Energy Efficiency Tops
Clean Energy Jobs

Energy efficiency is one of the biggest contributors to job growth in the clean energy economy.

In 2010, there were over 800,000 people employed in energy and resource efficiency jobs in the U.S.

These jobs span all sectors and skill sets, including retail, engineering, construction, transportation and manufacturing.

The money saved from making homes and businesses more energy efficient can be re-invested in local communities and spur additional job growth and economic development.

Clean Energy Leads U.S. Job Growth

Clean energy is one of the fastest growing sectors of the U.S. economy, and is expected to grow significantly in the coming years.

- During the 2008-2009 recession, the clean energy economy grew faster than the U.S. economy as a whole.
- Between 1998 and 2007, clean energy jobs grew by 9.1% while overall jobs grew by only 3.7%.

Kentucky Should Act Now to Keep Up with Other States

Other states with clean energy policies in place are seeing growth in job rates, production levels and training programs.

- 40 states have a renewable or alternative energy standard or goal.
- 25 states have an energy efficiency standard or goal.

Kentucky is Losing Contracts and Capital

- Kentucky lost $3.5 million in solar installation contract dollars alone in 2010 to out-of-state companies for work done in Kentucky.
- Of the $12.6 billion in venture capital invested in clean energy from 1998-2008, $0 was invested in Kentucky.
What Kentucky Can Learn From Clean Energy Policy Successes in Neighboring States

Ohio

After studies showed Ohio could gain 22,000 new manufacturing jobs from boosting renewable energy investments, the state passed an alternative energy standard in 2008. This received support from both political parties, businesses and residents. Utilities will ramp up renewable energy to 12.5% and energy efficiency to 22% by 2025. All utilities met 2009 benchmarks, and in 2011 Ohio was ranked second nationally for solar-panel manufacturing and installations. The state is now preparing its workers for renewable energy and energy efficiency careers.

North Carolina

North Carolina passed a clean energy standard in 2007 after studies showed this would be the most affordable solution to the state’s rising electricity costs. It requires investor-owned utilities to generate 12.5% electricity from renewable energy and offset a portion through efficiency investments by 2021. North Carolinians have seen significant investment, business growth (both rural and urban) and job creation as a result.

North Carolina had 14,800 people employed in clean energy jobs as of the end of 2011. Job growth is expected to continue with estimates of 17,500 direct jobs created by 2012.

Did You Know?

96% of Kentuckians agree it is possible to both protect the environment and have a strong economy.