

# MAINE WILL BENEFIT FROM CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION THAT LIMITS CARBON POLLUTION

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

## CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

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 10,000 jobs for Maine.**<sup>1</sup>

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

The Department of Energy has identified significant, untapped opportunities for key industries in Maine to prosper under a clean energy economy. There are at least 1,575 ways for small- and medium-sized industrial plants in Maine to earn savings from efficiency, with an average payback of only 1.3 years. Over 50% of these opportunities have *yet* to be implemented.<sup>2</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 Northeast. Temperatures and sea-levels will rise, inducing severe flooding and extreme heat. Droughts will occur each summer.<sup>3</sup> These effects have heavy economic consequences for Maine.

- Maine's snow season will be weaker and its length will be cut in half, **harming the winter recreation industry** and the industries that rely upon it.<sup>4</sup>
- Lobster fisheries will continue their northward shift and Maine's **fisheries will be heavily diminished.**<sup>5</sup>
- **Rising sea levels** will make over half of Maine's tidally influenced shoreline vulnerable to erosion,<sup>6</sup> inundating roads, homes, and other infrastructure.<sup>7</sup>
- Maine farmers—who produce over **\$750 million** annually for the state<sup>8</sup>—will lose ground to droughts and agricultural pests.
- And the National Wildlife Federation shows how global warming will damage the 22,524 jobs provided by Maine's **\$1.3 billion** hunting, wildlife watching, and angling industries.<sup>9</sup>

## START THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY NOW

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Unified Synthesis Product: Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States. *Op. cit.*

<sup>5</sup> Unified Synthesis Product: Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States. *Op. cit.*

<sup>6</sup> Maine Geological Survey: Coastal Erosion Assessment for Maine FIRMs and Map Modernization Plan. 2006. <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/explore/marine/firms/process.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Peter A. Slovinsky and Stephen M. Dickson: "Impacts of Future Sea Level Rise on the Coastal Floodplain." Maine Geological Survey, for the Maine Coastal Program/Maine State Planning Office. 2006.

<sup>8</sup> State Fact Sheets: Maine. USDA Economic Research Service. Updated June 30, 2009. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/ME.htm>

<sup>9</sup> National Wildlife Federation: Global Warming Fact Sheet: Global Warming and Maine. <http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/In-Your-State.aspx>