

CONNECTED
&
COMMITTED



1,200

In-person attendees
at MEEA events



109

Realtors trained
on the consumer
benefits of
energy efficiency

**20
24**

Co-authored
7
white papers

20X



Submitted comments
and provided expert
testimony 20 times
to inform decision
makers about the
impacts of energy
efficiency policies

Contributed to

24

working groups
across our 13 states



Presented at

23

industry
events



600

hours of Building Operator
Certification® Training



754

Webinar Attendees

21 Blogs

written by MEEA staff experts



500

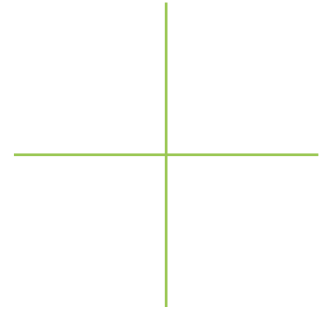
people educated
on energy codes

173 Members

including **22** new members



ADVANCING
MIDWEST
ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
IN 2024



The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) is a collaborative network, promoting energy efficiency to optimize energy generation, reduce consumption, create jobs and decrease carbon emissions in all Midwest communities.

MEEA seeks an achievable pathway for all people and communities in the Midwest to receive the economic, environmental and societal benefits of energy efficiency and the larger clean energy economy.

This past year, we have demonstrated the power of collaboration in advancing energy efficiency across MEEA's 13-state footprint. In 2024, MEEA continued to be the region's trusted source on energy efficiency, serving as an advocate, expert, educator and network for our members. This report highlights the important work MEEA has done in the last year and opens a window to opportunities for future expansion.

Thank you to MEEA's board, staff, members, funders and partners that contribute to this essential work. As we embark on our 25th year, we are excited to build a more energy efficient future together.

HOW MEEA WORKS

MEEA as an Educator

MEEA educates a wide range audience across the Midwest to ensure that all stakeholders and decision makers understand the benefits of energy efficiency. Our staff administers the Building Operator Certification® training to upskill facilities personnel with the knowledge and tools to make buildings more energy efficient. MEEA offers trainings on energy efficiency 101, integrating smart manufacturing tools for energy efficiency, efficiency upgrades for real estate professionals, energy and stretch code adoption and compliance and high-performance buildings.



MEEA as a Network

MEEA is known throughout the industry as a key connector, expanding high impact partnerships to help move the Midwest energy efficiency industry forward. We continue to build our network, joining new collaboratives and working groups, expanding our online presence through newsletter subscriptions and social media followers, and hosting annual conferences, meetings and happy hours. MEEA's role as a convener in the region builds relationships that lay the groundwork for continued progress in our industry.

MEEA as an Expert

MEEA provides technical assistance on a variety of topics such as the policy implications of energy efficiency, the Midwest landscape of program delivery and cost-effective building upgrades. Staff experts partner with MEEA members to draft market transformation plans, inform program design and implement pilots. Stakeholders and peers across the industry recognize MEEA as an important partner with regional expertise.



MEEA as an Advocate

MEEA informs key decision makers about efficiency focused policies and the value of energy efficiency. Our staff tracks energy policy developments in the Midwest and at the federal level to keep members informed about changes impacting the industry and their work. MEEA's team of experts also assist Midwest states and municipalities with adoption, implementation and compliance with cost-effective building codes and standards.

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Analysis of Residential Energy Efficiency Programs

In 2024, MEEA conducted a comprehensive landscape analysis of residential energy efficiency programs across the Midwest focusing primarily on heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and building envelope measures. MEEA identified key trends, program structures, opportunity areas and barriers to adoption to inform program design, address adoption challenges, and identify opportunities for innovation and growth in the region's energy efficiency landscape. MEEA conducted 39 separate interviews with staff from 31 utilities across MEEA's entire 13-state region; 15 Investor-Owned Utilities, 10 Municipal Utilities and 5 Cooperatives.



State Energy Office Meetings

MEEA convened 48 unique State Energy Office staff members monthly, with representation from all 13 states in our footprint plus West Virginia.

