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New Report: 52,000 Clean Energy Workers in Missouri

Missouri Has Region's Highest Clean Energy Jobs Growth Rate; State Energy Plan, Federal Clean Power Plan, Energy Efficiency Programs Could Add Even More Jobs

ST. LOUIS (March 22, 2016) – More than 52,000 workers are employed in Missouri's clean energy sector, according to a comprehensive analysis unveiled today by the Missouri Energy Initiative (MEI), Clean Energy Trust (CET), and Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2).

Missouri's clean energy employment has expanded rapidly since 2014, the analysis found, expanding by one-third, or 13,000 workers, in the past year alone. The state's projected clean energy job growth rate for 2016 is 8.3 percent – highest in the Midwestern region.

"As people learn more about environmental and economic benefits of LED and other energy efficient products, they are voting with their pocketbooks," said Zach Tucker, an E2 member and vice president of operations for One3LED, a full-service LED lighting company based in the St. Louis area. **"Our industry is growing every year, and with a strong market signal in the form of federal policy like the Clean Power Plan, the energy efficiency and clean energy sectors will really take off."**

The analysis – available at www.CleanJobsMidwest.com – is based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data and a comprehensive survey of thousands of businesses across Missouri and the region. The Clean Jobs Midwest report provides detailed breakdowns of clean energy jobs not available previously – including job totals for every county, congressional district, and state legislative district in Missouri.

"The market in Missouri for clean energy and energy efficiency is thriving," said Josh Campbell, MEI's executive director. **"This report shows that clean energy and a growing economy go hand-in-hand, and the projected growth in clean jobs is a sign that this sector is here to stay."**

According to the findings, energy efficiency is by far the largest clean energy sector employer in the state, with more than 38,000 people, or nearly three-fourths of the clean energy workforce, employed in areas such as high-efficiency lighting, Energy Star appliance manufacturing, and high-efficiency HVAC services to reduce wasted energy in homes, schools and businesses.

Renewable energy generation jobs account for more than 3,200 jobs – about 2,300 in solar, 800 in wind, and about 100 in biomass.

The report also found:

- The St. Louis metro area is the state’s epicenter of clean energy jobs, with nearly 24,000. The Kansas City region has nearly 8,300 clean energy jobs, while more than 11,000 clean energy jobs are found in rural areas and smaller cities.
- Missouri leads the Midwest with more than 1,500 energy storage/smart grid jobs.
- Clean energy employs nearly 569,000 people across the 12-state Midwest region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

“Clean energy is a dynamic sector and central to economic growth in the Midwest,” said Erik Birkerts, Chief Executive Officer of Clean Energy Trust. **“Smart public policy will further accelerate the clean energy sector's growth, which means thousands of new jobs created across the region and which will confer economic advantages on Missouri,”** Birkerts continued.

Missouri, for example, released its first comprehensive state energy plan in October 2015. Missouri’s plan calls for maximizing energy efficiency, optimizing in-state clean energy resources, and investing in clean energy technologies, which will create jobs in the state.

The analysis includes profiles of clean energy workers from across the Midwest. See [here](#) for an E2 video showing how a former coal miner has transitioned to a good job installing solar arrays in Missouri and southern Illinois at a growing St. Louis-based renewable energy company.

The new analysis updates MEI’s and E2’s [Clean Jobs Missouri](#) report, released in 2015.

To interview Missouri clean energy businesses and/or local clean energy experts, please call or e-mail the media contacts listed at the top of this press release.

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Missouri Energy Initiative (MEI) is a nonprofit association of public and private-sector entities, united together with the sole purpose of enhancing and improving energy-related activities in Missouri. The Initiative is broadly focused on working with the general public, institutions of higher education, other nonprofit organizations, private sector entities, nongovernmental organizations and associations, and others interested in the stability and growth of the state's energy sector. The Missouri Energy Initiative’s mission is to develop interactive and collaborative public/private sector partnerships to engage Missourians in energy education, science, technology, and policy activities.

Clean Energy Trust (CET) fuels clean energy innovation in the Midwest. A Chicago-based non-profit, CET helps launch, fund and grow Midwest clean energy companies to ensure a more prosperous, sustainable future for generations to come. It does this through direct investment, commercialization assistance, mentorship, access to its broad partner network and the promotion of a supportive clean energy community and business climate. Learn more at <http://www.cleanenergytrust.org>.

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment. Our members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs, and manage more than \$100 billion in venture and private equity capital. For more information, see www.e2.org or follow us on Twitter at [@e2org](https://twitter.com/e2org).