

Clean Jobs Midwest

Clean Jobs Midwest is a survey of clean energy employment in 12 Midwestern states. The region currently employs 568,979 workers in sectors including renewable energy generation, clean transmission, energy efficiency, clean fuels, and advanced transportation.

Midwest *Story*

Quick Facts

The clean energy economy is growing in every Midwestern state — Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. But we know clean energy can grow even faster. By implementing good public policy — such as state renewable portfolio standards and energy efficiency standards — we can create even more clean energy jobs across the region.

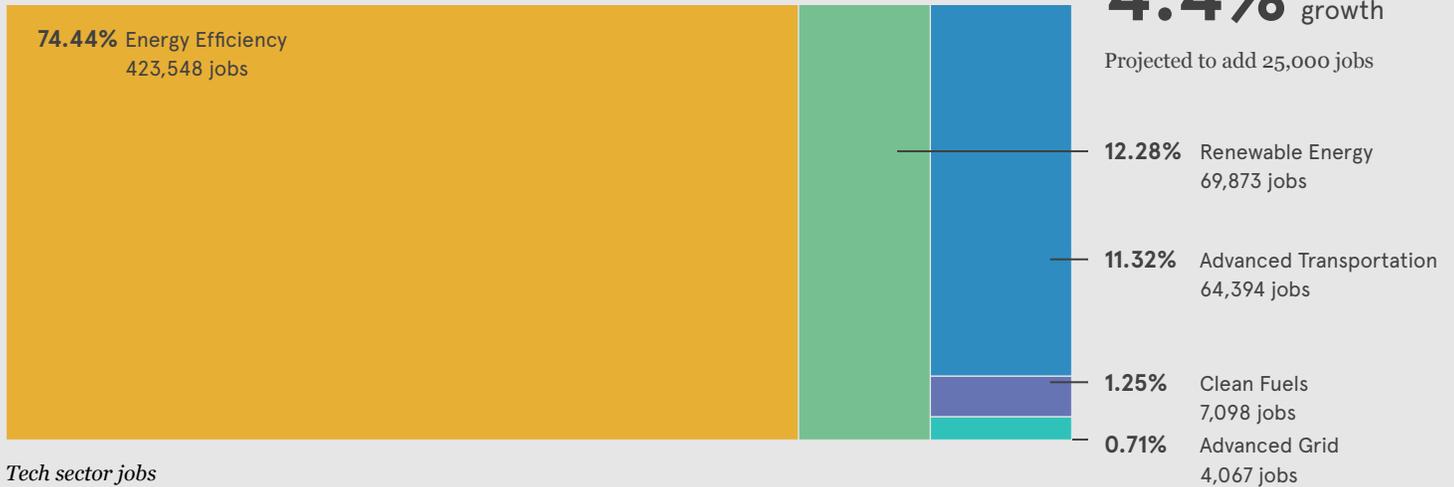
568,979

clean energy workers in various sectors in the Midwest

4.4%

 projected growth

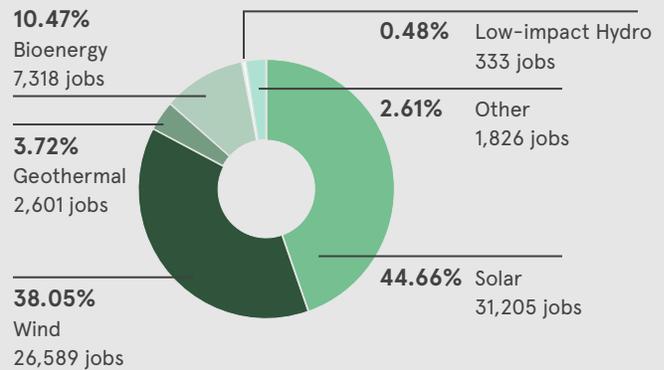
Projected to add 25,000 jobs



Tech sector jobs

This survey illustrates clean energy’s size and importance. Data indicates Ohio and Illinois each have more than 100,000 clean energy jobs, while Michigan is home to over 85,000. Regardless of how many clean energy workers a state employs, though, every Midwestern state is playing a role in our changing energy landscape. We’re moving toward more renewable energy generation and helping make traditional industries more energy efficient. Several factors, including policies that incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, are correlated with this growth — and the resulting job growth benefits both individual citizens and the entire region.

Three out of four clean energy workers in the Midwest work in energy efficiency, the region’s largest clean energy industry. About 13 percent of the area’s jobs are in renewable energy like wind and solar, while a similar amount are employed in the advanced transportation industry. This highlights a shift within traditional automotive industries toward more alternative and advanced vehicles throughout the supply chain.



Renewable generation subsectors

Clean Jobs Midwest

	Installation & Maintenance	Manufacturing	Trade & Distribution	Engineering & Research	Professional	Other
Jobs	337,323	65,964	58,649	18,002	51,417	37,623
%	59.29%	11.59%	10.31%	3.16%	9.04%	6.61%

Value chain

In the next 12 months, the region’s clean energy employers project a growth rate of about 4.4 percent, for an additional 25,000 jobs. A changing economy means once-traditional businesses like HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) and the building trades are increasingly modernizing operations by incorporating more clean energy into their work. With this shift comes increased demand for workers with diverse skill-sets. Employers increasingly seek candidates who are well-trained in new technologies and are prepared to evolve and grow within the clean energy industry.

For employers in the Midwest, finding trained workers has been challenging — about 80 percent of employers surveyed reported hiring difficulty over the past year. Almost a third found hiring “very difficult,” and oft-reported reasons included: lack of experience, training, and technical skills; insufficient qualifications; and a lack of soft skills. Many firms reported also had difficulty hiring in departments including sales, marketing, customer service, management, and technical support roles.

About three-quarters of Midwestern clean energy businesses serve customers primarily located within their own state, and just over half source technologies from in-state vendors. About 36 percent of businesses report vendors located within the U.S., but outside of a bordering state.

MSA	Total CJ	RE	EE	Other
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI MSA	81,642	9,763	65,821	6,057
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI MSA	38,076	4,213	32,655	1,208
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI MSA	37,269	4,885	20,327	12,056

Top 3 MSAs in the region

When questioned about specific policies that have contributed to a firm’s success, almost half — 45 percent — mentioned the federal renewable energy Investment Tax Credits (ITC). These tax credits drive renewables deployment and scale up markets by lowering total development costs. As part of a broader tax package, these credits were extended at the end of 2015. One of the few pieces of recent legislation with bipartisan agreement in Congress, their extension underscores that clean energy is not a partisan issue.

As this survey shows, the Midwest is at the forefront of our nation’s clean energy future. The industry is bringing new jobs and economic growth to our own backyards.

