



High-Tech and Renewable-Energy Jobs for New Mexicans

We must take immediate steps to get our economy on the road to recovery. It is time that we start putting people back to work. To do so, New Mexico must be bold and dare to be a leader in the 21st century economy. Diane Denish believes creating that foundation starts by supporting new ideas, high-tech innovation and renewable energy jobs.

More often than not, new jobs are being created by fast-growing, start-up technology companies. From 1980 to 2001, the entire net growth in the U.S. job market was attributed to firms less than 5 years old. To be competitive, New Mexico must make a concentrated effort to grow our own technology companies. That means removing impediments to progress and facilitating more investment in New Mexico high-tech start-ups.

Diane believes there is particular promise for New Mexico in clean energy technologies. This means adding investment and emphasis for companies who are developing new technologies in solar electricity, solar bio-fuels, and supporting technologies including geothermal, wind and green-grid development. New Mexico has relied heavily on the fossil fuels industry to generate funds that pay for our children's education. By making the investments today to build a new energy industry in New Mexico we can ensure that our economy will continue to grow in the future.

Supporting High-Tech Growth

Innovate New Mexico (INM): Diane Denish would launch a statewide high-tech development corporation modeled after other successful national organizations.

- It will be the job of INM to provide financing, grant support and technical assistance to New Mexico-based high-tech startups.
- It will work with Federal assets such as the National Labs, military bases, and higher-education institutions to increase the transfer of technology from the academic and research sectors into the private sector. Strong federal partnerships will need to be a key piece, especially as New Mexico works to climb out of the current recession.

- It will connect startups to other investment, marketing and networking opportunities.
- Its statewide perspective will-give Innovate New Mexico the ability to link like-minded entrepreneurs in different parts of the state as well as support and champion the development of high-tech projects in smaller, more rural areas.
- The State would share in the profits of Innovate New Mexico and use those assets to develop and assist other promising technology companies.

Annual New Mexico Technology Showcase: Diane Denish would launch a high-tech talent fair to showcase New Mexico innovations and companies to a wider universe of investors, buyers and marketers. It would be an annual event featuring New Mexico high-tech companies and their innovations in one place. This would be an opportunity for networking and exposure to investors and the venture-capital community. The state would be a primary sponsor of the showcase and overtime work to identify corporate sponsors.

The state's National Laboratories and research universities, with over \$6 billion in annual research budget, will be a key partner in helping to attract investors and business people to see what ready-for-market technologies the state has to offer.

Federal Innovation Research Matching Grant Program to reward our state's small high-tech firms in the SBIR and STTR programs.

This matching program would assist small or startup companies that take advantage of federal partnerships to accelerate their growth. This program would provide matching grants to entrepreneurs and small businesses that successfully develop applications for the federal Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR). A number of other states including North Carolina, Kentucky and Florida offer this assistance to develop new technology companies.

Workforce Development Related to High Tech Jobs

The New Mexico Bridge to the Workforce scholarship to allow every New Mexican receiving a high school diploma or GED to have the opportunity to get a two-year degree or certificate at a local New Mexico community college – and graduate debt-free and prepared to enter a modern workforce. The Bridge to the Workforce scholarship would cover the cost of tuition at a New Mexico 2-year college for a student's first semester, provided that the student agrees to work toward a degree in a high-demand career – such as a high-tech field. (Upon completion of the first semester with a 2.5 GPA, the student would then be eligible to complete their degree with the Lottery Scholarship.)

New Skills for the Unemployed: Using federal workforce training funds, Diane proposes a community-college and labor apprenticeship program targeted to adults who lost their job in the previous two years and are still unemployed. This program will help pay tuition at a community college or labor apprenticeship in one of eight high-demand, including high tech. This will allow displaced adult workers the option of re-potting themselves and setting a new course.

Online and Distance Job Retraining Programs: Many mid-career New Mexicans know they need to update their skills, or learn new skills, to remain competitive in the workforce. However, not all of these people can afford to take classes or have high-speed Internet access. Diane believes we must increase opportunities for on-demand and distance adult basic education. Every library in New Mexico should have broadband access and programs to allow New Mexicans to learn: basic computer skills, English-language skills and how to use the Internet to look for jobs.

Jobs from the Sun – A Blueprint for Turning Renewable Energy into Jobs for New Mexicans

Over the next decade Diane will strategically guide the state to become a national leader in clean energy technologies and companies by creating capital, developing a statewide plan for growth, investing in state of the art research facilities, and offering favorable tax treatment to those who start new clean technology businesses.

- **Create a State Clean Energy Investment Pool.** By linking a portion of severance-tax revenue to incentives and programs for growing the clean-energy economy, we can target state capital to renewable-energy projects and ultimately toward growing new green jobs in New Mexico.
- **Develop a Clear Cut Plan for Moving New Mexico Clean Energy Technology Forward.** As Governor, Diane will appoint a statewide team of private and public sector experts to develop a roadmap for making New Mexico the leader in clean technology development. This will include planning specific steps we must take over the next decade to establish our leadership and what return we should expect on our investment.
- **Create a Center for Excellence in Clean Energy.** Over the next decade, Diane will invest in state of the art specialized technology centers focused on clean energy at New Mexico research universities. This facility will draw resources from the federal labs, universities, industry and support entrepreneurs in launching new technologies. The Centers of Excellence will allow us to attract and keep the best minds in the country, will give New Mexico the competitive advantage it needs to grow our clean technology economy.

