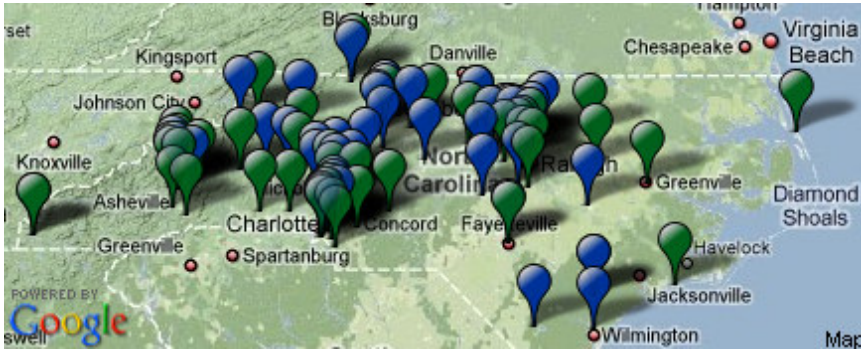


# NORTH CAROLINA WILL BENEFIT FROM CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION THAT LIMITS CARBON POLLUTION

Clean energy already provides many thousands of North Carolina workers with good jobs during hard times. This fact sheet collects several sources of information showing how accelerating the clean-energy transition will benefit North Carolina's economy – and, conversely, the costs and consequences of failing to act.



Less Carbon, More Jobs: This map locates some of the hundreds of clean energy businesses in North Carolina.

## CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

The website [LessCarbonMoreJobs.org](http://LessCarbonMoreJobs.org) tells the story of existing companies across North Carolina that will get new customers and create jobs with a cap on carbon.

Researchers estimate that investments in clean energy will create more than 51,000 jobs for North Carolina.<sup>1</sup>

Cree, Inc. in Durham and Craven County Wood Energy in New Bern are just two of the many businesses already flourishing from the rising interest in clean energy. Read their stories at [LessCarbonMoreJobs.org](http://LessCarbonMoreJobs.org).

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

The Department of Energy has identified significant, untapped opportunities for key industries in North Carolina to prosper in a clean energy economy. There are at least 3,615 ways for small- and medium-sized industrial plants in North Carolina to earn savings from efficiency, with an average payback of only 1.1 years. Over 50% of these opportunities have *not* been implemented.<sup>2</sup>

## COSTS OF INACTION

The University of Maryland has concluded that inaction on global warming will have dire economic consequences for North Carolina.<sup>3</sup>

- Sea level rise will flood North Carolina property and cause damages of over **\$2.8 billion**.
- Hurricane Fran caused **\$6.7 billion in losses** for North Carolina. Between 1996 and 2006, North Carolina's crop damages from hurricanes totaled \$2.5 billion. Hurricane intensity will only increase.
- North Carolina farmers—who produce \$10.3 billion for the state<sup>4</sup>—will lose ground to droughts and rising temperatures. In 2002, drought caused **\$631 million in economic losses** and affected 4,337 jobs. Heat stress in poultry currently causes losses of **\$2.6 million** every year.
- Forests will face increasing pests. The 2001 beetle outbreak cost the Southern lumber industry **\$1 billion**.
- North Carolina's angling industry could **lose \$17 million every year** from the reduction in fish.
- Wildlife loss will damage the **49,771 jobs** provided by the state's \$2.3 billion wildlife-watching industry.<sup>5</sup>

## START THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY NOW

Comprehensive energy and climate legislation would jumpstart a new energy economy in North Carolina and accelerate the growth of good-paying jobs. If we fail to act soon, the new markets for clean energy will grow overseas instead.

**North Carolina can't afford to miss out on one of the largest new economic revolutions.**

<sup>1</sup> Robert Pollin, James Heintz, and Heidi Garrett-Peltier: The Economic Benefits of Investing in Clean Energy. Department of Economics and Political Economy Research Institute (PERI), University of Massachusetts, Amherst. June 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Industrial Technologies Program - Industrial Assessment Centers Database. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. <http://www.iac.rutgers.edu/database/state.php>

<sup>3</sup> University of Maryland's Center for Integrative Environmental Research: Assessing the Costs of Climate Change: Michigan. 2008. <http://www.cier.umd.edu/climateadaptation/>

<sup>4</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, North Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service: 2008 State Agricultural Overview.

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Ag\\_Overview/AgOverview\\_NC.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Ag_Overview/AgOverview_NC.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> National Wildlife Federation: Global Warming Fact Sheet: Global Warming and North Carolina. <http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/In-Your-State.aspx>