



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Alex Frank — (703) 276-3264, [afrank@hastingsgroup.com](mailto:afrank@hastingsgroup.com); Micaela Preskill — (312) 995-5908, [mpreskill@e2.org](mailto:mpreskill@e2.org); Michael Timberlake — (913) 645-9103, [mtimberlake@e2.org](mailto:mtimberlake@e2.org)

## **Report: More Than 103,400 of Ohioans Work in Clean Energy; Jobs Located in Every County**

*Proposed federal policies could create thousands more jobs*

**COLUMBUS – (August 11, 2021)** – More than 103,400 Ohioans worked in clean energy and clean vehicles at the end of 2020, making the sector a major – and promising – part of the state’s economy, according to a comprehensive [analysis of employment data](#) released today by the national, nonpartisan business group E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) and Clean Energy Trust. The report comes as Congress and the Biden administration are considering legislation to boost federal investments in clean energy and clean vehicles.

Like most of the economy, clean energy businesses were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn in 2020. According to this year’s [Clean Jobs Midwest](#) analysis, 2020 was the first year-to-year decline since E2 and Clean Energy Trust began tracking Ohio clean energy jobs. At one point, more than 20,000 Ohio clean energy workers had filed for unemployment, but the sector surged back 10.1 percent in the second half of the year to recover more than half of the jobs initially lost. The final 2020 job numbers represent a 9.6 percent drop in Ohio’s clean energy workforce from 2019, or 10,900 jobs lost. Last year’s job losses were a dramatic change of pace for the industry. In the 3 years leading up to 2020, for example, clean energy jobs were growing 5 times faster than overall statewide employment.

Despite setbacks related to the COVID-19 pandemic and harmful state policies, clean energy businesses showed their resilience, rebounding quicker than the overall Ohio workforce, according to the analysis. Ohio can take advantage of the sector’s resilience and high job growth potential by enacting policies that support these clean energy workers and would help create tens of thousands of new jobs – and preserve existing jobs in some of the most important sectors of the state’s economy, such as automotive supply chain manufacturing – as Ohio moves beyond the immediate recovery.

According to the analysis, energy efficiency jobs saw the biggest drop, declining about 11.9 percent over the year as harmful state energy policies took effect, compounding the negative impacts resulting from the pandemic. Other clean energy sectors also saw significant declines in 2020, including renewable energy [11.1 percent], grid and storage [10.6 percent] and clean fuels [7.7 percent].

Several clean energy sectors did see job gains in 2020, including Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Hybrid Electric Vehicles, which combined now employs about 4,749 Ohio workers as an increasing number of automakers announced shifts to producing 100 percent zero-emission vehicles.

Nationwide clean energy employment finished 2020 down about 307,000 jobs from 2019's high of nearly 3.4 million, recovering about 300,000 jobs nationally from June to December – a rate faster than nationwide employment growth during that period.

**Micaela Preskill, Midwest Advocate of the national, nonpartisan business group E2 said:**

"2020's unprecedented crisis showed why this region needs a strong clean energy economy more than ever before. Despite the decline, what the data shows is that clean energy is rebounding back in every state and every county in the Midwest. Our state and federal lawmakers should take note: if you want these good paying jobs in your backyard, you need to support the policies on the table that are primed to turbocharge clean energy and keep it growing."

**Russ Bates, founder of NXTGEN Clean Energy Solutions in Independence, OH said:**

"I grew up in 'coal country' in Southern Indiana and spent years working with coal fired power plants. I've been in the coal tunnels and I can tell you that I'd rather be putting up solar panels. The biggest myth of renewables is that they will lead to job loss. I am living proof that the transition from fossil to clean energy will happen and it will put more people to work. I founded NXTGEN - a solar, EV charging, and battery storage company - because I saw the potential of the clean energy industry and I wanted to help make the benefits of clean energy available to more people."

**Rick Fischer, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local Union 212 said:**

"The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 212 supports the creation of highly skilled career opportunities and will continue to advocate for the implementation of clean energy alternatives throughout the Greater Cincinnati Area."

**Elizabeth Rojas, Director of the Cincinnati 2030 District in Cincinnati, OH said:**

"This year's data shows the resilience of the clean energy economy throughout Ohio. Building owners and developers have seen the economic scale tip towards clean energy solutions. Despite temporary job declines due to the public health crisis, clean energy businesses are rebounding faster than any other sector of Ohio's economy. Now is the time to let our lawmakers hear how important it is for both job growth and a sustainable future. "

**Other Findings:**

- Energy efficiency, Ohio's largest clean energy employer, now employs 73,291. The sector was hardest hit in 2020 – losing 9,874 jobs or 11.9 percent of its total workforce.
- Renewable energy now employs 9,427 Ohioans, including 1,147 in wind and 7,647 in solar.
- Clean vehicles employ 16,668 Ohioans.
- Grid and storage employ 2,803 Ohioans.
- Clean fuels employ 1,248 Ohioans.
- Small businesses drive Ohio's clean energy sector – in 2020, 62.2 percent of Ohio's clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 people.
- Clean energy employed workers in all 88 counties in Ohio.
- Clean energy employed workers in all 16 congressional districts in Ohio.
- 10.9 percent of Ohioans employed in clean energy are veterans.

For a full breakdown of clean energy jobs in each sector and for every state in the Midwest, see the detailed breakdowns available at [www.cleanjobsmidwest.com](http://www.cleanjobsmidwest.com) – including job totals for every county, congressional district, and state legislative district.

**Methodology:**

*The analysis is based on preliminary employment data collected and analyzed by BW Research Partnership for the 2021 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER, forthcoming). 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 2021 USEER relies on a unique supplemental survey of 35,000 business representatives across the United States.*

**Previous E2 and Clean Energy Trust Jobs Reports:**

- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2020](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2019](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2019](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2018](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2017](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2016](#)

**Additional Information:**

- Report: [Clean Jobs America 2021 \(April 2020\)](#)
- Report: [Clean Jobs, Better Jobs: An examination of clean energy job wages \(October 2020\)](#)
- Report: [Build Back Better, Faster: How a federal stimulus focusing on clean energy can create millions of jobs and restart America's economy \(July 2020\)](#)
- Report: [Clean Energy & COVID-19 Economic Crisis, May Impact Analysis \(June 2020\)](#)

###

[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](http://www.e2.org) or follow us on Twitter at [@e2org](https://twitter.com/e2org).

Clean Energy Trust provides catalytic capital and support to early-stage startups in the Greater Midwest working on solutions for clean energy, decarbonization, and environmental sustainability. Based in Chicago, Clean Energy Trust invests in and provides hands-on support to help entrepreneurs scale and succeed. To date, Clean Energy Trust has helped its 36 portfolio companies raise \$34 for every \$1 Clean Energy Trust has invested. Learn more at [www.CleanEnergyTrust.org](http://www.CleanEnergyTrust.org).