



The Economics of Clean Energy in Idaho

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

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Jobs

- There were 4,517 clean-energy jobs and 428 clean-energy businesses in Idaho 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 Idaho grew by an incredible 126.1 percent between 1998 and 2007, while jobs overall grew by just 13.8 percent.
- Idaho will see \$700 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 8,504 net new clean-energy jobs in Idaho—even assuming some potential job losses in the fossil fuel sector as workers transition into the clean energy economy.
- Idaho needs these good-paying, private sector jobs—the state’s unemployment rate was at 8.9 percent as of August 2009.
- Green jobs in Idaho were distributed among the following sectors in 2008:
 - Conservation and pollution mitigation: 83.5 percent
 - Environmentally friendly production: 5.3 percent
 - Training and support: 5.8 percent
 - Energy efficiency: 2.7 percent
 - Clean energy: 2.7 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 Idahoans \$256 million between 2012 and 2020.
- The average household in Idaho will see a monthly savings of \$5.20 on their electricity bill by 2020 due to ACES' consumer protection and energy-efficiency provisions.
- Households in Idaho will also save \$9.24 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 Idaho. Private companies in Idaho invested \$27.9 million in clean energy from 2006 – 2008 through venture capital funds.
- An additional \$700 million of public and private investment would flow into clean energy and energy efficiency in Idaho under the clean-energy investment provisions in the ACES bill and the ARRA stimulus package.
- Idaho's 428 clean-energy businesses patented 73 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 Idaho and the nation.
- Boise-based energy efficiency company Telemetric designs and distributes wireless monitoring and control devices to electric utilities.

American competitiveness and energy independence

- The people of Idaho spent more than \$2.1 billion on imported crude oil in 2007 alone—more than \$1,378 per person.
- Without comprehensive clean-energy reform, Idaho taxpayers will spend \$110 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 Northwest region should expect a 50 percent increase in the number of acres burned by wildfires by 2020, and a 100 percent increase by 2040. This would more than double the cost of fighting fires annually to \$124 million. Idaho's forest industry is worth more than \$1.7 billion annually and relies on tree species vulnerable to climate change.
- Hydroelectric power plants supply nearly four-fifths of Idaho's electricity generation, but are heavily reliant on surface reservoirs and snowmelt that will be dramatically reduced by climate change.
- Declining springtime snowpack and rising temperatures will strain water supplies. Expected annual regional crop losses from water shortages are projected to rise from \$13 million at present to \$79 million by mid-century, which is 1.4 to 8.8 percent of the agriculture industry's \$901 million total output.