

Energy Works: Mississippi's Energy Roadmap



**Governor
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Overview

Mississippi's Energy Landscape: Well-Positioned for Growth

In many ways, Mississippi is advanced in energy sector development. Endowed with diverse energy resources, including oil, natural gas, coal, and biomass, the state also has a robust energy supply, significant power generation and energy distribution infrastructure, and an excellent transportation system. The importance of energy globally, along with Mississippi's existing strengths in this sector, suggests energy-related activities possess tremendous opportunity for job growth and economic development in Mississippi.

Next Steps: A Strategy for Energy-Based Economic Development in Mississippi

Energy policy and economic development policy are closely connected. When considering where to locate or expand their operations, businesses take into account whether a location offers a long-term, affordable, and secure energy supply with the infrastructure necessary to meet their energy needs. To ensure the success of the state's energy-related economic development efforts, effective policies and activities must be concentrated on:

- Reinforcing Mississippi's strengths
- Ensuring an affordable and reliable energy supply
- Encouraging energy efficiency and energy supply diversity
- Enhancing growth in technological energy-related core competencies
- Filling any identified gaps in assets, infrastructure, and resources needed to ensure future growth

With these objectives in mind, the policy goals and opportunities outlined in this plan charge state and industry leaders with focusing on six key areas:

I. Analyzing ways Mississippi can enhance its position as a top state for oil and natural gas-related exploration and extraction to allow for the responsible development of the state's energy resources and foster an environment conducive to creating jobs and attracting energy exploration investment.

- a. Ensure efficiency in the permitting process for offshore and onshore exploration and extraction.
- b. Enhance communication among regulators and industry and market the state's regulatory efficiency and responsiveness.
- c. Encourage increased CO₂-related investment.

II. Promoting Mississippi's competitive advantages, maximizing the use of the state's abundant energy resources, and adding value to them through manufacturing, conversion, and processing to encourage job creation and investment.

- a. Identify and market the abundance of Mississippi's energy-rich sites.
- b. Identify and recruit product manufacturers that use natural gas as a feedstock.
- c. Position Mississippi to be a leading location for nuclear power-related investment.
- d. Target components manufacturers.

III. Expanding energy capacity by conserving energy and finding ways to use it more efficiently.

- a. Lead by example.
- b. Adopt statewide commercial energy building codes for new construction.
- c. Initiate an energy efficiency market policy/program analysis.

IV. Building capacity for future economic development by ensuring the state's transportation and energy infrastructure is developed to meet the energy demands of tomorrow – and that Mississippi plays a leading role in areas of infrastructure growth.

- a. Position Mississippi to become the nation's transportation hub for CO₂.
- b. Embrace electric infrastructure expansion and modernization.
- c. Develop an alternative fuel vehicle network.

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V. Creating jobs by attracting more private research and development investment to Mississippi, encouraging public/private partnerships at Mississippi research universities, attracting leading talent in energy-related research fields, and fostering a business environment that encourages more investment in energy technology development and commercialization.

- a. Consider establishing a public/private collaborative entity focused on energy technology commercialization.
- b. Assess and enhance Mississippi's R&D tax credit.
- c. Reward public/private funding agreements for energy R&D at universities.

VI. Preparing and training a 21st century workforce by understanding the long-term workforce needs of the energy sector and making Mississippi's workforce development system more responsive to these needs, increasing awareness of energy career opportunities, and increasing graduate retention rates in Mississippi's workforce.

- a. Ensure the Mississippi workforce system is responsive to industry needs.
- b. Develop informational materials on energy careers and opportunities in Mississippi.
- c. Increase industry engagement with Mississippi universities and community colleges via industry co-ops and internships and on-line course offerings for continuing education and non-credit courses.

Preparing for the Future: Capitalizing on Opportunities

In recent years, Mississippi has received national notice for its success in recruiting energy-related economic development projects. *Energy Works: Mississippi's Energy Roadmap* outlines the steps Mississippi leaders must take to build on these successes and effectively attract new energy-related investment and jobs.

To learn more about the energy landscape in Mississippi today, the opportunities and challenges facing the state, and policy goals and actions necessary for growing this important sector, view *Energy Works: Mississippi's Energy Roadmap* in its entirety at www.governorbryant.com.