Building Energy Code Trainings

Over 30 building energy code-focused trainings were provided by MEEA staff in 2024. MEEA hosted 14 trainings in Nebraska alone, with over 335 attendees. Professionals from 20 different states attended the Midwest Building Energy Codes Conference for two days of presentations and discussions. MEEA experts educated professionals on a variety of topics including:

- How Building Energy Codes Ensure Resilient Buildings
- Comparing multiple versions of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
- Air Sealing & Insulation Principles
- Air Infiltration, Lighting and HVAC
- Common Compliance Issues and Solutions

Illinois Distributional Equity Analysis Case Study

MEEA joined forces with Synapse and E4theFuture on two Distributional Equity Analysis case studies based on data supplied by ComEd, Ameren Illinois and the Illinois Commerce Commission. MEEA developed a strategy to connect with stakeholders to have their voices heard in these case studies, which seek to understand the distributional equity impacts of electric and gas efficiency resource investment decisions in disadvantaged communities. MEEA led the team's efforts to connect with community groups by facilitating meetings and connecting one-on-one with partners.





2024 MIDWEST ENERGY SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE

The Midwest Energy Solutions Conference (MES) is MEEA's annual event that raises awareness and reinforces the importance of energy efficiency. 2024 MES was the largest conference held to date with additional growth seen in 2025.

Over **850 attendees** from **35 states** and **4 countries**

153 utility representatives

75% held manager titles or higher

11 students received ComEd-funded scholarships

9 community-based organization staff members attended MES through funding from our member-supported CBO stipend reserve

MEEA provided financial support for **16 government and non-profit employees** to attend the conference

The Inspiring Efficiency Awards (IEAs) have been a part of MES since 2004. These awards recognize Midwest leaders who deliver groundbreaking advancements in energy efficiency in six categories: Leadership, Champion, Education, Impact, Marketing and Innovation. 2024 IEA Winners included: Kristol W. Simms (Chair's Award), Angela Tovar (Leadership Award) and the City of Cincinnati Office of Environment and Sustainability (Champion Award). All winners are listed on meeaconference.org.

Peer-to-Peer Midwest Municipal Energy Manager Workgroup

Since 2014, MEEA has led and facilitated a network of Midwest-based municipal energy managers and sustainability staff focused on advancing energy efficiency in their communities. MEEA convened over 30 cities three times in 2024, providing a platform for members to share strategies, policies and opportunities to advance energy efficiency and affordable building decarbonization in their local public buildings.



Workforce Committee

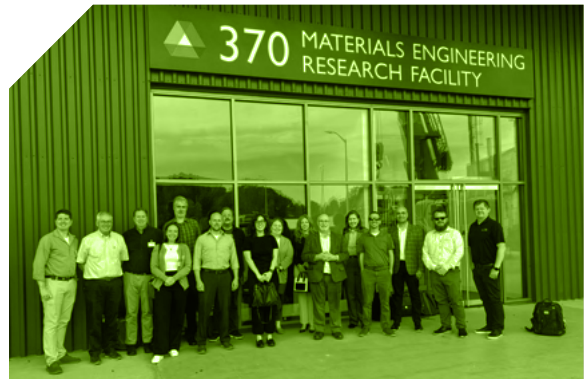
MEEA debuted a Workforce Committee in August 2024 as a new opportunity for members to collaborate on workforce development strategies, share upcoming events, recent challenges or successes and brainstorm topics for the Midwest Energy Solutions conference and upcoming meetings. The committee hosted three meetings with its 48 members and have more planned for 2025.

DOE Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnerships

The MEEA Policy and Market Solutions & Education teams provided policy support to three regional DOE Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs). The TAPs help industrial facilities and other large energy users increase the adoption of onsite energy technologies like combined heat and power, microgrids, renewable energy and enhanced energy efficiency. MEEA completed six in-depth policy landscapes as well as community engagement plans for Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. MEEA also collected information on tribal nations, including recent energy projects, industrial activity and potential points of contact. Supporting the TAPs with policy analysis is one way MEEA encourages the uptake of energy efficiency in the industrial sector, which can help provide substantial, cost-effective energy savings for utilities and states in our region.

Illinois Stretch Energy Code

MEEA continued its outreach and support for the new Illinois Stretch Energy Code in partnership with Slipstream and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. MEEA contributed technical expertise to the Illinois Energy Code Advisory Council during the code's development, which was finalized in late 2024. Additionally, MEEA provided training and resources to dozens of municipalities considering adoption and assisted with creating a utility attribution framework to evaluate savings through market transformation. Homes built under the Stretch Code are expected to achieve 9.6% greater energy savings compared to those built under the base Illinois energy code.



Buildings UP

In 2024, MEEA began our second year supporting DOE's Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP), an initiative focused on innovative approaches to retrofitting buildings to increase efficiency and resilience and deliver cost savings. As a Regional Navigator, MEEA and the other Regional Energy Efficiency Organizations provide mentorship and support to help prize winners understand their local energy efficiency ecosystem, including applicable policies, regulatory environments, programs, influential stakeholders, challenges and opportunities to address existing gaps.

