

Create Local Jobs

Illinois' energy projects should be built by Illinois' union workers.



Strengthening and Preparing the Grid for Clean Energy

Senate Bill 311/House Bill 1734: The Downstate Clean Energy Affordability Act

Reliable, affordable energy is more important to the communities and economy of central and southern Illinois than ever before.

Downstate Illinois counties have seen their populations decline steadily over the past decade. Our region was one of the hardest hit in the nation and slowest to recover from the 2008 recession. The pandemic has left many Downstate families and communities struggling again. Downstate communities are working hard to foster economic opportunity; create well-paying, steady local jobs; attract new investment to the region; and make our local communities places our children and grandchildren want to put down roots. We can't do any of that without a modern energy grid and access to reliable, affordable, clean energy. And we can't do it unless elected officials in Springfield adopt energy policies that protect Downstate workers and families.

The Downstate Clean Energy Affordability Act puts people to work and supports local jobs by:

- Investing in new gas and electric technology
- Placing more service underground to protect against disruptions
- Making our physical energy infrastructure better able to withstand severe weather
- Preparing the existing infrastructure to safely connect clean energy to the grid so Downstate consumers can receive the benefits
- Putting more tools in consumers' hands to understand and manage their personal energy use

It does all that leveraging union workers and creating hundreds of new local jobs.

It's imperative we maintain progress in modernizing the grid to meet the needs of families and businesses throughout central and southern Illinois. Illinois' union workers are the best trained, most productive energy workers around. Their jobs are the backbone of many of our Downstate communities. State energy policy must support those jobs.

Accelerates grid modernization and benefits using Illinois' union workers. Energy projects built by Illinoisans for Illinoisans will continue to deliver substantial benefits:

- 22% reduction in electric service interruptions
- 1,400 direct and indirect jobs added
- \$45 million per-year average in savings to consumers
- 1.2 million smart meters installed
- #2 national ranking for smart grid policy
- \$1.9 billion spending with diverse suppliers

Tell Springfield to support union jobs. Say YES to SB311/HB1734.

TAKE ACTION BY 4/1: www.DownstateEnergy.com/union-jobs