

Clean Energy is Key for Economic Recovery in Nebraska

As Nebraska 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

+400

Jobs in 2019

40x

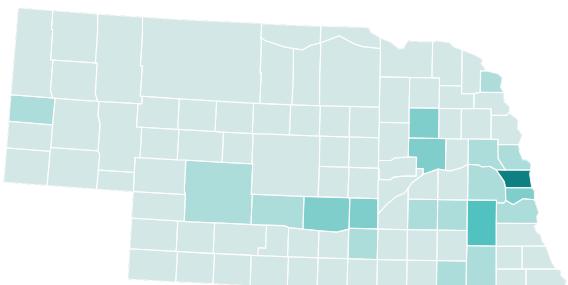
Clean energy jobs grew more than 40 times as fast as overall statewide employment

3x

There were nearly 3 times as many jobs in renewable energy generation than fossil fuel generation

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, clean energy companies employed more than 19,400 Nebraskans and clean energy jobs were growing, according to the latest available data. Across the state in 2019, the industry added more than 400 new jobs. At the end of 2019, more people in Nebraska 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 3,400 workers in clean energy-related companies lost their jobs.

Clean Energy Jobs in Nebraska



- 5,000+
- 2,000-4,999
- 500-1,999
- 100-499
- < 100

The state's largest clean energy employer remains energy efficiency. The sector has been home to 72 percent of Nebraska's clean energy jobs and grew 3.1 percent in 2019.

The state also experienced job growth rate increases in clean fuels (4.3 percent), grid and storage (7.4 percent), and renewable energy generation (2.7 percent).

Clean energy jobs are found in every corner of the state. While big cities like Omaha (7,700) and Lincoln (3,100 jobs) were hubs, 43 percent — or more than 8,000 jobs — were at the end of 2019 located in rural areas.

Thousands of different Nebraska companies and establishments hire clean energy workers. Before the crisis hit, these employers anticipated adding 600 clean energy 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:

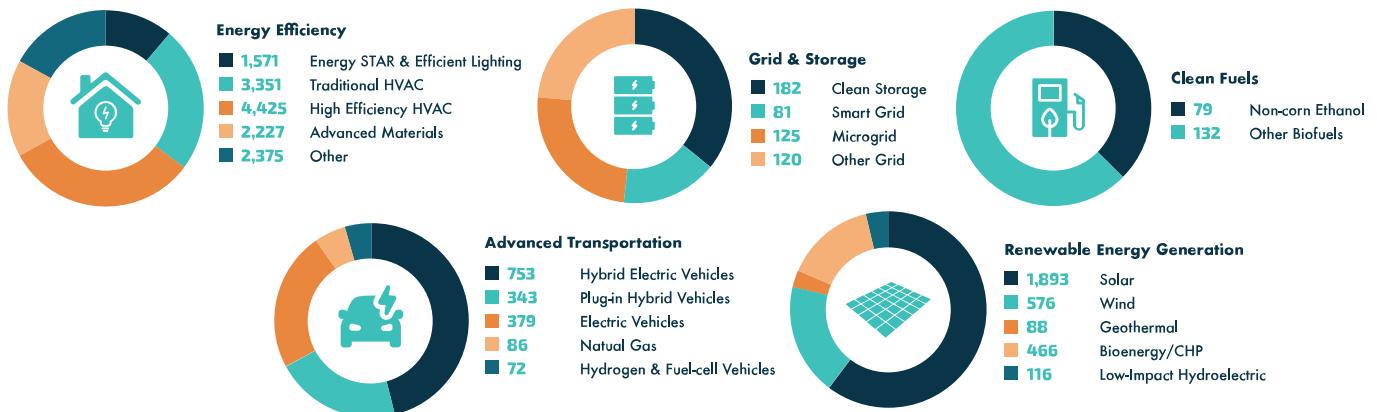
- Boost renewables:** Secure projects and jobs that rely on incentive-based funding by extending federal clean energy incentive deadlines to account for COVID-19-related delays. Also, extend, expand, and reform clean energy incentives like the Production Tax Credit and expired energy efficiency tax credits for commercial and residential buildings and include direct pay options for each.
- Rev up advanced transportation:** Invest in the infrastructure we need to expand the nation's electric vehicle charging network and clean fuel infrastructure; support robust fuel efficiency standards.
- 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.
- 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.

Nebraska can also do its part to help and create jobs by adopting state policies that support renewables, energy efficiency and electric vehicles.

Jobs by Sector



Subsector Details



70% Small businesses drive the state's clean energy sector -- 70 percent of Nebraska clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 individuals in 2019

9% In 2019, 9 percent of Nebraska's clean energy workers were veterans

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