2025 RHODE ISLAND CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY REPORT



[bw] RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) is pleased to present the 2025 Rhode Island Clean Energy Industry Report. The Clean Energy Industry Report provides policymakers, employers, and workforce development partners with the data to identify where growth is occurring, where barriers remain, and how to build an effective talent pipeline required to meet the state's clean energy goals.

At the start of 2025, clean energy employment in Rhode Island surpassed 15,000 jobs for the first time in five years. The clean energy sector's growth outpaced the state's overall employment growth, reflecting the strength of targeted state investments and energy program and policy commitments, with notable gains in engineering, research, and professional services.

Renewable and efficient heating and cooling emerged as the fastest-growing clean energy technology segment, with employment increasing by 4.7%. The OER Clean Heat RI Program issued thousands of heat pump rebates to households in 2024 and 2025. Simultaneously, Rhode Island Commerce's Renewable Energy Fund awarded grants totaling $4.8 million to 88 local businesses for commercial and small scale solar projects in 2025. We are pleased also that the Clean Energy Internship Program is helping to attract and support training for the next generation workforce. These efforts – and more – helped to sustain workforce activity in this growing sector of the state's energy economy.

As Rhode Island continues working toward its clean energy goals, investments in workforce development and continued collaboration with employers, educators, and community partners will be critical to sustaining momentum and shaping a resilient, thriving clean energy industry.

Sincerely,

Chris Kearns
Acting Energy Commissioner

Stefan Pryor
Secretary of Commerce





Executive Summary

The 2025 Rhode Island Clean Energy Industry Report is the eleventh annual report on clean energy employment in the state. The findings in this report are based on data from the 2025 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER) and are filtered for Rhode Island's (RI) definition of clean energy. The 2025 USEER survey was administered in 2024, by telephone (more than 1,350,000 outbound calls) and web (more than 264,000 emails sent), to participants throughout the United States. The USEER provides a rich, comprehensive, and historical dataset of energy job trends dating back to 2015.[1]

The Rhode Island Clean Energy Industry Report continues to provide valuable annual data on clean energy jobs across various technology sectors and value chain segments in the state. This information provides policymakers and other stakeholders in the clean energy sector with important insights to guide the best use of additional federal funding and support the state's progress toward achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2033 and net-zero emissions by 2050.



1 For more information on the U.S. Energy and Employment Report, please visit https://www.energy.gov/policy/us-energy-employment-jobs-report-useer

Key Findings

Clean energy employment in Rhode Island has surpassed 15,000 jobs for the first time in five years, continuing a period of sustained growth and outpacing overall workforce gains. The state's clean energy workforce added more than 200 jobs since the 2024 reporting period, representing a 1.5 percent increase, faster than the state's overall employment growth of 1.1 percent. Amid a shifting federal policy landscape, maintaining this momentum will require sustained, targeted, and strategic state action. The 2025 release of Rhode Island's Climate Action Strategy provides a clear and actionable framework to support continued progress in the clean energy sector.

Supported by the Clean Heat RI program, renewable and efficient heating and cooling drove Rhode Island's clean energy job growth. The sector added 185 jobs over the reporting period, a 4.7 percent increase – the largest net gain and fastest growth rate among clean energy technology segments. Within the sector, traditional and high-efficiency HVAC led this growth. Traditional HVAC added 100 jobs, increasing by 7.0 percent, while high-efficiency HVAC followed with 73 new jobs, reflecting a 4.0 percent growth rate.

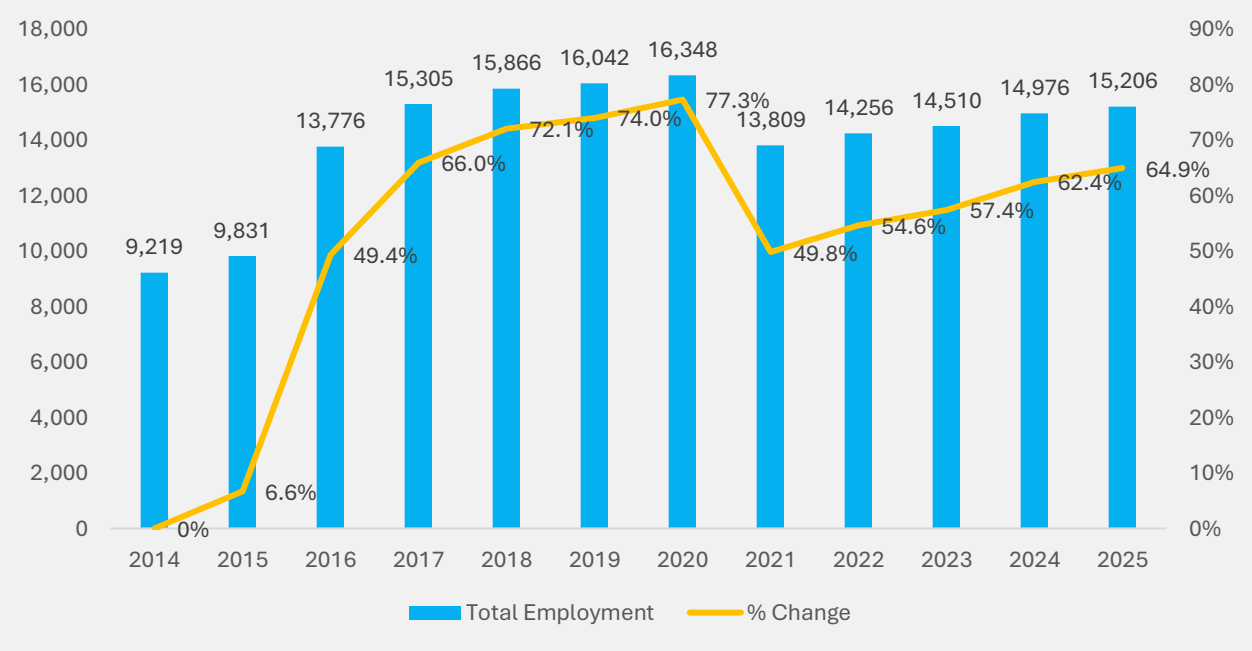
The engineering, research, and professional services value-chain segment reported gains for the second consecutive year, signaling a rebound in momentum following prior losses. From the 2024 to 2025 reporting periods, this segment recorded the fastest growth rate at 2.3 percent, adding 66 jobs. While employment in engineering, research, and professional services continues to grow, the installation, maintenance, repair, and operations value-chain segment remains the dominant component of the state's clean energy workforce, adding 163 jobs at a 1.9 percent growth rate from 2024 to 2025.

