



CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

SUMMARY

Climate change is a global challenge that poses an imminent threat to the New Jersey environment and economy. Strong state policy is required to slow the effects of climate change and ensure the creation of good jobs through cutting greenhouse gas emissions and promoting clean energy and efficiency. A clean energy job is any job that helps achieve our goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our environment.

Nationwide, renewable energy accounts for just 10 percent of electricity consumption and 15 percent of electricity generation; renewable energy capacity has increased more than 115 percent over the last 15 years. The long-term transition to clean energy offers the potential of large-scale economic benefits. Much like in the rest of the country, innovation and jobs in clean energy technologies are already growing in New Jersey. By developing and manufacturing green technology domestically, we have the ability to capture even more of these growing industries.

Innovation in the clean energy economy presents tremendous opportunity for the global environment and for workers in manufacturing, construction, and the service sector. But creating clean energy manufacturing jobs, in particular, will not be easy. While we have a chance to set the standard for high-quality, family-supporting jobs in New Jersey, there is much work to be done. To make New Jersey a true leader in the clean energy economy, we recommend the following policies:

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INVEST IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

While traditional fuels will continue to play a role in industrial processes for many years to come, it is critical to invest in clean energy technologies like solar, wind, and biomass. If properly managed, the development and implementation of these technologies will create hundreds of thousands of jobs in manufacturing, construction, installation, and maintenance. Large-scale public and private investment are critical if New Jersey is to become a leader in this sector.

2. PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES

Access to affordable and reliable energy is critical to the future of manufacturing. Nationally, the industrial sectors consumes one-third of the nation's electric power and over the last several years, manufacturers have made strides to increase industrial energy efficiency through developing and implementing technologies such as combined heat and power (CHP) and waste heat to power (WHP). Increased utilization of these technologies could lead to an industry-wide 15 –32 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2025 and would help ensure that these manufacturers are globally competitive.

3. PROTECT AGAINST LEAKAGE

Leakage is the phenomenon whereby production of goods, along with their associated jobs and carbon pollution, moves to a different state or country seeking weaker environmental or labor laws. New Jersey carbon reduction policies should address and combat leakage to ensure level playing field between in-state and out-of-state companies and to prevent jobs from leaving. Such policies are essential to the growth and maintenance of homegrown manufacturing jobs.

4. ENSURE COMPLIANCE FLEXIBILITY

Carbon reduction for energy intensive industries should provide regulated parties with the ability to comply with requirements through various means throughout the production cycle of finished goods. Regulated parties should be credited for using the most energy efficient technologies available. New Jersey should consider a phased in approach for regulated sectors.

5. ENSURE DOMESTIC SOURCING

Domestic manufacturing has long served as a vital path to the middle class and the backbone for many communities across the country. As both private and public projects are developed, each should include a preference for sourcing materials from within New Jersey or the United States. This creates jobs and reduces leakage. For example, China has much less stringent environmental standards and ineffective enforcement that has led to the Chinese steel industry emitting significantly more pollution per ton of steel than the U.S. steel industry.

NJ should join the federal government and 21 states with laws requiring that domestic goods and materials get preference when bidding for government projects funded by taxpayer dollars. This will reduce the initial carbon footprint of any project and guarantee that U.S. manufacturing workers will play a role in clean energy infrastructure.

6. ENSURE HEALTH & SAFETY

Clean energy policies should be accompanied by workers' rights policies, including those strengthening the right to unionize. The economic benefit of a developing clean energy infrastructure will be maximized by ensuring that the jobs created and maintained in NJ communities are good, union jobs that ensure family sustaining wages, benefits, and safe workplaces. A "just transition" must be guaranteed to minimize harmful economic impacts on workers and communities affected by environmental policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED WITH
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