

Repower West Virginia

Clean Energy: A Good Deal for West Virginia

- West Virginia 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 31,000 jobs in West Virginia.
- Comprehensive legislation could save West Virginia households up to \$2,737 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 3,599 manufacturing jobs in West Virginia.²

West Virginia's Clean Energy Potential

- Developing West Virginia's full wind potential could generate enough electricity to power approximately 380,000 homes.³ As of December 2009, the state had about 330 megawatts of installed wind capacity and about 100 megawatts under construction.⁴
- The Public Service of West Virginia has approved Pinnacle Wind Force LLC's plan to build a 23-turbine wind farm near Keyser, in Mineral County. The project is expected to generate enough electricity to power about 14,000 homes. Its construction is expected to employ more than 150 employees. County property taxes are projected to average more than \$433,000 annually, placing it among the county's largest contributors to the local tax base.⁵
- Cellulosic biomass can be produced from sources like corn stalks, grasses, wood chips and sawdust. West Virginia's annual cellulosic biomass production is enough to produce 160 million gallons of fuel and supply about 14 percent of the state's gasoline use.⁶

Consequences of Inaction: Why West Virginia Can't Wait

- Warmer and drier conditions expected in West Virginia as a result of climate change could increase the risk of droughts, affecting the state's agricultural productivity. West Virginia's agriculture industry lost more than \$80 million in 1999, the driest growing season on record in the eastern United States.
- Warmer temperatures have already increased the number of invasive pests, like gypsy moths, which attack valuable hardwoods in West Virginia forests.⁷
- 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 and Renewable Energy Policy Project, "How to Revitalize America's Middle Class with the Clean Energy Economy" (June 2009).

³ American Wind Energy Association, "US Wind Energy Projects — West Virginia," last updated September 30, 2009; U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, "US Average Monthly Bill by Sector, Census, Division, and State, 2007," January 2009.

⁴ American Wind Energy Association, "U.S. Wind Energy Projects — West Virginia," last updated December 31, 2009. <http://www.awea.org/projects/Projects.aspx?s=West Virginia>

⁵ Pam Casey, "Pinnacle Wind Farm Gets PSC Approval," *West Virginia News Service*, January 2010.

⁶ U.S. Department of Energy, "State Assessment for Biomass Resources," last updated July 10, 2009.

⁷ National Wildlife Federation, *Global Warming and West Virginia* (2009).