

Illinois's Path to an Energy-Efficient Future

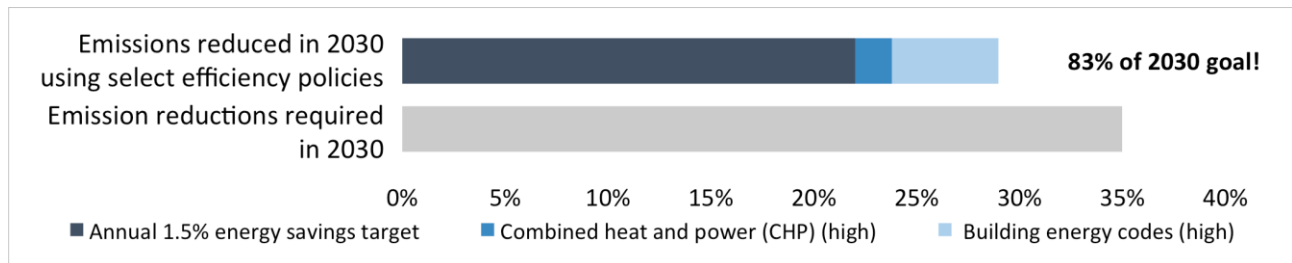
Energy efficiency can help Illinois generate local jobs, avoid thousands of tons of air pollution, and make the state a healthier place to live. Here's why energy efficiency should be central to state plans for a reliable and affordable energy future with clean air and a strong economy.



Energy Efficiency Cuts Waste, Avoids Pollution, and Saves Money

A lot of useful energy is wasted in Illinois. Energy efficiency can reduce this waste, cutting energy costs for Illinoisans through programs that upgrade their homes, replace old furnaces, and insulate their walls to keep cold air out. This means more money in people's pockets and fewer taxpayer dollars spent on heating and cooling leaky government buildings.

By using energy efficiency to reduce air pollution, Illinois can comply with federal air regulations and strengthen the state economy at the same time. In fact, implementation of a few popular energy efficiency policies can help Illinois meet about **83% of its goal** to cut carbon pollution under the EPA's Clean Power Plan.



How Energy Efficiency Strengthens Illinois's Economy and Cuts Pollution

By adopting a few common efficiency policies, Illinois can cut air pollution and save electricity customers money while the state economy grows. Here are some of the benefits of investing in energy efficiency¹:



Achieving annual energy savings of 1.5%, coupled with national model building codes and 500 MWs of new combined heat and power, will help Illinois avoid more than 29 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2030. More than 35 million MWh of electricity will be saved, eliminating pollution from power plants.



In addition to helping with Clean Power Plan compliance, these efficiency policies will save 202,000 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and 804,000 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) by 2030. Air pollution can damage the lungs, heart, and brain, so lower emissions mean healthier communities and a higher quality of life.



Illinoisans can realize large financial benefits from increasing energy productivity. By 2030, efficiency policies will save the people of Illinois \$5.4 billion. These savings can ensure that the state achieves clean air goals while strengthening the economy and reducing electricity costs for vulnerable populations.

¹ The information below comes from SUPR2 available for download here: <http://aceee.org/research-report/e1601>.