

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
Radio Address – Alternative Energy and NextEnergy  
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This is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

I've been working around the clock to find a solution to Michigan's budget crisis so that we can continue to move forward with our economic plan to revitalize Michigan's economy.

And last Sunday, the observance of Earth Day, had me thinking about our Michigan environment and how it can be an economic advantage.

This weekend, I'm visiting a place where conservation and job creation come together... it's called NextEnergy Center in Detroit. Next Energy supports the development and manufacturing of alternative energy technologies, and they recently completed a study of my 21st Century Energy Plan. This plan calls for the use of renewable energy sources and efficiency programs so that we can meet our increasing energy needs without increasing our reliance on fossil fuels.

When the researchers at NextEnergy looked at the economic impact of my energy plan, they found it would create up to 19,000 jobs and increase the state's economic output by as much as \$1.6 billion.

At the same time, this plan will set Michigan on a course to have 20 percent of our energy come from renewable sources – things like solar cells and wind-powered turbines – by the year 2025. This means we will burn less of the fossil fuels that cause global warming and protect the bank accounts of Michigan families as these dirty fuels are certain to become more regulated and more expensive.

Michigan is in the perfect position to lead the nation – and the world – in researching and developing alternative and renewable energy solutions. We've got 11 ethanol and biodiesel plants coming on line across our state. Our 21st Century Jobs Fund awarded nearly \$9 million last year to alternative energy projects that will create over 750 Michigan jobs, and we'll have 1,000 biofuel pumps in our state by the end of 2008 so that consumers can count on highly efficient E85 ethanol blend gasoline.

These initiatives are creating jobs and making Michigan a leader in alternative energy.

And the technologies we are investing in and that are growing our economy will allow Michigan citizens and our visitors to continue to enjoy our state's natural beauty and plentiful natural resources – air that is clean, water that is pure, and natural ecosystems that are protected from pollution and conserved for future generations.

That's part of what makes Michigan such a magical place to live, and when we resolve this budget crisis and continue to invest in our people and in our economic future, we can ensure that Michigan's high quality of life continues for us and our kids, driven by cutting-edge industries like alternative energy.

Thank you for listening.