

Clean energy: More jobs, a cleaner environment

American ingenuity, investment and hard work have created emerging clean energy industries, such as wind and solar power, that are not only taking steps toward solving global warming and America's energy problems—they're creating thousands of good jobs that help the economy and our environment.

Government support has helped put renewable energy on a slightly more level playing field with coal, oil, gas and nuclear power.

Thanks in part to that support, wind alone accounted for 30 percent of new electric generation in the United States in 2007. Energy efficiency tax credits will reduce global warming pollution by 405 million tons of CO₂ by 2030, the equivalent of taking more than 90 million cars off the road for a year, and renewable energy and energy conservation led to an estimated 8.5 million jobs in 2006.

"This summer, we need to show Congress that now is the time to sustain and support growth in clean energy technologies, like wind and solar power, and put us on the road to a safe climate."

***— Anna Aurilio
Federal Legislative Director***

States have a clean energy track record

In the states, forward-thinking energy policies are already making a big difference. Policies such as renewable electricity and energy efficiency standards and tax credits have led to substantial growth. The federal government must maintain its support for clean energy and follow the lead of the states in passing these proven policies.

In order to put our country on the right track for a clean energy future we need to reduce our energy consumption by 10 percent nationally and get 25 percent of our electricity from clean, renewable sources.

To achieve these goals, Congress must:

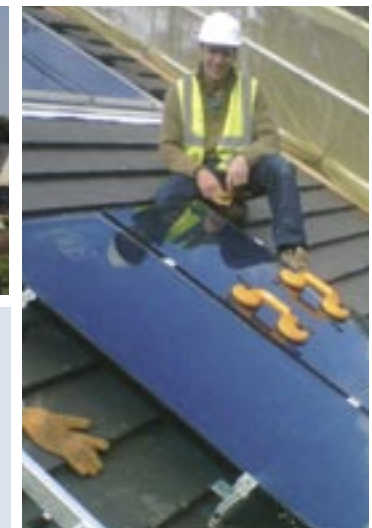
- Extend the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit before clean energy jobs are lost and emerging industries are stifled.
- Pass a renewable electricity standard to get 20 percent of our energy from clean, renewable sources by 2020.
- Ensure that large investments in clean, homegrown energy are part of any global warming bill and that future annual spending bills increase support for these important programs.

The cost of continued reliance on fossil fuels

In the United States, we get 86 percent of our energy from fossil fuels, increasing the looming threat of global warming and requiring that we send more and more money to dangerous nations for our oil needs. Relying on fossil fuels also means we are excavating some of the country's most precious places for coal and oil.

America needs to become a leader in using clean, renewable sources of energy. We can make it happen by building public support around policies that invest in, and expand our use of, clean energy technologies.

Clean energy investments made today add up to big returns in the future, as 25 states have seen. Our research shows that states with renewable energy standards have experienced increases in renewable energy manufacturing and royalty income for rural areas with wind turbines.



Proven policies are already setting the standard for clean energy investments. Incentives drive creation of energy-efficient buildings, such as this tower in Atlanta. Net metering, which allows renewable energy generators to sell power back, promotes clean energy. Wind turbines and solar panels are growing in popularity in states that mandate that a percentage of power come from renewable sources.

Will Big Oil pull the plug on clean energy?

If Exxon Mobil and its friends on Capitol Hill get their way, the federal government will pull back on its commitment to a clean energy economy—just as we're about to reap the environmental and economic benefits.

We can't afford to wait for the next president to right our course. There are too many important projects and jobs on the line and too much at risk from the effects of global warming.

This summer, we have the opportunity to push Congress to support clean energy for a green economy.



Environment America's Anna Aurilio at the Capitol. Congress will soon vote on renewable energy incentives that create jobs and help the environment.

Standing up for the environment

Wanting a clean environment isn't enough. It takes public support, independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win real results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of progress.

How you can help

That's where you can help! Environment America depends on the grassroots action and financial support of our members to continue to get the results our environment needs.

Visit www.EnvironmentAmerica.org, where you can send an e-mail urging your representative in Congress to vote for a clean energy economy.

Join Environment America. Your support makes our work possible.



The new home of U.S. PIRG's environmental work.

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Green economy**