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OHIO'S ENERGY FUTURE TOUR RELEASES FINAL REPORT

Recommendations highlight how to move Ohio forward to lead in clean energy

Columbus, OH – Today, Ohio's Energy Future Tour released its final report and accompanying video highlighting what a 21st century energy vision for the state should look like. While the report focused on a broad range of issues and long-term thinking, the first step was clear: Ohio should reinstate meaningful and required renewable portfolio and energy efficiency standards. The goals presented in the report reflect the views over 70 issue experts and more than 10,000 Ohioans who pledged their support online and at forums during the tour.

Over the course of the Tour, five goals of a modern clean energy policy framework were identified: Affordability; Adaptability, Reliability and Security; Certainty and Economic Development; Innovation; and Protection of Public Health and Improved Quality of Life. These building blocks are fundamental in the specific policy recommendations highlighted in the report:

- Reinstate meaningful and required Renewable Portfolio and Energy Efficiency Standards
- Develop a cost-effective State Plan for compliance with the Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions from Ohio's electric power sector
- Increase distributed generation, aggregation, and net metering opportunities
- Repeal restrictive setback requirements for wind farms

An energy future focused on these principles would invigorate a rapidly growing renewable energy and energy efficiency market, diversify the state's generation portfolio, establish market certainty, ensure reliability and affordability, transform access to the grid, promote sustainable communities, and leave a healthy legacy for future generations.

"From our discussion with local community leaders, businesses, public health officials, policy experts and the public, it was clear that Ohioans want a state plan that embraces clean energy," said Jane Harf, tour spokesperson. She added, "To transform this vision into reality requires a series of policies that reflect bold leadership and long-term planning and leverages the regional strengths of the state. Participants in the Tour wanted that message delivered to Ohio policymakers."

A dominant theme that emerged over the course of the Tour was the huge business opportunity a clean energy future presented – especially with the rapidly declining cost of these technologies.

"The business community, from service providers to manufacturers, is increasingly embracing renewable energy and energy efficiency because of the economic benefits," stated Ted Ford, President, Ohio Advanced Energy Economy. "If Ohio wants to maximize these benefits, then we need a policy that starts embracing this opportunity as well."

"If Ohio is going to compete in a 21st century economy, we need an energy policy that rewards innovation," stated Jay Troger, CEO, Nextronex, "Right now, less than 2% of Ohio's electricity comes from renewable sources. Other states, including some of our neighbors, are passing us by, but it's not too late for Ohio to regain the lead."

Creating a healthy legacy for Ohio children and grandchildren by improving the air Ohioans breathe was another key theme. "Investing in a clean energy future benefits our public health," stated Dr. Aparna Bole,

Paving the way to a new energy vision

pediatrician with UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital. “As we develop an energy plan for the state, we need to consider the health impacts of our energy sources.”

Recently finalized federal carbon rules are also an opportunity for Ohio’s future energy plan. Ohio is well positioned to meet the goals because the state already has renewable energy and energy efficiency policies just waiting to be leveraged. “Ohio can cost-effectively meet the requirements under the U.S. EPA Clean Power Plan by tapping into the renewable energy and energy efficiency policies already on the books,” said Trish Demeter with the Ohio Environmental Council. “This will also ensure that we have reliable, affordable and secure power for Ohioans.”

The Tour developed a statement of support, or pledge, for the diverse benefits that renewable energy and energy efficiency are bringing to the state. To date, more than 10,000 signatures and emails have been collected either at the forums or online, urging policymakers to include these cost competitive technologies in a new energy vision for Ohio. Participating organizations will continue to collect signatures on the pledge to demonstrate sustained public support for clean energy and engagement in this dialogue.

The Tour was a collaboration among businesses, trade associations, nonprofit organizations, and local governments, designed to provide an opportunity for citizens around the state to share the positive impact that renewable energy and energy efficiency have had on economic development and quality of life. Tour forums were held in Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, Cincinnati and Athens. In total, the Tour traveled 726 miles; heard testimony from over 70 community and business leaders, health professionals, energy experts, elected officials, university faculty and staff, national security specialists and faith leaders; and listened to thousands of Ohioans.

The final report will be delivered to legislators before the Energy Mandate Study Committee submits their report by the end of September. The [video](#) is designed to generate greater interest to the report and expand public dialogue in developing a clean energy future for Ohio.

Organizations Contributing to Ohio’s Energy Future Tour

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| A Renewable America | Healthier Hospitals Initiative |
| American Council on Renewable Energy | Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance |
| American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy | Mom’s Clean Air Force Ohio |
| Audubon Ohio | Natural Resources Defense Council |
| American Wind Energy Association | National Wildlife Federation |
| Catholic Climate Covenant | Ohio Advanced Energy Economy |
| Ceres | Ohio Citizen Action |
| Chambers for Innovation | Ohio Environmental Council |
| Cincinnati State Technical and Community College | Ohio Farm Bureau Federation |
| Consortium for Energy, Economics & the Environment at the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Affairs | Ohio Hospital Association |
| Environmental Defense Fund | Ohio League of Conservation Voters |
| Environmental Law and Policy Center | Ohio Manufacturers Association |
| Green Umbrella | Ohio Sierra Club |
| Great Lakes Science Center | Small Business Majority |
| Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance | The Nature Conservancy – Ohio |
| Interfaith Power and Light | Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority |
| Hanley Sustainability Institute at the University of Dayton | University of Dayton |
| | Upgrade Athens County/Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council |
| | WireNET |

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