

Fort Worth Telegram

<http://www.star-telegram.com/business/story/151608.html>

Texas could be energy leader

By BETSY BLANEY

The Associated Press

LUBBOCK -- Texas will lead the nation in renewable-energy production by 2025 and stands to gain \$22.8 billion in annual economic activity and 173,400 jobs overall, according to a study backed by a group that supports alternative sources of power.

The state's energy production, which would supply about 4 percent of U.S. needs in 2025, would come from biofuels, wind and solar power. Texas already leads the nation in wind-energy production.

The Texas projections come from a two-year study by the University of Tennessee's Department of Agricultural Economics. The report, which looked at the 48 contiguous states, was commissioned by the National 25x'25 Alliance, a group working toward having 25 percent of the country's energy come from renewable sources by 2025.

The national initiative began about three years ago and now includes about 500 business, energy and environment interests that back the use of renewable resources.

21 governors back it

Twenty-one governors and 11 state legislatures have endorsed the effort, but Texas Gov. Rick Perry and the Legislature haven't yet.

The study assumes that U.S. farm programs in place now continue until 2025.

"It's certainly an ambitious goal" for Texas, said Travis Brown, co-chairman of the Texas State 25x'25 Alliance. "Texas stands to play the major role in making this happen and benefiting from it. We also want an energy future that protects our environment and ensures a vibrant economy."

The Texas forecast of \$22.8 billion in annual economic impact created by the renewable-energy sector places it fifth behind Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska.

Read Smith, co-chairman of the national alliance, said in a conference call announcing Texas' projections that the U.S. could reduce gasoline consumption by 59 billion gallons and eliminate 1 billion tons of greenhouse gases annually by 2025.

"We are guided by a very simple yet bold vision and that is by 2025, America's farms, ranches and forests will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States while still providing abundant, safe and affordable food, feed and fiber," Smith said.

2025 forecast

Benefits to Texas from the renewable-energy boom by 2025:

- Wind, solar and biomass resources will produce 3.8 billion gallons of biofuels and 146 billion kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity -- a 2,130 percent increase from 2003 levels.
- Renewables will produce 1.27 quads of energy -- 4 percent of the nation's projected needs.
- Texas net farm and forest income will increase by \$1.9 billion by 2025 because of increased renewable-energy production.
- Total economic impact, fifth in the nation, will reach \$22.8 billion annually.
- Renewable energy will create 173,400 jobs.
- Renewables nationwide will have an annual economic impact of \$700 billion and create 5.1 million jobs.

Source: University of Tennessee study

Bryan College Station Eagle

http://www.theeagle.com/stories/062807/texas_20070628038.php

Texas to play big role in renewable energy

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Associated Press

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At a glance:

A University of Tennessee study shows that Texas will lead the nation in renewable energy production by 2025, contributing 4 percent of the nation's anticipated needs. Some of the benefits predicted to come to the state:

- By 2025, estimates show that Texas' wind, solar and biomass resources will have the potential to produce 3.8 billion gallons of biofuels and 146 billion kilowatts hours of renewable electricity, a 2,130 percent increase from 2003 levels.
- Texas was expected to produce 1.27 quads of energy, or about 4 percent of the nation's projected needs, from resources such as biofuels, and wind and solar power by 2025. A quad equals 1 quadrillion BTUs, or enough energy to fuel 4.4 million American homes for a year.
- The study predicted that the renewable energy effort would create 173,400 jobs in Texas by 2025.

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If the report's estimates pan out, the economic effect nationwide in 2025 will be \$700 billion annually and create 5.1 million jobs, mostly in rural areas.

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<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D8Q1DS180.html>

Texas expected to lead nation in renewable energy by 2025

06/27/2007

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On the Net: National 25x'25 Alliance: <http://www.25x25.org>



Timely, Reliable Information
for Southwest Agriculture

<http://southwestfarmpress.com/news/062807-renewable-fuel/>

Texas to lead nation in renewable fuel production

Jun 28, 2007 10:08 AM, By Ron Smith Farm Press Editorial Staff (email: rsmith@farmpress.com)

Texas, long the nation's leader in fossil fuel energy production, stands to assume that same position with renewable energy as the country attempts to replace 25 percent of its energy needs with renewable fuel sources by 2025.

A University of Tennessee Department of Agricultural Economics study released last fall shows that Texas will top all states in renewable fuel production and will reap significant economic benefits in the process. The Texas 25x'25 Alliance cited The University of Tennessee study in a press conference Wednesday at the Texas Farm Bureau headquarters in Waco.

