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AMERICAN COUNCIL ON
RENEWABLE ENERGY



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America Has Lost 594,300 Clean Energy Jobs; 850,000 Expected by June 30

- *447,208 new unemployment filings in April, triple March claims*
- *CA, FL, GA, TX, MI, NC, WA, NY, OH among hardest hit states*
- *Energy efficiency job losses top 400,000; renewable job losses near 100,000*

WASHINGTON, DC (May 13, 2020) – Nearly 600,000 U.S. clean energy workers have lost their jobs since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic after 447,208 new workers filed unemployment claims in April— tripling the claims filed in March. That’s according to [a new analysis of](#) unemployment data released today by E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), E4TheFuture, and BW Research Partnership.

The analysis of Department of Labor data found that 594,347 workers in clean energy occupations, representing 17.8% of the industry’s workforce, filed for unemployment benefits in April and March. The number of jobs lost is more than double the number of clean energy jobs created since 2017. Before March, clean energy had been one of the U.S. economy’s biggest and fastest-growing employment sectors, growing 10.4% since 2015 [to 3.4 million jobs at the end of 2019](#). That made clean energy by far the biggest employer of workers in all energy occupations, employing nearly three times as many people as the fossil fuel industry.

In the coming months, the analysis projects that job losses will continue to rise unless Congress and the Trump administration take quick and substantive action to support the clean energy industry and its workers. If nothing is done, the report forecasts that 850,000 clean energy workers will have filed for unemployment by June 30.

A loss of that magnitude would mean that one out of every four clean energy workers employed at the start of 2020 will have lost their jobs in just six months.

Bob Keefe, executive director of the national, nonpartisan business group E2 said:

“It’s a lot worse than we thought. Americans in every state – red, blue, purple - are losing clean energy jobs across a wide swath of occupations – electricians, technicians, installers and factory workers. Congress needs to include clean energy in any future economic stimulus package to

help stem this massive loss of jobs today and set the foundation for a stronger, cleaner and more resilient economy tomorrow.”

Steve Cowell, President, E4TheFuture said:

“Unprecedented economic impacts of COVID-19 are beyond daunting, for the whole clean energy industry -- though the industry is nevertheless setting its sights on recovery and adapting to seek possible solutions.”

Gregory Wetstone, President and CEO of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), said:

“Renewable energy job losses in the month of April were unfortunately even worse than we feared. The COVID-19 pandemic is delivering an unprecedented blow to renewable industry workers, whose job losses more than tripled over the past month. Congress can help get these Americans back to work, and help get our economy back on track, with commonsense relief for time-sensitive tax credit deadlines and temporary refundability for renewable tax credits that are increasingly difficult to monetize.”

Phil Jordan, Vice President and Principal at BW Research Partnership said:

“The economic data from April shows that the job losses from the COVID-19 pandemic are worse than expected. Unemployment claims increased dramatically across many key segments of the clean energy sector, such as construction and manufacturing. And the data does not suggest that we have yet to hit the bottom.”

Industries Hit Hardest

According to the [unemployment data analysis](#), energy efficiency lost more jobs than any other clean energy sector for the second consecutive month in April. The energy efficiency sector

Sector	March Claims (adj*)	April Claims	Total Claims
Energy Efficiency	103,298	310,188	413,486
Renewables	23,739	71,835	95,574
Clean Vehicles	11,339	35,101	46,501
Grid & Storage	6,517	19,685	26,202
Clean Fuels	2,186	10,398	12,584
INDUSTRY TOTAL	147,139	447,208	594,347

accounted for nearly 70% of all clean energy job losses in April, with more than 310,000 energy efficiency workers filing for unemployment.

Renewable energy lost nearly 13% of its workforce, with more than 71,800 unemployment filings in April. There are now nearly 100,000 renewable energy workers out of work since March. If trends continue, more than one out of every five renewable energy workers will soon be jobless.

Both the clean grid and storage sector and the clean vehicles sector lost 14% of their workforces in April, losing 54,700 jobs combined. In total, those sectors have lost 26,200 and 46,500 jobs, respectively.

