



Once a regional leader in energy efficiency, Ohio eliminated its energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) in 2019 as part of the scandal-ridden House Bill 6. While the bill eliminated energy savings requirements for electric investor-owned utilities, it did not repeal portions of the law in Ohio that allow cost recovery for voluntary electric EE. The commission has not, however, approved any voluntary plans. Bills that would legislatively restore some electric EE have been proposed but have not yet passed. Small amounts of voluntary gas EE have been approved, though recent cases have drastically reduced funding and the diversity of program offerings.

OHIO EE QUICK FACTS

What's in the cards for Ohio regarding energy efficiency:

Energy Savings Target



Ohio does not have an energy savings target for electric or gas utilities. The previous savings target for electric IOUs was repealed in 2019.

EE Spend per Capita



2021 electric EE \$ per residential customer: \$0.93
2021 gas EE \$ per residential customer: \$0.00

Building Energy Codes




Commercial: 2021 IECC, with amendments
Residential: 2018 IECC, with amendments

Stakeholder Collaboration



Ohio does not have a statewide energy efficiency collaborative. Utilities in Ohio have traditionally engaged utility-specific stakeholder advisory boards to review plans.

Energy Efficiency Financing



Ohio offers several forms of EE financing, including Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) and Energy Loan Funds through the state Department of Development.

Fuel-Switching



Ohio has not promoted fuel-switching in past EE programs, nor are any IOU electrification programs currently offered. Proposed voluntary EE legislation has not included fuel-switching.

JOBS AND ECONOMICS

Strong EE policies in the past led to utility investment and job growth throughout the Ohio economy. Even today, the Ohio EE industry employs more state residents than any other energy sector. Most employers are small businesses providing local jobs—jobs now at risk because of Ohio's recent policy changes.



76,475 EE jobs, out of **165,363** total energy jobs or **97,385** clean energy jobs



Veterans comprise **8%** of the EE workforce



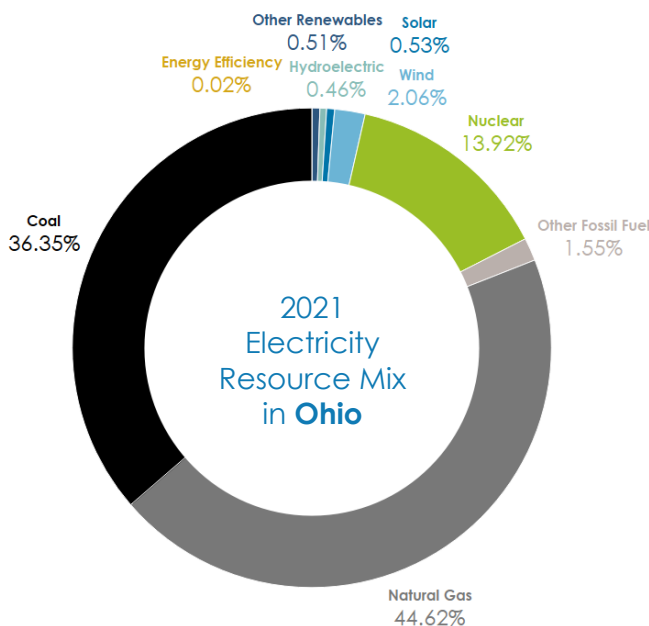
10,626 EE businesses



of those are **small** businesses (fewer than **100** employees)

STATE ENERGY PLANNING

Ohio requires electric utilities to file an annual Electric Utility Forecast Report. This report includes a resource plan with a 10-year long-term forecast of energy needs, which should include a discussion of how demand-side programs could help meet those needs. There is, however, no requirement that demand-side resources actually be included in resource acquisition plans. In 2014, Gov. Kasich's administration issued established nine policy pillars in its Ohio 21st Century Energy Policy Plan. They included energy efficiency and cogeneration, but this document is not nearly as robust as other states' formal state energy plans.



Utility Cost Range of Electricity Resources

\$ per megawatt-hour, 2023

Energy Efficiency (Midwest Avg)	15
Solar PV - Utility Scale	24 — 96
Wind - Onshore	24 — 75
Gas Combined Cycle	39 — 101
Coal	68 — 166
Gas Peaking	115 — 221
Nuclear	141 — 221

Source: Lazard, 2023; LBNI, 2018

INCLUSIVITY: INCREASING ACCESS TO EE

Whether in affordable housing or rural communities, under-resourced customers need comprehensive program options to reduce their energy burdens. When the state repealed its EERS, low-income energy efficiency programs vanished. If electric EE returns, it is unclear if low-income programming will resume, though disadvantaged customers would benefit immensely from programs, as energy burden is a severe problem for Ohio's poorest citizens. Ultimately, creation of additional targeted EE programs and increased access to programs would improve housing structures in the state and reduce household costs for Ohioans.

Contact: Maddie Wazowicz, Policy Director
 mwazowicz@mwalliance.org, (312) 374-0930
 20 N. Wacker Dr. Ste 1301, Chicago IL 60606 | www.mwalliance.org