"Renewable energy is our key to energy efficiency," said Travis Brown, renewable energy specialist with the state Office of Rural Community Affairs and co-chair of the State 25x'25 Alliance. "And Texas will produce more renewable energy than any other state."

The University of Tennessee analysis shows that Texas will produce an additional 1.27 quads of energy by helping the nation meet the 25 percent goal. A quad equals the amount of electricity and fuel consumed in one year by 4.4 million American homes.

Reaching that milestone also means a \$22.8 billion boost to the Texas economy, anticipated to rank fifth in the nation in economic activity from renewable fuel production.

Findings also indicate Texas has the potential to produce 3.76 billion gallons of bio-fuels and 144.5 billion kilowatt hours of renewable electricity, a 2,130 percent increase over 2003.

Farm and forest income is expected to increase by \$1.9 billion annually as renewable energy production increases. Economic impacts from changes in crop prices, shifts in acreage, additions of dedicated energy crops and decreases in government payments will result in \$8.8 billion in increased annual economic activity in the state.

An additional \$14.0 billion in annual economic activity will occur from conversion of feedstocks to energy. Meeting the 25x'25 energy goal would create more than 173,400 new jobs in Texas.

Nationally, renewable energy could inject \$700 billion into the economy, add more than 5 million jobs and initiate a \$180 billion boost to agriculture, says Read Smith, co-chair of the National 25x'25 Alliance. Smith said the University of Tennessee study shows the goal is viable and "will boost the economy, improve the environment and reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

"We have an ambitious goal," Brown said. "Texas has always been a leader, primarily with oil and gas, but we are also blessed with tremendous potential for wind, biomass and geo-thermal energy. We are currently the nation's number one producer of wind energy."

Smith said challenges to meeting renewable energy goals include bringing on economical cellulosic ethanol production facilities.

"President Bush has challenged the industry to get the cost of cellulosic ethanol down to \$1.25 per gallon by 2009 and that includes the cost of manufacturing facilities," Smith said.

He said water use may be less a factor in renewable fuel production than some expect. "We need research but some of the feedstocks will use less water than traditional crops. We envision some dryland production and dedicated energy crops."

Infrastructure to deliver energy to consumers also offers challenges, he said. "We will be re-inventing energy infrastructure."

Gary McGehee, state director for the Texas Farm Bureau, said the industry must be aware of the balance for food and energy production. We need to develop safe, renewable fuel sources while we maintain our food supply."

Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples said renewable energy is "a matter of national security and economic development. It will mean an increase in jobs for rural Texas, so we have an incentive to be fully engaged in this effort."

In terms of energy production, Nebraska would rank second behind Texas with 1.16 quads of new energy under the 25x'25 scenario. Other states that increase renewable energy by more than 0.5 quads include Kansas, Iowa, North Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Montana, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Illinois would lead the nation in new economic activity, generating \$40.1 billion annually under the 25x'25 scenario.

Contributions from America's farms, forests and ranches could result in the production of 86 billion gallons of ethanol and 1.2 billion gallons of biodiesel, which has the potential to decrease gasoline consumption by 59 billion gallons in 2025. The production of 15.45 quads of energy from biomass could replace the growing demand for gasoline, natural gas, diesel, and/or coal generated electricity. In addition, nearly 7 quads of energy are generated from solar and wind resources.



Lubbock Avalanche Journal

http://lubbockonline.com/stories/062807/bus_062807002.shtml

An energy boon lies in wait for Texas

Renewable fuels proponents project \$23 billion windfall

BY ELLIOTT BLACKBURN
AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

Texas can reap billions of dollars producing a quarter of the nation's energy portfolio over the next 15 years, according to a study released by proponents of renewable energy.

Increased emphasis on renewable fuels could generate nearly \$23 billion in economic activity each year, as well as more than 173,000 new jobs by 2025, according to the study commissioned by the 25x25 coalition.

"We got to be the number one wind state because of some really aggressive state policies, but there's a lot more that we need to do and can do and that's our goal, is to move us toward that goal," said Travis Brown, a co-chair of the state chapter of the group and a renewable energy specialist with the state office of rural community affairs.

The group believes crops, wind power and solar cells can supply 25 percent of the nation's energy with the right combination of incentives and technological advances. Texas could become the country's top renewable energy producer and receive the fifth largest economic boon from such activity under an analysis by economists at the University of Tennessee.

Renewable energy has already transformed broad swaths of the Panhandle. The broad, sharp blades of wind turbines began springing from vistas along the Caprock more than five years ago. Farmers in the world's largest cotton patch switched acreage this season from the fluffy fiber to water-demanding corn and grains. Higher prices pushed by demand from ethanol plants, feedlots and homes have made income on those crops more attractive than producers have seen in decades.

