

# What Are Energy Efficiency Jobs?

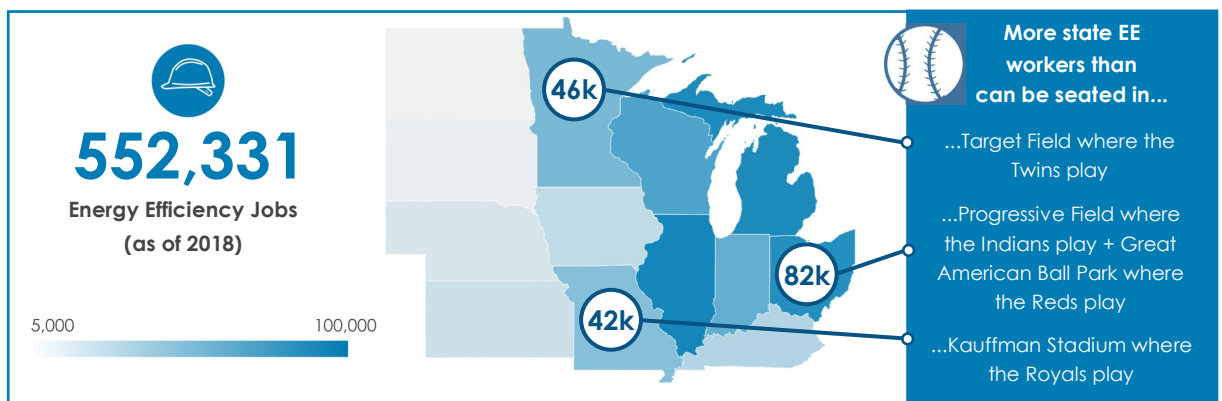
## EE's Impact on the Midwest Economy

### Energy Efficiency Jobs 101

There are more jobs in energy efficiency than in any other energy sector. In MEEA's thirteen-state territory, 1.24 million people work in the energy sector, and energy efficiency employs 552,331 (45%).<sup>1</sup> EE accounts for 71% of the Midwest's 775,046 clean energy workforce. The region's overall employment growth rate is 2.4%; yet businesses in the EE sector are forecasting a 7.8% growth rate in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [NASEO and EJI, Energy Employment by State, 2019](#)

<sup>2</sup> [E4TheFuture, Energy Efficiency Jobs in America 2019](#)



### How does investment lead to EE jobs?

Strong state EE policies lead to utility investment and job sector growth. In fact, the three states with the most planned EE investment in 2019 are the same three with the most EE jobs. Energy efficiency policy rollbacks in the region threaten the sector's continued steady job growth in the Midwest.

MEEA conducted analysis to dive deeper into this question. Our report found that investment in energy efficiency policies directly leads to job creation and regional prosperity. Specifically, a single year of Midwest energy efficiency programs are estimated to create nearly 105,000 jobs over a 25-year period.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> [MEEA and Cadmus, Economic Impacts of Energy Efficiency in the Midwest Region](#)

**97**  
% are small businesses with less than 100 employees

**86,258**  
EE businesses in the Midwest

**84**  
% of companies say it's hard to hire (i.e., more room to grow!)

## What is an EE job?

No matter a person's skillset or education level, there is a place for everyone in energy efficiency as the field has openings that range from construction, engineering, sales, auditing and manufacturing. In 2018, EE grew by 76,000 jobs nationwide, including 21,000 construction jobs and 35,000 office jobs.<sup>4</sup> Regardless of educational attainment or professional certification level, there are opportunities throughout the EE sector for everyone.

<sup>4</sup> [U.S. Energy and Employment, 2019 Report](#)

HVAC CONTRACTOR



Keeping families warm

FACILITY MANAGER



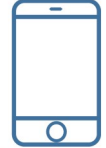
Maintaining your local school

ARCHITECT



Designing your home

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER



Creating the next energy-saving app

MANUFACTURER



Assembling efficient products

CODE OFFICIAL



Ensuring healthy, safe buildings

UTILITY WORKER



Delivering energy efficiently to you

CASE MANAGER



Connecting you to weatherization

## How do we build the future EE workforce?

Given the increasing demand for workers in the energy efficiency sector, it's important for policymakers to expand workforce training pipelines. However, diversity in the EE sector could use improvement. Currently, 76% of workers in the energy efficiency field are male, far above the 53% in the national workforce. The field tends to be younger too, with only 14% older than 55.<sup>5</sup>

The industry's percentage of veterans—10% of its workforce—demonstrates that targeted outreach and training can be effective. This shows that with additional effort in developing resources we can strengthen our industry by increasing workforce diversity.

<sup>5</sup> [U.S. Energy and Employment, 2019 Report](#)



7.8%  
potential  
growth rate



9.2%  
higher than  
average salary

*When your state adopts energy efficiency policies, **you**,  
your **community** and your state's **workforce** benefit.*

**Contact:** Maddie Wazowicz, Policy Associate  
mwazowicz@mwalliance.org, 312.374.0930  
20 N. Wacker Dr. Ste 1301, Chicago IL 60606 | [www.mwalliance.org](http://www.mwalliance.org)

