



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

June 15, 2009
Contact: Chrissy Pearson
Cell: (919) 215-4669
Office: (919) 733-0767

PEW REPORT SHOWS N.C. A LEADER IN GREEN ECONOMY

RALEIGH – A new report by the Pew Center on the States indicates that North Carolina is poised to capitalize on Gov. Bev Perdue’s green energy plan, including her proposals to make green energy jobs a cornerstone of North Carolina’s economy.

The report, “The Clean Energy Economy: Repowering jobs, businesses and investments across America,” released Wednesday, lists North Carolina as among the top dozen states in growing “clean energy economy jobs.” It also finds that North Carolina saw growth in the number of clean energy economy jobs, with such jobs exceeding the national average. The report tracked clean energy economy job growth from 1998 through 2007, during which time the state saw clean energy economy jobs grow by 15.3 percent, while the overall job growth rate in the state was 6.4 percent.

In 2007, more than 1,700 clean energy businesses in North Carolina accounted for 17,000 jobs. From 2006 through 2008, more than \$82.5 million in venture capital was invested in North Carolina clean energy economy jobs.

“I’ve said before, and I will say again: Green is gold for North Carolina,” Perdue said. “To get green right, we must build on our strengths that attract green companies – a well-trained, educated workforce; existing relationships between businesses and research institutions; and a strong link between energy policy and economic development.”

Gov. Perdue’s green energy plan includes the use of \$18 million in federal recovery funds to create an Energy Investment Revolving Loan Fund. The fund will provide low- and no-interest

loans, up to \$1 million, to finance energy-saving projects at businesses, schools, nonprofits, state agencies and local governments.

She also proposes another \$10 million to expand the state's Green Business Fund to provide support to new, emerging and expanding green economy businesses.

Additionally, Gov. Perdue's plan relocates the State Energy Office and state weatherization program to the Department of Commerce and reinvigorates the Energy Policy Council.

To read the details of Perdue's full energy plan, visit www.governor.state.nc.us/NewsItems/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?newsItemID=404.

The complete text of the Pew report can be found online at: www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Clean_Economy_Report_Web.pdf

A North Carolina summary can be found at: www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewcenteronthestatesorg/Fact_Sheets/Clean_Economy_Factsheet_NorthCarolina.pdf

###