

Unlike all other Midwestern states, Nebraska runs exclusively on public power. All electric utilities are either municipal or cooperative utilities. The majority of Nebraskans are covered by three main utilities: Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), Lincoln Electric System (LES) and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Most utilities offer limited energy efficiency (EE) programs and currently offer little to no natural gas energy efficiency programs.

EE program spending is authorized by the utility's board and costs and savings are passed directly to the ratepayers. Individual utility boards determine their rate structures and how to pay for efficiency programs; therefore, there is no need for cost-recovery mechanisms under this utility structure. Despite these strengths, Nebraska has fallen short in creating more robust energy efficiency programs for its residents. There is an opportunity for the state to create more comprehensive EE programs that have a positive impact on all Nebraskans, including agricultural and small business owners and multi-family unit owners.

NEBRASKA EE QUICK FACTS

**Nebraska has potential to grow its energy efficiency industry.
Here's what's in the cards:**

Energy Savings Target



Nebraska does not have any statewide mandate for EE savings.


EE Spend per Capita



2023 electric EE \$ per customer: \$6.50

2021 gas EE \$ per residential customer: \$0.00

Building Energy Codes



Commercial: 2018 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2019*

Residential: 2018 IECC*

*Some municipalities have made weakening amendments to the local commercial and residential code.

Stakeholder Collaboration



Nebraska does not have a statewide EE collaborative.

However, the Nebraska Energy Codes Collaborative was started in 2013 by MEEA and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

Energy Efficiency Financing



The Nebraska State Energy Office offers Dollar and Energy Savings Loan Program, which provides low-interest loans for projects that reduce energy use.

Fuel-Switching



Since there is no statewide EE framework, there is no legislative or regulatory guidance on fuel-switching.

JOBS AND ECONOMICS

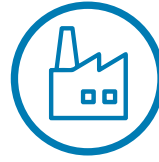
Strong EE policies lead to utility investment and job growth throughout the Nebraska economy. The Nebraska EE industry employs more state residents than any other energy sector; most employers are small businesses providing local jobs.



13,855 EE jobs, out of **38,634** total energy jobs or **24,384** clean energy jobs



Veterans comprise **9%** of the EE workforce



2,121 EE businesses

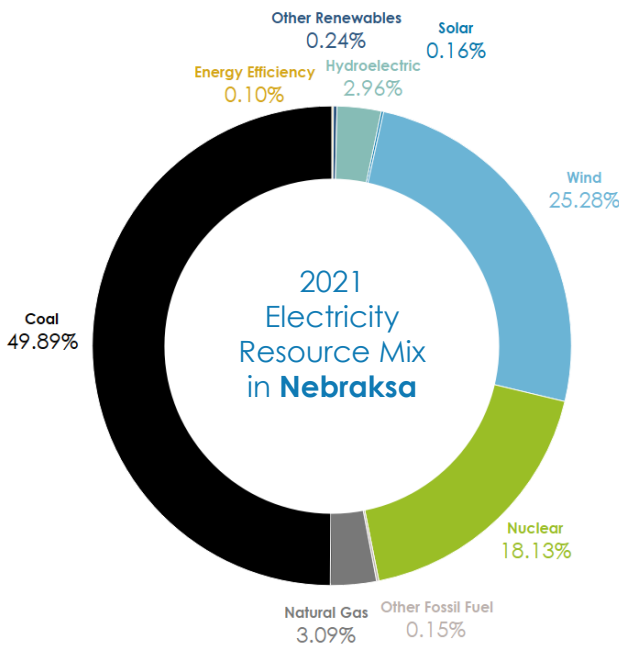


of those are **small** businesses (fewer than **100** employees)

STATE ENERGY PLANNING

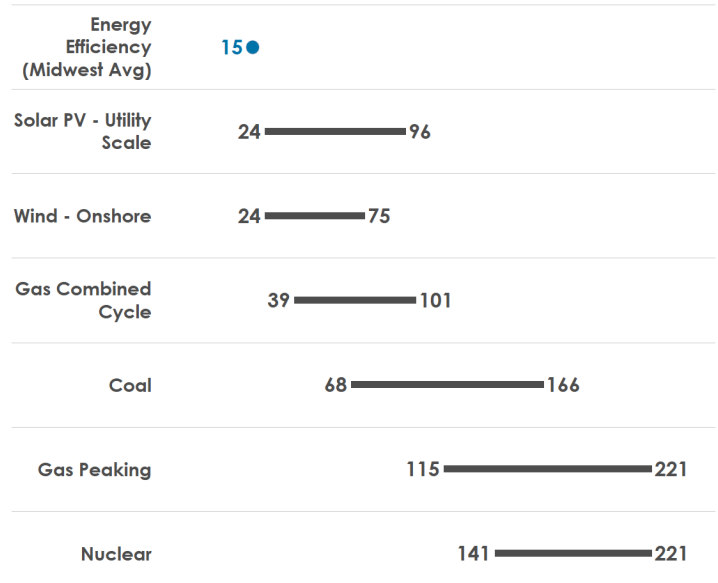
Nebraska is unique in that it does not regulate its utilities by a state commission, though utilities are required to report to the Nebraska Power Review Board for planning purposes. Nebraska requires its public utilities to engage in integrated resource planning (IRP), considering options including EE and conservation, cogeneration and district heating/cooling and renewable resources. Within the IRP process, utilities are asked to include least-cost options with minimized life cycle costs and prioritize EE measures, which remains the state's lowest-cost resource for flexible supply-side decisions.

Nebraska's three largest public electric utilities, NPPD, OPPD and LES, serving over 90% of Nebraska's population, all have decarbonization goals to reach net-zero emissions by 2040 and 2050. Additionally, Nebraska municipalities have created climate plans that include EE to reach these goals.



Utility Cost Range of Electricity Resources

\$ per megawatt-hour, 2023



Source: Lazard, 2023; EBNL, 2018

INCLUSIVITY: INCREASING ACCESS TO EE

Whether in affordable housing or rural communities, under-resourced customers need more inclusive EE program options to reduce their energy burden. Given that Nebraskans who are at or below the 200% federal poverty line have an average energy burden of 11%, utilities have significant opportunity to be innovative and offer residents with more EE options to ultimately alleviate their energy burden.

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