



Facts about the Solar and Clean Energy Initiative

- Requires all California utilities to meet renewable energy production standards that will help put California on the path to energy independence. Utilities will be required to produce electricity from solar and clean energy resources in the following percentages: 20% by 2010; 40% by 2020; and 50% by 2025.
- Replace half of the fossil fuels used for electricity generation in California with clean energy technologies such as solar, geothermal, wind, biomass, and small hydro.
- Unlike today, all utilities -- including municipally owned utilities like the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power -- will be required to comply with renewable energy laws.
- The Solar and Clean Energy Initiative creates high tech jobs and grows California's economy. Construction and maintenance workers on clean energy plants will be paid a prevailing wage. Solar electric plants generate between 160% and 720% more jobs than a natural gas fired plant.
- The California Energy Commission will identify Solar and Clean Energy Zones – primarily in the desert – to jumpstart the construction of solar and clean energy renewable power plants.
- Helps eliminate bureaucratic red tape by requiring the California Energy Commission to fast track approval for new renewable energy power plant construction.
- Keeps all environmental protections, such as the Desert Protection Act, intact so sensitive wildlife habitats will not be harmed by new renewable electric power plant construction.
- Provides long-term 20-year procurement contracts for solar and clean energy by utilities to attract investment and provide financial security for investors and consumers.
- The Energy Commission will be authorized to allocate funds to upgrade transmission lines and to purchase property and rights-of-way in Solar and Clean Energy Zones.
- Price impacts will be capped at less than 3% of consumers' electricity bills. Over the long-term, studies by the California Energy Commission have shown that consumer electric bills will decline significantly.
- Utilities that refuse to comply with the clean energy requirements will be fined. Utilities will be prohibited from passing on these fines to consumers.
- Does not raise taxes or have any fiscal impact on the state budget.