



MEET THE POLICY TEAM

WHAT WE DO

EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

- Educate policymakers about the benefits of energy efficiency and discuss potential impacts of policy decisions
- Testify to legislative committees, provide technical resources, submit comments to open regulatory commission proceedings and conduct trainings for regulatory staff
- Participate in climate and energy advocacy tables to ensure cost-effective energy efficiency remains a key part of the clean energy agenda
- Track and analyze the legislative and regulatory developments within our 13-state footprint



CONVENING STAKEHOLDERS

- Facilitate discussions amongst diverse energy stakeholders including utilities, implementers, advocates and state agency and commission staff
- Provide regional perspective and technical expertise at state Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) and energy efficiency filings
- Lead discussions on state energy plans and policy goals



RESEARCH

- Develop white papers, fact sheets and advocacy materials that promote the benefits of cost-effective energy efficiency
- Track and report annual electricity and gas savings from utility-run energy efficiency portfolios
- Conduct assessments on emerging energy efficiency issues facing the industry
- Research at the crux of deploying energy efficiency programs and policies equitably



NETWORKING

- Promote economic, environmental and consumer benefits of energy efficiency
- Participate in state-level working groups and collaboratives
- Connect decision-makers with technical experts
- Attend and present at state and national energy conferences
- Facilitate information-sharing between our members (utilities, implementers, businesses, evaluators, governments, advocates and academics)

OUR IMPACT



Recent expansive climate laws like the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act in Minnesota and the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in Illinois show that policymakers understand energy efficiency's role in decarbonization.



However, energy efficiency policies across the Midwest have faced numerous challenges over the last few years. Defending these policies requires strategic collaboration, which is why MEEA continues to provide legislative testimony, policymaker outreach and advocacy planning with state environmental stakeholders.



MEEA's Policy Team is routinely funded to proactively educate the Midwest's new governors, commissioners and key staff on the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficiency. We will continue our vital role as a regional resource on energy efficiency and its impact on the clean energy economy.

WHY ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVOCACY MATTERS



Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to meet our energy needs. It helps reduce costs for everyone—residents, small businesses and large commercial or industrial customers.



Regressive energy efficiency policies leave benefits on the table. These benefits include reduced energy use, energy bill savings, reduced emissions from greenhouse gases and other pollutants, reduced health care costs and new jobs. As a result of regressive policy or failure to adopt proposed progressive policies, states in the region are faced with income losses ranging from \$14 million (Indiana) to \$300 million (Ohio).



Energy efficiency creates good, local jobs in our communities. In 2021, the Midwest had 502,335 energy efficiency jobs, comprising 23.2% of the national energy efficiency workforce.² Two-thirds of clean energy jobs in the region come from energy efficiency.



At least 30 states have enacted long term Energy Efficiency Resource Standards. Energy efficiency policy directly drives energy efficiency investments in the economy.



Energy efficiency remains the most cost-effective way to reduce emissions as the generation mix transitions to a cleaner energy portfolio. Reducing energy consumption nationally through efficiency by 15% for just one year would reduce CO₂ emissions by 14%, PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) emissions by 11%, NO_x emissions by 18% and SO₂ emissions by 23%.³



Energy efficiency measures improve health and lower health care costs. Negative health effects from poor indoor environmental quality make up nearly 14% of healthcare costs today.⁴ Further, from 2007 to 2017, the Midwest region lost about \$650 million in monetized health benefits from not adopting model energy codes.

OUR TEAM



Jason Liechty
Policy Director

Policy work with strategic insight, wide interests and deep climate and energy knowledge



Maddie Wazowicz
Policy Manager

Clean energy advocate with experience inside government and political campaigns



Arlinda Bajrami
Policy Manager

Proponent of community-led, equitable solutions with a background in policy development and community organizing



Greg Ehrendreich
Research Analyst

Data virtuoso and industry veteran with an M.S. in Environmental Management



Amanda Caloras
Policy Associate

Curiosity-driven legislative and regulatory researcher with grounding in sustainability policy at the city level



Christian Koch
Policy Associate

Advanced energy policy advocate with previous involvement in state government affairs and an M.S. in environment and sustainability



Natalie Newman
Policy Associate

Practiced organizer and coordinator focused on advancing equity in environmental policy

REFERENCES

[Synapse Economics & MEEA, Missed Opportunities, 2021](#)

[E2 & E4 The Future, EE Jobs in America, 2022](#)

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[ACEEE, Saving Energy, Saving Lives: The Health Impacts of Avoiding Power Plant Pollution with Energy Efficiency, 2018](#)

[UL Environment, Effects of Indoor Environmental Quality on Performance and Productivity, 2016](#)

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