The remainder of this memorandum provides additional details on clean energy employment by technology and sub-technology, as well as on value chain employment.

Industry Overview

Rhode Island's clean energy workforce surpassed 15,000 jobs for the first time in five years. At the start of 2025, the state employed 15,206 clean energy workers, up 1.5 percent, or 230 jobs, from the start of 2024 (Figure 1). This gain continues the steady upward trend since 2021 and builds on the strong growth Rhode Island saw from 2014 to 2020. Clean energy employment also grew slightly faster than the state's overall workforce, which increased by 1.1 percent over the same period.[2]

Figure 1. Rhode Island Clean Energy Employment, 2014-2025[3]



The steadily growing clean energy workforce coincides with the release of Rhode Island's 2025 Climate Action Strategy in December 2025.[4] This strategy, required by the 2021 Act on Climate, gives policymakers pathways toward affordable and sustainable decarbonization. The plan's next steps and implementation measures will continue Rhode Island's progress toward climate goals and create job opportunities in the clean energy workforce. For example, the strategy recommends continued investments in Clean Heat RI, which

[2] "Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed April 2026. https://www.bls.gov/oes/2023/may/oes_ri.htm#00-0000 & https://data.bls.gov/oes/#/area/4400000.

[3] Employment in charts are labeled according to the USEER reporting year (e.g., 2025), but reflects employment as of Q4 of the prior year (e.g., 2025 = Q4 2024).

[4] RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council, "Rhode Island 2025 Climate Action Strategy," December 2025,https://climatechange.ri.gov/act-climate/2025-climate-update.

provides incentives for low- to moderate-income Rhode Islanders to install heat pumps.[5] Clean Heat RI issued 3,335 rebates in 2024, primarily through residential incentives, and an additional 944 in 2025, primarily through moderate-income incentives, expanding access to heat pump technology and contributing to sustained workforce activity in installation and related services.[6]

The 2025 Climate Action Strategy also recommends continued investment in the DRIVE EV rebate program, alongside incentives for residential EV charging. DRIVE EV, which offers rebates of up to $3,000 for qualified electric vehicles, plus an additional $1,500 for income-eligible participants, issued 985 rebates in 2024 and 913 in 2025.[7] Complementing this effort, PowerUpRI provides rebates for the purchase and installation of EV charging equipment and necessary electrical upgrades. Since PowerUpRI's launch in August 2024 through the end of 2025, the program has administered 443 rebates.[8] Continued progress in Rhode Island's electric vehicle adoption will hinge on sustained efforts to expand both vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure, particularly amid a shifting national policy landscape that may constrain broader support.

In addition to these initiatives, the 2025 Climate Action Strategy recommends that the Office of Energy Resources (OER) launch a commercial-scale energy storage program, which would build on the momentum of the 2024 Energy Systems Storage Act. The Energy Systems Storage Act established energy storage targets of 90 MW by 2026, 195 MW by 2028, and 600 MW by 2033.[9] The Rhode Island Energy storage dashboard shows that Rhode Island currently has 19.85 MWAC of total storage.[10]

On April 20th, 2026, the OER launched the Energy Storage Rebate Program, with $2 million in available funding. This program offers both residential and commercial incentives, with residential projects eligible for up to $8,000 in rebates, or $16,000 if income-eligible, while commercial projects may receive up to $45,500.[11] In addition to this new incentive, Rhode Island has an already established Energy Storage Adder Incentive through the Renewable

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[5] RI Office of Energy Resources, "Clean Heat RI," https://energy.ri.gov/heating-cooling/clean-heat-ri.
[6] RI Office of Energy Resources, Clean Heat Rhode Island Rebate Statistics.
Data last updated April 6, 2026. Retrieved April 20, 2026, from: Clean Heat Rhode Island Statistics | Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (ri.gov)
[7] RI Office of Energy Resources, DRIVE Electric Vehicle Rebate Project Statistics. Data last updated: April 6, 2026. Retrieved April 20, 2026, from: https://drive.ri.gov/program-statistics
[8] RI Office of Energy Resources, PowerUpRI Rebate Program Statistics
Data last updated: April 6, 2026. Retrieved April 20, 2026, from: https://drive.ri.gov/powerupri-statistics
[9] "An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – 2024 Energy Storage Act."https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText24/HouseText24/H7811aa.pdf.
[10] RI Office of Energy Resources, Energy Storage Statistics.
Data last updated March 31, 2026. Retrieved May 8, 2026 from: https://energy.ri.gov/storage/energy-storage-statistics.
[11] RI Office of Energy Resources, "Energy Storage Rebates," https://energy.ri.gov/storage/energy-storage-rebates.

Energy Fund. Homeowners participating in the Small-Scale Solar Program who co-locate and electrically integrate energy storage systems with their solar installations can apply for a $5,000 incentive, in addition to the up to $14,500 from their solar system. Similarly, those participating in the Commercial Scale Solar project can add up to $40,000 per project at a rate of $.50/Watt, in addition to the maximum of $75,000 from their commercial-scale solar project.[12] As new storage incentives take hold and other established incentives continue, Rhode Island is likely to sustain continued activity across storage deployment and related services.

The Office of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Renewable Energy Fund, is also supporting the talent pipeline for clean energy workers through the Clean Energy Internship Program (CEIP), which matches college students with clean energy host companies for a 12-week paid opportunity.[13] These opportunities span a range of fields, including marketing, engineering, research, solar, direct construction, and energy efficiency, among others. From 2019 to 2026, this program has matched 174 students with 39 host companies, and 22 students have been hired for continued employment with their host company.

