

**Statement of Dylan Voorhees, NRCM Clean Energy Director**  
*Green jobs press conference, Sept 9, 2008*

Many observers don't need this report to know that green jobs are already here in Maine. A new generation of jobs in the clean energy field offers economic activity today, and the promise of much more to come. These jobs are generating income for Maine people, revenue for the state and towns, new jobs both in service centers and rural areas, and growth and investment opportunities for Maine businesses.

By some estimates, there are already roughly 2000 direct clean energy jobs in Maine. As this report makes clear, many more jobs can be on the way. **Like our current jobs in this sector, they will be driven partially by our abundant renewable resources, and also from policies that generate investment.**

Maine's renewable energy and wind power laws are driving what will ultimately be a multi-billion dollar investment in wind projects in the state. Our state energy efficiency program, *Efficiency Maine*, has used \$36 million of public investment to spur an additional \$34 million in private investments (and creating nearly \$200 million in electricity savings).

When Maine joined the *Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative* (RGGI) to lower global warming emissions through a "cap & trade" program, we decided to use that program as an economic investment tool as well. More than \$10 million per year from RGGI will be plowed into our economy in the form of energy efficiency funding. The federal government should do the same thing: use cap & trade not just to control pollution, but to strengthen our economy and invest in the future. This report lays out the benefits of jumpstarting that strategy at a time of economic downturn.

Solving our energy and environmental problems with a significant green jobs program will put more people to work and help revitalize our economy at a time when many Americans are hurting. Our energy and environmental problems are linked, so it makes sense for Congress to address these problems together.

If we want to maximize the benefits of this new green energy economy *in Maine*, we can't rely on Congress alone. In Massachusetts, they already have nearly 15,000 clean energy jobs. Their legislature is considering a \$100 million package that would double that (and create \$50 million in new tax revenue.)

Maine faces the dual threat of high energy prices and energy insecurity: green economy investments will reduce how much we spend on heating fuels **and** increase our independence. There has been a lot of focus on short-term responses to our energy situation. That is a good place to start—but our elected leaders need to simultaneously focus on the long and medium-term strategy to strengthen our economy. (This report focuses on a medium-term economic investment strategy.) If we fail to do so, Maine will be stuck using expensive or ineffective short-term responses year after year after year.

Here are two closing thoughts: First, **9,000 jobs would be *transformative* for Maine**, making a real dent in unemployment. It would be foolish to ignore this opportunity.

Second, this is not the first, nor last such report—in April, Maine economist Charlie Colgan released a report entitled “Energy Efficiency, Business Competitiveness and Untapped Economic Potential in Maine”. The reports are in, their conclusions are sound. Now it is time for us to act—at both the federal and state level.

Weatherizing homes will employ Maine contractors and lower Maine oil bills. Building wind farms will employ our construction workers, cut our property taxes, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Adding public transit options will help put Mainers to work and get Mainers to work. Each of these is an investment we can make today that will yield economic dividends year after year.