

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

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

Quick Facts

17,846

Clean energy jobs

-1,594

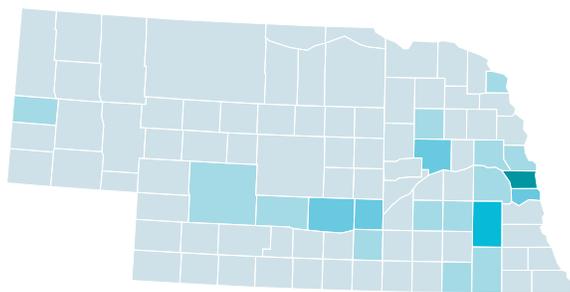
Clean energy jobs declined for the first time in years, but the industry bounced back strongly in the second half of 2020

+4%

Growth of jobs in advanced transportation, the state's fastest-growing sector in 2020

Clean energy companies employed 17,846 Nebraskans at the end of 2020, an 8.2 percent drop from 2019 and the first year-to-year decline since Clean Jobs Midwest began tracking Nebraska clean energy jobs in 2017. But Nebraska's clean energy sector grew by 11.6 percent in the second half of the year, two times the growth rate for jobs in the overall economy. Despite the industry's overall decline, more than twice as many Nebraskans worked in clean energy than the number of lawyers, accountants and auditors, web developers, and real estate agents combined.

Clean Energy Jobs Nebraska



The biggest sector of Nebraska's clean energy industry is energy efficiency, accounting for 70 percent of the state's clean energy jobs. But as more automakers and their suppliers continue to shift to electric vehicles, the advanced transportation sector saw a job increase of 4 percent for a total of 1,693 workers.

Among advanced transportation subsectors, hybrid cars and electric vehicles were the state's bright spots. Hybrid vehicle manufacturing employees grew by 6.7 percent to 803 workers. Electric vehicle (EV) jobs grew by an even healthier 9 percent to 414 workers, and are poised for future growth with supportive policies and significant commitments to EVs by major vehicle manufacturers like Ford and GM and their suppliers. Wind energy jobs, another highlight in Nebraska, grew by 9 percent to 629 workers.

Clean energy jobs are found in every corner of Nebraska. While big cities like Omaha (7,106) and Lincoln (2,929) are some of the largest hubs for clean energy jobs, more than 40 percent – or more than 7,600 – jobs are located in rural areas.

Learn more and find out how many jobs are in your district at

www.cleanjobsmidwest.com

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 Nebraska. To keep clean energy jobs growing – and ensure that they’re available to all Americans – Congress must:

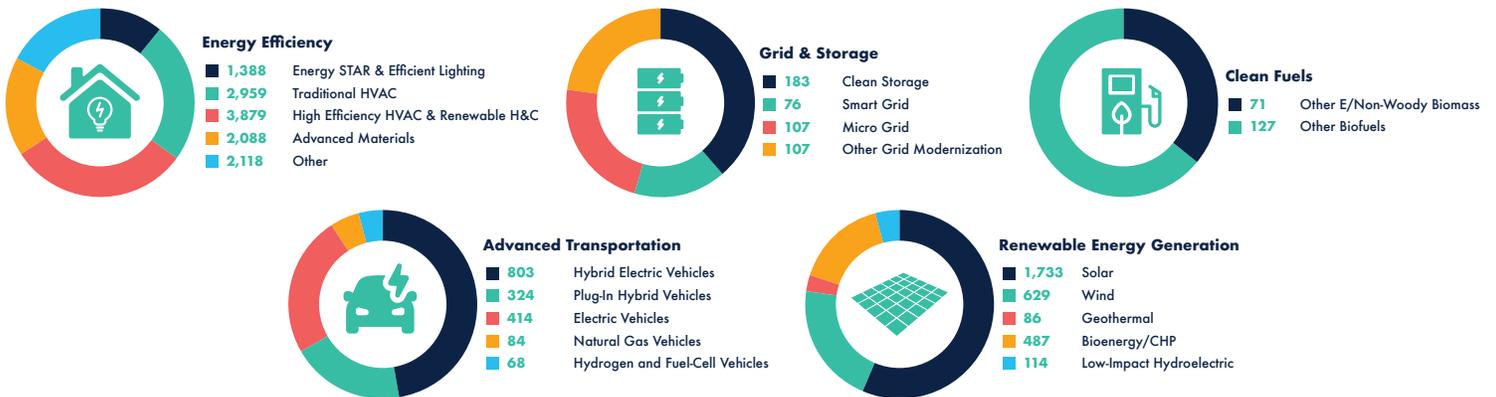
- **Transportation and Grid Modernization**—Pass and fund legislation to create a national car-charging network, expand building efficiency improvement, and modernize our electric grid.
- **Tax Policy**—Extend, expand, and improve accessibility of federal tax incentives for energy efficiency, wind, solar, 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.

Nebraska can also expand clean energy jobs by enacting state policies that support renewable energy, energy efficiency and electric vehicles. These policies can help create thousands of new jobs as the post-pandemic recovery kicks into gear. Nebraska lawmakers should also include equity, wage, and benefit considerations when they consider clean energy projects and policies.

Jobs by Sector



Subsector Details



70% Small businesses drive the state’s clean energy sector — in 2020, 70 percent of Nebraska’s clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 people

9% 9 percent of Nebraska’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.