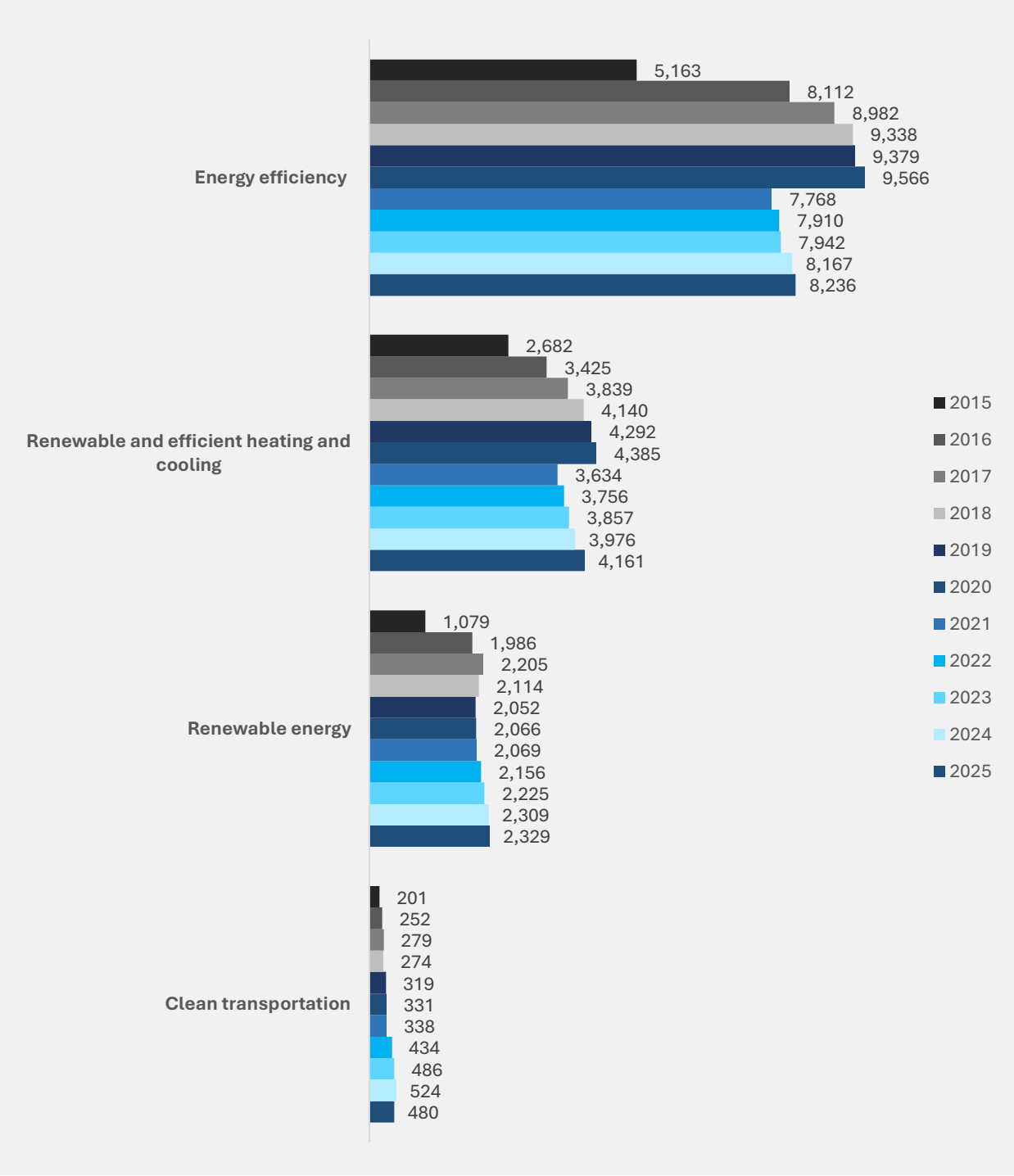
The Office of Energy Resources also supports the Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC) Program. Through collaboration with Building Futures, the program supports HVAC apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship training for the construction trades, as well as energy internships for high school students with Skills for Rhode Island's Future.[14] This program is planning to expand programming within the Clean Energy Network. The TREC and Clean Energy Internship Program both play important roles in building workforce capacity and fostering young people's interest as clean energy activity continues to expand.

[12] RI Office of Energy Resources, "State and Federal Energy Incentives," https://energy.ri.gov/incentives.
[13] Renewable Energy Fund and RI Office of Energy Resources, "Intern," https://refinternships.commerceri.com/intern/.
[14] RI Office of Energy Resources, "Summary of Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act Funding," https://energy.ri.gov/federalfunding.

Clean Energy Technology Analysis

Renewable and efficient heating and cooling drove Rhode Island's clean energy job growth throughout 2024 into 2025. The sector added 185 jobs, growing 4.7 percent, and posting both the largest net gain and the fastest growth rate. Energy efficiency ranked second in net job growth, adding 69 jobs. Renewable energy also saw modest growth, reaching its highest recorded employment since tracking began in 2014. Clean transportation was the only technology segment to lose jobs, shedding 44 positions for an 8.3 percent decline (Figure 2). This decrease is part of a national decline, falling 2.9 percent over the same period. Despite this decline, clean transportation employment in Rhode Island remained similar to its level in the 2023 reporting period.

Figure 2. Rhode Island Clean Energy Employment by Major Technology, 2015-2025[15]



