Repower West Virginia

Why Clean Energy Means Jobs for West Virginia

- West Virginia can harness its vast clean energy resources to create thousands of new jobs in the state.
- Deploying clean energy will create vibrant new industries and stimulate economic development, and comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation would create as many as 31,000 jobs in West Virginia.[1]
- Clean energy deployment will create jobs in a wide array of professions. There will be jobs for people with or without college degrees, jobs for both entry-level workers and experienced professionals, jobs that can't be outsourced.
- West Virginia can revive its manufacturing sector by making the transition to clean energy. If we generate 25% of our electricity from clean energy sources nationwide, we could create as many as 3,599 new manufacturing jobs in West Virginia.[2]

New Clean Energy Industries in West Virginia

- West Virginia's wind energy industry is growing. As of December 2009, the state had about 330 megawatts of installed wind capacity and about 100 megawatts under construction.[3] Developing West Virginia's full wind potential could generate enough electricity to power approximately 380,000 homes.[4]
- Jobs in the wind industry include construction superintendents, field service engineers, sheet metal workers, welders, cutters, solderers, brazers and turbine technicians.
- West Virginia has huge biomass energy potential through its agricultural sector. The state produces enough cellulosic biomass each year to create 160 million gallons of fuel and supply about 14% of the state's gasoline use.[5]
- Growth in the bioenergy industry will spur demand for boiler operators, feedstock collectors and researchers.
- Across the nation and in West Virginia, the deployment of smart electricity grids will bring renewable energy to towns and cities, creating jobs for linemen, software engineers and technicians.
- There are other job opportunities in West Virginia for those who improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses. Jobs will be available for architects, technicians, insulation workers, project managers and engineers.

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[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. http://are.berkeley.edu/~dwrh/CERES_Web/Docs/ES_DRHFK091025.pdf

[2] Blue Green Alliance and Renewable Energy Policy Project, "How to Revitalize America's Middle Class with the Clean Energy Economy" (June 2009). http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/admin/publications/files/0012.4.pdf

[3] 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

[4] Based on data from American Wind Energy Association and Energy Information Administration, "State Electricity Profiles for 2007," April 2009,.http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/st_profiles/e_profiles_sum.html;

[5] U.S. Department of Energy, "State Assessment for Biomass Resources," last updated July 10, 2009. http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/sabre/sabre.php

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