

# Solutions: The Energy Revolution

As the United States tries to come to terms with both the immediate and long term effects of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, it could not be more clear that we need to stop investing in a broken energy economy and kickstart a clean energy revolution. The good news is, the United States already has the ability to cut greenhouse gas emissions to the levels we must reach, if we are to prevent the worst effects of global warming and simultaneously build a sustainable economy. The technology exists. We just need the political will to do it.

By 2050, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydro could provide the vast majority of our overall primary energy demand. This could create about 1.1 million jobs in the renewables sector alone by 2030. The total energy cost savings would reach into the billions per year.

How do we know this? The threat of climate change demands nothing short of an energy revolution — a transformation that has already started, with renewable energy markets exhibiting huge and steady growth. Many studies show that given the right policies and investments that market growth could increase enough to create the new energy economy we need now while getting the US out of this fossil fuel rut.

At the core of this revolution will be a change in the way that energy is produced, distributed and consumed. The five key objectives behind this shift will be to:

- » Implement renewable solutions, especially through decentralized energy systems
- » Respect the natural limits of the environment
- » Phase out dirty, unsustainable energy sources
- » Create greater equity in the use of resources
- » Decouple economic growth from the consumption of fossil fuels

## Dirty Fossil Fuel Dollars

Together we can demand accountability and an end to subsidies for an oil and gas industry that projects US revenues of \$3.65 trillion over the next ten years. BP's \$10-billion tax break for cleanup costs for the oil spill alone outstripped all of the federal subsidies for renewable fuels in 2009. While the industry makes windfall profits, it claims it cannot afford to clean up its own mess, let alone invest in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

## Clean Solutions: How can we start the energy revolution?

Greenpeace demands the following policies and actions:

Phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

2. Require that polluters pay for their pollution. Also, eradicate special protections for polluting industries.
3. Mandate strict efficiency standards for all energy-consuming appliances, buildings and vehicles.
4. Establish legally binding targets for renewable energy.
5. Reform the electricity markets by guaranteeing priority access to the grid for renewable power generators.
6. Implement better labeling and disclosure mechanisms to provide more environmental product information.
7. Increase research and development funding for renewable energy, efficiency technology and smart development.

To learn more visit [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org).