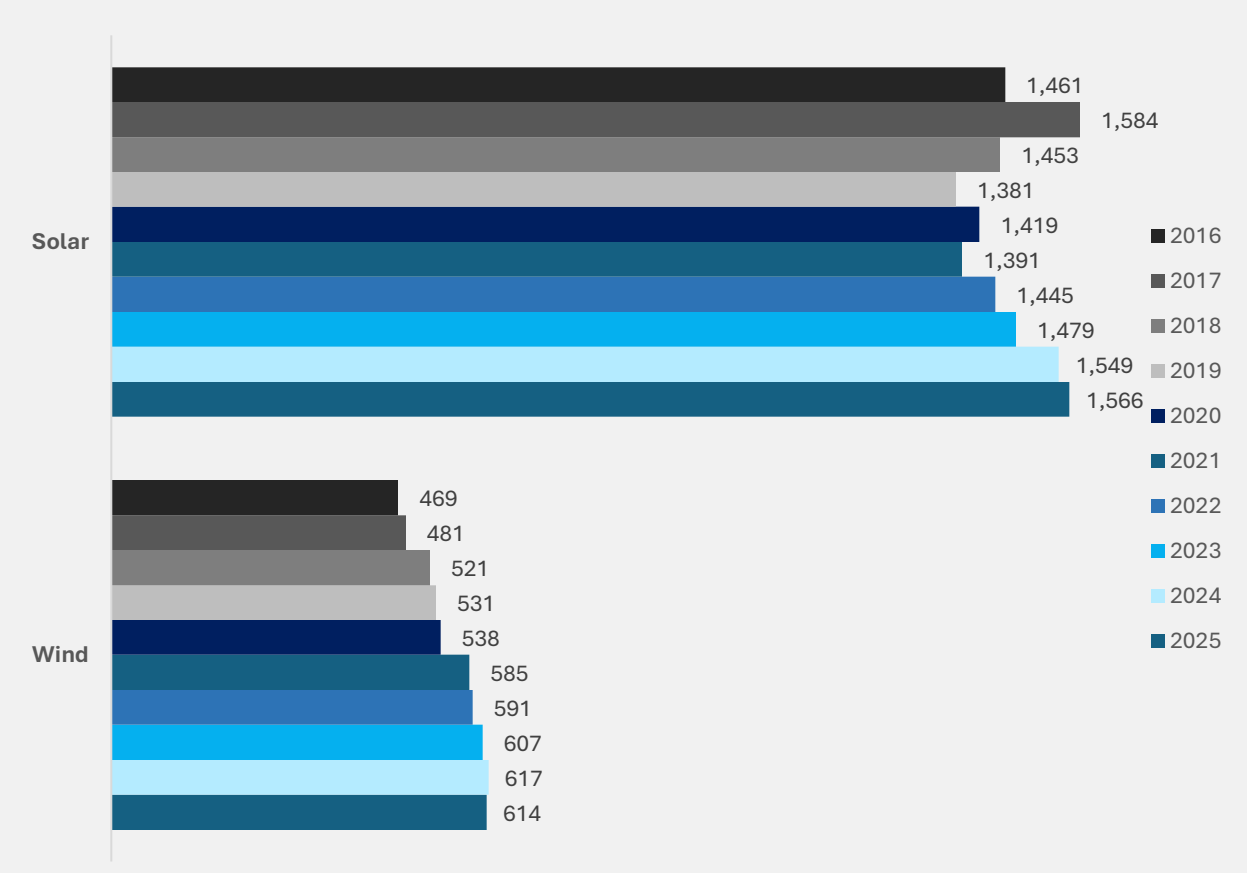
[15] An "other" employment category was reported in previous iterations of the report. The "other" employment category totaled 707 jobs in 2015; improved methodologies have since enabled the research team to categorize all employment by major technology. It should be noted that the 2015 employment will not sum to the total clean energy employment of 9,832 in this chart because the "other" category is not displayed. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Renewable Energy Generation Sector Employment

Rhode Island's solar workforce grew modestly from 2024 to 2025, increasing 1.1 percent, or about 18 jobs (Figure 3).

As for the wind, the workforce remained flat from 2024 to 2025. Despite a federal stop-work order that was later overturned, the Revolution Wind project, Rhode Island's second offshore wind installation, began delivering power to the electric grid in March 2026. With the project nearing completion at approximately 90 percent, ongoing construction activity, along with future operations and maintenance needs, is expected to support additional wind-related employment in the state.[16]

Figure 3. Rhode Island Renewable Energy Generation Employment, 2016-2025



[16] Ørsted, "Revolution Wind," https://revolution-wind.com/.

Energy Efficiency Sector Employment

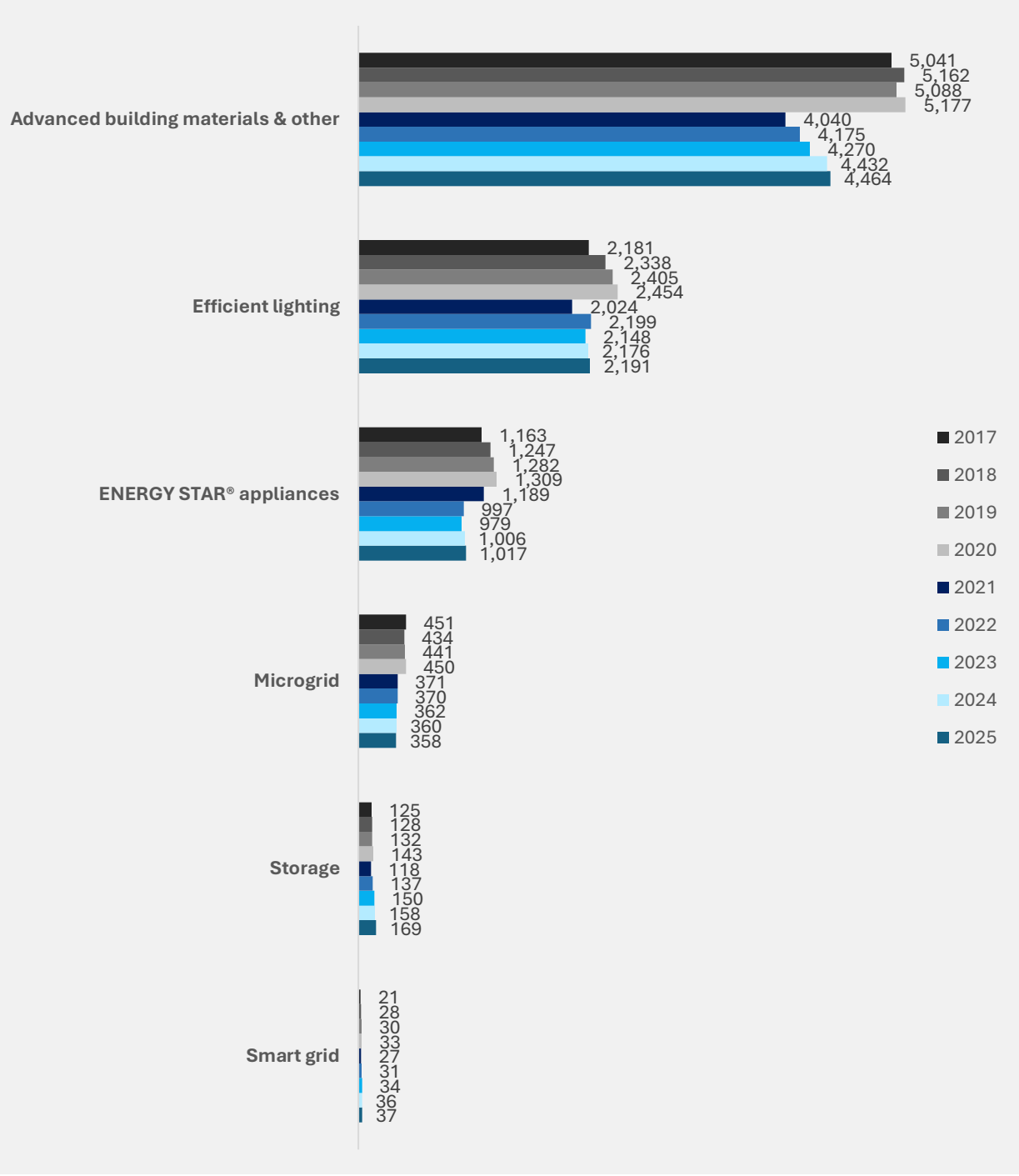
The energy efficiency sector added jobs modestly from 2024 to 2025. Nearly half of the 69 jobs gained came from the largest segment, advanced building materials and other, with small gains also in ENERGY STAR appliances®, and efficient lighting. Energy Efficiency upgrades are supported by the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) program, which provides income-eligible residents with rebates for home electrification updates, including ENERGY STAR-certified heat pump clothes dryers, electric stoves, ranges, ovens, or induction cooktops, electric wiring, and electric load service centers. In 2025, the program distributed over 400 rebates with an average rebate of about $2,000.[17]

