

# Invest in Energy Efficiency to Create Local Jobs & Restart the Economy

Building a Skilled Green Workforce, Supporting Small  
Businesses, Improving America's Buildings

## *EESI Workforce Wednesday Briefing*

**Leticia Colon de Mejias**

Owner, Energy Efficiencies Solutions

Policy Co-Chair, Building Performance Association

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# Energy Efficiency Jobs in America: Prior to the Pandemic

- **2.3 million** Americans worked in energy efficiency in 2018.
- **Largest and fastest growing jobs sector in the energy industry**, representing  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all U.S. energy jobs. 7.8% growth was projected for 2019.
- **Small businesses:** 79% of companies had fewer than 20 employees.
- **Local jobs** across the country – in virtually every county in the U.S.

**BEYOND  
THE BIG  
CITIES**

**317,890**

Americans living in rural  
areas work in energy  
efficiency

**308,375**

U.S. energy efficiency jobs  
are in counties with fewer  
than 100,000 residents

**1 Million+**

energy efficiency jobs are  
outside America's top 50  
metro areas

## COVID-19 Impacts on Jobs

- Cumulative **345,000 energy efficiency jobs lost** since pre-COVID (nearly 15% of workforce)
- Job recovery stalled despite state reopenings (0.4% growth in August)
- Over 40 states have double digit unemployment in the energy efficiency sector

*Research memos on COVID job impacts available here:*

<https://e4thefuture.org/clean-energy-jobs-august-2020-brings-anemic-growth-worrisome-trend/>

# Energy Efficiency = Job Creator, Economic Stimulus

- New report: energy efficiency stimulus can jump-start America's economic recovery
- If Congress appropriated \$60.7 billion for the energy efficiency sector, it would:
  - add ***\$254.7 billion to U.S. economy***
  - create ***737,200 full-time jobs***



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# Economic Development that Works

- EES is a SMWOB, employs 22 people who were unemployed or underemployed
- We have trained over 120 people for local EE workforce and plan to train more.
- Long term career paths, from entry level jobs to office jobs, planners, COO, and CEO roles.
- As we grow EE in our nation, we grow EE jobs.
- If your town has buildings with a B then you can develop EE jobs. We have jobs for everyone.

## **What we need to grow:**

- DOL codes = ensure EE jobs are recognized for the benefits they offer the economy and workforce development
- Create funding resources to train a growing workforce.
- Lack of trained workforce
- Lack of knowledge of this growing industry

# HOPE for HOMES Act of 2020

- Bipartisan and bicameral (H.R. 7325/S.4052). Included in the recently passed *H.R.2 INVEST in American Act* and *H.R. 4447 the House Energy package*.
- **Home Online Performance-Based Energy-Efficiency (HOPE) Training - \$500 Million**
  - Immediate support for small businesses; equitable access to training
  - Grants for provider organizations to develop online training curriculums
  - Provide up to \$10,000 to contracting companies to cover training costs for rehired/retained employees
  - \$1,000 stipend for contractors who complete HOPE Training
- **HOMES Rebate Program - \$6 Billion**
  - Rebates to homeowners who invest in energy efficiency upgrades (up to \$4,000 based on energy savings)

# Workforce Grants for Small Businesses

- **Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019** (H.R. 1315) – Would establish an ***Energy Workforce Grant Program*** to assist businesses seeking to educate and train new hires and existing employees in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

## *Similar legislation:*

- **Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019** (S. 2393) – Grant program to support on-the-job training in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- **American Energy and Innovation Act** (S.2657) – includes a similar energy workforce grant program in the Workforce Title.
- **Green Neighborhoods Act of 2020** (H.R. 8021) – grants for training via registered apprenticeship programs

# Other Policy Opportunities to Expand EE

- **Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act - S. 983/H.R. 2041**
  - Reauthorizes DOE Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and uses TnTA monies to support workforce training.
- **Robust appropriations for important DOE efficiency programs**
  - WAP
  - State Energy Program
  - Building Technologies Office





# Thank you!

Leticia Colon de Mejias

Owner, Energy Efficiencies Solutions

Policy Co-Chair, Building Performance Association

[lcolognees@gmail.com](mailto:lcolognees@gmail.com)