

ABOUT WASHINGTON'S INITIATIVE 937

Washington's Clean Energy Initiative

In November 2006, the voters of Washington passed Initiative 937, the Clean Energy Initiative. I-937 enacts a renewable energy standard that requires Washington's 17 largest utilities to get 15% of their electricity from new, homegrown, renewable energy sources by 2020. Utilities will also be required to pursue all low-cost energy efficiency and conservation opportunities.

A broad and diverse coalition supported the Initiative, including utilities, businesses, farmers, faith organizations, labor unions, and environmental groups – and of course, a majority of Washington voters. Washington was the 21st state to enact a renewable energy standard and Oregon followed a year later, enacting a 25% by 2025 renewable energy standard. The passage of I-937 is a clear sign of the widespread public support for a clean and affordable energy future.



“Initiative 937 builds on the tradition of cheap and clean energy from our hydro system. The new renewable energy sources coming on-line will bring new economic vitality and electric stability to Washington.”

Randy Knowles,
Klickitat County PUD
Commissioner
October 25, 2006



Renewable Northwest Project • Phone (503) 223-4544, Fax (503) 223-4554 • www.rnp.org

BENEFITS FOR WASHINGTONIANS:

I-937 ENSURES MORE CLEAN ENERGY FOR WASHINGTON

I-937 will create a stable market for new renewable energy and energy efficiency in Washington. The Initiative is expected to support the development of **1,300 average megawatts (aMW) of new renewable energy**, enough energy to meet the needs of 930,000 average homes.

I-937 SAVES MONEY AND ENERGY

I-937 ensures the development of cost-competitive renewable energy sources and also requires utilities to take advantage of all cost effective conservation and efficiency opportunities. This means a direct savings for consumers through reduced energy bills. A Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) study on the economic impacts of I-937 projects that **cumulative savings to Washington homes and businesses will total \$1.13 billion** between 2008 and 2025.¹

I-937 DRIVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Communities across Washington and the Northwest will receive a tremendous economic boost from renewable energy development. According to the UCS study, I-937 will create **\$2.9 billion in new capital investment, nearly \$167 million annually in new property tax revenues and \$30 million each year in land lease and royalty payments to rural landowners**. The Initiative is also projected to create **2,000 new jobs and a \$148 million increase in gross state product**.

I-937 GUARANTEES A CLEANER ENERGY FUTURE

I-937 will be a major step to rein in emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants in Washington. By 2025, I-937 is expected to **keep 4.6 million metric tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere each year** – equivalent to taking approximately 750,000 cars off the road. I-937 will also reduce harmful environmental impacts of extracting, transporting and burning fossil fuel.

1. “The Washington Clean Energy Initiative: Effects of I-937 on Consumers, Jobs and the Economy.” Union of Concerned Scientists (Oct 2006).

November 26th, 2007