The storage also posted moderate gains (Figure 4). Looking ahead, the sector is positioned for continued growth. In addition to new and ongoing incentive programs, a proposed utility-scale energy battery storage facility in Quonset could add more than 200 MW to the electric grid.[18]

[17] RI Office of Energy Resources, Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program Statistics. Data last updated May 4, 2026. Retrieved May 8, 2026 from: Home Energy Rebate Programs | Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources.

[18] Rob Smith, "208-MW Battery Storage Facility Proposed for North Kingstown," ecoRI News, March 9, 2026, https://ecori.org/208-mw-battery-storage-facility-proposed-for-north-kingstown/.

Figure 4. Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Employment, 2017-2025[19]

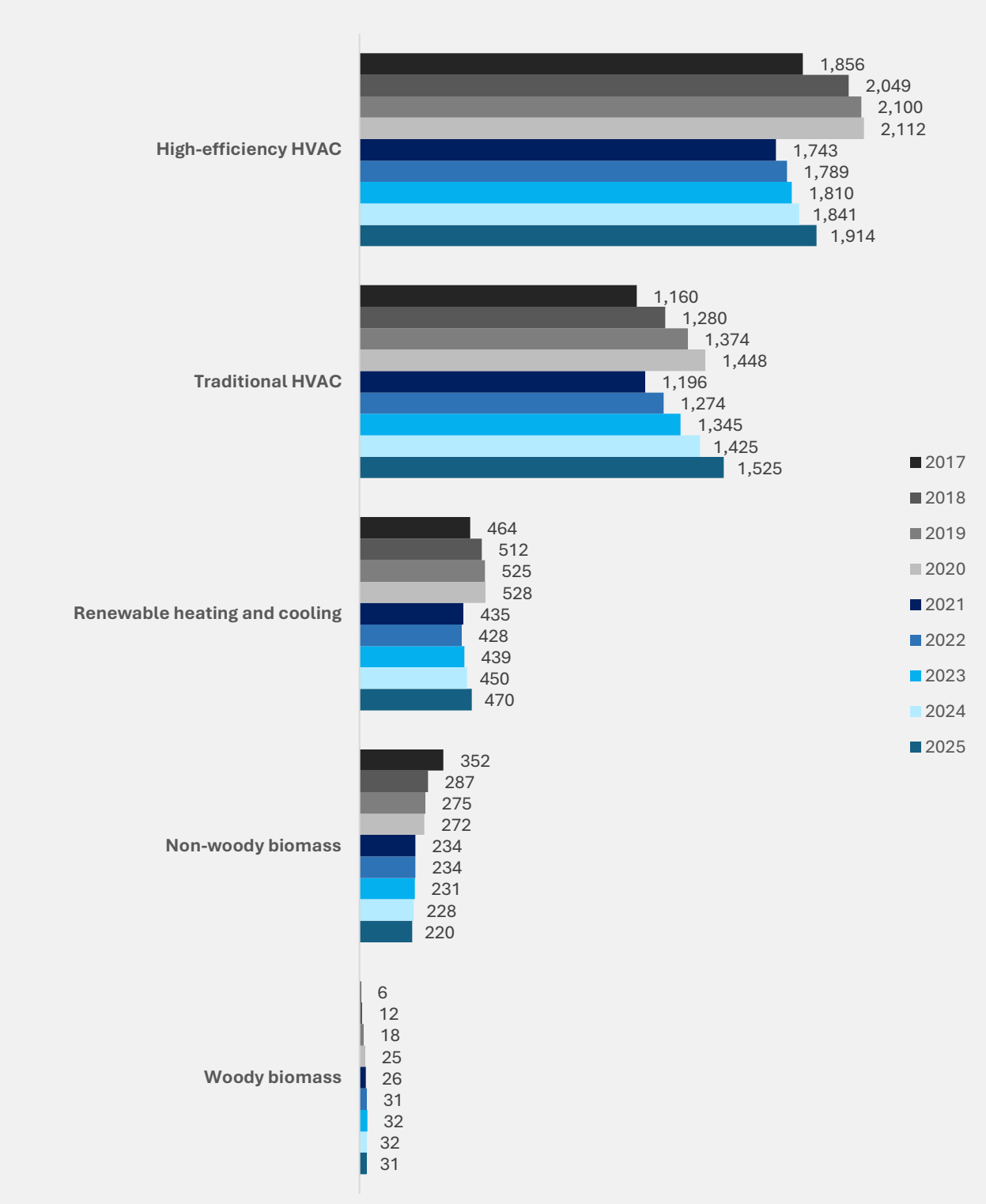


[19] While microgrid, storage, and smart grid are typically included under the "transmission and distribution" or "clean grid and storage" sectors for USEER and other Clean Energy Industry Reports, they are included in the energy efficiency sector for this report per Rhode Island's clean energy technology definition. "Other" energy efficiency includes variable speed pumps, other design service, software, energy auditing, rating, monitoring, metering, leak detection, policy or non-profit work, and consulting that cannot be specific to a detailed sub-technology. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Renewable and Efficient Heating and Cooling Sector Employment

