

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Study: Climate bill could create 7,100 jobs in Colorado

Denver Business Journal - by Cathy Proctor

Colorado could see 7,100 new jobs — and consumer savings of \$158 per household per year — by 2020 under provisions of the climate-change bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives in June, according to a national report Wednesday.

The Senate is expected to take up the bill this fall.

The bill, as passed by the House, intends to cut utility and factory emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020, from 2005 levels. The center of the effort is a cap-and-trade system that sets a limit on the overall emissions of carbon dioxide and allows CO2 generators such as utilities and manufacturers to trade the permits among themselves.

The new report was done by the [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy](#) in Washington and released in Colorado by Denver-based [Environment Colorado](#) and the Boulder-based [Southwest Energy Efficiency Project](#) (SWEEP).

The report did not offer details about what kind of jobs were included in the projections.

While Wednesday's report found average household savings of \$158 per year from energy efficiency efforts related to the bill, the Congressional Budget Office review of the House's legislation concluded households would pay an additional \$175 per year in higher energy costs by 2020 — not including energy efficiency savings.

“The point here is, if we maximize energy conservation and energy efficiency savings we can minimize the net costs,” said Howard Geller, executive director of SWEEP. “It makes sense to do as much energy efficiency as possible.”

The group urged the Senate to strengthen energy efficiency provisions when it take up the bill, saying that stronger provisions would create a total of 11,000 additional jobs in Colorado and boost household energy savings to \$218 per year by 2020.

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