

## Louisiana running in middle of pack for green jobs

By: Christian Moises, News Editor | June 10, 2009 | 0

Louisiana is running in the middle of the pack when it comes to clean-energy companies and jobs, according to a study released today. There were 995 Louisiana businesses that supported 10,641 jobs in the clean-energy sector in 2007, with 22 clean energy patents issued between 1999-2008, the Pew Charitable Trusts study says.

Louisiana had the 24th most clean-energy businesses and the 22nd most green jobs. California ranked first in both categories, with 10,209 companies and 125,390 jobs, while North Dakota had the fewest jobs with 137 and Wyoming had the fewest jobs with 1,419.

Between 1998 and 2007, Louisiana, which the study considers a small state with a fast average annual rate of clean-energy job growth, saw a 19.5 percent growth in clean energy jobs.

The study says that Louisiana's clean-energy job sector has grown much faster than total jobs in the state despite a lack of venture capital investments and limited research activity in clean technologies. Also cited was the state's tax credit on the purchase and installation of residential solar and wind energy systems. Conservation and pollution mitigation jobs are the most prevalent at 84.5 percent, followed by training and support at 4.7 percent; energy efficiency, 4.5 percent; environmentally friendly production, 3.8 percent; and clean energy, 3.8 percent.

Pew cited New Orleans-based Computrols, which develops automation systems for buildings to monitor energy use, and Baton Rouge-based Aquaterra Engineering, which provides earth science and environmental engineering services, as examples of Louisiana's green companies.

Nationwide, there were 68,203 clean-energy businesses that supported 770,385 jobs in 2007, while 8,384 clean-energy patents have been issued between 1999-2008.

"The clean energy economy is poised for explosive growth," said Lori Grange, interim deputy director of the Pew Center on the States. "There is a potential competitive advantage for federal and state policy leaders who act now to spur jobs, businesses and investments in the clean energy sector."

Pew found that jobs in the clean-energy economy grew at a national rate of 9.1 percent, while traditional jobs grew by only 3.7 percent between 1998 and 2007. Venture capital investment in clean technology crossed the \$1 billion threshold in 2005 and continued to grow, reaching about \$12.6 billion by the end of 2008. In 2008 alone, investors directed \$5.9 billion into businesses in the clean-energy economy, a figure that represents a 48 percent increase over 2007 investment totals and accounts for 15 percent of all global venture capital investments.

Pew's definition of the clean-energy economy is that it generates jobs, businesses and investments while expanding clean energy production, increasing energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution and conserving water and other natural resources.

Pew said this is the first comprehensive study of clean-energy jobs in the United States.

To sign up for CityBusiness Daily Updates, click [here](#).