

FACT SHEET | 50 by '30 Renewable Energy Standard

A Bipartisan Goal for Minnesota's Health, Environment, and Economy

Ten years ago, Governor Tim Pawlenty and a bipartisan coalition of legislators enacted the Next Generation Energy Act. The landmark legislation passed with support from 97 percent of the Legislature – Democrats and Republicans. Over the past decade, the Next Generation Energy Act has made Minnesota an energy sector leader with more than 15,000 clean energy jobs, which contribute more than \$1 billion in wages to our economy. It helped wind energy become a reliable, affordable source of electricity for Minnesota, while taking the equivalent of taking one million cars off the road. Despite this progress, Minnesota will not meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and create new energy jobs without additional action. This year, the Dayton-Smith Administration has joined with a bipartisan group of legislators to propose new goals that will be good for our environment, good for our health, and good for our economy.

Building on Bipartisan Progress with 50 by '30

- **A New Bipartisan Goal for Minnesota** – Minnesota is on track to surpass the renewable energy goals set by the bipartisan Next Generation Energy Act. However, Minnesota has only reduced its carbon pollution emissions by 7 percent, missing our bipartisan goals. This year, the Dayton-Smith Administration and legislators have proposed increasing Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard from 25 percent by 2025 to 50 percent by 2030. The increased goal will help Minnesota remain an energy leader and capture the health, environmental, and economic benefits of clean energy.

Good for Our Economy

- **Creating Minnesota Jobs** – Clean energy jobs in Minnesota grew 78 percent between 2000 and 2014, growing steadily through the recession. In comparison, the state's total employment growth was only 11 percent. Increasing Minnesota's renewable standard to 50 percent would help continue this growth – creating an average of 1,500 new jobs annually in our state.
- **Growing Minnesota's Energy Technology Sector** – Clean energy technology has the potential to help fuel economic growth in Minnesota. Last year, renewable energy surpassed coal as the largest segment of the global energy market. By 2030, global energy demand is expected to increase by 31 percent – creating a significant market for businesses able to help meet this demand. Raising Minnesota's renewable energy standard will help grow our state's clean energy technology sector and create good jobs for Minnesotans.
- **Keeping Minnesota's Energy Dollars in State** – Minnesota annually imports \$13 billion worth of energy, including fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas, from other states and countries. Increasing Minnesota's renewable energy standard will support jobs and local economies by keeping our energy dollars in state.

Good for Our Health

- **Reducing Pollution that Makes Minnesotans Sick** – Strengthening Minnesota's renewable energy standard will reduce the soot and smog that make Minnesotans, especially young children, elderly individuals, and those with other health conditions sick. In 2008, air pollution contributed to about 2,000 deaths in the Twin Cities alone. That was up to 13 percent of all Twin Cities' deaths that year.

Good for Our Environment

- **Restoring Minnesota's Natural Resources** – Minnesota has experienced three 1,000-year floods since 2004. The state's moose herd has declined by 50 percent. Minnesota's spruce, fir, aspen, and birch forests have retreated toward Canada, as changing temperatures make our state an inadequate climate. Raising Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard is critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and restoring our state's pristine natural resources.