"Anytime you have diversification in a farm or an ag operation, you're helping yourself," said Gary McGeehee, state director of the Texas Farm Bureau. "And this is giving us another market that we can grow into."

But questions remain about the resources that renewable energy will demand and the policy changes required to meet the group's goals. The coalition calls for huge investments in infrastructure to move the new energy out of rural areas and into high demand cities, as well as incentives to drive the number of cars using ethanol and to reduce the risk of expensive ethanol facilities that can draw from a broader range of feedstocks.

Farmers would rely on new varieties of corn and other technologies to produce more fuel for ethanol, eventually switching from the thirsty crop to a different ethanol process that can use cotton trash, grasses and other non-traditional crops.

Much of the corn production was happening in West Texas, and the expanded acreage and yields would come from dryland fields, McGeehee said. There are four ethanol plants in various stages of construction across the Texas Plains, tapping various water sources and needing between three and five gallons for every gallon of ethanol.

Coalition projections show Texas producing more than 3.6 billion gallons of ethanol in 2025, including 439.7 million gallons from corn, up from a 206.4 million gallons of ethanol made exclusively from corn in 2010.

It wasn't clear what kind of demands crop-based energy and ethanol production would put on the steadily diminishing Ogallala Aquifer, the underground resource that fuels just more than half of the region's multi-billion dollar agribusiness.

Water levels in the resource did not fall as dramatically as expected under drought conditions last year, but only half of the current amount of water in the aquifer will remain if trends that continued through 2006 persist for another 50 years.

Economic benefits for farmers, which the study put at an additional \$1.9 billion annually in Texas, also assumed that current commodity support programs continued until the end of the study in 2025. International pressure on those programs has increased in recent years as part of global trade agreements.

An end to direct payments could significantly change the amount of federal money available to farmers, said one of the study authors, Daniel de la Torre Ugarty. But demand for the new energy crops and a shift of acreage dedicated to traditional cash crops would help to make up the economic balance, Ugarty said, and he did not believe that the economic impact was overstated.

"We have seen that already," Ugarty said of the changes to demand and price in energy crops. "The impact of farm policy in the long term, of keeping the same farm policy, was very small."



The Houston Chronicle

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/4926096.html>

AP Texas News

June 27, 2007, 5:20PM

What Texas stands to gain with renewable energy ranking

By The Associated Press By The Associated Press

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Nationally by 2025, the renewable energy effort was forecast to have an annual economic impact of \$700 billion and the creation of 5.1 million jobs.

The 2025 goal nationwide from renewable sources is 29.42 quads, one-quarter of estimated 118 quads of energy needed to meet the country's energy needs by 2025. Currently, an estimated 1.87 quads are produced from biomass (agricultural/forestry) resources in creating electricity and/or heat.

-Source: A study by the University of Tennessee, which was funded by the National 25x'25 Alliance, an initiative by organizations and individuals working toward having 25 percent of the country's energy come from renewable sources by 2025.

The Houston Chronicle

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/ap/tx/4926014.html>

AP Texas News

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"Texas can do this because we must," he said. "We have no choice."

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The measure now awaits action by the House, which was expected to take it up soon. But attempts to combine the two bills and send legislation to President Bush probably won't be possible until later this year.



<http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6719533&nav=Bsmh>

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San Antonio Express

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/stories/MYSA062907.01C.texasenergy0629.2c77a64.html>

Texas praised for its renewable prospects

Vicki Vaughan
Express-News Business Writer

Texas has the potential to be the nation's biggest producer of renewable energy sources by 2025, say farm organizations that have aligned with renewable energy proponents to push for higher production of biofuels.

The Texas 25x'25 Alliance, a coalition of farm, forestry and renewable-energy groups, is part of a national organization pushing for 25 percent of the nation's energy to be produced by renewable fuels such as ethanol by 2025.

"Texas has the resources to be engaged fully," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said. "We are producing biodiesel and ethanol and now biomass. It's an exciting time. It's where the focus of our country should be."

Texas is already the nation's largest producer of wind power, and "with just a bit of forward-thinking state leadership, our solar, biofuels and biomass industries will soon join wind power in helping meet the state's energy demands," said Russel Smith, executive director of the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association.

Biofuels are liquid fuels produced from agricultural crops or trees, wood wastes, plants, grasses, or animal or municipal waste.

The 25x'25 Alliance commissioned a study that shows Texas' wind, solar and biomass resources could produce 3.76 billion gallons of biofuels and 144.5 billion kilowatt hours of renewable electricity a year by 2025, or enough to provide enough electricity and fuel for 4.4 million households a year.