Traditional and high-efficiency HVAC drove job growth in Rhode Island's renewable and efficient heating and cooling sector. Traditional HVAC experienced the largest growth out of the technologies, adding 100 jobs and growing 7.0 percent. High-efficiency HVAC followed, gaining 73 jobs at a 4.0 percent growth rate. Renewable heating and cooling also posted modest growth, adding 20 jobs, or 4.5 percent (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Rhode Island Renewable Heating and Cooling Employment, 2017-2025



Clean Energy Value Chain Analysis

The major value chain segments examined include:

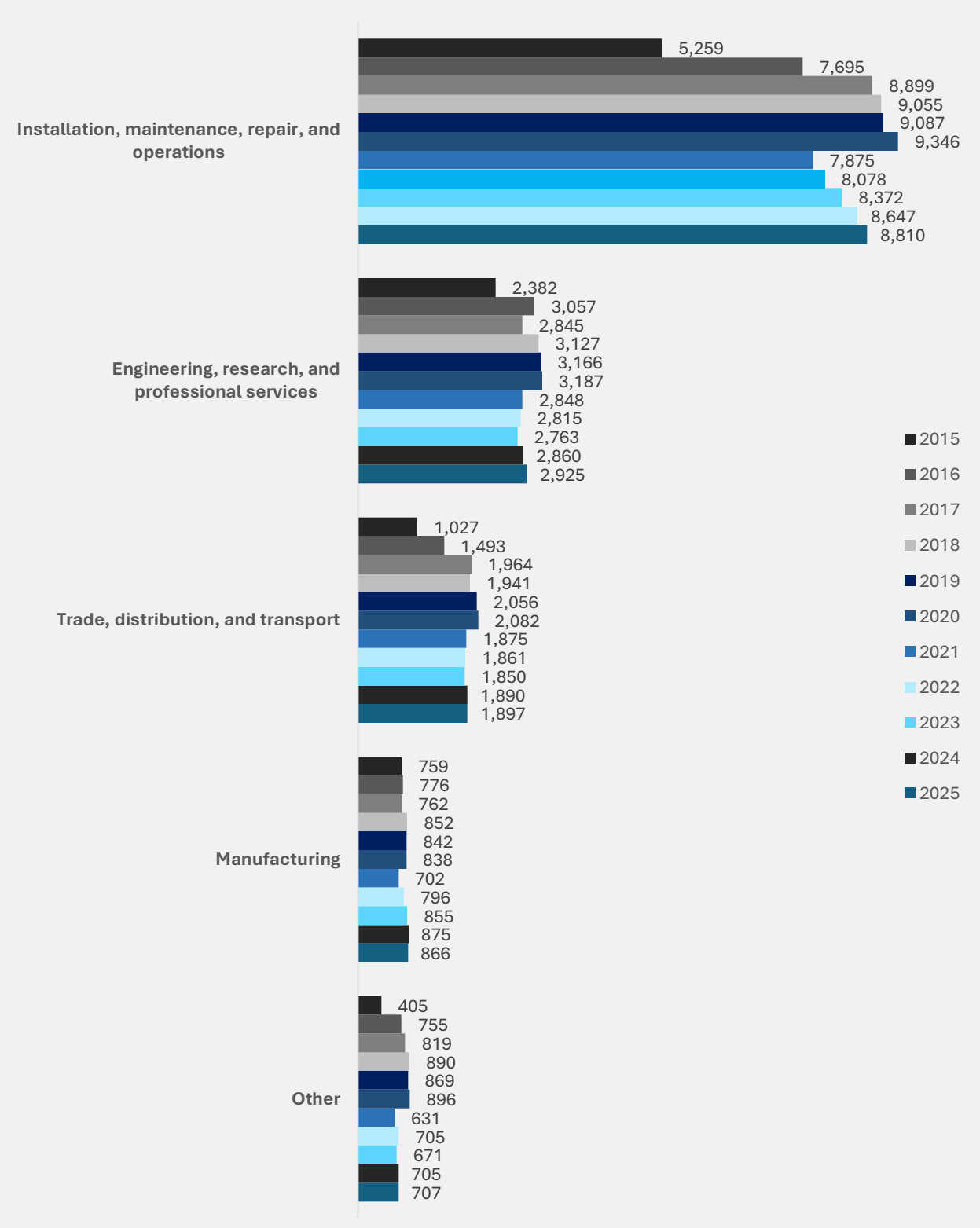
1. Installation, maintenance, repair, and operations;[20]
2. Manufacturing;[21]
3. Trade, distribution, and transport;[22]
4. Engineering, research, and professional services;[23] and
5. Other[24]

The installation, maintenance, repair, and operations value chain segment continued the historical precedent of posting the most net job gains, unsurprisingly given its disproportionate share of the clean energy workforce in Rhode Island (57.9 percent). From the start of 2024 to 2025, the segment grew by 163 jobs, at a 1.9 percent rate (Figure 6).

The engineering, research, and professional services segment reported the largest growth rate over the reporting period, at 2.3 percent, gaining 66 jobs. This is the second consecutive year of growth, following a three-year decline in the 2021 to 2023 reporting periods. The Rhode Island Clean Energy Internship Program, which matches college students with clean energy internship opportunities, is a key mechanism for supporting and strengthening the talent pipeline for the engineering, research, and professional services segment.

[20] Installation, maintenance, repair, and operations is comprised of all workers engaged in residential, commercial, and industrial building construction, contracting and electrical work, insulation and weatherization, or plumbing and heating, air conditioning, and ventilation work.
[21] Manufacturing encompasses heating and air conditioning equipment manufacturing, engine and compressor manufacturing, semiconductor manufacturing, and energy efficient product, appliance, or lighting manufacturing, as well as motor vehicle and parts manufacturing.
[22] Trade, distribution, and transport includes motor vehicle and parts wholesalers, electrical equipment and household appliance wholesalers, and other wholesale trade and distribution related to clean energy products and technologies.
[23] Professional services include all finance, legal, consulting, engineering, research, or architectural support.
[24] Other includes utilities, organizational and non-profit work such as environment and conservation organizations, business associations, or advocacy organizations.

