

After Rough Year, Clean Energy Jobs on the Upswing in Minnesota

Minnesota clean energy jobs declined in 2020's pandemic-wracked economy, but the second half of the year showed significant recovery and strong promise for the future.

Quick Facts

55,329

Clean energy jobs

-6,477

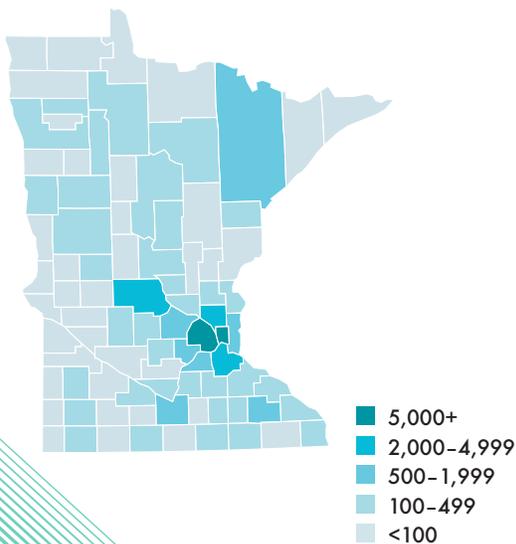
Clean energy jobs declined for the first time in years, but the industry bounced back strongly in the second half of the year

+2%

Growth of jobs in advanced transportation, the state's fastest-growing sector

Clean energy companies employed 55,329 Minnesotans at the end of 2020, a 10.5 percent drop from 2019. This marks the first year-to-year decline since Clean Jobs Midwest began tracking Minnesota clean energy jobs. But Minnesota's clean energy sector grew by 10 percent in the second half of the year, nearly two times the growth rate for jobs in the overall economy. Despite the industry's overall decline, more than twice as many Minnesotans worked in clean energy as compared to the number of lawyers, accountants and auditors, web developers, and real estate agents combined.

Clean Energy Jobs Minnesota



Minnesota's largest clean energy employment sector is energy efficiency, accounting for nearly 75 percent of the state's clean energy jobs. One sector to watch is in advanced transportation, as more automakers and their suppliers continue to shift to electric vehicles. The advanced transportation sector saw a jobs increase of 2 percent for a total of 3,252 workers.

Among advanced transportation subsectors, hybrid cars and electric vehicles were the state's bright spots. Hybrid vehicle manufacturing employees grew by 4.9 percent to 1,544 workers. Electric vehicle (EV) jobs grew by an even healthier 7.4 percent to 797 workers and are poised for future growth with supportive policies and significant commitments to EVs by major vehicle manufacturers, such as Ford and GM, and their suppliers. Wind energy jobs, another highlight in Minnesota, grew by 7.8 percent to 2,536 workers.

Clean energy jobs are found in every corner of Minnesota. While Minneapolis/St. Paul (34,958) is the largest hub for clean energy jobs, more than 37 percent of clean energy jobs are in Greater Minnesota.

Policies Matter

As lawmakers look to rebuild a better, cleaner, more equitable economy, the clean energy sector is a proven and solid foundation on which to build in Minnesota. To keep clean energy jobs growing – and ensure that they’re available to all Americans – Congress must:

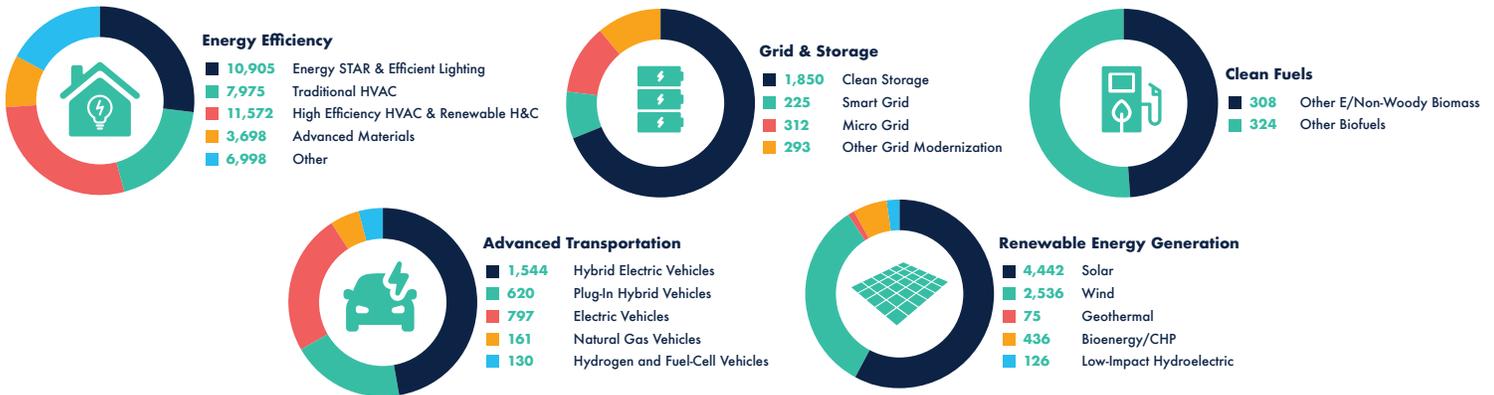
- **Infrastructure**—Pass and fund legislation to create a national car-charging network, expand building efficiency improvements, and modernize our electric grid.
- **Tax Policy**—Extend, expand, and improve accessibility of federal tax incentives for energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, and zero-emission vehicles.
- **Innovation**—Make federal Investments in clean energy, vehicle and battery storage, energy efficiency, and regenerative and low-carbon agriculture.
- **Workforce Training**—Better fund existing programs and pass new programs to create new employment opportunities, improve equity, and meet the workforce requirements of a better, cleaner economy.
- **Clean Energy Finance**—Facilitate and leverage privately financed clean energy projects and improve equity.

Minnesota can also expand clean energy jobs by enacting state policies that support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric vehicles. These policies can help create thousands of new jobs as the post-pandemic recovery kicks into gear. The Minnesota Legislature must remove arbitrary red tape in Minnesota’s nation-leading community solar program, strengthen building performance standards, fully fund the state’s Bioincentive Program, and pass Governor Tim Walz’s proposal that will lead Minnesota to 100% clean energy in the state’s electricity sector by 2040.

Jobs by Sector



Subsector Details



71%

Small businesses drive the state’s clean energy sector – in 2020, 71 percent of Minnesota’s clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 people

11%

More than 11 percent of Minnesota’s clean energy workers were veterans in 2020

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 2021 U.S. Energy Employment Report (2021 USEER), produced by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and collected and analyzed by BW Research Partnership (BWRP) in partnership with the Energy Futures Initiative (EFI) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO). For more information on the survey methodology, please visit cleanjobsmidwest.com/about.