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Conservation Priorities

Create Clean Energy Jobs

By investing in clean, renewable energy such as wind and solar power, Wisconsin can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, create thousands of new jobs and protect our environment for future generations.

Right now, clean energy can provide a much-needed boost to our economy. With our strong manufacturing base, Wisconsin can be a national leader with clean energy technologies by making new products like wind turbines and advanced batteries. And our farms and forests can supply crops and biomass for clean fuels.

It's time to repower Wisconsin and revitalize our economy.

Clean Energy Jobs legislation must:

- Increase Wisconsin's commitment to utilizing clean, renewable sources of energy and build upon the past success of Act 141.
- Reduce statewide electricity usage by two percent per year and natural gas usage by one percent per year by 2015, and annually each year thereafter.
- Reduce global warming emissions from the transportation sector.
- Commit the state to reducing global warming emissions to the levels necessary to avoid the worst impacts of the problem.

Conservation Lobby Day 2010: The Legislative Ask

“Will you support the Clean Energy Jobs Act, oppose any efforts to weaken the renewable energy standard, and strengthen it so that at least 50% of clean energy comes from within Wisconsin?”

Wisconsin Clean Energy Fast Facts

Wisconsin is a significant contributor to global warming.

- Carbon dioxide, one of the main components of global climate change, is a byproduct of burning coal, natural gas, and petroleum. Between 1990 and 2006, carbon dioxide emissions from energy use in Wisconsin increased by about 22%— a rate of increase higher than that of the U.S. as a whole, which saw carbon dioxide emissions increase by 18 % between 1990 and 2004.

By investing in clean energy now, Wisconsin can create new, well paying jobs and become a leader in the clean energy economy.

- More than 75 Wisconsin companies are already part of the growing regional wind energy industry.
- Two examples occurring right now include:
 - Energy Composite Corporation is building a new plant in Wisconsin Rapids that will employ at least 400 people to make blades for wind turbines.
 - We Energies is building a biomass plant near Wausau that will create 400 construction jobs and 150 permanent jobs in the surrounding community.

Wisconsin has significant competitive advantages to thrive with a clean energy economy and we can build on past successes.

- Wisconsin ranks 8th nationally in terms of potential jobs manufacturing renewable energy systems for wind, solar, geothermal and biomass energy.
- Wisconsin ranks 4th nationally for potential jobs manufacturing systems for wind alone.
- Wisconsin's strong agricultural base and northern forests can position us as a leader with clean fuels such as biomass and cellulosic ethanol. Plus, we have the necessary ingenuity from our strong education and research base and skilled workforce.
- Wisconsin can and should build upon the success of the 2006 Clean Energy Act that requires Wisconsin to produce 10 percent of energy generated in Wisconsin from clean, renewable sources like wind and solar by 2015. In addition, it protects the Focus on Energy Fund, which promotes energy conservation and efficiency.

Small and Losing

A recent study by the Pew Charitable Trust concluded that Wisconsin's clean energy economy is "small and losing." In the period from 1998-2007, the number of clean jobs in Wisconsin decreased by 5.2%. Both Minnesota and Illinois have stronger commitments to clean energy than Wisconsin. Each state has already committed to 25% clean energy by 2025. As a result, they are creating more clean energy jobs. Even Texas is beating Wisconsin.



Wayne Griffiths, Chequamegon Bay

Global Warming Consequences

The potential consequences of global warming will be dire for Wisconsin and nearly impossible to reverse.

Global warming will affect Wisconsin's agriculture, shipping, fishing, forestry, tourism and recreation industries. Scientists predict that if global warming trends continue, water levels in Lake Michigan could drop significantly, affecting shipping, water quality and recreational opportunities. Wisconsin's agriculture industries could also be irreparably harmed, with climate change impacting crop yields, causing increases in pests and decreasing livestock productivity.

Did you know?

Dependence on fossil fuels is draining our economy. Wisconsin spends \$21 billion every year to import fossil fuels, oil, coal and gas, to meet our energy needs. In fact, Wisconsin does not have any oil, coal, or natural gas reserves within its borders.