The clean fuels sector lost the largest percentage of its workforce among all clean energy industries, losing 10,400 jobs in April, or 26% of its workforce. Since March, the sector has lost 12,500 jobs or more than one-third of its workforce.

States and Localities Hit Across Country

California continues to be the hardest hit state in terms of total job losses, losing 77,900 jobs in April alone and more than 100,000 since the crisis began. Texas, Michigan, Florida, and Georgia also had a high total of clean energy unemployment filings in April, with each state experiencing more than 22,000 job losses. An additional 23 other states had at least 5,000 clean energy unemployment filings, according [to the new analysis](#).

While Kentucky, Hawaii, and Louisiana all saw job losses exceed 25% of their clean energy workforces, no state was hit harder in terms of total number and share of its clean energy workforce than Georgia. In addition to suffering the fifth most total job losses, the state lost 31% of its clean energy workforce — the highest percentage of any state and double the national average of 15%.

For a full breakdown of clean energy jobs losses in each state, [see the full analysis here](#).

<u>State</u>	<u>March Claims (adj. *)</u>	<u>April Claims</u>	<u>Total Claims</u>
US TOTAL	147,139	447,208	594,347
California	27,583	77,860	105,443
Texas	5,965	25,227	31,192
Michigan	7,867	22,284	30,150
Florida	3,963	25,915	29,878
Georgia	1,909	25,251	27,161
North Carolina	9,124	17,293	26,417
Pennsylvania	8,283	12,810	21,093
New York	6,006	14,398	20,405
Washington	5,646	14,593	20,239
Ohio	6,929	12,869	19,798

Local Economies Hit

April's edition of the analysis expanded to include losses by metropolitan areas and counties. By total job losses, five counties lost more than 5,000 clean energy jobs in April alone, including Los Angeles County, Calif.; King County, Wash.; Harris County, Texas; San Diego County, Calif.; and Cook County, Ill. As a share of their workforces, California and Georgia counties suffered the most, with four counties in each state losing at least 23% of their clean energy jobs.

The metro areas that lost the most clean energy jobs in April were metro areas with the largest populations and economies, including Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago. Metro areas that were hit hardest as a share of their workforce varied more, with Cleveland, Las Vegas, New Orleans, and Pittsburgh all losing at least 18% of their clean energy jobs.

For more information or for interview requests, please contact Michael Timberlake (202-289-2407; mtimberlake@e2.org) or Alex Frank (703-276-3264; afrank@hastingsgroup.com).

Background

The analysis expands on data from the [2020 U.S. Energy and Employment Report \(USEER\)](#) produced by the Energy Futures Initiative (EFI) in partnership with the National Association of State Energy Officials

(NASEO), using data collected and analyzed by the BW Research Partnership. The report was released in March 2020 and is available at www.usenergyjobs.org. E2 and E4TheFuture are partners on the annual USEER, the fifth installment of the energy survey first released by the Department of Energy in 2016 and subsequently abandoned under the Trump administration.

Previous E2, E4TheFuture, ACORE Clean Energy Unemployment Reports

- [Clean Energy & COVID-19 Economic Crisis | March 2020 Impact Analysis](#)

Previous E2 Clean Jobs America Reports:

- [Clean Jobs America 2019](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2018](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2017](#)
- [Clean Jobs America 2016](#)

Previous E2 and E4TheFuture Jobs Reports:

- [Energy Efficiency Jobs in America 2019](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Jobs in America 2018](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Jobs in America 2017](#)

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[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).

[E4TheFuture](#) works for clean, efficient and safe energy solutions. A nonprofit organization, we promote energy efficiency, renewables, demand management, energy storage and electric vehicles to advance climate protection and economic fairness. We work to achieve an energy economy that is sustainable, lower cost, and resilient. Our “Faces of EE” initiative shines a light on energy efficiency professionals nationwide. Visit www.E4TheFuture.org or follow us on Twitter at [@E4TheFuture](https://twitter.com/E4TheFuture) and [@FacesofEE](https://twitter.com/FacesofEE).

Founded in 2001, the [American Council on Renewable Energy \(ACORE\)](#) is the nation’s premier pan-renewable organization uniting finance, policy and technology to accelerate the transition to a renewable energy economy. For more information, please visit www.acore.org.