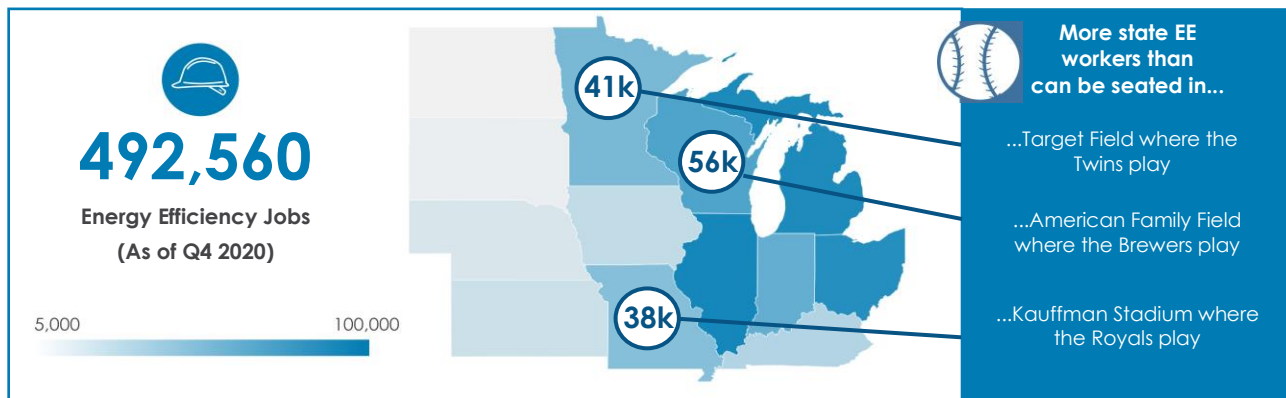


What are Energy Efficiency Jobs?

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, 1.11 million people work in the energy sector, and energy efficiency employs 492,560 (44%). EE accounts for 69% of the Midwest's 711,067 clean energy workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic decimated the EE industry, but the workforce is bouncing back and has grown 7.2% since its low point in June 2020.



How does investment lead to EE jobs?

Strong state EE policies lead to utility investment and job sector growth. Energy efficiency policy rollbacks in the region threaten the sector's continued steady job growth in the Midwest.

MEEA conducted analysis in conjunction with Synapse Economics to dive deeper into this concept. Our report found that rollbacks of energy efficiency policies directly lead to job losses and negative economic consequences. Specifically, regressive policy changes like the large commercial and industrial customer opt-out in Illinois, hard caps on efficiency budgets in Iowa, and the repeal of Energy Efficiency Resource Standards in Indiana and Ohio led to the loss of 6,429 full-time equivalent jobs in those four states.



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. Regardless of educational attainment or professional certification level, there are opportunities throughout the EE sector for everyone. Between state decarbonization goals and federal infrastructure allocations, the need for workers in all of EE's fields will continue to grow.



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, 75% 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 13% older than 55.

The industry's percentage of veterans—9% 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.



The Midwest EE workforce is still down **9%** of its pre-COVID peak



EE jobs pay an hourly rate that's **28%** higher than the national median

Sources:

[E2, 2021 Clean Jobs America](#)

[US DOE, Energy Employment by State: 2021](#)

[NASEO & EFI, 2020 Energy & Employment Report](#)

[E4TheFuture & E2, Energy Efficiency Jobs in America 2021](#)