

Illinois Clean Energy & Transportation Jobs Are Growing

Illinois' clean energy and clean transportation jobs grew by 3 percent in 2022 and the industry is poised for continued growth thanks to federal climate investments passed last year and the implementation of the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) passed in 2021.

QUICK FACTS

123,799

Clean energy jobs

+6.9%

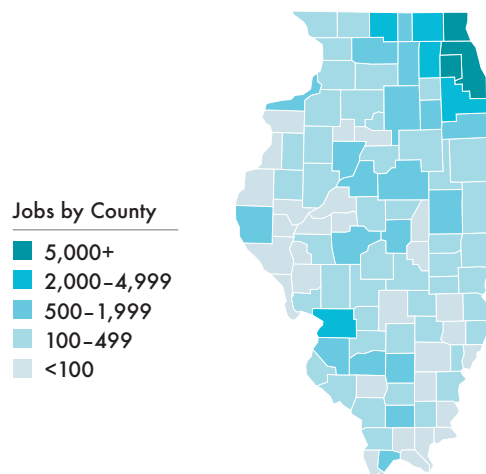
Growth of jobs in the clean transportation sector, the state's fastest-growing sector in 2022

+3.0%

Growth in clean energy jobs in 2022

Clean energy companies employed more than 123,000 Illinoisians at the end of 2022, growing by more than 3,000 jobs, a 3 percent increase from 2021. Illinois leads the Midwest in the generation, grid & storage, energy efficiency, and clean fuels sectors. Clean energy is a significant part of Illinois' economy: more than 3 times as many Illinoisans worked in clean energy than the number of lawyers, web developers, and real estate agents combined. In 2022, clean energy jobs grew faster than the overall economy, and this growth is expected to continue as state policy and federal clean energy and vehicle incentives lead to new clean energy projects, a resurgence of domestic manufacturing, and lower upfront costs for homeowners to make energy efficiency improvements.

Clean Energy Jobs* in Illinois



*Visualization based on 2021 data

The biggest sector in Illinois' clean energy industry is energy efficiency, comprising over 68 percent of the state's clean energy workforce. The 84,351 energy efficiency workers in Illinois manufacture ENERGY STAR-rated appliances, install efficient lighting, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and install advanced building materials in homes and commercial buildings.

As more automakers and their suppliers continued to shift to electric vehicles, the clean transportation sector saw an increase in employment of nearly 7 percent in Illinois. The sector added almost 900 new jobs for a total of 13,968 workers. Electric vehicle-related jobs accounted for most of the sector's growth.

Renewable energy jobs in solar (8% growth) continue to see gains throughout the state while smaller, emerging subsectors like battery storage technologies (7% growth) and grid modernization (12% growth) are also continuing to grow.

Clean energy jobs are found in every corner of the state. While Chicago is the largest hub for clean energy with 85,415 jobs, more than 17,000 jobs are in rural areas.

73%

Small businesses drive Illinois' clean energy sector – in 2022, 73 percent of the state's clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 individuals

10%

10 percent of the Illinois' clean energy workers were veterans in 2022

Learn even more about clean energy jobs in Illinois at www.cleanjobsmidwest.com



POLICIES MATTER

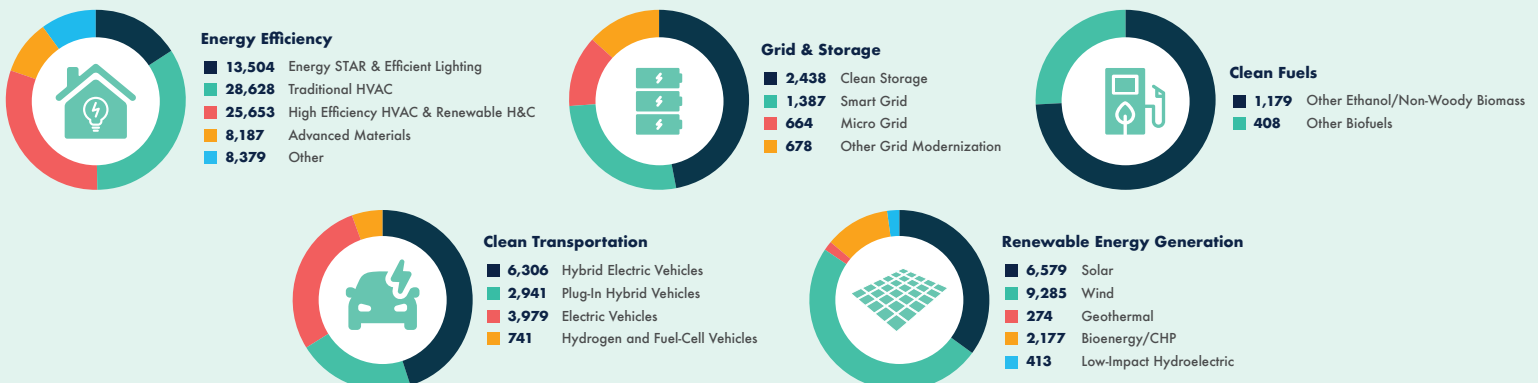
While recent federal policies, including investments and tax credits for energy efficiency upgrades, EV and solar purchases and new clean energy projects create strong tailwinds, there is still more to do. To meet the nation's climate goals of reducing climate emissions by 50 percent by 2030, improve equity in the clean energy economy and grow clean energy jobs, lawmakers and policymakers should:

- **Defend against attempts to roll back federal clean energy and vehicle investments:** Just one year after the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, companies are investing over \$86 billion in large scale clean energy projects that will lead to the creation of over 74,000 jobs, thanks to the federal investments and incentives in the new law. Of the 210 projects announced, almost a quarter are in Midwestern states. Attempts to rollback provisions of the federal clean energy incentives threaten future clean energy job growth and economic opportunity.
- **Develop and fund federal and state workforce development programs.** One of the largest barriers to clean energy job growth is the challenge to fill open positions. Workforce training will be critical to the continued growth of the industry, as 84 percent of employers in Illinois report at least some difficulty hiring workers.
- **Expand transmission to increase access for clean energy projects.** Federal and state governments must work with the Midwest regional transmission organizations to build more transmission. Without more transmission, many wind and solar projects will not be built.
- **Advance state-level clean energy policies.** Illinois has the opportunity to strengthen the state's clean energy industry by building on the success of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and electrifying the transportation and building sectors. Standards like the Advanced Clean Truck rule and the Zero Emissions Vehicle rule will hasten the transition to electric vehicles and position the state to be a leader in jobs and electric vehicle manufacturing. To accelerate the electrification of buildings, the city of Chicago should join other major cities in adopting a building performance standard and require that all new buildings be built to run solely on electricity.

JOBS BY SECTOR



2022 SUBSECTOR DETAILS



Unless otherwise stated, the data and analyses presented in this report by Evergreen Climate Innovations and Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) are based on data collected for the 2023 U.S. Energy Employment Report (2023 USEER), produced by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and collected and analyzed by BW Research Partnership (BWRP).