

Renewable Energy Benefiting Minnesota's Economy Long-Term

Renewable energy has been proven to have real economic benefits for Minnesota in the form of jobs, new tax revenue and new income for farmers. Continuing the shift to renewable energy will bring new jobs, capital investment, and diversified income to farmers and communities in Minnesota.



Photo courtesy of National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Jobs are created with every megawatt of renewable energy

- Wind power creates 22 direct and indirect construction and manufacturing jobs for each MW of installed capacity²
- Wind projects create one operation and maintenance job for every 10 MW of installed capacity²
- Local ownership creates even more jobs. 300 more per 200 MW of wind development over a 30-year period.



Photo courtesy of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory

An Aggressive Clean Energy Plan Brings Increased Economic Growth

An aggressive clean energy development plan would create more than 200,000 new jobs across a 10 state Midwest region by 2020, according to the Job Jolt Study¹ conducted for the Chicago based Environmental Law and Policy Center by the Regional Economic Applications Laboratory, a cooperative venture between the University of Illinois and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The plan would generate up to \$5.5 billion in additional worker income and up to \$20 billion in increased economic activity. **In Minnesota 7,900 new jobs would be created by 2010 and 14,600 by 2020.** The proposed clean energy plan includes increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources like wind and biomass to 22% by 2015 and reducing electricity usage by 28 percent.

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Economic output increases through renewable energy development

- Economic growth in Minnesota could be increased \$600 million by 2010 and \$1.1 billion by 2020 through the implementation of the clean energy development plan in the Job Jolt study¹
- Farmer income could be increased by \$7.8 million in a 30-year period through local ownership of 200 MW wind power projects²
- Rural communities can receive \$10,000 per MW of installed wind capacity in property tax revenues²

Progress already underway in Minnesota

Recently, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved a set of new powerlines and powerline upgrades to bring wind power from southwest Minnesota to the Twin Cities. One condition placed on the decision requires a total of 825 MW of wind power to be built in the same timeframe as the powerlines, most likely by 2006. The result is that 365 MW of new wind power capacity will be built to fill the new lines in addition to the 460 MW currently installed or under contract for Xcel Energy. Another condition requires Xcel to purchase up to 60 MW from locally-owned projects. The PUC decision assures dramatic progress for wind energy in Minnesota and its associated economic benefits over the next few years, especially for locally-owned wind projects.



Photo courtesy of National Renewable Energy Laboratory

1. Environmental Law and Policy Center. 2002. *Job Jolt: The Economic Impacts of Repowering the Midwest*. Chicago, IL. <http://www.elpc.org/energy/JJfinal.pdf>

2 Union of Concerned Scientists. 2002. *Economic Development Benefits of Wind Power*. Cambridge, Massachusetts.

3. Environmental Law and Policy Center. 2001. *Repowering the Midwest: The Clean Energy Development Plan for the Heartland*. Chicago, IL.