Energy Efficiency Business Group

What is Energy Efficiency?

Energy efficiency is the use of less energy to perform the same task or produce the same result. Energy-efficient homes and buildings use less energy to heat, cool, and run appliances and electronics, and energy-efficient manufacturing facilities use less energy to produce goods – **reducing costs regardless of the energy source**. The energy we do not use is the **cheapest/ most sustainable unit of energy.**

Energy Efficiency is Good for Business - Why?

- **Fuels Job Creation & Economic Growth:** The energy efficiency sector is a powerhouse, employing 2.3 million Americans (according to the 2024 U.S. Energy & Employment Jobs Report (USEER)) – that's more than all fossil fuel and power generation jobs combined! This rapidly growing sector added nearly 75,000 jobs in 2023 alone, offering diverse opportunities in manufacturing, construction, engineering, and beyond.
    - Investing in energy efficiency is investing in American jobs and economic prosperity.
    - Energy efficiency is embedded in critical industries that don't necessarily identify as "efficiency companies" in the same way other energy industries self-identify. Efficiency jobs include manufacturing, construction, engineering, design, professional services, and more.

- **Strengthens energy security and grid resiliency.** Our growing economy requires an ever-increasing amount of energy to sustain itself, but building new energy generation is expensive and invasive to communities. Reducing demand increases grid reliability and reduces the amount of new generation required to meet our economic needs.

- **Boosts American Competitiveness globally:** The U.S. and our allies are leaders in manufacturing energy efficient equipment and materials: promoting efficiency contributes to a healthy domestic manufacturing sector.

- **Delivers significant cost savings: The cheapest unit of energy is the energy we do not use**. Energy efficiency saves American's money. This holds true regardless of where that energy comes from – traditional fossil-based energy sources and renewables alike. Efficiency investments since 1980 have resulted in significant bill savings, saving us approximately **$800 billion annually.**

- **Provides energy affordability and price stability:** EE shields businesses and consumers from volatile energy prices. Simple efficiency solutions like weatherization programs are estimated to reduce the energy burden of low-income households by 25%. These solutions include the building envelope and systems, like insulation, windows, HVAC, and lighting, ensuring energy access for all while mitigating the impact of price fluctuations.

- **Enhances livability and productivity**. Retrofitting our buildings to become more energy efficient not only saves money but also creates healthier, more comfortable living and working spaces. Improved air quality, better temperature control, and reduced noise levels boost employee productivity and well-being, contributing to a stronger community and workforce.

- **Reduces pollution:** Energy Efficiency is a powerful tool in the fight against air pollution. Without mandating specific energy supply sources, it can slash U.S. emissions, delivering cleaner air and clean water for all Americans. Investing in cost-effective energy efficiency solutions offers a bipartisan path to a cleaner environment while avoiding picking energy supply winners and losers.

What Do We Need?

- Smart Tax Incentives that Recognize the Economic Contribution of Energy Efficiency
- Business Certainty
- Support for Voluntary State & Local Building Energy Codes
- Energy Efficiency Workforce Development Investments