



Missed Opportunities: The Impact of Recent Policies on Energy Efficiency Programs in Midwestern States

OHIO

The repeal of Ohio's energy efficiency standard by 2020's **House Bill 6** was the culmination of ongoing attacks on EE since 2014. The law also eliminated cost recovery, making voluntary utility EE unworkable. After a two-year freeze, several repeal attempts and weakening through a large customer opt-out, HB6 finally ended electric EE in Ohio.

MEEA commissioned a study to understand the missed opportunities for the utility system and Ohio's utility customers from the repeal and opt-out. This factsheet outlines the key findings and potential missed opportunities from those policies.

Net Impact on EE Benefits



With the repeal of the state's energy efficiency resource standard, Ohio has undermined energy efficiency's statewide value. **Annually, Ohio will miss \$962 million in benefits.** These benefits include bill savings and lower utility costs.

Social Cost of Carbon



HB 6's repeal of the energy efficiency standard eliminated utility EE programs, resulting in increased energy use and associated carbon emissions. The social cost of the additional carbon emissions is approximately **\$2 billion.**

Health Impacts



Ohio faces **\$51 million to \$115 million in health care costs** resulting from the policy change. These come from premature mortalities, illnesses and lost workdays from the electric generation air pollution that EE would have avoided.

Macroeconomic Impacts



Ohioans face **net job loss of over 5,400 full-time equivalent jobs**, a **net income loss of \$300 million** and a **net GDP loss of \$296 million** from the adopted regressive EE policies.

Non-Participant Benefits



EE programs provide benefits to all customers, even those who have not participated. The regressive policy change eliminates **\$288 million in nonparticipant rate relief.**

\$962 MILLION

Lost net benefits



\$2 BILLION

Additional costs from carbon emissions

\$51 - 115 MILLION

Health damage costs



\$300 MILLION

5,400 Net income loss Jobs lost

\$288 MILLION



Lost net benefits for non-participants



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MEEA's policy team released a report with the help of researchers from Synapse Energy Economics. **"Missed Opportunities"** estimates the impacts of recent energy efficiency policy rollbacks in six Midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Missouri and Wisconsin.

The findings underscore the immense value of utility-run energy efficiency programs by quantifying the benefits they provide to society at large - from economic to environmental and health.

View the full report: https://www.mwalliance.org/sites/default/files/meea-research/missed_opportunities_-_midwest_ee_policy_impacts.pdf?current=/taxonomy/term/11