



The Economics of Clean Energy in the District of Columbia

Jobs, Savings, Investment, Competitiveness, and the Costs of Inaction

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Jobs

- There were 5,325 clean-energy jobs and 280 clean-energy businesses in the District of Columbia as of 2007. This only counts direct jobs and not the many indirect jobs in industries that support the clean energy economy.
- The District of Columbia experienced negative job growth overall in the period between 1998 and 2007, but clean-energy jobs in the district shrank by only 2.3 percent, while overall jobs shrank by 8.9 percent.
- The District of Columbia will see \$560 million in new public and private investment due to programs and incentives under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and American Clean Energy and Security Act. These investments will lead to 5,514 net new clean-energy jobs in the District of Columbia—even assuming some potential job losses in the fossil fuel sector as workers transition into the clean energy economy.
- The District of Columbia needs these good-paying, private sector jobs—the state’s unemployment rate was at 11.1 percent as of August 2009.
- Green jobs in the District of Columbia were distributed among the following sectors in 2008:
 - Conservation and pollution mitigation: 23.9 percent
 - Environmentally friendly production: 0.1 percent
 - Training and support: 58.8 percent

- Energy efficiency: 16 percent
- Clean energy: 1.2 percent

Consumer energy bill savings

- The average American family's annual spending on oil, gas, and electricity increased by \$1,100 under the Bush administration's energy policies. But American electricity and fuel bills would go down under the consumer protection provisions in the ACES bill.
- Emissions allowances allocated in the ACES bill for state efficiency programs alone will save Washingtonians \$461 million between 2012 and 2020.
- The average household in the District of Columbia will see a monthly savings of \$4.10 on their electricity bill by 2020 due to ACES' consumer protection and energy-efficiency provisions.
- Households in the District of Columbia will also save \$5.69 on gasoline each month by 2020 due to lower oil prices and more fuel-efficient vehicles under ACES.

Investment and innovation

- The clean energy economy is already growing in the District of Columbia. Private companies in the District invested \$89.8 million in clean energy from 2006 – 2008 through venture capital funds.
- An additional \$560 million of public and private investment would flow into clean energy and energy efficiency in the District of Columbia under the clean-energy investment provisions in the ACES bill and the ARRA stimulus package.
- The District of Columbia's 280 clean-energy businesses patented nine new clean-energy technologies in 2007 alone. Passing a strong clean-energy jobs bill this session is the best thing congress can do to unlock even more innovation and entrepreneurship in the District of Columbia and the nation.
- Environmentally friendly production company Solena Group designs and manufactures biofuel energy production technologies in the District of Columbia.

American competitiveness and energy independence

- The people of the District of Columbia spent more than \$1.7 billion on imported crude oil in 2007 alone—more than \$2,872 per person.
- Without comprehensive clean-energy reform, District of Columbia taxpayers will spend \$90 million more over the next 10 years to subsidize wealthy oil and gas companies, and this is on top of their already record profits.

Costs of inaction

- The CBO predicted in May 2009 that climate change would cause decreases in future U.S. gross domestic product of between 3 and 5 percent, and global GDP of as much as 10 percent by the end of the century.