

# Clean Economy Grew Faster than Illinois Economy in 2024

## QUICK FACTS

**132,239**

Clean energy jobs

**2.5%**

Growth in clean energy jobs

**5X**

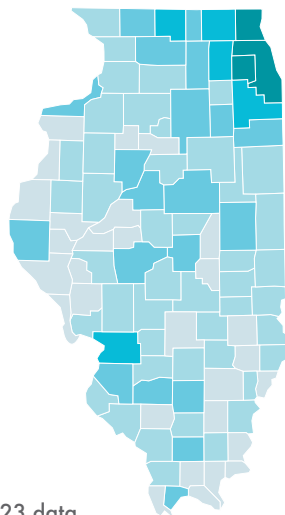
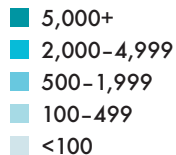
Faster growth than overall economy

Illinois continues to lead the Midwest in clean energy jobs. Last year, the state added nearly 3,300 jobs, bringing the total number of Illinoisans working in renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicle manufacturing, and other clean energy fields to 132,000. That's a growth of more than 2 percent, compared to less than 1 percent growth in the state's overall workforce.

The data in this report predates the July 2025 passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which is expected to slow clean energy job growth nationwide. Still, the numbers highlight a workforce that is becoming an increasingly vital part of Illinois's economy. As the demand for energy continues to rise and the financial toll of climate change becomes more visible, Illinois's clean energy workers are poised to play an even more critical role in shaping the region's economic future.

## Clean Energy Jobs\* in Illinois

### Jobs by County



\*Visualization based on 2023 data

Bright spots for the industry include energy efficiency. Energy efficiency comprises about two-thirds of all the state's clean energy jobs, and it grew by more than 3,000 jobs — top among all sectors. Over 89,000 Illinoisans manufacture energy-efficient appliances, install efficient lighting, connect heat pumps and other highly efficient HVAC systems, construct buildings using materials like low-carbon concrete, or work in other energy efficiency-related jobs.

Renewable energy is the state's second-largest clean energy employer, with more than 19,000 jobs — driven in part by a 2.4 percent increase in solar jobs. Clean grid and energy storage jobs also saw gains, climbing to over 5,600 jobs, up 4 percent from the previous year.

The clean vehicle sector — covering electric vehicles, hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and hydrogen or fuel-cell technologies — was the only segment of Illinois' clean energy economy not to grow last year. Employment held relatively steady at just over 15,000 jobs, dipping by 146 positions amid automation, softer-than-expected consumer demand, policy uncertainty at the federal level, and supply chain shifts.

**61.5%**

In 2024, across all clean energy sectors, 61.5 percent of Illinois clean energy jobs were in **construction** and **professional services**.

**9.7%**

9.7 percent of Illinois clean energy workers were **veterans** in 2024.



**POLICIES MATTER**

The One Big Beautiful Bill aggressively winds down long-standing wind, solar, vehicle, and energy efficiency tax credits, threatening to kill clean energy projects, increase energy costs, and slow the rapid onshoring of domestic clean energy manufacturing. Already, businesses have canceled, closed, and scaled back more than \$22 billion\* worth of new projects and factories.

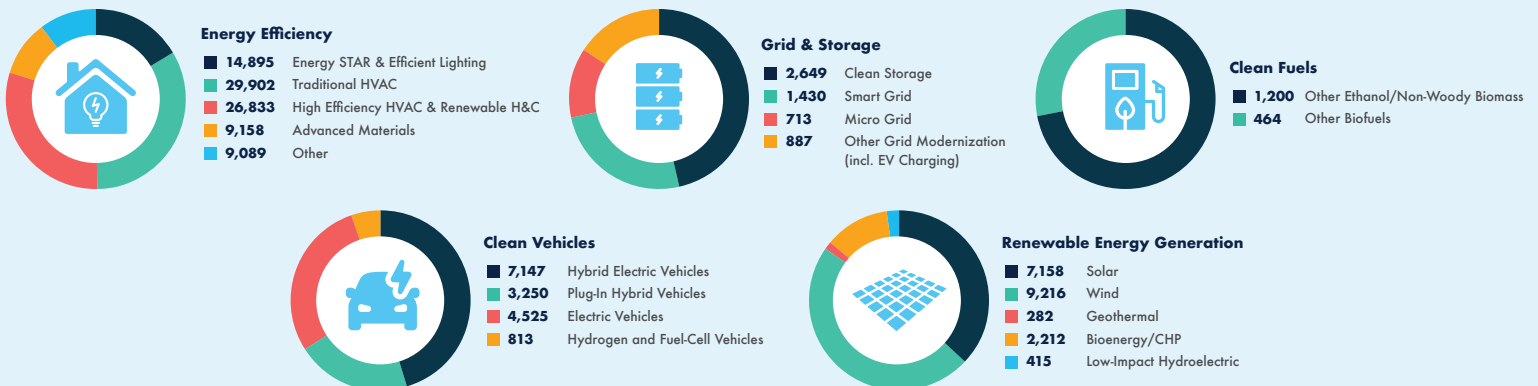
To retain some of the clean energy projects that are fueling the economy by creating jobs, keeping energy costs down, and helping meet rising energy demand, policymakers should:

- **Oppose federal policies that undermine the region's clean energy jobs and investments:** Additional federal hurdles and taxes, including new red tape for building on public lands and changes to Treasury Department rules, will drive away investments in Illinois, increase market uncertainty and kill local jobs.
- **Power data centers with clean energy:** The rapid rise in data centers is contributing to unprecedented energy demand. As states grapple with how to power these centers, they must prioritize the commonsense, low-cost, clean options. Utility-scale solar and onshore wind are the cheapest and fastest forms of new energy to deploy.
- **Prioritize new transmission:** State leadership must work with regional transmission organizations (RTOs) to ensure important new transmission lines are built, creating capacity for the new clean energy projects we need.
- **Maintain Illinois's clean energy leadership through strong state policies:** Policies like the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act remove roadblocks and create pathways to meet Illinois's 100% clean energy goal set in CEJA. The bill adds 6 GW of battery storage, helps consumers cut bills through rebates and efficiency programs, and strengthens transmission to deliver more clean electricity reliably and affordably.

**JOBS BY SECTOR**



**2024 SUBSECTOR DETAILS**



Unless otherwise stated, data and analyses presented in this report by Evergreen Climate Innovations and E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) are based on data collected for the 2025 U.S. Energy Employment Report, produced by the U.S. Dept. of Energy and collected and analyzed by BW Research Partnership.

\*Clean Economy Works, E2, September 2025,  
<https://e2.org/announcements/>