



## THE WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

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### **Audit Shows Energy Program Benefit \$2.30 for every \$1-- Walker's Budget Cut Energy Efficiency 37%, Killing Jobs, Increasing Utility Costs**

Madison, WI— [A new audit on Focus on Energy](#), by the non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau shows ratepayers get \$2.30 cents for every \$1 invested in the state's energy efficiency program. Legislators called on Governor Walker to restore the \$60 million or 37.5% that Walker's budget slashed that would create about 600 clean energy jobs.

“This non-partisan audit shows we have a well run energy efficiency program that needs to be funded to create more jobs, not cut jobs like Governor Walker did,” said Rep. Josh Zepnick, D-Milwaukee, ranking member of the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee.

The most recent Wisconsin Energy report shows Wisconsinites send \$12.5 billion out of state each year of energy such as coal, gasoline and natural gas, a loss of about 125,000 jobs at \$100,000 per job.

“This non-partisan audit shows energy efficiency is a great investment. Governor Walker's extreme budget cut \$60 million or at least 600 jobs for energy efficiency makes no sense,” said Rep. Brett Hulsey, D-Madison, member of the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee and longtime energy efficiency consultant. “We have lost more than 20,000 jobs since Walker's extreme budget passed and we should stop the bleeding by restoring this energy efficiency funding.”

GOP Public Service Commission Chair Phil Montgomery touted the benefits of the Focus on Energy clean energy program saved Wisconsinites \$380 million in 2010.<sup>1</sup>

“Governor Walker kills good jobs in Wisconsin by promoting extreme wind energy rules, importing energy from Canada, and sending \$810 million train upgrade money to Illinois and other states,” Hulsey added.

In addition to the energy savings lost through the reduction of this program, an August 2009 study released by the Energy Center of Wisconsin estimated that investment in energy efficiency programs could support between 7,000 and 9,000 jobs in the state.<sup>2</sup>

“Democrats tried to restore clean energy funding during the budget process but Governor Walker and the GOP controlled legislature refused to protect these jobs,” said Rep. Hulsey.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://psc.wi.gov/pdf/News%20Releases/2011/4%202022%2011\\_Earth%20Day%20release.pdf](http://psc.wi.gov/pdf/News%20Releases/2011/4%202022%2011_Earth%20Day%20release.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ecw.org/ecwresults/WI-Potential-Aug09.pdf>