Figure 6. Rhode Island Clean Energy Employment by Value Chain, 2015-2025



Demographics

Rhode Island's clean energy workforce closely reflects the state's broader labor force (Table 1). White workers account for the largest share of the clean energy workforce at 82.1 percent, followed by Black or African American workers at 10.2 percent (Figure 7). These demographics remained stable compared with last year, with no racial or ethnic group changing by a full percentage point.

Women account for 34.1 percent of Rhode Island's clean energy workforce (Figure 8). That share remains well below their 52.8 percent share of the state's overall workforce, but above the national clean energy workforce, where women make up 27.3 percent.

Rhode Island's lower female representation in clean energy reflects the sector's concentration in traditionally male-dominated industries. In Rhode Island, for example, the construction workforce is 95.4 percent male and 4.6 percent female (Table 2). Men also account for a larger share of the state's manufacturing and management workforce.

Table 1. Rhode Island Clean Energy Workforce Demographics[25]

	RI Clean Energy Overall	RI State Average	US CE Workforce (including Nuclear)	US Overall Workforce
Male	65.9%	47.2%	72.7%	52.9%
Female	34.1%	52.8%	27.3%	47.1%
Hispanic or Latino	13.1%	13.6%	17.8%	19.4%
Not Hispanic or Latino	86.9%	86.4%	82.2%	80.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.7%	0.8%	2.3%	1.0%
Asian	3.4%	3.9%	7.3%	7.0%
Black or African American	10.2%	8.4%	9.2%	12.8%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.2%	1.2%	>1%
White	82.1%	84.3%	75.2%	76.3%
Two or more races	3.4%	2.4%	4.8%	2.9%
Veterans	6.7%	5.3%	8.9%	5.3%
55 and over	7.9%	27.5%	16.3%	23.9%

[25] Clean energy workforce demographics are sourced from: U.S. Energy & Employment Jobs Report (USEER). U.S. Department of Energy. 2025. Overall workforce demographics are sourced from: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Figure 7. Rhode Island Clean Energy Workforce Demographics by Race

