Renewables on the Rise 2021: Environment America Research & Policy Center Report

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Environment America Research & Policy Center issued a November 2021 report titled:

Renewables on the Rise 2021 – The Rapid Growth of Renewables, Electric Vehicles and Other Building Blocks of a Clean Energy Future ("Report")

The *Report* was authored by:

- Sarah Nick, Frontier Group
- Tony Dutzik, Frontier Group
- Emma Searson, environment America Research & Policy Center

The *Report* addresses two key themes:

- Dramatic growth of renewable energy and clean energy technologies in the United States (including a number of statistics)
- Opinions as to the work needed to expand renewable energy and clean energy technologies

Key statistics outlined in the *Report* include:

- The United States produced almost four times as much renewable electricity from solar and wind power in 2020 as in 2011
- Wind and solar power produced 11 percent of the United States electricity in 2020 as opposed to three percent in 2011
- Between 2011 and 2020 United States wind, solar and geothermal generation grew at an annual rate of 15 percent
- Solar energy produces over 23 times as much solar power as it did in 2011
- Wind energy in the United States has nearly tripled the amount of wind power it produces since 2011
- Energy efficiency programs have saved over 17 percent more energy in 2019 than 2011
- Electric vehicles
- In 2011 16,000 battery and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles were sold in the United States
- In 2020 cumulative sales of such vehicles had grown 100-fold to nearly 1.7 million vehicles
- Battery storage grew more than 18-fold from 2011 to 2020
- Heat pumps
- Twelve percent of all United States homes with heat used heat pumps in 2015
- Shipments of air-source heat pumps from United States manufacturers nearly doubled between 2011 and 2020

The *Report* argues that accelerating the transition to clean energy requires that cities, states and federal governments undertake the following:

- Set ambitious targets for renewable energy (citing the example of nine states and 200 cities and towns that have committed to obtaining 100% of their electricity from such sources)
- Establish strong incentives for renewable energy adoption including extension of federal tax credits
- Ensure that utility policies fully and fairly compensate investors in clean energy technology
- Encourage the transition to electric vehicles and electric buildings through:
- Strong, clean car standards
- Local commitments to transition to electric transit
- Policies to support fuel-switching in residential and commercial buildings
- Support the integration of technologies and practices that enable the United States to take full advantage of its renewable energy potential such as:
- Integration of energy storage into the grid
- The development of resilient local microgrids powered by renewable energy
- Appropriate expansion of transmission infrastructure to allow for the transport of renewable energy
- Encourage continued progress on energy efficiency by:
- Continuing and expanding local, state, utility and federal programs and policies
- Utility energy efficiency programs
- Building energy codes
- Appliance efficiency standards

A copy of the Report can be downloaded here.