



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 and submit comments to open regulatory commission proceedings
- 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)
- 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

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



Former Ohio Governor John Kasich cited MEEA research in his rationale for vetoing H.B. 554, a measure which would have significantly weakened energy efficiency programs in the state.



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.



In 2019 MEEA's Policy Team is 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.



Every \$1 invested in energy efficiency returns \$2-3 in benefits for Midwest states. Energy efficiency policy drives energy efficiency investments in the economy. In 2014 alone, energy efficiency programs led to over 18,600 new jobs, nearly \$1.2 billion in increased regional income, over \$1.8 billion in total net economic value, and more than \$3.3 billion in net sales over a 25-year period.¹



Energy efficiency creates good, local jobs in our communities. In 2019, the Midwest had 560,778 energy efficiency jobs.² Two-thirds of clean energy jobs come from energy efficiency.



At least 26 states have enacted long term Energy Efficiency Resource Standards. Energy efficiency policy 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%, PM2.5 (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

OUR TEAM



Nick Dreher

Policy Director

Environmental law and policy expert at the nexus of economics, energy and environment



Maddie Wazowicz

Policy Manager

Clean energy advocate with experience inside government and political campaigns



Greg Ehrendreich

Research Analyst

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



Samarth Medakkar

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Plains states advocate and policy researcher bringing fresh insights and ideas



Amanda Caloras

Policy Associate

Legislative and regulatory researcher with sustainability policy experience at the city level

REFERENCES

1. Cadmus "The Economic Impacts of Energy Efficiency Investments in the Midwest" http://www.mwalliance.org/sites/default/files/media/MEEA_EconImpacts_FullReport_102816_FINAL.pdf
2. Clean Jobs Midwest: <https://www.cleanjobsmidwest.com/story/midwest>
3. Hayes, Sara and Kubes, Cassandra. (2018) "Saving Energy, Saving Lives: The Health Impacts of Avoiding Power Plant Pollution with Energy Efficiency." American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.
4. UL Environment. (2016) "Effects of Indoor Environmental Quality on Performance and Productivity"

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