
peak oil - Colorado State House Passes "Renewables for Schools" Bill

Contributed by Gavin Clark
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House Bill 1312 creates an innovative "Renewables for Schools" program to provide schools access to affordable clean-energy with low-interest loans. By producing energy on-site with wind and solar, schools can reduce their utility bills, create a buffer against future energy price spikes, and put more money toward educating our kids.

The following is a statement by Pam Kiely, legislative director of Environment Colorado, upon passage of the second reading HB 1312 by voice vote. A procedural third reading vote is expected to pass tomorrow. .

"Colorado is on a path to rebuild and repower our economy on a clean, green foundation and House Bill 1312 is another strong step in that direction. This bill gives school districts the opportunity to get on the bus and participate in building the new energy economy."

"Colorado has proven that we can do it all- save money, grow good jobs, and protect our environment with investments in clean energy, and this bill ensures that Colorado's schools can help us continue down this path."

"Job growth in the renewable energy industry has been the sunny spot in Colorado's economy. Solar industry jobs have tripled in the past three years because of the 'open for business' sign Colorado lawmakers have put up through smart, innovative policies. And just last week Gov. Ritter announced 1,650 new jobs coming to Colorado, at a time when other industries are lagging."

"This session legislative leadership and the governor have made a bold commitment to repowering our economy through smart clean energy investments- a commitment that has been reinforced at the federal level as clean energy investments form the core of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed last month in Denver."

"HB 1312 provides a critical pot of money so schools can get in on the action, and it's a win-win-win. Saving money for districts helps direct more dollars right back into the classroom where they belong, while building this new energy economy and cleaning up our air and water at the same time."Stapleton's Tower Ledger