

FAQs - Energy Efficiency Jobs in America 2020

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions about [Energy Efficiency Jobs in America](#). If your question is not fully answered here, contact E4TheFuture or mtimberlake@e2.org. Join the conversation online at #EEJobsInAmerica!

Q: How important are energy efficiency jobs?

A: More than two million Americans work in energy efficiency, an industry that added more new jobs in 2019 than any other in the entire U.S. energy sector. Efficiency workers do much more than cut energy waste. They represent an economic development engine devoted to designing and building a better, healthier future.

Q: What does the report base its findings on?

A: The data foundational to the annual [Energy Efficiency Jobs in America](#) reports originates with the [U.S. Energy and Employment Report \(USEER\)](#), a yearly comprehensive look at all energy-sector jobs in the United States. The USEER analyzes data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) to track employment across these sectors: Fuels; Electric Power Generation; Transmission, Distribution, and Storage; Energy Efficiency; and Motor Vehicles. In addition, the 2020 USEER includes data from a unique supplemental survey of approximately 25,000 business representatives across the U.S.

The unemployment numbers come from a monthly report produced by E4TheFuture, E2, and BW Research Partnership (along with the American Council on Renewable Energy). The report, based on analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Situation release and the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims data, tracked clean energy unemployment through 2020 since the Covid-19 outbreak began in March. The latest report, along with all previous reports, can be found at www.e2.org/reports.

Q: Can you tell me more about the supplemental survey?

A: Created and conducted by BW Research Partnership and approved by the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Energy, the survey of 25,000 businesses (conducted Sept.-Dec. 2019) identifies energy-related employment within key subsectors of the industries classified by the U.S. BLS. These jobs are then assigned to their component energy and energy efficiency sectors.

The USEER database includes detailed data for the 53 separate technologies that comprise the five surveyed sectors. Each of these technologies is, in turn, divided into as many as seven industrial classifications. As a result, the USEER database can provide an in-depth view of the hiring difficulty, in-demand occupations, and demographic composition of very specific portions of the energy and energy efficiency workforce in each state or in specific counties and, in some cases, portions of counties. See more details about the research [methodology](#) (Appendix A, pages 201-2016).

Q: What counts as an “energy efficiency job” in this report?

A: Energy efficiency employment covers jobs in both the production of energy-saving products and the provision of services that reduce end-use energy consumption. These services include not only the

manufacture of ENERGY STAR® appliances and other ENERGY STAR labeled products, but also building design and contracting services that provide insulation, improve natural lighting, and reduce overall energy consumption across homes and businesses.

Jobs in sales and professional services (e.g., in finance/accounting, architecture, engineering, software development and R&D) are also included, as well as a tiny percentage of “other” jobs such as nonprofit organizational positions.

Energy efficiency jobs are predominantly focused on how effectively energy is used; i.e., how well a system cools or heats a building, and how to reduce waste via advanced materials and smart technology. You may consider the pre-COVID numbers in the report a point-in-time count of workers directly employed in energy efficiency at the close of 2019.

Q: Are any energy efficiency jobs excluded from *Energy Efficiency Jobs in America*?

A: Yes. The report is a conservative estimate. It captures only jobs using certified energy efficiency products or those installed according to ENERGY STAR guidelines, and high-performance building materials. Jobs in advanced transportation and electric grid technologies, water or waste management are omitted, among other categories. Indirect or induced employment are not modeled or estimated. Also excluded are jobs related to vehicle fuel efficiency and the 4.2 million jobs related to efficient manufacturing processes.

Q: How do energy efficiency job numbers compare to other industries?

A: In 2019, energy efficiency employed almost 1 in every 50 Americans, more than all elementary and schoolteachers in the U.S. and about as many as waiters and waitresses in U.S. bars and restaurants. (see [BLS](#) and [USEER](#)).

Energy efficiency is the largest energy sector employer in the U.S., employing more workers than work in the rest of the clean energy economy combined, in the entire fossil fuel industry, or in the gas and motor vehicle industry. In 2019, more Americans worked in energy efficiency than the entire fossil fuel industry in 41 states and the District of Columbia, and twice as many nationwide.

Q: Where can I get jobs data on the rest of the energy sector?

A: You can download the 2020 USEER report [here](#) to see a full breakdown of the U.S. energy economy by the Fuels, Electric Power Generation, Traditional Transmission and Distribution, Energy Efficiency, and Motor Vehicles sectors. For a breakdown of the clean energy economy, see E2’s [Clean Jobs America 2020](#) which further analyzes the data to compile a comprehensive employment outlook of 22 clean energy subsectors, including solar, wind, smart grid, clean storage, alternative and hybrid vehicles, energy efficiency, and clean fuels.

Q: Who are the authors of this report?

A: Nonprofit [E4TheFuture](#) partnered with [E2 \(Environmental Entrepreneurs\)](#) and [BW Research Partnership](#) to develop and produce *Energy Efficiency Jobs in America*.

Q: Can I get the job numbers for my state?

A: Yes. The report provides details about all 50 states and the District of Columbia, including how many energy efficiency businesses are in each state, state-specific demographics, industry breakdowns, and more detailed geographic data down to the county, metropolitan areas, and legislative district levels (Congressional and state). Numbers are also provided for the effects of the pandemic on efficiency jobs in each state.

Q: I want to see examples of real people behind the numbers. Do you provide any local workers in my state?

A: You can access examples in various ways. Visit www.e4thefuture.org/faces-of-ee to see testimonials from real-life workers spreading awareness about the benefits of working in energy efficiency, or follow [@FacesOfEE](https://twitter.com/FacesOfEE) on Twitter to see workers across the country.

Q: How can I support the growth of energy efficiency jobs in America, my state or region, and my community?

A: If you are an energy efficiency professional, you may join the Faces of EE at no cost: See [Count Me In!](#) Anyone can see and use educational materials designed to raise awareness, [available here](#). Anyone can visit www.e2.org and sign up for emails from E2 to learn of the latest events and other ways to get involved locally.

Join the conversation online: #EEJobsInAmerica