As energy production in Texas rises, the state's farm and forest income would increase by \$1.9 billion by 2025, according to the study the 25x'25 Alliance commissioned from the University of Tennessee's agricultural economics department.

The study also estimated that Texas' greater production of renewable fuels would generate an additional \$22.8 billion in new economic activity each year.

Gary McGehee, state director of the Texas Farm Bureau, supports the goal of renewables comprising 25 percent of the nation's fuel by 2025.

McGehee said he isn't worried that more crops used as feedstock for biofuels would mean food crops become scarcer.

Biofuels "has given us a bigger market that we can grow into," McGehee said. "Where I live, in far West Texas, a lot of our cotton country is going into more corn and milo than we've ever had before. It's giving us an opportunity to diversify."

The University of Tennessee study examined how increases in renewable fuels could benefit each state. The study's results for Texas are the first to be released.



<http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=6719720&nav=0w0v>

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Associated Press - June 27, 2007 6:35 PM ET

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http://cbs11tv.com/local/local_story_178185023.html

Texas Will Take Renewable Resource Lead By 2025

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Some of the benefits predicted to come to the state:

* By 2025, estimates show that Texas' wind, solar and biomass resources will have the potential to produce 3.8 billion gallons of biofuels and 146 billion kilowatts hours of renewable electricity, a 2,130 percent increase from 2003 levels.

* Texas was expected to produce 1.27 quads of energy, or about 4 percent of the nation's projected needs, from resources such as biofuels, and wind and solar power by 2025. A quad equals one quadrillion BTUs, or enough energy to fuel 4.4 million American homes in a year.

* Texas net farm and forest income was projected to grow by \$1.9 billion by 2025 because of increases in renewable energy production.

* Total economic impact was expected to rank fifth in the nation, reaching \$22.8 billion annually by 2025: \$14 billion was forecast to come from conversion of feedstocks to energy and another \$8.8 billion was predicted out of changes in crop prices, shifts in crop acres, additions of dedicated energy crops and decreases in government payments.

* The study predicted that the renewable energy effort would create 173,400 jobs in Texas by 2025.

* Nationally by 2025, the renewable energy effort was forecast to have an annual economic impact of \$700 billion and the creation of 5.1 million jobs.

* The 2025 goal nationwide from renewable sources is 29.42 quads, one-quarter of estimated 118 quads of energy needed to meet the country's energy needs by 2025. Currently, an estimated 1.87 quads are produced from biomass (agricultural/forestry) resources in creating electricity and/or heat.



<http://www.kswo.com/Global/story.asp?S=6719673>

Texas expected to lead nation in renewable energy by 2025

Associated Press - June 27, 2007 6:25 PM ET

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - A study backed by an alternative energy advocacy group finds that Texas figures to lead the nation in renewable energy production by 2025.

The study by the University of Texas Department of Agricultural Economics also finds that Texas stands to gain almost \$23 billion in annual economic activity from the production.

The study commissioned by the National 25 by '25 Alliance said Texas also stands to gain more than 173- jobs overall from the trend.

It says the state's energy production would supply about four percent of US needs in 2025 and would come from biofuels, wind and solar power. Texas already leads the nation in wind energy production.

The report looked at the 48 contiguous states. the National 25 by '25 Alliance is working toward having 25% of the country's energy come from renewable sources by 2025.

If the report's estimates pan out, the economic impact nationwide in 2025 will be \$700 billion a year and create more than five million jobs, mostly in rural areas.

On the Net:

National 25x'25 Alliance: <http://www.25x25.org>

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On the Net:

National 25x'25 Alliance: <http://www.25x25.org>

Austin American-Statesman

<http://www.statesman.com/business/content/business/stories/other/06/28/0628tbriefs.html>

Study: Texas set to lead U.S. in production

Thursday, June 28, 2007

LUBBOCK — Texas stands to lead the nation in renewable energy production by 2025 and stands to gain \$22.8 billion in annual economic activity and 173,400 jobs overall, according to a study backed by a group that supports alternative sources of power.

The state's energy production, which would supply about 4 percent of the U.S. needs in 2025, would come from biofuels, and wind and solar power. Texas' projections come from a two-year study by the University of Tennessee Department of Agricultural Economics.

The report was commissioned by the National 25x'25 Alliance, which is working toward having 25 percent of the country's energy come from renewable sources by 2025.

"It's certainly an ambitious goal" for Texas, said Travis Brown, co-chair of the Texas State 25x'25 Alliance. "Texas stands to play the major role in making this happen and benefiting from it."

Compiled from wire reports