

## **CLEAN ENERGY JOBS IN WASHINGTON**

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

### **CLEAN ENERGY JOBS**

#### [The Clean Energy Economy:](#)

By 2007, 2,008 businesses had generated more than [17,000 Washington jobs](#) in the clean energy economy, according to the [Pew Charitable Trusts](#). Venture capitalists are investing over \$635,000,000 million in Washington's clean energy businesses.<sup>1</sup>

#### [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 33,500 jobs for Washington's workers.<sup>2</sup>

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS**

The Department of Energy has identified significant, untapped opportunities for key industries in Illinois to prosper under a clean energy economy. There are at least 949 ways for small- and medium-sized industrial plants in Washington to [earn savings from efficiency](#), with an average payback of only 1.7 years. Only 46% of these opportunities have been implemented.<sup>3</sup> Additional information on Washington clean energy jobs is available from the [National Wildlife Federation](#).<sup>4</sup>

### **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 Northwest. Snowpack will decline and melt earlier, and heavy rainfall and flooding will increase during the winter. Summer water levels will fall, cutting down on production of hydroelectric power. Washington's farmers—who [provide \\$6.8 billion](#) for the state<sup>5</sup>—will lose ground to insect pests and decreasing irrigation supplies.<sup>6</sup>

And the [National Wildlife Federation](#) shows how global warming will damage the 45,205 jobs provided by Washington's \$2.3 billion [hunting, wildlife watching, and angling industries](#).<sup>7</sup>

### **START THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY NOW**

A nationwide cap on greenhouse gas emissions would jumpstart a new energy economy in Washington 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.

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

[www.edf.org/CleanEnergyJobs](http://www.edf.org/CleanEnergyJobs)

## Sources:

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- <sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Clean_Economy_Report_Web.pdf)
- <sup>2</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>3</sup> Industrial Technologies Program - Industrial Assessment Centers Database. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. <http://www.iac.rutgers.edu/database/state.php>
- <sup>4</sup> National Wildlife Federation: "Charting a New Path for Washington's Electricity Generation and Use." <http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming/statefactsheets.cfm>
- <sup>5</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Washington Agricultural Statistics Service: 2008 State Agricultural Overview. [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Ag\\_Overview/AgOverview\\_WA.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Ag_Overview/AgOverview_WA.pdf)
- <sup>6</sup> Unified Synthesis Product: Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States. Report by the US Climate Change Science Program. <http://www.climatechange.gov/Library/sap/usp/default.php>
- <sup>7</sup> National Wildlife Federation: Global Warming and Washington. 2009. <http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming/pdfs/Washington.pdf>