MEMORANDUM

Energy Efficiency Employment Impacts from COVID-19 Economic Crisis, Q2 2021

SUMMARY

BW Research finds that the U.S. energy efficiency sector added 8,200 jobs from the start of 2021 through the second quarter. There remains an 11 percent decline over pre-COVID-19 employment levels, with 263,500 energy efficiency workers out of work despite nationwide re-openings.

Jobs in energy efficiency from the beginning of 2021 through Q2 were relatively flat, with all states growing less than 1 percent. This is due to tepid growth in Q1 and slight losses in Q2 driven by specialty trade contractor job losses. The growth of the economy overall has been minimal, growing more than 2 percent (about 1 percent each quarter), whereas energy efficiency saw growth of a little less than 1 percent in Q1 of 2021, then suffered losses in Q2 (less than a half percent). There is similar variation between states as in previous months’ estimates. Florida saw less than a tenth of a percent growth while New York grew nearly 1 percent, which translates to New York growing about 20 times more than Florida in the first two quarters of 2021. Wyoming was the only state to see losses through Q2 at -0.1 percent.

To calculate quarterly employment updates through 2021, BW Research maintains the same methodology from previous COVID-19 employment adjustment analyses. BW Research begins the analysis with the most recent United States Energy and Employment Report (USEER) employment data, which serves as the baseline. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) monthly Employment Situation reports, BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) monthly state unemployment rates, and Department of Labor (DOL) unemployment insurance weekly filings are used to adjust employment levels. BLS Employment situation Table B1 and LAUS Table 1 for December through June are used to calculate the labor impacts for each quarter. For more information and analysis on economic impacts related to COVID-19, please visit: http://bwresearch.com/covid.