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CONTACT:
Dan Lombardi, (503) 221-7922
Brandon MacGillis, (202) 887-8830

Pew Report: Oregon Clean Energy Economy Jobs Grew 6.5 Times Faster than Overall Jobs

Emerging Sector Poised for Explosive Growth

PORTLAND, Ore. – Jobs in Oregon’s clean energy economy grew 6.5 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 Oregon’s clean energy economy grew at a rate of 50.7 percent while the state’s jobs overall grew by 7.5 percent. Oregon 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.

“Oregon has a large and fast-growing piece of America’s clean energy economy,” said Dan Lombardi, Oregon representative for the Pew Environment Group. “It has more jobs in its clean energy sector, as a share of its overall economy, than any other state. Those jobs grew by 50 percent between 1998 and 2007—nearly seven times faster than Oregon’s total jobs. Oregon attracted \$70 million in clean technology venture capital in the past three years alone. Those investments, along with the state’s strong renewable energy policies, should help Oregon continue to expand its clean energy economy.”

Oregon clean energy economy business leaders hailed the study.

“Abundant Renewable Energy is proud to be part of Oregon’s clean energy economy, which is here today,” said spokesperson Gregory Price. “We are extremely proud of the two residential turbines we’ve developed, which are providing new energy options for Oregonians and all Americans.”

In 2007, there were more than 19,300 jobs in Oregon’s clean energy economy – almost as many employees of the Port of Portland. 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. Oregon’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. Oregon provides financial incentives for clean energy as well, and has renewable portfolio standards. Oregon is also 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.

ABOUT ABUNDANT RENEWABLE ENERGY

Abundant Renewable Energy was founded in 2001 to address the need for high efficiency wind turbine for individual use and the community's desire for self reliance, energy independence and environmental stewardship. ABE designs, manufactures, and distributes residential wind energy systems. Since 2001, they have developed two residential turbines.

Contact: Gregory Price, Sales and Marketing Manager, 503-883-1003, greg@abundantre.com

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