

# ILLINOIS CLEAN JOBS BILL

HB2607 - Chief sponsors: Reps. Elaine Nekritz, Robyn Gabel, Michael Fortner, and Christian Mitchell;  
SB1485 - Chief sponsors: Sens. Don Harmon, David Koehler, and Jacqueline Collins.

Energy policy will take center stage in Illinois in 2015, presenting an opportunity for lawmakers to not just make do with the old ways of generating electricity but build an innovative, diverse, and clean electricity system that costs less, delivers reliable power and creates thousands of good paying jobs. Lawmakers can put Illinoisans to work in every part of the state, capturing our vast potential for clean energy, by passing the **Illinois Clean Jobs Bill**.

By fully embracing energy efficiency and renewable energy, we can meet and exceed proposed EPA carbon pollution rules, lower electricity costs, and leave Illinois a better place for our children and grandchildren. At the same time, we can generate an estimated **32,000 new jobs per year in Illinois**.<sup>1</sup> That's on top of the 100,000 clean energy jobs in Illinois today.<sup>2</sup>

Here's how the Illinois Clean Jobs Bill would help us get there:

## 1 Prioritize Energy Efficiency to Create Thousands of Jobs

Energy efficiency has been a proven winner for our state. In 2008, the General Assembly passed utility energy efficiency standards that have saved customers more than a billion dollars, while creating an industry in the state that employs tens of thousands of people who design efficiency measures, weatherize and insulate buildings, and upgrade appliances and technology. However, we are still only scratching the surface of the enormous potential to save energy. Now, Illinois should:



### Raise the State's Energy Efficiency Target:

By 2025, Illinois electric utilities should achieve a **20 percent reduction** in demand through energy efficiency. To reach this goal we must -

- A Implement the cumulative standard through regular 4-year planning process with ICC oversight to ensure that the energy efficiency portfolios are cost-effective.
- B Ensure that residents and owners of affordable housing fully participate in cost savings by setting aside a specific portion of the efficiency budgets.
- C Allow non-utility energy efficiency service providers a fair opportunity to compete to deliver savings.
- D Align financial regulation of electric utilities with the goal of capturing all of the cost-effective potential for energy efficiency.
- E Expand successful on-bill financing programs so that private capital can be better leveraged to support energy retrofits.
- F Make time-of-use and real-time pricing more customer-friendly.

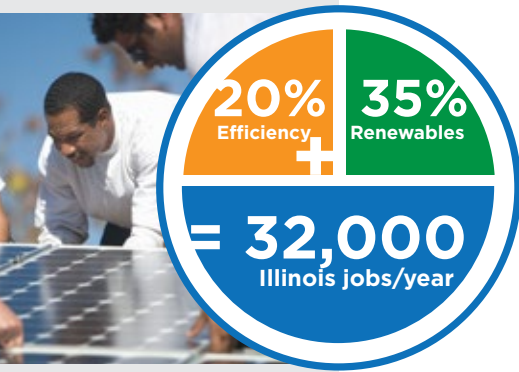
Sources: 1) Report by the Illinois Science and Technology Institute, with data provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Natural Resources Defense Council; 2.) Clean Energy Trust.



## 2 Ramp Up Illinois' Wind and Solar Industries

While renewable energy development in Illinois has stalled in recent years, other states like Iowa, Minnesota and Colorado are moving ahead, growing their wind and solar industries.

We need to re-establish Illinois as the renewable energy manufacturing, financing, and development hub of the Midwest-- and put thousands of people to work in the process. How?



By increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, we can create **32,000 new jobs per year in Illinois--** on top of the 100,000 clean energy jobs in Illinois today.

- A Make the RPS work: We are not meeting our current goals because our vintage standard did not anticipate changes in the marketplace. We need to fix the technical glitches in the statute and simultaneously allow the Illinois Power Agency to use a longer-term planning horizon to make sure our ratepayer dollars are used effectively.
- B Raise the Renewable Portfolio Standard: Elevate the RPS from the current goal of 25% by 2025 to 35% by 2030. A stronger and longer commitment sends a strong signal to investors to come into Illinois for good.
- C Target key areas: To make the most of our money, we need to make targeted investments in solar on blighted brownfields, rooftop solar, new wind, community solar for ratepayers without rooftop access, and a robust solar program for low-income families.
- D Keep it cost effective: The original RPS included a 2% rate cap and we want to keep that in place.

## 3 Pursue Strategies to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Create Jobs

The Illinois EPA will be charged with developing a state plan to comply with federal carbon dioxide limits. With a market mechanism to limit carbon pollution, the state could create a new revenue stream to invest in clean energy, workforce development, low-income bill assistance, research and development of new energy technologies.

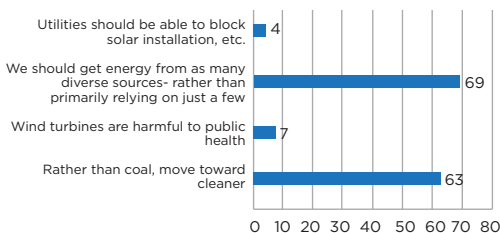
Moreover, if Illinois allies with other states in the region to create a multi-state market for carbon pollution, we can benefit by both gaining access to new buyers for our clean energy resources, and to potentially less expensive clean energy solutions for our electricity customers as well.

**To provide the Illinois EPA the toolkit to best limit carbon emissions, this bill would authorize the agency to create a mass-based cap and invest market, should the Illinois EPA deem it to be, after a rigorous stakeholder process, a cost-effective option for reducing carbon emissions. Should the Illinois EPA move forward, an auction system for allocating emissions allowances to carbon emitters would be created and the proceeds of this auction would be directed to areas where it is needed most – direct bill assistance for families, investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and clean energy job transition assistance.**

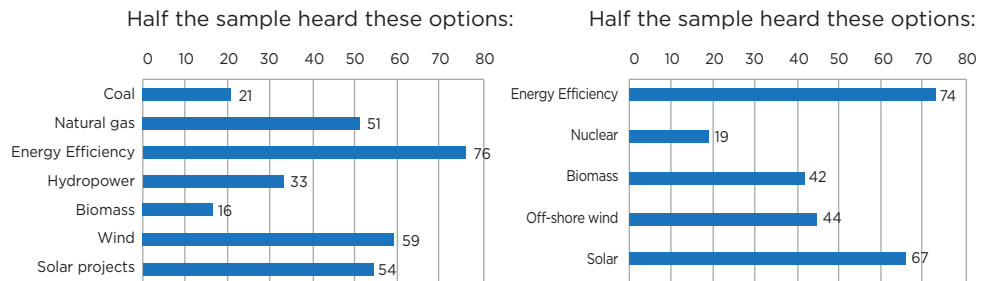
## Polling Shows IL Voters Strongly Support New, Clean Energy Sources

Illinois voters endorse creating more legs to the energy stool– going beyond coal and nuclear to include wind, solar and other clean energy sources.

**% of voters who strongly agree with this statement**



**% of voters who strongly support increasing**



69% of IL voters strongly agree that we should try “to get energy from as many diverse sources as we can.”

Only 21% strongly support increased use of coal to meet Illinois future energy needs, and only 19% of voters strongly support increased nuclear—far below voters’ support for increased use of wind, solar.