Job Trends Index

Listing of Recent Reports on Labor Forecasts for the Renewable Energy Industries

Prepared by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council

Renewable energy markets took off in 2006. A combination of market forces, policy decisions, and public opinion have converged to support positive signs for job opportunities in the renewable energy industries.

For the first time in 20 years, homeowners who install solar energy systems will receive a federal tax credit worth 30% of the system cost. Businesses that purchase solar equipment will also receive a federal credit worth 30%.

Wind power generating capacity increased by 27% in 2006 and is expected to increase an additional 26% in 2007. The U.S. wind energy industry installed 2,454 megawatts of new generating capacity in 2006. http://www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/Wind_Power_Capacity_012307.html

The solar industry reports that solar electric installations grew by over 20% in 2006 to 120 MW-dc. Utilities have recently announced contracts to build over 2,000 MW of new concentrating solar over the next decade. http://www.seia.org/Year_in_Solar_2006.pdf

More states are creating public benefit funds supporting renewable energy incentives and rebate programs and there are state legislative and regulatory requirements for renewable energy portfolio standards. Some states have created new tax credits to piggyback with the 30% federal solar tax credits. Other states raised the maximum allowable incentive on their existing tax credits to better support solar photovoltaics. www.dsireusa.org

Since 2003, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) has been tracking reports on labor forecasts and job trends. This Index is usually updated once a year. If you know of other reports that should be added, please contact info@irecusa.org.

National Reports

The Work That Goes Into Renewable Energy (November 2001). This report uses survey data to estimate direct jobs created by wind, photovoltaics, and biomass co-firing energy projects. Jobs are reported by skill type and occupational category. Renewable Energy Policy Project.
http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/LABOR_FINAL_REV.pdf

Labor Calculator. Tool that calculates the number of direct jobs resulting from renewable energy development under Renewable Portfolio Standard legislation or other programs to accelerate renewable energy development. Renewable Energy Policy Project.
http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/Labor_Calculator.pdf

Wind Turbine Development: Location of Manufacturing Activity (September 2004). This report shows that a substantial portion of the benefits from wind energy will result from manufacturing the equipment and will flow to those states and localities that either have or can develop the firms to supply the subcomponents. Renewable Energy Policy Project.
http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/WindLocator.pdf

Solar PV Development: Location of Economic Activity (January 2005). Development of solar PV will lead to jobs and investment in areas of the country that manufacture the parts that make up a PV system, in addition to locations that install the systems. Renewable Energy Policy Project.
http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/SolarLocator.pdf

Renewing America's Economy (September 2004). Union of Concerned Scientists. UCS examines the national and state-level costs and benefits of a national 20 percent by 2020 Renewable Electricity Standard.
http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/clean_energy/ACFoDbPiL.pdf

In addition, there are 12 State-specific reports.
http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/renewable_energy_basics/renewing-americas-economy.html

New Energy for America. The Apollo Jobs Report: Good Jobs and Energy Independence (January 2004). The Apollo Alliance.
http://www.apolloalliance.org/docUploads/ApolloReport%5F022404%5F122748%2Epdf

Redirecting America's Energy: The Economic and Consumer Benefits of Clean Energy Policies (February 2005). US PIRG Education Fund.
http://newenergyfuture.com/reports/redirectingamericasenergy.pdf

Renewable Energy and State Economies (May 2003). The Council of State Governments.
http://www.csg.org/NR/rdonlyres/emt6kx53j6ckjhpifa3hh2dppw5jhf23uqau5xklodyo6arcm47lh6snacdi7qd65crj66kouchl3nmouwxsiaxi6uc/Renewable+Energy+and+State+Economies.pdf

State-Specific Reports

Energy for Colorado's Economy: Creating Jobs and Economic Growth with Renewable Energy. (February 2007). Environment Colorado Research and Policy Center. Travis Madsen, Timothy Telleen-Lawton, Will Coyne, and Matt Baker
http://www.environmentcolorado.org/reports/EnergyEconomy.pdf

Energizing Michigan's Economy: Creating Jobs and Reducing Pollution with Energy Efficiency and Renewable Electric Power. (February 2007). Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center. Travis Madsen, Timothy Telleen-Lawton and Mike Shriberg.
http://www.environmentmichigan.org/uploads/AM/xb/AMxbw0xjpZqz7kJ9B8nR3g/Energizing-Michigans-Economy.pdf

Putting Renewables to Work: How Many Jobs Can the Clean Energy Industry Generate? (April 2004). The Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory at University of California, Berkeley. Daniel M. Kammen, Kamal Kapadia & Matthias Fripp.
http://rael.berkeley.edu/files/2004/Kammen-Renewable-Jobs-2004.pdf

Renewable Energy and Jobs: Employment Impacts of Developing Markets for Renewables in California (July 2003). Environment California Research & Policy Center.
http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/uploads/OW/aa/OWaa2RaedlfHwQOWbxKd5w/Renewable_Energy_and_Jobs.pdf

Component Manufacturing: Ohio's Future in the Renewable Energy Industry (October 2005). Renewable Energy Policy Project State Report.
http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/Ohio%20Manufacturing%20Report_2.pdf

Component Manufacturing: Wisconsin's Future in the Renewable Energy Industry (January 2006). Renewable Energy Policy Project State Report.
http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/Wisconsin%20Report_Short_2.pdf

The Economic and Environmental Impacts of Clean Energy Development in Illinois (June 2005). University of Illinois at Chicago.
http://www.erc.uic.edu/PDF/Clean_Energy_Development.pdf

Generating Energy, Generating Jobs (October 2005). Policy Matters Ohio and the Apollo Alliance.
http://www.policymattersohio.org/pdf/generating_jobs.pdf

Job Jolt, The Economic Impacts of Repowering the Midwest (February 2001). Regional Economics Applications Laboratory for the Environmental Law & Policy Center.
http://www.repowermidwest.org/Job%20Jolt/JJfinal.pdf

Renewable Work: Job Growth from Renewable Energy Development in the Mid-Atlantic (Spring 2004). NJPIRG Law and Policy Center, Dave Algoso and Emily Rusch, authors.
http://www.njpirg.org/reports/RenewablesWorkNJ.pdf

Economic Impact Analysis of a 20% New Jersey Renewable Portfolio Standard (December 2004). Center for Energy, Economic and Environmental Policy at Rutgers.
http://policy.rutgers.edu/ceeep/images/RPS%20Report%20Text-Final.pdf

Economic Impact Analysis of the Cape Wind Off-Shore Renewable Energy Project (April 2003). Global Insight for Cape Wind Associates.
http://www.capewind.org/downloads/Economic_Impact.pdf

Economic Impact of Renewable Energy in Pennsylvania (March 2004). Black & Veatch for the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.
http://www.bv.com/energy/eec/studies/PA_RPS_Final_Report.pdf

What Renewable Energy Means to Texas (August 2002). Prepared by Virtus Energy Research Associates.
http://www.citizen.org/documents/ACF44D.pdf

State Incentives

The Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and selected federal incentives that promote renewable energy. Incentives are listed by state and type.

Summary tables provide an overview of state, local and utility incentives available in each state with links to incentive summaries. The Financial Incentives table provides federal government incentive information as well.
http://www.dsireusa.org/summarytables/index.cfm?CurrentPageID=7

Color-coded maps have been developed using the DSIRE database to provide a geographical view of the availability of selected financial and regulatory incentives across the U.S.
http://www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/topic.cfm?TopicCategoryID=6&CurrentPageID=10

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