

Clean Energy: A Good Deal for New Mexico

- New Mexico has vast resources available to produce clean energy here at home. By unleashing this potential, we will create new jobs, reduce pollution and make our country more secure.
- With comprehensive energy and climate legislation, we could create as many as 15,000 jobs in New Mexico.
- Comprehensive legislation could save New Mexico households up to \$1,309 per year, by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and providing incentives for energy efficiency.¹
- If we generate 25% of our electricity from clean energy sources, we could create up to 3,381 new manufacturing jobs in New Mexico.²

New Mexico's Clean Energy Potential

- The solar resources in New Mexico are among the best in the world for large-scale solar power plants. New Mexico also has extensive wind resources.
- With today's technology, New Mexico's geothermal resources could power more than 1 million homes. And with technology being developed, it could power another 40 million homes.³
- PNM, New Mexico's largest utility, signed a contract with First Solar to build 22 megawatts of solar power plants in the state, supplying enough power for about 7,000 homes.⁴

The Price of Inaction: Why New Mexico Can't Wait

- The climate is changing in New Mexico due to greenhouse gas pollution from dirty energy sources. If left unchecked, climate change could increase costs to the state for firefighting, health care, agricultural productivity and recreation. Wildfires may increase, droughts will get worse and rains — when they do come — will likely come in more severe downpours that may cause more flash flooding.
- Warmer temperatures also mean less snowpack in the mountains as well as earlier snowmelt, leading to more winter runoff and reduced summer flows in many New Mexico streams. Decreases from 40% to almost 90% in end-of-season snowpack are likely under a higher-emissions scenario in counties with major ski resorts.⁵
- It is vital to our national security that we make the transition to clean sources of energy. Our military could face increasing challenges as the effects of climate change threaten political and social stability around the world. Meanwhile, our dependence on foreign oil makes America less secure.

¹ David Roland-Holst and Friedrich Kahrl, "Clean Energy and Climate Policy for U.S. Growth and Job Creation: An Economic Assessment of the American Clean Energy and Security Act and the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, Executive Summary," October 25, 2009.

² Blue Green Alliance, *Building the Clean Energy Assembly Line* (November 2009).

³ U.S. Geological Survey, *Assessment of Moderate and High-Temperature Geothermal Resources of the United States* (2008); Energy Information Administration, "US Average Monthly Bill by Sector, Census, Division, and State, 2007."

⁴ "First Solar, New Mexico utility ink deal," *Reuters*, January 19, 2010.

⁵ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States* (June 2009).