MEEA serves as lead to the other Regional Navigators and provides technical assistance to 12 prize-winning teams across the Midwest & Alaska, all working on unique and inventive concepts to advance high-performance technologies in their communities.

Midwest Heating & Cooling Collaborative

The Midwest Heating and Cooling Collaborative cross pollinates program best practices across the industry to make progress toward its goal: making cost-saving, high performance HVAC technology the first choice for all homeowners and contractors across the Midwest. The Collaborative is delivered by four mission-aligned non-profits in the Midwest: MEEA, the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), Slipstream and Elevate.

In 2024, the Collaborative:

- Formed a new utility technical advisory group, which met quarterly to discuss strategies for heat pump deployment and the next generation of heat pump technologies.
- Launched a new website to act as a centralized repository of resources for contractors and program administrators at mwcollab.org.
- Created a Workforce Development Toolkit that assessed the current state of the HVAC workforce in the Midwest. The toolkit equips key stakeholders with essential guidance and tools to ensure equity in their practices.

Building Operator Certification®

600 hours of total class time

168 students from **74 different employers**

across **10 states**

- **Top 3 Midwest States:** Illinois (63), Wisconsin (41) & Minnesota (23)
- **10 utilities** across the region provided financial support for BOC training participants expanding access to the training
- **86% graduation rate**

Chicago Public Schools Partnership: Chicago Public Schools (CPS) partnered with MEEA to enroll 22 facilities staff in BOC training to improve energy efficiency, occupant comfort and preventative maintenance procedures. One Facility Building Manager for CPS said, “The information was easy to understand and extremely useful. It was great to see real life examples, especially on systems that I don’t deal with in my buildings. The instructors were amazing, knowledgeable and presented the information in a fun and clear manner which made it very easy to understand. They also made sure we felt comfortable with the information and gave us plenty of opportunities to ask questions.” The partnership will continue in 2025 targeting more than 30 new students.

Multifamily Curriculum Development: MEEA self-funded a strategic reserve project to develop the BOC Level I: Multifamily curriculum which was finalized for instruction in 2024. This curriculum follows the same format as BOC Level I: Building Systems Maintenance, but with an emphasis on the systems common in multifamily buildings.

Training Highlight: MEEA’s BOC team partnered with the Forest County Potawatomi in Wisconsin to offer training to 18 students in Milwaukee, WI. This was the first of an ongoing effort to provide a broad range of workforce development trainings to tribal communities in the Midwest.

Data Jams

Data jam workshops guide building operators, owners, managers and stakeholders through the process of energy benchmarking their buildings. MEEA hosted nine data jams in Oak Park & Evanston, Illinois and Detroit, Michigan. In Detroit, MEEA staff and data jam volunteers were able to assist the Detroit Public School Community District staff in entering energy use data for their portfolio of more than 100 buildings and use energy trends to identify aging buildings and develop plans for efficiency improvements.

Midwest Smart & Efficient Manufacturing Hub

MEEA partnered with APTIM to conduct a comprehensive training gap analysis to assess the current availability of content on smart manufacturing for energy management among small- and medium-sized manufacturers. In response to the needs identified, APTIM & MEEA developed training micromodules and a tailored technical assistance plan for these manufacturers in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky. These resources are designed to enhance the understanding and implementation of smart manufacturing practices that improve operational energy efficiency. MEEA also created a new website to house resources and training micromodules at smarte efficientmanufacturing.com.



INSIDE MEEA



Our Experts

MEEA staff continued to expand their expertise through trainings on topics such as building science principles, designing meetings for equity and electric rates and tariffs.

