

# WYOMING



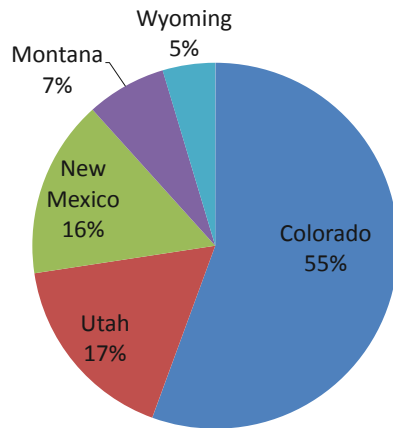
## WYOMING LAST AMONG ROCKY MOUNTAIN ENERGY PRODUCERS IN GREEN JOBS CREATION

A new study by Headwaters Economics compares how Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, Utah and Wyoming—five states with vast traditional and clean energy resources—are taking advantage of clean energy opportunities to create green jobs.

Wyoming leads the nation in coal production and is an important oil and natural gas producer. The state also has enormous potential to be competitive in clean energy production and energy efficiency, yet the study finds that it trails its neighbors in growing these sectors.

Whereas favorable legislation in Colorado and New Mexico has attracted billions in federal and private funding and a surge of new business activity, Wyoming's lack of clean energy and energy efficiency policies has resulted in a corresponding lack of investment and momentum compared to other states.

### Share of Total Green Jobs in 5-State Region, 2007

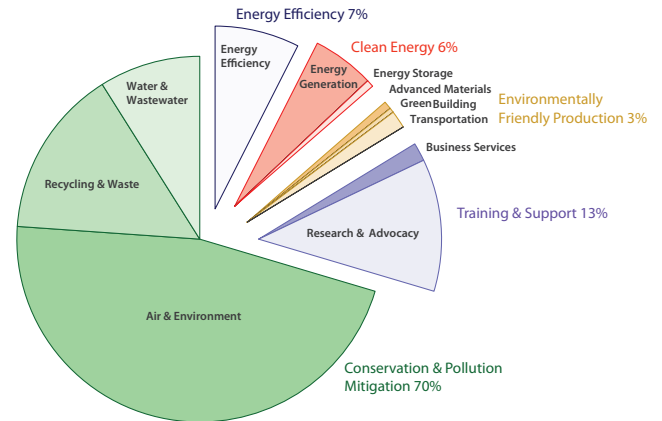


Data Source: Green Establishment Database, Collaborative Economics

### Summary

- Wyoming is home to only 6 percent of the Rocky Mountain Energy Producers' 3,567 green enterprises and 5 percent of green jobs.
- Wyoming's lack of policy or incentives for attracting clean energy development will likely cause the state's green economy to fall farther and farther behind its neighbors.
- Wyoming has abundant wind and geothermal potential, but political leaders have been resistant to enacting policies that would capitalize on these resources.
- An exception is development of transmission capacity, which the state supports through a well-funded state infrastructure authority.

### Green Jobs by Segment, 2007



Data Source: Green Establishment Database, Collaborative Economics

Wyoming has reasons to consider the potential of the green economy. The state's reliance on fossil fuels makes Wyoming vulnerable to federal decisions, the policies of other states for imported energy standards, and volatile fossil fuel prices. Clean energy generation is an opportunity to supplement state revenues with a diversified income stream. Furthermore, renewable generation has potential to be an important income source for many landowners and communities in the state that do not participate in the fossil fuel economy.

More broadly, developing expertise in clean energy and energy efficiency represents an opportunity to enjoy a return on the investment Wyoming makes in educating its young residents by keeping them at home with jobs in dynamic new industries.

As a result of few opportunities for workers with green job skills, Wyoming residents, including graduates of Laramie Community College's nationally-recognized Wind Energy Technology program, are leaving the state to seek work elsewhere.

Energy efficiency offers not only a common sense money savings option for many of Wyoming's residential and commercial energy users, but also a source of potential job creation thanks to federal funding which the state could leverage to great potential by investing energy revenues in energy efficiency programs.

While Wyoming has seen growth in some sectors of the green economy such as wind energy production, it is more piecemeal, rather than a result of the type of policy or incentives necessary for sustained, consistent growth.

For more information, go to:  
<http://www.headwaterseconomics.org/greeneconomy>

## WHY WYOMING'S GREEN ECONOMY IS LAGGING BEHIND ITS NEIGHBORS

### Lack of Incentives Makes Wyoming Uncompetitive.

Both public and private funding flow to states with incentives that favor investment. For example, the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act's State Energy Program requires adoption of residential and commercial building codes. Wyoming is the only state that has no mandatory energy code for buildings, and the state is ranked 49th in public funding with only \$9.5 million. Private ventures are also deterred from investing in the Cowboy State: While Wyoming has no corporate income tax, the state has chosen not to extend other types of incentives (e.g., business property tax exemptions) to renewable firms.

