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To: Media, policymakers
From: Michael Timberlake, E2 Director of Research and Publications
Date: September 22, 2026
Subject: Clean Jobs America 2026: Initial Findings

Clean Jobs America Initial Findings: Nearly 37,000 Clean Energy Jobs Lost in 2025

The U.S. clean energy workforce fell by nearly 37,000 jobs last year to 3.52 million, according to new E2 analysis of recently released U.S. Department of Energy data. It was the first annual job loss in the U.S. clean economy since the pandemic-driven economic crisis, ending four consecutive years of strong growth. The reversal coincided with the sharp increase in clean energy project cancellations tracked by E2 since the Trump administration and Congress began ending and rolling back federal support for clean energy and electric vehicles beginning in January 2025.

National findings

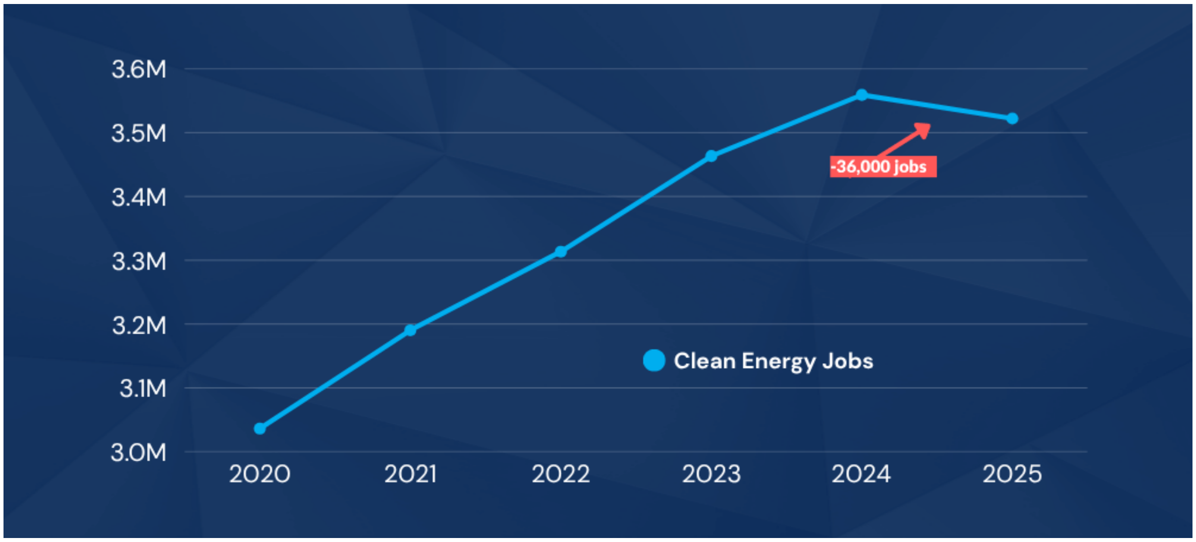
- **Reversal after four years of gains**. Clean energy companies cut 36,949 jobs in 2025, wiping out nearly 40 percent of all new jobs created the year before. It was the first time since the pandemic-fueled economic crisis that companies cut jobs in solar, wind, energy efficiency and other clean energy sectors.
- **All of the biggest sectors of the clean economy saw job losses**. Only storage and grid and biofuels posted slight increases in new jobs last year. Energy efficiency, renewables and clean vehicles all saw losses.
- **Downturn mirrored job losses throughout the energy sector.** US DOE estimates that the overall U.S. energy economy employed 8.4 million workers in 2025 and lost 86,000 jobs. Clean energy jobs accounted for roughly 43 percent of all energy sector job losses.
- **Losses impacted most of the country.** Clean energy employment fell in 35 states; California alone lost almost 21,000 jobs, while Florida led in clean energy job gains, gains adding 3,800 positions last year.
- **Long-term gains remain, but momentum has stopped.** Clean energy jobs 16% higher than 2020 levels. However, the run of adding 100,000 new jobs or more every year appears to be over.
- **Clean energy remains the largest part of America's energy industry.** With more than 3.5 million workers, clean energy still represents the biggest part of America's energy workforce by far. By comparison, oil and gas companies employ 958,000 workers; coal companies employ 125,000; and nuclear companies employ 70,000 workers.

Sector results

The contraction was broad and hit the largest sectors. Three of the five biggest clean energy sectors lost jobs. Clean vehicles recorded the largest percentage decline, followed by renewable generation and energy efficiency. Storage and grid modernization jobs grew by 3 percent: biofuels jobs were nearly flat.

Sector	2025 jobs	Job loss/gain	Growth
Energy efficiency	2,360,303	-21,443	-0.9%
Renewable generation	557,725	-11,584	-2.0%
Clean vehicles	388,415	-9,619	-2.4%
Storage and grid	173,388	+5,346	+3.2%
Biofuels	42,270	+350	+0.8%

Reversal after 4 Years of Growth



State leaders and laggards

The national loss was concentrated in the largest jobs markets. The five states with the largest drops accounted for roughly 82% of the national net job loss, including four of the top 10 states with the largest clean energy workforces. Florida added more jobs than the next four highest-growth states combined.

Largest gains			Largest losses		
State	**Jobs**	**Change**	**State**	**Jobs**	**Change**
Florida	+3,801	+2.1%	**California**	-20,655	-3.7%
Georgia	+830	+1.0%	**Illinois**	-2,958	-2.2%
Iowa	+797	+2.4%	**Maryland**	-2,395	-2.8%
New Mexico	+754	+5.4%	**Massachusetts**	-2,212	-1.7%
Idaho	+518	+3.3%	**Michigan**	-1,926	-1.5%

Summary

Not slower growth, a reversal. Solar, wind, energy efficiency, clean vehicles and other clean energy sectors went from adding about 100,000 jobs a year in recent years to shedding nearly 37,000 jobs in 2025**.** The combination of job losses and unprecedented project cancellations shows that the Trump administration's energy policy shift beginning in 2025 is imposing measurable economic costs on businesses and workers.

The employment decline follows a sharp reversal in project activity that E2 began tracking in 2025. According to E2's Clean Economy Works project tracker, companies canceled or downsized 142 clean energy manufacturing, generation and storage projects last year, representing $57.8 billion in lost business investment. Those projects were expected to create an additional 84,400 new jobs (positions not included in the DOE data or this analysis). Combined, the existing jobs cut last year and the announced jobs that were canceled add up to more than 120,000 positions.

Sources and methodology

Employment figures are based on data from the U.S. Department of Energy's 2026 U.S. Energy & Employment Report (USEER), with prior-year comparisons from E2's Clean Jobs America 2025. This latest data coincides with employment estimates at the end of Q4 2025. USEER counts jobs rather than unique workers and uses survey-based estimates; totals may not sum exactly because of rounding.

References: DOE 2026 USEER national report; E2 Clean Jobs America 2025; E2 Clean Economy Works monthly analysis.