benefits all Americans and ensures the United States leads the world in emerging biomass industries," the DOE writes in its [announcement](#).

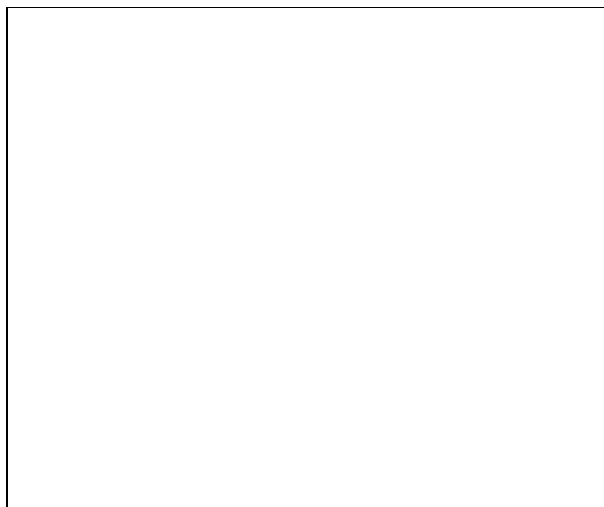
Bioforge Marshall is a scaled-up version of the company's first project, Bioforge Houston, which has been operating since 2021 and will continue to act as Solugen's research and development and innovation center.

"Scaling our Bioforge platform is not only a technological advancement, but a strategic move to fortify the domestic supply chain for critical chemicals," adds Sean Hunt, CTO of Solugen. "This project will serve as a model for how innovative technologies can revive American industries and maintain our competitive edge on a global scale."

Solugen will be required to meet certain DOE standards to move forward with the financing. Additionally, the company has created partnerships with regional educational and workforce development organizations for training and recruiting.

Founded in 2016, the Houston company has raised over \$600 million, per

Crunchbase, and clinched unicorn status with a \$1 billion valuation in 2021. Last month, Solugen ranked at No. 36 on [CNBC's annual Disruptor 50 list](#), and in 2023, [Chakrabarti and Hunt](#) were named winners at the EY Entrepreneur of the Year awards.



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THE GREAT ENERGY TRANSFER

New energy institute from UH and Shell will put Houston at the center of innovation

