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CONTACT:  
Chris Cox, 651-468-9518  
Brandon MacGillis, 202-887-8830

**Pew Report:**  
**Minnesota Clean Energy Economy**  
**Jobs Grew 6 Times Faster than Overall Jobs**  
*Emerging Sector Poised for Explosive Growth*

MINNEAPOLIS – Jobs in Minnesota’s clean energy economy grew six times faster than overall jobs between 1998 and 2007, according to The Pew Charitable Trusts in the most detailed look yet at 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 Minnesota’s clean energy economy grew at a rate of 11.9 percent, while state jobs overall grew by 1.9 percent. Minnesota is part of 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.

“Minnesota has a big piece of America’s clean energy economy—and it is poised to grow its share,” said Chris Cox, Minnesota representative for the Pew Environment Group. “Jobs in the state’s clean energy sector grew by nearly 12 percent between 1998 and 2007—more than six times faster than all jobs in the state. Minnesota attracted nearly \$50 million in clean technology venture capital in the past three years alone. Those investments—and the state’s renewable energy standards—have helped make Minnesota a national leader in wind energy generation.”

Minnesota clean energy economy business leaders hailed the study.

“Lumificient is proud to be part of Minnesota’s clean energy economy, which is here today – and which is the future for Minnesota,” said Carey Burkett, Division President of Lumificient Corporation. “Our business has grown rapidly over the past 18 months because customers want the products we’re selling: energy efficient LED illumination for signage, cove, under/over cabinet, and other accent lighting needs that provides enormous savings in energy costs when compared to alternative solutions.”

In 2007, there were nearly 20,000 jobs in Minnesota’s clean energy economy – about the same number of people employed by the University of Minnesota. 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.

Federal and state lawmakers see the sector as helping to spur America's economic recovery and protect the environment. Minnesota'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. Minnesota provides financial incentives for clean energy as well, and a renewable portfolio standard that requires the largest energy provider in the state to generate 25 percent of its energy from wind power by 2020. Minnesota also employs energy efficiency standards and is part of a regional clean energy initiative.

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 our 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](http://www.pewtrusts.org/cleanenergyeconomy).

#### **ABOUT LUMIFICIENT CORPORATION**

Lumificent Corporation was founded in 2000 to offer a more energy efficient and user friendly alternative to traditional light sources. Lumificent designs, manufactures, and distributes energy efficient LED illumination solutions to a variety of markets including the sign industry, display and display case, commercial, and residential. The company has grown at a rate above 125% over the past 18 months. Contact: Carey Burkett, Division President, 763-424-3702, [careyb@lumificent.com](mailto:careyb@lumificent.com)

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