

Bold Leadership is Needed

Idaho's economy suffers as prices for energy imports climb. *Securing Idaho's Energy Future* shows that Idaho can protect residents and its economy by tapping into its vast renewable energy resources and optimizing energy efficiency. While the way forward is clear, bold leadership is needed to chart a more secure energy future. In the 2009 legislative session, Idaho lawmakers have a number of opportunities to make Idaho more energy secure by:

- Creating an Idaho Energy Security Plan with clear targets to cut energy imports and capitalize on in-state resources.
- Providing incentives and enact policies to help Idaho compete with other states for private investment in clean energy projects.
- Championing clean tech job training programs to help Idaho workers take advantage of clean tech job opportunities and ensure new businesses have access to skilled workers.
- Creating conditions for a vibrant and innovative clean tech industry through the establishment of Renewable Energy Enterprise Zones.

Copies of the full report may be found at www.harvestcleanenergy.org/IdahoEnergy

Securing Idaho's Energy Future underwent exhaustive review by key players in Idaho's energy markets, including renewable energy and energy efficiency experts, energy developers, academics working in the field of energy, business and agriculture leaders and other state officials. The study was commissioned by Climate Solutions through a grant from the Energy Foundation whose mission is to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy — new technologies that are essential components of a clean energy future. Climate Solutions is dedicated to building a powerhouse clean energy industry in the Northwest that employs tens of thousands of people as a way to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming and energy needs.

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Securing Idaho's Energy Future: *The Role of Energy Efficiency and Renewables*



Securing Idaho's Energy Future

In Idaho, we've enjoyed relatively cheap and abundant energy for as long as most of us can remember. Unfortunately, those days may be at an end. Idaho imports most of its energy, making us vulnerable to volatile prices and rising costs. Fully 80% of Idaho's energy comes from imported oil, natural gas and coal.

Idaho has no fossil fuel resources. And, while the state can do little to influence surging global demand for energy, it can buffer families and businesses from high prices by maximizing energy efficiency and tapping into Idaho's vast renewable energy resources. Reducing fossil fuel imports will help protect Idaho's economy from rising energy costs. A clean energy rush will bring good jobs to Idaho, expanding the state's fast-growing clean tech sector.

Capitalizing on Idaho's renewable energy resources and energy efficiency will take bold leadership from policymakers. *Securing Idaho's Energy Future* is intended to inspire policymakers to work with residents, farmers and business owners to build a more secure energy future for Idaho. **Download the report at: www.harvestcleanenergy.org/IdahoEnergy**

Benefits of Renewable Energy in Idaho

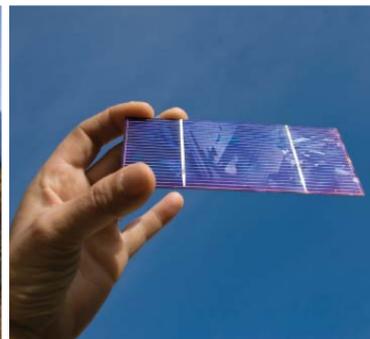
- **Protect Idaho families, farms and businesses from spiking energy costs**
- **Create new, high-wage jobs**
- **Keep more of the nearly \$4 billion Idahoans spend for energy cycling within the state economy**
- **Cut energy costs through smart energy efficiency measures**
- **Contribute to America's energy independence**
- **Keep Idaho's water and air clean**

Key Findings from *Securing Idaho's Energy Future*

- **Idahoans are spending billions on energy:** Idaho's families, farms and businesses are spending over \$3.7 billion a year for energy, 80% of which is produced elsewhere. This is hard on the family pocketbook, hard on the business bottom-line, and a significant drain of money out of the state's economy.
- **Idaho's economy is at risk; the age of cheap energy imports is over:** Idaho imports most of its energy and changing market conditions indicate that the state can no longer count on a reliable supply of cheap and plentiful imports into the future. The report suggests that Idaho's heavy dependence on fossil fuel imports puts the state's economy at risk.
- **Cut imports, grow new jobs:** Idaho can create thousands of good-paying clean tech jobs by capitalizing on its abundant renewable energy resources – including wind, geothermal, solar, and biomass – and by upgrading the efficiency of its buildings, equipment, and other facilities. Clean tech is one

of the world's fastest growing industry sectors and with the right investments Idaho can compete for its share of clean tech jobs.

- **Clean energy spreads the wealth:** By aggressively developing these renewable and efficiency resources, the report concludes that Idaho can reasonably increase its share of energy coming from in-state sources from just 20% today to 50% by 2025 -- in ways that benefit the economy. This will spread new jobs and millions in new tax revenues across the state's rural and urban communities, while helping to control energy and fertilizer costs for agriculture.



CASE STUDY:

Ridgeline Energy

Ridgeline Energy started as a small, two man operation and has grown to 10 utility-scale wind projects in development in Idaho—leveraging the growing interest in renewable energy into clean energy, jobs and financial opportunities for rural Idaho.

Nearly all of Ridgeline Energy's permitted projects in Idaho are sited on private lands. Ridgeline staff prides themselves on the relationships they have built with Idaho farmers and ranchers and have spent many hours around kitchen tables ensuring that they do right by their partners in wind development.

Through wind development, landowners can make use of marginal land and supplement their agricultural income. But the benefits of wind go beyond the financial for Idaho communities.

For instance, growing the wind industry will create a demand for more workers that could help keep young Idahoans in their communities. And these job skills will be in high demand. In neighboring states, technical and community college programs geared for the specialized training that these jobs require already have waiting lists.

Ridgeline is working with policymakers to create an environment that will attract wind and other renewable energy developers to the state and allow Idahoans to enjoy all the benefits that clean energy can bring.

Developing renewables within the state helps protect Idaho's economy from rising energy costs and keep more dollars circulating in the local economy. This report is a valuable resource in informing and guiding policymakers and citizens to build a more secure energy future.

—Senator Curt McKenzie, Co-chair, Idaho Interim Legislative Committee for Energy, Environment and Technology.

CASE STUDY:

Intrepid Technologies & Resources

Intrepid Technology and Resources (ITR) reached a milestone by producing clean natural gas from animal waste at Idaho's first full scale on-farm anaerobic digester. ITR produces pipeline quality natural gas from animal waste - for example manure - from the Whitesides Dairy in Minidoka County. ITR's innovative

technology not only provides Idaho businesses with a clean, homegrown source of energy, but it utilizes a waste product that would otherwise be difficult to manage.

Industrial plants that rely on propane due to a lack of access to natural gas have proven ideal customers for natural gas from the Whitesides methane plant. While propane prices have tripled, ITR offers a locally-produced

renewable energy source that can be trucked on site at an affordable price. Because ITR has passed the Department of Transportation's stringent gas transport standards and met the Gas Technical Institute's certification, it is the only bi-omethane producer in the country that can deliver its product directly to customers over the open road. ITR is looking forward to working with Idaho policymakers and businesses to further develop this virtually untapped energy resource in Idaho.

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