### Energy-Related Competitive and Contract AARA Funds by State, with National Rankings

	Competitive Awards	Contracts	Rank
Colorado	\$296,585,819	\$241,380	15
Montana	\$1,626,980		52
New Mexico	\$27,926,735	\$9,482,739	37
Utah	\$85,494,576		30
Wyoming	\$9,484,248		49

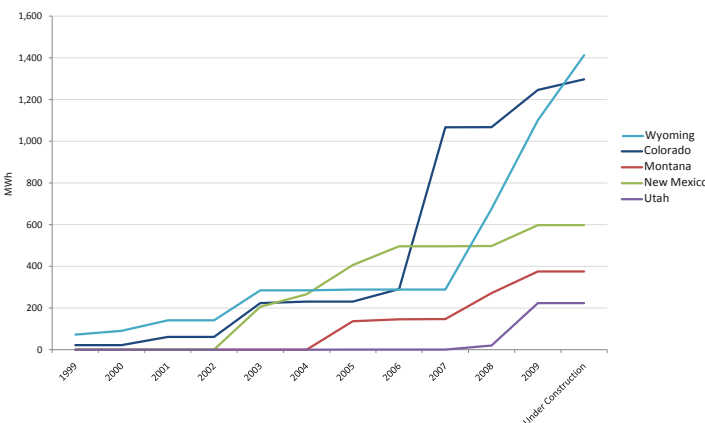
\*Includes funds awarded through the Department of Energy offices: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Office of Science, Advanced Energy Research Project-Energy, and Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. (Excludes funds awarded by DOE Office of Environmental Management).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, at: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/recovery/>. Accessed April 2, 2010.

### Wind Industry Facing Opposition, Uncertainty.

Wyoming's most promising renewable resource—wind power—faces opposition from many sources, an unpredictable regulatory atmosphere and the absence of making clean energy a priority. Together this has prevented Wyoming's wind industry from achieving full potential.

### Installed Wind Capacity, 1999-2009



Data Source: Green Establishment Database, Collaborative Economics

## WHAT WYOMING CAN DO TO IMPROVE

**The State Is at a Crossroads:** A variety of policy developments—including state decisions regarding transmission planning and federal support for energy efficiency programs—represent opportunities for Wyoming to create an energy policy portfolio that is diversified and forward-looking.

**Diversify Energy Production.** Wyoming's economy is partially built on its ability to sell electricity into the Western Interconnection. Yet, many states that buy their energy from the Interconnection now mandate that a portion of their energy supply derive from renewable sources. Without renewable energy resources to offer, Wyoming is losing an opportunity to stay competitive, grow its economy and create new jobs.

**Focus on Energy Efficiency.** Wyoming is among the highest per capita consumers of energy in the nation. Incentivizing energy efficiency could benefit Wyoming residents and businesses by reducing their energy bills, and could boost the building trades sector. Increases in energy efficiency can also encourage economic growth because as consumers spend less on energy, they spend more on other goods and services.

**Show Leadership that Wyoming Supports the New Green Economy.** Wyoming can still claim a piece of the emerging green economy by sending a strong signal that these sectors are welcomed, and will complement Wyoming's strong conventional energy profile. Political leadership that reaches out to win new businesses, capital, and public funding, coupled with support for state agencies and research and universities are the kinds of actions that can help Wyoming claim a position in the future energy economy.

### Keys to Success in the Emerging Green Economy

**Strategic Pairings of Incentives with Clear Policy Goals.** Progress in clean energy production and energy efficiency depends on a smart mix of incentives and regulations. The renewable industry will thrive in states that provide the best incentives alongside the best access to established markets.

**Capturing Large-Scale Investment.** States that attract the most private investment and federal funds are those that have a complete package of serious policies, incentives, and proven record in developing technological expertise and a skilled workforce.

**Cultivating a Well-Resourced Business Environment.** Companies on the cutting edge of technological development benefit from skilled workers and access to world class research institutions.

**Consistent Leadership.** Developers and manufacturers of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies operate in a highly competitive global environment. They need to see consistent leadership in order to commit to a state.

**Linking Resource Availability with Infrastructure Capacity.** Rocky Mountain Energy Producers must overcome an inadequate infrastructure; which includes an outdated, overstressed electrical grid as well as federal, state, and local governments that currently lack the capacity and the necessary plans to respond to permits for new construction (for new facilities and transmission lines).