



In 2007, Minnesota led the nation with enactment of the Next Generation Energy Act, designed with bipartisan support to put our state on the path to a clean energy future. It included the 25 percent by 2025 Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) that propelled Minnesota toward clean, sustainable energy, primarily through wind energy. Other states have since passed stronger policies on renewable energy development, especially local energy like solar.

Now is the time for Minnesota to resume a leadership role and pass a 10 percent solar standard to complement the existing RES and to produce more local renewable energy, create good, family-supporting jobs, and clear our air.

## **The Solar Energy Jobs Act: 10 percent by 2030**

### ***Expanding Good Jobs***

The Solar Energy Jobs Act will create over 2,000 permanent jobs in the first year, and thousands of jobs over the life of the policy in fields including construction, installation, design, engineering, manufacturing, training, marketing, and financing (based on analysis done through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Jobs and Economic Development Impact modeling software).

More than 100 Minnesota businesses already work across all these facets of the solar industry. Passing a solar energy standard will not only bolster these companies but also attract new businesses to invest in one of our state's growing markets.

### ***Local Energy Independence***

Fossil fuels and nuclear power provide more than 85 percent of our electricity generation but Minnesota has no fossil or nuclear fuel resources within its borders, meaning we have to import all the coal, gas, oil, and uranium from other states and countries (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2010).

Minnesota does have plenty of wind and sun, even during the winter months. In fact, Minneapolis and St. Paul have identical or better solar resources than Houston, Texas and Jacksonville, Florida (National Renewable Energy Laboratory) but we are currently only generating a fraction of our potential for solar energy. A 10 percent solar energy standard could put solar on over 50,000 rooftops across the state.

### ***Investment in Minnesota***

Already, 16 other states have enacted solar energy standards and have seen the economic benefits to their communities. Passage of a solar standard sends a strong and predictable market signal to attract investment in Minnesota's solar energy industry and accelerate job growth.

Passing a solar energy standard will bring over \$230 million in value-added investments to Minnesota in its first year and more than \$7 billion over the life of the policy. Yet, the impact on individuals will be minimal with a cap on the cost at 1.33 percent of a customer's utility bill.

### ***Leveling the Playing Field***

The Solar Energy Jobs Act is designed to maximize the potential for Minnesota residents and business owners to have access to solar power generation on their homes and businesses. Keeping the cost of solar panels low means more Minnesotans can turn from consumers into producers of energy, and reduce the fraction of their income that is spent on electricity.