MEEA
MIDWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY ALLIANCE

Energy Efficiency
A Good Investment for North Dakota

North Dakota has seen a massive growth in energy demand over the last decade, as high-energy industry, such as crude oil and natural gas extraction, have taken off in the western portion of the state. While state offices and North Dakota's utilities run a modest set of energy efficiency programs, spanning energy efficiency financing, loans and appliance rebates, their scope remains limited. In 2021, Governor Burgum expressed a goal that North Dakota reach carbon neutrality by 2030. With that deadline on the horizon, and an ever-expanding industrial sector, energy efficiency and demand response should be considered as a way to mitigate increased demand and lower customer bills.

NORTH DAKOTA EE QUICK FACTS

North Dakota has potential to grow its energy efficiency industry. Here's what's in the cards:

Energy Savings Target

North Dakota does not have an energy savings target. Starting in 2015, electricity providers were required to obtain 10% of the power they sold from renewable resources or through energy conservation practices.

EE Spend per Capita

2023 electric EE $ per customer: $0.18

2021 gas EE $ per residential customer: $0.00

Building Energy Codes

North Dakota is a home rule state, but the state adopted the 2021 IECC as a voluntary residential code.

Stakeholder Collaboration

There is no formal stakeholder collaboration process for state or utility energy efficiency planning.

Energy Efficiency Financing

The State Energy Program promotes energy efficiency and conservation through funding and education, with technical and financial assistance through the DOE.

Fuel-Switching

There are no fuel-switching policies or programs in place.

JOBS AND ECONOMICS

Strong EE policies lead to utility investment and job growth throughout the North Dakota economy. The North Dakota EE industry employs half of the state's clean energy workers; most employers are small businesses providing local jobs.

5,293 EE jobs, out of **52,651** total energy jobs or **10,125** clean energy jobs

Veterans comprise **9%** of the EE workforce

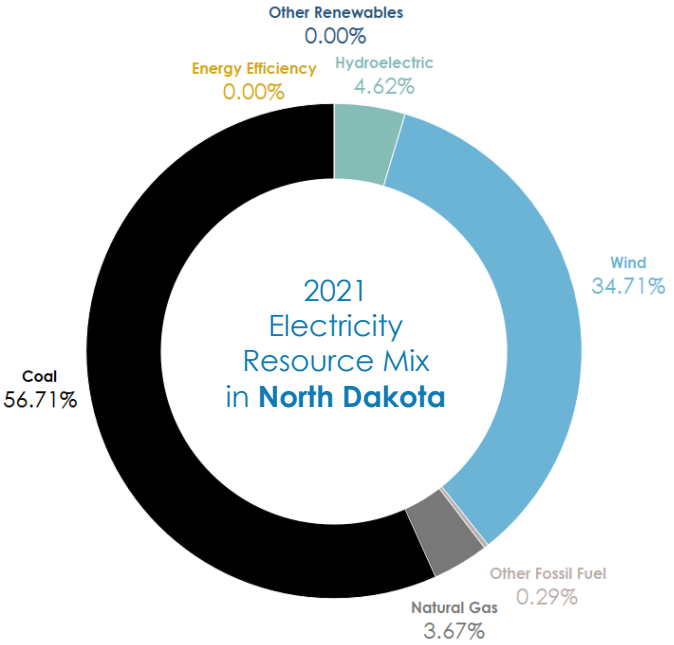
738 EE businesses

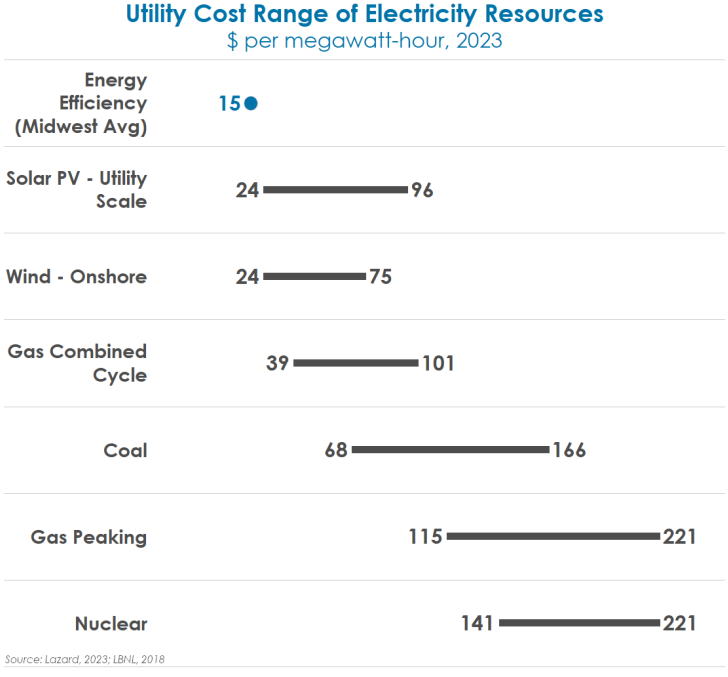
87% of those are **small** businesses (fewer than **100** employees)

STATE ENERGY PLANNING

The EmPower ND Commission was created in 2007, gathering members from across the energy industry to develop comprehensive state energy policy recommendations. In 2010, the Commission released Comprehensive State Energy Policy 2010-2025, offering a balanced approach to encourage energy growth with goals to increase energy efficiency throughout ND. In 2022, the North Dakota EmPower ND Commission 2022 Energy Plan outlined methods for continued energy and economic growth, with special consideration of the recent influx in federal funding.

North Dakota electric utilities engage in least cost energy planning to meet forecast demand for a 15-year planning horizon. Electric utilities are not mandated to include demand-side resources in their considerations, but administrative rules call for both supply – and demand – side resources. Rules also forbid selection of energy generation resources based on carbon costs, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, emissions goals or "other externalities.





INCLUSIVITY: INCREASING ACCESS TO EE

There is no state-wide requirement for utilities to support low-income energy efficiency programs. The Community Services Department, responsible for providing technical assistance to local governments and state agencies, offers a weatherization assistance program for low-income households. North Dakotans would benefit from increased energy efficiency programming targeted at under-resourced customers.

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