

CLEAN ENERGY IS AVAILABLE HERE AND NOW

Minnesota has taken great strides toward a clean energy economy, but there is much more we can do. We can scale up energy efficiency, saving more energy and creating jobs. We need to ensure Minnesotans get at least half of their electricity from clean renewable sources, like wind and solar, by 2030.

Minnesota has long been a leader in developing clean renewable energy, but in recent years we have fallen behind other states. Iowa has 40 percent more installed wind generation capacity than Minnesota and three times as many jobs in the wind industry.¹ Minnesota is forty times larger than Delaware, yet the smaller state far surpasses us in installed solar capacity.²

Over the next two years, our state and utilities will make choices that will shape Minnesota's energy system through 2030 and beyond. Taking the next steps today to promote efficiency and renewable energy will ensure family-supporting jobs, clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and attainment of Minnesota's carbon pollution reduction goals.



POSITION STATEMENT

Adopting a responsible clean energy plan for our state is the right thing to do. This plan will build on existing laws to transition our state to clean renewable energy and improve energy efficiency.

We support:

- Increasing the existing Renewable Energy Standard (RES) to 40% by 2030.** Right now, Minnesotans get 15% of our energy from renewables, but we're only using 1% of our wind potential. Improving the RES will help save money in the long-run and create family-sustaining jobs here in our state—especially in Greater Minnesota. Renewable energy is also cost effective and is only becoming more so each year. The cost of wind power has dropped 58% in the past five years, and is the cheapest form of energy besides energy efficiency.¹ This technology is available here and now. A recent study commissioned by the 2013 Legislature found

Minnesota's current electric power generation and distribution system would accommodate 40% of its supply from wind and solar generation.²

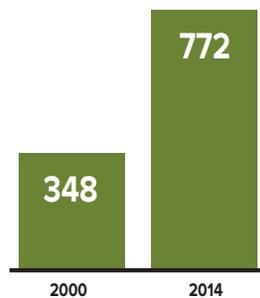
- Improve the yearly energy savings goal for utilities from 1.5% to 2%.** The goal currently in law is already saving enough energy to power more than 102,000 homes.³ Improving it will create good jobs in construction and manufacturing and save money for families and businesses in the long run.
- Implement policies that will grow renewable energy in Greater Minnesota.** These policies will help cities grow renewable energy in a smart way and provide a tax credit for Greater Minnesota farmers and businesses to buy and install small-scale wind turbines, clean energy storage and other technologies.


1.4 MILLION
 EFFICIENCY SAVINGS AND RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN MINNESOTA IS EQUAL TO ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER HOMES IN THE STATE FOR ONE YEAR (2012)


42% MORE
 PAY RATE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY JOBS AS COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE WAGE IN MINNESOTA

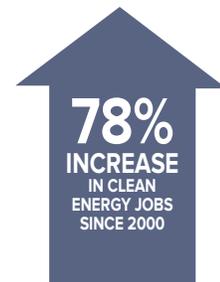
Source: DEED

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Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

122%
 INCREASE
 IN CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESSES SINCE 2000




+11%
 OVERALL STATE EMPLOYMENT GROWTH DURING SAME TIME PERIOD

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¹ Lazard, Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis, September 2014

² Minnesota Department of Commerce, Minnesota Renewable Energy Integration and Transmission Study, October 2014

³ Minnesota Department of Commerce, Minnesota Conservation Improvement Program Energy and Carbon Dioxide Savings Report for 2010-2011