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CONTACT: Alex Frank — (703) 276-3264, afrank@hastingsgroup.com; Kathryn Dunn — (913) 645-9103, kdunn@e2.org; Michael Timberlake — (913) 645-9103, mtimberlake@e2.org

REPORT: Wisconsin Now Home to 71,489 Clean Energy Jobs

Clean energy economy poised for explosive expansion as federal funding kicks in

Madison, Wis. (September 19, 2023) – Clean energy businesses in Wisconsin added more than 380 workers in 2022, now employing 71,489 Wisconsinites. That's according to a new analysis of employment data released today by the national, nonpartisan business group E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) and Evergreen Climate Innovations. The report comes after the one-year anniversary of the largest investment in climate and clean energy in history, which is already boosting clean energy jobs and businesses across the state and region.

The energy efficiency sector continued to lead with total jobs in Wisconsin exceeding more than 55,700 workers in 2022. The fastest growing sectors in 2022 in Wisconsin were grid and storage, and clean transportation, both growing by nearly 7 percent. Together, the two sectors added over 500 new jobs for a total of 6,307 workers.

Micaela Preskill, Midwest Advocate for E2 said:
"The Midwest saw impressive clean energy job growth in 2022, but it is essentially the calm before the storm in terms of expected job growth for the sector and region. Private companies have gone full speed ahead with new investments in clean energy and transportation projects since historic clean energy investments and incentives were passed last summer. I'm on the edge of my seat to see what these numbers look like next year."

According to the analysis, clean energy and clean transportation companies employed 734,753 Midwesterners at the end of 2022, growing by more than 25,000 jobs, a nearly 4 percent increase from 2021. Nationally, clean energy employment grew 4 percent to reach 3.3 million jobs, setting record employment highs two years after the pandemic-fueled unemployment crisis cost the industry more than 620,000 jobs.

Ian Adams, Managing Director at Evergreen Climate Innovations, stated:
"The Clean Jobs Midwest report, along with our own portfolio, underscore the growth of both large and small clean energy firms. They're expanding facilities, hiring, and introducing new technologies in the region. Evergreen startup, NanoGraf, an innovative battery materials firm,

recently opened a new Chicago facility. Additionally, CorePower Magnetics and Marel Power Solutions, both in the vehicle electrification sector, have secured funding and significant federal grants this past year. This momentum hints at even more promising developments in the future, reinforcing our region's reputation as a hub for sustainable innovation."

Despite the recent growth, clean energy jobs still have significant room to grow in Wisconsin and the Midwest. With billions in funds from the Inflation Reduction Act already being invested nationwide, Wisconsin has an enormous opportunity to create tens of thousands more jobs in the coming years.

To see the full potential of job creation and emission reduction benefits from federal clean energy investments, state and federal coordination is needed. Policies that remove barriers for clean energy development like the creation of workforce training programs and expansion of transmission infrastructure will also be critical.

Sam Dunaiski, Executive Director at RENEW Wisconsin, said:
“Wisconsin needs an all-of-the-above approach to the clean energy transition, including rooftop solar installations, utility-scale renewable energy projects, and building and transportation electrification. These initiatives create family-supporting jobs and would be a boon to Wisconsin’s economy. RENEW is excited by the opportunities presented in the Inflation Reduction Act, and we are committed to ensuring Wisconsin energy policies support our clean energy transformation.”

JD Smith, Head of Business Development at Milwaukee-based solar company Arch Solar, said:
The Renewable Energy Industry is at an incredible point right now. There are opportunities for Wisconsinites to join from every background and at every level. We need boots-on-the-ground laborers, but we also need accountants, designers, administrators, marketers, and everything in between. As a solar company, most folks think of our installers on the roof putting the panels on, but there is a whole team behind them that makes these projects happen. At Arch, we have team members from all walks of life who have ended up in the renewables sector, and this latest report shows something similar happening all across the Midwest. These kinds of opportunities for growth don’t happen all the time, and it’s exciting to see Wisconsin starting to take full advantage.

Garan Chivinski, Human Resources Manager at Ingeteam, said:
“As a result of the IRA’s historic investment in a National EV Charger network, Ingeteam USA will be soon begin production of EV Charges at our plant in Milwaukee, WI. We expect this to add up to one hundred new, well-paying jobs to the region.”

Other Findings:

- There was 3.6 percent growth in clean energy jobs in 2022 in the Midwest.
- The Midwest is now home to 734,753 clean energy jobs.

- There was 11.2 percent growth of jobs in the clean transportation sector in the Midwest, the region's fastest-growing sector in 2022.
- Small businesses drive Wisconsin's clean energy sector – in 2022, 69.3 percent of Wisconsin's clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 people.
- 11.3 percent of Wisconsinites employed in clean energy are veterans.

For a full breakdown of clean energy jobs for every state in the Midwest, see www.cleanjobsmidwest.com.

Methodology:
This is the eighth annual Clean Jobs Midwest report produced by E2 and Evergreen Climate Innovations based on analysis of the U.S. Department of Energy's annual US Energy Employment & Jobs Report (USEER) by the BW Research Partnership. The USEER analyzes data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) to track employment across many energy production, transmission, and distribution subsectors. In addition, the 2023 USEER relies on a unique supplemental survey of approximately 34,200 business representatives across the United States.

For more details on methodology see https://www.cleanjobsmidwest.com/survey-methodology.

Previous E2 and CET Jobs Reports:

- Clean Jobs Midwest 2022
- Clean Jobs Midwest 2021
- Clean Jobs Midwest 2020
- Clean Jobs Midwest 2019
- Clean Jobs Midwest 2018
- Clean Jobs Midwest 2017
- Clean Jobs Midwest 2016

Additional Information:

- Report: Clean Jobs America 2023

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Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment. Our members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs, and manage more than $100 billion in venture and private equity capital. For more information, see www.e2.org or follow us on Twitter at @e2org.

Evergreen Climate Innovations, provides catalytic capital and support to entrepreneurs and startups that bring impactful climate technologies to market. The nonprofit pioneered its 501vc®

Investment Fund to align philanthropic and corporate contributions to deliver environmental, economic, and social impact. Evergreen advances and expands access to innovation across the Greater Midwest and cultivates an ecosystem of investors, donors, and collaborators. For over a decade, Evergreen Climate Innovations has invested in startups that have raised $42 for every $1 invested. For more information, see https://evergreeninno.org/.