Frequently Asked Questions

Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the *Energy Efficiency Jobs in America* 2026 report.

If your question is not answered here, contact info@building-performance.org.

Q: How important are energy efficiency jobs?

A: Nearly 2.4 million Americans work in energy efficiency, the largest part of the U.S. energy sector. Efficiency workers cut energy waste in myriad ways. They are also 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 all annual *Energy Efficiency Jobs in America* reports originates with the U.S. Energy & Employment Report (USEER), an annual comprehensive report produced by the U.S. Department of Energy that examines employment across the entire U.S. energy sector. The USEER methodology has been used for local, state, and federal energy related data collection and analysis for more than a decade.

The 2026 USEER analyzes the most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) to track annual employment across: Fuels; Electric Power Generation; Transmission, Distribution, and Storage; Energy Efficiency; and Motor Vehicles. It was prepared by BW Research Partnership and reviewed and published by the Department of Energy. The 2026 USEER also includes data from a unique supplemental survey capturing responses from approximately 41,800 business representatives across the U.S.

BW Research Partnership further breaks down USEER data into separate energy sectors for the *Energy Efficiency Jobs in America* report. For further detail, see the About the Report Section of the report.

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

A: The survey of 41,800 businesses identifies energy-related employment within key subsectors of the industries classified by the U.S. BLS, and was conducted by BW Research Partnership and ReconMR. These jobs are assigned to their component energy and energy efficiency sectors. The data set includes technology, value-chain, and energy employment data to the county-level in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Taken together, the BLS and survey data provide the most comprehensive calculation of energy-related employment available.

For further detail see the 2026 methodology in the USEER's Appendix A.

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

A: The USEER defines a Qualifying Worker as "an employee of a Qualifying Firm who spends some portion of their time supporting the qualifying energy portion of the business." Employees sometimes perform work across multiple energy subsectors but, per USEER methodology, they are only counted in the report under the one energy sector where they work "more of their time" (i.e., a plurality of their time) as compared to any other energy technology.

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 manufacturing of appliances and 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 small 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.

For further detail on EE jobs, see Appendix A of the report.

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 ENERGY STAR energy efficiency products or those installed according to certain energy-saving guidelines, and high-performance building materials. Jobs in advanced transportation and electric grid technologies, water or waste management, fuels, and storage 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 jobs related to efficient manufacturing processes. EE jobs at utilities are not categorized as EE for this report because those jobs fall under electric power generation, distribution, or transmission per BLS definitions.

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

A: Energy efficiency (EE) employed 2.36 million workers in 2025, more than one quarter of the total energy workforce. 2025 was the first year EE employment fell since 2020. The sector lost 21,441 jobs, a 0.9% drop, and ended the year at 2,360,303 workers after four years of gains. EE was not alone. As a whole, the energy economy lost 86,000 jobs in 2025, a 1% decline. EE is the largest energy subsector in 39 states and

the District of Columbia, and it employs nearly 1.3 million workers in the construction industry.

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

A: You can download the 2026 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. See Appendix C for a breakdown of the report's energy sectors.

Q: Who created this report?

A: BW Research Partnership, who supplied data for the annual USEER report, produced the detailed analysis of energy efficiency sector jobs for the Building Performance Foundation.

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

A: Yes. The report provides details for 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. You can view your state here.

Q: What additional details are available for my state?

A: Breakdown with job numbers by county and metropolitan areas, as well as per-capita employment per state.

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

A: Yes. You can access examples in various ways. Visit https://building-performance.org/faces-of-ee to see real-life workers who raise awareness about the benefits of working in energy efficiency, or use #FacesOfEE on social media to find examples 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 Join the Faces of EE Campaign. Everyone is welcome to download and use educational materials. You can visit and sign up to learn of the latest events and other ways to get involved locally.

*The USEER definition of "clean energy" is narrower than most private sector definitions. It refers to net-zero emissions aligned technologies including renewable energy, nuclear, non-fossil energy efficiency, zero emission vehicles, and carbon capture, utilization, and storage.