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Pew Report:
New Mexico Clean Energy Economy
Jobs Grew 25 Times Faster than Overall Jobs
Emerging Sector Poised for Explosive Growth

ALBUQUERQUE – Jobs in New Mexico’s clean energy economy grew more than 25 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 New Mexico’s clean energy economy grew at a rate of 50.1 percent, while total jobs in the state grew by 1.9 percent. New Mexico was 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.

“The Pew Charitable Trusts report illuminates how the clean energy economy is a strong and important part of New Mexico’s and America’s economy,” said Governor Bill Richardson (D-N.M.). “The Pew report is a welcome analysis that details the core clean energy economy and the important role that policy plays in driving growth. Over the past six years, my Administration has pursued clean energy policies ranging from a strong renewable portfolio standard to a robust set of clean energy tax incentives. For America to lead the global clean energy economy we need Congress to follow the lead of states like New Mexico and pass comprehensive policies that spur innovation and economic growth.”

“New Mexico’s clean energy economy is just getting started, but it’s experiencing explosive growth,” said Gregory Green, New Mexico representative for the Pew Environment Group. “Jobs in its clean energy sector grew 25 times faster than the state’s jobs overall between 1998 and 2007. And the state attracted nearly \$148 million in venture capital in just the past three years. New Mexico is setting ambitious goals for expanding its clean energy economy even more—like its plan to buy all of the power for state agencies from renewable sources within the next two years.”

In 2007, there were more than 4,800 jobs in New Mexico’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.

Federal and state lawmakers see the sector as helping to spur America's economic recovery and protect the environment. New Mexico'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. New Mexico provides financial incentives for clean energy as well, and the state has set an ambitious goal of purchasing 100 percent of state agencies' power from renewable sources by 2011.

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.

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