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REPORT: Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Grew 5% in 2021, Now Home to 120,775 Workers

*Illinois's clean energy economy positioned for even greater growth with
Inflation Reduction Act investments*

Chicago, IL – (October 12, 2022) – Clean energy businesses in Illinois added more than 5,600 workers in 2021, now employing 120,775 Illinoisans across the state. That's according to a [new analysis of employment data](#) released today by the national, nonpartisan business group E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) and nonprofit Evergreen Climate Innovations. The report comes after Congress and the Biden administration passed the largest investment in climate and clean energy in history which is set to boost clean energy jobs and businesses across the state.

After a mild downturn across all energy jobs in 2020, Illinois clean energy jobs grew 5 percent in 2021. According to [Clean Jobs Midwest 2022](#), growth in 2021 was driven by advanced transportation, which added more than 2,970 jobs and now employs 13,668 workers statewide.

Despite the recent growth, clean energy jobs still have significant room to grow in Illinois. With billions in funds from the Inflation Reduction Act preparing to be invested nationwide, the state has an enormous opportunity to create tens of thousands more jobs in the coming years. To see the full potential of job and emission reduction benefits from the Inflation Reduction Act, state and federal coordination is needed. Policies that remove barriers for clean energy development like the development of workforce training programs and expansion of transmission infrastructure will also be critical.

According to the analysis, the energy efficiency sector continued to lead clean energy in total jobs in 2021 with more than 82,590 workers followed by renewable energy (18,095 jobs) and advanced transportation (13,668 jobs). Meanwhile, advanced transportation saw the fastest job growth across clean energy (28 percent), followed by clean fuels (6 percent).

Clean energy employment grew 5 percent nationwide to reach 3.2 million jobs. The Midwest also saw clean energy jobs increase 5 percent, a rate faster than overall employment growth in the region. The 12 state Midwest region is now home to over 714,000 clean energy jobs.

Micaela Preskill, Midwest Advocate for E2 said:

"With the IRA investing billions into the clean energy sector in the coming years, these jobs are set to grow at an unprecedented rate. Illinois stands to benefit as the industry builds off its

strong foundation with clean energy workers calling home in every corner of the Midwest. With policies that support strong wages, equity, and workforce training, a transformation to a cleaner economy that boosts the state's entire economy is within reach."

Ian Adams, Managing Director at Evergreen Climate Innovations said:

"The clean energy workforce is a large and growing part of the Midwest region's economy. This seventh edition of the Clean Jobs Midwest report demonstrates how innovative businesses across renewable energy, electric vehicles, and beyond are continuing to deploy new technologies and create new jobs in the process. Looking forward, we are excited for the potential for this industry to grow even more robustly following the passage of impactful federal legislation including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act."

Nate Baguio, Senior Vice President of Commercial Development at Lion Electric in Joliet, I said:

"We celebrate as the demand for electric vehicle sector jobs grows in the United States, which is noted in the recently released 2022 Clean Jobs Midwest Report from E2 and Evergreen Climate Innovations. Lion is committed to investing in bringing clean manufacturing jobs to the region, and we will do this with the upcoming opening of our new, 900,000 square-foot facility in Joliet, Illinois."

Other Findings:

- Clean energy occupations accounted for 22 percent of all construction jobs and 4 percent of all manufacturing jobs in Illinois.
- Small businesses drive Illinois's clean energy sector – in 2021, 71 percent of Illinois's clean energy businesses employed fewer than 20 people.
- 9 percent of Illinoisans employed in clean energy are veterans.

For a full breakdown of clean energy jobs for every state in the Midwest, see www.cleanjobsmidwest.com – including profiles of workers in each sector.

Methodology:

This is the seventh annual Clean Jobs Midwest report produced by E2 and Evergreen Climate Innovations (formerly Clean Energy Trust) based on analysis of the U.S. Department of Energy's annual US Energy Employment & Jobs Report (USEER) by the BW Research Partnership. 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 2022 USEER relies on a unique supplemental survey of 33,000 business representatives across the United States.

For more details on methodology see <https://www.cleanjobsmidwest.com/survey-methodology>.

Previous E2 and Evergreen Jobs Reports:

- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2021](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2020](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2019](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2018](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2017](#)
- [Clean Jobs Midwest 2016](#)

Additional Information:

- Report: [Clean Jobs America 2022](#) (July 2022)

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[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 or follow us on Twitter at [@e2org](#).

Evergreen Climate Innovations, formerly Clean Energy Trust, provides catalytic capital and support to entrepreneurs and startups that bring impactful climate technologies to market. The nonprofit pioneered its 501vc® Investment Fund to align philanthropic and corporate contributions to deliver environmental, economic, and social impact. Evergreen advances and expands access to innovation across the Greater Midwest and cultivates an ecosystem of investors, donors, and collaborators. For over a decade, Evergreen Climate Innovations has invested in startups that have raised \$37 for every \$1 invested. Learn more at evergreeninno.org