

Good Jobs, Economic Development, Clean Energy 10% Solar Energy Standard (SES) by 2030

Installing 58 megawatts of new solar energy generation in Minnesota each year over the next 10 years will create jobs, boost investment in the economic future of our state, and take advantage of the quickly decreasing costs of solar energy. By 2015, the United States Department of Energy expects solar energy to become competitive with other new energy alternatives, if not less expensive. By the 2020s, solar energy will have become very affordable and reliable, and as demand for energy grows, Minnesota will be able to quickly and economically diversify its electric energy portfolio to include at least 10% solar energy by 2030.

Good paying jobs all over Minnesota

Jobs that will support families:

- installing solar projects,
- designing and engineering solar products,
- manufacturing materials, equipment, and components,
- training solar professionals, and
- developing and financing projects.

Lots of Jobs

Three thousand new, immediate, and enduring jobs will be created in the first few years after the standard is passed. Over the life of the policy, tens of thousands of jobs will be created (calculated using the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Jobs and Economic Development Impacts (JEDI) model).

Solar energy development creates **14.1 jobs per \$1 million invested**. That's compared to 5.3 jobs created by fossil fuel energy development for the same investment, according to The Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts.

Additionally, the solar industry creates job opportunities across all skill and educational levels, with significant opportunity for workers with lower skill and education credentials.

Jobs now

Developing Minnesota's excellent solar resource will create manufacturing and construction jobs quickly in our state. Solar energy generation projects can be proposed, installed, and operational in a matter of months. Coal, nuclear, and even natural gas energy generation projects take 5 to 10 years from initial proposal to the point where a shovel finally hits the ground.



In-state economic development

Solar energy development benefits our state and local economies. It will shift some of our present energy investment in out-of-state energy sources back home to Minnesota, and help shrink the avalanche of Minnesotans' energy dollars into other states' and countries' economies. Minnesotans export at least \$20 billion (\$3,800 per Minnesotan) per year to pay for energy, according to 2008 U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration data. By investing in solar energy we can keep more of those dollars cycling through Minnesota's economy, providing an enormous economic boost, enduring investment, and economic development opportunities for our state.

Currently, Minnesota has more than 50 companies producing various solar products and services. A 10% SES will not only help attract new businesses to our state but ensure that existing Minnesota companies can grow and prosper here.

Energy independence

Minnesota's heavy reliance on out-of-state energy sources is unsustainable. Diversifying our energy portfolio to include more in-state energy resources is common sense. In-state energy development not only contributes to local and state economies; it provides greater state and local energy control, security, and reliability for the long term.

Producing just 10% of our energy from solar will:

Create enough energy for over 700,000 homes or 2.3 million electric vehicles