- **Expand tax credits for clean technology companies.** Create a new tax credit for equity investments in New Mexico clean-tech companies. Increase the Industry Research and Development Tax Credit to 10% for clean technology businesses and offer favorable tax treatment to startup founders to encourage them to stay in New Mexico and invest again.

Making Our Homes, Businesses and Government more Energy Efficient

- **Expand Special Assessment Districts for Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Measures:** The state legislature has already created special assessment districts that allow homeowners to finance renewable energy over an extended period. These districts should also include energy efficiency measures as well as retrofits, which bring down energy costs.
 - This will be critical to allowing homeowners to more affordably install Direct Generation technology such as photo-voltaics for solar – which will cut their power bills and potentially allow them to sell unused power back to the grid.
 - Recently Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac made decisions to imperil the Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs. As governor, Diane Denish would fight to restore these programs as they would be a major boon for the creation of green jobs in the installation and manufacturing renewable energy technologies for the home.
- ***Make State Energy Bills Publicly Available:*** Taxpayers should know what the state is spending on electric bills. The state should develop a public and easy-to-read monitor that shows state energy consumption in buildings and vehicles from month to month. This could be followed up with setting energy-savings goals for each building, department. This information can be placed on the Sunshine Portal.
- ***Energy Efficiency Renovation Program:*** New Mexico needs a long-term coordinated program to focus on energy efficiency upgrades for both public and commercial buildings. Diane Denish calls for every state, county and local government building to be outfitted with modern solar power-generation technology over the next 25 years.
 - This program would provide an energy efficiency renovation financing mechanism for both commercial and public buildings. The program would give New Mexicans access to low-interest loans to install photo-voltaic solar panels, and other energy efficient technologies that bring down monthly heating and cooling bills.
 - This would include a specific program for retrofitting schools across New Mexico. Every dollar we spend on energy bills is a dollar we are not spending on our children's' education. We can

- stretch our education dollars and stimulate our green economy by renovating our public schools to make them more energy efficient.
 - This would also help create and train a skilled green energy workforce, both on the production and installation side of projects.
- ***Promote the use of energy efficient manufactured and modular homes.*** New Mexico's high standards for energy efficiency should be the same for manufactured housing, which makes up a sizable percentage of the state's single-family homes.

Ensure New Mexico Leads the Nation in Developing and Exporting Alternative Energy

- ***New Mexico must support and continue to refine our newly created Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA).*** RETA must have the ability to plan and finance renewable transmission lines within New Mexico.
- ***Develop Conventional and Deep Source Geothermal Resources for Electricity Generation and Heating.*** Other Southwestern states are already developing geothermal power: Nevada has nine geothermal power plants at work today with another four under development. California has 43 geothermal plants. New Mexico has a wealth of geothermal potential and needs to invest in conventional and deep-source geothermal projects. New Mexico has fantastic geothermal resources yet does not yet have a commercial project:
 - Geothermal Resource Development Working Group to conduct a statewide geothermal resource assessment and create a database of findings. This will identify geothermal basins ripe for private investment and development.
- **Promote and Develop Deep Source Geothermal Resource Using Oil and Gas Wells.** This technology is still fairly new but opens up fantastic opportunities for New Mexico. Rather than relying on superheated rocks in a naturally-occurring fault zone, Deep Source technology uses the cooler (but still hot) rocks found at depths of 3000+ feet. This makes petroleum wells perfect locations for development.
 - Co-production of geothermal with oil and gas recovery provides opportunities for oil and gas companies to take part in the renewable energy effort.
 - If successful, this could create an "economic transition" as pump-jack jobs become geothermal jobs.
 - Played out wells also have the potential to be used in renewable energy storage.
- **Develop Interstate Transmissions to Export New Mexico Renewables.**

- Under Diane Denish, New Mexico will be a key player at the table in a multi-state initiative to develop and promote interstate transmission of renewable energy.
 - Explore regulatory changes, which would allow independent companies to move into the state and operate as transmission developers.
 - As governor, Diane Denish commits to personally lead efforts to reach out to other states and find solutions to energy transmission barriers.
 - Diane will reaffirm her commitment and energetically promote existing projects with potential for success in the short term. These projects, including Sun-Zia and Tres Amigas are the best opportunities to get this industry off the ground in New Mexico..
- ***Attract and Grow Manufacturers of Alternative Energy Technologies.***
As the demand for renewable energy grows so will the demand for the components that go into a 4-story wind turbine, roof-top photo-voltaic solar panels and ground-coupled heat pumps. New Mexico must continue to attract and grow companies which supply the green economy and bring new good-paying jobs. Even in these tough economic times, we should invest in incentives for manufacturers that wish to develop or expand facilities to make products associated with clean electricity generation, more efficient use of electricity, grid-connected electricity storage, and power generation through agriculture businesses.
 - Develop and support a renewable-energy business incubator so home-grown renewable companies have access to expertise business planning and support as they start and grow.

Additional Proposals

- **Energy & Transportation.** Make New Mexico the leader in natural gas and electric vehicle transportation. State government can help New Mexicans be early adopters by developing both natural gas and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This does not take a major infrastructure development and the transmission lines for both are largely already in place.
- **Lead-by-Example in State Government.**
 - Develop aggressive energy-savings performance goals and a visible, bold campaign around it.