

Clean Energy is Key for **Economic Recovery** in Illinois

As Illinois 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

+2,117

Clean Energy Jobs

5X

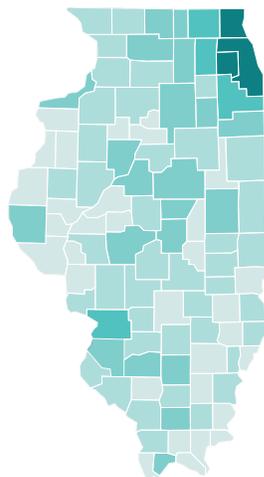
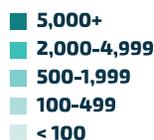
Clean Energy Jobs grew more than 5 times as fast as overall statewide employment

2x

There are more than twice as many jobs in renewable energy than fossil fuels

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, clean energy companies employed more than 125,000 Illinoisans, and clean energy jobs were growing, according to the latest available data. In practically every sector in the clean energy economy – including renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean fuels, and grid and storage – Illinois led the Midwest region in jobs in 2019. Across the state, the industry added more than 2,100 new jobs. At the end of 2019, more people in Illinois 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 17,400 workers in clean energy-related companies lost their jobs.

Clean Energy Jobs in Illinois



The state's largest clean energy employer remains energy efficiency. The sector has been home to more than 73 percent of Illinois clean energy jobs and grew 1.7 percent in 2019. Last year, the state also saw job growth in clean fuels (1.3 percent), grid and storage (2.4 percent), and renewable energy generation (4.4 percent).

Clean energy jobs are found in every corner of the state. While the Chicago metropolitan area (including Naperville and Joliet) had the largest concentration of clean energy jobs, more than 10 percent – over 13,500 jobs – were at the end of 2019 located in rural Illinois.

Thousands of different Illinois companies and establishments employ clean energy workers. Before the crisis hit, these employers anticipated adding about 8,000 clean energy jobs in 2020 – a growth rate of more than 6 percent.

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:

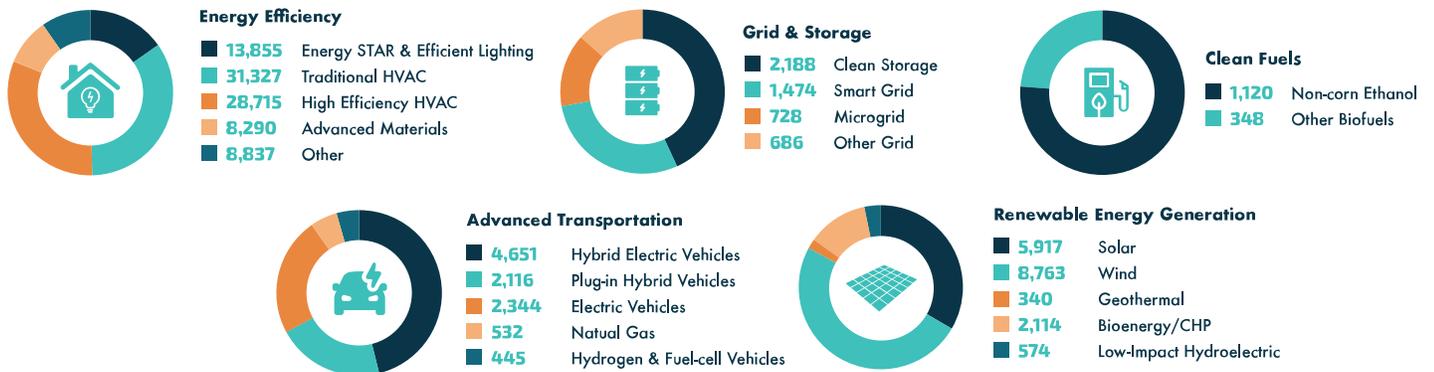
- **Boost renewables:** Secure projects and jobs that rely on incentive-based funding by extending federal clean energy incentive deadlines to account for COVID-19-related delays. Also, extend, expand, and reform clean energy incentives like the Production Tax Credit and expired energy efficiency tax credits for commercial and residential buildings and include direct pay options for each.
- **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.
- **Rev up advanced transportation:** Invest in the 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 now while also driving growth for decades to come.

Illinois can also do its part to help save and create jobs by adopting state policies that support renewables, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles. The Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) was signed into law in 2016 by former Gov. Bruce Rauner. FEJA put Illinois on track to acquire a quarter of its electricity from renewable energy by 2025 while also strengthening the state's energy efficiency standards. In the years after FEJA was enacted and prior to the COVID-19 crisis, Illinois experienced sustained job growth in the major clean energy sectors of wind, solar, and energy efficiency. Illinois added more clean energy jobs than any Midwestern state in 2019. Looking ahead, Illinois must build on the success of FEJA and the clean energy economy by continuing to advance strong clean energy legislation at the state and local levels.

Jobs by Sector



Subsector Details



10%

In 2019, 10 percent of clean energy workers were veterans -- nearly twice the representation of veterans in the state's overall workforce

74%

Small businesses drive the region's clean energy sector -- 74 percent of Illinois clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 people in 2019

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 (BWRP). For more information on the survey methodology please visit cleanjobsmidwest.com/about