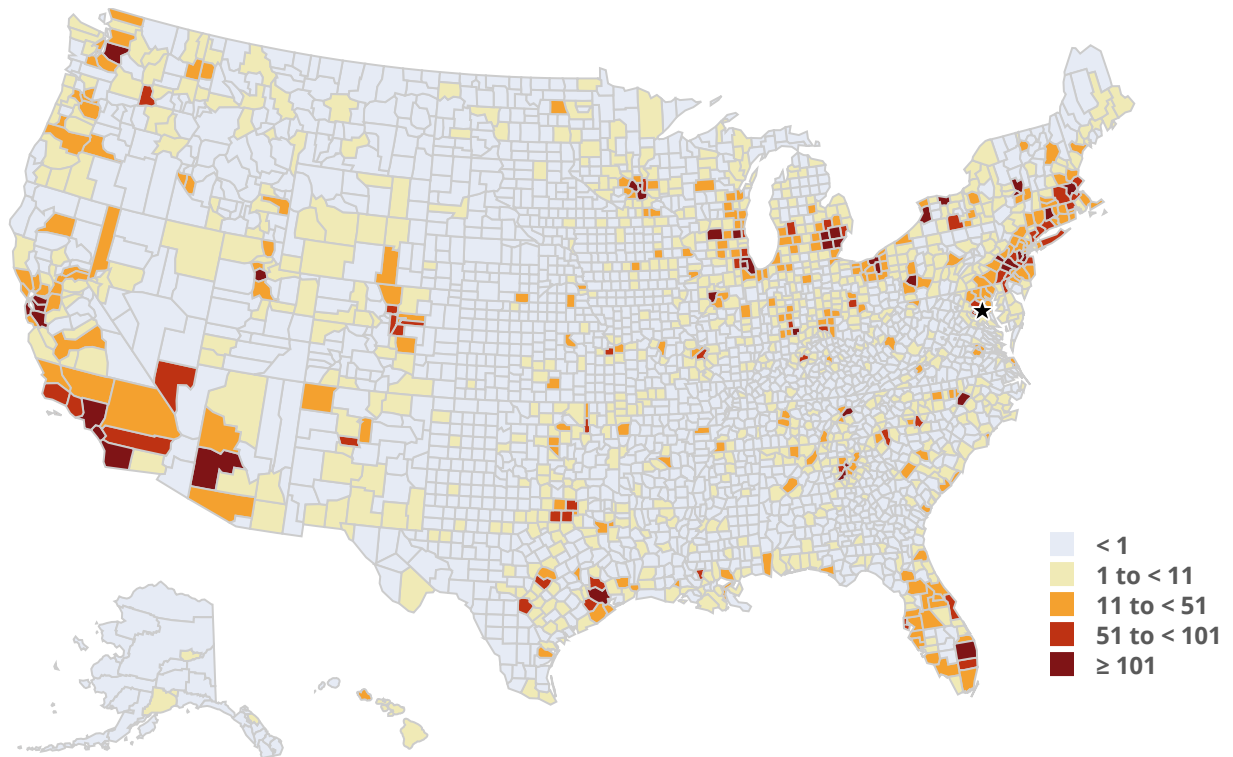


Figure 1

USPTO utility patents granted to U.S. inventors in environmental technology, by U.S. county: 2000–20



USPTO = Patent and Trademark Office.

Note(s):

Utility patents are fractionally allocated among counties based on the proportion of residences of all named inventors. *Science and Engineering Indicators 2022* classifies patent data into 35 comprehensive and nonoverlapping technology fields, which are based on the World Intellectual Property Organization’s 2008 International Patent Classification (<https://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/>). Patents identify inventions that may later be introduced into use as an innovation. Inventions are also protected by trade secrets and other forms of protection. Differences between technology classes are affected by the propensity to patent a particular type of technology, among other reasons.

Source(s):

National Science Board, National Science Foundation. 2022. Invention, Knowledge Transfer, and Innovation. [Public Use file Supplemental Workbook INV-1. *Science and Engineering Indicators 2022*. NSB-2022-4. Alexandria, VA. Available at <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsb20224/>.](#)