



100% RENEWABLE MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE

Clean Energy Creates Jobs, Spurs Growth, Saves Money

Transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy nationwide offers new opportunities for economic growth, saves families money, and fosters job creation.

CLEAN ENERGY MEANS AFFORDABLE POWER

Clean energy makes economic sense for families and communities. Across many parts of the country today, renewable energy is cheaper than coal and fracked gas.¹ Wind, solar, energy efficiency, and other clean and renewable technologies are providing more affordable power at stable prices. The rapidly dropping costs of wind and solar are boosting our national economy and saving money in families' pocketbooks.

- Since 2009, the price of solar has dropped 85%, and the price of wind power is down 66%, making these clean energy sources economically viable without government assistance.²
- Solar power is now cheaper than the current cost of utility-provided electricity in 42 of our nation's 50 biggest cities and in nearly half of all states.
- Since 1980, our economy has grown by 149% but energy use has only increased 26%. That's due in part to energy efficiency having doubled since the 1980s, reducing waste and saving families money. Economic growth is no longer tied to using more energy, as our homes, cars, and businesses have become more efficient.³

Increasingly, fossil fuels like coal can't compete with more affordable energy in growing industries like wind and solar. Coal production in 2016 fell to its lowest level since 1978.⁴ Faced with competition, dirty energy companies and some utilities are attempting to hold back renewable energy's growth. Families across the United States are often forced to put up with the rising or fluctuating costs of dirty energy when there are more affordable, stable options available like wind, solar, and improved energy efficiency.

CREATING GOOD JOBS IN CLEAN ENERGY

Clean energy can work for everyone by providing family-supporting jobs and saving people money on their energy bills. The clean energy economy can be a vehicle for expanding access to quality careers, or it can undermine one of the few sectors offering stable livelihoods and upward mobility to working families. As we transition toward clean energy solutions, we must ensure that the benefits of a new 100% clean energy economy are equitably shared. This means that the jobs and opportunities created by clean energy must provide

Georgetown

In the heart of Texas, one city chose 100% clean, renewable energy to save money and reduce pollution risks for its residents. Georgetown, Texas has inked long-term, fixed-cost deals with a nearby solar plant and wind farm in order to secure affordable, reliable clean energy for decades to come.

Georgetown's consistently sunny and windy weather means that clean energy sourced during peak daylight hours and windier night hours can cover the entire community's energy needs. The plan also saves water in an often drought-stricken state—fossil fuels require massive amounts of water for production while wind and solar do not. In Georgetown Mayor Dale Ross's words, the move to 100% clean energy was "a no-brainer."

Imperial Valley IBEW

California's Imperial Valley region routinely suffers from the highest unemployment and worst pollution in the state. The Sierra Club partnered with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 569 to tackle both issues simultaneously. In August 2014, the partnership reached a major milestone: 1,000 megawatts of clean energy were installed in Imperial County from solar, wind, and geothermal power, and 1,000 new clean energy jobs were created for local residents. Much of this success started with the state's ambitious clean energy standards, and in 2015, this labor and environmental coalition succeeded in boosting that standard even higher, promising even more family-sustaining clean energy jobs.

family-sustaining wages, healthcare and retirement benefits, and union representation for workers.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 108% growth in wind turbine technician jobs from 2014 to 2024. That's the largest growth rate of any occupation in the country and double the rate of the second fastest-growing job.⁵ Unlike fossil fuels, clean energy jobs can be created anywhere and everywhere.

- All 50 states have either an active wind energy facility, a turbine manufacturing plant, or both. More than 50,000 wind turbines are installed from coast to coast, and offshore efforts are already underway. Every state is benefiting from wind energy.⁶
- More than 3 million people now work in the clean energy economy across the country. Nationally, clean energy jobs already outpace fossil fuels at a rate of 2.5 to 1. Plus, 41 states now employ more residents in renewables than in coal, oil, and gas.⁷

*Want to see the cities and communities that are already committed to achieving 100% renewable energy? Check out our up-to-date map at: **Readyfor100.org***

REAPING THE BENEFITS OF CLEAN ENERGY

Clean energy is attracting investment to local communities as influential businesses make decisions based on the availability of affordable, abundant clean energy resources. In fact, Facebook has announced it will locate its sixth data center in Papillion, Nebraska due to the area's high wind energy capacity.⁸

Renewable energy and reduced demand also mean that community institutions like schools and churches are able to reinvest in their core missions: serving the needs people and the community.

- In Indiana, solar energy savings are enabling churches to spend more of their dollars on food banks and housing assistance in underserved neighborhoods.
- In California, schools are saving hundreds of thousands of dollars annually with solar panels. The districts are reinvesting those savings into the classroom.

Are you committed to transitioning your city, municipality, or state to 100% clean, renewable energy? Show that you are **#ReadyFor100** by joining or starting a local campaign, signing a petition, or contacting your local decision-makers. For more information about how to get involved in the movement, go to **ReadyFor100.org**

ENDNOTES

- 1 Lazard
- 2 CleanTechnica
- 3 ACEEE
- 4 Energy Information Administration
- 5 Bureau of Labor Statistics

- 6 American Wind Energy Association
- 7 Sierra Club
- 8 Omaha World-Herald
- 9 Indianapolis Star
- 10 San Diego Union Tribune

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