

# Clean Energy is Key for **Economic Recovery** in Minnesota

As Minnesota and the rest of America look toward economic recovery, the clean energy industry will play a key role because of its size, reach, and growth potential.

## 2019 Quick Facts

**+1,147**

Jobs in 2019, the third-largest increase in the Midwest

**+6%**

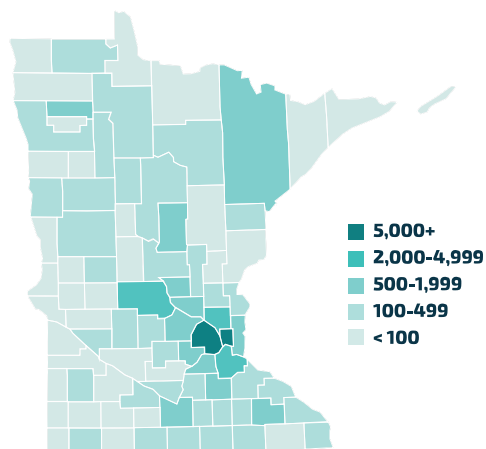
Wind jobs grew nearly 6 percent in 2019

**2.5x**

Clean energy jobs grew 2.5 times faster than the state's overall employment

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, there were more than 61,800 clean energy jobs in Minnesota. Across the state, the industry grew 2.5 times faster than overall statewide employment, adding over 1,140 jobs in 2019. At the end of 2019, more people in Minnesota worked in clean energy than the combined workforce of real estate agents and brokers, computer programmers, web developers, and waiters and waitresses. However, according to a recent analysis of U.S. Department of Labor unemployment data, in just the first three months after the pandemic began more than 11,500 workers in clean energy-related companies lost their jobs.

## Clean Energy Jobs in Minnesota



Minnesota's largest clean energy employer was energy efficiency; the sector represented more than 75 percent of the state's clean energy jobs and it grew by 2 percent last year.

The state also saw growth in clean fuels (10.9 percent), grid and storage (4.9 percent), and renewable energy generation (2.3 percent).

Clean energy jobs exist throughout the state. While some of the largest hubs were major urban areas like the Twin Cities (38,000 jobs), 37 percent of jobs were located in Greater Minnesota.

Hundreds of different companies in Minnesota employed clean energy workers. Before the crisis hit, these employers projected adding jobs at a 7 percent growth rate over the next year, or an increase of 4,500 jobs.

## Policies Matter

As lawmakers look to reinvigorate our economy and get America back to work, they must consider how they can support clean energy workers and provide stimulus funding that can drive job creation and economic growth for years to come.

At the federal level, lawmakers should:

- **Keep energy efficiency on track:** Fund energy efficiency programs to immediately restore demand for the services of the electricians, construction workers, installers, and factory workers whose jobs have been impacted by COVID.
- **Boost renewables:** Secure projects and jobs that rely on incentive-based funding by extending federal clean energy incentive deadlines to account for COVID-19-related delays. Also, extend, expand, and reform clean energy incentives like the Production Tax Credit and expired energy efficiency tax credits for commercial and residential buildings and include direct pay options for each.
- **Rev up advanced transportation:** Invest in infrastructure we need to expand the nation's electric vehicle charging network and clean fuel infrastructure; support robust fuel efficiency standards.
- **Invest in energy storage and other cutting-edge technologies:** Increase funding for U.S. Department Of Energy programs like the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and the federal loan guarantee program. This will spur the kinds of world-leading innovations we need to create new opportunities as the economy recovers.

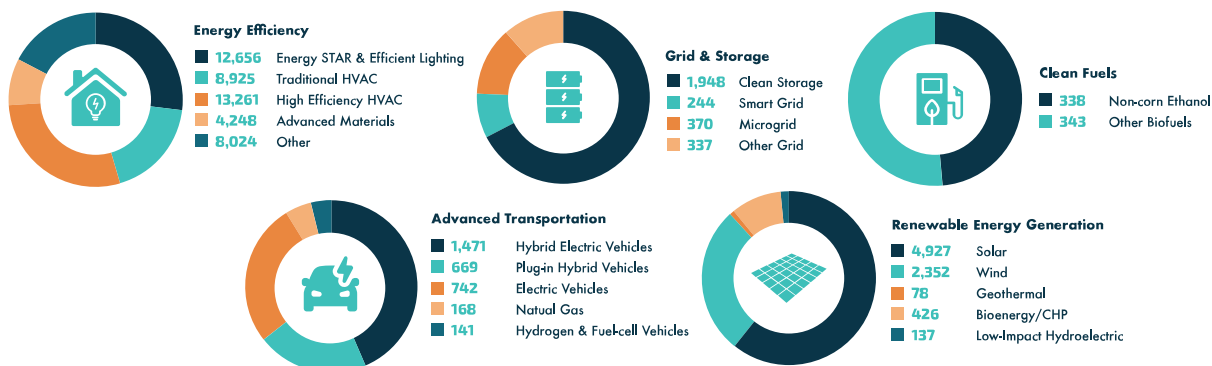
Minnesota can also do its part to help save and create jobs by adopting state policies that support renewables, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles. At the state policy level, lawmakers should:

- **Encourage technology and market-driven job creation:** Address policy and regulatory market barriers to investment in energy storage and energy efficiency for businesses, communities, and households. Support building efficiency measures: Buildings present an immediate opportunity for policymakers to support building owners in making targeted reductions in energy waste and harmful emissions.
- **Invest in system benefits and critical infrastructure:** Community resilience is enhanced through smart clean energy investments. Across the state, rural areas, energy cooperatives, and under-resourced communities face challenges related to critical infrastructure. Building clean energy in these communities spurs economic activity and improves community
- **Support workforce development:** Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the clean energy industry faced hiring challenges. We must ensure the state's economic recovery includes a strong future workforce supported by registered apprenticeship, training and education programs.

## Jobs by Sector



## Subsector Details



**71%** Small businesses drive the state's clean energy sector -- 71 percent of Minnesota clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 individuals

**11%** 11 percent of clean energy workers in Minnesota were veterans -- more than twice the representation of veterans in the state's overall workforce

**81%** 81 percent of employers said it was somewhat or very difficult to hire

Unless otherwise stated, the data and analyses presented in this report by Clean Energy Trust and Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) are based on data collected for the 2020 U.S. Energy Employment Report (2020 USEER), produced by the Energy Futures Initiative (EFI) in partnership with the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and collected and analyzed by BW Research Partnership (BWPR). For more information on the survey methodology please visit [cleanjobsmidwest.com/about](https://cleanjobsmidwest.com/about)