



Clean Energy and Green Jobs Legislation

House Bill 2405

The Clean Energy and Green Jobs Bill (House Bill 2405) is vital bipartisan legislation that will bolster Pennsylvania's position as a national leader in renewable energy production, spur investment and create great green jobs. The bill would also create the largest reduction in global warming pollution in the history of the Commonwealth.

Clean Energy and Green Jobs Legislation will:

- Extend the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) act to 2024, thus bolstering Pennsylvania's competitive position and sending a strong, long-term market signal for new investment;
- Raise the amount of solar power made and sold in Pennsylvania six-fold, from 0.5 percent to 3 percent of electricity. This amount of solar energy would power approximately 438,000 homes;
- Increase the amount of electricity sold in Pennsylvania from Tier I clean energy sources, such as wind, from 8 percent of electricity in the current statute to 15 percent;
- Provide significant consumer protections, so customers would benefit from savings realized through new cleaner energy; and
- Make enough clean energy to power 2.1 million homes in Pennsylvania.

Clean Energy and Green Jobs Legislation creates great green jobs.

The passage of the 2004 AEPS bill made Pennsylvania a leader in the renewable energy industry, attracting both international and homegrown companies who brought with them billions in investment and thousands of family sustaining jobs. An expansion and ramp-up of its requirements will put the Commonwealth on a long-term path towards a clean and vibrant 21st century economy.

Pennsylvania has 16 operating wind farms, with thousands more megawatts of wind being developed. Constructing a wind farm typically involves hiring several hundred people. In fact, wind companies like Gamesa are already employing over 1,000 people in Pennsylvania.

The solar industry is also booming, with even more potential for growth. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has already certified 450 solar companies to provide services to customers. Solar Power Industries, for example, makes solar panels and employs 200 people, with plans to bring on another 375 in the next few years.

Currently, only 0.5 percent of the AEPS is required to come from solar. In comparison, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey have set their solar mandates at or over 2 percent. In order to stay competitive in attracting and maintaining the solar industry, the Clean Energy and Green Jobs legislation would raise Pennsylvania's set out to 3 percent.

Clean Energy and Green Jobs Legislation makes energy more affordable.

Studies in New York and Texas found that incorporating zero-cost fuels like wind and solar into the electric grid will reduce prices for all consumers over time.

In another report, recently issued by PJM (the regional grid operator), an assumed level of 15,000 megawatts (MW) of wind energy in commercial operation by 2013 in the PJM region could lower wholesale electricity prices by \$4.50 to \$6.00 per megawatt-hour (MWh). According to PJM, this equals annual market-wide savings of \$3.55 to \$4.74 billion relative to not having the 15,000 MW of wind in service.

Investing in renewable energy is a valuable hedge against rising energy costs. An investment in the amount of wind-energy generation outlined above would likely be recovered in seven years and go on to produce environmentally benign electricity with no fuel costs for several decades. While coal and natural gas are cheaper today, the increasing world-wide demand for these fuels will likely drive up costs in the future. Renewable energy, on the other hand, has no fuel cost and, once built, has stable costs for the life of a project. Renewables may cost a little more up front, but the long-term savings associated with them are good public policy.

Clean Energy and Green Jobs Legislation fights global warming.

With Pennsylvania creating more heat-trapping gases than 101 nations combined, we must take action against global warming. Increasing the amount of pollution-free energy, like wind and solar, will displace electricity made from dirty sources, like coal, which will go a long way toward reducing our role as a global warming pollution leader.

This legislation also encourages the capture of carbon dioxide pollution (CO₂) from coal-fired power plants, and its storage (or sequestration) in geologic formations for extremely long periods. Over time, the bill requires that ever-increasing amounts of electricity made from coal must be made by preventing the release of this heat-trapping pollution into the air and instead capturing and storing it. The bill sets out the framework for private sector transportation and storage facilities.

Leading scientists, research institutions, and national and international environmental organizations recognize the need to rapidly develop carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology to help stabilize the climate. Once proven successful on a large scale, CCS technology can be exported to areas where new coal-fired power plants, many without controls, are being built at an alarming rate.

***Urge your legislators today
to pass Clean Energy and Green Jobs Legislation (House Bill 2405)
by going to www.pennfuture.org and visiting our Take Action center.***

