



# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

NOVEMBER 2007

## Power to the People!

[WWW.POWER-TO-THE-PEOPLE.NET](http://WWW.POWER-TO-THE-PEOPLE.NET)

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## The World's Best Renewable Energy Law

**We have the technology, know-how, resources, and a great model to follow. Now we need leadership from state governments.**

**STATE LEADERSHIP** In the US, energy policy is set at the national and state levels. Recognizing that our Federal Government is doing far too little to promote renewable energy, every state government needs to take leadership.

**ENERGY INDEPENDENCE** The US consumes 25% of the world's oil, but only has 3% of the world's oil reserves. Our national and state economies are overly dependent on oil. Developing our own renewable energy breaks our dependence on Middle East and other foreign oil, thereby increasing our energy security. Renewables will help to solve global warming, and create millions of new well-paid jobs.

**MORE THAN ENOUGH** Every state has more than enough renewable energy from the sun, wind, water, biomass and/or heat from the earth, to meet their needs. Renewable energy can be used for heating, cooling, electricity, and as fuel for machinery and transportation.

**FREE & CLEAN** Once the investments are made to buy, install and maintain solar panels, wind turbines, etc., the actual "fuel" is free and ongoing. Compared to the costs related to fossil fuels—extraction, production, transport, pollution, illnesses, and wars—clean renewable energy is cheap. While fossil fuels pollute the environment and cause global warming, renewable energy is clean.

**MOST EFFECTIVE LAW** The most effective legislation to stimulate a rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy has been pioneered in Germany. This has made Germany the world leader in the production of solar panels, creating 234,000 jobs. In the 1980s the US had an 80% share of the solar

panel market; today we have 25%. The German legislation is so good that over 45 other countries, states and provinces have adopted similar laws with great success.

**HOW IT WORKS** This legislation encourages people and groups to install solar panels, wind generators, etc. to produce energy and sell it to their power company at a price guaranteed for 15 to 20 years. People are eager to install this equipment, as they will recoup their investment in about 9 years and have a steady stream of income after that. This increased demand creates jobs, conserves fossil fuels, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions—Germany is on track to meet its reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions targets three years early.

**BRING IT HOME** This simple idea that is producing astonishing results elsewhere has received little attention in the USA. It can help states reach their CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets, and their goals to have a percentage of their energy come from renewables by a set date.

Climate chaos, escalating fuel prices, and wars show us that we need to switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy. We have the technology, know-how, and resources. Now we need leadership from state governments.

## You Can Help

Make your state an innovative leader in renewable energy. Learn about the "world's best renewable energy law" and make it a priority to develop, promote, and pass legislation that is modeled on it.

This legislation will do the most to help your state make a rapid transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy. By being a leader in renewable energy, your state will create many thousands of well-paid jobs, improve public health, and help stop global warming. By reducing your state's dependence on foreign oil, you will keep the revenues of the energy industry within your state and increase our national security.

Start creating your own version of this legislation with our Parliamentary Action Climate Toolkit (PACT) at: [WWW.POWER-TO-THE-PEOPLE.NET](http://WWW.POWER-TO-THE-PEOPLE.NET).

RENEWABLE ENERGY = HOMELAND SECURITY



# LET'S SWITCH

## 1. EFFICIENCY

Traditional energy systems extract oil, coal, and gas from the earth and transport them over long distances for refining and delivery to consumers. Along the way, up to two-thirds of the potential energy is lost.

## 2. SECURITY

Our supplies of oil, coal, and uranium are diminishing and becoming increasingly expensive. This limited supply and the world's growing demand for energy cause conflicts and wars.

## 3. INVESTMENT

For 100 years, the fossil-fuel industry has been heavily subsidized by governments around the world. To continue this financial support means wasting tax money on doomed technology.

## 4. ECOLOGY

Producing electricity from fossil fuels releases climate-heating CO<sub>2</sub> waste—either into the atmosphere or into the ground for storage.

## 5. INDEPENDENCE

The centralized control of energy by a few leaves us all vulnerable to accidents and political power plays—over two billion people still have no electricity at all.

## 6. COST

Extracting and processing fossil fuels will become more expensive as their supply diminishes. Also, the process wastes water, a critically valuable resource.

## 7. ECONOMIC GROWTH

Rising fossil-fuel prices slow economic growth and benefit only the countries and industries that produce and supply energy.

## Now

### DECENTRALIZED RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy can be produced right where it's used, so almost nothing is wasted.

Currently, accessible renewable resources can deliver six times more energy than all the people on this planet use every day.

Governments should support future technology that has the capacity to solve energy problems with clean, affordable energy for everyone.

Most renewable-energy fuels produce no emissions. The quicker we switch, the quicker we can stabilize our climate and prevent catastrophes.

Renewable-energy technology produces energy in diverse, small-scale ways, allowing energy independence for everyone, everywhere.

Renewable-energy fuels are free. The sun and wind do not increase their price, and technology will become cheaper as the market grows. And our valuable water supplies are left to meet other needs.

Renewable energy provides stable fuel prices while creating a large number of high-skilled jobs in many sectors. The benefits are spread throughout society.

