

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS IN OKLAHOMA

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

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

The Clean Energy Economy:

The clean energy industry in Oklahoma is booming (job growth of 7%) much faster than the rest of the economy (job growth of 2%). By 2007, 693 businesses had generated more than [5,400 Oklahoma jobs](#) in the clean energy economy, according to the [Pew Charitable Trusts](#). Venture capitalists are investing over \$5 million in Oklahoma's clean energy businesses.¹

	Clean Businesses (2007)	Clean Jobs (2007)	Clean Job Growth (1998-2007)	Overall Job Growth (1998-2007)	Venture Capital (2006-2008)
Oklahoma	693	5,465	6.8%	2.4%	\$5,192,000

The Future of the Clean Energy Economy:

University of Massachusetts researchers conclude that the American Clean Energy and Security Act, coupled with the clean energy provisions passed in the ARRA stimulus package that Congress passed in February 2009, will [drive \\$150 billion of investment](#) in clean energy nationwide. This investment will create more than 28,000 jobs for Oklahoma's workers.²

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

The Department of Energy has identified significant, untapped opportunities for key industries in Oklahoma to prosper under a clean energy economy. There are at least 4,303 ways for small- and medium-sized industrial plants in Oklahoma to [earn savings from efficiency](#), with an average payback of only 1.4 years. Only 49% of these opportunities have been implemented.³ Additional information on Oklahoma clean energy jobs is available from the [National Wildlife Federation](#).⁴

COSTS OF INACTION

According to a [June 2009 report](#) released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, inaction on global warming will cause significant harm to the Great Plains. Global warming will cause higher temperatures, more drought, and more wildfires. Water supplies will become increasingly scarce.⁵ Oklahoma farmers—who produce nearly [\\$6 billion annually](#) for the state⁶—will lose ground to droughts and agricultural pests. Heat stress will decrease livestock productivity, and rising temperatures will reduce Oklahoma's wheat yields by as much as 37%.⁷ And the [National Wildlife Federation](#) shows how global warming will damage the 26,530 jobs provided by Oklahoma's \$1.3 billion [hunting, wildlife watching, and angling industries](#).⁸

START THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY NOW

A nationwide cap on greenhouse gas emissions would jumpstart a new energy economy in Oklahoma and accelerate the growth of good-paying, clean jobs. If we fail to act soon, the new markets for clean energy will grow overseas instead.

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

www.edf.org/CleanEnergyJobs

¹ Susan Urahn, Joshua Reichert, et. al.: The Clean Energy Economy: Executive Summary. June 2009. The Pew Charitable Trusts. p. 8. http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Clean_Economy_Report_Web.pdf

² 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.

³ Industrial Technologies Program - Industrial Assessment Centers Database. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. <http://www.iac.rutgers.edu/database/state.php>

⁴ National Wildlife Federation: "Charting a New Path for Oklahoma's Electricity Generation and Use." <http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming/statefactsheets.cfm>

⁵ Unified Synthesis Product: Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States. Report by the US Climate Change Science Program. <http://www.globalchange.gov/usimpacts>

⁶ United States Department of Agriculture, Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics Service: 2008 State Agricultural Overview. http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Ag_Overview/AgOverview_OK.pdf

⁷ "Climate Change and Oklahoma." Environmental Protection Agency. September 1998. <http://yosemite.epa.gov>.

⁸ National Wildlife Federation: Global Warming and Oklahoma. 2009. <http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming/pdfs/Oklahoma.pdf>