Nebraska

Executive Summary

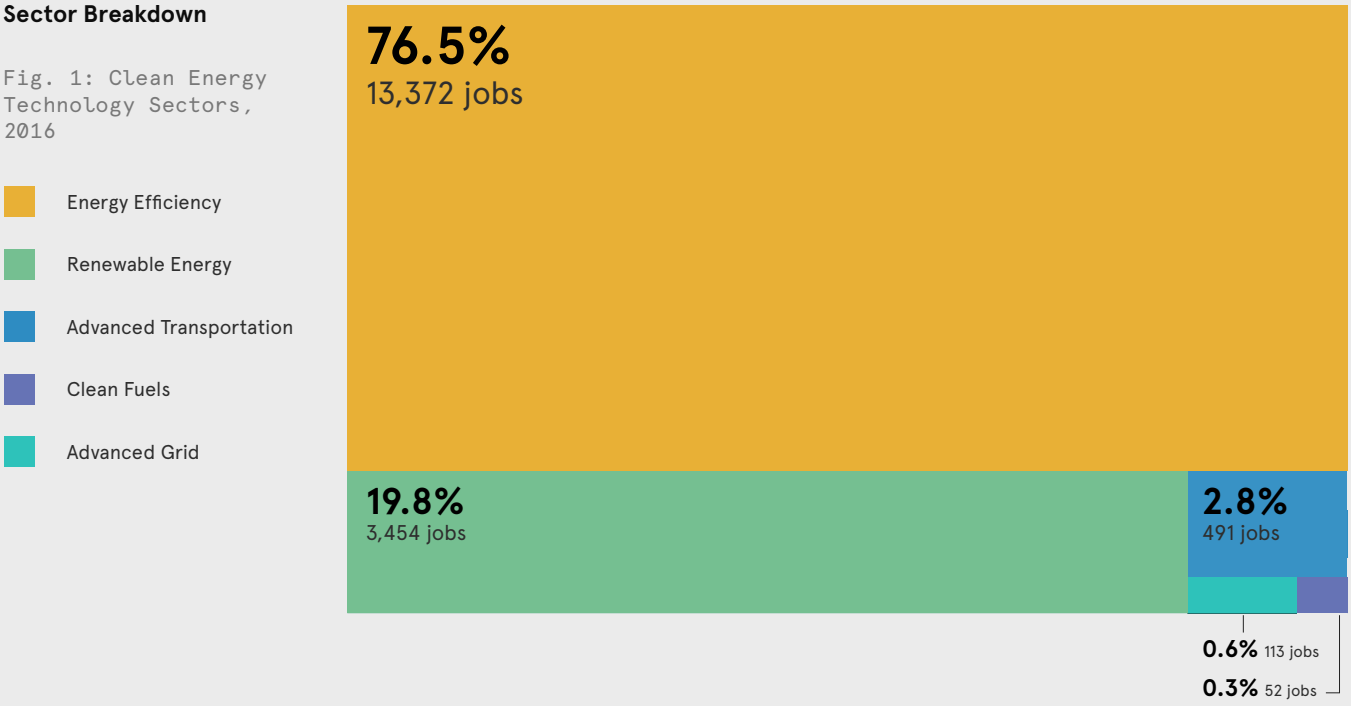
Nebraska is home to 17,482 clean energy jobs.

While Nebraska has the 3rd fewest clean energy jobs in the Midwest, the sector is growing quickly, especially in renewable energy generation. Between 2015 and 2016 Nebraska added 1,060 clean energy jobs, a growth rate of 6.5%—the 4th fastest growth rate in the region. Clean energy jobs are also growing much faster than overall job growth in the state: between 2015 and 2016 clean energy jobs grew more than seven times faster than job growth in the overall state economy.[1]

1 *Overall employment data comes from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual average of employment by state.*

