



Utahns Ready for Renewable Energy

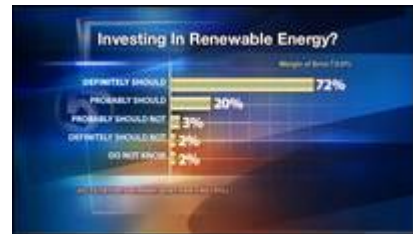
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John Daley Reporting

Is Utah ready to jump on the rising wave of investment in renewable energy and catch up with other Western states? Advocates for clean energy say 'yes'.

So do a vast majority of Utahns, and political leaders seem to be listening.

To see a major wind farm in our region you have to drive out of Utah and into Wyoming. The governor would like to change that to avoid fuel spikes and insure reliability. Utah needs to diversify its energy investments.

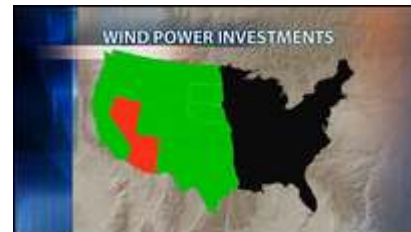


Jon Huntsman (R), Utah Governor: "A significant component of this diversity is renewable energy and I am proposing an incentive fund for use in providing seed money to project utilizing alternative energy sources."

Led by other governors, like California's Arnold Schwarzenegger, other states are beginning to sink billions into renewable energy, like solar and wind. Most western states have incentives, like tax credits and renewable portfolios. Most have already developed significant wind capacity, but Utah is doing little on either front.

Sarah Wright, Utah Clean Energy: "Utah is surrounded by states that have developed renewable energy resources and we have very, very little."

A new KSL-TV/Deseret Morning News poll of 400 Utahns by Dan Jones and Associates finds 87% strongly or somewhat favor renewable energy tax credits, and 92% want Utah to invest more in renewable energy.



State lawmakers seem to be listening. Two new bills would offer new renewable tax breaks.

Rep. Sheryl Allen (R), Davis County: "Yes, I think we've turned a corner and you'll see policy makers dealing with it in what I think is a more realistic way."

A major benefit of clean, renewable energy would be cleaner air. A major portion of the smog you see comes from pollution from electricity from coal-fired power plants, the main source of power for our homes and business.

Our demand for power continues to grow rapidly.



Green groups, worried about global warming, are fighting four proposed coal-fired power plants.

Tim Wagner, Smart Energy Campaign: "That really slams the window down now of the opportunity we have right now."

Either way, the fight over Utah's energy future may be at a turning point.

Utah's energy picture is weighted heavily toward coal-burning power plants, which is one of the main sources of carbon dioxide. That is the main greenhouse gas warming the globe. We get 95% of our electric power from coal.