

## Creating and Retaining New Energy Economy Jobs

The second component of the Midwestern Governors Association's (MGA) effort to build the new energy economy is the *Platform for Creating and Retaining Midwestern Jobs in the New Energy Economy* (Jobs Platform). The Jobs Platform aims to address the opportunities and challenges of a transforming regional economy, better assess and organize the region's workforce strengths, form new global partnerships and tap the potential of our current under-employed workforce. The following two MGA documents form a cooperative effort to capitalize on the Midwest's skilled workforce potential.

### *Platform for Creating and Retaining Midwestern Jobs*

The Jobs Platform outlines regional goals and strategies for a trained, sustainable workforce. In addition to overarching strategies for job creation and retention, the document lays out technology-specific strategies in four sectors that form the cornerstone of the Midwest's jobs and energy leadership: energy efficiency, renewable electricity, the bioeconomy, and advanced coal with carbon capture and storage, including enhanced oil recovery. The menu of strategies and policy actions in the Jobs Platform maximize individual state strengths to meet the MGA's regional energy and job creation goals.

In addition to the broad and the technology-specific strategies that Midwestern states could implement to achieve the regional goals, the Jobs Platform outlines six cooperative regional agreements. These regional agreements include:

- **Appointing a Midwestern Workforce and Economic Development Collaborative.** This collaborative of state government policy experts will assist in implementing all other regional agreements and help coordinate workforce and economic development policies and programs.
- **Mapping the Region's Assets and Resources.** Mapping efforts will identify the region's workforce, energy and manufacturing assets, and financial and natural resources. Understanding these elements is crucial to supporting new energy industries businesses and jobs.
- **Creating a Regional Communications Strategy.** The image of the Midwest presented to the rest of the country, and to the world, does not adequately reflect the region's strengths nor the significant investments the region has already made in the new energy economy. A regional communications strategy will provide a consistent message emphasizing the strengths of the region for economic development and job creation purposes, with specific focus on the region's new energy economy.
- **Developing a Regional Growth, Investment and Technology Commercialization Plan for New Energy Businesses and Jobs.** To improve the investment ecosystem, leaders from key federal agencies, colleges and universities, entrepreneurs, investors and policymakers will convene to coordinate regional program delivery.
- **Advancing Regional Sector Initiatives.** This agreement seeks to create a regional supply-chain network and launch regional public-private partnerships to identify and develop effective workforce development strategies.
- **Establishing Regional Training Standards and Portable Credentials.** To help guide students and workers into new energy economy careers, this agreement seeks to explore the creation of a regional information clearinghouse for education, training and financial aid options.

### *Midwestern Energy Infrastructure Accord*

In the *Midwestern Energy Infrastructure Accord*, states committed to develop a robust energy infrastructure to position the Midwest as a leader in energy security, new and emerging technologies, and manufacturing. Agreements include:

- **Expansion** of electric transmission capacity for renewable energy development and distributed generation;
- **Adoption** of smart grid technologies and capabilities;
- **Commercial build-out** of carbon capture and storage with enhanced oil recovery; and
- **Deployment** of refueling systems for biofuels and other advanced low-carbon transportation fuels.

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and its work on agriculture, economic development and energy issues, please visit:**

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