

ENERGY EFFICIENCY COULD BOOST ECONOMY THOUSANDS OF JOBS, BILLIONS IN SAVINGS COULD BE REALIZED, ARC SAYS

Publication: THE CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Published: Wednesday, March 18, 2009

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A major **energy efficiency** program in Appalachia could create thousands of new jobs and save the region's residents billions in **energy** costs, according to a new study commissioned by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The study, conducted by the Southeast **Energy Efficiency** Alliance, also found that a bold **efficiency** initiative could cut projected **energy** use in Appalachia by up to 24 percent by the year 2030.

Study authors recommended government incentives to retrofit commercial heating, ventilation and lighting, expansion of efforts to identify **efficiency** opportunities, clean car standards, and residential retrofit projects. Such projects would create jobs in the manufacturing, construction and other sectors.

An estimated 15,000 jobs per year for the next five years could be created, for a total of 60,000 new jobs, the study said. Annual **energy** bill savings would be almost \$800 million, with that amount rising to more than \$27 billion per year by 2030, the study concluded.

"There is an economy around **energy efficiency** just waiting to be unleashed," said Ben Taube, director of the alliance.

"**Energy efficiency** is not only the cleanest, cheapest, quickest and largest source of new power, it also creates jobs and saves billions of dollars," Taube said. "Appalachia's **energy-efficiency** resources have the potential to meet the region's future **energy** needs and ensure continued economic and environmental health."

The ARC commissioned the study as a follow up to a 2006 report that defined the region's **energy** goal: "To develop the Appalachian region's **energy** potential to increase the supply of locally produced, clean, affordable **energy**, and to create and retain jobs." That report identified three strategic objectives, including one that focused on **energy efficiency**.

According to an executive summary, the new **energy efficiency** study assumed that "some form of national climate or carbon policy" would be announced during the next 25 years. It assumed the costs of complying would amount to \$25 to \$100 per metric ton of carbon dioxide beginning in 2011, the executive summary said.

"Policy action aimed at exploiting the **energy efficiency** potential described in this report would set Appalachia on a course toward a sustainable and prosperous **energy** future," the report said. "The region's **energy-efficiency** resources could go a long way toward meeting its future **energy** needs while ensuring its continued economic and environmental health."

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