

MBA Careers in Energy

Overview

When it comes to the potential to contribute to societal impact and lead change, few industries offer as many interesting career possibilities for MBAs as the \$6 trillion global energy industry.¹ The energy sector is currently in the midst of dramatic transformation (“the energy transition”) as it seeks to decarbonize both transportation and electricity production in response to climate change. This transition is creating exciting opportunities for new market entrants and investors, as well as innovation opportunities at established firms.

Roles

MBA roles immediately after graduation have included, for example:

- Project Developer, Cypress Creek Renewables
- Investment Banking Associate, Marathon Capital
- Project Origination Associate, Clearway Energy
- Analyst, Leadership Development Program, National Grid
- Principal Financial Analyst, Project Valuation, NextEra Energy Resources

What You Need to Know

To excel in this rapidly evolving sector, MBA students must be familiar with the basics of [how power markets work](#), and have a high-level understanding of the ways policy, geopolitics, economic trends, and technology innovations are driving changes in the market. In the U.S., for example, the passage in 2022 of the CHIPS Act and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) unleashed unprecedented growth in clean energy deployment, with potential impacts of more than \$1 trillion in investments for energy transition.²

There are many different career paths in the energy sector—from renewable energy project development, to corporate finance or strategy for electric utilities, to energy sector-specific investment banking and consulting roles. MBA students will likely want to specialize in either one part of the industry (e.g., utilities) or one function (e.g., project finance). Even within the renewable energy industry, students will likely need to dive deep into a specific technology—for instance, solar, wind, or storage—as the players are substantially different across technologies. Renewables are not the only path, of course; firms in the oil and gas, nuclear, and hydrogen sectors also offer MBA career opportunities and are part of the global energy transition. State and federal government agencies, utility companies, and investors are also pivotal to the clean energy transition.

MBA students do not necessarily need to have an engineering background or previous industry expertise to work in energy, but they do need to get up to speed on the key industry drivers and terminology before interviewing. Attending (or hosting) conferences like the [MIT Energy Conference](#) or participating in competitions like the [Ross Renewable Energy Case Competition](#) are good ways to build expertise.

¹ <https://www.trade.gov/energy-industry>

² <https://www.spglobal.com/en/research-insights/featured/special-editorial/renewable-energy-funding-in-2023-a-capital-transition-unleashed>

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Key Resources

Learning

- [NREL Energy Basics](#)
- [IEA news & reports](#)
- [EIA "Energy Explained" guide](#)
- [Coursera: Electric Industry Operations and Markets](#)
- [Pivotal180 Renewable Energy Finance Modeling](#)

Job Postings

- [Young Professionals in Energy \(YPE\)](#)
- [Dayaway Clean Energy Careers](#)
- [WRISE Job Board](#)
- [BEV Portfolio Company openings](#)
- [American Clean Power Job Board](#)
- [Climatebase](#)

Internship/Fellowship Programs

- [CELI Fellowship](#)
- [EDICT Internship Program](#)
- [US DOE Clean Energy Corps](#)
- [ARPA-E Summer Scholars](#)

News

- [Utility Dive](#)
- [Energy Central](#)
- [Axios Generate](#)
- [Canary Media](#)
- [Politico Power Switch](#)
- [Bloomberg Green](#)
- [The Gigaton](#)

Podcasts

- [Energy Gang](#)
- [Catalyst with Shayle Kann](#)
- [Energy 360](#)
- [Watt It Takes](#)
- [+ more on Canary Media's energy & climate podcast playlist](#)