



New Report: Thousands of News Jobs for Nevada from Clean Energy
Nevada stands to gain 15,000 jobs by investing in global-warming solutions

Las Vegas, Nevada - September 9, 2008 — As America confronts the current energy crisis, a new report released today by the Center for American Progress in partnership with the Nevada Conservation League shows that the U.S. can create two million jobs nationwide by investing in clean energy technologies that will strengthen the economy and fight global warming. The report finds that investing in clean energy would create four times as many jobs as spending the same amount of money within the oil industry, and in Nevada, 15,000 jobs would be created.

“This new report shows that investing in clean energy is a win-win solution for Nevadans. Shifting to clean energy will put more people to work and revitalize our economy when many Americans are struggling,” said Scot Rutledge, Executive Director of the Nevada Conservation League. “With the slowdown in our economy, it’s important to show Nevadans what opportunities are available in the green economy.”

“*Green Recovery – A Program to Create Good Jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy*” analyzes the potential for a two year \$100 billion green investment program – which would be comparable to the size of the April 2008 federal stimulus package dedicated to consumer rebates – to be an engine for job creation in Nevada and nationwide. This type of investment is a component of a broader clean energy strategy to create a low carbon economy and reduce global warming pollutions, including an economy-wide cap-and-trade program.

The program could be paid for with proceeds from auctions of carbon permits under a global warming cap-and-trade program. A global warming cap-and-trade program will drive private investments into clean energy and raise public revenue through carbon permit auctions. A cap will enable America to reduce global warming pollution to the levels science indicates are needed to avoid the worst effects of global warming.

The report also shows that the vast majority of the two million jobs gained from this initial \$100 billion investment in clean energy would be in the same areas of employment that people already work in today, in every region and state of the country. For example, constructing wind farms creates jobs for sheet metal workers, machinists and truck drivers, among many others. Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings through retrofitting requires roofers, insulators and building inspectors. Expanding mass transit systems employs civil engineers, electricians, and dispatchers.

"As an advocate for Nevada's original renewable laws, the Nevada AFL-CIO has worked to bring renewable energy to Nevadans and to make sure the projects are built by the hard working men and women of Nevada. By increasing the investment for renewable energy and efficiency, we can help our economy recover with long-term, sustainable jobs that provide a meaningful wage to the men and women of Nevada," said Danny Thompson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada State AFL-CIO.

The package is illustrative of the potential for clean energy – and specifically green infrastructure investments – to create new jobs and strengthen the economy. The specific package would invest in six green infrastructure priorities: retrofitting buildings to improve energy efficiency, expanding mass transit and freight rail, constructing “smart” electrical grid transmission systems, wind power, solar power, and next-generation biofuels.

"As a leader in Nevada's renewable energy industry, I can tell you how important new investment is to our industry. By investing in the green economy, we can create good jobs, increase our energy independence, and help

to reduce the dangerous effects of global warming,” said Chris Brooks, Director of Renewable Energy Division for Bombard Electric in Las Vegas.

Nevada has seen first-hand the effects of this new green economy. Businesses in Nevada have taken advantage of the opportunities to help consumers and the environment.

"I own a business that helps consumers improve their quality of life through innovative and affordable energy efficiency solutions. I can tell you that increased investment in energy efficiency is the most affordable way to help consumers save money, improve their comfort and health while reducing our community's carbon footprint,” said Les Lazareck, Owner of Home Energy Connections, LLC in Las Vegas.

In addition to creating two million jobs nationwide over two years, a \$100 billion initial investment in our clean energy future would:

- Create nearly four times more jobs than spending the same amount of money within the oil industry and 300,000 more jobs than a similar amount of spending directed toward household consumption.
- Create roughly triple the number of good jobs — paying at least \$16 dollars an hour — as spending the same amount of money within the oil industry.
- Bolster employment especially in construction and manufacturing. Construction employment has fallen from 8 million to 7.2 million over the past two years due to the housing bubble collapse. The Green Recovery program can, at the least, bring back these lost 800,000 construction jobs.

The report proposes that the \$100 billion of initial investments fund:

- **\$50 billion for tax credits.** This would assist private businesses and homeowners to finance both commercial and residential building retrofits, as well as investments in renewable-energy systems.
- **\$46 billion in direct government spending.** This would support public building retrofits, the expansion of mass transit, freight rail and smart electrical-grid systems, and new investments in renewable energy.
- **\$4 billion for federal loan guarantees.** This would underwrite private credit that is extended to finance building retrofits and investments in renewable energy.

"At this critical time, we need real solutions for the issues that face all Americans, and by investing in the green economy, we can start the transition to a low-carbon economy. Nevadans have said time and time again that they want more renewable energy in Nevada, and this report shows how a substantial investment would accomplish that and create thousands of new jobs,” said Lydia Ball with the Sierra Club.

The report was written by the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, under commission by the Center for American Progress (CAP) and released by a coalition of labor and environmental groups. The authors of the report are Robert Pollin, Heidi Garrett-Peltier, James Heintz, and Helen Scharber of PERI. For the complete report findings go to www.peri.umass.edu/green_recovery

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