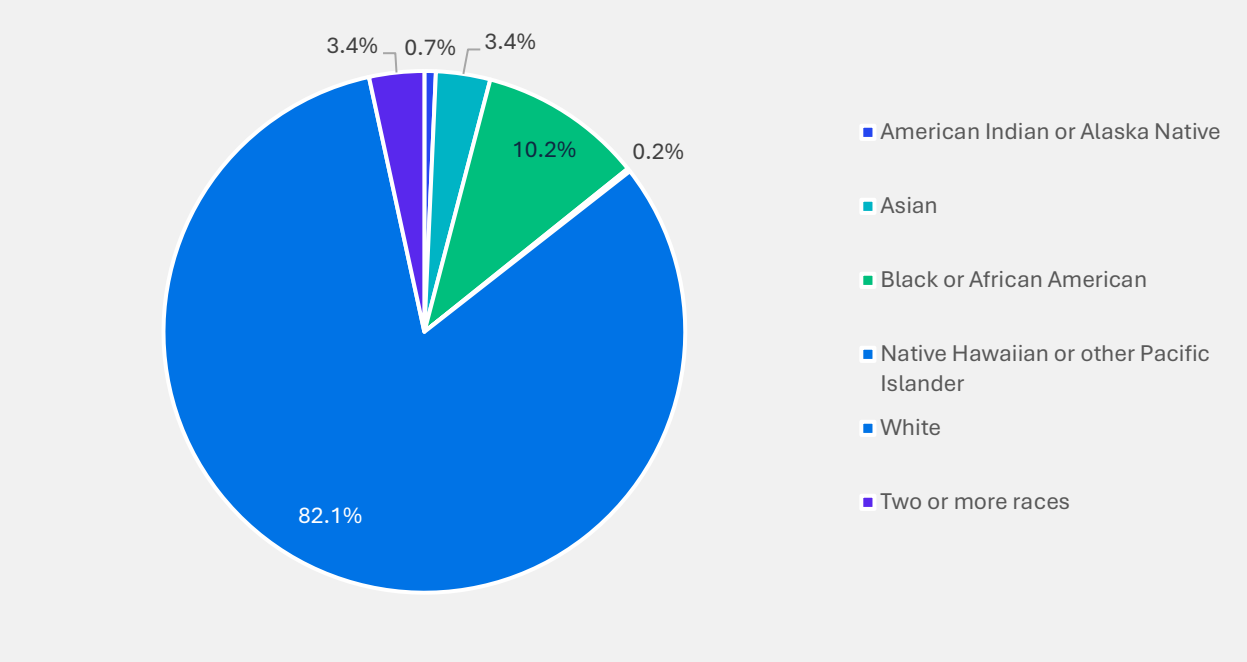


Figure 8. Rhode Island Clean Energy Workers by Gender

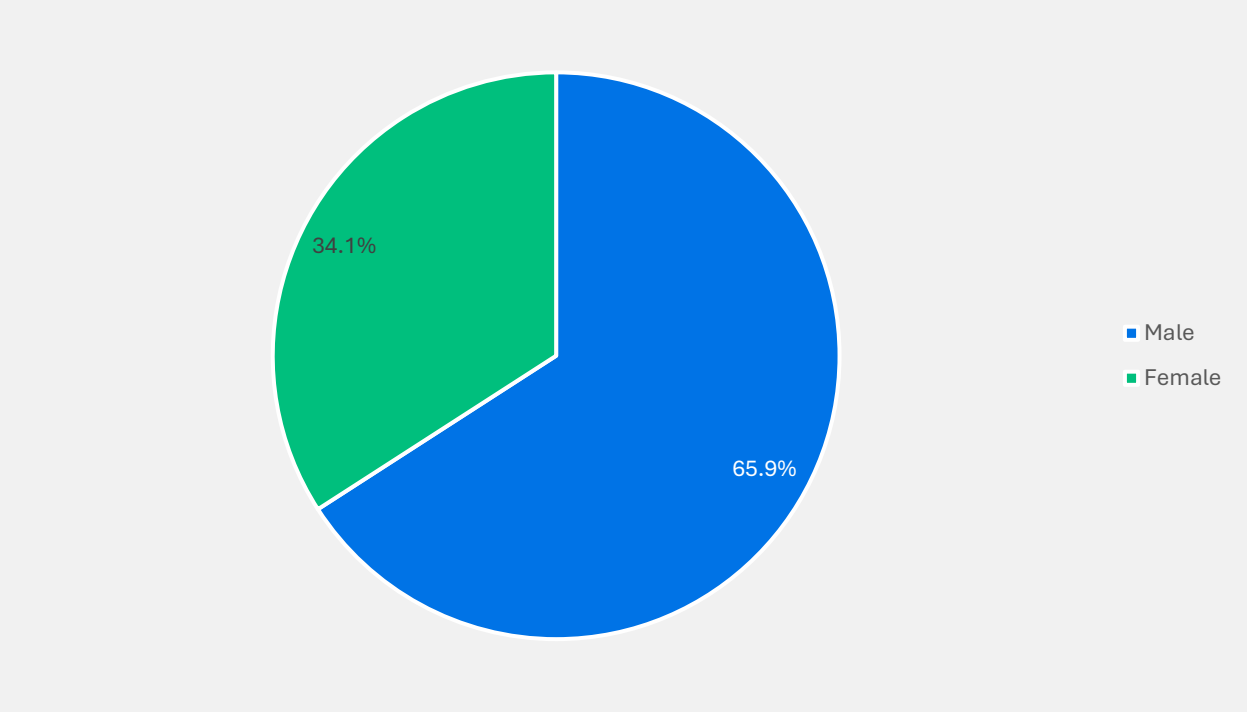


Table 2. Benchmarks for Gender Distribution in Rhode Island Industries[26]

	RI Clean Energy Overall	RI Construction Overall	RI Manufacturing Overall	RI Management Overall
Male	65.9%	95.4%	69.2%	57.9%
Female	34.1%	4.6%	30.8%	42.1%

[26] Demographic data is pulled from the United States Energy and Employment Report 2025 (USEER 2025) as well as JobsEQ's "Occupational Diversity" page, 2025Q3, based on place of residence, for workers across all industries in Rhode Island. Obtained April 2026. Construction represents workers in the Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupational group (SOC 49-0000); Manufacturing represents workers in the Production occupational grouping (51-0000); and Management represents workers in Management occupations (SOC 11-0000).

Conclusion

Rhode Island's clean energy employment continues to trend upward, regaining momentum from pandemic losses. As national support for clean energy technologies becomes less certain, sustained progress in Rhode Island will depend on continued state commitment, including the implementation of the 2025 Climate Action Strategy and the pursuit of innovative decarbonization approaches. Meeting the state's climate goals will require a skilled and prepared workforce. Continued investment in training pathways for key occupations, such as Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers and HVAC Mechanics and Installers, will be critical, alongside continuing to increase awareness of clean energy career opportunities at the K–12 level through programs such as the Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC) to maintain a strong talent pipeline. Workforce development efforts must also be supported by wraparound services, including transportation, housing, and childcare, to ensure that clean energy opportunities are accessible and equitable for all Rhode Island communities.

Methodology

This year's Clean Energy Industry Report is based on the data collected for the 2025 United States Energy and Employment Report (USEER). The 2025 USEER utilizes data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (BLS QCEW 2024 Q2) and Current Employment Statistics (CES Table B-1), as well as survey data. The survey was designed and implemented by BW Research Partnership. For the past decade, national, state, and local energy-related data collection and analysis efforts have used this survey methodology.

The survey uses a stratified sampling plan based on industry code (North American Industry Classification System or NAICS), establishment size, and geography to determine the proportion of establishments that work with specific energy related technologies, as well as the proportion of workers in such establishments that work with the same. This data is then analyzed and applied to existing public data published by the BLS QCEW, effectively constraining the potential universe of energy establishments and employment.

The 2025 USEER survey was administered by telephone (more than 1,350,000 outbound dials) and by web, with more than 264,000 emails sent to participants throughout the United States.

The sample was split into two categories, the known and unknown universes. The known universe includes establishments that have previously been identified as energy-related, either in prior research or some other manner, such as membership in an industry association or participation in government programs. These establishments were surveyed census-style, and their associated establishment and employment totals were removed from the unknown universe for both sampling and for resulting employment calculations and estimates. As in previous years, over the summer of 2024, BW Research cleaned, deduplicated, added to, and refined its database to reflect churn (companies out of business, moved, no longer in energy), unverified (no answer, answering machine, fast-busy, disconnect, etc.), verified, and other available demographic tags (industry, technology, sub-technology, size, etc.).

In addition to cleaning the original known energy database, BW Research also supplemented with industry association contact lists by technology (biofuels, coal, oil, and gas, energy storage, energy efficiency, solar, and wind), new companies from the unknown database that took the survey for the 2024 USEER and contact lists from subcontractors. BW Research also appended contact information, including six-digit NAICS codes, contact, employment, and location information.
The unknown universe includes hundreds of thousands of businesses in potentially energy related NAICS codes, across agriculture, mining, utilities, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, professional services, and repair and maintenance. Each of these

segments and their total reported establishments (within the BLS QCEW) were carefully analyzed by size (employment – provided by the Census Bureau's County Business Patterns) and state to develop representative clusters for sampling.

With clean data files in place, BW Research developed a general methodology for state employment estimation that has a few variations depending on sub-technology. Steps in the process are listed below.

100% NAICS A
These are NAICS codes where 100% of the reported employment is energy related AND 100% are allocated to a specific sub-technology. Examples include solar electric power generation, hydroelectric power generation, and motor vehicle manufacturing.

Actual Survey Responses
These include the reported sub-technology employment totals by company location. Responses from establishments in 100% NAICS codes are excluded.

Known Database
Employment is allocated by location for verified establishments in the known when the following conditions are met: 1) Have InfoUSA or DatabaseUSA appended data; 2) did not take survey (or actual survey response would be used), and 3) are not in a 100% NAICS.

Remainder
This represents remaining employment based on statistical extrapolation.

Industry Mix
Industry mix is the national proportion of industries that contribute to sub-technology employment. The mix of these industries (by 6-digit NAICS) is used to create proportions by state and remainder employment is allocated by these proportions. This "industry mix" was developed by analyzing completed survey incidence nationally for all clean energy sub-technologies over five years.

BW Research provided additional analysis of the publicly released Department of Energy data that included data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Energy Information Administration, the U.S. Census Bureau, JobsEQ, the BW Research Partnership Energy Employment Index, and historical data from prior Rhode Island Clean Energy Industry Reports. Of importance to note, the USEER excludes any employment in retail trade NAICS codes—motor vehicle dealerships, appliance and hardware stores, and other retail establishments.