Emily Reichert's Remarks

Senator Markey's Clean Energy Small Business Field Hearing

May 9, 2025

You will speak for about 5 minutes.

Introduction:

- Good morning, Senator Markey. Thank you for gathering us here today to discuss the clean energy economy in Massachusetts, and specifically the economic impact of clean energy small businesses and clean energy workers.

- I want to thank Franklin Cummings Tech and President Aisha Francis for hosting us. At MassCEC, we are fortunate to have Dr. Francis as a valued member of our Board.

- My name is Emily Reichert, and I have the honor of serving as the CEO of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, also known as MassCEC.

- MassCEC is a quasi-state economic development agency dedicated to accelerating the growth of the clean energy and climatetech sector across Massachusetts.

- We do this to spur job creation, deliver statewide environmental benefits, and secure long-term economic growth for our residents.

MA Clean Energy Industry:

- I appreciate the opportunity to share the findings we have gathered as part of MassCEC's Annual Clean Energy Industry survey.

- MassCEC is required by law to submit to the Massachusetts Legislature an annual report detailing the state's clean energy industry.

- While we are still finalizing the report, I'd like to share some highlights with you today.

- The headline is: the Massachusetts Clean Energy economy is strong.

- The clean energy industry has become a major part of the Massachusetts economy and has seen continued growth in jobs, businesses, and economic impact.

- **There are over 7,500 clean energy businesses in Massachusetts.**

- The Massachusetts clean energy industry has doubled since 2010, adding nearly 60,000 jobs.

- In total, Massachusetts is home to over 115,000 clean energy workers.

- That’s 115,000 people who rely on work in the clean energy industry to pay their bills and care for themselves and their families.

- But the impact of the clean energy industry is much greater than these 115,000 jobs alone.

- The Massachusetts clean energy industry impacts another 43,500 indirect jobs and nearly 75,000 induced jobs.

- Indirect jobs are those outside of the clean energy sector that provide critical supply chain goods and services.

- Induced jobs are those that result from increased spending in the economy thanks to the clean energy industry.

- In total, the clean energy industry powers 233,427 direct, indirect, and induced jobs.

- The industry has been responsible for generating a significant amount of tax dollars, including a total of $5.9 billion in federal taxes and $2.9 billion in state and local taxes.

- In 2023, the clean energy industry contributed $15.9 billion, or about 2%, to the Commonwealth’s Gross State Product (GSP).

- The numbers in this year's report only reflect *clean energy* jobs.

- Massachusetts has a booming *climatetech* sector as well. We are #1 in US climatetech startups per capita, with many young companies emerging from our local universities and growing into successful climatetech manufacturing businesses.

- Recent examples, who are also grantees of MassCEC's programs include:
    - **Aeroshield Materials** in Waltham, MA, which is developing advanced insulation materials to improve energy efficiency in buildings.
    - **AM Batteries** in Billerica, MA, which is pioneering cleaner, more efficient ways to make batteries for electric vehicles and energy storage.
    - **Clean Crop Technologies** in Holyoke, MA, which is using innovative technology to keep food fresher for longer and cut waste across the food supply chain.

- Another exciting highlight is that the Massachusetts clean energy industry is a **statewide** industry.

- 74% of clean energy businesses are located outside of Greater Boston.

- **58% of clean energy businesses are small businesses with 10 or fewer workers.**

- When looking at clean energy jobs by sector or subsector, many clean energy jobs, 66% to be exact, are in the Energy Efficiency, Demand Management, and Clean Heating and Cooling.

- The state has experienced growth in other subsectors, too.

- Massachusetts has seen a 22% increase in clean transportation jobs since 2023. And the state was ranked #1 nationally for the highest rate of growth in electric vehicle jobs in 2024.

- Along with EVs, other subsectors that experienced the greatest increase in jobs between 2023 and 2024 include solar; advanced and recycled building materials; and clean, high efficiency, and ENERGY STAR heating and cooling.

- These workers and small businesses are improving the quality of life for countless residents across Massachusetts.

- They're making life more affordable and more comfortable.

- They're helping drivers switch to electric vehicles.

- They're helping homeowners and business owners make their homes and commercial buildings healthier and more efficient.

- They’re reducing pollution and building a future with cleaner air and water.

- And they’re helping us accelerate the transition to clean energy sources that are more reliable and more secure.

- The continued growth of the clean energy industry is vital to the well - being of the Massachusetts economy.
- But we have more work to do to grow jobs and ensure everyone can take part in the economic benefits of clean energy.

- Women and minority workers continue to be underrepresented in the industry.

- Equitable workforce development is one of our top priorities, and Massachusetts needs roughly 28,000 additional workers to meet our 2030 climate goals, but 37% of employers still reported that they found it very difficult to hire qualified workers.

- That’s why yesterday, MassCEC traveled to Essex North Shore Technical and Agricultural High School in Danvers, Massachusetts to announce $7.3 million in workforce development grants to 25 incredible organizations including community colleges, unions, and technical high schools.

- These grants will support local organizations working to build training pipelines, raise awareness, and expand access to climate jobs.

Closing:

- On a global scale, the clean energy transition is unstoppable. Competition is increasing and other countries are moving forward.

- The progress we've made here in Massachusetts over the past 15 years is incredible and we have much to be proud of

- This work wouldn't be possible without people coming together from across higher education, government, labor, industry, and the nonprofit sector.

- Massachusetts, as a climate leader and a hub for innovation, will continue to do what it can to grow the clean energy industry and accelerate climatetech solutions.

- But without reliable federal investments, our entrepreneurs and small businesses will suffer.

- And when small businesses suffer, so do workers, consumers, and entire communities.

- This is the time when we should strengthen our support for clean energy small businesses and workers, as well as the researchers and innovators who drive groundbreaking climate solutions.

- I appreciate the opportunity to speak about the positive economic impact of clean energy small businesses and the workers who power this growing industry.

- Senator Markey, thank you again. I look forward to your questions.