Center for American Progress

The Hub
Resources for a Clean-Energy Economy

The Economics of Clean Energy in Delaware

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

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Jobs

- There were 2,368 clean-energy jobs and 211 clean-energy businesses in Delaware as of 2007. This only counts direct jobs and not the many indirect jobs in industries that support the clean energy economy.
- The number of clean-energy jobs in Delaware grew by 18.8 percent between 1998 and 2007, while jobs overall shrank by 7.1 percent.
- Delaware will see $460 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 5,726 net new clean-energy jobs in Delaware—even assuming some potential job losses in the fossil fuel sector as workers transition into the clean energy economy.
- Delaware needs these good-paying, private sector jobs—the state's unemployment rate was at 8.1 percent as of August 2009.
- Green jobs in Delaware were distributed among the following sectors in 2008:
  - Conservation and pollution mitigation: 65.1 percent
  - Environmentally friendly production: 2.2 percent
  - Training and support: 2.8 percent
  - Energy efficiency: 18.4 percent
  - Clean energy: 11.5 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 Delewareans $502 million between 2012 and 2020.
- The average household in Delaware will see a monthly savings of $9.00 on their electricity bill by 2020 due to ACES' consumer protection and energy-efficiency provisions.
- Households in Delaware will also save $13.77 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 Delaware. Private companies in Delaware invested $3.3 million in clean energy from 2006 – 2008 through venture capital funds.
- An additional $460 million of public and private investment would flow into clean energy and energy efficiency in Delaware under the clean-energy investment provisions in the ACES bill and the ARRA stimulus package.
- Delaware's 211 clean-energy businesses patented 43 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 across Delaware and the nation.
- In New Castle, clean-energy company Ion Power designs and manufactures fuel cell components.

American competitiveness and energy independence

- The people of Delaware spent more than $0.29 billion on imported crude oil in 2007 alone—more than $332 per person.
- Without comprehensive clean-energy reform, Delaware taxpayers will spend $100 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.

- The projected 20-inch sea level rise by 2100 would cost Delaware $34 to $143 million just to replenish the sand lost to shoreline erosion, and constructing sea wall and bulkhead protection for only 25 percent of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic coastline would cost between $300 million and $8 billion. Rising sea levels will erode Delaware's 381 miles of densely populated coastline, inundating roads, homes, and other infrastructure.

- Delaware's 2,500 farms—which produce over $1 billion annually for the state—will lose ground to droughts and agricultural pests. Heat stress will reduce milk output from dairy farms.