

# Clean Economy Grew Faster than Midwest Economy in 2024

## QUICK FACTS

**774,838**

Clean energy jobs

**1.7%**

Growth in clean energy jobs

**3X**

More than 3x faster growth than overall economy

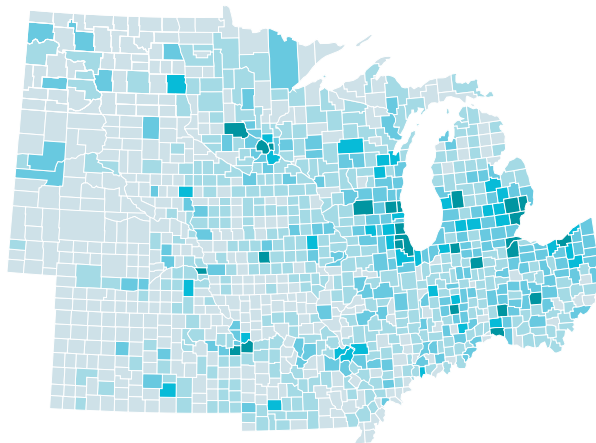
The clean energy industry continues to drive job creation in the Midwest, adding 13,000 jobs across the 12-state region last year.

More than 774,000 Midwesterners now work in renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicle manufacturing and other clean energy related fields, an increase of about 2 percent from a year earlier and a 5 percent increase from just five years ago. By comparison, the region's overall workforce grew by half a percent last year.

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 the Midwest's economy.

As the demand for energy continues to rise and the financial toll of climate change becomes more visible, the Midwest's clean energy workers are poised to play an even more critical role in shaping the region's economic future.

## Clean Energy Jobs\* in the Midwest



### Jobs by County



Bright spots for the industry include energy efficiency. Energy efficiency comprises about two-thirds of all the region's clean energy jobs, and it grew by more than 17,000 jobs — top among all sectors. More than 517,000 Midwesterners 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.

Clean vehicles is the second-largest clean energy sector, employing more than 122,000 Midwesterners who work on EVs, hybrid EVs, plug-in hybrids, and hydrogen and fuel-cell vehicles. Last year, the sector lost 5,963 jobs due to a combination of automation, lower-than-expected consumer demand, policy uncertainty, and supply chain restructuring.

Renewable energy jobs topped 97,000 last year, spurred by a 2.2 percent growth in solar jobs. Clean grid and storage jobs grew to more than 29,000, sparked by a 4.5 percent growth in battery storage jobs.

**68.1%**

In 2024, across all clean energy sectors, 68.1 percent of Midwest clean energy jobs were in **construction** and **manufacturing**.

**10.7%**

10.1 percent of the Midwest's 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.

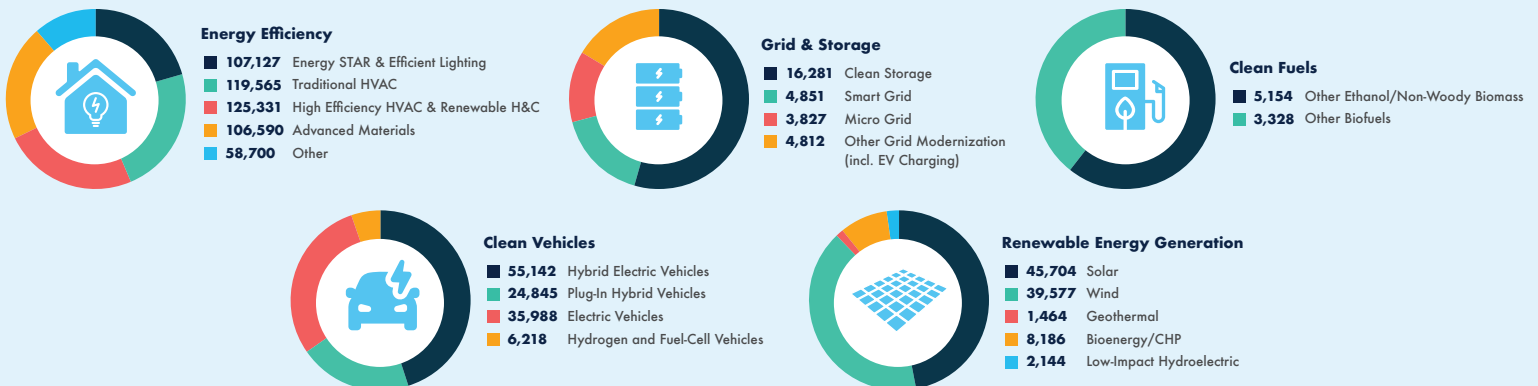
To retain some of the clean energy projects that are fueling the economy by creating jobs, keeping energy costs down, and helping meet rising energy demand, policymakers should:

- **Oppose federal policies that are 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 the Midwest, increase market uncertainty and kill local jobs.
- **Advance state-level clean energy policies:** New federal regulations will raise taxes on electric vehicles and residential energy efficiency and solar projects. Governors and state legislatures should work to fast-track renewable energy deployment before the solar and wind tax credits expire and enact state tax incentives that help fill some of the void left by federal action.
- **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 and federal government 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.

## 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/>