

Photo: Peaks of Otter – Sharp Top by Isaac Wendland

State Clean Energy Jobs Fact Sheet 2016-2019

VIRGINIA

Virginia continues to make major strides in the clean and renewable energy sector, with a goal of being 100 percent carbon-free by 2050. Over the last five years, Virginia has seen a dramatic increase in solar capacity in large part due to the success of the Department of Environmental Quality's Permit by Rule program. In July 2019, state leadership helped break ground for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind demonstration project which is the first step towards the development of commercial-scale offshore wind. Virginia allocated \$82 million from Volkswagen Settlement funding towards electric vehicles, including deploying electric transit and school buses, port electrification, and funding to convert local government fleets.

This fact sheet was produced by BW Research on behalf of the U.S. Climate Alliance. Jobs metrics presented for individual states in the appendix are consistent with the policy definitions of clean energy technologies for the respective states. Therefore, aggregated values from the appendix will differ slightly from cumulative values shown in the main report. It should be noted that employment totals represent the last quarter of 2019, before the onset of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. For more information on COVID-19 impacts to the energy and clean energy industries, please see www.bwresearch.com/covid.



Clean Energy Job Growth (2016-19)

8.0%



Total Clean Energy Jobs in 2019

102,376

(Figure 1)

Largest Clean Energy Industries

ENERGY STAR® & Efficient Lighting
Traditional HVAC

(Table 1)

Fastest Growing Clean Energy Industries

Traditional HVAC
ENERGY STAR & Efficient Lighting

(Table 2)

Virginia is also home to a growing cluster of electric truck industries. In 2019, Volvo announced a \$400 million investment in their manufacturing facility in southwestern Virginia to add an electric truck line. In August 2020, a new electric commercial vehicle startup was launched nearby that will support manufacturers in addition to building their own vehicles. At the forefront of their efforts, Governor Northam is placing a focus on climate and environmental justice throughout all decision-making processes.

Virginia climate policy can and should be part of the state’s economic recovery. The U.S. Climate Alliance 2020 Clean Energy Employment Report indicates that this is possible, and that reducing the state’s greenhouse gas emissions, with the right attention to job quality and access, can provide opportunity for Virginia residents as they rebuild their economy.

Figure 1. Virginia Clean Energy Jobs Growth, 2016-2019

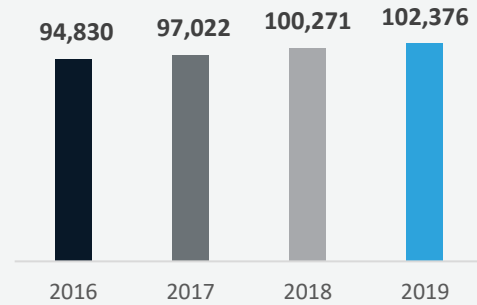


Table 1. Top 10 Clean Energy Industries by Employment, Pre-COVID-19

Industry	2019 Total Clean Energy Jobs
ENERGY STAR & Efficient Lighting	21,103
Traditional HVAC	18,169
Other Energy Efficiency Technologies	15,536
High Efficiency HVAC & Renewable Heating & Cooling	14,313
Advanced Materials	11,060
Solar Electric Power Generation	4,726
Nuclear Electric Power Generation	2,494
Hybrid Electric Vehicles	2,418
Wind Electric Power Generation	1,786
Bioenergy & Combined Heat & Power	1,753

Table 2. Top 10 Largest Growth Clean Energy Industries, Pre-COVID-19

Industry	Jobs Added 2016-2019
Traditional HVAC	2,570 (+16.5%)
ENERGY STAR & Efficient Lighting	2,160 (+11.4%)
High Efficiency HVAC & Renewable Heating & Cooling	1,968 (+15.9%)
Bioenergy & Combined Heat & Power	681 (+63.5%)
Wind Electric Power Generation	526 (+41.7%)
Solar Electric Power Generation	387 (+8.9%)
Electric Vehicles	371 (+53.7%)
Hybrid Electric Vehicles	357 (+17.3%)
Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles	243 (+28.4%)
Storage	230 (+33.6%)