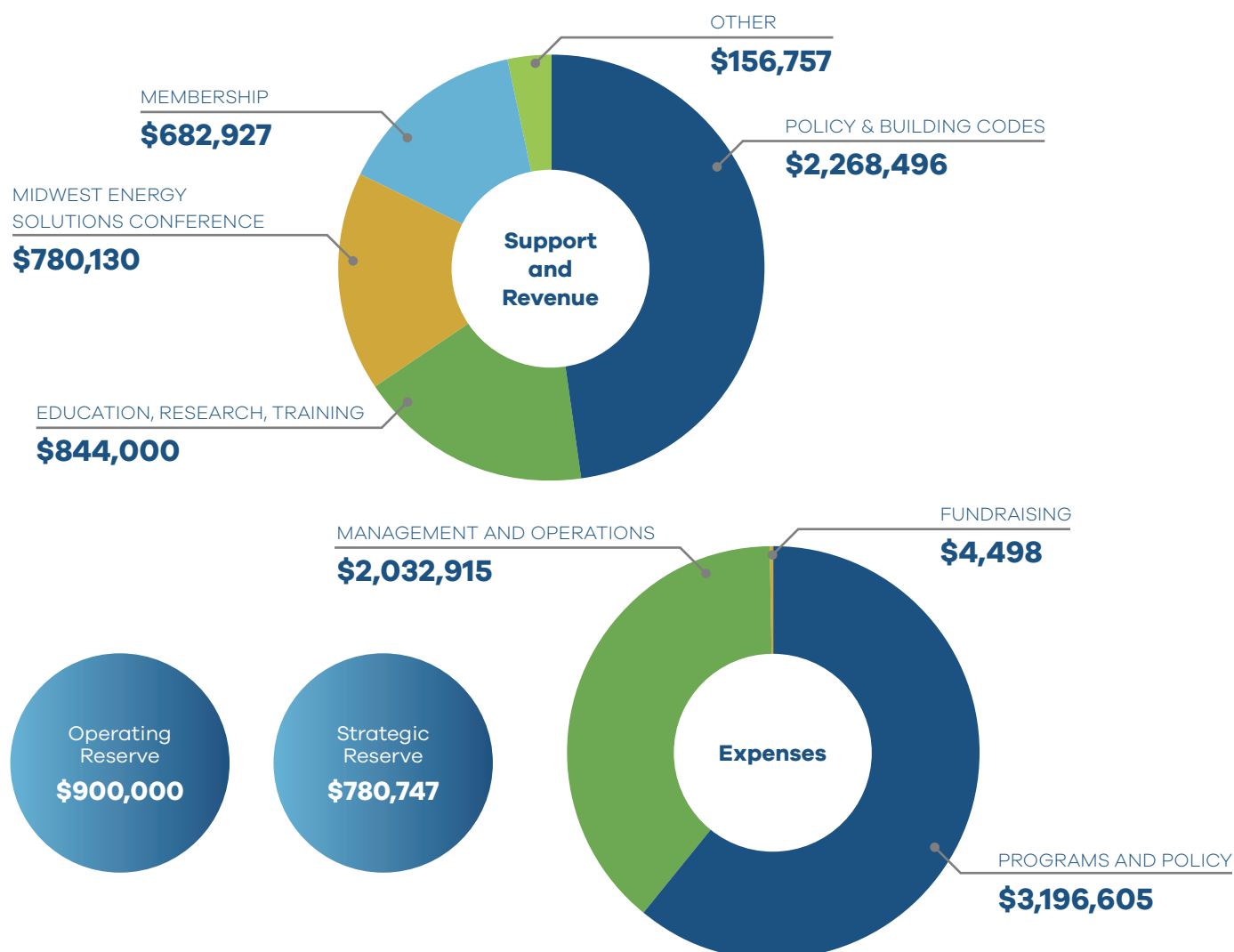


Our Commitment to Equity

In 2024, MEEA began working with Tayden Impact Partners to establish a clear vision for the organization's steadfast commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). In this phase of work, Tayden Impact Partners is guiding MEEA through embedding a DEI lens across the organization, both internally and externally.

FINANCIALS

JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024



Board

Executive Director

Paige Knutsen

Board Chair

Brian Doyle – Xcel Energy

Vice-Chair

Ashley Palladino – Resource Innovations

Treasurer

Christina Frank – Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas

Secretary

Sara Conzemius – ILLUME Advising

William Worek – Argonne National Laboratory

Amalia Hicks, Ph.D. – Cadmus

Carl Nelson – Center for Energy and the Environment

Bryan McDaniel – Citizens Utility Board

Andrenika Whisenton – CLEAResult

Denise Munoz – ComEd

Theresa Schmidt – Consumers Energy

Carla Foster – Franklin Energy

Ryan Kerr – GTI Energy

Thomas Glendening – ICF

Lisa Keels – LG&E and KU Energy

Carl Samuelson – Michaels Energy

Katie Frye – Minnesota Power

Emily Wilbur – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Energy

Jennifer Milazzo – Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC

Julia Friedman – Oracle

Jolene Sheil – Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Theresa Collins – Senior Services Plus

John Boladian – Walker-Miller Energy Services

Thank you to the following members who rolled off the board in 2024:

Todd McVicker – City of Columbia Utilities

Carmen Welch – DTE

Cliff Haefke – Energy Resources Center at the
University of Illinois Chicago

Anthony Fryer – Minnesota Department of Commerce

Dr. E'Lois Thomas – SEEL, LLC

Vinoth Sekar – Willdan





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