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CONTACT:
Brandon MacGillis, 202-887-8830

Pew Report: California Clean Energy Economy Jobs Grew Faster than Overall Jobs

Emerging Sector Set to Expand

Jobs in California's clean energy economy grew faster than overall jobs between 1998 and 2007, according to The Pew Charitable Trusts in the most detailed study yet on this sector. In *The Clean Energy Economy: Repowering Jobs, Businesses and Investments Across America*, Pew developed a clear, data-driven definition of the clean energy economy and conducted the first-ever hard count across all 50 states of the actual jobs, companies and venture capital investments that supply the growing market demand for environmentally friendly products and services.

Pew's analysis found that between 1998 and 2007, jobs in California's clean energy economy grew at a rate of 7.7 percent, while overall California jobs grew by 6.7 percent. California helped lead a national trend that saw job growth in the clean energy economy outperforming overall job growth in 38 states and the District of Columbia over the same period. Nationally, jobs in the clean energy economy grew at a rate of 9.1 percent while total jobs grew by only 3.7 percent, between 1998 and 2007.

"California is a leader in America's clean energy economy and always has been," said Lori Grange, interim deputy director of the Pew Center on the States. "Billions of venture capital dollars for clean technology have poured into the state, helping jobs in California's clean energy sector grow 15 percent faster than overall jobs between 1998 and 2007. The state was out in front early, with emissions standards and renewable energy and energy efficiency policies. And California has provided financial incentives that help businesses and families alike use more renewable energy sources like solar and wind power."

In 2007, there were nearly 125,500 jobs in California's clean energy economy. Unlike previous studies of the so-called "green economy," Pew's numbers are a hard count of actual jobs, businesses and investments and do not rely on estimates, multipliers or projections. The report found that the emerging clean energy economy is creating well-paying jobs in every state for people of all skill levels and educational backgrounds. Included in Pew's definition are jobs as diverse as engineers, plumbers, administrative assistants, construction workers, machine setters, marketing consultants, teachers and many others with annual incomes ranging from \$21,000 to \$111,000.

The private sector views the clean energy economy as a significant and expanding market opportunity. Venture capital investment in clean technology in California totaled more than \$6.5 billion over the past three years, giving it the largest clean energy economy of the 50 states.

Federal and state lawmakers, too, see the sector as helping to spur America's economic recovery and protect the environment. California's clean energy economy will receive a boost from the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which allocates nearly \$85 billion nationwide in direct spending and tax incentives for energy- and transportation-related programs. California provides financial incentives for clean energy and regional initiatives as well. For instance, California's Green

Building Action Plan—a goal for public buildings to be 20 percent more energy efficient by 2015—could save the state \$100 million annually.

Pew’s definition of the clean energy economy is based on previous research and input from nationally recognized environmental scientists and economists, including an advisory panel convened to help guide the study. According to Pew, “*a clean energy economy generates jobs, businesses and investments while expanding clean energy production, increasing energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution, and conserving water and other natural resources.*” It comprises five categories: (1) Clean Energy, (2) Energy Efficiency, (3) Environmentally Friendly Production, (4) Conservation and Pollution Mitigation, and (5) Training and Support. The definition provides a groundbreaking framework for tracking jobs, investments and economic growth over time and allowing the public and private sector to evaluate the effectiveness of policy choices and investments.

“There is bipartisan support and a growing market demand for transitioning to the clean energy economy,” said Phyllis Cuttino, director, U.S. Global Warming Campaign, at the Pew Environment Group. “Americans understand the transition is good for the overall economy, is creating new opportunities for jobs and business growth, and helps protect our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Congress and the Obama Administration can and must produce energy and global warming legislation that creates jobs, enhances energy independence and sustains our environment.”

The complete study is available online at www.pewtrusts.org/cleanenergyeconomy.

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