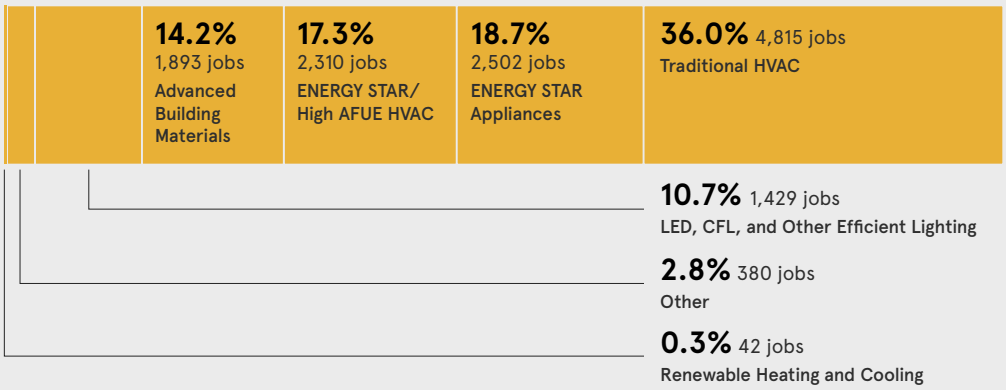
Sector Breakdown

Fig. 1: Clean Energy Technology Sectors, 2016



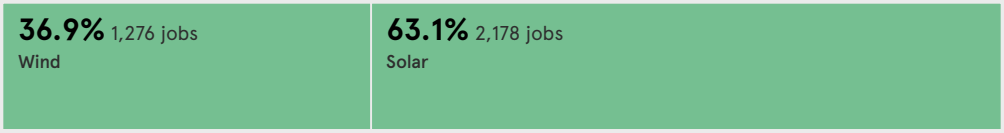
Energy efficiency represents more than three-quarters of clean energy jobs in Nebraska—13,372 jobs in all. Nebraska's energy efficiency sector is dominated by traditional HVAC, with 4,815 of the total energy efficiency jobs, followed by general Energy Star appliances with 2,502 jobs, Energy Star and High Annualized Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) HVAC at 2,310 jobs, advanced building materials at 1,893 jobs, and then efficient lighting at 1,429 jobs.

Fig. 2:
Energy Efficiency
Subsectors, 2016



Renewable energy generation represents almost 1 in 5 of all clean energy jobs in Nebraska with 3,454 jobs. These jobs are divided between wind and solar: Nebraska has 2,178 solar jobs and 1,276 wind jobs. Overall renewable energy generation jobs grew by 14% between 2015 and 2016, the fastest growing clean energy job sector in the state.

Fig. 3:
Renewable Energy
Subsectors, 2016

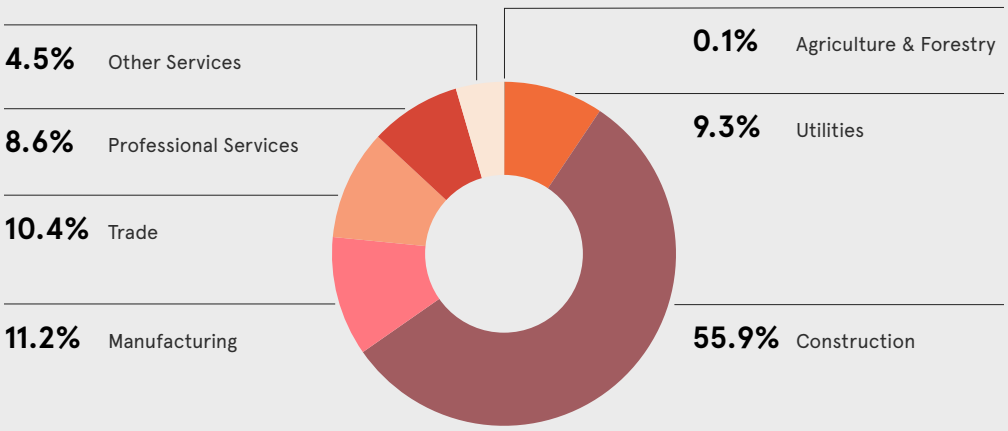


Clean vehicle jobs are the next largest sector with 491 jobs in Nebraska. The rest of Nebraska's clean energy jobs are split between advanced grid with 113 jobs and clean fuels with 53 jobs.

Value Chain

Clean energy jobs can also be described by what role they play in the larger economic value chain. This report divides these clean energy jobs into agriculture jobs, utility jobs, construction jobs, manufacturing jobs, trade jobs, professional service jobs, and other service jobs. The divisions in the value chain described here include jobs from multiple technology sectors. For example, construction jobs can include some jobs in the energy efficiency sector as well as jobs in the renewable energy sector and every other technology sector.

Fig. 4: Clean Energy
Jobs Value Chain, 2016



More than half of all of Nebraska's clean energy jobs are construction jobs. Those 9,773 construction jobs are followed by 1,965 manufacturing jobs, 1,811 trade jobs, 1,631 jobs in utilities, and 1,498 professional service jobs.

Consistent with the rest of the Midwest, small businesses drive the clean energy sector. Previous surveys have shown that nearly 85% of businesses working in clean energy employ fewer than 25 individuals.[2]

2 *Clean Jobs Midwest 2016*

Fig. 5: Top 3 MSAs in Clean Energy Employment, 2016 (job numbers rounded to nearest hundred)

MSA job numbers only include jobs within this state

Metro Area (MSA)	Total Clean Energy Employment	Renewable Energy Employment	Energy Efficiency Employment
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA	5,900	1,100	4,400
Lincoln, NE MSA	2,400	400	1,800
Sioux City, IA-NE-SD MSA	<250	<250	<250

Recap

The size of Nebraska's clean energy sector ranks tenth out of the twelve states surveyed, but with promising growth and transitioning industries, future surveys may tell a different story. Nebraska is one of the few states in the region without either a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) or an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS), and Nebraska ranks 42 out of 51 in ACEEE's Energy Efficiency scorecard.[3]

3 *2016 ACEEE State Scorecard*

If new energy policy in Nebraska were enacted, such as an RPS or EERS, it would provide certainty for clean energy businesses and drive investment and job creation for Nebraskans working in the clean energy economy.