

FACT SHEET:

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFERS SAVINGS FOR NEBRASKANS

While access to electricity is essential for homes and businesses across the U.S., the cost of service can pose a burden to customers. One key strategy to limit this burden is to implement efficiency measures that can cut costs by reducing energy consumption.



Energy costs have an outsized impact on rural ratepayers

- On average, a U.S. household spends \$1,411.80 for electricity annually.¹
- Energy efficiency can assist low-income consumers in reducing their energy burden, which is the total percentage of their income spent on electricity.
 - The national average energy burden for a rural household is 4.4 percent compared to 3.1 percent in urban areas.²
 - Low-income families in rural areas experience one of the most significant energy burdens at 9 percent.
 - The average burden for rural elderly residents is typically 44 percent higher than the non-elderly.³
- Nebraska ranks 43rd among states in energy efficiency policy at the state or local level.⁴

Investments in energy efficiency support economic opportunity

Energy efficiency allows for rural residents to decrease their energy use and burden while simultaneously supporting local economies. Energy audits and many energy efficiency improvements to homes and businesses can be made by local professionals.

- Increased demand for efficiency upgrades to buildings and improvements to technology have driven job growth in the energy efficiency sector.⁵
 - The sector experienced 3.4 percent job growth over 2018—adding 76,000 jobs and bringing the total to 2,324,866 jobs.
 - This rapid growth accounted for the most new jobs of any energy sector.
 - Expected growth by the end of 2019 was 7.8 percent.⁶
- Energy efficiency jobs are not limited to urban areas, as more than 1 million jobs related to energy efficiency are located outside of the top 50 metropolitan areas in the U.S.
 - 308,375 jobs related to energy efficiency were located in counties with populations under 100,000.
 - 317,890 rural Americans worked in careers related to energy efficiency in 2019.⁷
- Nebraska currently has 13,533 jobs related to energy efficiency, with 508 jobs related to energy efficiency added by 2019.⁸

Sources

1 “2018 Average Monthly Bill—Residential.” U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2018, eia.gov/electricity/sales_revenue_price/pdf/table5_a.pdf. Accessed April 2020.

2 Ross, Laurel, et al. “The High Cost of Energy in Rural America: Household Energy Burdens and Opportunities for Energy Efficiency.” Energy Efficiency for All, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, July 2018, aceee.org/sites/default/files/publications/researchreports/u1806.pdf. Accessed April 2020.

3 Ibid.

4 “State and Local Policy Database, Nebraska State Government.” American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, October 2019, database.aceee.org/state/nebraska. Accessed April 2020.

5 “The 2019 U.S. Energy & Employment Report.” National Association of State Energy Officials, Energy Futures Initiative, USEnergyJobs.org, 2019, static1.squarespace.com/static/5a98cf80ec4eb7c5cd928c61/t/5c7f3708fa0d6036d7120d8f/1551849054549/USEER+2019+US+Energy+Employment+Report.pdf. Accessed April 2020.

6 Ibid.

7 “Energy Efficiency Jobs in America.” E2, E4TheFuture, September 2019, e4thefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Energy-Efficiency-Jobs-in-America-2019-National-Summary.pdf. Accessed April 2020.

8 “U.S. Energy and Employment Report 2019, Nebraska Energy and Employment—2019.” National Association of State Energy Officials, Energy Futures Initiative, 2019, static1.squarespace.com/static/5a98cf80ec4eb7c5cd928c61/t/5c7f41744e17b642f18c6b31/1551843700924/Nebraska.pdf. Accessed April 2020.





Strong policies can assist in improving energy efficiency

While many families and businesses may benefit from implementing energy efficiency improvements, the cost of investment presents its own burden. Leadership from state and local governments as well as utilities through sound policies can provide consumers with additional opportunities to become more energy efficient.



DOLLAR AND ENERGY SAVING LOANS

- ▶ The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) maintains the Dollar and Energy Saving Loans Program, which can be used for a wide variety of energy efficiency improvements as well as renewable energy projects.
- ▶ Applications are submitted to local lenders in Nebraska and NDEE to ensure they are in compliance with efficiency standards for the program.



PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

- ▶ In 2015, Nebraska passed legislation enabling PACE financing in the state.
- ▶ PACE allows for property owners to finance energy efficiency and clean energy projects through an assessment on their property taxes. This allows property owners to pay back the costs of projects over time, limiting the upfront investment while also reducing energy costs for consumers.
- ▶ One advantage of PACE financing is that it is attached to the property subject to energy efficiency improvements rather than to an individual. This means regardless of ownership, these investments ensure long-term efficiency improvements and savings.

Sources

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ “Energy Efficiency Jobs in America.” E2, E4TheFuture, September 2019, e4thefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Energy-Efficiency-Jobs-in-America-2019-National-Summary.pdf. Accessed April 2020.

⁸ “U.S. Energy and Employment Report 2019, Nebraska Energy and Employment—2019.” National Association of State Energy Officials, Energy Futures Initiative, 2019, static1.squarespace.com/static/5a98cf80ec4eb7c5cd928c61/t/5c7f41744e17b642f18c6b31/1551843700924/Nebraska.pdf. Accessed April 2020.

⁹ “Dollar & Energy Saving Loans.” Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy, Air, Land & Energy, Energy Assistance Division, neo.ne.gov/programs/loans/loans.html#item-02. Accessed April 2020.

