The Business Council for Sustainable Energy

Clean Energy Jobs
2008 Accomplishments and Advocacy

2008 Objectives

In response to growing Congressional interest, the Council is collecting and analyzing information on the impact of clean energy industries on the economy and job creation.

2008 Accomplishments

- Clean Job and Green Revenues Database Project

The Council continues to collect, analyze and organize information from recent studies on jobs created and revenues raised in the clean energy sector. Upon collecting various reports from the last few years prepared by academic institutions, trade associations and government agencies, among other sources, Council staff has prepared a spreadsheet of studies on jobs and revenues contributing to a green economy.

Information collected and analyzed from this work was used to develop message documents linking job benefits to passage of S. 3036, the Climate Security Act of 2008. In her testimony before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality in June, BCSE Executive Director Lisa Jacobson prepared to address the general job benefits and specific BCSE member job opportunities associated with the Council's approach to climate change legislation.

The Council's clean job research focuses on studies that have been conducted since 2001 on U.S. clean energy employment, on national, regional and state levels. The research produced a diverse collection of studies examining various elements of jobs produced by renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.

Overall green job trends and outcomes from this work show that:

- The public demands a shift to an alternative energy economy
- There is growing support for the notion that greater investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency will produce employment for significant numbers of Americans. For example:
    - Significant investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency would add more than 3.3 million jobs over a 10 year period
    - Nearly $50 billion in renewable energy technologies could result in nearly 1 million new jobs
    - $76 billion in manufacturing of energy efficient durable goods would create over 900 thousand new jobs
    - $90 billion in building energy efficiency would yield over 80,000 jobs
    - Nearly $100 billion in public transit and transportation infrastructure would create over 650,000 new jobs

- Investment in these sectors will further contribute to the employment of American workers in high quality green jobs and enhance our economic competitiveness looking forward

Currently, Council staff is revising its climate change and energy policy documents to convey the competitive and high quality job creation potential associated with the deployment of existing clean energy technologies. In these papers, which are used as the basis for communicating legislative priorities to Congress, information is included to show the proven economic and growth benefit linked to renewable energy projects and energy efficiency investments. For example, a recent report by *New Energy Finance* found that clean energy investment grew by nearly 60 percent in 2005 and 2006. According to the January 2006 New Energy for America, *Apollo Jobs Report,* adoption of federal market-based, economy-wide cap-and-trade approach to greenhouse gas emissions reductions will drive domestic technology deployment and create employment opportunities that result from the manufacture, installation, operation, maintenance, service, development and support of clean energy and efficiency projects.

- Member Job Survey

Council staff also continues to collect member-specific job profile information using results from a job and revenue questionnaire we prepared and submitted to all Council members. This information provides regionally-based job profile data of key use in our efforts to advocate policies benefiting the clean energy and energy efficiency business sector and interests. Recently, we were able to use this information in our outreach work to the presidential campaigns.

New Clean Job and Green Economy Activity Opportunities

In addition to the on-going job study and member job survey work, Council staff has broaden it's efforts by partnering with the Environment and Energy Study Institute (EESI) on green job Capitol Hill briefings and exploring opportunities to be involved in the Environmental Defense Fund's (EDF) new energy economy mapping project.

The Council has agreed to co-host with EESI a series of green job, green economy Capitol Hill briefings to showcase the deployment, expansion and opportunities for green economic development. The first of these briefings is scheduled for October 22, 2008 and includes BCSE member Mark Wagner of Johnson Controls, Inc.

Council staff is also involved in discussions with EDF on opportunities to be involved in their new energy economy mapping project. Working in partnership with Duke University's Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness, EDF is mapping out the supply chains for approximately 10 low carbon technologies and products. The selected technologies and products represent a range of climate solutions, from energy efficiency to alternative energy sources. Examining the value chain will help illustrate the "hidden" economic opportunities linked to the labor and materials needed to deliver on climate solutions, opportunities that will be stimulated by policies that drive climate solutions (defined as those in the McKinsey abatement curve – the "McKinsey 250").