



GREENPEACE

NEWS RELEASE

Press

Saving the climate equals 8 million jobs in the power industry

Brussels/Canberra, Australia, 14 September 2009 – The renewable power industry could support 6.9 million jobs by 2030, if world leaders seize the opportunity to invest in a greener future by securing a strong treaty at December's Climate Summit in Copenhagen, according to a report launched today by Greenpeace International and the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC).

A switch from coal to renewable electricity generation will not just avoid 10 billion tons of CO₂ emissions, but will create 2.7 million more jobs by 2030 than if we continue business as usual. Conversely, the global coal industry - which currently supports about 4.7 million employees worldwide - is likely to contract by more than 1.4 million jobs by 2030, due to rationalisation measures in existing coal mines.

The report: 'Working for the Climate: Renewable Energy & The Green Job [R]evolution' is based on Greenpeace's Energy [R]evolution(1) and research from the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) at the University of Technology Sydney (2). The report shows that by 2030, 6.9 million people could work for the renewable power industry, and another 1.1 million jobs would be created due to higher efficiency in electrical applications (3).

"There are already 450,000 people working in the renewable energy industry in Europe, representing a turnover of more than EUR 45 billion. This research proves that renewable energy is key to tackling both the climate and economic crises," said Christine Lins, Secretary General of the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC).

"Global leaders can tackle the twin crises of global economic recession and climate change head on by investing in renewable energy," said Sven Teske, Greenpeace International's senior energy expert and lead author of the report. "For each job lost in the coal industry the Energy [R]evolution creates three new jobs in the renewable power industry. We can choose green jobs and growth or unemployment, ecological and social collapse."

"Now is the time to put in place a 'just transition' to sustainably transform the jobs of today and develop the decent and green jobs of tomorrow," added Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). "The union movement, as well as the authors of this report, believe ambitious climate action by world leaders can and must be a driver for sustainable economic growth and social progress."

For a full copy of the report please go to:

www.greenpeace.org/greenjobs or visit www.energyblueprint.info

For more information please contact:

Alexandra Dawe, Greenpeace International communications officer: +31 629 00 1146,
alexandra.dawe@greenpeace.org

Christine Lins – Secretary General of EREC: +32 478 96 21 91, lins@erec.org
In Canberra, Australia:

Sven Teske – Greenpeace International climate and energy campaigner and
lead-author of the report: +61 434 083712, Sven.Teske@greenpeace.de

Notes to Editors:

- 1) In October 2008 Greenpeace International and the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) published a report called Energy [R]evolution: a Sustainable Global Energy Outlook that sets out a vision for a low-carbon global energy supply comparing it to the energy projection put forward by the International Energy Agency (IEA 2007). The report was developed in conjunction with specialists from the Institute of Technical Thermodynamics at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), the Dutch Institute Ecofys and more than 40 scientists and engineers from universities, institutes and the renewable energy industry around the world.
- 2) Greenpeace & EREC undertook this new study to determine whether there would be jobs created by this nine-fold increase in renewable energy, and massive global energy efficiency measures required for the Energy [R]evolution by researching jobs in power generation and electrical efficiency (excluding heating, cooling and transport).
- 3) Efficiency to improve building insulation is not included in this number and would be additional.