

# Canadian Renewable Electricity Development: Employment Impacts

## Executive Summary

Low-impact, renewable electricity sources currently employ an average of six people per 10 MW of capacity. If the federal government were to encourage the development of these sources with a 1¢ per kilowatt hour incentive paid to power producers, they would leverage the creation of more than 20,000 new jobs by 2015.

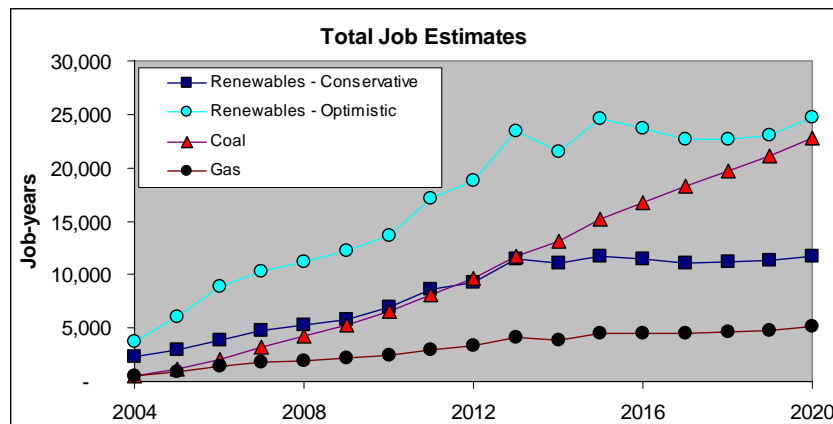
## Background

The Clean Air Renewable Energy Coalition is encouraging federal and provincial governments to spur investment in low-impact renewable electricity, and help increase their capacity to 35,600 MW between 2004 and 2020. This capacity would include onshore and offshore wind, run-of-river hydro, biomass, geothermal, photovoltaic, and ocean energy opportunities.

The Coalition estimates that an investment of this level in new renewable electricity generation would create between 12,700 and 26,900 new jobs by 2015, and that these would be maintained until 2020. This research was based upon a review of existing literature and industry interviews.

Ninety-nine percent of these jobs would be approximately evenly distributed between onshore wind, run-of-river hydro, and biomass facilities. Over time, the job mix would steadily shift away from manufacturing and development and towards operations and management. By 2020, over half of these jobs would be dedicated keeping existing facilities operational.

Of the three largest contributors to this new capacity, run-of-river hydro was predicted to be the most labour intensive per MW for pre-operational work, while biomass would be the highest once a facility was operational. On a per MW basis, employment possibilities from low-impact renewable electricity generation are greater than those from natural gas electricity generation, and relatively equal to those of coal-fired generation.



## Conclusion

Low impact, renewable electricity sources provide an opportunity for the creation of between 12,700 and 26,900 jobs for Canadians by 2015. By 2020, over half of these positions will be focused on operations and management of installed facilities. The employment created would be comparable or stronger than that provided by conventional generation technologies.