

Clean Energy is Key for **Economic Recovery** in South Dakota

As South Dakota 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

+5%

Solar jobs grew 5 percent

4.5x

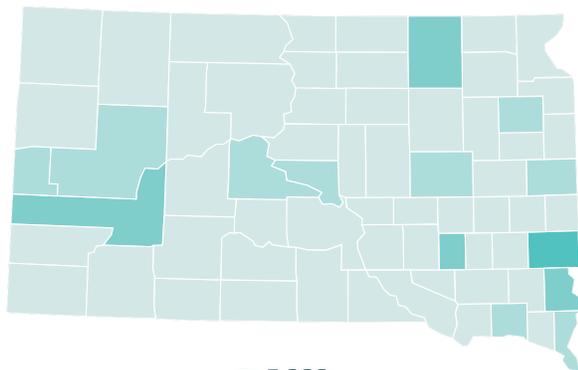
Clean energy jobs grew more than 4.5 times faster than overall statewide employment

8x

There were 8 times more jobs in renewable energy generation than in fossil fuel generation.

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, there were more than 11,400 clean energy jobs in South Dakota, according to the latest available data. Across the state, the industry showed a consistent and growing job base, adding nearly 200 jobs in 2019. At the end of 2019, more people in South Dakota 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 1,000 workers in clean energy-related companies lost their jobs.

Clean Energy Jobs in South Dakota



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

South Dakota’s largest clean energy employer was energy efficiency; the sector was home to more than 67 percent of the state’s clean energy jobs and grew 2 percent last year.

In fact, the state saw growth in every clean energy sector, including clean fuels (1.6 percent), grid and storage (1.7 percent), advanced transportation (3.6 percent), and renewable energy generation (1 percent).

Clean energy jobs are found in every corner of the state. While some of the largest hubs were urban areas like Sioux Falls (4,370 jobs), rural areas were home to 4,920 jobs, or 43 percent of the state’s overall total at the end of 2019.

Scores of different companies in South Dakota employed clean energy workers. Before the crisis hit, these employers anticipated adding nearly 400 jobs, a projected growth rate of 4 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:

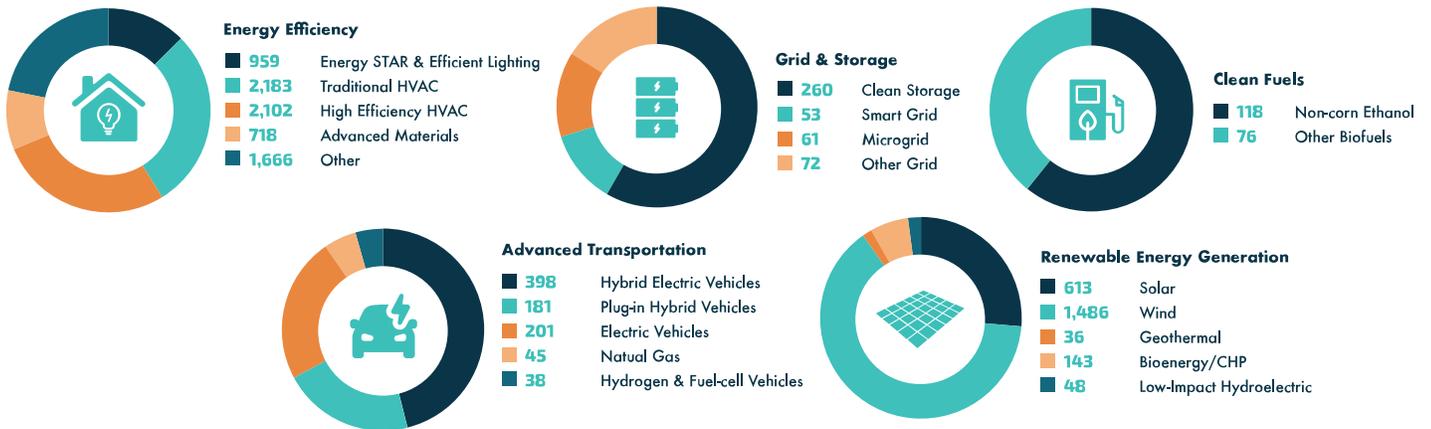
- **Boost renewables:** Secure projects and jobs that rely on incentive-based funding by extending federal clean energy incentive deadlines to account for COVID-19-related delays. Also, extend, expand, and reform clean energy incentives like the Production Tax Credit and expired energy efficiency tax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

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

Jobs by Sector



Subsector Details



57%

Small businesses drive the state's clean energy industry -- 57 percent of South Dakota clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 individuals

12%

12 percent of clean energy workers in South Dakota were veterans -- compared to 9 percent of the state's overall workforce

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