

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Utah Clean Energy**

## **Results are in on Utah's First Clean Energy Economic Development Study**

*Utah poised to gain thousands of new jobs  
and millions in annual earnings through clean energy*

**Salt Lake City, UT** - Results from a local study titled *Building the Clean Energy Economy: A Study on Jobs and Economic Development of Clean Energy in Utah* show that new investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy in the state of Utah have the potential to yield significant economic benefits for Utah by the year 2020. The report analyzes the economic impacts of an energy portfolio with 20% energy efficiency by 2020 and 20% of electricity sales from renewable resources by 2020; the findings show the creation of nearly 7,000 net new ongoing jobs in the state, \$310 million in net new annual earnings, and \$300 million net annual increase in gross domestic product by state (GDPS).

"This study confirms that increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy development will have a net positive impact on Utah's economy," states Sarah Wright, Executive Director of Utah Clean Energy, the local non-profit organization that led the analysis. "Utah has set goals to increase efficiency and renewables over the next ten years; with leadership and determination, Utah can make clean energy an integral part of our economy."

The study was requested by the Governor's Energy Advisor, Dianne Nielson to identify the economic development potential of increased adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy in Utah. Utah Clean Energy's mission is to partner to build the new clean energy economy through policy, regulatory, and educational initiatives, thus making them the most appropriate organization to head up such a study. Utah Clean Energy collaborated with two economic consultant organizations - MRG & Associates and Wikstrom Economic & Planning Consultants, to conduct the economic analysis.

"The report shows that energy efficiency and renewable energy development mean new economic and job opportunities for Utah citizens and businesses," comments Dr. Nielson. "Utah is poised to reap the benefits of clean energy."

The report also offers recommendations for needed next steps to seize the opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency and aggressively pursue Utah's clean energy goals, including: accelerating energy efficiency retrofits and new high performance building, removing regulatory and policy barriers and training a new workforce to fill the "green collar" jobs that will be created. According to Wright, "It is up to Utah citizens and leaders to take action to increase in-state clean energy development - actions taken today will yield tremendous benefits tomorrow and well into the future."

### **Central Results of the Study**

- A clean energy portfolio with new investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy in the state of Utah will result in nearly 7,000 net new ongoing jobs, \$310 million in net new annual earnings.

- Utah's GDPS is estimated to increase by about \$300 million in 2020, as compared to a business as usual forecast from the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget.
- The jobs generated by these clean energy projects are varied and include professions from researchers, architects, and high-tech engineers to technicians, building contractors, installers and manufacturers.
- The jobs and economic development shown in the study would very likely provide a significant benefit to Utah's rural communities' farms and ranches, due to the fact that Utah's renewable energy resources are largely located throughout Utah's rural communities.

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[Click here to download the executive summary and full report.](#)