

# An Engine of Growth

*Investments in energy efficiency and clean energy sources can do more than clear the air of greenhouse gases: They can fuel development of new jobs that can help get our ailing economy back on track. Ralph Izzo, chairman and CEO of PSEG, spoke about the role utilities can play in this effort at the recent Center for Energy Workforce Development Summit in Orlando, FL. Following are excerpts of his remarks.*

Our nation has a deep financial crisis on its hands, the most serious in decades. It has brought the issue of jobs and economic security to the forefront. Workforce development is a key part of the foundation for our nation's future prosperity and well-being.

Our industry will need to mount the largest workforce development effort since the building of the electric grid 100 years ago.

Three major forces are driving our industry's workforce needs:

First, we have an aging workforce of Baby Boomers moving toward retirement. Second, we face increased demands for energy. Even with improvements in energy efficiency, America will need to invest more than \$500 billion in power plants, and another \$900 billion in transmission and distribution by the year 2030. Third is the unique challenge of climate change. By orders of magnitude, climate change increases the need for a workforce able to provide clean energy along with our industry's traditional focus on safe, reliable energy.



***We need to get to work now in building the energy workforce of the future.***

With aggressive action, our industry could be an engine of one of the most significant waves of innovation, job creation and economic development in our nation's history.

We have the opportunity to build a model for sustainable growth that is made in America. The economic stimulus this can provide is especially needed in these difficult times. It is impossible to stress enough the importance of assuring people have good jobs to get the economy back on track.

Part of the stimulus is the potential for millions of environmentally friendly green jobs over the next three decades, as described in a recent report by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. This could be one of the fastest growing segments of the economy for a long time.

We need to get to work now in building the energy workforce of the future – a workforce with the capabilities to transform the future

in ways that reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, improve the health of our communities and grow the economy with fewer and fewer carbon emissions – all while maintaining and improving reliability.

The time to build tomorrow's energy workforce is today. Let's do it.

*What's your view? Please let us know at [Opinion@PSEG.com](mailto:Opinion@PSEG.com)*



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