CEWD®
Center for Energy Workforce Development



Powering Lives. Powering Futures. Powering the Economy.

Attracting and Training Millions of Americans for Energy Careers.

The energy industry powers life. Business, education, healthcare, travel, safety, and security—everything that makes our economy possible is made possible by the energy industry and those who work in it. Its professionals are problem solvers and critical thinkers who serve on the front lines of the country's energy evolution. They are first responders who rebuild infrastructure and restore power following storms and natural disasters. They harness power from fossil fuels, coal, the sun, wind, our waterways, and other energy sources that enhance our country's security and ensure reliable, low-cost energy for every American. They engineer, build, manufacture, maintain, and operate critical infrastructure that is essential to the way we live. These men and women are highly trained, highly skilled, and in high demand.

Energy Industry Careers

Energy employers have immediate and growing needs for:

- Engineers
- Technicians
- Lineworkers
- Plant Operators
- Environmental Stewardship Managers
- Accountants
- Solar Installers
- Cyber Security and IT Analysts
- Construction Workers
- Wind Turbine Technicians
- Welders and Pipefitters
- Chemists
- Mechanics
- Safety Managers
- Project Managers
- Manufacturers
- ...And many more

The Energy Industry's WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

More than 8 million people work in energy careers today, representing more than 5% of jobs in the United States. The industry is experiencing historic growth projections in response to increased power demands driven largely by data centers and AI, massive expectations from the supply chain, and innovation and technology moving at faster speeds than the industry has ever experienced.

Some of the industry's most significant workforce-focused challenges include:

- Supporting the adoption of the Energy and Natural Resources Curriculum in high schools and post-secondary institutions
- Unprecedented hiring needs, challenged by a tight labor economy
- Lack of awareness of breadth and depth of energy careers and spectrum of jobs within the energy industry
- A shortage of knowledgeable instructors and essential training equipment within schools
- Support for sector partnerships, as outlined in the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act and national energy workforce intermediaries
- Increased investments in the workforce and skills training system through the Appropriations process
- Expanded access to short-term, high-quality training programs that help businesses fill hiring gaps and help workers access skills training, such as Pell Grants

How the Industry is Responding

Energy professionals have been working together through the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) for over two decades to attract, train, and retain a highly skilled workforce. CEWD is a non-profit organization driven by more than 140 energy employers and 14 partners—including:

CEWD unites strategists from industry, education, workforce boards, government, and communities to ensure the industry is energized by a workforce to engineer, build, maintain, operate, secure, and manufacture all that is needed to support the energy ecosystem.

Through CEWD's leadership, the industry has accomplished a great deal and will continue to drive progress by:

- Strengthening awareness and promoting the merits of 21st century energy careers
- Providing education for federal and state policies that support workforce development needs, including the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) and adoption of academic curriculum to implement energy career pathways
- Prioritizing training and upskilling to ensure employees are prepared for increasingly technical and dynamic energy careers
- Increasing employment of veterans in the industry
- Supporting state consortia and sector partnerships to balance workforce supply and demand and build the needed talent pipeline
- Providing essential data and education to and from the industry to support workforce development priorities
- Addressing workforce development needs as a unified industry

Energy Industry Professionals

Powering Life. ***Powering the Future.*** ***Powering America.***

@CenterForEnergyWorkforceDevelopment(CEWD)



Fast Facts

2026 U.S. Energy & Employment Report

EARNING POTENTIAL

The median wage for the energy sector is:

$63,000

24% higher than nationwide average

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

- More than **8.4 million** Americans work in the energy industry today, accounting for over **5% of all U.S. jobs**
- Energy jobs are **distributed among every single state and U.S. Territory**
- Educational backgrounds span from **GEDs to PhDs**
- Veterans account for **9%** of the energy industry, compared to the overall American workforce 5% average
- With unprecedented demand on the energy sector coming from datacenters, AI, cryptomining, onshoring manufacturing, and more, energy needs could **increase by nearly 80% by 2050**. This will require a highly skilled workforce to meet the demand.
- **Energy jobs are found across all U.S. states and territories.** Texas (990,000), California (911,000), and Michigan (388,000) have the highest total energy employment, while Wyoming (44,500), North Dakota (57,700), and West Virginia (83,700) have the highest energy employment per capita.